# Antimicrobial resistance Can we talk about reservoirs ?

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### Back to the basics

Reservoir <u>of a disease</u>= any person, animal, plant, soil or substance in which an infectious agent normally lives and multiplies. The **reservoir** typically harbors the infectious agent without injury to itself and serves as a source from which other individuals can be infected.



### Not so basics: the AMR case

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### Glossary

- ARG = Antimicrobial resistance gene DNA fragment / gene coding for protein involved in the resistance to an antimicrobial compound. It's a GENOTYPE
- ARB = Antibiotic-resistant bacteria A BACTERIA, pathogenic or not, hosting an ARG
- AMR = Antimicrobial resistance:

A TRAIT or PHENOTYPE of an ARB conferred by the expression of an ARG, usually as a result of a selective pressure exerted by the ENVIRONMENT



AMR (Antimicrobial resistance) is not an infectious agent. Some ARB (Antibacterial resistant) are.

The "classical" epidemiological models holds - as well as the reservoir definition - if AMR is just an ARB, *i.e.* a resistant strain of a pathogenic bacteria.





Pathogenic bacteria carrying a resistant gene, agent of an infectious disease that will prove hard to treat with antibiotics

The components of medical ecology

- Genes are subject to molecular evolution
- Bacteria reproduce rapidly in large populations and thus experience fast paced evolutionary
- ARG evolve from genomic content through a rapid adaptation to an environmental pressure



Every bacterial genome in microbial community can be considered as a potential reservoir of ARG



#### Additional complexity: Horizontal gene transfer



- Each component of a bacterial community hosting an ARG can be considered as a ARG reservoir
- ARG have vectors too ! (MGE: plasmid, phage, GTA)
- Emergence can occur through lateral transfer from an ARB which can be:
  - of the same species
  - of a related species

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Need for constant selective pressure to maintain resistance?







ARB AND/OR ARG transmission can occur from another epidemiological compartment/reservoir

#### AMR in the context of epidemiological reservoir

- The epidemiological unit (atom) can be a gene, not an infectious agent
- "Classical" epidemiological definition are thus sometimes useless in the AMR context
- Even in the AMR context, most epidemiological models will compound ARB (antibiotic resistant bacteria) and ARG (antibiotic resistant gene) as a single epidemiological unit



FIG 1 Pathway map of AMA and AMR dissemination within agriculture, the environment, and the food processing industry. Movement of AMA or AMR is indicated by overlapping circles and arrows, respectively; different colors define different groups of reservoirs. Stars indicate the hot spots of ARG and ARB with high bacterial densities, nutrient availability, and selective pressure in the digestive tract of livestock and humans, in manure storage facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and in the rhizosphere. Asterisks indicate possible hot spots of ARG and ARB in water, sediments, and biofilms in aquaculture, rivers, lakes, and irrigation systems, as well as in shughterhouse facilities and on plant surfaces.

Can we highlight transmission between compartment/reservoir ? Are we looking at transmission of ARB / ARG and what factors drives them ?



Sampling in the different potential compartments



#### Prevalence of ESBL-producing E. coli in reservoirs

May-October 2018, 350 humans, and 1002 animals (70 households) sampled. Prevalence ranged from **21.9% to 75.0%** for **cats** and **pigs** respectively.



\* Only animal species with > 20 individual sampled were presented.

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Genome comparison (phylogeny) & Gene presence/absence





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Disentangling vertical vs horizontal transmission of ARG: first results:





#### Thanks for your attention

Pssst! Hey kid! Wanna be a Superbug...? Stick some of <u>this</u> into your genome... Even penicillin won't be able to harm you...! 300000

It was on a short-cut through the hospital kitchens that Albert was first approached by a member of the Antibiotic Resistance.

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Sampling in the different potential compartments

### AMR :

- MRB: ESBL-E/SARM/EPC etc.
- Resistant genes: mcr1, CTX-M-15, NDM-1, AmpC, etc...
- Plasmidic vs chromosomic
- Compatible groups of plasmids
- Bacterial species
- Can be carried by pathogenic bacteria / « nice bacteria » of the microbiota
- ATB selective pressure increase the phenomenon

### hosts:

- Animals: domestic, livestock, wildlife
- Humans: ills at hospital/ healt care centers or in community (gut)
- Environment: water, soil
- Plants: rizosphere, stem
- Certain bacteria: peut-on parler de certaines bact réservoirs de gènes?

## A case study

- ESBL-E
- Genes: mainly CTX-M (widespread)
- Originated in *Kluyvera* spp. bacteria from the water/soil/sewage
- Different *Kluyvera* = different CTX-M (1/15/etc).
- Plasmidic resistance (groupes d'incompatibilité)
- Bacterial species: genus Enterobacteriaceae
- Bactéries concernées: E. coli/klebsiella spp./Enterobacter spp.





Les pressions de sélection: atb



### Reservoir

- Pas de symptômes: portage (microbiote)
- Multiplication dans l'hôte ok mais environnement + plantes?

## Conceptual framework

Pathogen	Target	Non-target	Main transmission route	High genetic similarity	High fonctional similarity	Spatial and temporal connectivity	Pathogen involvement	Maintening pathogen viability	Time factor
Escherichia coli	human	Animals (wildlife, livestock, pets)	Fecal/oral Foodborne others	No/Yes	Yes(ATB)	Х			
Resistant genes (CTX-M, mcr-1, NDM-1, etc.)	human		Air? Water ?						

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