

# What Are We Trying to Say Here?

## Standardizing Next Generation Sequencing Reports for Tuberculosis

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**JOHNS HOPKINS**  
**CENTER FOR CLINICAL**  
**GLOBAL HEALTH EDUCATION**

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# Disclosures

➤ Nothing to disclose

# Why does this matter?

- Over the past few years:
  - Increasing recognition of drug resistance
  - Identification of new drugs
  - Expanding access to next generation sequencing
  - Rising numbers of epidemiologists / program managers engaged in studies of strain-relatedness
- UK data suggested cost savings of 7% using NGS rather than present diagnostic workflows
  - NGS has rapidly become a useful clinical tool!

# But we don't all speak the same language...

## ➤ Epidemiologists

- Phylogeny, clustering, lineage
- Contact tracing

## ➤ Microbiologists

- Drug susceptibility

## ➤ Geneticists

- SNPs, indels, nucleotides, amino acids

## ➤ Clinicians

- What can I give my patient?
- How much can I trust the test?

# As a clinician

- An MDR-TB patient has phenotypic DST in process
  - 1<sup>st</sup> line DST: rifampin resistant by Xpert MTB/RIF
  - Streptomycin, ethambutol susceptible by MGIT
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> line DST pending
- Genotype shows:
  - embB: Leu355Leu – no effect on ethambutol resistance
  - tlyA: Arg84Gly – effect on capreomycin resistance is unknown
- Can I give him capreomycin?

# What do other users want?

- Online survey of 17 providers (15 in UK)
  - 10 clinicians, 8 epidemiologist or surveillance workers
  - Most felt comfortable interpreting SNPs, SNP-related drug resistance, phylogenetic trees, genomic clusters, and SNP distance
  
- Most providers wanted speciation, DST, and resistotypes
  - <50% wanted complete epidemiology data

# Structured reports vary widely

## ➤ Technical Data

- Percent mapping to human vs. TB
- Total # reads, mapped %, coverage %
- Hetero-resistance, allelic frequency

## ➤ Epidemiologic

- Lineage
- Phylogenetic trees
- Identification of outbreak clusters

## ➤ Mutation Specific Data

- Codon change
- Amino acid change

## ➤ Drug Resistance Predictions

- Drugs of interest
- Interpretation of mutation:
  - Susceptible vs. Resistant
- Justification of that interpretation
  - Likelihood of association with resistance
  - MIC range documented with that mutation
  - Confidence in interpretation

# So what are we trying to say?

- The goal is to maximize necessary info and exclude everything else
  - Technical data vs. simplicity and readability
  
- Decisions that need to be made:
  - How to make statements about predicted resistance
  - How to name mutations: nucleotides vs amino acids
  - How much to report new drugs and inconclusive mutations
  - Which pipelines to include
  - How to report hetero-resistance?
  - Should drugs be lumped by class



# Who can we model on?

- Stanford HIV database (<https://hivdb.stanford.edu/>)
- Online tool: enter mutations, spits out interpretation + explanation)

**Drug Resistance Interpretation: PR**

PI Major Resistance Mutations: **M46I, L90M**  
PI Minor Resistance Mutations: None  
Other Mutations: I13IV, L63P, H69HY, V77IV

**Protease Inhibitors**

atazanavir/r (ATV/r)	Intermediate resistance
darunavir/r (DRV/r)	Susceptible
fosamprenavir/r (FPV/r)	Intermediate resistance
indinavir/r (IDV/r)	Intermediate resistance
lopinavir/r (LPV/r)	Low-level resistance
nelfinavir (NFV)	High-level resistance
saquinavir/r (SQV/r)	Intermediate resistance
tipranavir/r (TPV/r)	Susceptible

**PR Comments**

**PIMajor**

- M46I/L are nonpolymorphic PI-selected mutations that reduce susceptibility to IDV, NFV, FPV, LPV and ATV when present with other mutations. M46L also reduces susceptibility to TPV.
- L90M is a nonpolymorphic mutation selected primarily by SQV, NFV, IDV and LPV. It reduces susceptibility to each of the PIs except TPV and DRV.

- This is already the current standard of care for HIV

# Things to Clarify:

Needs to be Standardized	Current Approach	Alternative Approach
<b>How Resistance is Predicted</b>	Likelihood Ratios (LRs)	LRs, MIC ranges (where available), Reported Association with Resistance

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➤ Likelihood Ratio (LR):

$$LR+ = \frac{\text{sensitivity}}{1 - \text{specificity}}$$

$$LR+ = \frac{\Pr(T+|D+)}{\Pr(T+|D-)}$$

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➤ Likelihood Ratio (LR):  $LR_{+} = \frac{\text{sensitivity}}{1 - \text{specificity}}$        $LR_{+} = \frac{\Pr(T + | D+)}{\Pr(T + | D-)}$

➤ Threshold for Defining Resistance

- Resistant =  $LR \geq 5$
- No evidence of resistance =  $LR < 1$
- Possible resistance =  $LR \geq 1$  and  $LR < 5$

➤ Confidence Reported by LR Value

- $LR \geq 10$  – High confidence in mutation's association with resistance
- $5 \leq LR < 10$  – More evidence desired to confirm mutation's association with drug resistance
- $1 \leq LR < 5$  – Inconclusive evidence for mutation's association with drug resistance
- $LR < 1$  – No evidence of association between mutation and drug resistance

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- Presentation of both nucleotides and amino acids
  - Coding genes need amino acid:
    - *rpoB, katG, pncA, embB, gyrA, gyrB, rpsL, tlyA, ethA*
  - *Promotor regions need nucleotide changes:*
    - *inhA and eis*
- Certain mutations with the same amino acid change have distinct LRs
  - *rpoB* position 445, His -> Asp by CAC -> GAC (LR 10.00)
  - *rpoB* position 445, His -> Asp by CAC -> AAC (LR 2.67)
- What about insertions and deletions?
  - (T-> TTCGCATGCCGTCACC)

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<b>Reporting Inconclusive Resistance Data</b>	Only providing data regarding specific “genes of interest”	Provide all data, with grading system for quality assessment – “Mutation present but with inconclusive evidence” – Provides room to grow
<b>Inclusion of Newer Drugs</b>	Not included	Include with caveat

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- At present, we are reporting only to following
  - rpoB, katG, inhA, embB, pncA, gyrA, gyrB, rrs, eis
  - Most but not all pncA mutations confer resistance



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- At present, we are reporting only to following
  - rpoB, katG, inhA, embB, pncA, gyrA, gyrB, rrs, eis
- But whole genome sequencing may tell us more:
  - Ala63Pro mutation in the *atpE* gene associated with 133-fold MIC change for bedaquiline, but not confirmed clinically

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<b>Restriction of Reporting to Specific Analysis Pipelines</b>	ReSeqTB pipeline + alternative pipelines	Set benchmarks of quality filtering and pipeline components before reporting results

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<b>Restriction of Reporting to Specific Analysis Pipelines</b>	ReSeqTB pipeline + alternative pipelines	Set benchmarks of quality filtering and pipeline components before reporting results

## ➤ ReSeqTB pipeline requires:

- $\geq 90\%$  of reads map to MTBC by Kraken
- $\geq 30X$  coverage
- Quality scores  $\geq Q20$
- Read depth  $\geq 10X$

## ➤ How do we interpret results from alternative pipelines?

- At minimum, the pipeline employed must be part of the report

# Things to Clarify:

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<b>Thresholds for Calling Hetero-Resistance</b>	Variants called at $\geq 70\%$ of reads.	Report alleles and frequencies. State cutoff clearly and report data with disclaimer.

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<b>Thresholds for Calling Hetero-Resistance</b>	Variants called at $\geq 70\%$ of reads.	Report alleles and frequencies. State cutoff clearly and report data with disclaimer.

- When mixed populations occur:
  - Reporting frequency may identify minority populations that emerge later
  - May improve confidence in call
  - Unknown significance



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Resistance mutation found: S431X in gene rpoB  
Resistant allele seen 1 times  
Susceptible allele seen 23 times

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Resistance mutation found: M434X in gene rpoB  
Resistant allele seen 1 times  
Susceptible allele seen 23 times

---

Resistance mutation found: S450X in gene rpoB  
Resistant allele seen 36 times  
Susceptible allele seen 0 times

- Would you want to know?

# Things to Clarify:

Needs to be Standardized	Current Approach	Alternative Approach
<b>Lumping Drugs by Class</b>	Lumping some but not all quinolones, lumping rifamycins	Lump but make statements in “Additional Information” column where available

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- Do we require distinct information on ofloxacin vs. levofloxacin?
  - What about levofloxacin vs. moxifloxacin?
  
- What to do if rifampin and rifabutin are discordant?
  - Point mutations (e.g. position 516) may be rifampin resistant but rifabutin susceptible
  - Knowledge of the clinical significance of rifabutin susceptibility in rifampin resistant isolates is insufficient to extrapolate to clinical outcomes

# So what are we trying to say?

- The goal is to maximize necessary info and exclude everything else
  - Technical data vs. simplicity and readability
  - Useful to multiple end users

## ➤ 6 part report in 2 pages:

- Basic patient and lab data
- 1<sup>st</sup> line DST
- 2<sup>nd</sup> line DST
- Assessment of hetero-resistance
- Reference to Lineage
- Explanation of methods



### Sequencing Report Form: *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex

Laboratory Information: Location		Report Date DD/MM/YYYY
Accession number: A12345678		[BARCODE FOR LIMS]
Regulatory information: accreditation, validation, laboratory developed test, etc.		
Patient Identifier: XYZ	Birthdate: DD/MM/YYYY	Sex M <input type="checkbox"/> or F <input type="checkbox"/>
Submitted By: Dr. Jane	Submitter number: 123	Site Receiving Sample: Hospital
Specimen Type: sputum	Source: pulmonary	Collection Method: Induced
Date Collected: DD/MM/YYYY	Date Received: DD/MM/YYYY	

First Line Drug Mutations					
Drug	Interpretation	Confidence	Gene Target	Result	Additional information
RIF	Resistant	High	<i>rpoB</i>	Ser450Leu TCG -> TTC	Rifampin resistance predicted Rifabutin resistance likely Rifapentine resistance unknown
INH	Resistant	High	<i>katG</i>	Ser315Thr AGC -> ACC	Isoniazid resistance predicted
EMB	No evidence of resistance		<i>embB</i>	No mutation	Cannot rule out resistance
PZA	Possible Resistance	Insufficient Data	<i>pncA</i>	Ala3Glu GCG -> GAG	Mutation known to disrupt enzymatic activity and functional genetics confirms resistance in vitro (ref).

Second Line Drug Mutations					
Drug	Interpretation	Confidence	Gene Target	Result	Additional information
OFX	No evidence of resistance		<i>gyrA</i> <i>gyrB</i>	No mutation No mutation	Ofloxacin and levofloxacin resistance profiles are frequently the same.
MFX	No evidence of resistance		<i>gyrA</i> <i>gyrB</i>	No mutation No mutation	*See hetero-resistance information on page 2
KAN	Possible Resistance	Low	<i>rfs</i>	Ala1402Gly	Likely susceptible to Kanamycin based on clinical outcome data in ReSeqTB platform.
AMK	Resistant	High	<i>eis</i> promoter <i>rfs</i>	No mutation Ala1402Gly	
CAP	Resistant	High	<i>eis</i> promoter <i>rfs</i>	No mutation Ala1402Gly	All isolates identified with this mutation were resistant to Capreomycin
ETO	No evidence of resistance		<i>tlyA</i> <i>inhA</i>	No mutation No mutation	



**SEQUENCING REPORT**  
 Sequencing Method Used: Sanger, pyro, Illumina    Check one: amplicon     WGS   
 Analytic pipeline: PhyBEZ, ReSeqTB, etc    version #: 3.2c  
 Reference Sequence: H37Rv TMC102 (ATCC 27294)

Total read statistics	Mapped %	No. reads mapped	Coverage %	Hetero-resistance Frequency
<i>rpoB</i>				
<i>katG</i>				
<i>inhA</i>				
<i>embB</i>				
<i>pncA</i>				
<i>gyrA</i>				
<i>gyrB</i>				
<i>rfs</i>				
<i>Etc</i>				

**TB LINEAGE**  
 Lineage: 2.2.1 East-Asian Beijing  
 Regions of Difference:

**SUPPLEMENTAL DATA**  
 Interpretation Based on Likelihood Ratios of Resistance in ReSeqTB  
 LR – Likelihood ratio: Used in evidence-based medicine for assessing the value of performing a diagnostic test. They use the sensitivity and specificity of the test to determine whether a test result usefully changes the probability that a condition (such as a disease state) exists.

- Resistance Reported by LR Value**
- Resistant = LR ≥ 5
  - No evidence of resistance = LR < 1
  - Possible resistance = LR ≥ 1 and LR < 5
  - Insufficient data = LR value not available due to insufficient data to statistically assess association

- Confidence Reported by LR Value**
- LR ≥ 10 – high confidence that the mutation confers drug or is associated with resistance
  - LR ≥ 5 and < 10 – additional data desirable for improving evidence that the mutation confers or is associated with drug resistance
  - LR ≥ 1 and < 5 – inconclusive evidence that the mutation confers or is associated with drug resistance. Substantial additional data required.
  - LR < 1 – No evidence of association between mutation and drug resistance

**Note:** All results reference the *M. tuberculosis* numbering system for mutations which differs from the *E. coli* numbering system that some manuscripts refer to. For *rpoB* add 81 to amino acid position to calculate the equivalent *E. coli* position. For *gyrA* subtract 7 amino acid positions to calculate the equivalent *E. coli* position.





**Disclaimer:** The lack of observed mutations within genes of interest does not rule out the possibilities that either additional contributory mutations are present elsewhere in the genome or that poorly understood resistance pathways may affect drug resistance.



# Current approach

➤ Target-related mutation interpretation for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line drugs

## First Line Drug Mutations

Drug	Interpretation	Confidence	Gene Target	Result	Additional information
RIF	 Resistant	High	<i>rpoB</i>	Ser450Leu TCG -> T <u>T</u> G	Rifampin resistance predicted Rifabutin resistance likely Rifapentine resistance unknown
INH	 Resistant		<i>inhA</i>	No mutation	
		High	<i>katG</i>	Ser315Thr AGC -> A <u>C</u> C	Isoniazid resistance predicted
EMB	 No evidence of resistance		<i>embB</i>	No mutation	Cannot rule out resistance
PZA	 Possible Resistance	Insufficient Data	<i>pncA</i>	Ala3Glu GCG -> G <u>A</u> G	Mutation known to disrupt enzymatic activity and functional genetics confirms resistance in vitro ( <b>ref</b> ).

➤ Allows for either probe-based and whole-genome based results

# Current approach

## ➤ Target-related mutation interpretation for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> line drugs

### Second Line Drug Mutations

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OFX	○ No evidence of resistance		<i>gyrA</i>	No mutation	Ofloxacin and levofloxacin resistance profiles are frequently the same.
			<i>gyrB</i>	No mutation	
MFX	○ No evidence of resistance		<i>gyrA</i>	No mutation	*See hetero-resistance information on page 2
			<i>gyrB</i>	No mutation	
KAN	▲ Possible Resistance	Low	<i>rrs</i>	Ala1402Gly	Likely susceptible to Kanamycin based on clinical outcome data in ReSeqTB platform.
			<i>eis</i> promotor	No mutation	
AMK	⊗ Resistant	High	<i>rrs</i>	Ala1402Gly	
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CAP	⊗ Resistant	High	<i>rrs</i>	Ala1402Gly	All isolates identified with this mutation were resistant to Capreomycin
			<i>tlyA</i>	No mutation	
ETO	○ No evidence of resistance		<i>inhA</i>	No mutation	

## ➤ Allows for either probe-based or whole genome sequencing

# So what are we trying to say?

- Quality control section outlining target mapping & hetero-resistance

Total read statistics	Mapped %	No. reads mapped	Coverage %	Hetero-resistant calls
<i>rpoB</i>				
<i>katG</i>				
<i>inhA</i>				
<i>embB</i>				
<i>pncA</i>				
<i>gyrA</i>				
<i>gyrB</i>				
<i>rrs</i>				
<i>eis</i>				

- Lineage Report

- **TB LINEAGE**
- **Lineage:** 2.2.1 East-Asian Beijing

- Explanation of methods section to clarify clinical interpretation

- LR  $\geq 10$  – high confidence that the mutation is associated with resistance
- LR  $\geq 5 - 10$  – additional data desired to conclude association with resistance
- LR  $\geq 1 - 5$  - inconclusive evidence to determine association with resistance
- LR  $< 1$  – no evidence of association with resistance

# Next steps

- Clarify these aspects over the course of this meeting
- Generate an updated reporting template
- Planned WHO meeting to finalize reporting template
- Update as clinical data become available

Thank you for your attention