

1 **SP1433-1438 operon of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* regulates metal homeostasis and**  
2 **cellular metabolism during zinc-stress**

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15 Running Head: *S. pneumoniae* metabolism altered by zinc-sensitive operon

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## 22 **Abstract**

23 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* colonizes the mucosa of the human nasopharynx and is a  
24 leading cause of community-acquired pneumonia, acute otitis media, and bacterial meningitis.  
25 Metal ion homeostasis is vital to the survival of this pathogen and contributes significantly to  
26 both colonization and invasive disease. Microarray and qRT-PCR analysis revealed an  
27 upregulation of an uncharacterized operon (*SP1433-1438*) in pneumococci subjected to metal-  
28 chelation by *N,N,N,N*-tetrakis-(2-Pyridylmethyl)ethylenediamine (TPEN). Supplementation of  
29 either zinc or cobalt following TPEN treatment drastically abrogated induction. BLAST analysis  
30 predicted this operon to encode two ABC-transporters, sharing homology to a multidrug  
31 resistance system (SP1434-1435) and an energy-coupling factor (ECF) transport system  
32 (SP1436-1438). Inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS) analysis indicated  
33 changes in intracellular concentrations of iron, zinc, and manganese ions in a  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain  
34 compared to parental T4R. Analysis of the secreted metabolomic profile of the T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-  
35 8 strains identified significant changes in pneumococcal glycolytic pathways, indicating a shift  
36 towards increased production of acetate. Additionally, proteomic analysis revealed 41  
37 differentially expressed proteins in the  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain, with roughly 20% of them regulated by  
38 the global catabolite repressor, CcpA. Based on these findings, we propose that the *SP1433-  
39 1438* operon is largely involved in the central metabolism of *S. pneumoniae* during zinc-  
40 limitation.

41

## 42 **Importance**

43 Metal sequestration is a common strategy utilized by the host immune response as well as  
44 antibiotics such as vancomycin to kill invading bacterial pathogens (1). However,  
45 pneumococcus is still able to thrive under zinc-limiting conditions. This study describes a  
46 previously uncharacterized operon encoding two ABC transport systems that are strongly

47 induced during zinc-limiting conditions. This operon was found to be regulated by a zinc-  
48 dependent regulator (*SP1433*) that functions independently of the overarching AdcR regulon.  
49 We have additionally utilized a 2D-NMR approach to analyze the secreted metabolome and  
50 have employed proteomic analysis to identify a role for these systems in the maintenance of  
51 cellular metabolism. This study provides new information on how *Streptococcus pneumoniae*  
52 responds and adapts to zinc-limiting conditions.

53

## 54 **Introduction**

55 Bacteria have evolved a wide variety of ATP-binding cassette (ABC) transporters that  
56 function primarily to transport molecules across cell membranes (2). These systems are  
57 involved in the uptake and efflux of many substrates, including vitamin B12, iron-binding  
58 siderophores, and free metal ions (3-5). These transport systems consist of importers, found  
59 only in prokaryotic systems (types I, II, and III), and exporters, found in both prokaryotic and  
60 eukaryotic systems (2). Type III importers, or energy coupling factor (ECF) transporters, were  
61 the most recently characterized, and they differ from importer types I and II in that they lack  
62 substrate-binding domains or proteins (6). ECF transporters are involved in the uptake of  
63 vitamins (thiamine and riboflavin) and metal ions (cobalt and nickel) (7-9).

64

65 In an effort to starve bacterial pathogens of essential metals, the human immune  
66 system expresses proteins that sequester metal ions, a process termed “nutritional immunity”  
67 (10). As organisms continue to evade the immune response and evolve resistance to antibiotics,  
68 metal homeostasis is an attractive target for future therapeutics. Discerning the mechanisms by  
69 which pathogens respond to and overcome metal starvation is key to understanding the  
70 physiology of the organism and developing novel therapeutics to eliminate them.

71  
72 *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, pneumococcus, is a Gram-positive commensal of the  
73 human nasopharynx and is the leading cause of community acquired pneumonia worldwide  
74 (11). Zinc transport systems and the zinc-dependent AdcR regulon of the pneumococcus have  
75 been characterized in detail (12-15). However, it remains unknown if other zinc-sensitive  
76 transporters exist. Previous work from our laboratory has identified roles for zinc homeostasis in  
77 both invasion and biofilm formation of *S. pneumoniae* (12, 16). Here we identify zinc as an  
78 effector molecule for the regulation of a genetic locus involved in maintenance of metal  
79 homeostasis. We hypothesize that this locus encodes an operon that is zinc-sensitive and  
80 largely contributes to cellular metabolism, specifically relating to oxidative stress, carbohydrate  
81 metabolism, and metal ion uptake. Additionally, this study has utilized 2D NMR metabolomics  
82 and proteomic analysis to identify metabolic pathways of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* that  
83 contribute to homeostasis during zinc-stress.

84

## 85 **Results**

### 86 **Prediction of Two Uncharacterized ABC-Transporters in *Streptococcus pneumoniae***

87 Microarray data of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* strain TIGR4 exposed to the zinc-chelator  
88 *N,N,N,N*-tetrakis-(2-pyridylmethyl)ethylenediamine (TPEN) identified the gene loci *SP1434-*  
89 *1438* as some of the most highly upregulated genes in response to zinc-limitation  
90 (Supplemental Table 1). Due to their proximity to each other in the genome (Fig. 1A), and their  
91 similar response to zinc-chelation, we hypothesized that these genes comprise an operon  
92 involved in homeostasis during zinc-limitation. Analysis using the Database of prokaryotic  
93 Operons (DOOR) supported our hypothesis that these genes are located within an operon (17).  
94 Co-regulation of genes *SP1434-1438* was verified by detecting a significant upregulation of

95 each gene by quantitative real time PCR (qRT-PCR) following zinc-chelation with TPEN (data  
96 not shown). InterPro analysis identified SP1434 and SP1435 as ABC transporter ATP-binding  
97 proteins, and BLAST analysis identified both SP1434 and SP1435 as multidrug resistance-like  
98 ATP-binding proteins (mdIB) (Supplemental Table 2). Though SP1434 and SP1435 were  
99 proposed to be involved in antibiotic efflux (18), when tested against a broad panel of  
100 antibiotics, a mutant strain lacking *SP1434* was equally as sensitive as the parental T4R  
101 (Supplemental Figure 1). SP1434 (orange) and SP1435 (red) are predicted to form an  
102 independent system with each protein containing five alpha helix transmembrane domains and  
103 a P-loop ATPase domain (Fig. 1B). Additionally, InterPro analysis indicated SP1436 as a  
104 conserved integral membrane protein, SP1437 as a membrane protein, and SP1438 as a  
105 cobalt(II) ABC transporter permease. BLAST analysis indicated that SP1436, SP1437, and  
106 SP1438 share sequence homology with components of an energy coupling factor (ECF)  
107 transport system, representing the substrate-specific component (EcfS), the transmembrane  
108 transporter component (EcfT), and the ATP-binding protein (EcfA2), respectively. The predicted  
109 ECF transport system is also shown, whereby, SP1436 (purple) binds the substrate, SP1437  
110 (green) functions as a permease, and SP1438 (blue) acts as an ATPase utilizing energy  
111 generated by ATP hydrolysis to import the substrate into the cell.

112

### 113 ***Metal Availability Alters Expression of SP1434***

114 To verify the microarray results, expression of the first gene in the operon (*SP1434*) was  
115 analyzed by qRT-PCR following TPEN treatment. Results from the qRT-PCR analysis indicated  
116 robust expression in response to the zinc(II) chelation, as *SP1434* was upregulated greater than  
117 100-fold in comparison to a control sample without TPEN treatment (Fig. 2). In contrast,  
118 expression of *SP1434* was unaltered in samples exposed to excess metal ion concentrations;  
119 addition of zinc ions led to a 0.7-fold change and adding cobalt(II) (-1.3), iron(II) (-1.1), and

120 nickel(II) (-1.1) yielded similar results. To determine individual metals' effect on chelation-  
121 dependent operon expression, samples were treated with TPEN for 15 min followed by  
122 supplementation with excess metal for 15 min. Surprisingly, addition of zinc or cobalt ions  
123 limited the upregulation of *SP1434* by roughly 90 %, and nickel(II) limited expression by 30%  
124 compared to a control treated only with TPEN for 30 min. However, addition of iron(II) following  
125 TPEN treatment limited upregulation by less than 10%. This is important to note as TPEN, in  
126 addition to binding zinc(II) at a 1:1 ratio ( $K_d = 2.6 \times 10^{-16}$  M), also has an affinity for iron(II) ( $K_d =$   
127  $2.4 \times 10^{-15}$  M) (19). Collectively, these data indicate this system is responsive to multiple  
128 divalent metal ions, but it does not appear to be affected by iron availability.

129

### 130 ***Transcriptional Regulation of SP1434-1438 Operon***

131 The locus directly upstream of *SP1434* encodes a previously uncharacterized AraC  
132 transcriptional regulator (*SP1433*). To determine if *SP1433* is involved in the induction of  
133 *SP1434* following TPEN treatment, expression of *SP1433* and *SP1434* were assessed by qRT-  
134 PCR in the parental T4R and a  $\Delta 1433$  mutant strain. Expression of *SP1433* in the T4R strain  
135 following TPEN treatment revealed an upregulation of  $\approx 7$  fold (Fig. 3). As expected expression  
136 of *SP1433* was undetectable in the  $\Delta 1433$  mutant. Though *SP1434* was strongly upregulated  
137 following TPEN exposure in the T4R strain, expression of *SP1434* did not increase following  
138 treatment with TPEN in the  $\Delta 1433$  mutant strain. These data indicate involvement of *SP1433* in  
139 the regulation of this operon. To identify if *SP1433* falls within the previously characterized AdcR  
140 zinc-dependent regulon, expression of genes known to be regulated by AdcR, *adcA* and *adcAll*,  
141 were analyzed in T4R and the  $\Delta 1433$  mutant. However, no significant differences in expression  
142 of *adca* or *adcAll* were detected between the two strains (Supplemental Figure 2), indicating  
143 that while the *SP1434-1438* operon is regulated by *SP1433* and is highly responsive to metal-  
144 starvation, it is unlikely part of the AdcR regulon and is instead an independent metal sensor.

145

### 146 ***SP1434-1438 Alters Intracellular Metal Availability***

147           The considerable upregulation of this operon following zinc chelation led us to  
148 investigate the intracellular metal ion concentrations within T4R and the  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain using  
149 inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). These analyses revealed significant  
150 differences in intracellular manganese(II), iron(II), and zinc(II) concentrations, between the two  
151 strains (Fig. 4, Supplemental Table 4). Due to sequence similarity with a cobalt/nickel ECF  
152 transport system, the difference in intracellular nickel(II) concentration is interesting to note  
153 though this was not statistically significant under the conditions tested.

154

### 155 ***Secreted Metabolome of T4R and $\Delta$ 1434-8***

156           Metals have been shown to impact bacterial metabolism, and a recent study of  
157 *Streptococcus pyogenes* showed that excess zinc ions interfere in glucose metabolism through  
158 the inhibition of two enzymes: phosphofruktokinase and glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate-  
159 dehydrogenase (20). To determine the role that the *SP1434-1438* operon is playing in  
160 metabolism, potentially due to intracellular metal accumulation, secreted metabolomics were  
161 performed on both T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 using a novel 2D nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR)  
162 approach. Briefly, cultures of each strain were grown to early log ( $OD_{600}$  0.2), mid-log ( $OD_{600}$   
163 0.35) and beginning stationary phase ( $OD_{600}$  0.5). Culture supernatants were sterile filtered,  
164 processed, and quantified by NMR, using a library containing more than fifty metabolites. Partial  
165 Least Squares Discriminant Analysis (PLS-DA) of these samples detected significant  
166 differences in metabolite concentrations both between strains of pneumococci and across the  
167 different optical densities analyzed (Fig. 5A). In addition to identifying the collective differences  
168 between strains, significant differences were also detected in individual metabolites between

169 strains, including lactate, acetate, and carbohydrates (Fig. 5B); however, differences were also  
170 detected in numerous amino acids including threonine, arginine, and cysteine. A heatmap  
171 identifying differences between the two strains throughout the time course of the experiment  
172 and clustering metabolites with similar behavior is shown in Supplemental Figure 3. Broadly, the  
173 metabolites fall into two main classes: compounds that rapidly increase as OD<sub>600</sub> increases,  
174 including L-cystine, threonine, and lactic acid, and compounds which decrease over time.  
175 Additionally, metabolic pathways were mapped showing the most significantly altered  
176 metabolites of both T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8, with the most metabolic changes occurring during  
177 pyruvate metabolism (Fig. 5C). Collectively, these data indicate involvement of this operon in  
178 the regulation of cellular metabolism, particularly in glucose and amino acid metabolism.  
179

#### 180 ***Proteomic Analysis of T4R and $\Delta$ 1434-8***

181 To identify potential mechanisms leading to differences in the metabolic profiles between  
182 T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strains, proteomic analysis of both T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 were performed using  
183 mass spectrometry-based methods. Using a Fisher's exact t-test ( $p < 0.003$ ), we identified 41-  
184 differentially expressed proteins in the  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain compared to the parental T4R (Table 1).  
185 Differentially expressed proteins were analyzed through KEGG, STRING, Uniprot, and  
186 RegPrecise to determine potentially relevant metabolic and regulatory pathways (21-24). From  
187 these data, roughly 22% of those differentially expressed, fall within the CcpA, global catabolite  
188 repression regulon (25, 26). Two of the 41 differentially expressed proteins fall under the  
189 regulation of CodY, which is also a known global nutritional regulator (27). In addition to the  
190 CcpA and CodY regulons, multiple differentially expressed proteins were identified as belonging  
191 to the ArgR, the predicted-Rex, and the CtsR regulons, indicating changes in arginine  
192 metabolism and redox stimuli between the  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain and parental T4R (28-31).



193 Furthermore, expression of ABC-transporters or phosphotransferase systems accounted for  
194 more than 20% of the downregulated proteins in the  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain.

195

## 196 **Discussion**

197 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* remains one of the leading killers of children worldwide, and  
198 infections due to this organism account for more than 400,000 hospitalizations per year in the  
199 United States alone (32). The pneumococcus primarily resides as a commensal of the  
200 nasopharynx, where zinc(II) concentrations are limited. Additionally, exposure to calprotectin, a  
201 protein produced by neutrophils to sequester zinc ions from bacteria, further limits metal  
202 availability within the host. Pathogens must therefore utilize mechanisms to circumvent metal  
203 starvation. Though zinc(II) acquisition and regulation have been well characterized in *S.*  
204 *pneumoniae*, in this study we have identified a previously uncharacterized system that is  
205 strongly responsive to zinc-limitation. Furthermore, loss of this genetic locus results in an altered  
206 cellular metabolism. Our results indicate that genes *SP1433-1438* are encoded as an operon  
207 that is highly upregulated in response to zinc-chelation by the cell permeable chelator, TPEN,  
208 potentially mimicking the environment encountered during neutrophil clearance in the human  
209 nasopharynx. BLASTp and UniProt analysis revealed the potential of this operon to encode two  
210 transport systems sharing homology to an antibiotic transport system and a cobalt(II)/nickel(II)  
211 energy coupling factor transport system. *SP1434* and *SP1435* of this system were recently  
212 characterized to be involved in pneumococcal environmental information processing and were  
213 found to be highly responsive following deletion of the two-component regulatory system 08  
214 (TCS08) histidine kinase (33). Moreover, the pneumococcal TCS08 has shown to be  
215 homologous to the SaeRS system of *Staphylococcus aureus* that is activated by calprotectin,  
216 further suggesting the involvement of this system to metal limitation (34, 35).

217

218           Due to the promiscuous metal-binding affinity of TPEN, we investigated the effect of  
219 other metals on expression of *SP1434*. This operon was determined to be responsive to zinc,  
220 cobalt, and nickel ions, as supplementation following TPEN treatment led to a drastic limitation  
221 in the upregulation of *SP1434* seen in TPEN treated samples alone. Additionally, we detected  
222 upregulation of *SP1434* in the parental T4R strain but no increase in expression in the strain  
223 lacking the AraC transcriptional regulator ( $\Delta 1433$ ), indicating *SP1433* as the regulator of this  
224 operon. Expression of AdcR-regulon genes *adcA* and *adcAll* encoding zinc-binding lipoproteins  
225 were not affected in the  $\Delta 1433$  strain, suggesting that *SP1433* is likely a zinc-sensing regulator  
226 functioning independently of AdcR.

227  
228           Since components of this operon share sequence similarity with metal ion transport  
229 systems, we analyzed intracellular metal concentrations of T4R and  $\Delta 1434-8$  by intercoupled  
230 plasma-mass spectrometry (ICP-MS). Significant differences were detected in the  
231 concentrations of manganese, zinc, and iron ions. Iron(II) is known to interact with  $H_2O_2$  through  
232 Fenton chemistry to form highly reactive hydroxyl radicals (36), whereas zinc and manganese  
233 are known to function as antioxidant metal ions specifically through redox-active metal  
234 antagonism and interaction with the superoxide dismutase, SodA (37, 38). As metal ions are  
235 also known to be important enzymatic cofactors for proteins involved in metabolism, and  $H_2O_2$  is  
236 a significant byproduct of pneumococcal metabolism, we explored how loss of this operon, and  
237 subsequent changes in intracellular metal ion concentrations, altered cellular metabolism. NMR-  
238 based metabolomics of culture supernatants identified major shifts in the metabolic profiles  
239 between strains, primarily with increased production of lactate in the T4R strain and increased  
240 production of acetate in the  $\Delta 1434-8$  strain. These differences suggest a preference for mixed  
241 acid fermentation by  $\Delta 1434-8$  versus homolactic acid fermentation by the T4R strain (39).  
242 Several amino acids were also observed to exhibit differing metabolite behavior. Of particular  
243 interest were the high levels of cysteine detected in  $\Delta 1434-8$  strain since this strain contains

244 higher concentrations of zinc(II) and cysteine residues are known to interact with zinc ions with  
245 high affinity (40).

246

247 Proteomic analysis validated the results obtained from the secreted metabolomics and  
248 indicated that nearly one quarter of differentially expressed proteins were regulated by the CcpA  
249 regulon, involved in carbohydrate catabolite repression. The CcpA regulon has been previously  
250 characterized as a master regulator that controls fermentation, as well as catabolism of glucose,  
251 galactose, and tagatose (26). Many of the differentially expressed proteins that fall within the  
252 CcpA regulon were downregulated and are known to be involved in galactose fermentation,  
253 including GatB and the *nan* operon (41, 42). Additionally, CcpA regulation is thought to be  
254 important for host interactions and contributes to successful colonization (26, 43). Previous  
255 studies have linked sialic acid and CcpA with galactose metabolism specifically through the  
256 pneumococcal *nan* operons(42), and it is therefore interesting to note that 4/5 of the genes  
257 within this operon in the D39 background (*spd\_1263*, *spd\_1264*, *spd\_1265*, and *spd\_1267*)  
258 were found to be upregulated when grown with 0.5% sialic acid) (42).

259

260 In addition to the large number of genes that were identified within the CcpA regulon,  
261 results from our proteomic analysis also detected differential expression of proteins within the  
262 CodY, ArgR, and Rex regulons. CodY has been shown to be involved in the regulation of  
263 colonization and amino acid metabolism and could potentially drive the amino acid differences  
264 observed in our metabolomic analyses (44). Arginine metabolism has been linked to virulence in  
265 *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and other significant human pathogens and it is interesting to note  
266 that one of the six proteins detected to be upregulated in our proteomic analysis was an arginine  
267 transport system that is regulated by the ArgR regulon (28). The Rex (redox-sensing regulator)  
268 regulon detected by RegPrecise has been characterized in both *Streptococcus mutans* and  
269 *Staphylococcus aureus*, though to our knowledge has not yet been characterized in *S.*

270 *pneumoniae* (45, 46). In both *S. mutans* and *S. aureus* Rex has been shown to sense NAD<sup>+</sup> or  
271 NADH, and in *S. aureus* Rex is thought to be the central regulator of anaerobic metabolism (46).  
272 Findings from our proteomics analyses indicate that the involvement of Rex in this system is at  
273 the level of a zinc(II) and iron(II)-binding alcohol dehydrogenase, both of which are also under  
274 the regulation of CcpA. An additional protein thought to be under coregulation by Rex and CodY  
275 that was identified in our proteomics data is a glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate-dehydrogenase.  
276 Collectively, these data indicate major metabolic differences between our T4R strain and the  
277  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain, particularly in carbohydrate metabolism, fermentation, and amino acid  
278 metabolism.

279

280 In this study, we identified a previously uncharacterized operon of *Streptococcus*  
281 *pneumoniae* that is strongly responsive to zinc-chelation, yet independent of the AdcR zinc(II)  
282 regulon. We have identified the regulator for this genetic locus and have determined that  
283 mutants lacking the operon ( $\Delta$ 1434-8) display different intracellular metal ion ratios and altered  
284 metabolic profiles. Analysis of the secreted metabolomes and proteomic profiles suggest  
285 changes in central carbohydrate metabolism, potentially through a shift in fermentation  
286 pathways. These data demonstrate that the metabolome of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* is  
287 largely metal-dependent, which to our knowledge has not yet been characterized. This work  
288 provides a foundation for identifying key metabolic enzymes and intermediates that could be  
289 targeted using metal-dependent therapeutics.

290

## 291 **Materials and Methods**

### 292 ***DNA Manipulation***

293 *S. pneumoniae* strains TIGR4 and its unencapsulated mutant (T4R) were grown on  
294 tryptic soy agar plates supplemented with 5% defibrinated sheep blood or in C+Y medium.  
295 Mutants of TIGR4 and T4R lacking *SP1434-1438* ( $\Delta$ 1434-8) and *SP1433* ( $\Delta$ 1433) were created  
296 using splicing by overlap extension (SOE) PCR method using an erythromycin or spectinomycin  
297 antibiotic cassette and standard *S. pneumoniae* transformation procedures. Mutants lacking  
298 *SP1434-1438* and *SP1433* were isolated by selection on blood agar plates supplemented with  
299 erythromycin (0.5  $\mu$ g/mL) or spectinomycin (500  $\mu$ g/mL), respectively, and confirmed by PCR.  
300

### 301 ***Antibiotic Sensitivity***

302 Frozen bacterial stocks of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 were diluted to  $1 \times 10^7$  CFU/mL and 100  $\mu$ L  
303 were spread on a blood agar plate. Discs impregnated with antibiotics at the following amounts  
304 were added to blood agar plates and were incubated overnight at 37 °C with 5% CO<sub>2</sub>  
305 (Ciprofloxacin 5  $\mu$ g, Vancomycin 30  $\mu$ g, Ampicillin 10  $\mu$ g, Penicillin 10 U, Ceftiofur 30  $\mu$ g,  
306 Cephalothin 30  $\mu$ g, and Sulfisoxazole 1 mg). Following incubation, zones of inhibition  
307 surrounding antibiotic discs were measured.  
308

### 309 ***Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry***

310 Bacterial cultures of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 were grown to OD<sub>600 nm</sub> 0.6 in triplicate. Four 1 mL  
311 cultures were collected of each strain, centrifuged at 16,000xg for 5 min, and supernatant was  
312 decanted. Pellets were heat killed at 65 °C for 2 hr. Pellets were resuspended in 100  $\mu$ L

313 concentrated nitric acid, then were diluted 1:20 with water. An Agilent ICP-MS 7500cx was used  
314 to collect all ICPMS data herein.

315

### 316 ***Quantitative Real-time PCR***

317 For assays investigating *SP1434* expression, *S. pneumoniae* T4R was grown in C+Y  
318 medium to O.D.<sub>600 nm</sub> of 0.6 prior to the addition of the Zn<sup>2+</sup>-chelating agent TPEN (30 μM) or  
319 zinc(II), cobalt(II), iron(II), or nickel(II) ions at 200 μM. Supplemented metals were TraceCERT®  
320 ICP-MS grade (Sigma-Aldrich). After addition of TPEN or individual metals, bacteria were  
321 incubated at 25°C for 15 min. Additionally, cultures were exposed to TPEN for 15 min followed  
322 by metal for a following 15 min. For assays investigating *SP1433* expression, T4R and Δ1433  
323 were grown to O.D.<sub>600 nm</sub> of 0.6 and treated for 15 min with TPEN (30 μM). For all samples, after  
324 incubation, 1 mL of bacterial culture was added to 2 mL of RNAprotect (Qiagen). Samples were  
325 incubated at room temperature for 5 min. Two mL of bacterial culture in RNAprotect was  
326 pelleted for 5 min at 16,000xg, pellets were resuspended in 1 mL of cold RNase free PBS and  
327 centrifuged again. Supernatants were decanted, and pellets were resuspended in 400 μL RLT  
328 buffer (Qiagen) with 2-mercaptoethanol (Sigma-Aldrich). Samples were sonicated three times  
329 (15 sec), 600 μL RLT buffer was added to each sample, and samples were transferred to 500  
330 μL of 0.7 mM Zirconia beads. Samples were bead beat for 2 min using Mini-BeadBeater 16  
331 (BioSpec Products). Lysates were centrifuged on tabletop centrifuge at 2,000xg for 1 min.  
332 Samples were run through Qias shredder columns (Qiagen) per manufacturer's instructions.  
333 100% Ethanol was added to Qias shredder flow through at 0.6 volume of the sample. RNA was  
334 purified using a Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen), optional on-column DNase treatment was  
335 performed for 30 min, RNA was then quantitated using a Qubit, and 5 ng of each sample was  
336 used to synthesize cDNA using a Maxima First Strand cDNA synthesis kit (Thermo Scientific).  
337 cDNA products were diluted 1:10 and 1 μL of cDNA was used as template for qRT-PCR using

338 Luminaris Color HiGreen High ROX qPCR Master Mix (Thermo Scientific) per manufacturer's  
339 instructions. Primer sequences can be found in Supplemental Table 3.

340

### 341 ***Secreted Metabolomics***

342 Cultures of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 were grown to OD<sub>600 nm</sub> 0.2, 0.35 and 0.5. One milliliter of  
343 culture was removed and centrifuged at 16,000xg for 5 min and sampling was performed in  
344 triplicate. Culture supernatants were then filtered using 0.22  $\mu$ M filters. NMR samples were made  
345 by combining the filtered supernatant (400  $\mu$ L) with 200  $\mu$ L of 200 mM phosphate buffer (pH 7.0)  
346 with 1.000 mM trimethylsilylpropanoic acid (TMSP) in 50% D<sub>2</sub>O. The 1D and 2D NMR spectra  
347 were obtained at a temperature of 298 K on a 600 MHz Bruker Avance III cryoprobe equipped  
348 NMR spectrometer. A 1D-NOESY (noesypr1d) pulse sequence was used, and presaturation  
349 applied at 4.75 ppm during the 4 second relaxation delay and 50 millisecond mixing time to  
350 suppress the water signal. A 1 second acquisition time was used, and a total of 64 scans were  
351 collected with a 20-ppm spectral width. A modified 2D-TOCSY (dipsi2gpphzsprespe\_psyche)  
352 pulse sequence was used for 2D acquisition. This sequence incorporated broadband  
353 homonuclear decoupling using PSYCHE in the  $t_1$  dimension(47-49). A zero-quantum filter was  
354 used during the 80 ms TOCSY mixing time. Water flip back pulses were used to optimize water  
355 suppression (50). Each FID was collected using 2 scans, and the indirect dimension was sampled  
356 for 85 ms using 1024 complex points. Additional water suppression and solvent filtering were  
357 performed with NMRPipe using in-house scripts (51). Each spectrum was calibrated using the  
358 TMSP peak as an internal standard and manually processed. Compounds in the processed  
359 spectra were identified and quantified using AMIX-Viewer v3.9.14 software (Bruker Biospin  
360 GmbH). A library of 56 pure compounds at 3.000 mM was created in-house to identify and quantify  
361 peak intensities and line widths for each compound. The output file from AMIX was a listing of

362 concentration for each compound for each sample. Concentrations for each sample (T4R and  $\Delta$   
363 1434-8) and O.D. (0.2, 0.35 and 0.5) were used for the statistical analysis.

364  
365 The metabolite concentrations for each sample was arranged by O.D. values and strain  
366 before the statistical analysis was conducted using MetaboAnalyst(52). MetaboAnalyst  
367 normalized the samples by sum with Pareto scaling. The Pareto scaling was used to emphasize  
368 the weaker metabolites and reduce the influence of the intense peaks to easily identify the  
369 biological relevance(53). After normalization, the statistical methods, such as multivariate  
370 analysis, were used for data analysis. The PLS-DA data set was divided into components to  
371 identify the statistical differences between the classes. The first component (Component 1)  
372 captured the maximum variance in the data set that was the linear combination of the original  
373 predictor variables compared to the observed variables, whereas the other components (second,  
374 third, fourth, etc.) captured the remaining variance in the data set that was the linear combination  
375 and orthogonal to the first component(53).

376

### 377 ***Proteomic Analysis***

378 Four cultures of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 were grown to  $OD_{600\text{ nm}}$  0.4 in C+Y medium and  
379 subjected to liquid chromatography-tandem mass spectrometry (LC-MS/MS) analysis as  
380 previously described (54, 55). Briefly, proteins were isolated from bacterial pellets sonicated in  
381 NP-40 lysis buffer (0.5% NP-40, 150 mM NaCl, 20 mM  $CaCl_2 \cdot 2H_2O$ , 50 mM Tris, pH 7.4)  
382 supplemented with protease inhibitor cocktail (cOmplete™, Sigma-Aldrich) using a Covaris S220  
383 focused-ultrasonicator. Protein concentration was determined using Thermo Scientific Pierce  
384 BCA Protein Assay Kit. Precipitation of 30  $\mu$ g of protein was performed with methanol and  
385 chloroform (4:1), solubilized in 8 M urea, reduced (5 mM dithiothreitol (DTT) at 65 °C for 10 m)  
386 and alkylated (0.01 M iodoacetamide at 37 °C for 30 m) and digested with porcine trypsin (at 37



387 °C, overnight, 50:1 ratio of protein. Tryptic peptides were desalted using a C18 spin column  
388 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) and analyzed by linear trap quadrupole (LTQ) Orbitrap Velos mass  
389 spectrometer equipped with an Advion nanomate electrospray ionization (ESI) source (Advion).  
390 Peptides (500 ng) were eluted from a C18 column (100 µm id × 2 cm) onto an analytical column  
391 (75 µm ID × 10 cm, C18) using a 180 m gradient with 99.9% acetonitrile, 0.1% formate at a flow  
392 rate of 400 nL/m and introduced into an LTQ-Orbitrap.

393

394 Data dependent scanning was performed by the Xcalibur v 2.1.0 software using a survey  
395 mass scan at 60,000 resolution in the Orbitrap analyzer scanning mass/charge (m/z) 400–1600  
396 followed by collision-induced dissociation (CID) tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) of the 14  
397 most intense ions in the linear ion trap analyzer (56). Precursor ions were selected by the  
398 monoisotopic precursor selection (MIPS) setting with selection or rejection of ions held to a ±10  
399 ppm window. Dynamic exclusion was set to place any selected m/z on an exclusion list for 45 s  
400 after a single MS/MS. Tandem mass spectra were searched against a *Streptococcus*  
401 *pneumoniae* serotype 4 strain ATCC BAA/TIGR4 FASTA protein database downloaded from  
402 UniProtKB to which common contaminant proteins (e.g., human keratins obtained at  
403 <ftp://ftp.thegpm.org/fasta/cRAP>) were appended. All MS/MS spectra were searched using  
404 Thermo Proteome Discoverer 1.3 (Thermo Fisher Scientific) considering fully tryptic peptides  
405 with up to two missed cleavage sites. Variable modifications considered during the search  
406 included methionine oxidation (15.995 Da), and cysteine carbamidomethylation (57.021 Da).  
407 Peptides were identified at 99% confidence with XCorr score cutoffs based on a reversed  
408 database search (57). The protein and peptide identification results were visualized with  
409 Scaffold v 3.6.1 (Proteome Software Inc.). Protein identifications with a minimum of two  
410 peptides identified at 0.1% peptide false discovery rate (FDR) were deemed correct. Significant  
411 changes in protein expression between T4R and Δ1434-8 were identified by Fisher's exact test

412 at a p-value of  $\leq 0.054$  and fold change of  $\pm 1.3$ . Fold changes in protein expression were  
413 calculated using weighted normalized spectra with 0.5 imputation value. Various bioinformatics  
414 resources such as DAVID, KEGG, and STRING were utilized to determine the functions of the  
415 identified proteins (22, 58, 59). The PRoteomics IDentifications (PRIDE) database is a  
416 centralized, standards compliant, public data repository for proteomics data. The mass  
417 spectrometry proteomics data from this study is deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium  
418 via the PRIDE partner repository (pending accession number) (60).

419

## 420 **Statistics**

421 Intercoupled plasma mass spectrometry (ICP-MS), and H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> killing assays were  
422 performed a minimum of three times, results from independent experiments were averaged  
423 together, and standard error of the mean was calculated. Data sets were analyzed by  
424 comparing parental T4R to  $\Delta 1434-8$  using the students t-test, with an  $\alpha$  value = 0.05. Results  
425 were deemed statistically significant when  $p < \alpha$ . Statistical analyses were performed using  
426 GraphPad Prism 7.

427

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434

435

## 436 **Figure Legends**

437 **Figure 1. *SP1434-1438* Operon Model.** A) the genetic loci containing genes *SP1433-*  
438 *SP1438* with the direction of transcription represented by the dotted arrow. Upstream of  
439 this operon is an AraC transcriptional regulator, *SP1433* (yellow). B) The working model  
440 of the transporters encoded by genes *SP1434* (orange)-*SP1435* (red) and *SP1436-*  
441 *SP1438* (purple, green, and blue, respectively).

442

443 **Figure 2. *SP1434* is highly zinc(II) sensitive.** Expression of *SP1434* measured by  
444 qRT-PCR from RNA extracted following either 15 min treatment with zinc-chelator  
445 TPEN (30  $\mu$ M)/metals (200  $\mu$ M) or 15 min TPEN (30  $\mu$ M) exposure with additional 15  
446 min metal supplementation. Fold changes were calculated by  $\Delta\Delta$ CT analysis with *gyrA*  
447 serving as internal control.

448

449 **Figure 3. AraC regulator (*SP1433*) regulates operon expression.** Gene expression  
450 of *SP1433* and *SP1434* were assessed by qRT-PCR in T4R (black) and  $\Delta$ *SP1433*  
451 (gray) strain following 15 min treatment with TPEN (30  $\mu$ M). Fold changes were  
452 calculated by  $\Delta\Delta$ CT analysis with *gyrA* serving as an internal control. Non-detectable  
453 gene expression is represented by ND.

454

455 **Figure 4. Intracellular metals of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8.** a) Metal content of T4R (black)  
456 and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 (gray) were assessed by inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry  
457 (ICP-MS) and displayed as concentration in parts per billion ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ). Representative  
458 figure of three replicates, with bars indicating mean metal concentrations, and standard  
459 error of the mean represented by horizontal bars. \* $p < 0.05$  as determined by students t-  
460 test comparing T4R to  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain for each individual metal analyzed.

461

462 **Figure 5. Metabolic profile of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8** A) Clustering of samples within the  
463 PLS-DA plot of T4R (blue) and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 (red) profiles indicate significant metabolic  
464 differences between the two strains at an  $\text{OD}_{600 \text{ nm}}$  of 0.2, 0.35, and 0.5. B) PLS-DA VIP  
465 Scores plot of T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 indicates the most significant metabolites identified  
466 between strains. C) Extracellular metabolite concentrations of T4R (blue) and  $\Delta$ 1434-8  
467 (red) arranged in metabolic pathways.

468

469 **Table 1. Differentially expressed proteins in  $\Delta$ SP1434-8 versus T4R.** Mass  
470 spectrometry based proteomic analysis of  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strain compared to the parental T4R  
471 from cultures grown to  $\text{OD}_{600 \text{ nm}}$  0.5 identified 41-differentially expressed proteins.  
472 Fisher's exact t-test  $p < 0.00274$ . Highlighted colors represent regulons the proteins are  
473 fall within: CcpA (yellow), CodY (blue), Rex (red), CtsR (green), and ArgR (purple).

474

475 **Supplemental Table 1.** RNA was harvested from bacterial cultures of TIGR4 and  
476 TIGR4 treated with TPEN grown to OD<sub>600 nm</sub> 0.5 and was used to synthesize cDNA for  
477 hybridization to pneumococcal microarray.

478

479 **Supplemental Table 2.** Blast analysis of *S. pneumoniae* TIGR4 proteins SP1433-  
480 SP1438 revealed homology to a transcriptional regulator and two transport systems.

481

482 **Supplemental Table 3.** Primers sequences used in this study for molecular cloning and  
483 gene expression studies by qRT-PCR.

484

485 **Supplemental Figure 1. Antibiotic sensitivity of T4R and  $\Delta$ SP1434-8.** T4R (black)  
486 and  $\Delta$ SP1434-8 (gray) were inoculated onto blood agar plates and antibiotic  
487 impregnated discs were added at the following concentrations: Ciprofloxacin 5  $\mu$ g,  
488 Vancomycin 30  $\mu$ g, Ampicillin 10  $\mu$ g, Penicillin 10 U, Ceftiofur 30  $\mu$ g, Cephalothin 30  $\mu$ g,  
489 and Sulfisoxazole 1 mg. Following overnight incubation, zones of inhibition surrounding  
490 antibiotic discs were measured (mM).

491

492 **Supplemental Figure 2. SP1433 specifically regulates SP1434-8.** Gene expression  
493 of *adcAII*, *adcA*, *SP1434* and *SP1433* were assessed by qRT-PCR in T4R (black) and  
494  $\Delta$ SP1433 (gray) strain following 15 min treatment with TPEN (30  $\mu$ M). Fold changes

495 were calculated by  $\Delta\Delta$ CT analysis with *gyrA* serving as an internal control. Non-  
496 detectable gene expression is represented by ND.

497

498 **Supplemental Figure 3. Heatmap of secreted 2D-NMR metabolomics.** Cultures of  
499 T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 were grown to OD<sub>600 nm</sub> 0.2, 0.35, 0.5. Supernatants were collected,  
500 sterile filtered, and analyzed against a metabolite library.

501

502 **Supplemental Table 4.** Mean intracellular metal ion concentrations in ppb ( $\mu$ g/L) in  
503 both the T4R and  $\Delta$ 1434-8 strains with standard deviation shown in parenthesis.

504

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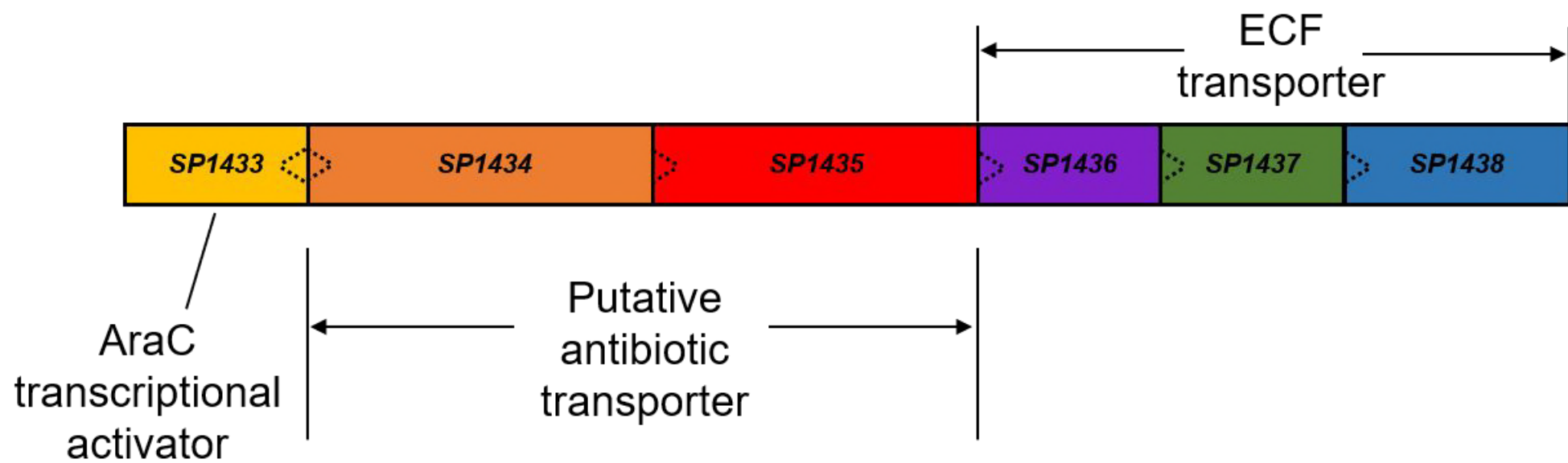
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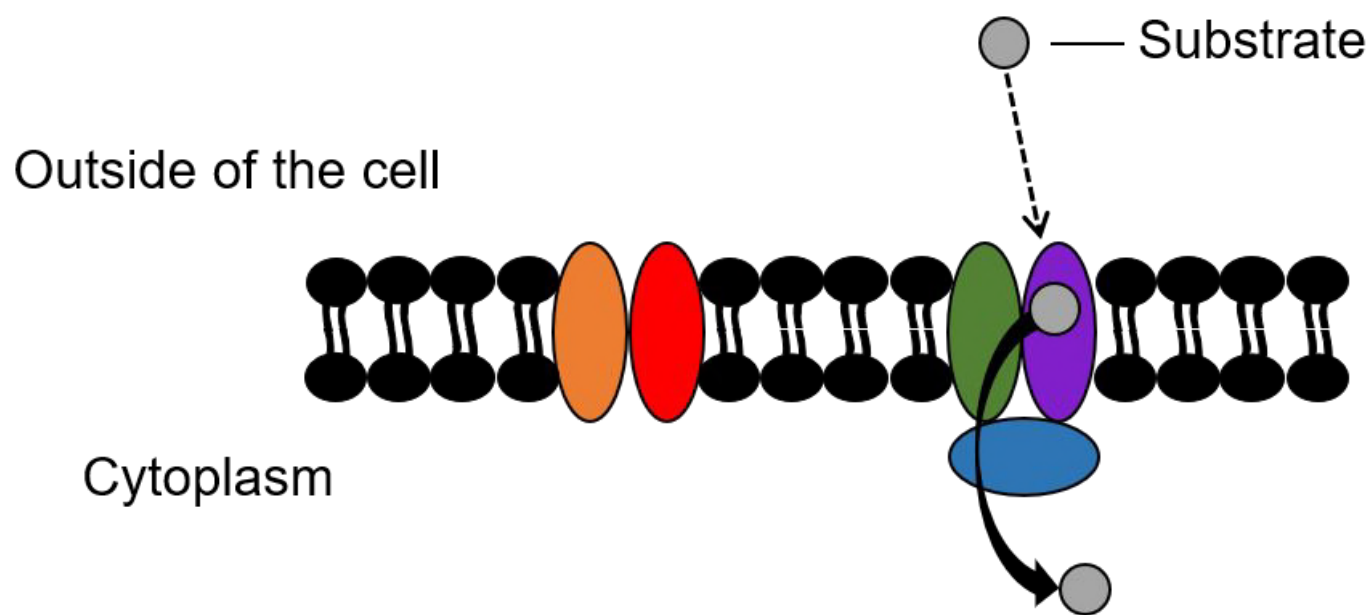
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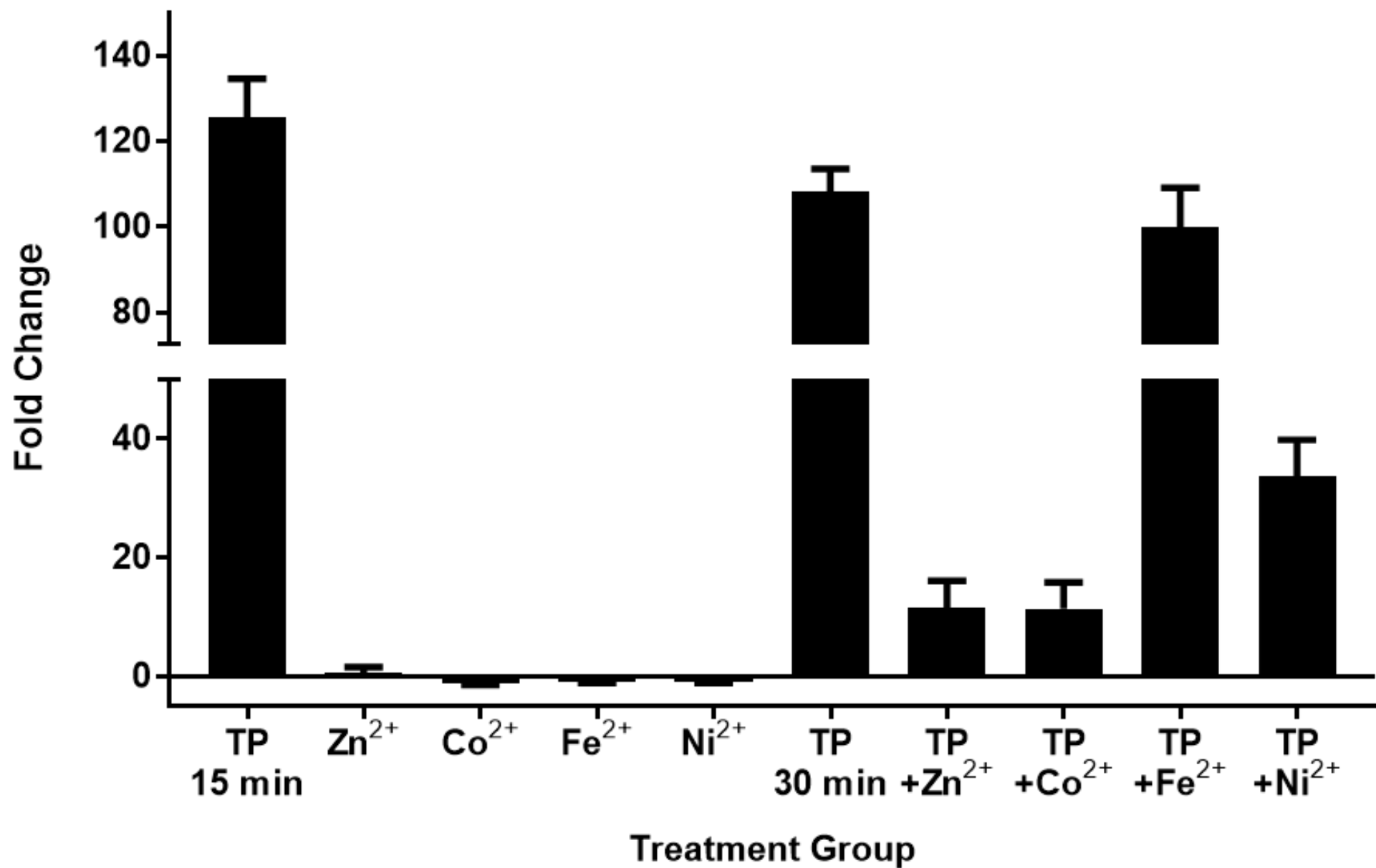
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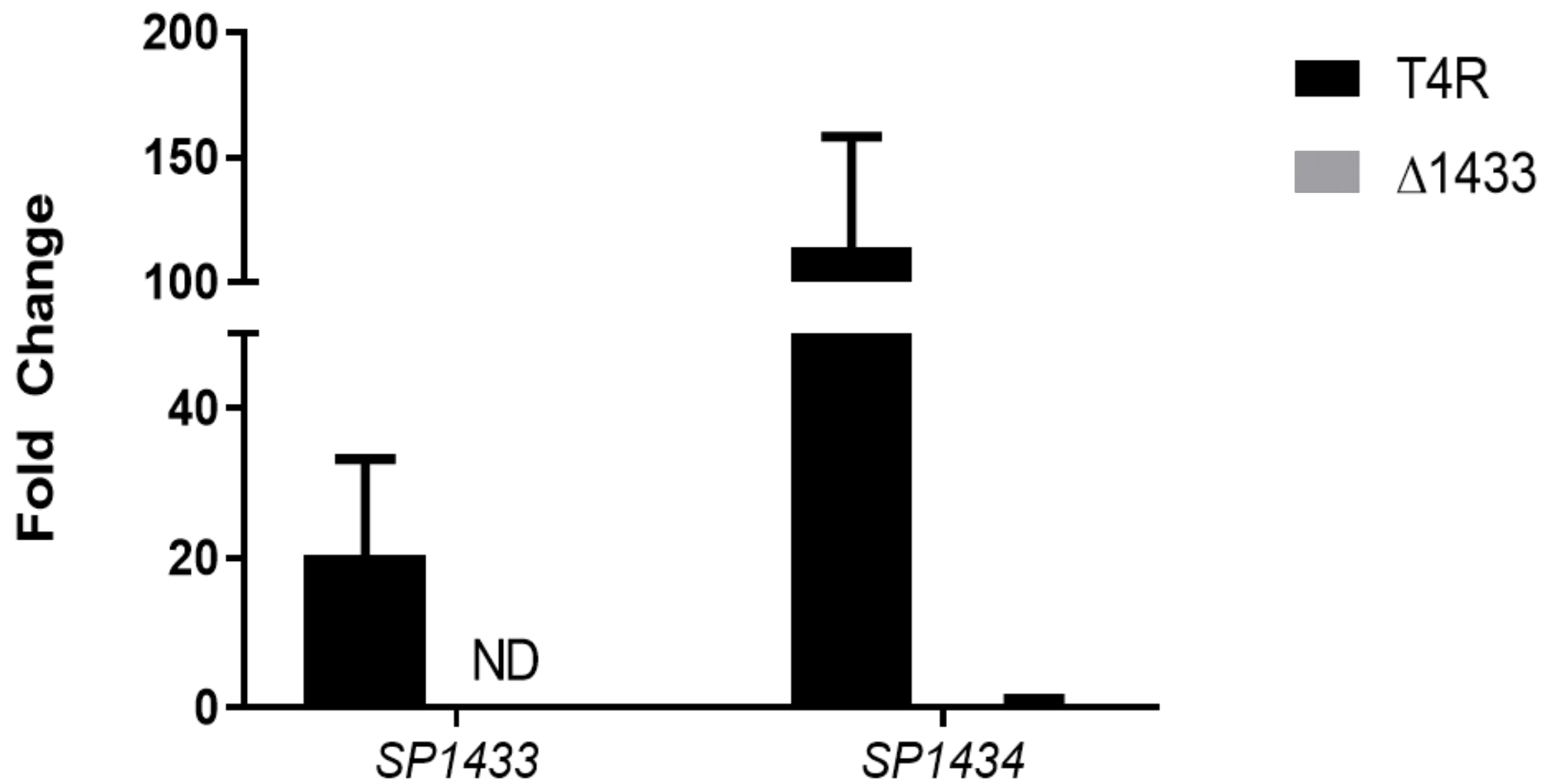
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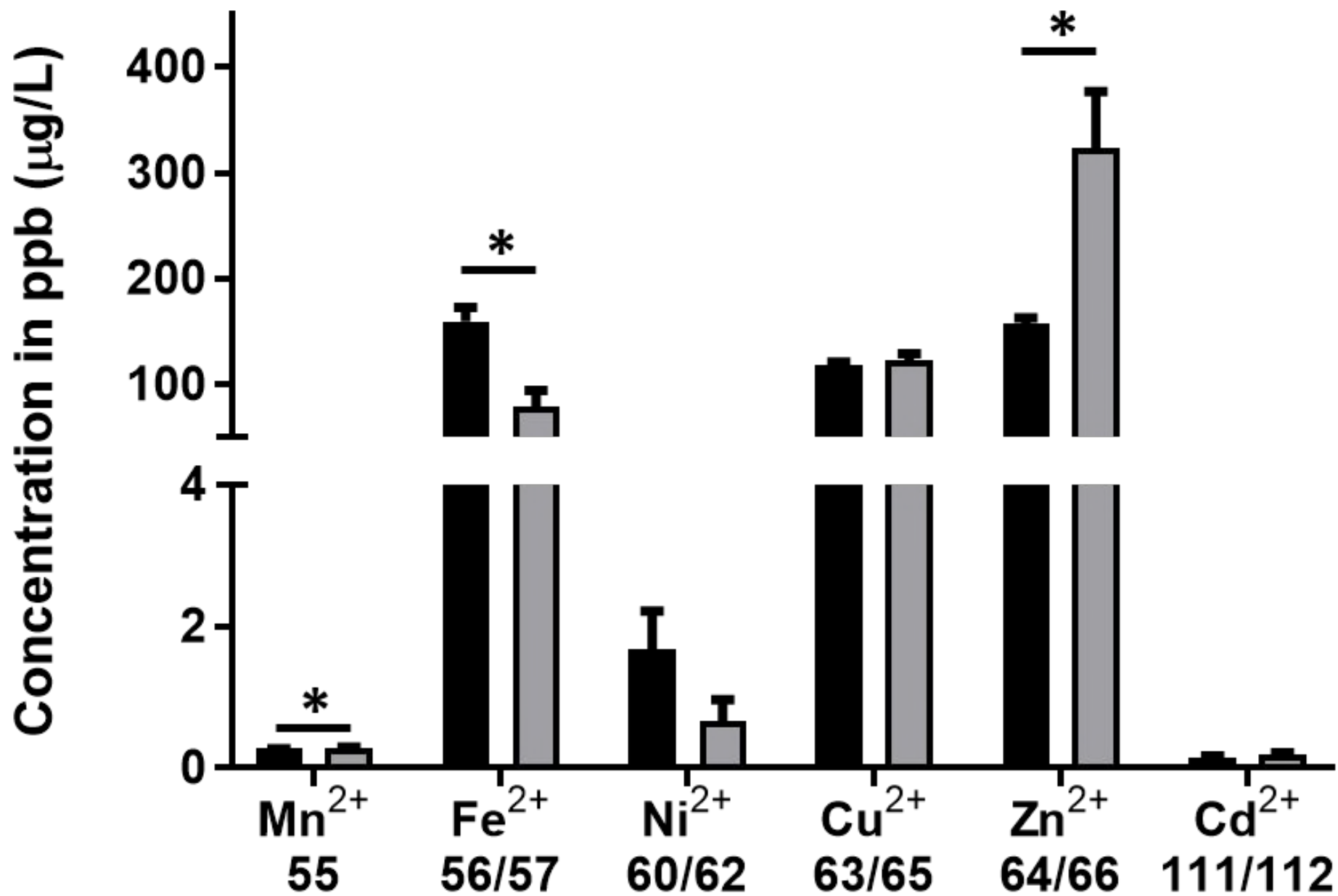


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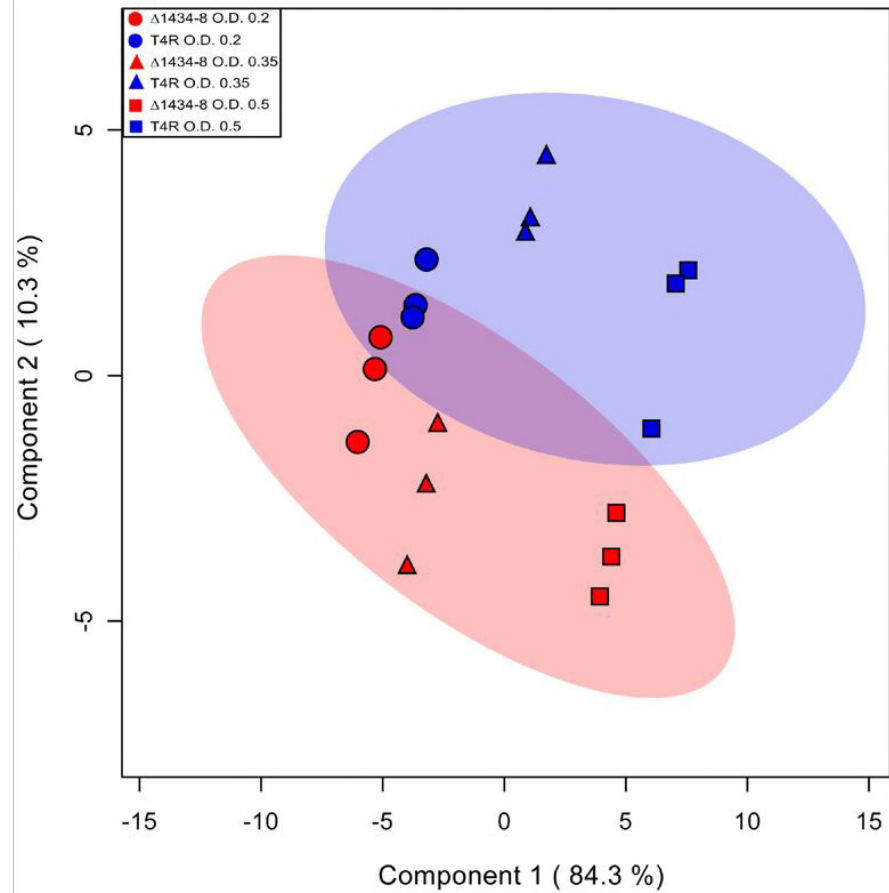




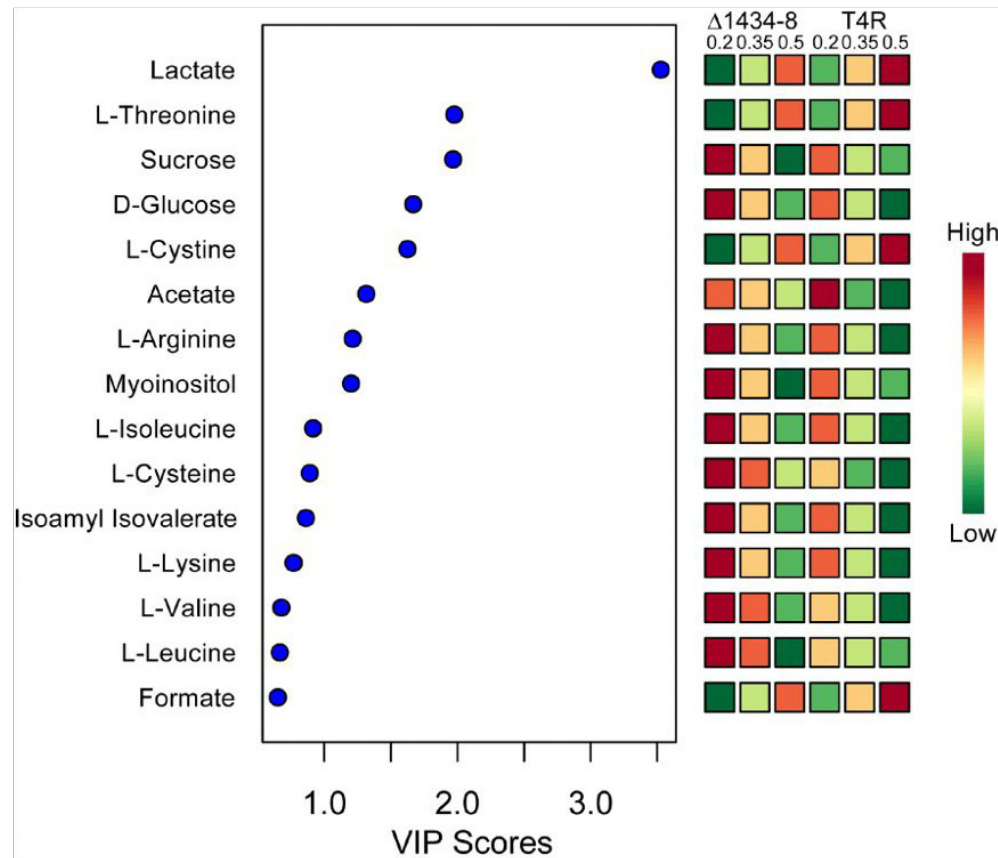


A

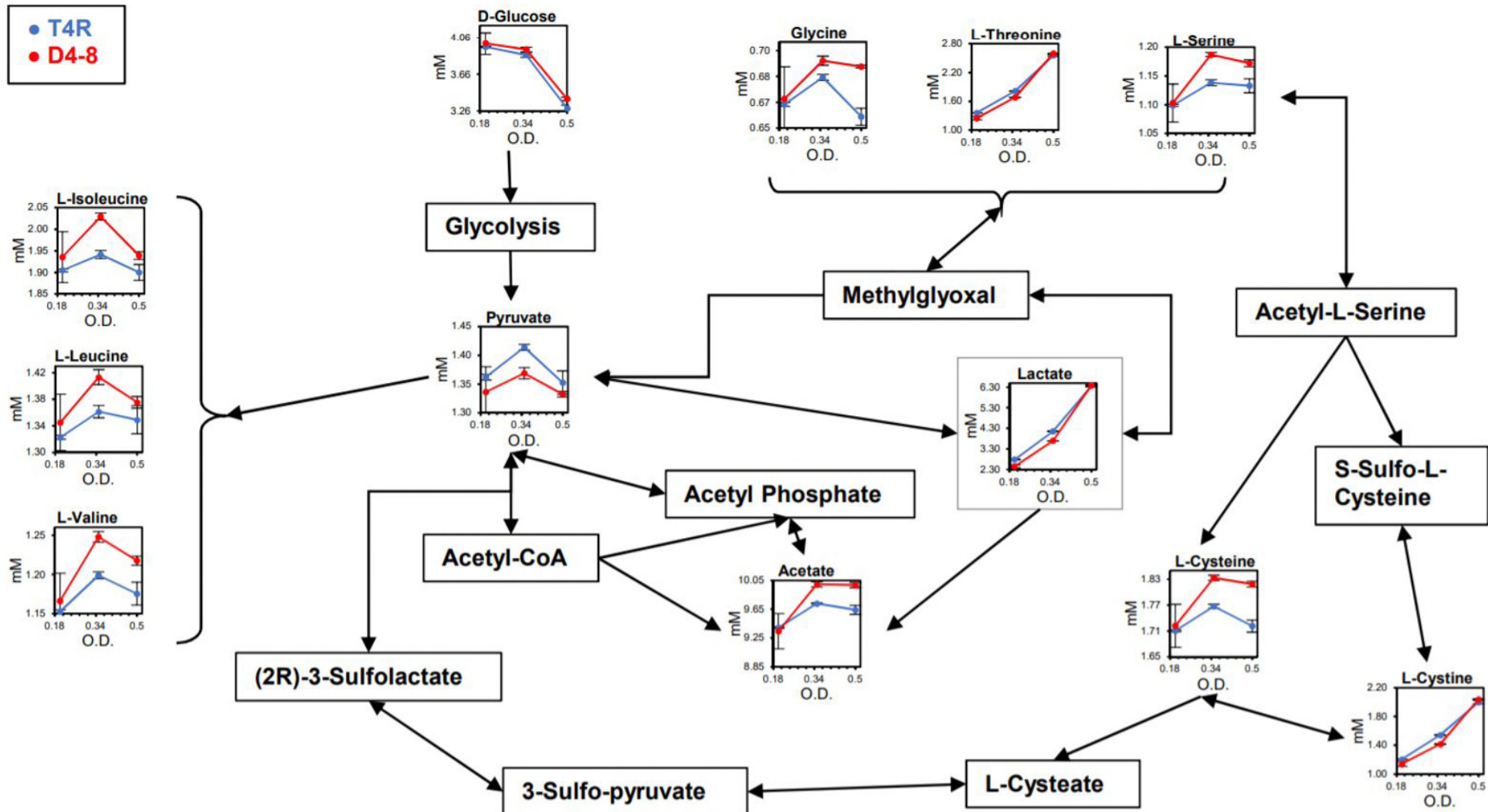
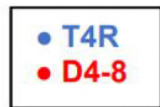
Scores Plot



B



C



<b>Fold Change</b>	<b>Gene Name</b>	<b>Description</b>
-10.0	SP_1557	uncharacterized protein, DegV (fatty-acid binding protein)
-5.0	AgaB	galactosamine PTS system transporter subunit IIB
-3.3	GatB	Galactose PTS
-2.0	AdhB	alcohol dehydrogenase (zinc)
-2.0	NanU	N-acetylneuraminate ABC transporter substrate-binding protein
-2.0	NanE	N-acetylmannosamine-6-phosphate-2-epimerase
-1.4	RaiA	ribosomal subunit interface protein
-1.3	AdhE	alcohol dehydrogenase (iron)
4.8	RpiA	ribose-5-phosphate isomerase A
-3.3	PiuA	iron ABC-transporter
1.3	GapN	glyceraldehyde-3-phosphate dehydrogenase
-1.7	ArcB	ornithine carbamoyltransferase
5.3	ArtM	ABC-type arginine transport system
-1.4	ClpE	ATP-dependent Clp protease
-11.1	ClpL	ATP-dependent Clp protease ATP-binding subunit
-10.0	PyrK	dihydroorotate dehydrogenase electron transfer subunit, oxidoreductase activity
-10.0	FucD	lactaldehyde dehydrogenase fucose/iron dehydrogenase
-5.0	FolD	tetrahydrofolate dehydrogenase, oxidoreductase activity
-25.0	SP_1690	sugar ABC transporter substrate-binding protein
-14.3	RpmG	50s ribosomal protein L33
-12.5	NanB	neuraminidase B
-12.5	PstS2	phosphate ABC transporter
-10.0	SP_1536	methyltransferase, TrmN6
-10.0	SP_1686	Gfo/Idh/MocA family oxidoreductase
-5.0	AgaS	tagatose-6-phosphate-isomerase
-5.0	SpxA	transcriptional regulator



<b>-5.0</b>	SP_1023	N-acetyltransferase
<b>-5.0</b>	YdhJ	homologous to: HD superfamily phosphodyrolase
<b>-5.0</b>	Gtf1	group 1 glycosyl transferase
<b>-5.0</b>	SP_1943	GNAT family acetyltransferase
<b>-5.0</b>	SP_2073	ABC transporter
<b>-3.3</b>	SP_1114	ABC transporter ATP-binding protein
<b>-3.3</b>	SsuE	NAD(P)H-dependent FMN reducatse
<b>-2.5</b>	SP_0097	integral membrane domain
<b>-2.0</b>	BgaA	beta-galactosidase (galactose metabolism)
<b>-1.7</b>	RplO	50s ribosomal protein L15
<b>-1.4</b>	CbpA	choline binding protein A
<b>-1.3</b>	SP_1804	Alkaline shock protein, YloU
<b>4.8</b>	TehB	tellurite resistance protein (S-adenosylmethionine-dep methyltransferase activity)
<b>5.4</b>	SP_0923	Cof family protein, phosphatase (hydrolase)
<b>7.4</b>	SP_2028	phosphotyrosine protein phosphatase