Conditional antagonism in co-cultures of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Candida albicans*: an intersection of ethanol and phosphate signaling distilled from dual-seq transcriptomics

Georgia Doing, Katja Koeppen, Patricia Occipinti, and Deborah A. Hogan*

Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, Hanover, NH 03755

Running title: Conditional antagonism between *C. albicans* and *P. aeruginosa*

*To whom correspondence should be addressed

Department of Microbiology and Immunology,

Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth

Rm 208 Vail Building, Hanover, NH 03755

E-mail: dhogan@dartmouth.edu

Tel: (603) 650-1252

Abstract

Pseudomonas aeruginosa and *Candida albicans* are opportunistic pathogens whose interactions involve the secreted products ethanol and phenazines. Here we describe the focal role of ethanol in mixed-species co-cultures by dual RNA-seq analyses. *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* transcriptomes were assessed after growth in mono-culture or co-culture with either ethanol-producing *C. albicans* or a *C. albicans* mutant lacking the primary ethanol dehydrogenase, Adh1. Analyses using KEGG-pathways and the previously published eADAGE method revealed several *P. aeruginosa* responses to *C. albicans*-produced ethanol including the induction of a non-canonical low phosphate response mediated by PhoB. *C. albicans* wild-type, but not *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ*, induces *P. aeruginosa* production of 5-methyl-phenazine-1-carboxylic acid (5-MPCA), which forms a red derivative within fungal cells. We first demonstrate that PhoB is required for this interaction and that PhoB hyperactivity, via deletion of *pstB,* leads to increased production of 5-MPCA even when phosphate concentrations are high, but only in the presence of ethanol. Second, we show that ethanol is only sufficient to promote 5-MPCA production at permissive phosphate concentrations. The intersection of ethanol and phosphate in co-culture is mirrored in *C. albicans*; the *adh1Δ/Δ* mutant had increased expression of genes regulated by Pho4, the *C. albicans* transcription factor that responds to low phosphate which we confirmed by showing the *adh1Δ/Δ* strain had elevated Pho4-dependent phosphatase activity. The dual-dependence on ethanol and phosphate concentrations for anti-fungal production highlights how environmental factors modulate microbial interactions and dictate antagonisms such as those between *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*.

Author Summary

Pseudomonas aeruginosa and *Candida albicans* are opportunistic pathogens that are frequently isolated from co-infections. Using a Dual-Seq approach in combination with genetics approaches, we found that ethanol produced by *C. albicans* stimulates the PhoB regulon in *P. aeruginosa* asynchronously with activation of the Pho4 regulon in *C. albicans.* In doing so, we demonstrate that eADAGE-based analysis can improve the understanding of the *P. aeruginosa* response to ethanol-producing *C. albicans* as measured by transcriptomics: we identify a subset of PhoB-regulated genes as differentially expressed in response to ethanol. We validate our result by showing that PhoB is necessary for multiple roles in co-culture including the competition for phosphate and the production of 5-methyl-phenazine-1-carboxylic acid, and that the *P. aeruginosa* response to *C. albicans*-produced ethanol depends on phosphate availability. The conditional stimulation of virulence production in response to sub-inhibitory concentrations of ethanol only under phosphate limitation highlights the importance of considering nutrient concentrations in the analysis of co-culture interactions.

Introduction

Pseudomonas aeruginosa and *Candida albicans* are opportunistic pathogens that are frequently isolated from co-infections [1-11]. These pathogens affect each other's behaviors through competition for nutrients [12-17], physical contact [3, 4, 7, 13, 14], diffusible signaling molecules [18-23] and antimicrobials [18, 21, 24-30]. Studies highlighting the dynamic interactions between *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* have contributed to the growing understanding of how microbial interactions influence microbial physiology and behavior as well as microbiological and pathological outcomes.

Like many fermentative organisms, *C. albicans* produces ethanol. Ethanol is a biologically-active metabolite which, sub-inhibitory concentrations, modulates *P. aeruginosa* behavior in multiple ways: it induces activity of the sigma factor AlgU through ppGpp and DksA [31]; it promotes Pel matrix production through the Wsp system [29]; it decreases flagellar-mediated motility through a pathway implicated in cell-surface sensing [29, 32]; it affects pathways known to contribute to *P. aeruginosa* virulence [29, 33]; and it fuels fungal antagonism [29]. The broad effects of ethanol apply to many contexts and the response of *P. aeruginosa* to *C. albicans*-produced ethanol can serve as a model for how *P. aeruginosa* may respond to other fermentative fungi and bacteria. We seek to further understand this response and identify common themes which may be implicated in other microbial interactions.

To study the effects of ethanol in co-culture, we used *P. aeruginosa* anti-fungal production as a readout of the ethanol response. Previous work has shown that ethanol promotes the production and secretion of the phenazine 5-methyl-phenazine-carboxylic acid (5-MPCA) by *P. aeruginosa* and that, in turn, *P. aeruginosa* phenazines cause an

increase in *C. albicans* fermentative metabolism and ethanol production [24-26]. *P.*

aeruginosa does not normally secrete 5-MPCA in axenic cultures but in co-culture it

secretes 5-MPCA through the MexGHI-OmpD efflux complex. Consequently, 5-MPCA

enters *C. albicans* cells wherein it reacts with the amine group of arginine, disrupting

protein function and forming a red pigment whose accumulation causes redox stress and

eventually death of *C. albicans* [24, 27, 34]. While it is known that ethanol production by

the fungus is necessary for *P. aeruginosa* 5-MPCA release, the mechanisms by which 5-

MPCA production is regulated have not yet been described. The mechanisms of

stimulation and ensuing consequences of *P. aeruginosa* 5-MPCA production and

accumulation of the red 5-MPCA-derivative within *C. albicans* cells is a scopic case study

for microbial interactions because it is an indicator of general antagonism.

Several studies have described the conditional production of antagonistic factors

in response to nutrient availability such as phosphate or iron limitation [35-52]. This is

often mediated transcriptionally, and such is the case for the low phosphate response

which is mediated by the PhoR-PhoB two-component system wherein inorganic

phosphate is sensed through the periplasmic domain of the phosphate transport complex,

PstS, which is dependent on the ATPases PstA and PstB. The failure to bind phosphate

in low phosphate environments causes the de-repression of the sensor kinase PhoR

which phosphorylates the response regulator PhoB and initiates PhoB DNA-binding to

the promoters of many genes.

This environmentally responsive regulation aids in the competition for essential

nutrients. For example, the *P. aeruginosa* low-phosphate response includes the secretion

of an arsenal of phosphatases, phospholipases and DNases that cleave phosphate from

diverse macromolecules [40]. However, the secretion of these enzymes renders

phosphate freely available to any nearby organism. Simultaneous production of

antagonistic factors could aid *P. aeruginosa* in the competition for phosphate amongst

other microbes. Indeed, in response to low phosphate and other complex stimuli, *P.*

aeruginosa produces antagonistic factors like phenazines and phospholipases which play

important roles in microbial interactions [39, 53, 54]. It has been reported that *P.*

aeruginosa tailors its low phosphate response to secondary stimuli: in *P. aeruginosa*

PhoB interacts with other regulators such as the transcription factor TctD [55] and the

sigma factor VreI [37] to orchestrate the expression of its target genes. However, the

mechanism by which PhoB exerts condition-specific control over its diverse regulon to

manage antagonistic factors in microbial interactions, is not yet fully understood.

Co-culture transcriptomics data from single species RNA-Seq or dual RNA-Seq

methods can be heterogeneous due to varying temporal and spatial relationships

between organisms. Variability can make such data difficult to analyze with traditional

statistical and pathway-based approaches. However, these data contain a wealth of

information about nutrient competition, synergy and antagonism in microbial interactions.

Therefore, it may be necessary to use techniques, such as recent machine learning based

methods, that allow for the detection of subtle and novel transcriptional signals in order

to render this important and complex data informative [53, 56-59].

Analysis of transcriptomic data from complex environments using curated

pathways can be challenging if the conditions are not well represented by the data used

for pathway definition. Furthermore, pathway definition relies on expert-contributed

annotations, yet ~38% (2,162 of 5,704) of genes for PAO1 reference strain

(pseudomonas.com) lack description. Recent methods are using unsupervised machine

learning to leverage large amounts of transcriptomic data and automatically identify sets

of genes with correlated expression across large compendia of samples, agnostic of gene

annotations and previously characterized pathways [56, 57, 59-62]. With over 2,000

transcriptional profiles of *P. aeruginosa* in the public sphere, such an approach has been

successfully implemented to make expression-based gene sets which can be used as

data-driven analytical tools that can bolster transcriptional analyses [53, 58, 63, 64]. In

particular, the data-driven tool eADAGE has identified transcriptional signals that contain

uncharacterized genes, manifest as small magnitude changes in expression, or are

condition-specific yet biologically informative.

Here we demonstrate that *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* undergo transcriptional

changes in response to one another dependent on *C. albicans* ethanol production. Using

eADAGE analysis we identify a group of PhoB-regulated genes as differentially

expressed in response to ethanol and validate the result using genetic and biochemical

assays that show PhoB is necessary for accumulation of the red 5-MPCA-derivative in *C.*

albicans cells and that ethanol is sufficient to stimulate PhoB in mono-culture. We show

that in co-culture PhoB regulation of phosphate scavenging and 5-MPCA production are

independently necessary for *P. aeruginosa* fitness and antagonism against *C. albicans*

respectively. Further, by examining *C. albicans* gene expression profiles matched to

those of *P. aeruginosa* from the same co-cultures, we show that the *C. albicans* low

phosphate response is inversely correlated to that of *P. aeruginosa* linking the

coincidence of these stimuli in co-culture. By requiring dual-stimulation, In summary, we

show that *P. aeruginosa* only produces antifungal 5-MPCA when the death of neighboring

fungi would simultaneously remove a competitor and provide a source of the essential

nutrient phosphate: in both the presence of fermenting *C. albicans* and phosphate

limitation. We conclude that the enmity of *P. aeruginosa* – *C. albicans* interactions is

conditional upon ethanol and phosphate concentrations.

Results

Ethanol is a defining factor in *P. aeruginosa* – *C. albicans* interactions stimulating

antagonism wrought by transcriptional changes in both organisms

When grown on a lawn of *C. albicans*, *P. aeruginosa* produces the anti-fungal

phenazine 5-MPCA which is taken up by *C. albicans* and modified within the fungal cells

to form a red derivative [24, 27, 29] that can be seen first below and then as a halo

surrounding *P. aeruginosa* colonies (**Fig. 1A**). The 5-MPCA precursor phenazine-1-

carboxylic acid (PCA) can be synthesized via enzymes encoded in either of the two highly

similar operons, *phzA1B1C1D1E1F1G1* (*phz1*) and *phzA2B2C2D2E2F2G2* (*phz2*) with

different regulation; *phz1* contributes to phenazine production in liquid while *phz2* is

responsible for phenazine production in colony biofilms [65]. Analysis of phenazine

production in co-culture found that *phz1* was dispensable for the formation of red pigment,

while *phz2* was required (**Fig. 1A**). Consistent with previous results, 5-MPCA-derived red

pigment formation required *phzM* [27], *mexGHI-ompD* and *soxR* [24], and was over-

abundant in upon deletion of *phzS,* which catalyzes the conversion of 5-MPCA into

another phenazine, pyocyanin [66] (**Fig. S1 A**). As we have previously reported and

reproduced here, *P. aeruginosa* 5-MPCA production required *C. albicans* ethanol

production as the *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ*, which lacks the major ethanol dehydrogenase,

did not elicit 5-MPCA-derived red pigment accumulation [29]. Chromosomal

complementation of a single copy of *ADH1* in *C. albicans* restored *P. aeruginosa* 5-MPCA

production (**Fig. 1A**).

To determine how *C. albicans* ethanol production influenced *P. aeruginosa* and

how 5-MPCA-derived red pigment accumulation influenced *C. albicans*, we took a dual

RNA-Seq approach in which we collected total RNA for simultaneous transcriptome-wide

analyses of both organisms from 16 h co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* with *C. albicans* WT,

in which 5-MPCA-derivatives accumulated, and co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* with *C.*

*albicans adh1*Δ/Δ, in which 5-MPCA products were not observed (see **Fig. 1B** for

experimental set up). Single-species *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* colony biofilms grown

on YPD medium were also analyzed at the same time point. Principle component analysis

(PCA) of gene expression for each organism differentiated mono-culture and co-culture

with the first component PC1, which accounted for 40.1% and 44.7% of total variance for

P. aeruginosa and *C. albicans* respectively (**Fig. 1C,D**). The presence of *ADH1* in *C.*

albicans constituted a defining feature of co-culture in PC2 for both organisms, which

captured 18.8% and 28.2% of total variance for *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*

respectively (**Fig. 1C,D**). Comparison of *P. aeruginosa* gene expression on either *C.*

albicans WT or *adh1*Δ/Δ to gene expression in mono-culture found 1,830 differentially

expressed genes (DEGs) with an absolute $\log_2$fold-change (logFC) > 1 and a corrected

p-value (FDR) < 0.05. Over half of the DEGs between *P. aeruginosa* in mono-culture and

on *C. albicans* WT were also DEGs between *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans* WT

compared to *adh1*Δ/Δ suggesting that a major portion of *P. aeruginosa* gene expression

in co-culture was influenced by *C. albicans* ethanol production (**Fig. 1E** and **Supp.**

Dataset 1). A similar trend was evident in *C. albicans* gene expression as approximately

half of the DEGs between mono- and co-culture with *P. aeruginosa* were also DEGs

between *C. albicans* WT and *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* from co-cultures (**Fig. 1F** and **Supp.**

Dataset 2). Here, expression patterns of DEGs in both *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*

illustrated that ethanol played a defining role in *P. aeruginosa* – *C. albicans* interactions

from the perspectives of both organisms.

How fungal ethanol shapes co-culture transcriptomes: the *C. albicans* perspective

C. albicans Adh1 is responsible for reducing acetaldehyde to ethanol during

fermentation, and we thus expected metabolic shifts between *C. albicans* WT and

adh1Δ/Δ [29]. We identified DEGs between co-cultures of *C. albicans* WT and *adh1Δ/Δ*

with *P. aeruginosa* and conducted KEGG [67-69] pathway over-representation analysis.

The *C. albicans* KEGG pathway for fatty acid beta oxidation was over-represented in the

DEGs and the genes it contained (e.g. *FAA2-1*, *FAA2-3*) were more highly expressed in

C. albicans WT than in *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* (**Fig. 2, Supp. Dataset 3**). Since these

pathways were not over-represented in DEGs between *C. albicans* WT and *C. albicans*

adh1Δ/Δ in mono-culture, where there is no *P. aeruginosa*-produced 5-MPCA, these

results are consistent with a previous report of a phenazine and other mitochondrial

inhibitors increasing beta-oxidation in *C. albicans* WT as determined in metabolomics

studies [70].

Other KEGG pathways over-represented in DEGs in *C. albicans* from co-cultures

of *C. albicans* WT with *P. aeruginosa* compared to *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* with *P. aeruginosa*

were amino acid metabolism (e.g. *PUT2*, *GLT1*), sulfur metabolism (e.g. *MET15*) and

peroxisomal transport (e.g. *PEX1, PEX19*) (**Fig. 2, Supp. Dataset 3**). These pathways

converge on reactive oxygen species (ROS) mitigation (e.g. *GSH1*, *CAT1*) and, since

previous reports have shown phenazines causing redox stress to neighboring fungi [25,

26], the upregulation of these pathways could have been due to ethanol-induced *P.*

aeruginosa 5-MPCA production.

The KEGG pathway for glycolysis (e.g. *HXK2, PGI1*) was also over-represented

in DEGs between *C. albicans* WT in co-culture with *P. aeruginosa and C. albicans*

adh1Δ/Δ in co-culture with *P. aeruginosa,* but the genes within were more highly

expressed in *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* compared to *C. albicans* WT, perhaps as metabolic

compensation for the inability to ferment to ethanol (**Fig. 2, Supp. Dataset 3).** Similarly,

there was also over-representation of the KEGG pathway for iron scavenging (e.g. *FRP1*,

FET99) and these genes were again more highly expressed in *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* (**Fig.**

2, Supp. Dataset 3). Since the KEGG pathway for iron scavenging was not over-

represented in DEGs between *C. albicans* WT and *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* in mono-culture

(**Supp. Dataset 3)**, the increase in iron scavenging may have been due to a change in *P.*

aeruginosa behavior that affected iron availability.

In co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* with ethanol-deficient *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ*, which

did not promote 5-MPCA production*, C. albicans* also had higher expression of genes

involved in DNA damage repair (e.g. *RBT5, CSA1*) (**Fig. 2**). While not a result of *P.*

aeruginosa 5-MPCA, such damage may have been caused by another *P. aeruginosa*

antagonistic factor. However, the KEGG pathways for DNA replication and repair were

also over-represented in the DEGs between *C. albicans* and *adh1Δ/Δ* in mono-culture

(**Supp. Dataset 3),** so DNA damage may be a native consequence of the loss of Adh1 in

C. albicans, which is consistent with previous reports of an *adh1Δ/Δ* mutant having higher

intracellular concentrations of the DNA-damaging metabolic intermediate methylglyoxal

[71, 72].

How fungal ethanol shapes co-culture transcriptomes: the *P. aeruginosa*

perspective

We identified *P. aeruginosa* DEGs when grown on *C. albicans* WT compared to

on *adh1Δ/Δ*. On *C. albicans* WT, *P. aeruginosa* upregulated genes involved in 5-MPCA

biosynthesis including *phzM* and genes within both the *phz1* and *phz2* operons, which is

consistent with differences in 5-MPCA formation between the two co-cultures (**Fig. 2**).

While the last four genes of the *phz* operons have fewer than three SNPs between each

gene pair and are thus not differentiated by alignment *phzA1, phzB1 and phzC1* have

substantial enough differences in sequence from *phzA2, phzB2 and phzC2* respectively

that the two operons can be distinguished, and we found that transcripts from both

operons were more highly abundant by at least 2-fold when *P. aeruginosa* was grown in

co-culture with *C. albicans* WT relative to with *adh1Δ/Δ*. While *phzS* and *phzH* are not

required for 5-MPCA biosynthesis [24, 29] they have been reported to have coordinated

expression with other phenazine genes [55, 73] and indeed we saw increases in their

expression on *C. albicans* WT compared to *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* as well (**Fig. 2**).

We again conducted KEGG pathway over-representation analysis and found over-

representation of three KEGG pathways in DEGs from *P. aeruginosa* grown in co-culture

with *C. albicans* WT compared to with *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ*: phenazine biosynthesis,

quorum sensing (QS) and pyochelin biosynthesis (**Fig. 2, Supp. Dataset 3**). Over-

representation of the phenazine biosynthesis pathway was expected based on the

upregulation of the *phz* genes as described above. The identification of QS as an over-

represented pathway was also not surprising in light of the known regulation of phenazine

biosynthesis by QS in response to environmental cues [74, 75], including in *C. albicans*

co-culture [27]. *P. aeruginosa* QS involves three major transcriptional regulators: LasR

[76], PqsR [77] and RhlR [76]. RhlR and PqsR were necessary for phenazine production

(**Fig. S1B**). Although Δ*lasR* appeared to produce less 5-MPCA than *P. aeruginosa* WT

on *C. albicans* WT, consistent with previous data, it produced an abundance of the blue-

green phenazine pyocyanin, which is a 5-MPCA-derivative [18]. Upon examining the

expression of gene targets for these transcription factors (**Supp. Dataset 6**), we found

heterogenous expression patterns inconsistent with canonical, cell-density regulated QS

but reconcilable with activation of a subset of QS regulated genes that includes phenazine

biosynthesis genes (**Fig. S1C,D**).

The third over-represented KEGG pathway was that for the biosynthesis of

pyochelin, a siderophore [51]. Expressly, genes involved in pyochelin biosynthesis, import

and regulation were lower in *P. aeruginosa* on *C. albicans* WT compared to on *C. albicans*

*adh1*Δ/Δ. Pyochelin and another siderophore, pyoverdine, are fluorescent, and we

supported the RNA-Seq data by showing increased *P. aeruginosa*-derived fluorescence

on *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ compared to on *C. albicans* WT (**Fig. 2,** inset). The over-

representation of low iron responsive genes in both *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*

demonstrated that the organisms were experiencing simultaneous iron limitation. Taken

together these data are consistent with 1) *C. albicans* ethanol production stimulated *P.*

aeruginosa antagonistic 5-MPCA production which affected *C. albicans* metabolism and

ROS stress pathways and 2) increased glycolysis in *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* that

compensated for the inability to ferment coincided with a competition for iron.

eADAGE analysis of *P. aeruginosa* transcriptome revealed additional pathways

differentially active in response to ethanol in co-culture with *C. albicans*

While the analysis of DEGs and the KEGG pathways over-represented therein

provided insight into two key *P. aeruginosa – C. albicans* interactions, only 19 of the 120

P. aeruginosa DEGs (|ogFC > 2, FDR < 0.05) fell within the three statistically over-

represented KEGG pathways: QS (orange bar), phenazine biosynthesis (red bar) and

pyochelin biosynthesis (blue bar) (**Fig. 3A**). To look for additional processes that were

affected by *C. albicans* ethanol production, we further identified patterns in the RNA-Seq

data using eADAGE, a denoising autoencoder-based tool [53, 58, 64]. In eADAGE

analysis, the activities of previously-defined gene expression signatures are calculated

as a weighted sum of normalized gene expression values (TPM) where gene weights are

unique to each signature [64]. The eADAGE signatures were derived irrespective of

human curation, which allowed for the examination of gene sets with coherent expression

patterns but no annotation to date. The eADAGE-transformed *P. aeruginosa – C. albicans*

co-culture signature activity profiles had a higher clustering coefficient (CC) by condition

than was observed by normalized gene expression profiles; the CC for differentially active

eADAGE signatures (DASs) was 0.68 compared to 0.38 for gene expression data;

randomized data had CC values less than 0.14 (**Table S1**). The higher CC after eADAGE

signature transformation indicated that biological information was retained and signals

that differentiated sample types may be more clear at the pathway level. Using eADAGE,

we found 48 DASs in *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans* WT versus *P. aeruginosa* grown

on *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ (**Supp. Dataset 3**).

As predicted by the DEG analysis (**Fig. 3A**), there were multiple DASs in which

phenazine biosynthesis and pyochelin biosynthesis KEGG pathways were over-

represented (**Fig. 3B,** red and blue bars respectively). The detection of multiple

signatures enriched in these pathways was expected based on the presence of similar

signatures that are redundant in some contexts but discriminating in others [53]. There

were 32 DASs (**Fig. 3B,** black bar) with over-representations of 7 additional pathways (all

pathways over-represented in DASs shown in inset) and 16 DASs in which no pathway

was over-represented (**Fig. 3B,** grey bar), perhaps representing novel transcriptional

signals. As expected based on the larger differences in gene expression for phenazine

biosynthetic genes, multiple signatures that contained over-representations of phenazine

biosynthesis (annotated as phenazine or pyocyanin) (red) had increased activity in *P.*

aeruginosa grown on *C. albicans* WT compared to *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans*

*adh1*Δ/Δ, and together contained over-representations of pyochelin biosynthesis

(annotated as siderophore or iron transport) (blue) had decreased activity in *P.*

aeruginosa grown on *C. albicans* WT compared to *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans*

*adh1*Δ/Δ. Other pathways over-represented in DASs included amino acid metabolism,

styrene metabolism and zinc uptake (**Fig. 3B** inset, **Supp. Dataset S4**). Notably, one

differentially active signature, Node206neg (N206n), contained ethanol catabolism genes

(**Fig. 3C,** pink dot). The signature with the largest increase in activity, Node108neg

(N108n) (**Fig. 3C,** violet dot) was not enriched in any KEGG pathways. However, we had

previously identified Node108neg as significantly more active in low phosphate media

than phosphate replete media across the compendium of gene expression on which

eADAGE was trained [53]. Therefore, upon identifying Node108neg as the most activated

eADAGE signature in response to *C. albicans* ethanol production in co-culture, we further

investigated the genes within Node108neg and their connection to the *P. aeruginosa* low

phosphate response.

eADAGE analysis suggests *P. aeruginosa* PhoB up-regulated genes in response to

***C. albicans* ethanol production**

In the most upregulated eADAGE signature, Node108neg, the set of PhoB-

regulated genes PhoB (i.e. the PhoB regulon) was significantly over-represented

(hypergeometric test: $p = 5.9 \times 10^{-9}$). The PhoB regulon has been extensively defined

through rigorous experimental methods including mutant transcriptomics, motif analysis

and chromatin immunoprecipitation assays [55]. Of the 32 genes in Node108neg, 11 were

also in the PhoB regulon (**Fig 3D**) and they all increased in expression in *P. aeruginosa*

grown on *C. albicans* WT compared to *adh1Δ/Δ*, but the Pho regulon defined in Bielecki

et al. was heterogeneously expressed overall (**Fig. 3E**). We examined DEGs in the

context of signatures more closely in order understand how changes in eADAGE

signature activities embodied the *P. aeruginosa* response to *C. albicans*-produced

ethanol and whether *P. aeruginosa* gene expression changes between growth on *C.*

albicans WT and *adh1Δ/Δ* signaled a low phosphate response.

We visualized relationships among DEGs in the eADAGE gene-gene network. The

full gene-gene network consists of the 5,549 *P. aeruginosa* genes used to create the

eADAGE model as vertices with similarities in transcriptional patterns as weighted edges

(shorter edges represent higher Pearson correlations between gene weights across all

signatures in the eADAGE model) [53, 58, 64]. Here we show strongly DEGs (logFC > 2,

p-value < 0.01) between *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans* WT and *adh1Δ/Δ* connected

by edges whose weight is drawn from the full gene-gene network (edge cutoff ± 0.5) (**Fig.**

3F). DEGs fell into cliques (**Table S2**) when visualized as a sub-network within the

eADAGE gene-gene network (**Fig. 3D**). The three largest cliques contained genes

relevant to the biological processes of phenazine biosynthesis (clique 1, 17 genes),

pyochelin biosynthesis (clique 2, 29 genes), and the low phosphate response (clique 3,

23 genes) (**Fig. 3F**). Other cliques contained genes involved in isoprenoid catabolism

(clique 4), magnesium flux across the membrane (clique 5), aconitate porins (clique 6),

pyrimidine metabolism (clique 7), pyocin biosynthesis (clique 8), spermidine biosynthesis

(clique 9), histidine metabolism (clique 10), the heat shock response (clique 11), and the

ROS stress response (clique 12). Most notably, many genes within clique 3, which were

related to the low phosphate response, were also in Node108neg.

Genes within clique 3 clustered into two groups by gene expression: four were

more highly expressed in the *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* and 19 genes

were more highly expressed in *P. aeruginosa* grown on *C. albicans* WT, including those

in Node108neg (**Fig. 3G**). Notably, both groups of genes are regulated by PhoB, but are

in different operons. The group of *P. aeruginosa* genes that were more highly expressed

when grown on *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* fall within the neighboring operons *phoBR* and

pstABC. The group of *P. aeruginosa* genes that were more highly expressed when grown

on *C. albicans* WT belong to the consecutive operons that encode the Hxz type II

secretion   system   (PA14_55450,   PA14_55460)   and   its   substrate   enzyme   the

phosphatase *lapC* [78]. The latter group of genes also contained genes involved in TonB-

dependent transport (*exbB2*, *exbD2*) as well as the phosphatases *phoA*, and the

phospholipases *plcN*. All of these genes are canonically co-regulated by PhoB and

usually have positively correlated expression patterns but it appeared as if PhoB was

selectively promoting the expression of only a subset of its regulon. We demonstrated

that the non-canonical PhoB response identified by eADAGE was biologically meaningful

through genetic, biochemical and phenotypic experiments described below.

The *P. aeruginosa* low phosphate response was activated in response to *C.*

***albicans* ethanol production**

eADAGE analysis of the co-culture RNA-Seq data found higher levels of some

PhoB-regulated transcripts in *P. aeruginosa* co-cultured with *C. albicans* WT than in *P.*

aeruginosa co-cultured with *C. albicans adh1∆/∆*. We confirmed this result using

NanoString, a multiplex RNA analysis method, to measure the mRNA levels of

representative PhoB-regulated genes. The data shown are normalized to six house

keeping genes as described in the Methods section. Like in the RNA-Seq data, there was

a split in the expression of PhoB-regulated genes: phosphate transport-associated genes

phoR, *phoB*, *pstA* and *phoU* did not increase in expression (**Fig. 4A**, bottom section) but

those encoding phosphate scavenging enzymes did: glycosyl transferase PA14_53380,

glycerophosphoryl diester phosphodiesterase *glpQ*, TonB-dependent transport protein

exbD2, phosphonate transporter *phnD* and alkaline phosphatase *phoA*. As well as genes

for phenazine biosynthesis (**Fig. 4A**, top two sections). Additionally, ethanol catabolism

genes *exaA* and *exaB* showed PhoB-independent increases in expression (**Fig. 4A,** third

section).

We assessed PhoB activity in co-culture using phosphate supplementation, the

native suppressor of PhoB. The addition of 10 mM potassium phosphate to the medium

underlying the co-cultures resulted in a decrease in the expression levels of PhoB

regulated genes (**Fig. 4A,** top section), including phenazine genes (**Fig. 4A,** second

section). Visualization of transcript levels by sample revealed some heterogeneity which

we predicted was indicative of a dynamic response as both species grow. To additionally

confirm the expression of these genes was PhoB-dependent we included Δ*phoB* in co-

culture with *C. albicans* WT. The histogram to the right shows the mean signal of PhoB-

dependence (*P. aeruginosa* WT on *C. albicans* WT / *P. aeruginosa* Δ*phoB* on *C. albicans*

WT) and indicates that expression of expected PhoB targets but not ethanol catabolism

genes was PhoB-dependent.

Complementing transcript abundance data, promoter activity in *P. aeruginosa* WT

decreased in response to 10 mM phosphate in co-culture with *C. albicans* WT as

measured by promoter fusion assay of the PhoB target *pdtA* [41], **Fig. 4B**). These data

suggested that in co-culture, the bioavailability of phosphate modulated PhoB activity

which may have affected co-culture interactions.

PhoB was necessary for 5-MPCA-derived red pigment accumulation in *P.

aeruginosa – *C. albicans* co-culture**

Given the dependence on PhoB for the expression of phenazine biosynthesis

genes, we determined if PhoB was necessary for the accumulation of 5-MPCA-derived

red pigment in co-culture with *C. albicans* WT. *P. aeruginosa* Δ*phoB* did not support

accumulation of the 5-MPCA-derivative as indicated by the lack of red pigment in co-

culture with ethanol-producing *C. albicans* WT, and this was restored by chromosomal

complementation with a wild-type copy of *phoB* in *P. aeruginosa,* provided *C. albicans*

had a functional *ADH1* gene (**Fig. 4C**). Phenazine production was also dependent on

PhoR, the known regulatory kinase of PhoB, and the Δ*phoR* phenotype was

complemented by a wild-type copy of *phoR* expressed on an extrachromosomal plasmid.

We further demonstrated that PhoB activity is required for 5-MPCA production as

phosphate supplementation led to a decrease in 5-MPCA-derived red pigment in *P.*

aeruginosa WT co-culture with *C. albicans* WT as seen across a gradient plate (**Fig. 4D**,

top). PhoB activity was sufficient to overcome suppression by phosphate supplementation

as a mutant lacking the phosphate transport ATPase *pstB* with constitutively active PhoB,

continued to produce 5-MPCA-derived red pigment despite the addition of phosphate

(**Fig. 4E**, second down). As expected, *P. aeruginosa* WT did not form any 5-MPCA-

derived pigment in co-culture with *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ at any phosphate concentration

tested (**Fig. 4E**, third down). *P. aeruginosa* Δ*pstB* grown on *adh1*Δ/Δ only slightly rescued

5-MPCA-derived red pigment formation (**Fig 4. D**, bottom). This suggested that, while

phosphate levels contributed to the control of PhoB activity, *C. albicans* Adh1 activity

provided an additional stimulus that created conditions conducive to PhoB-regulated *P.*

aeruginosa antifungal phenazine production.

431   **Ethanol was sufficient to activate PhoB at intermediate phosphate concentrations**

432   To determine if ethanol was sufficient to stimulate PhoB in *P. aeruginosa*, we

433   monitored PhoB-regulated alkaline phosphatase (AP) activity. AP activity can be

434   monitored by the conversion of 5-bromo-4-chloro-3-indolylphosphate (BCIP) into a

435   colorimetric substrate according to published methods [79-81]. On MOPS (3-

436   morpholinopropane-1-sulfonic acid) buffered minimal medium after growth for 16 h at

437   37°C, in *P. aeruginosa* Δ*phz* where all blue coloration can be attributable to BCIP

438   conversion and not phenazines, AP was detected up to approximately 0.55 mM

439   phosphate in the absence of ethanol (**Fig. 5A**). With the addition of 1% ethanol to the

440   medium, *P. aeruginosa* showed AP activity at higher phosphate concentrations, up to

441   approximately 0.73 mM phosphate (**Fig. 5A**)**.** This induction was also seen in *P.*

442   *aeruginosa* WT but not Δ*phoB* at 0.7 mM phosphate on single concentrations plates, and

443   was restored upon complementation with a WT copy of *phoB* (**Fig. 5B**). Quantification of

444   AP activity under these conditions showed a 4-fold increase in the presence of 1% ethanol

445   for WT *P. aeruginosa*, only trace AP activity for *P. aeruginosa* Δ*phoB* and hyper activity

446   in Δ*pstB* (**Fig. 5C**).

447   To determine if PhoB was acting upon the same targets under ethanol

448   supplementation in mono-culture as shown for co-culture, we monitored the expression

449   of PhoB targets using the same Nanostring codeset described earlier. *P. aeruginosa* WT

450   and Δ*phoB* were grown in mono-culture on MOPS minimal medium with 0.7 mM

451   phosphate with and without 1% ethanol. The same subset of PhoB-regulated genes

452   indicated in co-culture expression analysis increased in *P. aeruginosa* WT upon ethanol

453   supplementation: *phoA*, an alkaline phosphatase; *phnD,* a phosphonate transporter;

glpQ, a glycerophosphoryl diester phosphodiesterase (**Fig. 5D,** top section). In mono-

culture, when ethanol was supplemented into the medium, we saw an increase in

phenazine biosynthesis genes however, unlike in co-culture, the magnitudes of their

logFC between *P. aeruginosa* WT and Δ*phoB* was not as high as those of other PhoB-

regulated genes suggesting their expression was also stimulated by PhoB-independent

factors (**Fig. 5D**, second panel). Interestingly, the set of PhoB-regulated genes whose

expression was heterogenous and did not trend upward in co-culture had expression that

trended downward in mono-culture upon ethanol supplementation (**Fig. 5D**, bottom

panel). Stimulation of PhoB by ethanol in mono-culture meant that ethanol could have

been one of the stimuli that activated PhoB in co-culture.

Low phosphate and ethanol were additive stimulants for PhoB-mediated red

pigment formation

We tested whether ethanol stimulation and canonical PhoB de-repression (Δ*pstB*)

had additive effects on 5-MPCA-derived red pigment formation in *P. aeruginosa* – *C.*

albicans co-culture. On non-ethanol producing *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ, the constitutive PhoB

activity in *P. aeruginosa* Δ*pstB* was not sufficient to stimulate red pigment as that on

ethanol-producing *C. albicans* WT (**Fig. 5E**)*.* Strikingly, the addition of 1% ethanol to *C.*

albicans a*dh1*Δ/Δ lawns increased red pigment formation in *P. aeruginosa* Δ*pstB* but not

in *P. aeruginosa* WT or Δ*phoB* (**Fig. 5E**). This signified that PhoB activation both through

the canonical signaling pathway and by means of ethanol stimulation were necessary and

only combined were sufficient for 5-MPCA-derived red pigment formation in co-culture

(proposed model in **Fig. 5F**).

In light of the recent characterization of the *P. aeruginosa* response to exogenous

ethanol [31] that showed ppGpp, synthesized by RelA and SpoT, DksA, and AlgU

mounted a transcriptional response to ethanol, we assessed their role in ethanol-induced

PhoB activation in co-culture by monitoring red pigment accumulation and in mono-

culture via BCIP assay. We determined that these genes were not necessary to induce

PhoB activity in response to ethanol (**Table 1**). We also ruled out roles for known

mechanisms of alternative PhoB activation including contributions of the non-canonical

histidine kinase KinB in both co- and mono- culture [53] and the extra-cytoplasmic

function (ECF) sigma factor VreI in monoculture, but further investigation is required to

determine if VreI played a role in regulating 5-MPCA production in co-culture [37, 41]

(**Table 1**).

We tested the role of ethanol catabolism in PhoB activation in both mono- and co-

culture. Mutants in the ExaA- dependent pathway for ethanol catabolism through acetate

including *exaA* and *acsA* did not show increases in AP activity in response to 1% ethanol

(**Table 1**) indicating that ethanol catabolism was essential for PhoB activation in mono-

culture. We hypothesized that ethanol catabolism led to increased levels of acetyl

phosphate, a non-canonical phosphate donor of transcription factors including PhoB, but

neither acetyl phosphate biosynthesis mediated by AckA nor catabolism by Pta was

necessary for ethanol-induced PhoB activity (**Table 1**) [82-85]. Mutants defective in the

ExaA-dependent ethanol catabolic pathway showed only weak 5-MPCA production on *C.*

albicans lawns and the phenotype could be complemented (**Table 1**). Together these

data suggest that ethanol catabolism plays a role in PhoB activation, and that additional

pathways for ethanol catabolism may be present in co-culture conditions. Further

investigation is required to determine the mechanism for ethanol induction of PhoB

activity, but these results demonstrate ethanol stimulation and PhoB activation

participated in non-linear but intersecting pathways.

The *C. albicans* low phosphate response was more active in *adh1Δ/Δ* than in WT

Given the differences in *P. aeruginosa* PhoB activity in co-culture with *C. albicans*

WT compared *adh1Δ/Δ*, we sought to understand if *C. albicans* also experienced

differences in phosphate availability by examining its low phosphate response. In *C.*

albicans, low phosphate induces activity of the transcription factor Pho4 which regulates

genes involved in phosphate acquisition as well as the homeostasis of cations (e.g. iron),

tolerance of stresses including ROS and arsenic, and fitness in murine models [86-90].

Pho4 regulates 133 genes that were identified using transcriptomics as differentially

expressed both between *C. albicans* WT and *pho4Δ/Δ* in low phosphate and between *C.*

albicans WT in high and low phosphate [86] (see **Supp. Dataset 4** for gene list). We found

that Pho4-regulated genes were over-represented in DEGs between co-cultures of *C.*

albicans WT and *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* (logFC > 1, p < 0.05) (hypergeometric test p =

1.9×10^{-3}). Of the top ten most differentially expressed genes between *C. albicans* WT and

pho4Δ/Δ in low phosphate determined by Ikeh *et al.* [86], seven were also strongly

differentially expressed (logFC > 2) in co-cultures of *C. albicans* WT with *P. aeruginosa*

compared to *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* with *P. aeruginosa* including a secreted phospholipase

(*PHO100*) and two secreted phosphatases (*PHO112* and *PHO113*) (**Fig. 6A**, black bars).

Given the strong differential expression of these phosphatases, we assessed

phosphatase activity using BCIP supplementation as done for *P. aeruginosa*. Consistent

with the transcriptional data, higher phosphatase activity was observed in *C. albicans*

adh1Δ/Δ compared to *C. albicans* WT in the presence (**Fig. 6B**) of *P. aeruginosa*.

525   To determine if the activation of the *C. albicans* low phosphate response in

adh1Δ/Δ in co-culture was a consequence of competition for phosphate with *P.*

aeruginosa, we examined *C. albicans* gene expression and phosphatase activity in mono-

culture. The same Pho4-regulated genes that were DEGs in co-culture were also DEGs

between *C. albicans* WT and *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* even in the absence of *P. aeruginosa*

(**Fig. 6C**), and higher phosphatase activity was evident in *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* compared

to *C. albicans* WT or the complemented strain *adh1Δ/ADH1* in mono-culture by BCIP

assay (**Fig 6D**). As a control, we assayed *C. albicans pho4Δ/Δ*. The low amounts of

phosphatase activity seen for *C. albicans* WT and *adh1Δ/ADH1* was distinguishable from

the absence of phosphatase in *pho4Δ/Δ* indicating that that phosphatase activity was

Pho4-dependent (**Fig 6D**). The high Pho4 response in *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ*, evident even

in mono-culture, suggested that Adh1 activity impacts *C. albicans* phosphate access,

requirements or Pho4 regulation. Since phosphatases produced by *C. albicans* as part of

its low phosphate response are secreted, we hypothesized that their production would

affect *P. aeruginosa* in co-culture, perhaps by providing access to phosphate freed from

macromolecules and this model is discussed further below.

In co-culture with ethanol-producing *C. albicans*, *P. aeruginosa* PhoB-plays

independent roles in phosphate scavenging and phenazine-mediated antagonism

544   PhoB was important for *P. aeruginosa* growth in co-culture as Δ*phoB* formed fewer

CFUs on *C. albicans* WT than *P. aeruginosa* WT (**Fig. 6E**). Notably, a comparable number

of *P. aeruginosa* CFUs were recovered from *P. aeruginosa* WT and Δ*phz* suggesting the

lack of phenazines was not a major reason for decreased CFU formation in Δ*phoB* but,

likely, phosphate acquisition defects explained decreased growth in co-culture (**Fig. 6E**).

The defect in CFU formation by Δ*phoB* compared to WT or Δ*phz* held true on *C. albicans*

with a complemented copy of *ADH1*. On the *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* mutant, however, *P.*

aeruginosa CFUs were similar for WT, Δ*phoB*, and Δ*phz* suggesting that in the absence

of *C. albicans* Adh1 activity, *P. aeruginosa* PhoB, and its roles in phosphate acquisition

or phenazine production, were not necessary for fitness. This finding is consistent with

the model that elevated phosphatase production by the *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* (**Fig. B and**

D) may eliminate the need for *P. aeruginosa* to produce phosphatases.

C. albicans CFUs were enumerated from the same co-cultures. Consistent with

previous reports on the antifungal properties of the phenazine 5-MPCA [25, 27], *C.*

albicans had lower CFUs upon co-culture with *P. aeruginosa* WT compared to when co-

cultured with Δ*phoB* or Δ*phz* (**Fig. 6F**). In *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* co-cultures that did not

support *P. aeruginosa* PhoB-dependent phenazine production (**Fig. 4**), *C. albicans* CFUs

were not different between co-cultures with *P. aeruginosa* WT, Δ*phoB* or Δ*phz*.

P. aeruginosa and C. albicans asynchronously activate their low phosphate

responses dependent on C. albicans Adh1-mediated ethanol production

While *P. aeruginosa* had higher activity of its low phosphate responsive regulator

PhoB in the presence of ethanol-producing *C. albicans* WT (**Fig. 3G** and **4A**), *C. albicans*

had higher activity of its low phosphate responsive transcription factor Pho4 in *C. albicans*

adh1Δ/Δ (**Fig. 6**). To explicitly examine the relationship between the *P. aeruginosa* and

C. albicans low phosphate responses in co-culture we performed a cross-species

correlation analysis on the co-culture gene expression data for a subset of *P. aeruginosa*

PhoB-regulated genes (clique 3) and a subset of *C. albicans* Pho4-regulated genes

(those also DEGs between *C. albicans* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ shown in **Fig. 6A**). There was a

striking pattern of inverse correlations between *P. aeruginosa* PhoB-regulated genes and

C. albicans Pho4-regulated genes (**Fig. 7A**, upper triangle). In addition to being of high

magnitudes, many same-species correlations (white background) as well as cross-

species correlations (grey background) were statistically significant as indicated by circles

(**Fig. 7A**, lower triangle). Of the two groups of strongly correlated genes, the one

composed entirely of *P. aeruginosa* genes was more highly expressed in co-culture of *P.*

aeruginosa and *C. albicans* WT than co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*

*adh1*Δ/Δ. Conversely, the group composed of mostly *C. albicans* genes and including the

four *P. aeruginosa* phosphate transport-associated genes was more highly expressed in

co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ than in co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa*

and *C. albicans* WT (**Fig. 7A**, right-hand barplot).

The asynchronous and seemingly inverse activations of the *P. aeruginosa* and *C.*

albicans low phosphate responses in co-culture, in combination with the differences in

requirement for PhoB on *C. albicans* WT versus *adh1* (**Fig. 6E and 6F**), suggest that the

two microbes were not responding to common environmental stimuli but rather that they

influenced each other. The increased phosphatase activity in *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ even

in the absence of *P. aeruginosa* (**Fig. 6D**) suggested that activation of the *C. albicans* low

phosphate response may have inhibited activation of the *P. aeruginosa* low phosphate

response providing negative regulation that, in concert with the lack of ethanol production,

led to low PhoB activity in *P. aeruginosa* in co-culture with *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* and a

consequent lack of 5-MPCA-derived red pigment accumulation (**Fig. 7B**).

Discussion

Co-culture transcriptomics explored dynamic microbe-microbe interactions

Whole genome transcriptional profiling has been used as a powerful tool to explore

microbe-microbe interactions. By considering the gene expression patterns of both *P.*

aeruginosa and *C. albicans* in co-culture, we found that the production of secreted

phosphatases, a common good, was anti-correlated between *P. aeruginosa* and *C.*

albicans depending on the ability of *C. albicans* to produce ethanol (**Fig 7A**). This

interesting observation suggests that the two microbes interact differently in high and low

phosphate environments and the dynamics of phosphate sensing, transport and

enzymatic release by one organism can influence the microbial behavior of the other in

complex ways that lead to the emergence of conditional antagonism.

Exploration of co-culture expression data sparked the investigation showing that

signals of biologically-available phosphate and sub-inhibitory concentrations of ethanol

were integrated into a PhoB-coordinated transcriptional response in *P. aeruginosa.*

Interestingly, analysis of *C. albicans* gene expression in co-culture suggested these

stimuli may be linked as well. Inorganic phosphate is well established as a negative

regulator of the low phosphate response via the phosphate transport complex in *P.*

aeruginosa, and here we show that ethanol, a common microbial fermentation product,

positively regulated the *P. aeruginosa* low phosphate response specifically promoting the

expression of secreted phosphatases, phospholipases, and antifungal phenazines. While

these enzymes are only a subset of the PhoB regulon, PhoB activity and their expression

were critical for P. aeruginosa in co-culture. In co-culture, this small armory of enzymes

could make phosphate available by actively sequestering it away from neighboring

microbes or by means of direct antagonism.

eADAGE-based analysis identified novel transcriptional signals and increased

interpretability of *P. aeruginosa* co-culture transcriptomics

The eADAGE model comprises 600 data-derived, weighted gene sets called

signatures that are defined by the features of a hidden layer in an ensemble denoising

autoencoder neural network (www.adage.greenelab.com). The signatures were learned

from an unlabeled compendium of *P. aeruginosa* gene expression data and thus were

defined solely on gene expression relationships rather than metadata. Fortuitously, many

eADAGE signatures are enriched in one or more KEGG pathways [64] but others are not

enriched in any. In this way, eADAGE provides an opportunity to expand the breadth of

gene expression analysis beyond previously characterized pathways.

Despite our incomplete understanding of condition-dependent PhoB activity, we

were able to identify a novel signal for a subset of PhoB-regulated genes through

transcriptional profiling of *P. aeruginosa* grown in co-culture with *C. albicans* using

eADAGE. Representation of the RNA-Seq data in reduced feature space yielded 48

differentially active signatures that distilled gene expression patterns amongst complex

and dynamic systems. By analyzing eADAGE node activity, we were able to identify

subtle signals for which genes did not individually meet the cutoffs for DEGs and whose

pathways were not detected through over-representation analysis. Subtle changes in

gene expression could still have dramatic phenotypic effects; for example, although the

ethanol catabolism genes were not included in any enriched pathway, they were present

in eADAGE differentially active signatures, and we identified ExaA-based ethanol

catabolism as a potential regulator of the PhoB-mediated ethanol response including 5-

MPCA production [91, 92]. Similarly, we observed enrichment of genes involved in

isoprenoid metabolism which may be indicative of *P. aeruginosa* response to *C. albicans*-

produced farnesol [18, 28, 93].

Of the 600 eADAGE signatures, only four contained over-representations of PhoB-

controlled genes and while Node108neg was the only signature that reached the

threshold for DASs, the activities of the other three trended upwards. The dynamics of

co-culture that result in the constant utilization and solubilizing of phosphate differ from

the steady state of phosphate limitation achievable in laboratory conditions. Therefore,

while the low phosphate responses described in functional databases and the

experimentally determined regulon did not show uniform increases in expression of the

relevant genes, the data-defined gene signatures of eADAGE suggested that a tightly

correlated sub-group of the Pho regulon is coordinately upregulated in response to

ethanol-producing *C. albicans*.

It is only through the gene expression patterns observed by machine learning

models trained on publicly available *P. aeruginosa* gene expression data that we were

able to identify co-culture induced, ethanol-dependent PhoB activity. Considering the

absence of samples from *P. aeruginosa* grown with *C. albicans* in the compendium of

publicly available data, the distillation of the transcriptional pattern in Node108neg and its

strong ethanol-induced activity in co-culture highlight the power of using unsupervised

machine learning methods, in conjunction with a compendium of versatile conditions, to

identify higher order gene expression patterns that are not evident in linear correlation

based analyses and have not yet been manually annotated or systematically described.

A conditional antagonism: PhoB-regulated antifungal production was dependent

on *C. albicans* ethanol-production and phosphate limitation

Here we have shown that *P. aeruginosa* production of the antifungal phenazine 5-

MPCA is dependent on PhoB, but canonical activation of PhoB by de-repression (Δ*pstB*)

is insufficient for 5-MPCA production. We found that *P. aeruginosa* 5-MPCA production

required ethanol, either produced by *C. albicans* or supplied exogenously, as an

additional stimulus. While the mechanism by which ethanol influences PhoB activity is

beyond the scope of this paper, PhoB has been implicated in cases of non-canonical

signaling including auto-phosphorylation, promiscuity with non-canonical histidine

kinases, activation in response to low iron, and stimulation by alternative phospho-donors

such as acetyl-phosphate [35-39, 41, 42, 44, 55, 94-99]. The Pho regulon has been well

characterized for direct PhoB targets [55] but also shown to have additional indirect

targets across various low phosphate media [44]. Co-culture may be an environment

conducive to alternative PhoB stimulation by ethanol. The dual requirement of both

phosphate limitation and ethanol stimulation for *P. aeruginosa* 5-MPCA production

presents a conditionally antagonistic relationship between *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans*

where the degree to which the organisms cooperate, compete or target each other

depends on metabolic cues and the abundance of an essential nutrient. Here we have

presented a foundational example of an important and emerging paradigm that seeks to

understand how environmental stimuli modulate microbial interactions.

Materials and Methods

Strains and growth conditions

Bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study are listed in **Table S3**. Bacteria

were maintained on LB (lysogeny broth) with 1.5% agar [100]. Yeast strains were

maintained on YPD (yeast peptone dextrose) with 2% agar. Where stated, ethanol (200-

proof) was added to the medium (liquid or molten agar) to a final concentration of 1%.

Planktonic cultures were grown on roller drums at 37°C for *P. aeruginosa* and at 30°C for

C. albicans.

Construction of in-frame deletions, complementation, and plasmids

Construction of plasmids, including in-frame deletion and complementation

constructs, was completed using yeast cloning techniques in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*

as previously described [101] or Gibson assembly [102, 103]. Primers used for plasmid

construction are listed in **Table S4**. In-frame deletion and single copy complementation

constructs were made using the allelic replacement vector pMQ30 [101]. Promoter fusion

constructs were made using a modified pMQ30 vector with *lacZ-GFP* fusion integrating

at the neutral *att* site on the chromosome. The *pdtA* promoter region 199 bp upstream of

the transcriptional start site (that included a PhoB binding site) was amplified from WT *P.*

aeruginosa PA14 gDNA using the Phusion High-Fidelity DNA polymerase with primer

tails homologous to the modified pMQ30 ATT KI vector containing tandem *lacZ-gfp*

reporter genes. All plasmids were purified from yeast using Zymoprep™ Yeast Plasmid

Miniprep II according to manufacturer's protocol and transformed into

electrocompetent *E. coli* strain S17/λpir by electroporation. Plasmids were introduced

into *P. aeruginosa* by conjugation and recombinants were obtained using sucrose

counter-selection. Genotypes were screened by PCR and confirmed by sequencing.

Co-culture and mono-culture and colony biofilms

Co-cultures were inoculated first with 300 μl of a *C. albicans* culture in YPD grown

for ~16 then diluted in dH$_2$O to OD$_{600}$ = 5, which was bead spread onto YPD plates. *C.*

*albican*s mono-cultures were inoculated with 5 μl of the same cell suspension as spots

on YPD plates. *C. albicans* cultures were incubated 16 hours at 30°C then 24 hours at

room temperature (~23°C). Then, 5 μl of *P. aeruginosa* suspension, prepared from a 5

mL culture in LB grown for ~16 then diluted in dH$_2$O to OD$_{600}$ = 2.5, was spotted on top

of the *C. albicans* lawns for co-cultures or onto YPD or MOPS minimal medium for mono-

cultures. *P. aeruginosa* cultures were incubated for 16 hours at 30°C. For gradient plates

(described below) 500 μl of *C. albicans* suspension was used and *P. aeruginosa* was

spotted across as 12 evenly spaced 5 μl spots. All images were taken on a Canon EOS

Rebel T6i camera. For visualization of siderophores, pictures were taken under UV light.

RNA collection

Total RNA was harvested from *P. aeruginosa* mono-cultures, *C. albicans* mono-

cultures and *P. aeruginosa* – *C. albicans* co-cultures grown as described above. All

samples were collected as cores from agar plates: cores were taken using a straw, cells

were suspended by shaking agar plugs in 1 mL dH_2O on the disrupter genie for three

minutes. Cells were spun down and resuspended in 1 mL Trizol and lysed by bead

beating with mixed sizes of silicon beads on the Omni Bead Ruptor. Centrifugation

induced phase separation and RNA was extracted from the aqueous phase where it was

subsequently precipitated out with isopropanol and linear acrylamide. RNA was pelleted,

washed with 70% ethanol and resuspended in nuclease-free dH_2O then stored at -80°C.

Samples were prepared for sequencing with DNase treatment, ribodepletion and library

preparation in accordance with Illumina protocols. Samples were barcoded and

multiplexed in a NextSeq run for a total of 4.7×10^8 reads.

RNA-Seq Processing

Reads were processed using the CLC Genomics Workbench wherein reads were

trimmed and filtered for quality using default parameters. For co-cultures, reads were first

aligned to the *P. aeruginosa* UCPBB_PA14 genome from www.pseudomonas.com.

Then, all unaligned reads were aligned to *C. albicans* SC5314 genome Assembly 22 from

www.candidagenome.org. For mono-cultures reads were only aligned to their appropriate

reference. Results were exported from CLC including total counts, CPM and TPM. R was

used for principle component (prcomp, stats library [104]) and consequent plotting

(autoplot, ggplot2 [105]) of gene expression TPM data.

R was also used for differential gene expression analysis, EdgeR was used to

process both *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* gene expression separately [106].

Generalized linear models with mixed effect data design matrices were used to calculate

fold-changes, p-values and FDRs for each comparison of interest. Volcano plots using

EdgeR output ($\log_2$fold-change and -$\log_{10}$(FDR)) were made in R as well (ggplot2 [105]).

Pathway over-representation analysis was carried out using *P. aeruginosa*- and *C.*

albicans-associated KEGG pathways (ADAGEpath [64] and KEGGREST [107]) and

calculated using a one-sided hypergeometric test (phyper, stats) with Bonferroni

correction for multiple hypothesis testing (p.adjust, stats) [104].

Accession Number

Data for our RNA-Seq analysis of *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* gene expression

in co-culture has been uploaded to the GEO repository

(https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/) with the accession number GSE148597.

eADAGE analysis

We performed an eADAGE analysis in accordance with the workflow published in

the R package [64]. Briefly, each gene expression profile in counts per million (CPM) from

our RNA-Seq experiment was used to calculate a lower dimensional representation of the

data called a signature activity profile. Then, differentially active signatures were identified

by linear model. (limma, stats) This resulted in a set of signatures that were significantly

different, but which may have been redundant. We applied pareto front optimization of

minimal p-value and maximal absolute fold-change to arrive at a set of candidate

signatures that exhibit statistically significant differences and less redundancy. Heatmaps

show gene expression (CPM) or eADAGE signature activity scaled by feature (gene or

signature) and are hierarchically clustered by the complete method using Euclidean

distance by sample (ComplexHeatmap [108]).

NanoString analysis

NanoString analysis was done using RNA isolated as above (without DNAse

treatment) and 100 ng were applied to the codeset PaV5 (sequences for probesets used

in this study in **Supplemental Dataset 4**) and processed as previously reported [2].

Counts were normalized to the geometric mean of spiked-in technical controls and five

housekeeping genes (*ppiD*, *rpoD*, *soj*, *dnaN*, *pepP*, *dapF*). Normalized counts were used

for heatmap construction and fold-change calculations.

Measurement of β-galactosidase in reporter fusion strains.

For co-culture promoter activity assays, *C. albicans* lawns were grown as

described for RNA-Seq. *P. aeruginosa* was inoculated onto two filters placed on the *C.*

albicans lawns to allow for interaction through diffusible compounds but separation of

cells for quantification of promoter activity. *P. aeruginosa* cells were suspended in PBS

by disrupter genie and diluted to OD_{600} = 0.05. β-Galactosidase (β-Gal) activity was

measured as described by Miller [109]. β-Gal activity was measured in P. aeruginosa WT

and normalized to that in Δ*phoB* which acted as a negative control.

pNPP

For quantification of AP activity, we used a colorimetric assay using p-Nitrophenyl

phosphate (pNPP) (NEB) as a substrate. Briefly, 5 μl of *P. aeruginosa* overnight culture

were inoculated onto MOPS 0.7 mM phosphate agar plates with and without 1% ethanol

and incubated at 37˚C for 16 hours. Colony biofilms were collected from filters as

described for the promoter fusion assays. 100 μl of cell suspension was added to 900 μl

of 0.01 M Tris-HCl pH 8 buffer. After the addition of 25 μl 0.1% SDS and 50 μl chloroform

cells incubated at 30 ˚ for 10 minutes. 30 μl of the aqueous phase was transferred to a

96 well plate containing 15 μl reaction buffer (5 μl 0.5 mM MgCl2 and 10 μl 1 M Tris pH

9.5) where 5 μl pNPP was added [36]. After 30 minutes OD_{405} was read on a plate reader

(SpectraMax M2) and AP activity units were calculated as $\frac{\Delta A_{405}*ml}{10.67*min} * \frac{dilution}{A_{600}}$ where 10.67

is the extinction coefficient ,normally 18.5, adjusted to path length of the microtiter dish.

Gradient plates

Phosphate gradient plates were made similarly to previously reported methods of

creating pH gradient plates [110]. For YPD-based phosphate gradients plates used for

co-cultures, first 32 mL of molten YPD+10mM potassium phosphate pH6 were poured

into a 10 cm square petri dish (Corning, BP124-05) that rested in a custom 3D-printed

prop that held the plate slanted at 30º. Once the bottom layer had solidified, the plate was

laid flat and 32 mL of molten YPD without phosphate supplementation agar were poured

atop. For MOPS-based gradient plates used for *P. aeruginosa* mono-cultures the

procedure was the same except the first layer was 32 mL MOPS minimal media with 1

mM phosphate and the top layer was 32 mL MOPS minimal medium 0.4 mM phosphate.

When needed, BCIP (Sigma-Aldrich #1158002001) (stock solution 60 mg/10 mL DMF)

was added to a final molarity of 6 nM.

Acknowledgements

Research reported in this publication was supported by grants from the National Institutes

of Health to D.A.H. (R01 GM108492 to D.A.H) and HOGAN19G0, and NSF 1458359

(D.A.H. and G.D.). Support for G.D. came in part from 5T32GM008704 (G.D.). NIGMS

P20GM113132 through the Molecular Interactions and Imaging Core (MIIC).

STANTO19R0 from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and NIDDK P30-DK117469

(Dartmouth Cystic Fibrosis Research Center). RNA-Seq and NanoString were carried out

at Dartmouth Medical School in the Genomics Shared Resource, which was established

by equipment grants from the NIH and NSF and is supported in part by a Cancer Center

Core Grant (P30CA023108) from the National Cancer Institute. We also thank Casey

Greene and Alex Lee for a critical reading of the manuscript, Alan Collins for the gradient

plate prop and Dianne Newman and Marian Llamas for generously sending strains.

Table 1. Phenotypes for 5MPCA-accumulation in co-culture *C. albicans* WT by *P.*
aeruginosa strains and ethanol-induced alkaline phosphatase (AP) activity in
monoculture. AP activity was visualized in colonies on agar containing by BCIP. *P.*
aeruginosa mutants were defective in ppGpp-dependent AlgU and DksA signaling,
ethanol catabolism, the kinase KinB and sigma factor VreI, which are known to
influence PhoB activity, acetyl-phosphate metabolism and ethanol catabolism.
839

Genotype	*P.a.* 5MPCA on *C. albicans* WT	*P.a.* AP induction by ethanol
WT	Yes	Yes
Δ*phoB*	No	No
Δ*algU*	Yes	Yes
Δ*dksA*	Yes	Yes
Δ*relA*	Yes	Yes
Δ*relA*Δ*spoT*	Yes	Yes
Δ*kinB*	No	Yes
Δ*kinB*+*kinB*	Yes	Yes
Δ*mucB*	Yes	Yes
Δ*vreI*		Yes
Δ*vreR*		Yes
Δ*vreA*		Yes
Δ*vreI*Δ*phoB*		No
Δ*exaA*	No	No
Δ*exaA*+*exaA*	Yes	Yes
acsA::Tn*M*	Yes	No
Δ*ackA*	Yes	Yes
Δ*ackA*Δ*pta*	Yes	Yes
Δ*ackA*Δ*pta*Δ*phz*	No	Yes

Figure Legends

Figure 1. In co-culture of *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) and *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*), *C.a.*-produced ethanol stimulates *P.a.* to produce 5-MPCA and transcriptional responses ensue from both organisms. A) Co-cultures of *P.a.* wild type (WT) and mutants lacking phenazine biosynthesis operons (Δ*phz1* or Δ*phz2*) were inoculated onto 72 h-old lawns of *C.a.* wild type (WT), *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ and *adh1*Δ/Δ reconstituted with *ADH1* (*adh1*Δ/*ADH1*). The red pigmentation indicates production of the phenazine 5-MPCA by *P.a.*. B) Dual RNA-Seq allowed for parallel analyses of *P.a.* (green) and *C.a.* (red or pink) mRNA expression profiles from co-culture lawns to survey the effects of ethanol (green oval) and 5-MPCA (red oval) on gene expression. C) Principle component analysis (PCA) of TPM (transcripts per kilobase per million reads) from transcriptome profiles of *P.a.* grown alone (No *C.a.*), *P.a.* grown with *C.a.* WT, and *P.a.* grown with *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ. D) PCA of gene expression profiles of *C.a.* WT and *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ grown in mono-culture (No *P.a.*) or co-cultures with *P.a.* WT. E) The expression (z-score of TPM) of genes that differentiate *P.a.* in mono-culture from that grown in co-culture with *C.a.* WT (absolute value of log$_2$fold-change (logFC) > 1 and false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05); data for *P.a.* on *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ are also shown. The red bar indicates genes that are significantly different between *C.a.* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ (logFC >1, FDR < 0.05); the grey bar indicates genes that are not. F) Gene expression (z-score of TPM) of *C.a.* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ grown in mono-culture or in co-culture with *P.a.*; genes that are significantly different between *C.a.* WT alone or *C.a.* WT with *P.a.* (logFC >1, FDR < 0.05) are shown for all four sample types. Genes that are also significantly different between *C.a.* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ in the presence of *P.a.* (logFC >1, FDR < 0.05) are indicated by the red bar; the grey bar indicates genes that are not significantly different in this comparison.

Figure 2. Pathways containing differentially expressed genes in *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* between co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* wild type (WT) with *C. albicans* WT or *adh1*Δ/Δ. DEGs of between *C. albicans* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ from *P. aeruginosa* co-cultures contained over-representations of KEGG pathways for amino acid metabolism, sulfur (S) metabolism, peroxisomal transport, fatty acid beta-oxidation, glycolysis, cation (Fe) import, base excision and mismatch DNA repair. Red indicates higher expression in co-cultures with *C. albicans* WT and blue indicates higher expression in co-cultures with *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ. Values indicate log$_2$fold-change. *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ has higher expression of glycolysis genes and the production of acetate, which is either secreted or enters into the citric acid cycle (TCA). *P. aeruginosa* DEGs from the same co-cultures were contained over-representations of KEGG pathways for phenazine (PCA, PCN, PYO, 1-OH-P, 5-MCPA) biosynthesis and pyochelin (PCH) biosynthesis pathways. Inset shows increase in siderophore-derived fluorescence of co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* with *C. albicans adh1*Δ/Δ which is consistent with increased PCH production. P-values are from hypergeometric over-representation tests, FDR corrected.

**Figure 3. eADAGE analysis reveals a subset of the Pho regulon upregulated in *P.*
aeruginosa (*P.a.*) grown on *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) WT compared to that on *C.a.*
adh1Δ/Δ. A)** Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between *P.a.* grown alone or on
C.a. WT and *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* for 24 h. Genes that fell within over-represented KEGG
pathways (quorum sensing (orange bar), phenazine biosynthesis (red bar) and
pyochelin biosynthesis (blue bar)) are indicated. Most DEGs do not belong to any of the
three pathways (grey bar). B) Differentially active eADAGE signatures (DASs) for the
same samples shown in A. Signatures in which genes annotated as being involved in
phenazine biosynthesis (red bar), pyochelin biosynthesis (blue bar), or other KEGG
pathways (black bar) are overrepresented are indicated. Signatures that are not over-
represented an any KEGG pathways are indicated by the grey bar. Inset shows the fold-
change for the expression all of the KEGG pathways that are over-represented among
the DASs (# of DASs per KEGG pathway in parentheses); over-representation p-value
shown as circle (Supp. Dataset 3). C) DASs with increased activity in transcriptome
comparisons of *P.a.* grown on *C.a.* WT compared to on *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ*. In addition to
DASs with over-representations of pyochelin (blue dots) and phenazine (red dots)
biosynthesis, others over-represent the Pho regulon (Node108n, purple) or contain
ethanol catabolism genes (N206n, pink). D) The eADAGE signature with the highest
increase in activity, Node108neg (N108n, purple), contains many genes with increased
expression though not all met the criterion of DEGs individually (logFC > 1, ,FDR <
0.05). E) DEGs in *P.a.* grown on *C.a.* WT compared to on *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* with expression
levels of PhoB-regulated genes (dark purple) highlighted. F) Network analysis of DEGs
suggest groups of DEGs have correlated patterns across eADAGE: phenazine
biosynthesis (1) is inversely expressed with the low iron response (2) and coordinately
upregulated with the low phosphate response (3) upon exposure to ethanol in co-
culture. Other cliques of DEGs participate in shared biological pathways. See table 2 for
descriptions of all cliques. G) The Pho Clique (3) contains two clades of DEGs with
opposing expression patterns between *P.a.* grown on *C.a.* WT and *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ*.
913
Figure 4. *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) WT induced PhoB-regulated genes in *P. aeruginosa*
(*P.a.*) compared to *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* leading to 5-MPCA production as indicated by red
pigment formation. A) Expression of *P.a.* genes involved in phosphate scavenging,
phenazine biosynthesis (PHZ), ethanol catabolism (EtOH) and inorganic phosphate
transport were measured by NanoString (codesetPAV5) from cells grown with *C.a.*
adh1Δ/Δ, *C.a.* WT or *C.a.* WT grown on medium with additional 10 mM phosphate.
Expression values are normalized to loading controls and housekeeping genes as
described in methods. Values are z-scored, scaled by gene. Right-hand barplot shows
logFC between *P.a.* WT and *P.a. ΔphoB* on *C.a.* WT. The bar is colored red if
expression is PhoB-dependent (logFC *P.a.* WT / *P.a. ΔphoB* > 1, FDR < 0.05, else
grey). * = FDR < 0.05, # = FDR > 0.05. B) Beta-galactosidase activity indicative of
expression of a *pdtA-lacZ* promoter fusion in *P.a.* WT in *P.a* grown with *C.a.* WT or *C.a.*
adh1Δ/Δ in the absence or presence of P_i supplementation, *,p<0.05 by ANOVA (n = 3).
C) Red 5-MPCA derivatives produced in co-culture by *P.a* WT, *ΔphoB*, *ΔphoR*, and their
complemented derivatives on *C.a.* WT, *adh1Δ/Δ*, and *adh1Δ/ADH1*. D) Red 5-MPCA-
derivatives produced by *P.a.* WT and *P.a. ΔpstB* over a gradient of phosphate
concentrations. *P.a. ΔpstB* has constitutive PhoB activity. Conversely, *P.a.* WT did not

produce 5-MPCA on *Ca. adh1Δ/Δ* at any phosphate concentration, but *P.a. ΔpstB*
induced a small amount of red pigment independent of the phosphate concentration.
933
Figure 5. Ethanol (EtOH) induced PhoB activity in *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*) mono-
culture. A) Alkaline phosphatase (AP) activity visualized by blue color derived from
cleavage of BCIP in MOPS medium with a gradient of phosphate in the absence and
presence of ethanol. The *P.a. Δphz* strain was used to eliminate color differences due to
phenazine production. B) AP activity in the absence and presence of ethanol was
visualized with BCIP added to MOPS agar (0.7 mM phosphate) for *P.a.* wild type,
ΔphoB and the *ΔphoB* mutant complemented with a wild-type copy of *phoB* integrated
at the native locus. C) AP activity in cells from colony biofilms grown as in B was
measured using the colorimetric substrate pNPP for *P.a.* WT, *ΔphoB*, and *ΔpstB*, a
strain with constitutive PhoB activity. *,p<0.01 by ANOVA (n ≥ 3). D) Transcripts within
the PhoB regulon involved in phosphate scavenging and inorganic phosphate transport
and genes involved in phenazine production (PHZ) and ethanol catabolism (EtOH) were
measured in cells grown in the absence and presence of ethanol by Nanostring
(codeset PAV5). PhoB-regulated genes increased in expression (top section) and
ethanol catabolism genes (third section) increase in expression and others decrease
(bottom section). Expression values are normalized to loading controls and
housekeeping genes as described in methods. Values are scaled by gene. Right-hand
barplot shows logFC between *P.a.* WT and *P.a. ΔphoB* on MOPS+1%EtOH. The bar is
colored red if expression is PhoB-dependent (logFC *P.a.* WT / *P.a. ΔphoB* > 1, FDR <
0.05, else grey). *,FDR < 0.05, #,FDR > 0.05. E) PhoB activity and ethanol are both for
5-MPCA production in response to *C.a.* ethanol. P.a. WT, *ΔphoB* and *ΔpstB* were grown
on C.a. WT, or C.a. adh1Δ/Δ in the absence or presence of exogenous ethanol. 5-
MPCA production was rescued by the addition of 1% ethanol to a co-culture of *P.a.*
ΔpstB and, to a lesser extent, *P.a.* WT on *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ*. F) Phosphate (P$_i$) and ethanol
(EtOH) are additive stimuli that promote PhoB-dependent expression of AP and
phenazine biosynthesis (PHZ).
960
Figure 6. The *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) *adh1Δ/Δ* has increased expression of the Pho4-
mediated low phosphate response in co-culture that is inversely correlates with
PhoB activity in *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*). A) Previously characterized Pho4-regulated
genes [86] including a phospholipase and phosphatases (black bars) were more highly
expressed in *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* than *C.a.* WT in *P.a.* co-cultures (data shown as z-scores of
TPM). Pho4-dependence is shown in the right-hand barplot as log$_2$FC *C.a.* WT/*C.a.*
pho4Δ/Δ using data from [86]. B) Analysis of phosphatase activity in *C.a.* WT, *C.a.*
adh1Δ/Δ, the complemented strain *adh1Δ/ADH1* or *pho4Δ/Δ* using the colorimetric
phosphatase BCIP substrate in agar. More phosphatase activity was observed in *C.a.*
adh1Δ/Δ than in strains with *ADH1* in in co-culture with *P.a.* C) The same Pho4-
regulated genes as shown in A were also more highly expressed in *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* than
C.a. WT in mono-cultures. Right-hand barplot shows Pho4-dependence as in A. D)
More phosphatase activity was observed in *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* than in strains with *ADH1* in in
mono-culture. . As predicted, phosphatase activity is not evident in the *C.a. pho4Δ/Δ*
strain. Phosphatase activity visualized via BCIP as in B. E) Number of CFUs of *P.a.* WT,
ΔphoB or *Δphz* after co-culture for 72 h with *C.a.* WT, *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ C.a. adh1Δ/ADH1*.

P.a. Δ*phoB* and Δ*phz* had significantly fewer CFUs on *C.a.* strains with high ethanol
production (WT and *adh1*Δ/*ADH1*), but not *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ. F) In the same samples
analyzed in A, *C.a.* CFU formation was assessed. *C.a.* WT or *C.a. adh1*Δ/*ADH1* strains
had increased fitness in-culture with *P.a.* Δ*phoB* or *P.a.* Δ*phz* compared to with *P.a.* WT.
For *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ, there were no differences in CFU formation when co-cultured with
P.a. WT, Δ*phoB* or Δ*phz.*
983
Figure 7. *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*) PhoB affects both *P.a.* and *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) fitness
in co-culture through its control of phenazine production and phosphate
acquisition. A) Pearson correlation analysis between *P.a.* (green annotations) and *C.a.*
(orange annotations) low phosphate-responsive genes from co-cultures of *P.a.* WT with
either *C.a.* WT or *adh1*Δ/Δ. Largely inverse relationships between *P.a.* PhoB- and *C.a.*
Pho4-regulated genes is apparent. Log$_2$FC ($p < 0.05$) between *P.a.* with either *C.a.* WT
or *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ is shown in the right-hand bar plot. Lower half of correlogram shows
which correlations are significant (filled circles) and indicates correlation values by color
intensity relative to scale. Same species comparisons have white backgrounds and
cross-species correlations have grey backgrounds. B) Model of PhoB activity in *P.a.*-
C.a. co-cultures. PhoB mediates the conditional production of the antagonistic,
antifungal phenazine 5-MPCA in response to phosphate and fungal ethanol
production.**,$p < 0.01$ by ANOVA.
997

999   **Supplemental Figure Legend**

1000

Figure S1. Red pigment formation is dependent on phenazine biosynthesis
genes, phenazine transport genes and quorum sensing (QS) pathways in *P.*
***aeruginosa* (*P.a.*).** A) Co-cultures of *P.a.* wild type (WT) and mutants lacking genes
involved in phenazine biosynthesis were inoculated onto lawns of *C.a.* (WT), *C.a.*
*adh1*Δ/Δ and *adh1*Δ/Δ reconstituted with *ADH1* then incubated for 24 h. *P.a.* 5-MPCA
phenazine biosynthesis (evident by red color) was not observed with the Δ*phzM* but was
still produced by Δ*phzS* and Δ*phzH*. 5-MPCA production was dependent on the
oxidative stress response gene *soxR* and 5-MPCA transport complex *mexGHI-ompD*.
For all *P.a.* strains, 5-MPCA was only produced on *C.a.* with intact *ADH1*. B) Co-
cultures of *P.a.* wild type (WT) and mutants lacking genes involved in quorum sensing
were inoculated onto lawns of *C.a.* (WT), *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ and *adh1*Δ/Δ reconstituted with
ADH1 then incubated for 48 h. *P.a.* mutants defective in QS pathways (Δ*lasR*, Δ*rhlR*,
Δ*pqsR*, Δ*pqsA*) form less red pigment that *P.a.* WT on *C.a.* WT and no strains form red
pigment on *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ. C) Gene expression of *P.a.* LasR (blue), RhlR (orange) and
PqsR (red) regulated genes had heterogenous expression with genes both up and
down regulated. D) Red pigment formation being dependent on QS pathways of RhlR
and PqsR is consistent with integration of QS with PhoB via the integrative quorum
sensing (IQS) pathway in which low phosphate triggers PhoB activity which influences

PqsR and RhlR to act, via their cognate autoinducers PQS and C4-HSL respectively, in a regulatory cascade eventually promoting the transcription of phenazine biosynthesis genes (*phzA1-G1*, *phzA2-G2*) and consequent phenazine carboxylic acid (PCA) production. PhoB and QS have also been reported to effect the expression of phenazine modification genes *phzM, phzS,* and *phzH* necessary for the conversion of PCA to 5-methyl-phenazine-1-carboxylic acid (5-MPCA), pyocyanin, phenazine-1-carboxamide (PCN) and 1-hydroxy-phenazine (1-OH-phenazine) [74].

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Supporting Information

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S1 Table. Clustering coefficients for co-culture data.

S2 Table. eADAGE gene-gene network cliques of DEGs from co-culture.

S3 Table. Strains and plasmids used in this study.

S4. Table. Primers used in this study.

S1 Dataset. *P.a*. DEGs in co-culture with *C.a.*.

S2 Dataset. *C.a.* DEGS in co-culture with *P.a.*.

S3 Dataset. KEGG pathway analyses.

S4 Dataset. Gene sets used throughout the paper.

Figures

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Figure 1. In co-culture of *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) and *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*), *C.a.*-produced ethanol stimulates *P.a.* to produce 5-MPCA and transcriptional responses ensue from both organisms. A) Co-cultures of *P.a.* wild type (WT) and mutants lacking phenazine biosynthesis operons (Δ*phz1* or Δ*phz2*) were inoculated onto 72 h-old lawns of *C.a.* wild type (WT), *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ and *adh1*Δ/Δ reconstituted with *ADH1* (*adh1*Δ/*ADH1*). The red pigmentation indicates production of the phenazine 5-MPCA by *P.a.*. B) Dual RNA-Seq allowed for parallel analyses of *P.a.* (green) and *C.a.* (red or pink) mRNA expression profiles from co-culture lawns to survey the effects of ethanol (green oval) and 5-MPCA (red oval) on gene expression. C) Principle component analysis (PCA) of TPM (transcripts per kilobase per million reads) from transcriptome profiles of *P.a.* grown alone (No *C.a.*), *P.a.* grown with *C.a.* WT, and *P.a.* grown with *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ. D) PCA of gene expression profiles of *C.a.* WT and *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ grown in mono-culture (No *P.a.*) or co-cultures with *P.a.* WT. E) The expression (z-score of TPM) of genes that differentiate *P.a.* in mono-culture from that grown in co-culture with *C.a.* WT (absolute value of log$_2$fold-change (logFC) > 1 and false discovery rate (FDR) < 0.05); data for *P.a.* on *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ are also shown. The red bar indicates genes that are significantly different between *C.a.* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ (logFC >1, FDR < 0.05); the grey bar indicates genes that are not. F) Gene expression (z-score of TPM) of *C.a.* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ grown in mono-culture or in co-culture with *P.a.*; genes that are significantly different between *C.a.* WT alone or *C.a.* WT with *P.a.* (logFC >1, FDR < 0.05) are shown for all four sample types. Genes that are also significantly different between *C.a.* WT and *adh1*Δ/Δ in the presence of *P.a.* (logFC >1, FDR < 0.05) are indicated by the red bar; the grey bar indicates genes that are not significantly different in this comparison*.

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Figure 2. Pathways containing differentially expressed genes in *P. aeruginosa* and *C. albicans* between co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* wild type (WT) with *C. albicans* WT or *adh1Δ/Δ*. DEGs of between *C. albicans* WT and *adh1Δ/Δ* from *P. aeruginosa* co-cultures contained over-representations of KEGG pathways for amino acid metabolism, sulfur (S) metabolism, peroxisomal transport, fatty acid beta-oxidation, glycolysis, cation (Fe) import, base excision and mismatch DNA repair. Red indicates higher expression in co-cultures with *C. albicans* WT and blue indicates higher expression in co-cultures with *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ*. Values indicate $\log_2$fold-change. *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* has higher expression of glycolysis genes and the production of acetate, which is either secreted or enters into the citric acid cycle (TCA). *P. aeruginosa* DEGs from the same co-cultures were contained over-representations of KEGG pathways for phenazine (PCA, PCN, PYO, 1-OH-P, 5-MCPA) biosynthesis and pyochelin (PCH) biosynthesis pathways. Inset shows increase in siderophore-derived fluorescence of co-cultures of *P. aeruginosa* with *C. albicans adh1Δ/Δ* which is consistent with increased PCH production. P-values are from hypergeometric over-representation tests, FDR corrected.

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Figure 3. eADAGE analysis reveals a subset of the Pho regulon upregulated in _P._
aeruginosa (_P.a._) grown on _C. albicans_ (_C.a._) WT compared to that on _C.a._
_adh1_Δ/Δ. A) Differentially expressed genes (DEGs) between _P.a._ grown alone or on
_C.a._ WT and _C.a. adh1_Δ/Δ for 24 h. Genes that fell within over-represented KEGG
pathways (quorum sensing (orange bar), phenazine biosynthesis (red bar) and
pyochelin biosynthesis (blue bar)) are indicated. Most DEGs do not belong to any of the
three pathways (grey bar). B) Differentially active eADAGE signatures (DASs) for the
same samples shown in A. Signatures in which genes annotated as being involved in
phenazine biosynthesis (red bar), pyochelin biosynthesis (blue bar), or other KEGG
pathways (black bar) are overrepresented are indicated. Signatures that are not over-
represented an any KEGG pathways are indicated by the grey bar. Inset shows the fold-
change for the expression all of the KEGG pathways that are over-represented among
the DASs (# of DASs per KEGG pathway in parentheses); over-representation p-value
shown as circle (Supp. Dataset 3). C) DASs with increased activity in transcriptome
comparisons of _P.a._ grown on _C.a._ WT compared to on _C.a. adh1_Δ/Δ. In addition to
DASs with over-representations of pyochelin (blue dots) and phenazine (red dots)
biosynthesis, others over-represent the Pho regulon (Node108n, purple) or contain
ethanol catabolism genes (N206n, pink). D) The eADAGE signature with the highest
increase in activity, Node108neg (N108n, purple), contains many genes with increased
expression though not all met the criterion of DEGs individually (logFC > 1, ,FDR <
0.05). E) DEGs in _P.a._ grown on _C.a._ WT compared to on _C.a. adh1_Δ/Δ with expression
levels of PhoB-regulated genes (dark purple) highlighted. F) Network analysis of DEGs
suggest groups of DEGs have correlated patterns across eADAGE: phenazine
biosynthesis (1) is inversely expressed with the low iron response (2) and coordinately
upregulated with the low phosphate response (3) upon exposure to ethanol in co-
culture. Other cliques of DEGs participate in shared biological pathways. See table 2 for
descriptions of all cliques. G) The Pho Clique (3) contains two clades of DEGs with
opposing expression patterns between _P.a._ grown on _C.a._ WT and _C.a. adh1_Δ/Δ.
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Figure 4. *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) WT induced PhoB-regulated genes in *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*) compared to *C.a. adh1∆/∆* leading to 5-MPCA production as indicated by red pigment formation. A) Expression of *P.a.* genes involved in phosphate scavenging, phenazine biosynthesis (PHZ), ethanol catabolism (EtOH) and inorganic phosphate transport were measured by NanoString (codesetPAV5) from cells grown with *C.a. adh1∆/∆*, *C.a.* WT or *C.a.* WT grown on medium with additional 10 mM phosphate. Expression values are normalized to loading controls and housekeeping genes as described in methods. Values are z-scored, scaled by gene. Right-hand barplot shows logFC between *P.a.* WT and *P.a.* ∆*phoB* on *C.a.* WT. The bar is colored red if expression is PhoB-dependent (logFC *P.a.* WT / *P.a.* ∆*phoB* > 1, FDR < 0.05, else grey). * = FDR < 0.05, # = FDR > 0.05. B) Beta-galactosidase activity indicative of expression of a *pdtA-lacZ* promoter fusion in *P.a.* WT in *P.a* grown with *C.a.* WT or *C.a. adh1∆/∆* in the absence or presence of P_i supplementation, *,p<0.05 by ANOVA (n = 3). C) Red 5-MPCA derivatives produced in co-culture by *P.a* WT, ∆*phoB*, ∆*phoR*, and their complemented derivatives on *C.a.* WT, *adh1∆/∆*, and *adh1∆/ADH1*. D) Red 5-MPCA-derivatives produced by *P.a.* WT and *P.a.* ∆*pstB* over a gradient of phosphate concentrations. *P.a.* ∆*pstB* has constitutive PhoB activity. Conversely, *P.a.* WT did not produce 5-MPCA on *Ca. adh1∆/∆* at any phosphate concentration, but *P.a.* ∆*pstB* induced a small amount of red pigment independent of the phosphate concentration.

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Figure 5. Ethanol (EtOH) induced PhoB activity in *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*) mono-
culture. A) Alkaline phosphatase (AP) activity visualized by blue color derived from
cleavage of BCIP in MOPS medium with a gradient of phosphate in the absence and
presence of ethanol. The *P.a. Δphz* strain was used to eliminate color differences due to
phenazine production. B) AP activity in the absence and presence of ethanol was
visualized with BCIP added to MOPS agar (0.7 mM phosphate) for *P.a.* wild type,
ΔphoB and the *ΔphoB* mutant complemented with a wild-type copy of *phoB* integrated
at the native locus. C) AP activity in cells from colony biofilms grown as in B was
measured using the colorimetric substrate pNPP for *P.a.* WT, *ΔphoB*, and *ΔpstB*, a
strain with constitutive PhoB activity. *,$p<0.01$ by ANOVA ($n \geq 3$). D) Transcripts within
the PhoB regulon involved in phosphate scavenging and inorganic phosphate transport
and genes involved in phenazine production (PHZ) and ethanol catabolism (EtOH) were
measured in cells grown in the absence and presence of ethanol by Nanostring
(codeset PAV5). PhoB-regulated genes increased in expression (top section) and
ethanol catabolism genes (third section) increase in expression and others decrease
(bottom section). Expression values are normalized to loading controls and
housekeeping genes as described in methods. Values are scaled by gene. Right-hand
barplot shows logFC between *P.a.* WT and *P.a. ΔphoB* on MOPS+1%EtOH. The bar is
colored red if expression is PhoB-dependent (logFC *P.a.* WT / *P.a. ΔphoB* > 1, FDR <
0.05, else grey). *,FDR < 0.05, #,FDR > 0.05. E) PhoB activity and ethanol are both for
5-MPCA production in response to *C.a.* ethanol. P.a. WT, *ΔphoB* and *ΔpstB* were grown
on C.a. WT, or C.a. adh1Δ/Δ in the absence or presence of exogenous ethanol. 5-
MPCA production was rescued by the addition of 1% ethanol to a co-culture of *P.a.*
ΔpstB and, to a lesser extent, *P.a.* WT on *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ.* F) Phosphate (P_i) and ethanol
(EtOH) are additive stimuli that promote PhoB-dependent expression of AP and
phenazine biosynthesis (PHZ).
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Figure 6. The *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) *adh1∆/∆* has increased expression of the Pho4-mediated low phosphate response in co-culture that is inversely correlates with PhoB activity in *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*). A) Previously characterized Pho4-regulated genes [86] including a phospholipase and phosphatases (black bars) were more highly expressed in *C.a. adh1∆/∆* than *C.a.* WT in *P.a.* co-cultures (data shown as z-scores of TPM)*. Pho4-dependence is shown in the right-hand barplot as $\log_2$FC *C.a.* WT/*C.a. pho4∆/∆* using data from [86]. B) Analysis of phosphatase activity in *C.a.* WT, *C.a. adh1∆/∆*, the complemented strain *adh1∆/ADH1* or *pho4∆/∆* using the colorimetric phosphatase BCIP substrate in agar*. More phosphatase activity was observed in *C.a. adh1∆/∆* than in strains with *ADH1* in in co-culture with *P.a.* C) The same Pho4-regulated genes as shown in A were also more highly expressed in *C.a. adh1∆/∆* than *C.a.* WT in mono-cultures. Right-hand barplot shows Pho4-dependence as in A. D) More phosphatase activity was observed in *C.a. adh1∆/∆* than in strains with *ADH1* in in mono-culture. . As predicted, phosphatase activity is not evident in the *C.a. pho4∆/∆* strain. Phosphatase activity visualized via BCIP as in B. E) Number of CFUs of *P.a.* WT, ∆*phoB* or ∆*phz* after co-culture for 72 h with *C.a.* WT, *C.a. adh1∆/∆ C.a. adh1∆/ADH1*. *P.a.* ∆*phoB* and ∆*phz* had significantly fewer CFUs on *C.a.* strains with high ethanol production (WT and *adh1∆/ADH1*), but not *C.a. adh1∆/∆*. F) In the same samples analyzed in A, *C.a.* CFU formation was assessed. *C.a.* WT or *C.a. adh1∆/ADH1* strains had increased fitness in-culture with *P.a.* ∆*phoB* or *P.a.* ∆*phz* compared to with *P.a.* WT. For *C.a. adh1∆/∆*, there were no differences in CFU formation when co-cultured with *P.a.* WT, ∆*phoB* or ∆*phz.*

A — Correlations between *C.a.* Pho4- and *P.a.* PhoB-regulated genes across co-cultures of *P.a.* WT with *C.a.* WT and *adh1Δ/Δ*

$$\left(\frac{P.a.\text{ WT}}{C.a.\text{WT}} \Big/ \frac{P.a.\text{ WT}}{adh1\Delta/\Delta}\right)$$ logFC

Figure 7. *P. aeruginosa* (*P.a.*) PhoB affects both *P.a.* and *C. albicans* (*C.a.*) fitness in co-culture through its control of phenazine production and phosphate acquisition. A) Pearson correlation analysis between *P.a.* (green annotations) and *C.a.* (orange annotations) low phosphate-responsive genes from co-cultures of *P.a.* WT with either *C.a.* WT or *adh1*Δ/Δ. Largely inverse relationships between *P.a.* PhoB- and *C.a.* Pho4-regulated genes is apparent. Log$_2$FC ($p<0.05$) between *P.a.* with either *C.a*. WT or *C.a. adh1*Δ/Δ is shown in the right-hand bar plot. Lower half of correlogram shows which correlations are significant (filled circles) and indicates correlation values by color intensity relative to scale. Same species comparisons have white backgrounds and cross-species correlations have grey backgrounds. B) Model of PhoB activity in *P.a.-C.a.* co-cultures. PhoB mediates the conditional production of the antagonistic, antifungal phenazine 5-MPCA in response to phosphate and fungal ethanol production.**,$p<0.01$ by ANOVA.

Supplementary Figure

Figure S1. Red pigment formation is dependent on phenazine biosynthesis
genes, phenazine transport genes and quorum sensing (QS) pathways in *P.*
***aeruginosa* (*P.a.*).** A) Co-cultures of *P.a.* wild type (WT) and mutants lacking genes
involved in phenazine biosynthesis were inoculated onto lawns of *C.a.* (WT), *C.a.*
adh1Δ/Δ and *adh1Δ/Δ* reconstituted with *ADH1* then incubated for 24 h. *P.a.* 5-MPCA
phenazine biosynthesis (evident by red color) was not observed with the Δ*phzM* but was
still produced by Δ*phzS* and Δ*phzH*. 5-MPCA production was dependent on the
oxidative stress response gene *soxR* and 5-MPCA transport complex *mexGHI-ompD*.
For all *P.a.* strains, 5-MPCA was only produced on *C.a.* with intact *ADH1*. B) Co-
cultures of *P.a.* wild type (WT) and mutants lacking genes involved in quorum sensing
were inoculated onto lawns of *C.a.* (WT), *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ* and *adh1Δ/Δ* reconstituted with
ADH1 then incubated for 48 h. *P.a.* mutants defective in QS pathways (Δ*lasR*, Δ*rhlR*,
Δ*pqsR*, Δ*pqsA*) form less red pigment that *P.a.* WT on *C.a.* WT and no strains form red
pigment on *C.a. adh1Δ/Δ*. C) Gene expression of *P.a.* LasR (blue), RhlR (orange) and
PqsR (red) regulated genes had heterogenous expression with genes both up and
down regulated. D) Red pigment formation being dependent on QS pathways of RhlR
and PqsR is consistent with integration of QS with PhoB via the integrative quorum
sensing (IQS) pathway in which low phosphate triggers PhoB activity which influences
PqsR and RhlR to act, via their cognate autoinducers PQS and C4-HSL respectively, in
a regulatory cascade eventually promoting the transcription of phenazine biosynthesis
genes (*phzA1-G1*, *phzA2-G2*) and consequent phenazine carboxylic acid (PCA)
production. PhoB and QS have also been reported to effect the expression of
phenazine modification genes *phzM, phzS,* and *phzH* necessary for the conversion of
PCA to 5-methyl-phenazine-1-carboxylic acid (5-MPCA), pyocyanin, phenazine-1-
carboxamide (PCN) and 1-hydroxy-phenazine (1-OH-phenazine) [74].
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Supplementary Tables

Table S1. **Clustering coefficients for co-culture data.** Results of clustering
coefficients (CC) for gene expression and eADAGE signature activity values for
samples grouped by experimental condition. For each sample comparison, random
controls with a comparable number of samples are shown. For all analyses, CC mean
and standard deviation (SD) are shown .

Groups	CC for gene expression	SD	CC for signature activity	SD
CAF2 vs *adh1Δ/Δ*	0.38		0.68	
Random (5v5)	0.14	± 0.07	0.12	± 0.12
Coculture vs Monoculture	0.42		0.53	
Random(10v3)	0.14	± 0.16	0.15	± 0.22
CAF2 vs YPD	0.58		0.80	
Random (5v3)	0.13	± 0.09	0.10	± 0.11

Table S2: eADAGE gene-gene network cliques of DEGs from co-culture. Cliques
from the eADAGE gene-gene subnetwork of genes differentially expressed between
P.a. grown on WT and *adh1Δ/Δ C.a*.. Cliques were considered as groups of genes (> 1
gene) connected by edges with weights > 0.5 of Pearson correlation in signature
weights in eADAGE. Cliques were numbered arbitrarily and named to represent the
known functional characterizations of genes contained in each clique.

Clique Number	Description	Clique size	Genes
1	Phenazine biosynthesis	17	PA0522, PA3039, PA5383, PA1219, PA1221, PA1220, PA1216, PA1218, *phzA1, phzG2, phzE2, phzC2, phzD2, phzM, phzS, phzB1, phzF2*
2	Pyochelin biosynthesis	29	*fepD, fepB,* PA4155, *foxI, pvdS, femI, fiuI, femR,* PA5217, PA1301 PA1300, *hasAP,* PA4570, *pchR, fumC1, sodM,* PA4471, *fiuR, pchA, ampO ,pchD, pchB, fptA, pchC, pchE,* PA4220, PA4222, PA4223, *pchF*
3	Phosphate transport and acquisition	23	PA2120, *hocS, phoB, pstA, pstC, plcN,* PA3383, *exbB2, phdA, pdtB,* PA0701, PA0699, *hxcX,* l*apA,* exbD2, PA0696, PA0697, PA0698, *hxcQ,* PA0700, *hxcZ,* PA0695, *pdtA*
4	Isoprenoid metabolism	7	*liuD, liuB, mmsB,* PA2557, PA2553, *liuC, liuA*
5	Magnesium transport	6	*mgtA*, PA4826, PA4635, PA4822, PA4824, PA4823
6	Aconitate porin	4	*opdH,* PA0753, PA0752, PA0754
7	Pyrimidine metabolism	3	*dht,* PA0440, PA0439
8	Pyocin Biosynthesis	3	PA0629, PA0630, PA0637
9	Spermidine biosynthesis	3	PA4773, PA4774, PA4782
10	Histidine catabolism	2	*hutH*, PA5096
11	Heat shock response	2	*hscA, fdx2*
12	Reactive oxygen stress response	2	*ahpF, katB*

1657   **Table S3**. **Strains and plasmids used in this study.**

Strain	Lab stock#	Strain description	Source
P. aeruginosa			
PA14 WT	DH123	Laboratory reference strain	[1]
PA14 Δ*phoB*	DH3599	Deletion mutant in *phoB*	This study
PA14 Δ*phoB* + *phoB*	DH3600	Native locus complementation of *phoB*	This study
PA14 Δ*phoR*	DH3774	Deletion mutant of *phoR*	[2]
PA14 Δ*phoB* + *phoR*	DH3755	Plasmid-based arabinose inducible over-expression vector of *phoR*	This study
PA14 Δ*pstB*	DH3601	Deletion mutant of *pstB*	This study
PA14 *pstB*::*Tn*M	DH753	Transposon insertion mutant of *pstB*	[3]
PA14 Δ*phz*	DH933	Deletion mutant of *phzA1-G1* and *phzA2-G2*	[4]
PA14 Δ*phzA1*	DH1728	Deletion mutant of *phzA1*	(Dietrich, Price-Whelan et al. 2006)
PA14 Δ*phzA2*	DH1735	Deletion mutant of *phzA2*	(Dietrich, Price-Whelan et al. 2006)
PA14 Δ*phzM*	DH944	Deletion mutant of *phzM*	[5]
PA14 Δ*mexGHI*Δ*ompD*	DH1376	Deletion mutant of *mexGH1* and *ompD*	[5]
PA14 Δ*soxR*	DH1377	Deletion mutant of *soxR*	[5]
PA14 Δ*exaA*	DH2256	Deletion mutant of *exaA*	[6]
PA14 Δ*exaA* + *exaA*	DH2677	Native locus complementation of *exaA*	[6]
PA14 WT PpdtA::lacZ-gfp	DH3780	Promoter fusion reported construct of PpdtA chromosomally integrated at the *att* site	This study
PA14 Δ*phoB* PpdtA::*lacZ-gfp*	DH3781	Promoter fusion reported construct of PpdtA chromosomally integrated at	This study

		the *att* site in Δ*phoB* background	
CAF2 WT	DH48	Laboratory reference strain	[7]
CAF2 *adh1*Δ/Δ	DH2236	Homozygous deletion mutant of *ADH1*	[8]
CAF2 *adh1*Δ/Δ + *ADH1*	DH2177	Heterozygous native locus single allele complementation of *ADH1*	[8]
PA14 Δ*ackA*	DH3782	Deletion mutant of *ackA*	[9]
PA14 Δ*ackA*Δ*pta*	DH3783	Deletion mutant of *ackA* and *pta*	[9]
PA14 Δ*ackA*Δ*pta*Δ*phz*	Dh3784	Deletion mutant of *ackA, pta, phzA1-G1* and *phzA2-G2*	[9]
PA14 *exaA*::Tn*M*	DH2130	ethanol catabolic transposon insertion mutant	[10]
PA14 *pqqB*::Tn*M*	DH2131	ethanol catabolic transposon insertion mutant	[10]
PA14 *acsA*::Tn*M*	DH2132	ethanol catabolic transposon insertion mutant	[10]
PA14 Δ*kinB*	DH3778	Deletion mutant of *kinB*	[2]
PA14 ΔkinB + kinB	DH3779	Plasmid-based arabinose inducible over-expression vector of *kinB*	This study
PAO1	DH3283	Laboratory reference strain	[11]
PAO1 Δ*phoB*	DH3284	Deletion mutant of *phoB*	[11]
PAO1 Δ*vreA*	DH3285	Deletion mutant of *vreA*	[11]
PAO1 Δ*vreI*	DH3286	Deletion mutant of *vreI*	[11]
PAO1 Δ*vreR*	DH3287	Deletion mutant of *vreR*	[11]
PAO1 Δ*phoB*Δ*vreR*	DH3288	Deletion mutant of *phoB* and *vreR*	[11]
E. coli			
S17 λpirS	DH71	Mating competent strain used for plasmid conjugation	
Plasmids			
pMQ30		allelic replacement vector, GmR	[12]
phoB complement			This study
pMQ72		Arabinose inducible over-expression plasmid, empty vector	[12]
phoR OE		Arabinose inducible over-expression plasmid, containing *phoR*	This study

pHERD20		Arabinose inducible over-expression plasmid	[13]
kinB OE		Arabinose inducible over-expression plasmid, containing *kinB*	[14]
P*pdtAI-lacZ*		P*pdtA-lacZ* promoter fusion, GmR in S17 *E. coli*	This study
pEX18-Gm		Suicide vector for allelic replacement, GmR	[15]

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1660   **Table S4: Primers used in this study**
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Constructs and sequencing		
Gene/ Feature	**Primer**	**Sequence**
phoB	phoB_KO_UP_FW	ccagggttttcccagtcacgacgttgtaaaacgacg gccCCAACGCAACGACCGTCTGGC
	phoB_KO_UP_RV	ccgtccaggggaaacgactccCCTCCAGGC ACTCGTAGCCG
	phoB_KO_DWN_FW	CGGCTACGAGTGCCTGGAGGggagtc gtttcccctggacgg
	phoB_KO_DWN_RV	tgtgagcggataacaatttcacacaggaaacagct atgaccGCGGGTGTGGCGTCCAGGC
	phoB_KO_CHK_FW	ccggaacctgttgagcatagccc
	phoB_KO_CHK_RV	ctcctcgacatagacgttgccgc
	phoB_KI_F	atacccgtttttttggg**gaaggagatatacat**ATG GTTGGCAAGACAATCCTCATCGTTG
	phoB_KI_R	tctgtatcaggctgaaaatcttctctcatccgccTCA GCTCTTGGTGGAGAAACGATAGC
	phoB_KI_check_F	cgtcgcacgcaccaaggcg
	phoB_KI_check_R	ccctgttcgtcggcccacc
pstB		
	pstB_KO_UP_FW	agggttttcccagtcacgacgttgtaaaacgacggc cGCGCTACAAGGTCCTGGAAGAGC
	pstB_KO_UP_RV	gccgcgaccgccagagccCCGAAGACTAC ATCACCGGCCG
	pstB_KO_Down_FW	CGGCCGGTGATGTAGTCTTCGGggc tctggcggtcgcggc
	pstB_KO_Down_RV	CGGCCGGTGATGTAGTCTTCGGggc tctggcggtcgcggc
	pstB_KO_Chk_FW	cgcctgcgcgagaagtacaagg
	pstB_KO_Chk_RV	ctccacgctgaagatcgaagagctg

phoR	phoR_KI_F	catacccgtttttttggg**gaaggagatatacat**ATGCAATCCGTCGTGAACCAAGACTGG
	phoR_KI_R	ttaatctgtatcaggctgaaaatcttctcTCATCCGCCTCACTTCGACGCCTTGCGCTCG
	phoR_KI_check_R	gcggcaacgtctatgtcgaggag
	phoR_KI_check_R	ctggtgcaggcgcagtagctgc
kinB	kinB_KI_F	atacccgtttttttggg**gaaggagatatacat**ATGGAAACCACTTCCGAAAAACAGGGGC
	kinB_KI_R	atctgtatcaggctgaaaatcttctctcatccgccTCATAGGCCGTACTGCTTGCGCTTC
	kinB_KI_check_R	ccgccgaatgcgcggtgacg
	kinB_KI_check_R	gcggcaacgtctatgtcgaggag
pMQ30	pMQ30_seq_mcs_FW	CCTCTTCGCTATTACGCCAGCTGG
	pMQ30_seq_mcs_RV	GCTCACTCATTAGGCACCCCAGG
Reporter fusion	p pdtA 1F	GCGATTGACGGCGGGCGTCGCGATCGCCGGGGCCGCATGACTGCGGATCCCTTCCTGGAAGCTTGCCGTAC
	p prhll 2R	TTGGGACAACTCCAGTGAAAAGTTCTTCTCCTTTACTCATGACGCGAGATTCCTTGGGCGTGTTC
phoB sequencing	FW	cgtcgcacgcaccaaggcg
	RV	ccctgttcgtcggcccacc
pstB sequencing	FW	ggcacggcaccaggtcagc
	RV	cgacgccgcggtaggcg

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