



Cell wall homeostasis in lactic acid bacteria: threats and defences




Marie-Pierre Chapot-Chartier/Saulius Kulakauskas



Ana Rodríguez/Beatriz Martínez



1999

 *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek* 76: 159–184, 1999.
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The biosynthesis and functionality of the cell-wall of lactic acid bacteria

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2014

Chapot-Chartier and Kulakauskas *Microbial Cell Factories* 2014, 13(Suppl 1):S9
<http://www.microbialcellfactories.com/content/13/S1/S9>



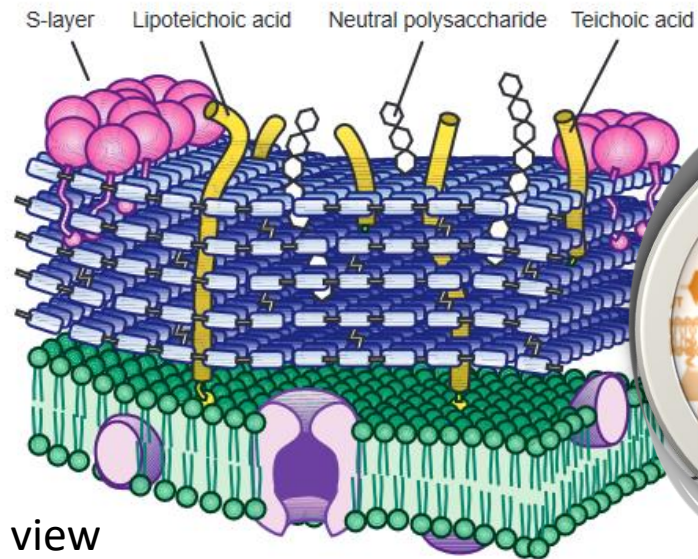
PROCEEDINGS

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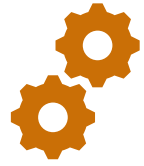
Cell wall structure and function in lactic acid bacteria

Marie-Pierre Chapot-Chartier^{1,2*}, Saulius Kulakauskas^{1,2}

From 11th International Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria



Artist's view



CW functions

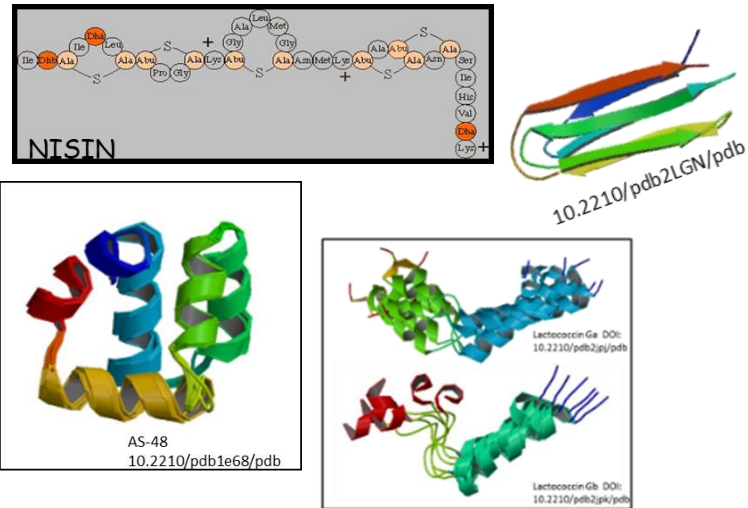
- ❖ **Essential**
 - Cell shape and cell division
- ❖ **Stress-bearing**
 - Osmotic pressure
- ❖ **Scaffold**
 - CW components
- ❖ **Sensory interface**
 - Monitoring



- ❖ **CW structural diversity**
 - ❖ **CW plasticity**
 - Physiological growth
 - Under stress
 - ❖ **Exploiting the CW**
-

THREATS

Bacteriocins

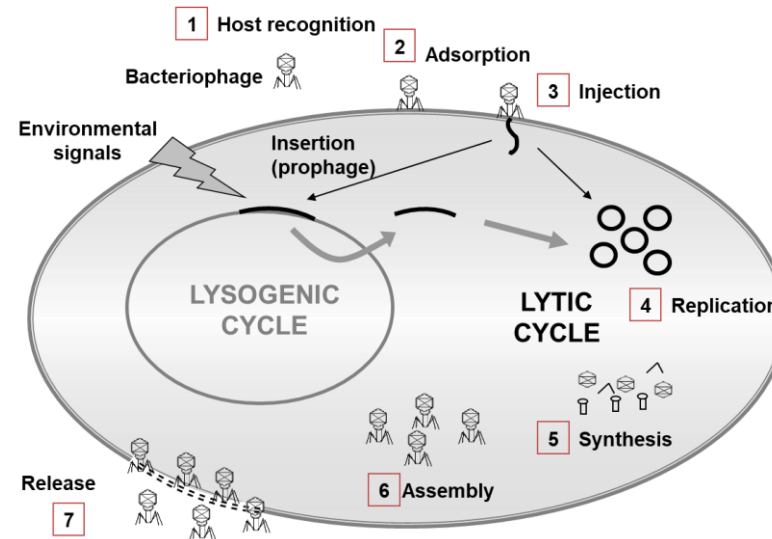


❖ Antimicrobial peptides

❖ Mode of action:

- Pore formation (AS-48, pediocins...)
- Inhibition CW biosynthesis (Lcn972, SalB)
- Both (nisin, Lct3147)
- PG hydrolysis (bacteriolysins)

Bacteriophages

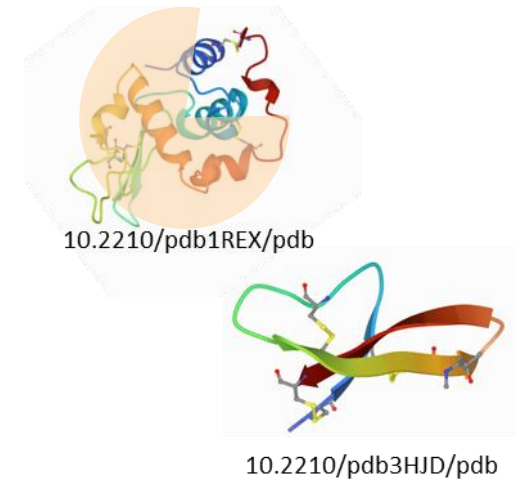


❖ Viruses of bacteria

❖ Mode of action:

- Receptor
- Endolysins

Host factors



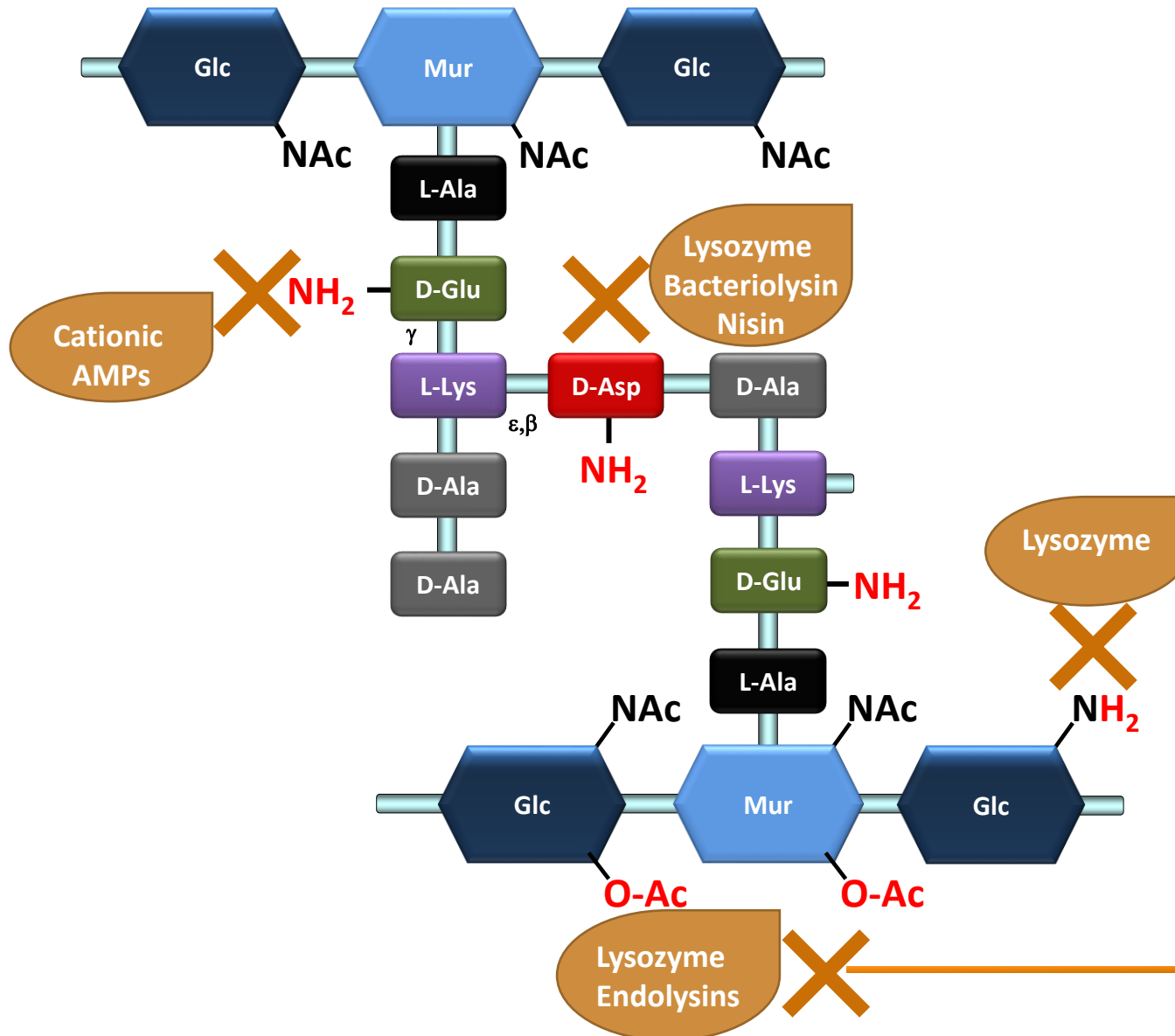
❖ Lysozyme

- PG hydrolase

❖ AMPs:

- Lipid II

CW structural diversity: peptidoglycan



❖ PG chemotype:

- Di-amino acid aa3: L-Lys, mDAP, L-Orn
- D-Ala \rightarrow D-Lac

❖ Cross-linking

- Direct
- Interpeptide bridge

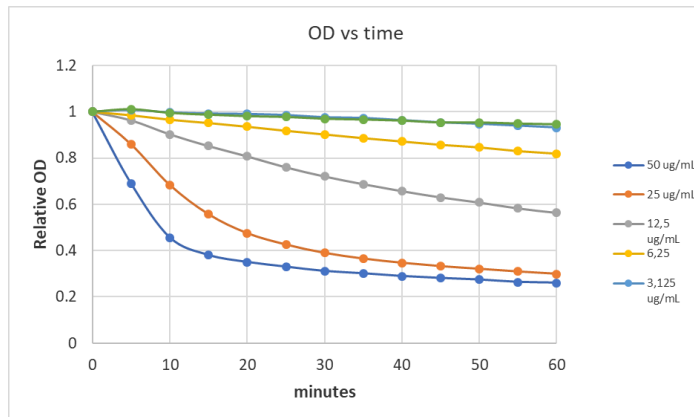
❖ Other modifications

- Amidation (D-Glu, mDAP, D-Asp)
- N-deacetylation
- O-acetylation

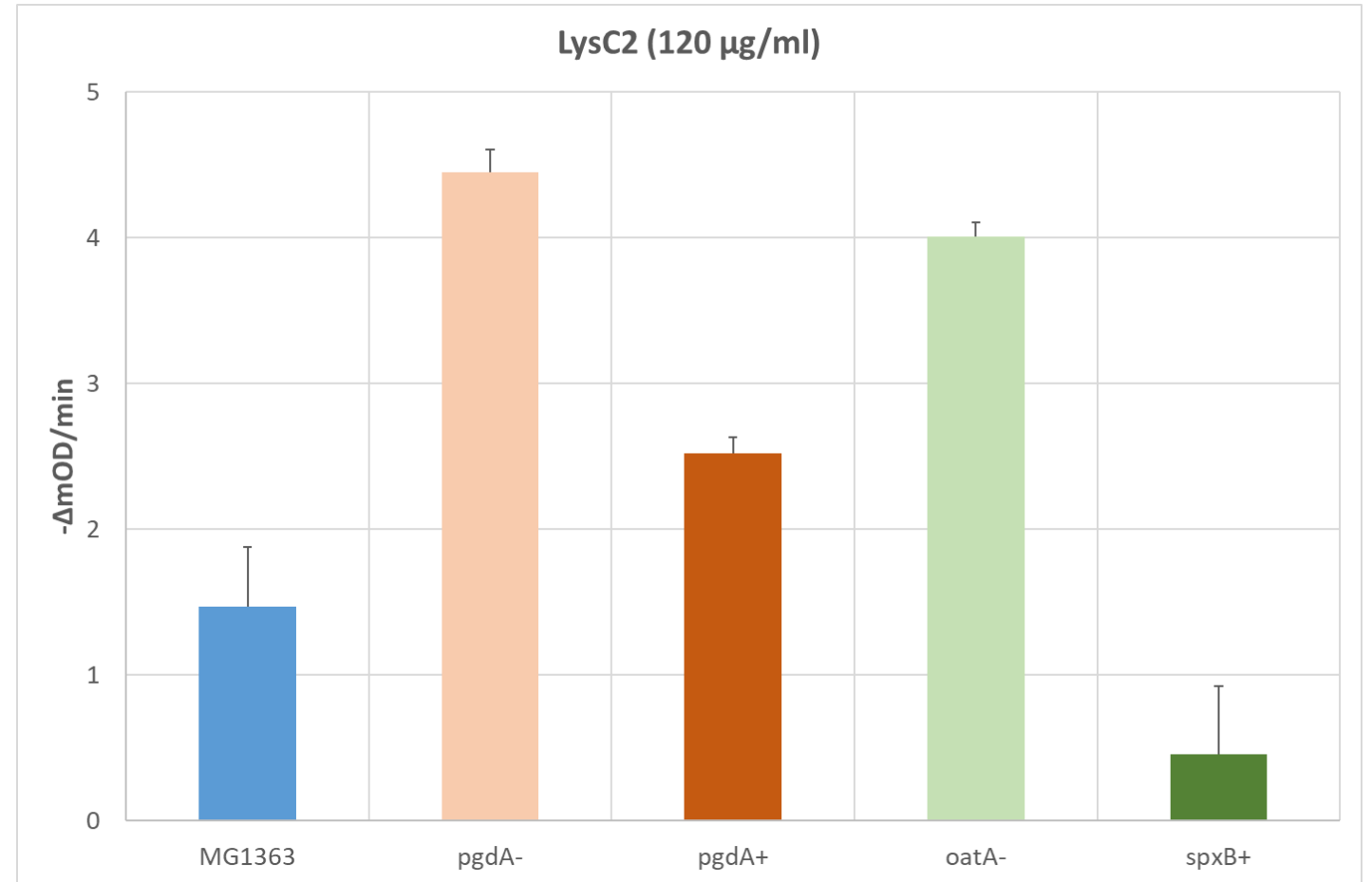
CW structural diversity: peptidoglycan

❖ *In vitro* activity of phage endolysins

Turbidity reduction assays



pgdA: N-acetylglucosamine deacetylase
oatA: MurNAc O-acetyltransferase



N-deacetylation

O-acetylation

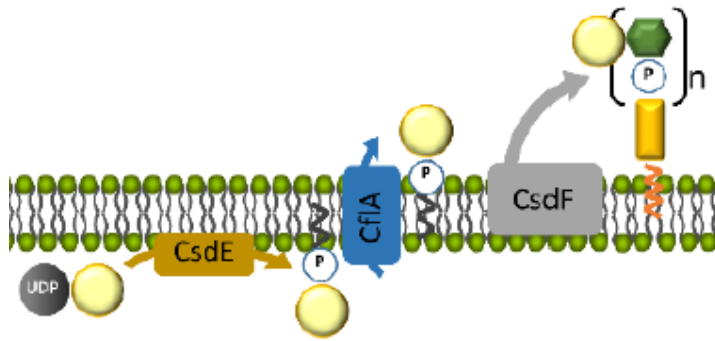
CW structural diversity: teichoic acids

❖ D-ala esterification LTA, *dltABCD*

- Bacteriocins and AMPs resistance
- *L. delbrueckii* phage LL-H

❖ LTA galactosylation (*L. lactis*) (three component glycosylation system)

- *csdEF + cflA*



Modified from Theodorou et al.
J. Biol. Chem. (2020) 295:5519

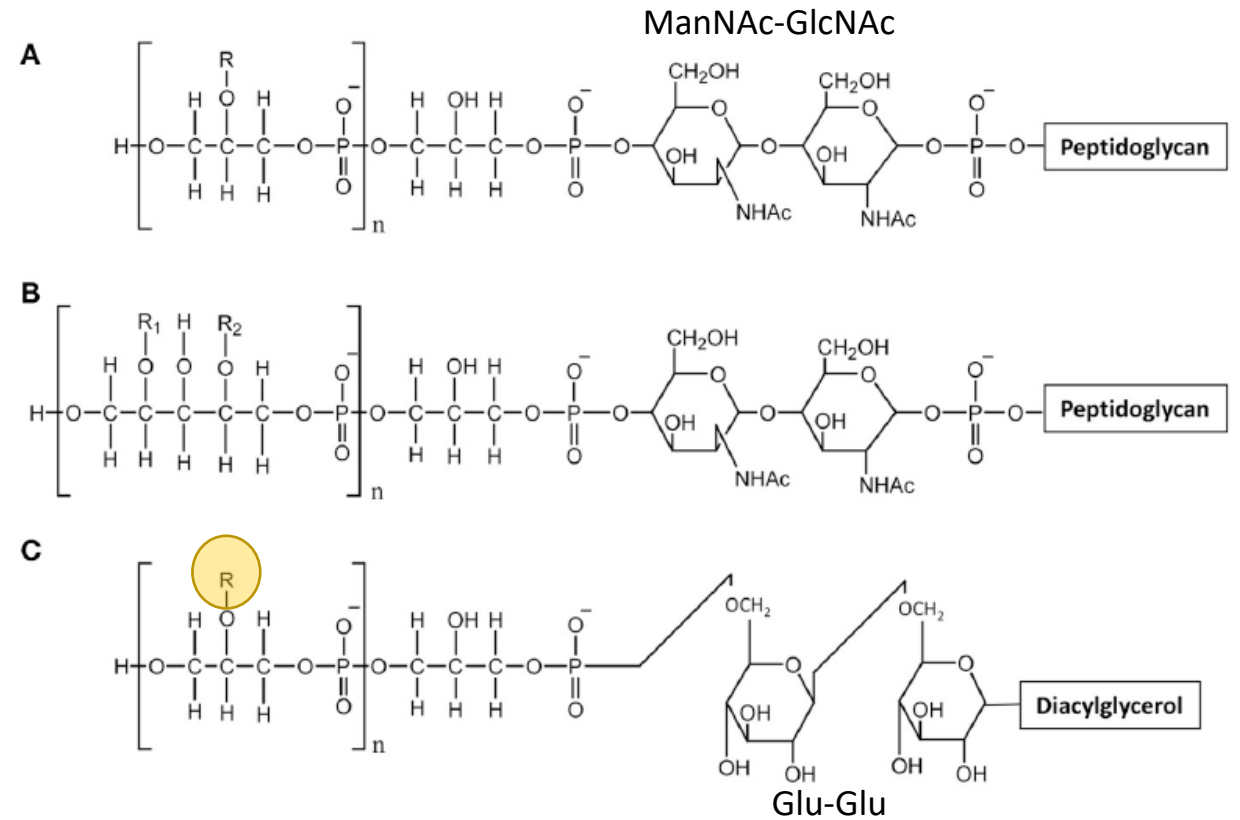
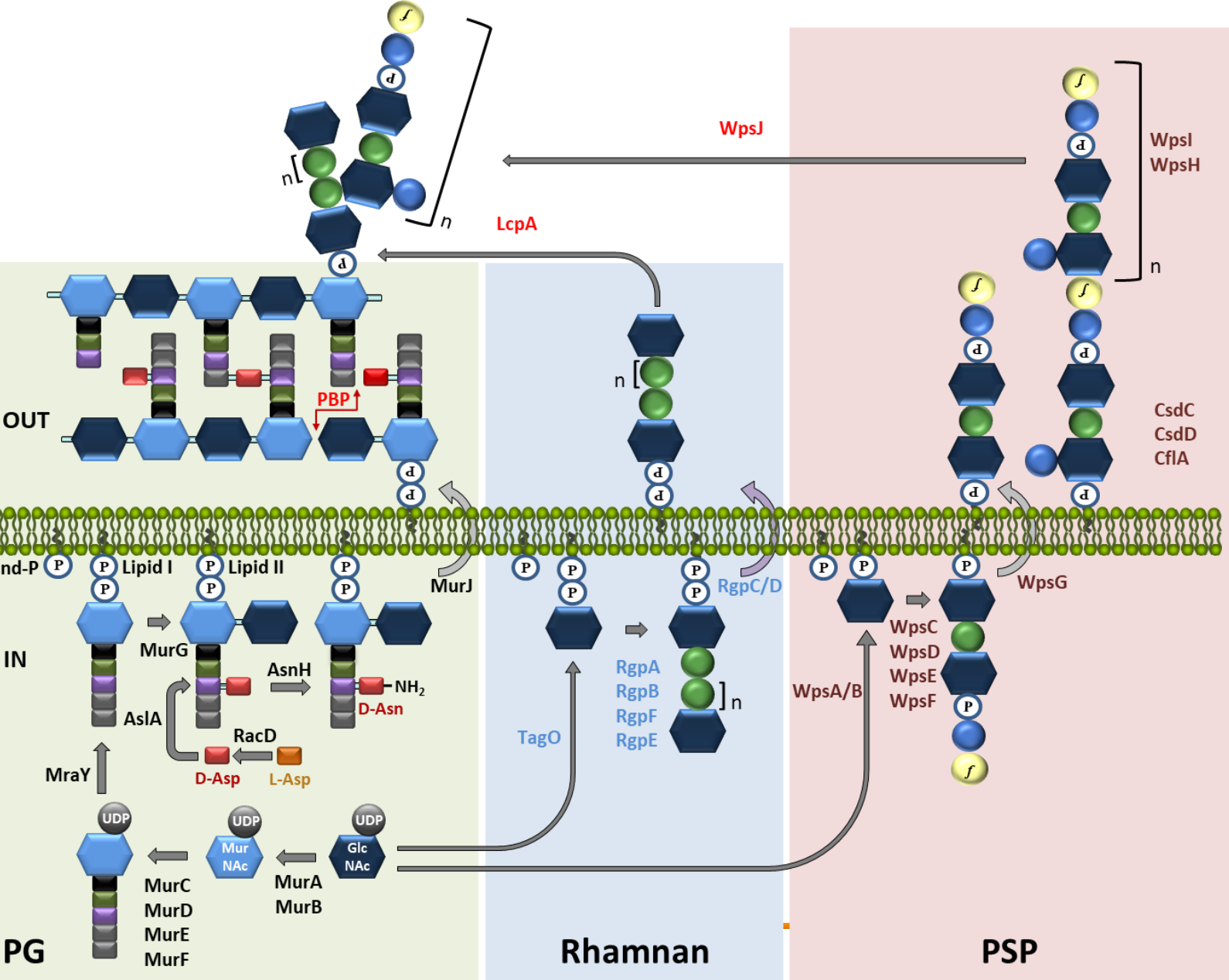
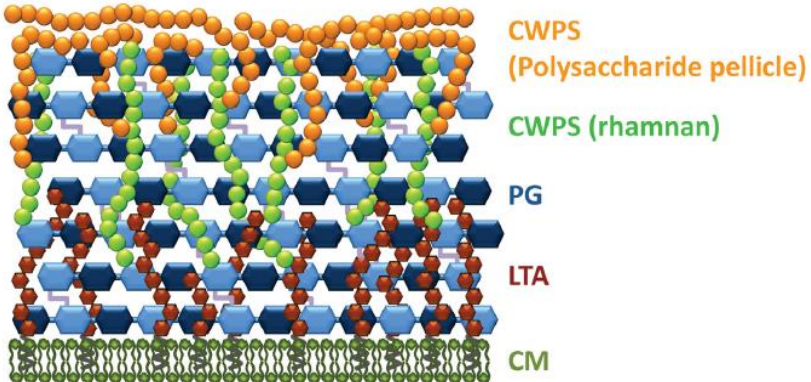


FIGURE 3 | Structure of teichoic acids. (A) WTA with poly-glycerol-phosphate chains; (B) WTA with poly-ribitol-phosphate chain; (C) LTA with poly-glycerol-phosphate chains. R, R1, R2 indicate potential substituent groups of polyols chains (e.g., D-Ala, Glc, Gal, GlcNAc).

CW structural diversity: CWPS

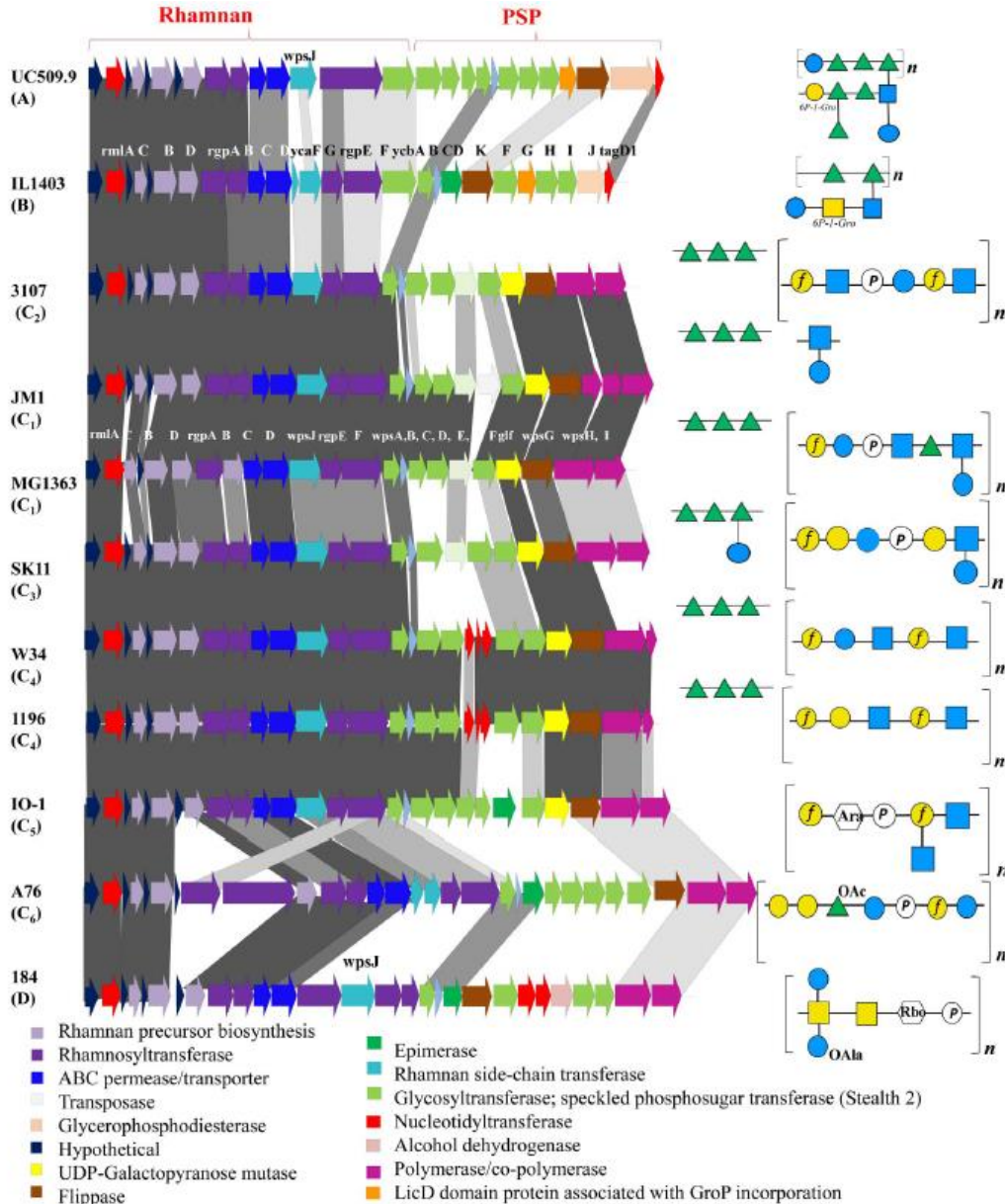


- ❖ *L. lactis*: rhamnan and PSP
- ❖ Dual chain assembly pathway



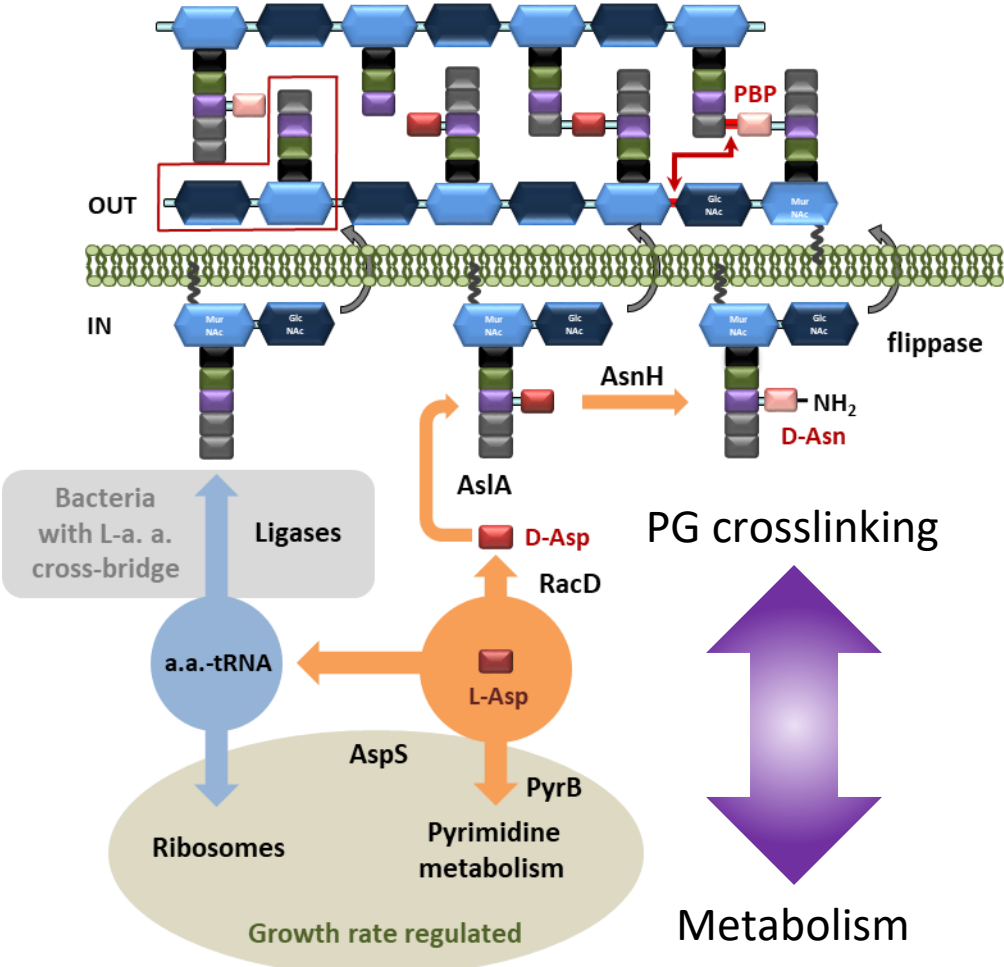
Sadovskaya et al. 2017. mBio 8:e01303-17
 Theodorou et al. 2019. J. Biol. Chem. 294:17612
 Theodorou et al. 2020. J. Biol. Chem. 295:5519

CW structural diversity: CWPS



- ❖ Phage susceptibility
- ❖ Phage-host interactions
- ❖ PCR typing tools

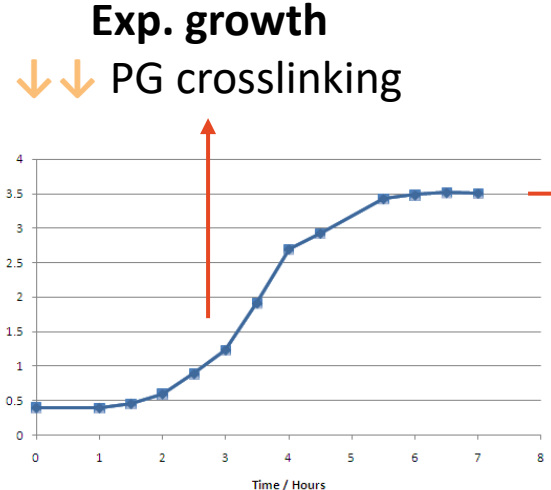
CW Plasticity



❖ PyrB: aspartate carbamoyltransferase

L. lactis Δ pyrB

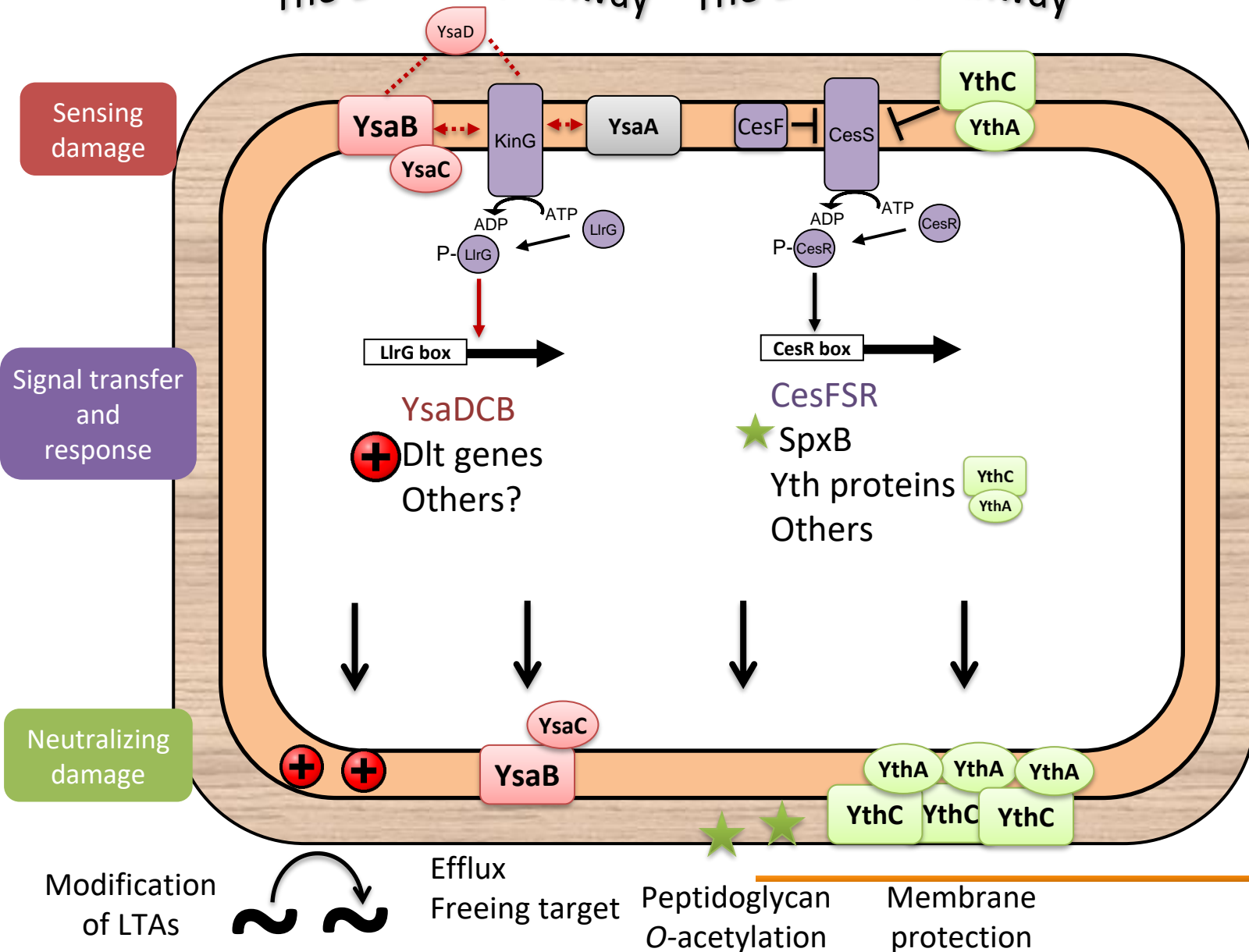
- Lysozyme R
- Thicker PG (more rigid cells)
- Higher crosslinking



CW plasticity: the Cell Envelope Stress (CES) response

L. lactis

The Bce-like pathway The Lia-like pathway



❖ CesFSR

- Intramembrane-sensing HK
- CesF negative regulator
- SpxB → OatA → PG O-acetylation
- Yth proteins (Psp-like)

❖ TCS-G

- Intramembrane sensing HK
- ABC-transporter (YsaCB)
- Accessory proteins (YsaD, YsaA)
- MG1363 *ysaB*⁻

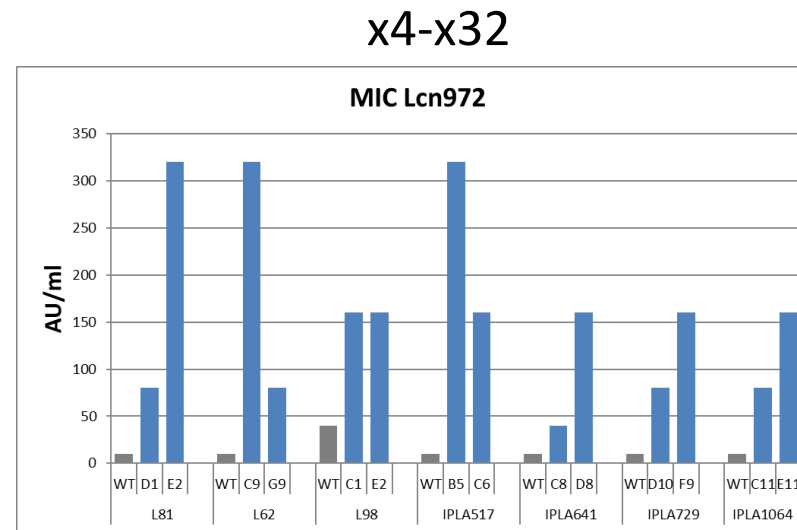
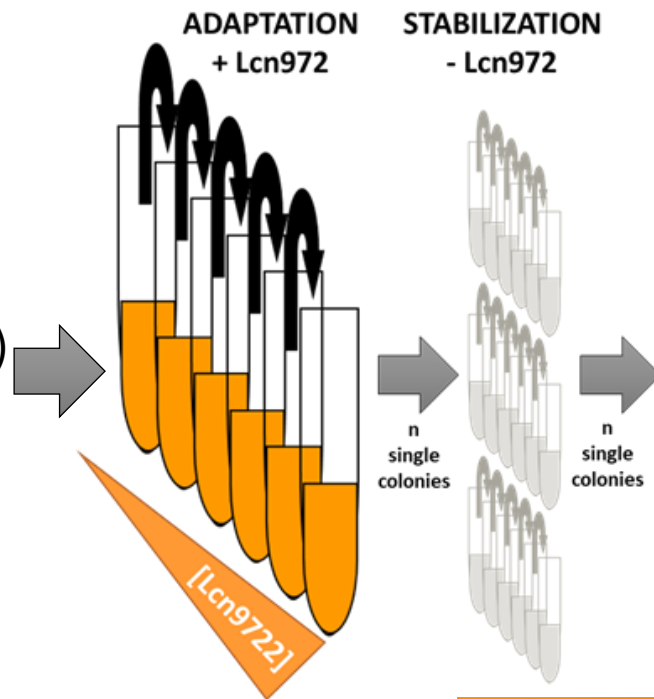
“Exploiting the CW”



Mutations of technological interest in *L. lactis* might be selected and fixed by triggering the CES response for an extended period

Apply **adaptive evolution** under cell envelope stress (AE-CES), using as stressor the bacteriocin **Lcn972** that inhibits cell wall biosynthesis in *Lactococcus*

- L. lactis* strains (n=9)**
- 1 lab strain (MG1614)
 - 4 commercial starters
 - 4 field isolates



Lcn972R (n=16)

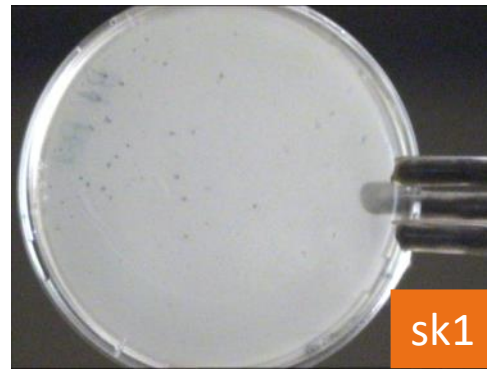
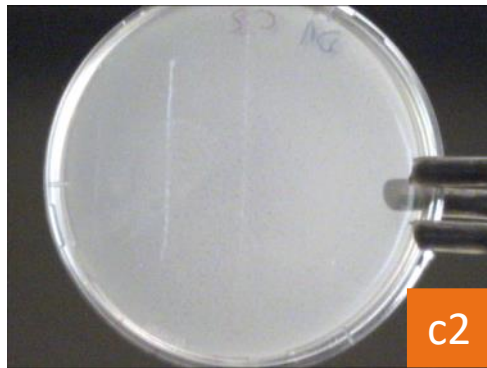
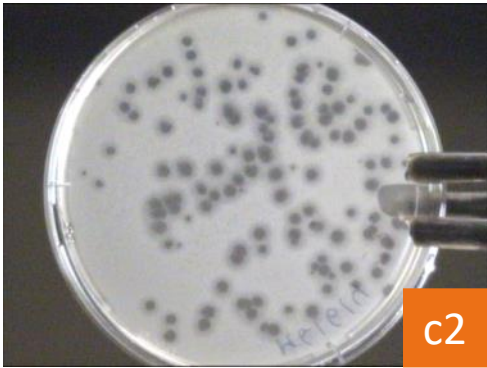
- Phenotypic tests
- Draft genomes

“Exploiting the CW”

BACTERIOPHAGE RESISTANCE

L. lactis MG1614

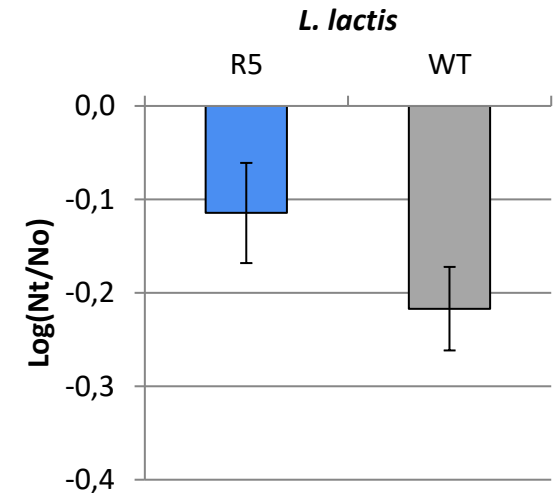
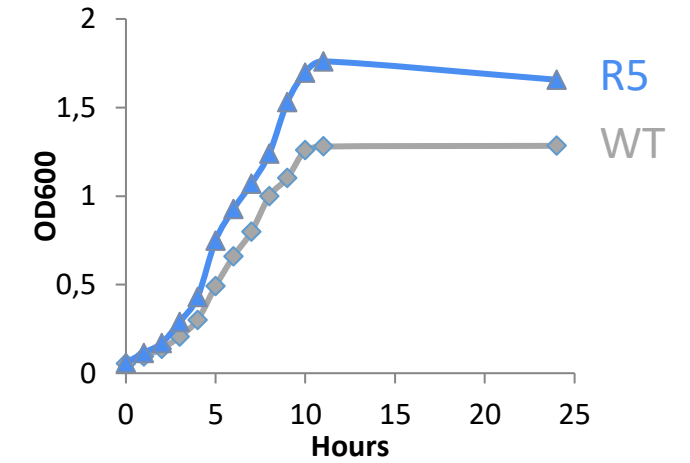
Lcn972R



Aerobic growth

Survival
H₂O₂ 5 mM

OXIDATIVE STRESS



“Exploiting the CW”



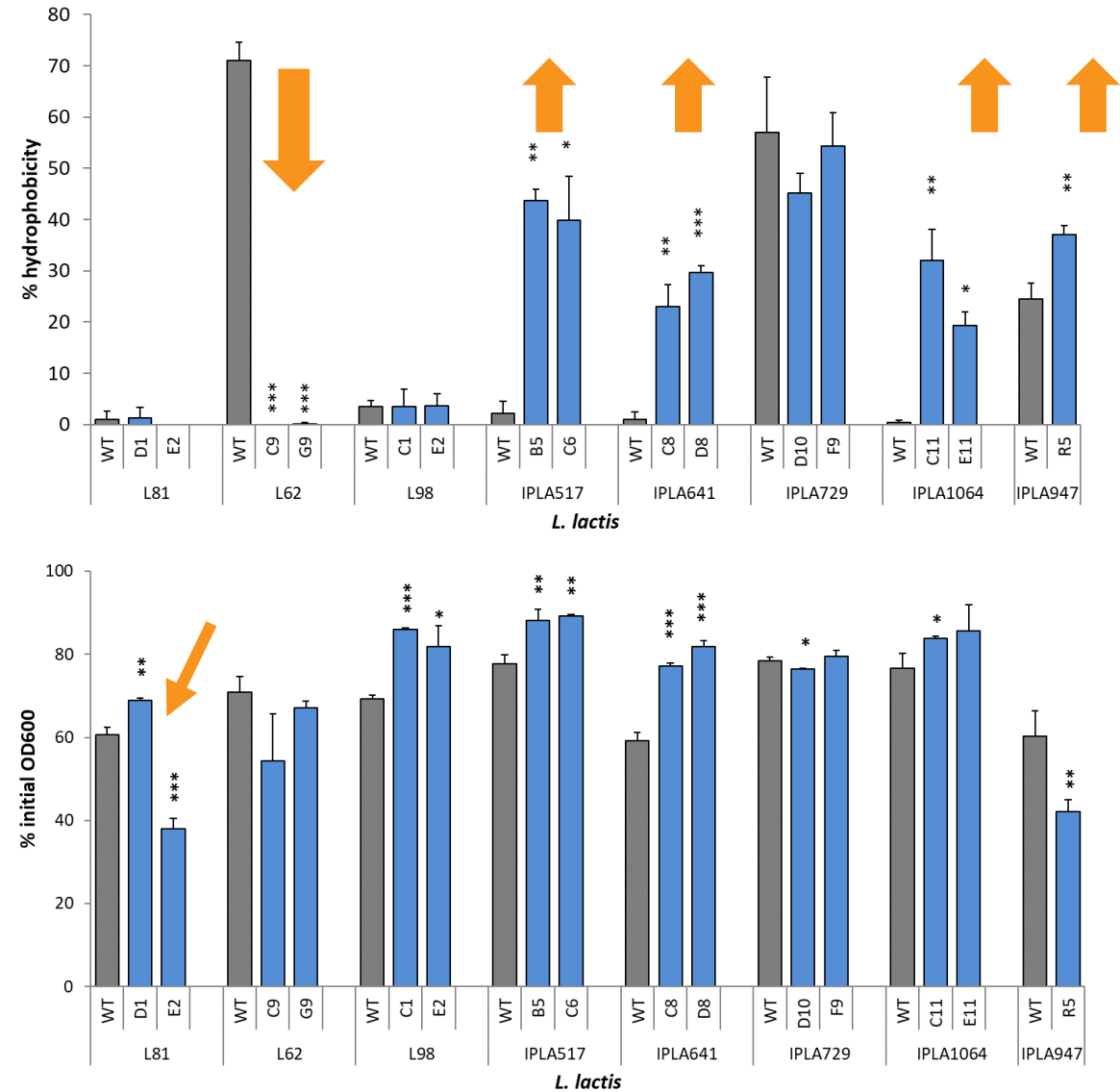
- Growth rate
- Milk acidification
- Nisin production



- Hydrophobicity
- Autolysis



- Plasmid loss:
 - Lactose (1/15)
 - Bacteriophage resistance (3/15)
- Increased sensitivity:
 - 50 °C, 30 min: 7/11
 - NaCl: 7/15



“Exploiting the CW”



- Growth rate
- Milk acidification
- Nisin production



- Hydrophobicity
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❖ Strategies to counteract CES

❖ AE-CES

- Feasible strategy to introduce **diversity** within strain collections

Filling the gaps

TOPIC	PROGRESS	FUTURE
CW physiology	▶ Nucleotide pools and PG plasticity	Alternative mechanisms for different PG types. Link to central metabolism, recycling
	▶ PG hydrolases in cell division	Imaging, spatial distribution, protein assemblies
CW components	▶ CWPS diversity	Role of decorations. Glycosyl transferase activities
Stress response	▶ TCSs characterized	Activation, sensing, regulatory networks
Health-promoting activities	▶ Muropeptides and host protection	In depth knowledge LAB-host molecular dialogue: motifs sensed by the host
	▶ TA modifications and impact on host physiology	Biogenesis, LAB-host cross-talk
	▶ Membrane vesicles	Extended uses, antibiotic alternatives
	▶ Bacteriocin variants	Bacteriophage-resistant strains
Novel applications	▶ Bacteriophage receptors	Improving product yields
	▶ LAB as cell factories	CES-resistant strains, tradeoffs
	▶ Evolution under CES	Defining interaction of pollutants with CW components
	▶ Bioremediation	

13th International Symposium on Lactic Acid Bacteria



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Nederlandse
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Microbiologie

Federation of European
Microbiological Societies



- ❖ Past and present members
- ❖ All collaborators
- ❖ Funding agencies



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