

1 **Title:** Nutritional Immunity and Antibiotic Drug Treatments Influence Microbial Composition but
2 Fail to Eliminate Urethral Catheter Biofilms in Recurrently Catheterized Patients

3 **Running Title:** Urethral Catheter Biofilm Dynamics in Spinal Cord-Injured Patients

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21 **Abstract**

22 Polymicrobial biofilms that form on indwelling urethral catheters used by neurogenic
23 bladder patients are known to recur following catheter replacements. Uropathogens dominate in
24 catheter biofilms (CBs), grow and disperse as multi-cellular aggregates. Their microbial
25 complexity, the characteristics of host immune responses and the molecular crosstalk in this
26 ecosystem are incompletely understood. By surveying eight patients over up to six months with
27 meta-omics analysis methods, we shed new light on the longitudinal microbial dynamics in CBs
28 and the microbial-host crosstalk. There was evidence of chronic innate immune responses in all
29 patients. Pathogens dominated the microbial contents. *Proteus mirabilis* often out-competed other
30 species in cases of salt encrustation of catheters. The examination of proteomes in CBs and
31 associated urinary pellets revealed many abundant bacterial systems for transition metal ion (TMI)
32 acquisition. TMIs are sequestered by effector proteins released by activated neutrophils and
33 urothelial cells, such as lactotransferrin and calgranulins, which were abundant in the host
34 proteomes. We identified positive quantitative correlations among systems responsible for
35 siderophore biosynthesis, TMI/siderophore uptake and TMI cellular import in bacterial species,
36 suggesting competition for TMIs to support their metabolism and growth in CBs. *Enterococcus*
37 *faecalis* was prevalent as a cohabitant of CBs and expressed three lipoproteins with apparent TMI
38 acquisition functions. Fastidious anaerobic bacteria such as *Veillonella*, *Actinobaculum*, and
39 *Bifidobacterium* grew in CB communities that appeared to be oxygen starved. Finally, antibiotic
40 drug treatments were shown to influence microbial composition of CBs but failed to prevent re-
41 colonization of urethral catheters with persisting and/or drug-resistant newly emerging pathogens.

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46 Introduction

47 Urethral catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) is the most common type of
48 complicated UTI. CAUTIs have a higher risk of recurrence, pyelonephritis and bacteremia than
49 uncomplicated UTIs in nosocomial environments (1-3). Asymptomatic cases are usually
50 diagnosed as catheter-associated asymptomatic bacteriuria (CAASB). The use of nearly 100
51 million urethral catheters per year worldwide, the 3% to 10% incidence of bacteriuria over 24
52 hours following patient catheterization and an average bladder catheter insertion time of 72 h (2)
53 suggest an estimated 9 to 27 million CAUTI cases per year globally. Among the most common
54 causes are *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Proteus mirabilis*,
55 *Enterococcus* and *Candida spp.* (1, 3, 4). Indwelling Foley catheters are often used by patients
56 with anatomical urinary tract abnormalities and neurogenic bladder syndrome and retained in the
57 urinary tract for one week or longer. Microbial colonization is difficult to avoid even when catheters
58 are regularly replaced, and antibiotic drug treatments are administered. Bacteria adapted to form
59 biofilms (e.g., *Enterococcus faecalis*, *P. aeruginosa*, and *E. coli*) and those that degrade urea and
60 use ammonia as a nitrogen source (e.g., *Proteus* and *Providencia spp.*) dominate microbial
61 communities that form on catheter surfaces (3, 5, 6). Urea degradation alkalizes the pH of urine
62 and triggers the precipitation of phosphate salt crystals in this milieu, thus increasing the risk of
63 luminal occlusion and complications such as urinary stones and kidney infections (3). Unless
64 specific risk factors exist (e.g., a compromised immune system or pregnancy), clinical guidelines
65 do not recommend the use of antibiotics for CAASB (7). Of major concern are the genetically
66 acquired and innate resistances of CAASB-associated bacteria against several classes of
67 antibiotic drugs. Most of them belong to the ESKAPE group of pathogens (8). Understanding the
68 mechanisms that drive microbial cohabitation and competition in urethral catheter biofilms (CBs)
69 may lead to new approaches to prevent or disrupt their formation.

70 The pathogenesis of UTI and CAUTI has been studied extensively in the context of *E. coli*
71 and *P. mirabilis* (4, 9-12). The innate immune system has a critical role in the recognition of and
72 defense against invading pathogens. Their surface molecular patterns are recognized by urothelial
73 cell effectors such as immunoglobulin A and lipopolysaccharide-binding protein. The presentation
74 to Toll-like receptors (TLRs) triggers cytokine release and signaling events that result in leukocyte
75 infiltration. Neutrophils are the main type of immune cells attacking and phagocytosing microbial
76 intruders (13). Pathogen clearance results from the activities of neutrophil granular effector
77 proteins and reactive oxygen species (ROS) as well as extracellular trapping (14, 15).
78 Investigations of *E. coli* have implicated the neutrophil cyclooxygenase-2 in the pathogenesis of
79 recurrent UTI (16). Recurrence is influenced by host susceptibility to and the urovirulence of
80 strains that colonize the human intestinal tract (17).

81 Type I fimbriae, which are expressed by many Gram-negative bacteria, are thought to
82 initiate mucosal colonization by binding to mannosylated uroplakins, glycoproteins that coat the
83 surface of urothelial umbrella cells (18). *Proteus mirabilis* produces several types of fimbriae of
84 which the best characterized ones are the MR/P, UCF and PMF fimbriae (11). This species is the
85 major cause of encrusted CBs where struvite and apatite minerals are deposited on catheter
86 surfaces, triggered by urinary pH increase (3, 9, 11). Encrustation refers to the deposition of these
87 minerals on the catheter surface along with the bacteria that thrive in this milieu. Bacterial cells in
88 such biofilms can disperse and recolonize unoccupied catheter surfaces via swarming and
89 adherence, processes that mediate ascendance to the kidneys and enhanced risk of
90 pyelonephritis and urosepsis (3). The mechanisms that control microbial CB dynamics over time
91 are complex and implicate the availability of nutrients such as carbohydrates, nitrogen, and
92 transition metal ions (TMI). Iron and zinc are sequestered by the innate immune system during
93 infections (9, 19, 20). Non-encrusted biofilms have been linked to the deposition of host proteins
94 such as fibrinogen on catheter surfaces to which bacteria adhere (3, 4). Some biofilms have a

95 mucoid consistency due to production of extracellular polysaccharides that encapsulate bacterial
96 cells and impede their killing by phagocytic cells. They have also been linked to renal
97 complications by blocking urine flow (3).

98 Culture-based methods have shown that CBs typically harbor more than a single microbial
99 organism (5, 6, 21). Culture-independent metagenomic surveys have identified fastidious
100 microbes including genera such as *Actinomyces*, *Stenotrophomonas*, *Corynebacterium*, and
101 *Finnegoldia spp.* in CBs (22, 23). While these findings indicate higher microbial diversity and the
102 ability of strictly anaerobic bacteria to colonize catheter surfaces, to what extent fastidious
103 microbes compete with typical uropathogens and cause inflammation in the host is unclear. A few
104 studies have analyzed microbial profiles in urine sediments or CBs pertaining to long-term
105 catheterization of patients. One study reported high prevalence of *E. coli*, *P. mirabilis*, and
106 *Providencia stuartii* strains in the context of persistent bacteriuria in patients catheterized over four
107 or more weeks (24). In a study examining 4,500 urine samples from repeatedly catheterized spinal
108 cord-injured patients, the incidences of UTI with one and two or more identified bacterial species
109 were 45% and 15%, respectively (25). A third study revealed polymicrobial colonization by two to
110 four common uropathogens in 20 patients (26). Notably, antibiotic treatments altered the
111 composition of CBs and failed to clear pathogens from the patients' urinary tracts (26).

112 Bladder catheterization itself was reported to cause sterile inflammation in a murine model,
113 with CD⁴⁵⁺ neutrophils as the main infiltrating immune cells. Using this model, *E. coli* and *E.*
114 *faecalis* infections were shown to cause urothelial barrier disruption and further immune cell
115 infiltration (27). Pyuria is known to occur in patients with indwelling catheters independent of the
116 symptomology (7). Our recent work revealed neutrophil and complement system activation at
117 similar levels in patients diagnosed with CAASB and CAUTI after catheterization at a single
118 timepoint (28). Here, we publish the first comprehensive analyses of catheter biofilms associated
119 with recurrent catheterization of patients. We used 16S rRNA taxonomic and proteomic analyses,

120 and further validated results of the host-microbial crosstalk with biochemical and microbial culture
121 methods.

122

123 **Results**

124 *Patient cohort, antibiotic treatments and phenotypic observations.*

125 We enrolled two female and seven male human subjects of either hispanic or caucasian
126 ethnicities. All of them had spinal cord injuries and suffered from neurogenic bladder syndrome.
127 Comorbidities were chronically infected wounds. During the patient visits for wound treatment,
128 indwelling bladder catheters were usually replaced. All patients received topical wound treatments
129 with antibiotic drugs. Systemic antibiotic treatments over a limited time pertained to three patients
130 while this study was conducted. The drug treatment regimens and other medical data are provided
131 in [Table S1 \(Suppl. Data\)](#). Patient P6 was diagnosed with a renal infection a month after specimen
132 collections ended, probably via ascension of catheter-associated pathogens to the kidneys. UTI
133 symptoms were not reported by patients while the study was performed, which is consistent with
134 diagnoses of CAASB. Catheters were replaced in 1- to 3-week intervals to reduce risk of CAUTI
135 and renal complications. We analyzed urine sediments collected as centrifugal pellets from
136 catheter collection bags and biofilms extracted from external and internal catheter surfaces. The
137 terms used for these specimens are UP and CB, respectively, and are from here on. They were
138 collected longitudinally from patients over 2 to 6 months, ranging from 4 to 15 timepoints. Some
139 timepoints were represented by only a CB, a UP or both types of samples. Catheter encrustation
140 was observed for several samples from P4, P5, P6, and P7 ([Table S1, Suppl. Data](#)). The variation
141 in CB biomasses among the patients is displayed in [Fig. 1](#). P6, the patient suffering a renal
142 infection, revealed the highest average CB biomass. Four patients (P2, P4, P7, and P8) revealed
143 only moderate variances in biomasses.

144

145 *Metagenomic data suggest polymicrobial colonization of catheters recurring in individual patients.*
146 Compared to microbial cultures, 16S rRNA sequencing is a less biased method to determine the
147 taxonomic composition of a microbial community. UP and CB samples derived from 8 patients
148 were subjected to 16S rRNA gene analysis. The data suggested the presence of 1 to 15 distinct
149 bacterial genera in 112 specimens ([Dataset S2, Suppl. Data](#)). Species-level resolution is not
150 achieved by sequencing the V1-V3 region of 16S rRNA. Forty genera with operational taxonomic
151 unit (OTU) abundances greater than 0.07% (arithmetic mean) were identified. Resolution at the
152 genus level only allows inferences of the presence of bacteria causing UTI and the urogenital
153 microbiome. Most prevalent were Enterobacteriaceae family members and *Enterococcus*. Less
154 prevalent were *Staphylococcus* and *Aerococcus*. Among fastidious organisms, we identified
155 genera belonging to Actinobacteria, Bacteroides and Fusobacteria. The same genera were often
156 repeatedly identified in samples from a distinct patient, suggesting the biological recurrence of the
157 bacteria in sequentially replaced catheters. There was evidence of abrupt changes in the
158 taxonomic composition for some cases that we elaborate on in a later section. Among the genera
159 rarely associated with pathogenesis in the urinary tract were *Bordetella*, *Globicatella* and
160 *Haemophilus*. As shown in [Fig. 2](#), the bacterial genus diversity was moderately lower in salt-
161 encrusted biofilms (P4, P6, and P7) compared to non-encrusted biofilms (P1, P2, and P8). P5
162 datasets were split into these groups as salt crystals were observed only for three early collection
163 timepoints. This data supports the notion that phosphate salt deposition on catheter surfaces
164 favors growth of the urease-producing *Proteus/Providencia* group of bacteria (29). Quantitative
165 information for OTUs from 16S rRNA sequencing data is of limited value due to differences in the
166 16S rRNA gene amplification efficiencies (30). 16S rDNA taxonomic assignments were also useful
167 to customize databases for proteomic analysis.

168

169 Metaproteomic data reveal dominance of *P. mirabilis* strains in salt-encrusted CBs and the ability
170 of fastidious bacteria to persist in longitudinally profiled CBs.

171 Metaproteomic database searches were performed with iterative adaptations to the composition of
172 protein sequence databases (details in Methods section) guided by 16S rRNA results. This
173 process allowed us to: 1. identify the correct microbial species from a given genus, most relevant
174 in cases where more than a single species from a genus is known to colonize the human urinary
175 tract (e.g., *Proteus*, *Klebsiella*, *Citrobacter*, *Enterobacter*, *Enterococcus*, *Staphylococcus*,
176 *Aerococcus*, *Actinobaculum*, *Bifidobacterium*, and *Candida*); 2. select several species of the
177 Enterobacteriaceae family for quantitative analyses only if evidence of their contributions to a
178 sample was strong, thus avoiding incorrect peptide-spectral match assignments to orthologs with
179 high sequence homology; 3. conduct species-specific pan-proteome database searches to assess
180 whether key proteins were missed by analyzing data from only a single genotype (strain). The
181 latter was most insightful for *E. coli* due to a high number of sequenced strains and the
182 identification of plasmid-encoded virulence and antibiotic resistance proteins for all species. The
183 [Table S3 \(Suppl. Data\)](#) contains the protein sequence databases used for iterative searches to
184 selectively identify the species for quantitative proteomic analyses applied to all 121 samples,
185 including 42 collection timepoint-matched UP and CB samples. P3 was excluded from further
186 analysis due to a low number of samples. Quantified at the microbial species level, the data is
187 displayed in longitudinal UP and CB sample series in the graphics of [Fig. 3](#). We were confident
188 that this data accounted for most of the microbial biomasses. Comparisons of equivalent
189 timepoints (16S rRNA data vs. proteomics) suggest that low abundance microbial constituents
190 present in samples according to 16S rRNA data were absent in proteomic profiles, consistent with
191 the notion that lower protein detection limits for such species were reached.

192

193 Microbial *in vitro* culture methods were used to verify species identities and recover isolates for
194 drug susceptibility tests (DSTs). Specimens were typically stored at -80°C prior to revival of the
195 microbial strains on media under aerobic growth conditions *in vitro*. A P5 catheter corresponding
196 to 61UP was also preserved in liquid N₂ after collection and grown anaerobically in rich media, As
197 reported (31), colonies were subjected to 16S rRNA and proteomic surveys and largely agreed
198 with the profiles derived from equivalent clinical samples. Lower abundance fastidious bacteria,
199 such as *Prevotella*, were identified by 16S rRNA sequence analysis from both clinical samples
200 and colony isolates. This supported the notion that microbes of low abundance in UP and CB
201 samples were not always in a detectable range for shotgun proteomics. Using frozen specimens
202 for colony isolation, only species that are viable during extended storage at -80°C were identified.
203 This included *Serratia marcescens*, *K. pneumoniae*, *S. aureus*, and *E. faecalis* ([Dataset S2](#),
204 [Suppl. Data](#)) all of which have cell walls encapsulated with protective exopolysaccharides. In
205 contrast, species that were quite abundant in some clinical specimens, *e.g.* *E. coli* and *A. urinae*,
206 were not isolated under these conditions.

207

208 Microbial proteins quantified by peptide-spectral counting from all UP and CB samples ([Dataset](#)
209 [S4, Suppl. Data](#)) were summed at species levels. One fungal species, *Candida albicans*, was
210 identified in P2 and P9 datasets at low levels. Common bacterial pathogens of the urinary tract
211 were more persistent in longitudinal profiles than rare pathogens and fastidious anaerobes ([Fig.](#)
212 [3](#)). *P. mirabilis* was dominant in samples from three patients with salt-encrusted CBs surveyed
213 over 3.5 to 5.5 months (P4, P6, and P7), but less so in P5 where salt encrustation was observed
214 for less than half of the samples. Both *P. stuartii* and *E. faecalis* persisted in two of the patient
215 sample series. Non-encrusted catheters (P1, P2, P8, and P9) were more dynamic in microbial
216 content of CBs over time. Most prevalent were *P. aeruginosa*, *E. coli* and *E. faecalis*. In the CBs of
217 P2 that followed three antibiotic treatment courses, *K. pneumoniae* was dominant. Among rare

218 pathogens, *Brevundimonas* (10UP-22UP), *Stenotrophomonas* (71CB), and *Acinetobacter* (5UP)
219 colonized transiently, whereas *Bordetella hinzii* (10UP-33CB) and *S. marcescens* (15CB-50CB)
220 displayed higher persistence over time. The box plots in [Figure S5 \(Suppl. Data\)](#) depict variances
221 in bacterial species abundances comparing UP and CB proteomes in a patient-specific manner.
222 No statistically significant differences in microbial composition for timepoint-matched UP and CB
223 datasets were identified. This analysis suggests that the cycle of biofilm formation and dispersal
224 occurs at the microbial community level. For the most part, UP samples contain those organisms
225 that dispersed from CBs.

226

227 *Proteomic data allow assessments of strains dominance and microbial adaptation to the catheter*
228 *biofilm milieu.*

229 Little is known about molecular adaptations of species to the complex microbial environment in
230 CBs and the presence of the host's immune cells and their effectors at the catheter-urothelial
231 interface. Furthermore, it was of interest to determine if specific strains of a microbial species were
232 dominant in a series of samples from a given patient. We investigated these questions patient-
233 specifically at the proteome level. Statistically significant abundance differences were identified for
234 664 bacterial proteins (ANOVA tests; [Dataset S6, Suppl. Data](#)). Interpreting all data is beyond this
235 article's scope. We elaborate on *P. mirabilis*, *E. coli*, and *E. faecalis* because their proteomes
236 were well-represented in datasets from several patients, with a focus on proteins relevant to
237 bacterial energy metabolism and interactions with the host environment. HpmA was detected only
238 in *P. mirabilis* proteomes pertaining to CBs of P7 ([Fig. 4](#)), supporting the notion that this putative
239 hemolysin is expressed by few uropathogenic *P. mirabilis* strains. High abundance of HpmA in all
240 P7 datasets suggests that a single *P. mirabilis* strain highly dominates the CB series of P7. A
241 yersiniabactin-like iron/siderophore receptor (gene locus PMI2596) was abundant in the *P.*
242 *mirabilis* proteomes of CB samples from P1 and P4, lower in abundance in P5 and absent in P6

243 and P7 samples (Fig. 4). The gene cluster for biosynthesis of yersiniabactin and expression of its
244 receptor FyuA is considered part of the *E. coli* accessory genome. The abundances of the *E. coli*
245 proteins FyuA and Irp1 (an enzyme encoded by one gene in this cluster) were also highly variant
246 and most abundant in P1 and P2 datasets (Fig. 4). Some *E. coli* strains produce another
247 siderophore, aerobactin, via the system lucA-D. Its receptor lutA (Fig. 4) and the L-lysine 6-
248 monooxygenase lucD were differentially abundant in the *E. coli* proteomes of P1, P2, P5 and P8.
249 Box plots displaying the variances of additional proteins involved in TMI uptake pathways among
250 patients are included in Dataset S6 (Suppl. Data). In support of a single strain's dominance for a
251 species in the CB series pertaining to a distinct patient, an *E. coli* plasmid-encoded ferric iron
252 uptake system (UTI89_P010-P017) and the Hek adhesin factor were identified in multiple samples
253 from P1 but not in those from any other patient.

254

255 We observed statistically significant abundance differences for bacterial proteins that contribute to
256 fitness and survival in the human host, including the *P. mirabilis* MR/P fimbriae and the flagellin
257 FliC (Fig. 4). The mannose-resistant fimbrial protein MrpA adheres to urothelial cells and
258 catheters. FliC enables cell swarming and likely contributes to the pathogen's spread along
259 catheter surfaces. MrpA was most abundant in P6, a case associated with very high CB
260 biomasses and diagnosis of a renal infection. We identified differences in abundance for enzymes
261 part of energy metabolism pathways in patient-specific proteome comparisons. The anaerobic
262 respiration pathway Nar/Fdo (*P. mirabilis*), with nitrate as electron acceptor and formate as
263 electron donor, was much more abundant in CBs from P6 than in CBs from other patients. NarG
264 profiles are shown in Fig. 4. Abundance profiles were similar for SucA, a 2-oxoglutarate
265 dehydrogenase subunit part of the citrate cycle. The citrate cycle produces reducing equivalents
266 for nitrate reductase (Nar). Enzymes of the mixed acid fermentation (MAF) pathway were most
267 abundant in CBs of P5, P7, and P8. The abundance profile of *P. mirabilis* formate C-

268 acetyltransferase (PflB) is depicted in Fig. 4. Aldehyde-alcohol dehydrogenases (AdhE) of *P.*
269 *mirabilis* and *E. coli* were also differentially abundant (Dataset S6, Suppl. Data). Fittingly,
270 fastidious bacteria were high biomass contributors only in samples from P5 (*A. massiliense* and
271 *Propionimicrobium lymphophilium*) and P8 (*Campylobacter curvus* and *Veillonella parvula*). A
272 fucose degradation pathway of *E. coli* appeared to be most active in P5 samples, with statistically
273 significant differences in abundance for FucO, FucU and FucI. Lactaldehyde reductase FucI (Fig.
274 4) catalyzes the terminal step of anaerobic fucose metabolism. Many proteins with functional and
275 structural roles in mRNA and protein biosynthesis (*P. mirabilis*, *E. coli*, and *E. faecalis*) had
276 statistically significant abundance differences comparing the patient groups. In summary, the
277 differential use of proteins and multi-molecular entities important to maintain the fitness of bacteria
278 in biofilms (mobility, adhesion, energy metabolism), comparing CB series between patients, is
279 indicative of adaptations influenced by host and microbial environments.

280

281 Functional correlations among molecular systems involved in TMI acquisition.

282 We assessed whether multi-subunit systems involved in TMI acquisition, often regulated by the
283 iron starvation-sensing transcription factor Fur, positively correlated in expression levels. The
284 proteomes of a subset of bacteria sharing CB niches (*E. faecalis*, *A. urinae*, *P. mirabilis*, and *E.*
285 *coli*) in patients P1, P4, and P5 were targeted. Abundance correlation R-values of TMI acquisition
286 systems derived from the individual patients' longitudinal CB timepoints were determined. There
287 were no statistically significant correlations for P4 and P5 data. Strong positive correlations for *P.*
288 *mirabilis*, *E. coli* and *E. faecalis* TMI acquisition systems, or proteins part of these systems, were
289 observed for data from P1 (Fig. 5). These systems' abundances did not correlate with that of Fur
290 itself, as shown for *P. mirabilis* Fur in Fig. 5. This transcription factor activates the expression of
291 iron acquisition systems via a mechanism not dependent on its own abundance. The correlation
292 analyses demonstrate that microbial cohabitants jointly respond to the starvation of iron and other

293 metal ions and express a versatile repertoire of proteins dedicated to their extracellular capture
294 and import into the cell. The summed abundance of *P. mirabilis* ExbB and ExbD, subunits of the
295 energy-transducing Ton system responsible for the proton motive force-dependent uptake of
296 TMI/siderophores via TonB-dependent outer membrane receptors, positively correlated in
297 abundance with the receptors they serve. MR/P fimbriae of *P. mirabilis* (MrpA-H) did not positively
298 correlate in abundance with any TMI acquisition proteins. Three *E. faecalis* lipoproteins, subunits
299 of ABC transporters predicted to bind TMIs, were expressed by the strains that cohabitated CBs of
300 five patients: EF2076, EF0577, and EF3082. The abundances of EfaA (EF2076) varied comparing
301 the *E. faecalis*-containing CB proteomes from five patients (Fig. 6A) and positively correlated with
302 those of TMI acquisition systems of *P. mirabilis* and *E. coli* (Fig. 5). The data were similar for the
303 sum of subunits of the ABC transporter (EfaABC). In a recent study, the system was found to be
304 required for Mn²⁺ import and CAUTI pathogenesis (32). We expressed these *E. faecalis*
305 lipoproteins recombinantly in *E. coli*, purified them, and determined protein melting profiles (T_m).
306 Complex formation with small molecules, e.g. TMIs, stabilizes a protein and increases its T_m. We
307 observed that purified EfaA and EF0577 had two T_m maxima in fluorescent dye-binding
308 experiments. One T_m maximum appeared to represent an apoprotein binding a TMI as a cofactor.
309 Denaturation eliminated this higher T_m peak, while renaturation in the presence of 50 μM CoCl₂
310 resulted in restitution of the high T_m maxima (Fig. 6). Protein melting profiles for EF3082 did not
311 display two T_m peaks for any experimental condition. We infer that EfaA and EF0577 bind one or
312 more TMIs and facilitate their ABC transport-mediated uptake into the *E. faecalis* cell.

313

314 Chronic innate immune responses result from persistent microbial colonization in all patients.

315 The absence of CAUTI symptoms in recurrently catheterized neurogenic bladder patients does
316 not suggest absence of innate immune responses and pyuria (7, 28). Longitudinal human
317 proteomic profiles allowed us to assess patient- and timepoint-specific quantitative differences in

318 the immune responses. First, we quantified relative protein abundances averaged from all 121
319 samples ([Dataset S4, Suppl. Data](#)). In [Table 1](#), a subset of proteins with either a role in neutrophil-
320 and eosinophil-mediated immune responses or as a cell biomarker is selected. Hemoglobin is a
321 urine biomarker of tissue injury in the urethral and bladder mucosa. Hemoglobin subunits, e.g.
322 HBB ([Table 1](#)), were moderately abundant in most datasets suggesting the occurrence of
323 microhematuria in catheterized patients. High abundance of neutrophil-enriched and moderate
324 abundance of eosinophil-enriched effector proteins (MPO, calgranulins and EPX, [Table 1](#)) suggest
325 that both innate immune cell types infiltrated the urinary tract upon microbial colonization of the
326 catheters. Based on a panel of cell-specific surface markers, as identified by the HCDM resource
327 (33), granulocyte (CEACAM8) and neutrophil (CD177) markers were more abundant than B-cell,
328 T-cell, macrophage and dendritic cell markers ([Table 1](#)). Urothelial umbrella cell surface markers
329 were of very low abundance compared to keratins, consistent with the occurrence of squamous
330 urothelial metaplasia and progressing epithelial cell keratinization due to chronic irritation of the
331 patients' urinary tracts (34). Uroplakin-2 and KRT13 are included in [Table 1](#). Complement system
332 proteins such as C3 were also abundant, indicative of high activity of this innate immunity branch.
333 Uromodulin, a protein forming polymerized gel-like aggregates in urine, is abundant regardless of
334 immune cell infiltration and therefore served to normalize protein abundance for the quantitative
335 analyses shown in [Fig. 7](#).

336

337 Comparing datasets among the individual patients, we identified statistically significant variances
338 in abundance for many proteins with functions in innate immunity ([Figure S7, Suppl. Data](#)). MPO
339 and LTF data are depicted in [Fig. 7A](#). MPO is the main ROS-generating enzyme in neutrophils.
340 LTF is a multifunctional protein including an iron-sequestering function. Correlation analyses for
341 numerous neutrophil and eosinophil effectors are displayed in [Fig. 7B](#). This data shows that
342 subsets of proteins cluster based on known enrichments in a specific type of cell or subcellular

343 organelle: for instance, the eosinophil granule proteins bone marrow proteoglycan PRG2 and EPX
344 and, as reported in (35), azurophilic granule proteins released by neutrophils: MPO, cathepsin G,
345 azurocidin, and elastase. Such correlation data support the notion that the effectors contribute to
346 immune defenses triggered by persistent biofilm formation on catheters. Western blots for MPO,
347 not normalized for total protein in UP samples, confirm activation of neutrophils in patients in
348 response to CB formation. MPO blots for selected timepoints pertaining to three patients, shown in
349 [Fig. 7C](#) (P2-6, P7-55, P4-47), revealed low band intensities. This is consistent with low UP/CB
350 biomasses for these timepoints ([Fig. 3](#)). Regardless of patient origin, neutrophils infiltrate the
351 urothelium and release their effectors at the catheter surfaces when they harbor microbial biofilms.

352

353 *Antibiotic drug treatments influence composition and resilience of CBs, with instances of transient*
354 *and permanent changes.*

355 A wound infection of patient P7 was treated with Bactrim, a combination of sulfamethoxazol and
356 trimethoprim (TMT), at timepoint 41UP/CB. This treatment was stopped a week prior to timepoint
357 56UP/CB, resulting in the transient bacterial elimination at timepoint UP/CB55. *P. mirabilis* rapidly
358 recolonized as shown in [Fig. 3](#). A cohabitant of the P7 CBs, *H. influenzae*, also recurred as a
359 minor component at post-treatment timepoints. The virulence factor HpmA was highly abundant in
360 the *P. mirabilis* proteome prior to and after treatment, supporting recurrence of colonization with
361 the same *P. mirabilis* strain. Disk diffusion DSTs for a bacterial isolate (CB65) from P7 revealed
362 that it was susceptible to a TMT/sulfonamide combination ([Table 2](#)). Treatment of P9 with
363 levofloxacin over ten days resulted in reduced microbial biomass at timepoint UP/CB75 and
364 eliminated *S. marcescens* from the biofilm ([Fig. 3](#)). But *E. faecalis* and *P. aeruginosa* strains
365 persisted, and *S. aureus* and *C. albicans* emerged as new CB community members at post-
366 treatment timepoints. Fungal pathogens are not inhibited by fluoroquinolone drugs. We also
367 isolated a slowly growing *E. faecalis* strain on blood and Mueller-Hinton agar from 74CB. This

368 isolate was indeed resistant to a fluoroquinolone, ciprofloxacin (Table 2). *E. faecalis* has a high
369 incidence of *parC* and *gyrA* mutations that confer fluoroquinolone resistance in strains causing
370 UTI (36). We did not identify peptides displaying the common ParC and GyrA amino acid
371 substitutions. A *S. marcescens* strain isolated from 74CB was susceptible to ciprofloxacin. We
372 isolated a *S. aureus* strain from 75CB. This isolate was not only resistant to ciprofloxacin but also
373 to ampicillin and cephaloxin, according to DSTs (Table 2). Several antibiotic drugs were
374 administered to treat a P2 wound infection, with timepoints ranging from 10UP to 42CB (Fig. 3).
375 Intravenous cephalosporin treatments eliminated strains of *S. aureus*, *E. faecalis*, *B. scardovii* and
376 *P. aeruginosa* from the patient's catheters, while *Brevundimonas* and *Bordetella hinzii* strains
377 were more resilient. Daptomycin treatment diminished the *B. hinzii* colonization burden, from
378 32CB to 33CB, and *K. pneumoniae* emerged as the dominant species. We did not test the *K.*
379 *pneumoniae* isolate from 43CB for resistance to daptomycin, a last-resort antibiotic to treat Gram-
380 positive infections, but DSTs revealed the strain's extended spectrum β -lactam and ciprofloxacin
381 resistance (Table 2).

382

383 To gain further insights into antibiotic resistances of bacterial isolates observed in the DSTs, pan-
384 proteome database searches including multiple genotypes for a species and ORFs derived from
385 plasmids or pathogenicity islands were conducted. Thereby, database searches were expanded to
386 "accessory proteomes". Bacteria harvested from DST plates and clinical samples were analyzed.
387 Proteins linked to various modes of antibiotic resistance are listed in Dataset S8 (Suppl. Data).
388 The *S. aureus* isolate from 75UP (P9) expressed the penicillin-binding protein 2 MecA, β -
389 lactamase BlaZ and aminoglycoside 4'-adenylyltransferase AadD. Expression of the proteins
390 matched the strain's reduced sensitivities to ampicillin, cephaloxin and gentamycin, respectively. A
391 *S. aureus* strain isolated from 53CB (P6), the patient diagnosed with a kidney infection, also
392 expressed MecA. A *P. mirabilis* isolate from P6 (30CB) expressed aminoglycoside O-

393 phosphotransferase (APH(3')-Ia) and dihydrofolate reductase DfrA17, indicative of resistances to
394 aminoglycosides and TMT, respectively. The *P. mirabilis* isolate from CB65 (P7) did not express
395 these proteins. The *E. faecalis* isolate from 74UP expressed a dihydrofolate reductase (DfrE) and
396 an aminoglycoside O-phosphotransferase (APH (3')-IIIa). DfrE expression explains the observed
397 TMT resistance (Table 2). In summary, some bacterial pan-proteome analyses corroborated
398 evidence of single- or multi-drug resistant species co-colonizing patient's catheters.

399

400 Discussion.

401 Our systems-level study on biofilms that grow on indwelling catheters of neurogenic
402 bladder patients generates new insights into CB longitudinal dynamics. Meta-omics data
403 demonstrate that dominant strains of distinct bacterial species recur in serially replaced catheters
404 under challenge by the innate immune system and antibiotic drug treatments. Gaining these
405 insights depends on clinical samples that CAUTI animal models cannot simulate. Such animal
406 models cannot introduce the polymicrobial mixtures that human CBs are composed of. The range
407 of micro- to anaerobic growth conditions that, we conclude, affect the CB profiles are impossible to
408 mimic in CAUTI models. Culture-independent surveys identified many fastidious bacteria in CBs in
409 the context of CAUTI and CAASB (22, 23, 37). We profiled strictly anaerobic bacteria cohabitating
410 CBs in 6 of the 8 patients on the proteome level for the first time: *A. massiliense*, *P. lymphophilum*,
411 *B. scardovii*, *V. parvula*, and *C. curvus*. Fastidious organisms more tolerant of oxygen (*A. urinae*
412 and *G. sanguinis*) were identified as persistent colonizers of CBs. There is increasing awareness
413 of the fact that such bacteria are more common causes of UTI and CAUTI in
414 immunocompromised patients (38-40). The protection a biofilm offers makes it likely that such
415 bacteria colonize hosts with functional immune systems. There is no evidence that the patients
416 surveyed here, despite their spinal cord injuries, are immunocompromised. Animal models do not
417 mimic the sequential replacement of catheters, a clinical need for many neurogenic bladder

418 patients, because of the one-time catheter implantation technique. Low quantities of biological
419 materials from murine catheters limit experiments requiring > 50 μ L sample volumes (proteomics,
420 metabolomics). Differences of murine vs. human urothelial surface markers (18), Toll-like
421 receptors (41), cytokeratin abundance patterns in urothelial and stratified squamous epithelial
422 cells (42, 43), and the lack of key innate immune effectors in murine neutrophils (e.g. defensin-1)
423 encourage clinical investigations to study the crosstalk of polymicrobial biofilms with the host
424 immune system and to conceptualize new ideas for therapeutic interventions.

425 In partial agreement with studies in which microbial colonization of recurrently catheterized
426 patients was examined from UP samples (24, 25), we observed long-term bacteriuria for greater
427 than 90% of the specimens. In agreement with another survey of longitudinally profiled catheter
428 extracts (26), we observed frequent CB cohabitation by two or more pathogens and altered
429 microbial community profiles following antibiotic drug treatments. *P. mirabilis*, *K. pneumoniae*, *P.*
430 *aeruginosa*, *E. coli* and *E. faecalis* were most prevalent and persistent according to our data and
431 (26). In contrast to the cited studies, we found fastidious bacteria to be common CB cohabitants
432 derived from chronically catheterized patients. Spinal cord-injured cohorts, used in (25) and our
433 study, are not associated with any specific subset of uropathogens. We cannot confirm previous
434 reports where *P. stuartii* was found to be as common a cause of recurrent CAASB as *P. mirabilis*
435 (24, 25). Our data confirm that *P. mirabilis* strains have significant fitness advantages, resulting in
436 their persistence in and dominance of CBs, when catheters become encrusted with insoluble
437 phosphate salts and are used by the bacteria to establish co-aggregates with salts (3, 11, 12, 26).

438 Our UP and CB proteome data strongly support the notion that distinct strains of a given
439 microbe dominate the CB community of a given patient, as compared to a mixture of strains.
440 While absolute evidence to back up this claim requires analysis of the strains' genomes in a series
441 of CBs, which we plan to do in future work, identification of genes not part of a species' core

442 genome in some but not other patients allow this conclusion. For instance, HpmA, a *P. mirabilis*
443 cytotoxin, was identified only in P7 samples. Nrp (PMI2596-PMI2605), a *P. mirabilis* siderophore
444 biosynthesis system, was expressed only in P1 and P4, but not in samples from P5, P6, and P7.
445 An *E. coli* plasmid-encoded ferric iron uptake system (UTI89_P010-P017) and adhesion factor
446 Hek were consistently observed in P1 samples but absent in *E. coli* proteomes present in the CBs
447 of other patients. The *E. coli* aerobactin biosynthesis system luc and its receptor lutA were
448 abundant in P1, P2 and P5, but not present in samples from P8 and P9. Subunits of the twitching
449 mobility type IV pilus were identified in CBs that *P. aeruginosa* contributed to in P1, but not in P2,
450 P8, and P9 samples. The type IV pilus is part of the *P. aeruginosa* accessory genome and itself
451 facilitates conjugative DNA transfer (44). The *E. coli* aerobactin system and the adhesin Hek were
452 reported to be expressed by virulent strains that cause urosepsis (45) and neonatal meningitis
453 (46), respectively. Nrp enzymes synthesize a yersiniabactin-like siderophore. Few *P. mirabilis*
454 genomes have been sequenced and annotated so that insights into Nrp gene cluster frequency for
455 clinical strains other than HI4320 (47) are not yet available. Patient-specific identifications of ORFs
456 considered part of accessory genomes argue in favor of a single dominant genotype (strain) for a
457 species. But it cannot be ruled out that other strains make minor contributions to the same CBs.
458 Dominant strains re-colonize catheters that are replaced in patients, either from intracellular or
459 extracellular urinary tract reservoirs. Intra-urothelial bacterial communities have been described
460 for *E. coli* and *K. pneumoniae* (48, 49). Our data clearly support re-colonization at the community
461 level given that the same species recur in longitudinal CB series. That, in turn, points towards
462 extracellular retention of polymicrobial clusters dispersed from catheter surfaces and persisting in
463 the urinary tract via mucosal adherence. Important adhesion proteins of Gram-negative bacteria in
464 the urinary tract are fimbriae which varied in abundance in our datasets. Highly abundant were the
465 MR/K fimbriae of *K. pneumoniae* (KPN03276-KPN03280 (50)) and MR/P fimbriae of *P. mirabilis*
466 (PMI0263-PMI0270 (51)). The MrpA variance in abundance across datasets is displayed in [Fig. 4](#).

467 Each species produced ECP-type fimbriae (KPN00290-KPN00295, PMI2997-3003), but in lower
468 quantities. Fimbriae display phase variation and permit the rapid adaptation to conditions that
469 foster resilience in the host milieu, including the attachment to biotic surfaces and medical devices
470 (52, 53). Mannose-resistant MR/K and MR/P fimbriae, as well as the *P. aeruginosa* type IV pilus
471 (54), are involved in cellular aggregation and biofilm formation. Consistent with our data and the
472 literature, we conclude that these surface assemblies provide fitness advantages and mediate the
473 persistence of strains that express them in the catheterized human urinary tract.

474 The proteomic data provided insights into the energy metabolism and transition metal
475 acquisition of bacterial species simultaneously present in CBs derived from clinical samples, to
476 our knowledge for the first time. The discussion focuses on *P. mirabilis*, *E. coli*, and *E. faecalis*
477 because these bacteria formed mixed CB communities recurrently in several patients. Each
478 species expressed at least two ABC transporters known or predicted to facilitate TMI import. The
479 Gram-negative species expressed more than one biosynthesis system for siderophores and
480 TonB-dependent receptors for their uptake when complexing Fe³⁺ and other TMIs. We assessed
481 abundance correlations among the systems that facilitate TMI acquisition (Fig. 5). The
482 correlations, derived from *P. mirabilis*, *E. coli*, and/or *E. faecalis* over a series of timepoints, were
483 positive in CB profiles for P1, but not for P4 and P5. We hypothesize that these results reflect
484 robust, simultaneous growth of the pathogens in P1. Growth requires TMI uptake in a metal ion-
485 sequestering host milieu. TMIs are incorporated as cofactors or components of cofactors such as
486 Fe-S and heme into enzymes that support metabolism in the cell, particularly energy metabolism.
487 Several studies have established links between TMI acquisition in a TMI-starved host milieu and
488 the expression levels of Fe and Fe-S cluster-harboring enzymes that support the bacterial energy
489 metabolism (55, 56). Thus, we consider the observed correlation data supportive of active
490 metabolism and growth in *P. mirabilis*, *E. coli*, and/or *E. faecalis* in P1. They may act cooperatively
491 and competitively as it pertains to the uptake of TMIs (57). The cellular energy going into the

492 assembly of the TMI acquisition systems in the host environment appears to be high. For
493 example, the *E. coli* strain in P1 highly expressed systems for aerobactin, yersiniabactin and
494 enterobactin synthesis and uptake as well as heme uptake. Some of their components correlated
495 with the abundance of the only characterized *E. faecalis* system for TMI acquisition, EfaABC. This
496 ABC transporter is regulated by Mn^{2+} (58) and promotes bacterial growth under Mn^{2+} starvation
497 conditions (32). Whether EfaABC can capture Mn^{2+} or other trace metals from *E. coli* or *P.*
498 *mirabilis* siderophores or heme complexes remains to be shown. We expressed EfaA and another
499 *E. faecalis* lipoprotein predicted to be part of an ABC transport system for TMIs (EF0577)
500 recombinantly. Both proteins revealed biochemical evidence of Co^{2+} binding *in vitro*. An EfaA
501 ortholog, PsaA, binds Mn^{2+} and Zn^{2+} ions but only transports Mn^{2+} into the *Streptococcus*
502 *pneumoniae* cell (59). We hypothesize that the growth states of *P. mirabilis*, *E. coli*, and/or *E.*
503 *faecalis* in P4 and P5 were variable, perhaps including different levels of quiescence, a known trait
504 of persister cells in biofilms (60).

505 Furthermore, we hypothesize that communications among cohabitating bacteria affecting
506 TMI homeostasis occur, a process that has been studied using model systems (57, 61). The
507 human immune defense system perturbs this homeostasis. We surveyed proteins involved in
508 sequestration of iron (LTF), zinc (calgranulins), and enterobactin (lipocalin-2). Like antimicrobial
509 effectors such as the ROS-generating enzymes MPO and defensin-1, the proteins are released by
510 neutrophils (or eosinophils) and abundant in human proteomes of UP and CB samples (Table 1).
511 TMI-sequestering proteins starve bacteria of these essential cofactors at the CB-urothelial
512 interface. At least three Gram-negative species profiled in CBs expressed high quantities of
513 biosynthetic systems to produce lipocalin-2-insensitive siderophores: *P. aeruginosa* pyoverdin in
514 P1, *E. coli* aerobactin in P1, P2 and P5, *E. coli* yersiniabactin in P1, P2, and P8; a *P. mirabilis*
515 yersiniabactin-like siderophore in P1 and P4. Lipocalin-2 insensitivity likely increases the
516 resilience of strains residing in CBs. Siderophore receptors operate in tandem with a TonB-

517 dependent energy-transducing system (TonB-ExbBD), which provides the energy for the transport
518 of TMIs across the outer membrane. A single TonB energy-transducing system seems to be
519 expressed by most Gram-negative bacteria, and the system's structure has been determined (62).
520 TonB-ExbBD is an important molecular target to discover or design inhibitors. The system may
521 disable TMI uptake in the human host when infections occur. Chemical compounds were
522 screened to identify inhibitors of siderophore uptake using *E. coli* and *A. baumannii* TonB strains
523 (63, 64). Such inhibitors have the potential to strengthen nutritional immunity and may be non-
524 toxic in mammals given that TonB-ExbBD structures are unique to Gram-negative bacteria.

525 Finally, we observed different outcomes in three cases of systemic antibiotic treatments. Of
526 note, the antibiotic drugs did not target microbial pathogens present in CBs, but those suspected
527 to cause a comorbidity, chronic wounds. In P7, the *P. mirabilis* biofilm disappeared during Bactrim
528 intake, but the strain regrew when antibiotic drug treatment was arrested. A CB isolate from this
529 patient was sensitive to TMT/sulfanilamide treatment. In P9, a biofilm consisting of *E. faecalis*, *P.*
530 *aeruginosa*, and *S. marcescens* was exposed to LEV treatment. This resulted in *S. marcescens*
531 elimination from the biofilm. The other species persisted. *S. aureus* and *C. albicans* joined the
532 reestablished biofilm. *E. faecalis* and *S. aureus* isolates from relevant CB timepoints were
533 resistant to the fluoroquinolone CIP. P2 was treated sequentially with three different drugs over six
534 weeks. Most pathogens were eliminated, but treatments failed to prevent sequential outgrowth of
535 species not susceptible to the administered drugs, first *B. hinzii* (cephalosporin treatment), then an
536 ESBL-resistant *K. pneumoniae* strain and *C. albicans* (daptomycin and fluconazole treatments).
537 Using pan-proteome searches for bacterial isolates grown *in vitro*, we identified proteins that
538 cause antibiotic drug resistances in UTI and CAUTI pathogens, a serious public health problem
539 threatening to lead to untreatable infections in the coming decades (65). The *S. aureus* strain from
540 75CB expressed BlaZ and MecA, proteins induced in expression via cross-talk among regulators
541 of the corresponding genes (66). Additionally, the anoxic environment in deeper layers of biofilms

542 and quiescence allow bacteria to survive during drug treatments even if the genomes do not
543 harbor specific antibiotic resistance genes or drug efflux pumps (60). CAASB in chronically
544 catheterized patients is a difficult medical problem. This study highlights the microbial escape
545 routes and adaptability of polymicrobial communities formed on a medical device in the human
546 body, following exposure to antibiotic drugs, nutritional starvation (e.g. oxygen and TMIs) and
547 antimicrobial effectors of the immune system.

548

549 **Methods**

550 Ethics Statement.

551 The Southwest Regional Wound Care Center (SRWCC) in Lubbock, Texas, and the J. Craig
552 Venter Institute (JCVI, Rockville, Maryland) created a human subject protocol and a study consent
553 form (#56-RW-022), which were approved by the Western Institutional Review Board (WIRB) in
554 Olympia, Washington, followed by JCVI's IRB in 2013. All human subjects were adults and
555 provided written consent. The specimens were collected firsthand for the purpose of this study.
556 There was a medical need to serially replace indwelling Foley catheters in patients due to their
557 affliction with neurogenic bladder syndrome. Scientists at the JCVI did not have access to data
558 allowing patient identification. Medical metadata for the subjects were encrypted. Electronic and
559 printed medical records at the clinical site were retained for 4 years to facilitate the integration of
560 medical and molecular research data.

561

562 Human subjects and study design.

563 Nine human subjects enrolled in this prospective study. They had irreversible spinal cord injuries
564 (SCIs) and suffered from neurogenic bladder syndrome. Catheter replacement was part of routine
565 patient care at SRWCC. Medical data included gender, ethnicity, antibiotic use, diagnosis of
566 chronic wound infections, and diabetes. Facilitated by medical staff, the enrolled subjects provided

567 3 to 15 specimens (urethral catheters and urine from catheter collection bags) collected
568 longitudinally at the clinic in 1- to 4-week intervals, depending on the number of visits that patients
569 and physician agreed upon. Catheters were cut into 1-inch pieces, placed in polypropylene tubes
570 and stored at -20°C, minimizing external contamination by use of gloves and sterile razor blades.
571 Urine samples were obtained from catheter bag ports swabbed clean with alcohol prior to
572 collection. Urine aliquots of 20 to 50 ml were stored at -20°C. Infrequent draining of catheter bags
573 may have allowed some *ex vivo* microbial growth in urine specimens. We assume that the
574 quantitative ratios of microbes in urine sediments on the collection dates do not reflect those in the
575 urine excreted over time. Containers in which specimens were stored were kept frozen during
576 transport and transferred to a -80°C freezer until further use at JCVI.

577

578 *Urine and catheter specimen extraction and protein solubilization for proteomics.*

579 The catheter materials were latex in the case of 8 patients and silicone (patient P7). The pH, color
580 and turbidity of urine specimens and the crystallization of salts inside and on the surface of
581 catheter segments were noted. To obtain a urine pellet (UP) from a sample, an aliquot was
582 thawed, adjusted to 20°C and, if acidic, neutralized with 1 M Tris-HCl (pH 8.1) to a pH of ~ 6.5 to
583 7.5, and centrifuged at 3,200 × g for 15 minutes. UPs were aliquoted for rDNA and protein
584 extractions and spare samples in ratios of approximately 10%, 45% and 45%, respectively.
585 Urethral catheter pieces were extracted in two steps. Submerged in 100 mM sodium acetate (pH
586 5.5), 20 mM sodium meta-periodate, and 300 mM NaCl, catheter pieces were agitated in an
587 ultrasonic water bath for 10 min at 20°C. The supernatant was recovered and concentrated. This
588 was followed by two solubilization cycles of the pellet with a denaturing SED solution (1% SDS
589 (v/v), 5 mM EDTA and 50 mM DTT) including 3 min heat treatment at 95°C. Two supernatants
590 were recovered that we termed CB-1 (Na-acetate buffer) and CB-2 (SED solution). The extraction
591 of UP samples was limited to solubilization in SED solution. Experimental details were described

592 previously (28, 31). All centrifugal centrifugation steps were performed using Ultrafree-4 filter units
593 (10 kDa MWCO), potentially eliminating small peptides from the concentrates. However, we
594 determined that peptides with M_r values lower than 5 kDa (e.g. neutrophil defensin-1; 3-4 kDa)
595 were partially retained. Processing steps for the solubilized UP and CB samples were based on
596 the Filter-Aided Sample Preparation (FASP) method (67), adapted by us to the use of 100 μ g
597 protein for digestion with sequencing-grade trypsin in 50:1 ratios in Vivacon 10k filters (Sartorius
598 AG, Germany) (28). FASP-processed peptide mixtures were desalted using the Stage-Tip method
599 (68) and lyophilized for LC-MS/MS proteomic analysis.

600

601 Shotgun proteomics via LC-MS/MS.

602 Desalted peptide mixtures derived from UP, CB-1, and CB-2 samples were dissolved in 10 μ l
603 0.1% formic acid (solvent A) and analyzed using one of two LC-MS/MS systems: (1) a high-
604 resolution Q-Exactive mass spectrometer (MS) coupled to an Ultimate 3000-nano LC system; (2)
605 a low-resolution LTQ-Velos Pro ion-trap mass spectrometer coupled to an Easy-nLC II system.
606 Both systems (Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA) were equipped with a FLEX nano-electrospray
607 ion source at the LC-MS interface. Analytic procedures were previously described for the Q-
608 Exactive (69, 70) and LTQ-Velos Pro (71) platforms. For LTQ-Velos Pro analysis, peptides present
609 in a sample were trapped on a C_{18} trap column (100 μ m \times 2 cm, 5 μ m pore size, 120 \AA) and
610 separated on a PicoFrit C_{18} analytical column (75 μ m \times 15 cm, 3 μ m pore size, 150 \AA) at a flow
611 rate of 200 nl/min. Starting with solvent A, a linear gradient from 10% to 30% solvent B (0.1%
612 formic acid in acetonitrile) over 195 minutes was followed by a linear gradient from 30% to 80%
613 solvent B over 20 min and re-equilibration with solvent A for 5 min. Following each sample, the
614 columns were washed thrice using a 30-min solvent A to B linear gradient elution to avoid sample
615 carry-over. For Q-Exactive analysis, LC was conducted as reported earlier (69). Electrospray
616 ionization was achieved by applying 2.0 kV distally via a liquid junction. Parallel to LC gradient

617 elution, peptide ions were analyzed in a MS¹ data-dependent mode to select ions for MS² scans
618 using the software application XCalibur v2.2 (Thermo Scientific). The fragmentation modes were
619 collision-induced dissociation (CID) with a normalized collision energy of 35% (LTQ-Velos Pro)
620 and higher-energy collisional dissociation (HCD) with a normalized collision energy of 27% (Q-
621 Exactive). Dynamic exclusion was enabled. MS² ion scans for the same MS¹ *m/z* value were
622 repeated once and then excluded from further analysis for 30s. Survey (MS¹) scans ranged from a
623 *m/z* range of 380 to 1,800 followed by MS² scans for selected precursor ions. Survey scans with
624 the Q-Exactive were acquired at a resolution of 70,000 (*m/Δm*) with a *m/z* range from 250 to
625 1,800. MS² scans were performed at a resolution of 17,500. The ten most intense ions were
626 fragmented in each cycle. Ions that were unassigned or had a charge of +1 were rejected from
627 further analysis. Two or three technical LC-MS/MS replicates were run for UP, CB-1 and CB-2
628 peptide extracts.

629

630 *Computational proteomic data analyses and proteome quantifications.*

631 The raw MS files were combined for database searches as follows: (1) all technical replicates for a
632 given UP sample; (2) all replicates from both CB-1 and CB-2 fractions for a given CB sample. The
633 Sequest HT algorithm integrated in the software tool Proteome Discoverer v1.4 (Thermo
634 Scientific) was used as the search engine with analytical parameters described previously (69,
635 70). Only rank-1 peptides with a length of at least seven amino acids were considered. The FDR
636 rates were estimated using the integrated Percolator tool with a (reverse sequence) decoy
637 database. Protein hits identified with a 1% FDR threshold were accepted for data interpretation.
638 The 'protein grouping' function was enabled to ensure that only one protein was reported when
639 multiple proteins shared a set of identified peptides. The database contents were the reviewed
640 protein sequence entries in the non-redundant Human UniProt database (release 2015-16; 20,195
641 sequences) and sequence entries for 23 microbial genomes reported as major causes of UTI (69).

642 Based on 16S rRNA genus assignments and iterative proteomic searches using database subsets
643 for distinct species part of the same genus, the proteomic searches were customized for the same
644 series from each patient. Iterative searches followed by database customization were also applied
645 to samples containing one or potentially more members of the Enterobacteriaceae family. The
646 entire list of species searched in this process is listed in [Table S3 \(Suppl. Data\)](#). The pan-
647 proteome database searches for five distinct microbial species were performed by downloading
648 non-redundant pan-proteome sequence databases from UniProt-Proteome using the Sequest HT
649 algorithm as mentioned above. MS raw files were deposited in PRIDE (via ProteomeXchange)
650 with the identifier PXD012048. The sums of peptide-spectral match counts (PSMs) assigned to
651 each microbial species and *Homo sapiens* were the basis for the individual species-based
652 quantification in both UP and CB samples. Relative to the total proteome (all PSMs) in a dataset,
653 normalized abundance values were obtained for all species in the Proteome Discoverer v1.4-
654 derived dataset. They were the basis of quantitative displays in [Fig. 3](#) and [Figure S5 \(Suppl.](#)
655 [Data\)](#). For quantitative analyses that assessed protein variances, of human and microbial species
656 origins, normalization was based on total PSMs of the respective species. This normalization
657 pertains to proteomic data displayed in [Figs. 4, 5, 6](#) and [7](#), [Table 1](#), [Dataset S6](#) and [Figure S7](#).

658

659 Microbiota analyses.

660 Microbial cell lysis and DNA extraction methods from catheter extracts and UP samples (31) and
661 the amplification of V1-V3 regions of the 16S rDNA bacterial genes as well as sequencing on the
662 MiSeq sequencer from Illumina Inc. were described previously (72). The UPARSE pipeline for the
663 phylogenetic analysis was used (73). OTUs were generated *de novo* from raw sequence reads
664 using default parameters in UPARSE, the Wang classifier and bootstrapping using 100 iterations.
665 The taxonomies were assigned to the OTUs using Mothur and applying the SILVA 16S rRNA
666 database version 123 as reference database (74). Unbiased, metadata-independent filtering was

667 applied at each level of the taxonomy by eliminating samples with less than 2000 reads and OTUs
668 present in less than ten samples. Filtered data were analyzed based on the relative contributions
669 of microbial genera in a distinct sample. The Shannon index was used to measure the alpha
670 diversity.

671

672 Microbial cultures.

673 Surviving bacteria present in frozen catheter extracts and UP samples stored at -80°C were
674 cultured on BHI broth, blood and MacConkey agar plates to isolate strains. Single colonies were
675 picked, Gram-stained and microscopically assessed before culture stocks were generated either
676 directly from a plate or a 5-10 mL overnight BHI suspension culture. Stocks were frozen in 10%
677 glycerol at -80°C. To determine the identity of bacterial species, cell lysis, proteomic sample
678 processing and database search methods we mentioned in the context of clinical sample analysis
679 were used. If a dataset suggested impurities, bacterial strains were streaked out again from the
680 original stock and new colonies were picked and reanalyzed. The OD₆₀₀ values reached for *E.*
681 *faecalis* strains in BHI media were below 0.6, the values for species of the Enterobacteriaceae
682 family were usually higher than 0.8. Some fastidious bacterial species were isolated and lysed
683 directly from blood agar plates for proteomic analysis. The isolation of other fastidious bacteria
684 derived from anaerobic storage in liquid nitrogen and anaerobic culture, without freezing catheter
685 specimens, was previously reported (31). Further details are provided in [Dataset S2 \(Suppl. Data\)](#).

686

687 Expression vectors, gene cloning, and recombinant protein expression.

688 Two expression vectors were used to clone EF2076, EF0577 and EF3082 (*E. faecalis* V583) into
689 the *E. coli* strain BL21(DE3)/pMagic (75). The ccdB cassette was inserted into the cloning region
690 to enhance the efficiency of screening for the correct clone. pMCSG53 encodes the N-terminal
691 His-tag (75). PCR primers in [Table 3](#) were used to amplify the ORFs excluding export signal

692 sequences. Inserted DNA fragments were prepared using standard PCR protocols using Phusion
693 polymerase (New England Biolabs). The pMCSG53 vector was linearized by cleavage of the
694 cloning site with SspI, and PCR products were cloned using the Gibson Assembly method (76)
695 and transformed into *E. coli* DH5 α . Sequences of the clones were validated by Sanger
696 sequencing. Their transformation into BL21(DE3)/pMagic was followed by growth at 37 °C in 0.5 L
697 LB containing 100 μ g/ml ampicillin to an OD₆₀₀ of ~ 0.8 when expression was induced by adding 1
698 mM IPTG. Following incubation at 20°C for 16-18 hours, the cells were lysed. *E. faecalis* target
699 proteins were purified on Ni-NTA resin, cleaving the affinity tags with TEV protease as previously
700 reported (77). Purity and solubility of the purified proteins was assessed by Nu-PAGE.

701

702 Thermal shift assay.

703 Interaction of proteins with a small molecule can increase its stability and the melting temperature
704 (T_m) (78). To denature each of the purified *E. faecalis* proteins, a 1 mg/ml solution was incubated
705 with 1 ml 6 M guanidine-HCl (pH 8). To renature the protein, 50 μ l Ni-NTA agarose resin was
706 added. The suspension was incubated gently agitating at 4°C for 1 h. The flow-through fraction
707 was discarded. The resin was washed with 8 M urea/PBS, and the protein gradually renatured via
708 buffer exchange into PBS followed by elution in 50 μ l of an elution buffer containing 250 mM
709 imidazole. Renatured proteins were either left in PBS or CoCl₂ was added at a final concentration
710 of 50 μ M. Ten μ l of a protein preparation (0.5 mg/ml) was placed in a 384-well plate adding 2 μ l
711 100X SYPRO Orange. Temperature melting profiles were monitored in a Light Cycler 480 (Roche
712 Life Science).

713

714 Disk diffusion antibiotic drug susceptibility tests.

715 We followed guidelines from a Manual of Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (79) to perform drug
716 susceptibility tests via disk diffusion. All antibiotics were dissolved as specified by the Korean

717 society of laboratory medicine manual and placed on 0.6 mm disks in concentrations as follows:
718 Ampicillin (100 µg); Cefotaxime (30 µg); Cephalexin (30 µg); Ciprofloxacin (5 µg);
719 Sulfanilamide/TMT (200µg/ 12µg); and Gentamycin (30 µg). The McFarland standard (0.5) was
720 used to adjust bacterial turbidity and plate approximately 1.5×10^8 CFU/ml of bacterial inoculum
721 from a ~ 6h BHI culture (Gram-negative) or a Mueller-Hinton agar plate (Gram-positive).
722 Clearance zones were measured after 16 hours of growth at 37°C in a 5% CO₂ incubator.

723

724 Statistical analysis methods.

725 To determine statistical changes in taxonomic α-diversity, Wilcoxon rank sum tests were
726 performed. These tests were also used to assess variation in the abundances of proteins in
727 proteomic datasets from different patients. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was used to compare
728 the variation between patients. We applied a P-value cutoff of 0.05 to determine statistically
729 significance. The correlation plot was derived from the corrplot package in R, using the Pearson
730 correlation with a P-value less than 0.05. Box plots with statistically significance data were
731 generated using ggsignify and ggplots in R.

732

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738 spectrometer.

739

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944 **Figure legends**

945 **Fig. 1.** Variances in CB biomasses presented separately for each patient in box plots. We use the same
946 patient identifiers (P1 through P9) in the main text, other Figures, and Suppl. Datasets. P3 was not
947 included because only two data points were available. (m) male, (f) female. Biomass (abundance) pertains
948 to wet pellet weights in $g \times 10^{-2}$ for ~ 1.5-inch catheter pieces. The CB extracts were washed in PBS, thus
949 dissolving salt crystals that did not contribute to pellet weights. The horizontal bars depict statistically

950 significant weight differences comparing datasets from individual patients. Significance levels are coded
951 ***=0.001, **=0.01, and *=0.05, using the Wilcoxon rank sum test.

952 **Fig. 2.** Bacterial alpha-diversity using calculations based on the Shannon index. The Shannon index
953 accounts for abundance and evenness of OTUs. NE and SE: non-encrusted and salt-encrusted biofilms,
954 respectively. 16S rDNA data for UP and CB samples derived from the same timepoint were separate
955 entries. NE and SE diversities were statistically different based on a Wilcoxon rank sum test (P-value <
956 0.05).

957 **Fig. 3.** Quantitatively represented microbial species according to metaproteomic data for CB and
958 associated UP samples. **A.** P1-P9, no evidence of salt crystals on catheter surfaces and in urine. **B.** P4-P7,
959 evidence of salt crystals on catheters and in urine. The bars are ordered from the first to last collection time
960 point (left to right). Collection time-matched CB and UP samples have the same number. The colored
961 segments of bars represent the abundances of microbial species, based on the sum of their PSMs relative
962 to the entire proteome identified from a sample. Horizontal bars at the top show the time frame of sample
963 collection. Vertical hatched bars separate UP from CB sample sets. Inserts display the times during which
964 antibiotics were administrated systemically (*BAC*, Bactrim; *CEF*, cefaroline-fosamil; *DAP*, daptomycin, *FLU*,
965 fluconazole, *LEV*, levofloxacin).

966 **Fig. 4.** Variances in abundance for *P. mirabilis* (Pm) and *E. coli* (Ec) proteins. Proteins are listed with a
967 short name or gene locus. Locus and conserved sequence data predict the siderophore receptor role of
968 PMI2596. Statistical significance of protein variances is depicted by horizontal bars at the top of each box
969 plot. The significance levels are coded as ***=0.001, **=0.01, and *=0.05. The Wilcoxon rank sum test was
970 used to determine statistically significant differences in patient-to-patient comparisons (p-value < 0.05).

971 **Fig. 5.** Abundance correlations of proteins and molecular systems involved in TMI acquisition. The data
972 pertain to eight CB proteomes derived from P1. The bacterial species are Ef: *E. faecalis*; Pm: *P. mirabilis*;
973 and Ec: *E. coli*. Correlations were determined using the Pearson correlation method. Color intensity and
974 size of the circles are proportional to the correlation coefficients. Proteins are listed with UniProt short
975 names or gene loci.

976 **Fig. 6.** Studies on two predicted TMI-binding *E. faecalis* lipoproteins. **A.** EfaA abundance levels comparing
 977 CB data from five patients (see also legend, Fig. 4). Protein melting profiles (T_m) for **B.** EfaA and **C.**
 978 EF0577 binding SYPRO Orange for detection using the Light Cycler 480. Recombinant proteins (12.5 μ M)
 979 were equilibrated in PBS containing 1 mM DTT. T_m profiles are shown for purified proteins (blue), proteins
 980 denatured with 6 M guanidine-HCl and washed with 8 M Urea to remove potential bound cofactors followed
 981 by renaturation with PBS (orange) or CoCl_2 /PBS (grey) on a Ni-NTA agarose column. The concentrations
 982 of SYPRO Orange and CoCl_2 , where applicable, were 8.3X and 50 μ M, respectively.

983 **Fig. 7.** Neutrophil and eosinophil infiltration in response to persistent catheter colonization. **A.** Variation in
 984 MPO (PERM) and LTF (TRFL) abundance profiles for eight patients. Wilcoxon rank sum tests were used to
 985 assess variance. Statistically significant differences pertained to patient-to-patient comparisons (p -value <
 986 0.05). **B.** Correlation analyses of neutrophil and eosinophil proteins were determined using the Pearson
 987 correlation method. Coloration is proportional to the correlation coefficients, and blank squares represent
 988 non-significant correlation (P -value < 0.05). Distinct clusters are boxed: this includes eosinophil peroxidase
 989 (PERE) and bone marrow proteoglycan PRG2; MPO and LTF clustered with cathepsin G (CATG), elastase
 990 (ELNE), and azurocidin (CAP7). **C.** MPO western blot data for samples derived from seven patients. Lane
 991 identifiers match UP sample identifiers also used in Fig. 3. Lane identifiers 40 (in P4 gel), 30 (in P5 gel) and
 992 6 (in P6 gel) are not part of these patients' sample series. A The dominant 55 kDa band represents the
 993 processed MPO heavy chain (amino acid residues 279-745). Two patient 8 samples have a strong 20 kDa
 994 band, a fragment representing a C-terminal MPO fragment (the antibody is specific for a peptide sequence
 995 near the C-terminus). The protein loading is not normalized for uromodulin content. Therefore, staining
 996 intensities do not allow direct quantitative comparisons. M_r standards (St) in gels from top to bottom are:
 997 100, 75, 50, 37, 25, and 20 kDa.

998 **Table 1.** Selected proteins representing different cell types and functions in innate immunity

UniProt ID	Rk'No.	A_{Avg}^2	Protein name	Functional and cell surface biomarker roles for proteins ³
P07911	1	3.05	Uromodulin (UMOD)	secreted from renal tubular cells into urine
P02788	2	2.02	Lactotransferrin (LTF)	abundant in activated neutrophils, iron-sequestering
P05164	4	1.55	Myeloperoxidase (MPO)	abundant in activated neutrophils (azurophilic granules)
P13646	5	1.50	Keratin, type I cytoskeletal 13 (KRT13)	abundant in stratified squamous epithelial cells
P01024	7	1.32	Complement system component C3	abundant effector of the complement system
P06702	10	0.89	Protein S100-A9 (calgranulin)	abundant in activated neutrophils, Zn^{2+} sequestering

P05109	32	0.45	Protein S100-A8 (calgranulin)	abundant in activated neutrophils, Zn ²⁺ sequestering
P68871	46	0.33	Hemoglobin subunit beta (HBB)	abundant in erythrocytes
P11678	51	0.28	Eosinophil peroxidase (EPX)	abundant in activated eosinophils (secreted granules)
P80188	92	0.14	Lipocalin-2 (LCN2)	abundant in activated neutrophils (gelatinase granules)
P31997	252	0.04	Carcinoembryonic antigen-related cell adhesion molecule 8 (CEACAM8)	granulocyte cell-specific surface marker ³
Q8N6Q3	421	0.02	CD177 antigen (CD177)	neutrophil cell-specific granule and surface marker ³
P20702	769	0.01	Integrin alpha-X (ITGAX)	T-cell, B-cell, NK-cell, DC, MAC/monocyte, granulocyte cell-specific marker ^{3,4}
P16422	940	<0.01	Epithelial cell adhesion molecule (EPCAM)	epithelial cell specific marker ³
O00526	2484	<0.01	Uroplakin-2	urothelial umbrella cell-specific marker (bladder)
P09693	4898	<0.01	T-cell surface glycoprotein CD3 γ chain	T-cell-specific surface marker ³
P20138	8191	<0.01	Myeloid cell surface antigen CD33	DC, granulocyte, MAC/monocyte, stem cell marker ^{3,4}
P15391	8238	<0.01	B-lymphocyte antigen CD19	B cell, DC and stem cell surface marker ^{3,4}

999 ¹Normalized abundance rank and ²Normalized relative protein quantity average from all UP and CB datasets (the PSMs matched
 1000 to a protein divided by the sum of all human PSMs); ³Cell differentiation marker according to (33); ⁴abbr.: DC, dendritic cells; MAC:
 1001 macrophages; NK, natural killer cells;

1002 **Table 2. Antimicrobial drug resistance of bacterial strains isolated from P1, P2, P7 and P9**

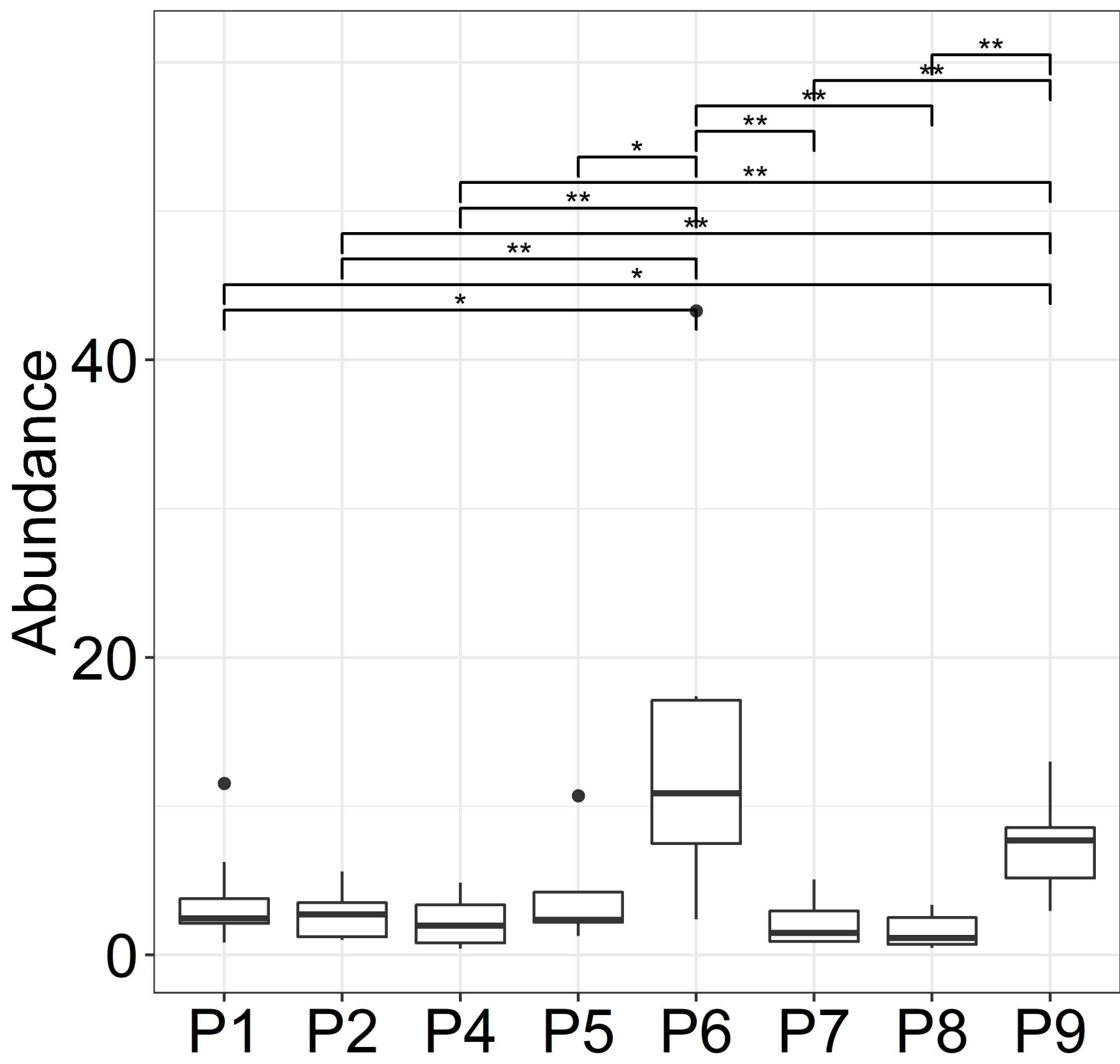
Bacterial species	Sample source	Ampicillin 100 μ g	Cefotaxime 30 μ g	Cephalexin 30 μ g	Ciprofloxacin 5 μ g	Sulfanilamide / TMT 200 μ g/ 12 μ g	Gentamycin 30 μ g
<i>P. aeruginosa</i> (P1)	19CB	0.6	NP	NP	2.7	0.6	NP
<i>K. pneumoniae</i> (P2)	43CB	0.6	0.6	NP	0.6	NP	1.4
<i>P. mirabilis</i> (P7)	65CB	2.2	NP	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.0
<i>S. marcescens</i> (P9)	74UP	2.2	NP	NP	2.2	1.9	NP
<i>E. faecalis</i> (P9)	74UP	2.0	NP	0.6	0.6	0.6	NP
<i>S. aureus</i> (P9)	75UP	1.1	NP	0.8	0.6	3.2	1.6

1003 All disk diffusion tests were performed in three replicates using Mueller-Hinton agar. The *E. faecalis* isolate was also grown on
 1004 blood agar yielding the same results. The data provided here are growth clearance zones in cm (disk diameter 0.6 cm). Abbr: P:
 1005 patient; NP: susceptibility tests were not performed. TMT: trimethoprim.

1006 **Table 3. Sequences of PCR primers**

Gene Name	Signal peptide	Primers	
EF_3082	1-31	Forward	5'-CGAGAACCTGTA CTTC CAATCCAATGCAACAACAGAAACAACAGCTA
		Reverse	5'-TTCGGATCCGTTATCCACTTCCAATTTACTCTAATCCTTTTTTAACATCTTC
EF_0577	1-26	Forward	5'-CGAGAACCTGTA CTTC CAATCCAATACAAATAGTAAAGACAAAGATACAGT
		Reverse	5'-TTCGGATCCGTTATCCACTTCCAATTTATTTTCGAAAGGCCTTCAGCA
EF_2076	1-24	Forward	5'-CGAGAACCTGTA CTTC CAATCCAATGCTGAAAAGAAAGAAAATTAGCAATT
		Reverse	5'-TTCGGATCCGTTATCCACTTCCAATTTATTTACTCATTAAAGCCATCATGG

1007



Shannon

Alpha Diversity Measure

2.0
1.5
1.0
0.5
0.0

NE

SE

