

1 **Inhibitory concentrations of ciprofloxacin induce an adaptive response promoting the**  
2 **intracellular survival of *Salmonella* Typhimurium**

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4 Running title: Ciprofloxacin exposure in *S. Typhimurium*

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24 **Abstract**

25 Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a pressing global health crisis, which has been fuelled by the  
26 sustained use of certain classes of antimicrobials, including fluoroquinolones. While the genetic  
27 mutations responsible for decreased fluoroquinolone (ciprofloxacin) susceptibility are known,  
28 the implications of ciprofloxacin exposure on bacterial growth, survival, and interactions with  
29 host cells are not well described. Aiming to understand the influence of inhibitory concentrations  
30 of ciprofloxacin *in vitro*, we subjected three clinical isolates of *S. Typhimurium* to differing  
31 concentrations of ciprofloxacin, dependent on their minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC),  
32 and assessed the impact on bacterial growth, morphology, and transcription. We further  
33 investigated the differential morphology and transcription that occurred following ciprofloxacin  
34 exposure and measured the ability of ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria to invade and replicate in  
35 host cells. We found that ciprofloxacin-exposed *S. Typhimurium* are able to recover from  
36 inhibitory concentrations of ciprofloxacin, and that the drug induces specific morphological and  
37 transcriptional signatures associated with the bacterial SOS response, DNA repair, and  
38 intracellular survival. In addition, ciprofloxacin-treated *S. Typhimurium* have increased capacity  
39 for intracellular replication in comparison to untreated organisms. These data suggest that *S.*  
40 *Typhimurium* undergoes an adaptive response under ciprofloxacin perturbation that promotes  
41 cellular survival, a consequence that may justify more measured use of ciprofloxacin for  
42 *Salmonella* infections. The combination of multiple experimental approaches provides new  
43 insights into the collateral effects that ciprofloxacin and other antimicrobials have on invasive  
44 bacterial pathogens.

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47 **Importance**

48 Antimicrobial resistance is a critical concern in global health. In particular, there is rising  
49 resistance to fluoroquinolones, such as ciprofloxacin, a first-line antimicrobial for many Gram-  
50 negative pathogens. We investigated the adaptive response of clinical isolates of *Salmonella*  
51 Typhimurium to ciprofloxacin, finding that the bacteria adapt in short timespans to high  
52 concentrations of ciprofloxacin in a way that promotes intracellular survival during early  
53 infection. Importantly, by studying three clinically relevant isolates, we were able to show that  
54 individual isolates respond differently to ciprofloxacin, and for each isolate, there was a  
55 heterogeneous response under ciprofloxacin treatment. The heterogeneity that arises from  
56 ciprofloxacin exposure may drive survival and proliferation of *Salmonella* during treatment and  
57 lead to drug resistance.

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## 70 **Introduction**

71 The current trajectory of resistance to numerous broad-spectrum antimicrobials in bacterial  
72 pathogens is steadily increasing, making antimicrobial resistance (AMR) of critical concern for  
73 human health. This problem is further exacerbated by the fact there are few novel antimicrobials  
74 in the developmental pipeline and a dearth of vaccines to prevent against the increasing number  
75 of drug-resistant bacterial infections (1, 2). A large burden of multi-drug resistant (MDR)  
76 organisms arise in low-middle income countries (LMICs), which, in part, may be associated with  
77 high level usage of broad-spectrum antimicrobials in the community (1). These factors pose a  
78 serious global health threat.

79

80 Fluoroquinolones are amongst the most commonly used broad-spectrum antimicrobials globally,  
81 and are commonly administered for urinary tract infections, pneumonia, dysentery, and febrile  
82 diseases (3). This potent group of bactericidal chemicals act by binding to bacterial type II  
83 topoisomerases DNA gyrase I (GyrA and GyrB) and Topoisomerase IV (ParC and ParE) to  
84 disrupt DNA supercoiling, which leads to cell death (4–6). Resistance to fluoroquinolones is  
85 associated with specific mutations in the *gyrA*, *gyrB*, *parC* and/or *parE* genes, although the  
86 extent of resistance can be further modulated by mutations in efflux pumps and porins and also  
87 via the acquisition of plasmid-mediated quinolone resistance (PMQR) genes (7–11).

88 Ciprofloxacin is the most widely available fluoroquinolone, and its common use, particularly in  
89 LMICs, has resulted in widespread resistance in once-susceptible pathogens (12–14).

90

91 Despite extensive resistance, ciprofloxacin remains commonly used, and given its mode of  
92 action, it is likely to induce a range of additional cellular responses (15). Transcriptional studies

93 of bacteria exposed to ciprofloxacin have shown that pathways associated with the stress  
94 response, solute and drug transport, DNA repair, and phage induction are upregulated, which can  
95 increase error-prone DNA replication and bacterial resilience during ciprofloxacin exposure (16–  
96 21). However, little is known about how bacterial genotype influences the response to  
97 ciprofloxacin or how bacteria respond when exposed to inhibitory concentrations of the drug.

98

99 *Salmonella* enterica serovar Typhimurium (*S. Typhimurium*) is a Gram-negative enteric  
100 bacterium that typically causes a self-limiting gastroenteritis in humans but is also associated  
101 with invasive disease in the immunocompromised. Specific *S. Typhimurium* lineages, such as  
102 ST313 and ST34, are associated with invasive disease in parts of sub-Saharan Africa and  
103 Southeast Asia, respectively, and have independently developed resistance to ciprofloxacin  
104 multiple times (22, 23). AMR in these organisms typically arises during local outbreaks and is  
105 not ubiquitous, demonstrating that there can be variation in the AMR profile of individual  
106 bacteria belonging to a single clade.

107

108 Although the cellular mechanisms of ciprofloxacin resistance are well-defined, our  
109 understanding of how bacteria evolve and adapt during short-term exposure to ciprofloxacin is  
110 limited. Specifically, there is a lack of evidence regarding how clinical isolates respond to  
111 antimicrobials they may commonly encounter indirectly during therapy. Here, aiming to  
112 understand how genotypic and phenotypic characteristics are impacted by fluoroquinolone  
113 exposure, we studied three diverse *S. Typhimurium* variants (an ST313, ST34, and ST19), under  
114 sustained perturbation with ciprofloxacin. Focusing on an ST313 isolate, we found that bacteria  
115 have substantial resilience to high concentrations of ciprofloxacin and that ciprofloxacin-exposed

116 bacteria undergo distinct morphological and transcriptional changes within a short timeframe,  
117 impacting on bacterial survival and their interactions with host cells.

118

## 119 **Results**

120 *Salmonella Typhimurium* can replicate in inhibitory concentrations of ciprofloxacin

121 Using three isolates of *S. Typhimurium* selected by sequence type (ST) and ciprofloxacin

122 susceptibility, time kill curves were performed in the presence of 0x, 1x, 2x, and 4x the

123 ciprofloxacin MIC of each isolate to determine growth dynamics over a 24-hour period of

124 ciprofloxacin exposure (**Figure 1**). Quantification of colony forming units (CFU) demonstrated

125 that bacterial growth was most likely to be inhibited between 0- and 6-hours post-exposure, and

126 the rate of growth was dependent on ciprofloxacin concentration. However, after six hours of

127 ciprofloxacin exposure, there was a “recovery” phase, during which bacteria in the treated

128 conditions began to replicate and increase in CFU (**Figure 1A-C**). This trend was observed in all

129 three isolates, although the degree of recovery and absolute number of organisms between

130 isolates was variable. *S. Typhimurium* D23580 (ST313) bacteria showed the largest range of

131 growth responses to different ciprofloxacin concentrations (**Figure 1A**). All conditions of

132 SL1344 (ST19) and VNS20081 (ST34) bacteria had comparable CFUs at 24 hours, whereas

133 there was considerably more variation in D23580 by treatment and replicate (**Figure 1D-F**). In

134 addition, after eight hours exposure at 2x MIC of ciprofloxacin, the mean cellular concentration

135 of D23580 was  $153 \pm 217$  CFU/ml; in analogous conditions at 24 hours, the mean CFU/ml was

136  $46,000 \pm 65,000$  (**Figure 1A, D**). The lower variability in SL1344 and VNS20081 cultures may

137 be explained by their genetic backgrounds or specific ciprofloxacin MIC. Notwithstanding the

138 experimental variation observed in D23580 cultures, the overall trend across multiple replicates

139 of the three isolates was that bacteria under high ciprofloxacin exposure were able to reach a  
140 concentration comparable to non-treated bacteria after 24 hours.

141  
142 We postulated that this recovery in growth was associated with ciprofloxacin degradation. To  
143 assess this, we centrifuged and filter-sterilised the ciprofloxacin-containing media after 24 hours  
144 of bacterial growth. D23580 was inoculated into this filter sterilised media and incubated at 37°C  
145 for a further 24 hours, as before. The time kill curves replicated those of the original assays,  
146 indicating that the inhibitory activity of ciprofloxacin was preserved at approximately the same  
147 concentrations for the same time periods (**Figure S1**).

148  
149 To determine whether the recovery of organisms under ciprofloxacin treatment was due to  
150 acquired mutations, we performed whole genome sequencing on D23580 grown for 24 hours  
151 without antimicrobial supplementation or with 0.06 µg/ml ciprofloxacin (2x MIC) to detect  
152 dominant SNPs. To capture the genetic signatures of culturable organisms only, bacteria were  
153 grown in liquid broth for 24 hours and then spread on agar plates. Colonies were pooled from  
154 each plate for DNA extraction and sequencing. Aiming to identify dominant mutations arising in  
155 D23580 across three biological replicates, we found mutations in *ramR* and *gyrA* in bacteria  
156 grown in ciprofloxacin. There were no mutations in untreated D23580. The occurrence of SNPs  
157 in *ramR* suggests that this gene plays a critical role in modulating bacterial survival during  
158 exposure to high ciprofloxacin concentrations in the absence of *gyrA* mutations (**Table 1**).  
159 Notably, only one of the three ciprofloxacin-treated cultures gained a *gyrA* mutation, which  
160 highlights the importance of studying other factors that may contribute to bacterial survival upon  
161 exposure to high doses of ciprofloxacin.

162

163 *Ciprofloxacin induces morphological changes in S. Typhimurium*

164 To better understand the impact of ciprofloxacin on the selected organisms, we exposed  
165 organisms D23580, SL1344, and VNS20081 to 0x, 1x, 2x, or 4x MIC of ciprofloxacin for two  
166 hours and then imaged them using a quantitative high content confocal microscopy system (24)  
167 (S. Sridhar and S. Forrest, submitted for publication). A timepoint of two hours was selected to  
168 capture early adaptive response. We found that the majority of ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria  
169 developed an elongated morphology within two hours of ciprofloxacin exposure (**Figure 2**).  
170 Some diversity in bacterial length upon ciprofloxacin treatment was apparent, suggesting a  
171 heterogeneous response to ciprofloxacin exposure. Quantitative image analysis of the lengths of  
172 individual organisms after two hours indicated substantial heterogeneity in ciprofloxacin-  
173 exposed organisms and untreated bacteria (**Figure 2B-D**). However, the mean length of non-  
174 treated bacteria was significantly less than that of ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria (D23580: 3.24  
175  $\mu\text{m}$  (0x), 6.73 (1x), 6.40 (2x), 6.13 (4x),  $p < 0.001$ ; SL1344: 2.89 (0x), 4.82 (1x), 6.73 (2x), 6.70  
176 (4x),  $p < 0.001$ ; VNS20081: 3.24  $\mu\text{m}$  (0x), 4.92 (1x), 6.54 (2x), 7.23 (4x),  $p < 0.001$ ).  
177 Additionally, there also appeared to be variation in mean and maximum lengths of bacteria  
178 between the three isolates, with 4x MIC VNS20081 showing the greatest quantifiable change  
179 from untreated VNS20081 (mean of 7.23  $\mu\text{m}$  versus 3.24  $\mu\text{m}$ ) (**Figure 2D**). Moreover, there was  
180 not a uniform density distribution of cellular lengths; this observation was particularly apparent  
181 in the ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria. In particular, a number of 2x MIC ciprofloxacin-treated  
182 D23580 and VNS20081 bacteria elaborated considerable elongation, with lengths  $>30 \mu\text{m}$   
183 (**Figure 2 B, D**). Such a wide distribution of bacterial lengths indicates that ciprofloxacin  
184 exposure drives the formation of discrete bacterial populations of variable lengths.



185 *Ciprofloxacin triggers isolate-specific transcriptional responses*

186 Aiming to investigate the transcriptional features in the chromosome that may induce changes in  
187 survival and morphology, total RNA was extracted from the three isolates after two hours  
188 exposure to 2x MIC of ciprofloxacin and subjected to sequencing. This time point was selected  
189 to best capture early responses before significant cell death. Generally, the broad transcriptional  
190 profile was consistent between the three isolates; however, there was a significant difference in  
191 the number of genes significantly up- or down-regulated under ciprofloxacin exposure, when  
192 compared to no treatment for D23580 ( $-2 \geq \log_2fc \geq 2$ ,  $p < 0.05$ ; D23580: 259, SL1344: 165,  
193 VNS20081: 160) (**Figure 3**, [Supplementary data file S1](#)). Prophage and SOS response genes  
194 were amongst the most consistently highly upregulated regions in all isolates, and flagellar genes  
195 were most highly downregulated, although the number of genes and extent of upregulation was  
196 variable by isolate (**Table 2, 3**). Phage genes were not directly comparable between isolates, but  
197 in each isolate, they were the most highly upregulated genes, above SOS response genes (**Figure**  
198 **3**). The top upregulated SOS response genes in common between the three isolates were *recN*,  
199 *sulA*, *recA*, *uvrA*, *lexA*, *sodA*, and *polB*, all genes known to be integral to the early bacterial stress  
200 response to double-stranded DNA damage (25–27). Interestingly, there were also several  
201 metabolism and biosynthesis-associated genes that were commonly upregulated (**Table 2**).  
202 Notably, other than flagellar genes, two downregulated genes in all isolates were *ompA* and  
203 *ompD*, which encode an outer membrane porin that plays a role in drug uptake and may be  
204 relevant in ciprofloxacin efflux (28–30). SL1344 had fewer downregulated genes with a  $\log_2$  fold  
205 change  $\leq -2$ , and the genes were less clustered along the chromosome than those of D23580 and  
206 VNS20081 (**Figure 3B**). **Table S1** and **Table S2** show the top 20 up- and down-regulated genes  
207 for *S. Typhimurium* D23580, respectively. The majority of upregulated genes were in prophage

208 regions; downregulated genes were overwhelmingly associated with flagella and pili formation  
209 (**Figure 3A**). It is possible that D23580 had considerably more differentially expressed genes  
210 than SL1344 or VNS20081 because of a more robust prophage response.

211

212 *Ciprofloxacin triggers a specific dose dependant transcriptional response in D23580*

213 To better understand the specificity of the bacterial stress response against ciprofloxacin,

214 D23580 was subjected to four different perturbations: 0.5x and 2x MIC ciprofloxacin,

215 Mitomycin C, and 1x MIC azithromycin, for two hours prior to RNA-sequencing. We chose

216 D23580 to investigate further as it is an important clinical isolate for understanding invasive

217 *Salmonella* disease and showed the most differential expression upon ciprofloxacin exposure.

218 We found that each stressor induced a different transcriptional signature (**Figure 4,**

219 [Supplementary data file S2](#)). We observed some overlap in transcriptional response between

220 the two concentrations of ciprofloxacin, suggesting that a sub-inhibitory ciprofloxacin

221 concentration (0.5x MIC) elicits a reduced SOS response (with respect to 2x MIC), although

222 upregulation of prophage genes was comparable. Furthermore, there were fewer downregulated

223 genes in the sub-inhibitory concentration of ciprofloxacin compared to 2x MIC (**Figure 4A-B**).

224 In contrast, treatment with Mitomycin C, a potent inducer of double-stranded DNA breaks,

225 elicited a notable prophage response (**Figure 4C**) (31–34), but fewer SOS response genes were

226 upregulated than in the ciprofloxacin-treated conditions, and overall fewer genes were

227 differentially expressed. This was surprising as we expected that Mitomycin C would elicit a

228 similar transcriptional signature to ciprofloxacin; however, these differences may have been due

229 to the concentration of Mitomycin C used. Such differences imply that while there is some

230 overlap between the effects of ciprofloxacin and Mitomycin C, they are not identical, and

231 ciprofloxacin elicits a distinct stress response. Most notably, treatment with azithromycin, an  
232 azide antimicrobial that targets the 50S ribosomal subunit, elicited a unique transcriptional  
233 profile, with no overlapping genes with any of the other conditions, indicating that the mode of  
234 action of the antimicrobial induces a specific impact on the transcriptional profile (**Figure 4D**;  
235 **Table S3, Table S4**). Importantly, this signified that the transcriptional response to inhibitory  
236 concentrations of ciprofloxacin is distinct from that to azithromycin, and this difference may be  
237 useful for considering treatment options in clinical settings.

238

239 *Ciprofloxacin exposure stimulates a heterogeneous population with distinct transcriptional*  
240 *profiles*

241 As demonstrated above, ciprofloxacin exposure induced pronounced morphological changes  
242 across the bacterial population. We wanted to determine whether these morphologically distinct  
243 bacteria could be physically separated and classified as subpopulations based on different  
244 physical and transcriptional properties. To disaggregate the transcriptional profiles associated  
245 with the various populations formed during ciprofloxacin exposure, we performed chilled  
246 sucrose density centrifugation of D23580 to separate elongated from non-elongated bacteria. The  
247 untreated D23580 bacteria formed a single diffuse fraction at approximately 50% sucrose,  
248 whereas the bacteria treated with 2x MIC ciprofloxacin segregated into three smaller fractions  
249 (within 50%, 60% and at the 60-70 % sucrose interface) (**Figure 5, [Supplementary data file](#)**  
250 **S3**). Based on our ability to separate morphologically distinct bacteria into specific fractions by  
251 density, we determined that there were meaningful subpopulations that formed in response to  
252 ciprofloxacin exposure. RNA sequencing of the three fractions generated with 2x MIC  
253 ciprofloxacin yielded markedly different transcriptional profiles. The low density (50% sucrose)

254 and high density (60% sucrose) bacteria after 2x MIC ciprofloxacin exposure clustered  
255 independently with respect to their transcriptional profiles, which were also distinct from  
256 untreated bacteria (**Figure 5A; Tables S5-S8**).

257  
258 An analysis of the top upregulated and downregulated genes showed that >100 genes were  
259 downregulated in the high density compared to the low-density ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria  
260 (**Figure 5B, (c)**). Specifically, fewer genes were upregulated in the high-density fraction in  
261 comparison to the low-density fractions of the ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria. We observed that  
262 Salmonella Pathogenicity Island 1 (SPI-1) and other invasion-associated genes were  
263 downregulated in the high-density ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria. In contrast, there was  
264 significant upregulation of some SPI-1 and SPI-2 genes in the low density (50% sucrose)  
265 ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria compared to untreated bacteria (**Figure 5 B-C; Tables S5-S8**).  
266 These data suggest that under ciprofloxacin treatment, elongated bacteria suppress genes that  
267 trigger cellular invasion and have an elevated stress response compared to non-elongated  
268 bacteria; additionally, the data suggests that ciprofloxacin-treated non-elongated bacteria may be  
269 better primed for cellular invasion and replication.

270  
271 *Ciprofloxacin exposure impacts host-pathogen interactions*

272 We observed that ciprofloxacin-exposed D23580 downregulates SPI-1 and SPI-2 genes,  
273 suggesting that ciprofloxacin may impact on the ability of *S. Typhimurium* to invade and  
274 replicate in host cells. Therefore, we tested this hypothesis by assessing the interaction between  
275 ciprofloxacin exposed D23580 with macrophages and epithelial cells using a modified  
276 gentamicin protection assay (35, 36). To this end, bacteria were cultured for two hours in the

277 absence or presence of 0.06 µg/ml ciprofloxacin and subsequently inoculated onto monolayers of  
278 macrophages or HeLa cells. At 1.5 hours post-infection, a significantly larger percentage of the  
279 ciprofloxacin-treated inoculum was internalized by macrophages (mean % internalized of  
280 inoculum: 6.72% versus 1.50%,  $p < 0.005$ ) (**Figure 6A left panel**). This difference is significant  
281 given that the inoculum added to cells, as measured by CFU/ml, was 100-fold lower for the  
282 ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria given two hours of ciprofloxacin exposure ( $2.83E+06 \pm 1.15E+06$   
283 CFU/ml for untreated bacteria versus  $1.63E+04 \pm 4.62E+03$  CFU/ml for ciprofloxacin-treated  
284 bacteria). Thus, although significantly fewer ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria were added to  
285 equivalent numbers of macrophages, a significantly higher percentage of treated bacteria were  
286 internalized. Furthermore, the ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria had a higher replication rate in  
287 macrophages than untreated bacteria at 6 hours post-infection (mean fold replication over 1.5  
288 hours: 0.66 versus 0.20,  $p < 0.05$ ) (**Figure 6A right panel**). It is possible that the macrophages  
289 internalized ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria at a higher rate because of their increased size and  
290 lower viability. However, this did not explain the greater intracellular survival and fold  
291 replication of ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria within macrophages.

292

293 To investigate whether the ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria were actively modulating interactions  
294 with host cells, the same assay was repeated using HeLa cells. We found that ciprofloxacin-  
295 treated D23580 bacteria displayed significantly lower rates of infection than untreated bacteria  
296 (mean % internalized of inoculum: 0.44 % versus 1.38%,  $p < 0.005$ ) (**Figure 6B left panel**).  
297 However, in a comparable manner to macrophages, the fold replication 6 hours post-infection of  
298 ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria was significantly higher than that of the untreated bacteria (mean  
299 fold replication over 1.5 hours: 62.14 versus 7.88,  $p < 0.05$ ) (**Figure 6B right panel**). This

300 observation suggests that ciprofloxacin exposure diminishes invasion rates of epithelial cells, but  
301 makes intracellular replication more efficient.

302

303 We hypothesized that debris from bacteria killed by ciprofloxacin may influence bacterial uptake  
304 by host cells. To assess whether the cultures of untreated and ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria  
305 differed, transmission EM was performed on the two cultures prior to infection (**Figure 6C**).

306 Using a negative stain, we observed that some ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria appeared to be  
307 associated with extracellular matter of unknown origin (**Figure 6C lower panel, inset**). We could  
308 not identify substantial differences in the cultures of untreated and ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria,  
309 but further study may be warranted to determine whether ciprofloxacin-killed bacteria influence  
310 survival of live bacteria in the same environment.

311

312 To determine whether the bacterial morphology influenced invasion of HeLa cells, bacteria were  
313 imaged immediately following the 30-minute infection and at 1.5 hours, following 1 hour  
314 gentamicin treatment (**Figure 6D**). At 30 minutes post-infection, there were elongated and non-  
315 elongated ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria extracellularly (**Figure 6D top right panel**). In contrast,  
316 imaging at 1.5 hours post-infection showed similar sized and shaped untreated and ciprofloxacin-  
317 treated internalised bacteria in HeLa cells (**Figure 6D bottom row**). Our data suggest that non-  
318 elongated ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria are more efficient than elongated ciprofloxacin-treated  
319 bacteria at invading HeLa cells, and it is possible that invasion by this subpopulation may  
320 enhance intracellular survival and replication.

321

322

## 323 **Discussion**

324 Here, we investigated morphological and transcriptional responses of three distinct *S.*  
325 Typhimurium isolates against measured inhibitory concentrations of ciprofloxacin. We found  
326 that these bacteria were highly resilient to increasing concentrations of ciprofloxacin and adapt to  
327 this environment over a 24-hour period of antimicrobial exposure, forming morphologically and  
328 transcriptionally distinguishable subpopulations early after exposure that have enhanced capacity  
329 to invade cells and replicate. Importantly, these data better define how clinical isolates respond to  
330 ciprofloxacin exposure, illustrating the potential for clinical *S. Typhimurium* isolates to tolerate  
331 and even replicate in the presence of concentrations of ciprofloxacin that should be fatal.

332

333 Ciprofloxacin (and other fluoroquinolones) are known to upregulate the bacterial stress response  
334 and phage activity (confirmed here) and the widespread use of ciprofloxacin is likely  
335 exacerbating AMR (18, 37). While population heterogeneity has been observed in response to  
336 ciprofloxacin exposure, past studies have used sub-inhibitory concentrations of ciprofloxacin  
337 against *E. coli* (38, 39). Our work shows that sub-inhibitory concentrations of ciprofloxacin have  
338 a muted effect on the bacterial response and may be less relevant for understanding the bacterial  
339 response to clinical dosages. However, previous observations are in concordance with our  
340 findings that bacterial subpopulations have highly distinct transcriptional responses, which may  
341 imply a bet-hedging strategy to improve survival potential. Importantly, we also showed that the  
342 response to ciprofloxacin is specific and dosage-dependent, and the upregulation of stress  
343 response and error-prone DNA replication machinery may influence bacterial survival and  
344 mutation (40–44). One limiting aspect of our study was that we did not longitudinally follow the  
345 bacterial response to ciprofloxacin, and future studies should also explore whether the

346 ciprofloxacin MIC changes within a short time frame, and how that affects the transcriptional  
347 response.

348

349 While not explored in this study, other groups have studied bacterial persistence in relation to  
350 ciprofloxacin at length (45–49). Bacterial persistence may factor into observations made in this  
351 study; however, one critical difference is that bacteria were consistently, rather than  
352 intermittently, exposed to ciprofloxacin. The ability of the bacteria to grow under constant  
353 ciprofloxacin pressure and subsequently invade host cells suggests additional factors are  
354 involved in cellular survival and resilience to ciprofloxacin during exposure.

355

356 Our work additionally suggests that ciprofloxacin-treated bacteria have somewhat different  
357 infection dynamics compared to untreated bacteria, which may have broader implications for  
358 patients on fluoroquinolone treatment. The invasion of, and replication within, HeLa cells and  
359 macrophages of *S. Typhimurium* has been well-characterized, and many pathways involved in  
360 efflux and drug resistance have also been studied in the context of host-pathogen interactions  
361 (50, 51). Work by Anuforum *et al.* found that J774 murine macrophages expressed greater  
362 concentrations of IL-1 $\beta$  and TNF- $\alpha$  when pre-treated with ciprofloxacin in the presence of  
363 SL1344. Additionally, they observed greater bacterial adhesion to ciprofloxacin-treated  
364 macrophages, resulting in enhanced bacterial killing (52). One limitation of our study is that we  
365 did not compare bacteria pre-treated with ciprofloxacin to those exposed to ciprofloxacin within  
366 host cells. Given the findings of Anuforum *et al.* and the importance of intracellular survival,  
367 intracellular interactions with ciprofloxacin may play a key role in drug evasion, and future work  
368 should investigate the response of *S. Typhimurium* to ciprofloxacin after cellular internalization.



369

370 However, in our study, we focused on the extracellular impacts of ciprofloxacin exposure, and  
371 the influence of ciprofloxacin treatment on bacteria prior to the infection of epithelial cells and  
372 macrophages has not been extensively studied. While we observed differences in the infection  
373 and replication potential between ciprofloxacin-treated and untreated *S. Typhimurium* that  
374 associated with transcriptional changes occurring in bacterial subpopulations, we did not  
375 investigate specific loci that could be responsible for the observed phenotype. It would be  
376 valuable to investigate any potential role in ciprofloxacin escape at the gene level to better  
377 understand how ciprofloxacin treatment may further affect *Salmonella* infections.

378

379 In a climate of mass drug administration (MDA) in parts of the world, it is particularly important  
380 to be aware of and actively study how bacteria respond to widespread antimicrobial exposure. In  
381 recent years, MDA studies have included single-dose administration of ciprofloxacin to combat  
382 *Neisseria meningitidis* in young children in the “meningitis belt” of Africa, prophylactic  
383 azithromycin in Niger, Malawi, and Tanzania to reduce childhood mortality, and azithromycin  
384 administration for children with non-bloody diarrhoea in low resource settings (53–55). While  
385 initial follow-up studies into resulting AMR have been performed, more genotypic and  
386 phenotypic surveillance is required (56). The potential for ciprofloxacin to trigger adaptive and  
387 genetic resistance in bacteria that may improve bacterial survival intracellularly provides impetus  
388 for greater caution in fluoroquinolone usage and more detailed investigation of the effect of  
389 ciprofloxacin and other antimicrobials on host-pathogen interactions.

390

391

## 392 **Materials & Methods**

### 393 *Bacterial isolates and growth medium*

394 Three *Salmonella* Typhimurium isolates were used: SL1344 (ST19, United Kingdom),  
395 VNS20081 (ST34, Vietnam), and D23580 (ST313, Malawi) (22, 23, 57). Prior to  
396 experimentation, all isolates were grown on Isosensitest agar (Oxoid, CM0471) and subjected to  
397 M.I.C.E. (Oxoid, MA0104F) ciprofloxacin eTests in duplicate to determine baseline  
398 ciprofloxacin susceptibility and MIC range was confirmed by assessment on the Vitek2 (**Table**  
399 **4**). Isolates were grown in Isosensitest broth (Oxoid, CM0473) for all except host cell  
400 experiments and were maintained on Isosensitest agar and streaked weekly from frozen stocks.

401

### 402 *Time kill curves*

403 Colonies from plates were inoculated in 10 ml Isosensitest broth for 16-18 h shaking at 200 rpm  
404 at 37°C. Bacteria were added in a 1:10000 dilution to 10 ml of Isosensitest containing levels (0x,  
405 1x, 2x, 4x MIC) of ciprofloxacin according to each isolate's MIC for an inoculum of between 1  
406 and 5 x 10<sup>5</sup> CFU/ml. Cultures were incubated shaking at 37°C and aliquots were taken for CFU  
407 plating at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and 24 h. Serial dilutions were made, and a total of 50 µl of each dilution  
408 was plated in 10 µl on L-agar. CFUs were counted and calculated as CFU/ml. Mean and SD of  
409 three replicates per isolate were calculated. Log<sub>10</sub> CFU/ml were plotted over 24 hours as three  
410 independent replicates, with the colour indicating growth condition (0x, 1x, 2x, 4x ciprofloxacin  
411 MIC) in R using ggplot2 (58, 59). To compare mean CFU/ml for the 24-hour timepoint, an  
412 analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed, and statistical significance of differences in the  
413 means of conditions compared to 0x (control) were conducted using Dunnett's test.

414

415 *Ciprofloxacin-degradation kill curves*

416 Initial 24 h time kill curves were performed as described above. At 24 h, cultures were  
417 centrifuged and steri-filtered, and filtered medium was transferred to fresh tubes. As above,  
418 overnight cultures were added 1:10000 to the medium and CFU were plated at 0, 2, 4, 6, 8, and  
419 24 h. No additional ciprofloxacin was added to medium.

420

421 *RNA extractions and RNA sequencing*

422 After bacteria were subcultured 1:1000 for 2 h in the presence or absence of 2x ciprofloxacin  
423 MIC, double the quantity of RNAProtect Bacteria Reagent (Qiagen, 76506) was added to  
424 cultures and incubated for 10 min. Cultures were centrifuged at 3215 x g for 14 min at 4°C.  
425 Supernatant was decanted and resuspended in 400 µl Tris buffer (0.25 mM, pH 8.0) containing  
426 10 mg/ml lysozyme, and incubated for 5 min. To this was added 700 µl RLT buffer containing  
427 10 µl beta-mercaptoethanol (Sigma, M6250) per ml and vortexed well. 1 ml 100% ethanol was  
428 immediately added and vortexed well. The Qiagen RNeasy Mini Kit (Qiagen, 74104) was  
429 subsequently used to process samples. Samples were eluted in 40 µl RNase-free water. Samples  
430 were frozen at -20°C if not immediately processed. Subsequently, samples were treated with  
431 DNase I using the Qiagen DNase Kit (Qiagen, 79254). Output following DNase treatment was  
432 cleaned using phenol-chloroform treatment by first increasing solution volume with RNase-free  
433 water to 400 µl. 400 µl of phenol-chloroform-isoamyl alcohol mixture (Sigma, 77617) was  
434 added to samples, mixed by inversion, then centrifuged at 8000 x g for 5 min. The supernatant  
435 was transferred to a new tube and combined with 400 µl chloroform:isoamyl alcohol 24:1  
436 (Sigma, C0549). Samples were mixed then centrifuged as above. The supernatant was  
437 transferred to a new tube and combined with 1 µl glycogen (Roche, 10901393001), 40 µl 3M

438 sodium acetate, pH 5.5 (Ambion, AM9740), and 500  $\mu$ l ice-cold 100% ethanol. Tubes were  
439 mixed by inversion and incubated at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 30 min before centrifugation at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 20 min at  
440 16000 x g. Supernatant was decanted and replaced with 500  $\mu$ l ice-cold 70% ethanol and  
441 centrifuged at  $4^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 5 min at 16000 x g. Ethanol was decanted and pellets were air-dried before  
442 resuspension in 50  $\mu$ l RNase-free water. Samples were frozen at  $-80^{\circ}\text{C}$  prior to sequencing.  
443 All library preparation and RNA-sequencing were performed at the Wellcome Sanger Institute  
444 using standard protocols. Briefly, libraries were made using the NEB Ultra II RNA custom kit  
445 (NEB, E7530S) on an Agilent Bravo WS automation system. RiboZero was added to deplete  
446 ribosomal RNA. Libraries were pooled and normalized to 2.8 nM for sequencing. Sequencing  
447 was done on an Illumina HiSeq 4000 (Illumina, San Diego, CA), using a minimum of two lanes  
448 per pool.

449

#### 450 *RNA sequencing analysis*

451 Reads from D23580 were mapped to reference sequence D23580 (accession number  
452 [FN424405.1](#)) (22), VNS20081 was mapped to sequence VNB151 (accession number  
453 [ERS745838](#)) (23), and SL1344 was mapped to reference sequence SL1344 (accession number  
454 [FQ312003.1](#)). Sanger Institute pipeline DEAGO (Differential Expression Analysis & Gene  
455 Ontology), a wrapper script for DESeq2 and topGO (60, 61), was used to determine differential  
456 gene expression. Using DESeq2, a Wald test was done on the treatment condition versus  
457 untreated. The  $\log_2$  fold change was calculated for treatment condition versus untreated after  
458 filtering genes to include only those with an adjusted  $p$ -value (padj) of  $< 0.05$  to control for the  
459 false discovery rate using the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure. All differential expression  
460 analyses were conducted using default DESeq2 parameters (60). Genes that had a padj  $< 0.05$

461 and a  $\log_2$  fold change of  $\geq 2$  or  $\leq -2$  were subjected to further manual analysis to assess top up-  
462 and down-regulated genes in treatment conditions relative to untreated. Visualization of  
463 differentially-expressed genes was performed using the ggplot2 package in R.

464

#### 465 *Sucrose gradient separation of ciprofloxacin-treated D23580*

466 To separate morphologically distinct subpopulations of bacteria after ciprofloxacin exposure, a  
467 sucrose gradient procedure was developed. Overnight cultures of D23580 were grown as  
468 described above and were inoculated 1:100 into 10 ml of Isosensitest broth either containing 0 or  
469 0.06  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  ciprofloxacin and incubated shaking at 200 rpm at 37°C for 2 h. Fresh sucrose  
470 solutions were prepared: the four concentrations of sucrose used were 25%, 50%, 60%, and 70%,  
471 and these were made by dissolving sucrose (Sigma, S7903) in 1x PBS. Solutions were sterile-  
472 filtered using 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  syringe filters (GE Healthcare, 6794-2502). 2 ml of each sucrose  
473 concentration was layered from 70% to 25% in open-top ultracentrifuge tubes (Beckman  
474 Coulter, 344059) immediately before use. At 2 h, cultures were removed from incubator and  
475 centrifuged in a benchtop swing bucket centrifuge for 14 min at 4000 x g at 4°C. The supernatant  
476 was removed with a pipette. Pellets were resuspended in the remaining medium and transferred  
477 to 1.5 ml tubes, which were centrifuged at 5000 x g for 2 min to re-pellet. The supernatant was  
478 removed, and pellets were resuspended in 500  $\mu\text{l}$  PBS. Using a Pasteur pipette, 500  $\mu\text{l}$  of cells  
479 was carefully added to the top of the 25% layer of the sucrose column. Gradients were  
480 centrifuged for 9 min at 3000 x g, 4°C. After centrifugation, gradients were identified:

- 481 • One layer on the gradients loaded with non-treated cultures within the 50% sucrose fraction.
- 482 • Three layers from the 2x MIC ciprofloxacin-treated gradients: 1. within 50%, 2. within 60%, 3.
- 483 60-70% interface

484

485 The cloudy portion of each layer was carefully removed using a Pasteur pipette, beginning with  
486 the lowest-density layer, and isolated fractions were immediately added to 10 ml bacterial  
487 RNAProtect and processed using the standard RNA extraction protocol described above.

488

#### 489 *RNA sequencing analysis of gradient-separated bacteria*

490 RNA-seq analysis was performed on the bacteria recovered from the gradients. These RNA-  
491 sequencing reads were processed using DEAGO. Pairwise comparisons were made between  
492 conditions (ciprofloxacin-treated 50% vs untreated 50%, ciprofloxacin-treated 60% vs untreated  
493 50%, and ciprofloxacin-treated 60% vs ciprofloxacin-treated 50%). Heatmaps were made using  
494 the heatmap.2 function in R package gplots, and other visualizations were performed using  
495 ggplot2.

496

#### 497 *DNA extraction of 24 h ciprofloxacin-treated cultures*

498 To prepare DNA, bacterial cultures of *S. Typhimurium* D23580 were initially grown overnight in  
499 10 ml of broth. As in the time kill curve experiments, 10 ml of fresh Isosensitest broth containing  
500 no or 0.06 µg/ml ciprofloxacin MIC were inoculated with overnight cultures at 1:10000. Bacteria  
501 were grown for 24 h before spreading 100 µl or 1000 µl for the untreated and ciprofloxacin-  
502 treated cultures, respectively, on L-agar plates. Plates were grown overnight to ensure only DNA  
503 from viable organisms was sequenced as a plate sweep (62). After overnight growth at 37°C,  
504 colonies were scraped from the agar and resuspended in 1x PBS. This was spun down at 8000  
505 rpm for 3 min, and the supernatant was aspirated off. The pellets were processed for DNA  
506 extraction using the Promega Wizard DNA Purification kit (Promega, A1120). DNA was

507 quantified on a Qubit 4 Fluorometer (Q33226) using the Qubit dsDNA HS Assay Kit (Q32851),  
508 then frozen at -80°C prior to whole genome sequencing. DNA was sequenced on an Illumina  
509 HiSeq platform. Illumina adapter content was trimmed from reads using Trimmomatic v.0.33.

510

#### 511 *Read mapping and variant detection of 24 h ciprofloxacin-treated cultures*

512 Illumina HiSeq reads were mapped to *S. Typhimurium* reference genome D23580 ([FN424405.1](#))  
513 using SMALT v0.7.4 to produce a BAM file. Briefly, variant detection was performed as  
514 previously detailed (63). Samtools mpileup v0.1.19 with parameters -d 1000 -DSugBf and  
515 bcftools v0.1.19 were used to generate a BCF file of all variant sites. The bcftools variant quality  
516 score was set as greater than 50, mapping quality was set as greater than 30, the allele frequency  
517 was determined as either 0 for bases called same as the reference or 1 for bases called as a SNP  
518 ( $af1 < 0.95$ ), the majority base call was set to be present in at least 75% of reads mapping at the  
519 base ( $ratio < 0.75$ ), the minimum mapping depth was four read, a minimum of two of the four  
520 had to map to each strand, strand\_bias was set as less than 0.001, map\_bias less than 0.001, and  
521 tail\_bias less than 0.001. Bases that did not meet those criteria were called as uncertain and  
522 removed. A pseudo-genome was constructed by substituting the base calls in the BCF file in the  
523 reference genome. Recombinant regions in the chromosome such as prophage regions were  
524 removed from the alignment and checked using Gubbins v1.4.10. SNP sites were extracted from  
525 the alignment using snp-sites and analysed manually.

526

#### 527 *Opera Phenix confocal microscopy phenotyping of single bacteria*

528 *S. Typhimurium* D23580, SL1344, and VNS20081 were screened at 2 h after ciprofloxacin  
529 exposures of 0x, 1x, 2x, and 4x as related to the MIC of the isolate. This was undertaken by

530 inoculating overnight cultures independently at 1:1000 dilutions of 150 µl in 150 ml Isosensitest  
531 broth in a 200 ml flask incubated shaking. Following 2 h growth, 10 ml of each culture were  
532 spun down at 3200 x g for 7 min at 4°C. The supernatant was decanted, and the pellet was  
533 transferred to a 1.5 ml tube. This was spun at 8000 x g for 3 min, and the supernatant was  
534 decanted and replaced with 100 µl PBS. For each culture condition, 50 µl of the concentrated  
535 bacterial culture was added to two wells of a vitronectin-coated Opera CellCarrier Ultra-96 plate  
536 (Perkin Elmer, 6055302), and the plates were incubated static at 37 °C for 10 min. The microbial  
537 culture was aspirated, then fixed with 4% PFA, and washed with 1x PBS. Wells were incubated  
538 with 2% BSA for 30 min, then for 1 h with CSA-Alexa-647 (Novus Biologicals, NB110-  
539 16952AF647) at 1:1000 in BSA. Wells were aspirated and then incubated with solutions  
540 harbouring DAPI (Invitrogen, D1306) and SYTOX green (Invitrogen, S7020) for 20 min. Wells  
541 were washed 1x with PBS; plates were sealed and imaged.

542

#### 543 *Opera Phenix confocal microscopy image analysis of single bacteria*

544 Images generated on the Opera Phenix were analysed using the Harmony software (Perkin  
545 Elmer), as previously described (24) (S. Sridhar and S. Forrest, submitted for publication).  
546 Briefly, inputted images underwent flatfield correction, and images were calculated using the  
547 DAPI and Alexa647 channels and then refined by size and shape characteristics. Applying a  
548 linear classifier to the filtered population, single bacteria were identified, and morphology and  
549 intensity characteristics were calculated. The output of the Harmony analysis was tabulated by  
550 object, and results were visualized in R (v 3.6.1) using R packages dplyr and ggplot2.

551

#### 552 *HeLa cell and iPS macrophage infections with S. Typhimurium D23580*



553 HeLa cells were obtained from Abcam (ab255928) and maintained in DMEM + (Thermo,  
554 41966) supplemented with 10% heat-inactivated FBS (Merck, F7524) incubated at 37°C, 5%  
555 CO<sub>2</sub>. HeLa cells were plated in 24-well plates (Corning, 3473) at 1 x 10<sup>5</sup> cells/ml in 500 µl  
556 media. D23580 was inoculated from a freshly streaked plate in 10 ml LB and incubated shaking  
557 overnight at 37°C the day prior to infections. On the day of infections, two D23580 sub-cultures  
558 were set up 1:10 in LB from the overnight culture, with one sub-culture containing 0.06 µg/ml of  
559 ciprofloxacin. Cultures were incubated shaking at 37°C for 2 h. At 2 h, the OD<sub>600</sub> of cultures  
560 was measured, and bacteria were resuspended in PBS after normalization to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 1.0.  
561 Bacteria were added to cell media for a multiplicity of infection of ~10:1. 500 µl of the inoculum  
562 was added to each well and incubated for 30 min. The inoculum was plated for CFU  
563 enumeration. Following the infection, media was aspirated and cells were washed 1x with PBS.  
564 PBS was replaced with media containing 16 µg/ml gentamicin (Gibco, 15750037), and plates  
565 were incubated for 1 h. Media was aspirated and plates were washed 1x with PBS and  
566 subsequently either replaced with 0.1% Triton-X for the 1.5 h time point or media until 6 h post-  
567 infection. To enumerate CFU, 100 µl of cell lysates was spread on L-agar plates, and plates were  
568 incubated overnight at 37°C before counting. The same process was followed at 6 h post-  
569 infection. Infections were conducted in technical triplicates.

570

571 Macrophages derived from induced pluripotent stem cells were produced as previously described  
572 (Alasoo et al., 2015). Monocytes in RPMI containing hM-CSF cytokine (Bio Techne/216-MC-  
573 025) were plated in 24-well plates at 1.5 x 10<sup>5</sup> 7 days prior to infection, and the media was  
574 changed to RPMI without hM-CSF one day prior to infection. Cells were infected with D23580  
575 as described above for HeLa cells, and CFU were enumerated.

576

577 *Confocal microscopy of infected HeLa cells*

578  $1 \times 10^5$  HeLa cells/ml were added to coverslips (Thermo, 12392128) in 24-well plates, and  
579 infections with D23580 were conducted as above. After the 30 min infection, one set of  
580 coverslips were immediately fixed in 4% PFA without washing to image intracellular and  
581 extracellular bacteria. The remaining coverslips were processed as CFU wells and fixed at 1.5 h  
582 post-infection. Coverslips were blocked and permeabilized using 250  $\mu$ l 10% BSA + 0.1% Triton  
583 X-100 in PBS for 15 minutes at room temperature. CSA (BacTrace, 5330-0059) and phalloidin  
584 (A22287) antibodies were diluted in 1% BSA + 0.1% Triton X-100 in PBS at 1:100 and 1:1000,  
585 respectively. 250  $\mu$ l of the CSA antibody was added first and incubated in the dark at room  
586 temperature for 1 h. Coverslips were washed 3x in 250  $\mu$ l PBS, and then 250  $\mu$ l of phalloidin  
587 was added to coverslips and incubated in the dark at room temperature for 1 h. Coverslips were  
588 washed 3x in 250  $\mu$ l PBS. Coverslips were mounted on glass slides with 20  $\mu$ l Prolong Gold with  
589 DAPI (Invitrogen, P36935) and cured in the dark at room temperature overnight. 25 fields per  
590 coverslip were imaged on a Leica TCS SP8 confocal microscope at 40x magnification.

591

592 *Transmission electron microscopy (TEM) of S. Typhimurium D23580*

593 D23580 overnight cultures were added 1:10 to 10 ml LB either containing none or 0.06  $\mu$ g/ml  
594 ciprofloxacin and incubated shaking for 2 h. For staining, 1 ml of uranyl acetate (UA) solution  
595 (3% aqueous) was filter-sterilized through a 0.2  $\mu$ m filter. One 200 square mesh Cu EM grid  
596 (Agar Scientific) was spotted with 10  $\mu$ l bacterial sample and left for 1 min. Filter paper was  
597 used to remove excess liquid, and 10  $\mu$ l UA was added to the grid for 1 min. Excess liquid was  
598 again removed using filter paper, and the grid was allowed to dry for 1 h prior to imaging.

599 Imaging was done on a Hitachi HT7800 transmission electron microscope at 100kV, 8 $\mu$ A, and a  
600 range of magnifications.

601

602 *Data availability*

603 RNA-sequencing reads can be found using the study accession number [PRJEB43116](#)  
604 (ERP127047). Whole genome sequencing reads can be found using the accession number  
605 [PRJEB43255](#) (ERP127204). [Supplementary data file S4](#) matches read files with samples. All  
606 supplementary data files can be found at <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/N9CW5>.

607

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## Figure legends

### **Figure 1. Time kill curves of *S. Typhimurium* isolates at different ciprofloxacin concentrations**

*S. Typhimurium* isolates D23580 (A), SL1344 (B), and VNS20081 (C) were grown for 24 hours in four concentrations of ciprofloxacin (0x, 1x, 2x, or 4x MIC) and subjected to CFU enumeration at 6 time points post-inoculation. Three biological replicates were performed, and each replicate was plotted independently. The average CFU/ml was calculated for each isolate and condition for the 24-hour time point and plotted as mean  $\pm$  SD (D, D23580; E, SL1344; F, VNS20081). An ANOVA was performed to compare means at 24 hours, and Dunnett's test was performed to compare 24 hour means of 1x, 2x, and 4x ciprofloxacin MIC to 0x (control).

### **Figure 2. Imaging of *S. Typhimurium* following 2 hours of ciprofloxacin exposure**

A. D23580 (top panel), SL1344 (middle panel), and VNS20081 (bottom panel) were subjected to 4 concentrations of ciprofloxacin (0x, 1x, 2x, or 4x MIC) and stained and imaged using an Opera Phenix high content microscope. Bacterial membranes were stained using CSA (red), nucleic acids were stained using DAPI (blue), and permeabilized, dead cells were stained using SYTOX green (green). Imaging experiments were carried out in triplicate, with two technical replicates; images from one replicate shown. B. The length of single bacteria ( $\mu\text{m}$ ) was measured quantitatively based on image analysis, and these were plotted for each isolate and condition independently (D23580, left panel; SL1344, middle panel; VNS20081, right panel). Bacterial lengths were plotted as median and interquartile ranges, and the mean  $\pm$  SD was calculated for each condition compared to 0x-MIC treatment. One-way ANOVAs were performed. \*  $p < 0.05$ .

0x-treated bacteria are in red; 1x-treated bacteria are in green; 2x-treated bacteria are in blue; and 4x-treated bacteria are in purple.

### **Figure 3. Bulk transcriptomics of *S. Typhimurium* following 2 hours of ciprofloxacin treatment**

*S. Typhimurium* isolates D23580 (A), SL1344 (B), and VNS20081 (C) were grown in medium containing either 0x or 2x MIC ciprofloxacin for 2 hours, and RNA-sequencing was performed. Differential gene expression was analysed using DESeq2. The relative expression ( $\log_2$  fold change) of each gene for 2x MIC ciprofloxacin versus 0x MIC ciprofloxacin was calculated for each isolate, and genes with an adjusted  $p$ -value  $< 0.05$  were plotted along the chromosome. Genes with a  $\log_2$  fold change  $\geq 2$  were coloured blue, and genes with a  $\log_2$  fold change  $\leq -2$  were coloured red to highlight highly differentially-expressed genes.

### **Figure 4. Bulk transcriptomics of *S. Typhimurium* D23580 under 4 different perturbations**

*S. Typhimurium* D23580 was grown for 2 hours in medium containing 0.5x ciprofloxacin MIC (A), 2x ciprofloxacin MIC (B), 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  Mitomycin C (C), or 1x azithromycin MIC (D) and subjected to RNA-sequencing. Differential gene expression was analysed using DESeq2. The relative expression ( $\log_2$  fold change) of each gene for treatment versus no treatment was calculated for each condition, and genes with an adjusted  $p$ -value  $< 0.05$  were plotted along the chromosome. Genes with a  $\log_2$  fold change  $\geq 2$  were coloured blue, and genes with a  $\log_2$  fold change  $\leq -2$  were coloured red to highlight highly differentially-expressed genes.

### **Figure 5. Transcriptomics of density gradient-separated *S. Typhimurium* D23580**

*S. Typhimurium* D23580 was grown for 2 hours in either 0x (NT) or 2x MIC ciprofloxacin and layered on sucrose gradients containing 25%, 50%, 60%, and 70% sucrose layers. Following density centrifugation, gradient-separated bacteria were subjected to RNA-sequencing, and differential gene expression was analysed using DESeq2. **A.** Three comparisons were performed, and the  $\log_2$  fold change of relative gene expression was plotted as a heatmap with upregulated genes in blue and downregulated genes in red. The comparisons were: ciprofloxacin-treated 50% sucrose gradient versus NT (a), ciprofloxacin-treated 60% sucrose gradient versus NT (b), and ciprofloxacin-treated 60% sucrose gradient versus ciprofloxacin-treated 50% sucrose gradient (c). **B.** For the comparison ciprofloxacin-treated 50% sucrose gradient versus NT, significantly differentially-expressed ( $p < 0.05$ ) genes were plotted along the chromosome, and genes found within SPI-1 and SPI-2 were coloured in purple and blue, respectively. **C.** The comparison of ciprofloxacin-treated 60% sucrose gradient versus NT was mapped along the chromosome, as in B. **D.** The comparison of ciprofloxacin-treated 60% sucrose gradient versus ciprofloxacin-treated 50% sucrose gradient, as in B.

### **Figure 6. Cellular infections with *S. Typhimurium* D23580 following 2 hours of ciprofloxacin exposure**

*S. Typhimurium* D23580 was either not treated or treated with 2x MIC ciprofloxacin for 2 hours prior to infection of macrophages (**A**) or HeLa cells (**B**). Left panels show bacterial internalization 1.5 hours post-infection. Right panels show bacterial intracellular replication 6 hours post-infection. Boxplots represent the mean and interquartile ranges of four (macrophages) or three (HeLa cells) biological replicates of three technical replicates each. The mean and SD

were calculated, and a Student's paired t-test was performed to calculate significance. \*  $p < 0.05$ .

**C.** Transmission electron microscopy was performed using negatively-stained D23580 either not treated (top panel) or treated with 2x MIC ciprofloxacin (bottom panel) for 2 hours. Box inset shows extracellular matter in ciprofloxacin-treated culture. **D.** Confocal images were taken of D23580 either not treated or treated with 2x ciprofloxacin MIC immediately following the initial 30 minutes infection of HeLa cells (top panel) or after the subsequent one-hour gentamicin treatment (bottom panel). HeLa cell membranes were stained with phalloidin (red), nucleic acids were stained with DAPI (blue), and bacteria were stained with CSA (green). Images of infected cells are compared to an uninfected control image for reference (left panel, same image used as comparator for 30 minutes and 1.5 h).



**Table 1. Dominant SNPs found after 24 h growth in 2x MIC ciprofloxacin.**

<b>Replicate</b>	<b>SNP*</b>	<b>gene containing SNP</b>		<b>Function</b>			
<b>1</b>	N/A	N/A		N/A			
<b>2</b>	2981566	<i>ramR</i>		Regulator of AcrAB/TolC efflux pump			
<b>Gene*</b>	<b>Function</b>	<b>SL1344</b>	<b>SL1344</b>	<b>D23580</b>	<b>D23580</b>	<b>VNS20081</b>	<b>VNS20081</b>
		<b>l2fc</b>	<b>padj</b>	<b>l2fc</b>	<b>padj</b>	<b>l2fc</b>	<b>padj</b>
<b>3</b>	2399766	<i>gyrA</i>		DNA gyrase, DNA negative supercoiling			

\*SNP analysis to determine dominant SNPs was performed on *S. Typhimurium* D23580 grown for 24 h in 2x MIC ciprofloxacin compared against D23580 grown for 24 h without ciprofloxacin.

<i>recN</i>	SOS response	3.99	0	3.75	0	3.38	3.97E-134
<i>sulA</i>	SOS response	3.64	7.09E-108	3.54	2.1E-134	2.43	6.92E-22
<i>recA</i>	SOS response	3.31	0	3.46	0	2.66	1.78E-222
<i>stdA</i>	Fimbriae production	3.09	1.48E-06	2.68	3.74E-09	5.60	1.17E-14
<i>ilvC</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	2.01	4.71E-52	2.51	2.29E-115	2.15	1.17E-37
<i>uvrA</i>	SOS response	2.30	0	2.38	1.87E-288	1.93	1.21E-71
<i>lexA</i>	SOS response	2.26	9.71E-150	2.28	9.69E-257	1.89	3.11E-160
<i>cysJ</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	2.10	2.27E-35	2.26	3.3E-22	1.74	1.51E-15
<i>cysD</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.60	6.24E-09	2.17	6.27E-26	1.44	7.44E-09
<i>cysH</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.76	5.51E-13	2.13	6.95E-25	1.20	0.00002
<i>leuA</i>	Biosynthesis	2.02	2.15E-20	2.08	2.7E-61	1.87	2.01E-13
<i>cysI</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.77	3.62E-28	2.00	4.66E-26	1.42	5.28E-10
<i>cysC</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.46	5.35E-09	1.94	1.57E-23	0.89	0.019
<i>sodA</i>	SOS response	1.47	2.83E-71	1.94	1.19E-194	1.48	4.4E-27
<i>fadB</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.28	2.41E-06	1.92	1.58E-18	1.99	4.79E-10
<i>cpxP</i>	Copper/H <sub>2</sub> O <sub>2</sub> resistance	1.73	1.36E-24	1.86	2.44E-28	1.39	1.63E-14
<i>polB</i>	SOS response	2.27	2.24E-82	1.85	1.07E-42	1.80	1.13E-13
<i>cysN</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.65	9.53E-26	1.82	7.73E-29	0.85	0.0007
<i>glmU</i>	Biosynthesis	1.15	3.61E-110	1.80	3.87E-103	0.79	2.28E-23
<i>fadA</i>	Redox, biosynthesis	1.47	5.55E-06	1.79	9.25E-19	1.44	0.0007

**Table 2. Top 20 significantly upregulated genes found commonly between SL1344, D23580, and VNS20081.**

\*Differential expression analysis using DESeq2 was performed on each isolate independently for ciprofloxacin treatment versus no treatment, and only significant (adjusted  $p$ -value (padj) < 0.05) log<sub>2</sub> fold change (l2fc) results were included. The top 20 upregulated genes for D23580 were sorted in descending order by l2fc and matched with corresponding l2fc for SL1344 and VNS20081. A padj value of “0” indicates the value was so small that it was rounded to 0 by DESeq2.

**Table 3. Top 20 significantly downregulated genes found commonly between SL1344, D23580, and VNS20081.**

\*Differential expression analysis using DESeq2 was performed on each isolate independently for ciprofloxacin treatment versus no treatment, and only significant (adjusted  $p$ -value (padj) < 0.05)

Gene*	Function	SL1344 l2fc	SL1344 padj	D23580 l2fc	D23580 padj	VNS20081 l2fc	VNS20081 padj
<i>flgH</i>	Flagellum	-2.17	2.16E-27	-2.60	7E-80	-2.52	7.39E-10
<i>flgE</i>	Flagellum	-1.83	4.78E-30	-2.58	1.06E-104	-2.42	4.77E-12
<i>flgJ</i>	Flagellum	-2.00	6.12E-21	-2.53	2.42E-79	-2.23	1.8E-15
<i>flgF</i>	Flagellum	-2.00	2.90E-25	-2.52	1.17E-77	-2.47	9.24E-10
<i>flgG</i>	Flagellum	-2.12	3.23E-33	-2.49	5.77E-95	-2.28	1.2E-09
<i>flgI</i>	Flagellum	-1.97	1.54E-20	-2.38	1.4E-62	-2.31	6.41E-15
<i>flgC</i>	Flagellum	-1.42	1.37E-17	-2.37	3.11E-76	-1.90	3.51E-08
<i>flgB</i>	Flagellum	-1.67	7.61E-25	-2.35	1.24E-61	-2.06	1.11E-14
<i>fliO</i>	Flagellum	-1.29	1.72E-11	-2.33	3.05E-44	-1.62	0.0000014
<i>flgL</i>	Flagellum	-1.53	2.72E-20	-2.28	4.34E-55	-2.30	1.9E-24
<i>yciH</i>	Putative translation factor	-1.38	8.11E-05	-2.28	1.06E-22	-1.66	0.0000188
<i>flgK</i>	Flagellum	-1.44	4.35E-22	-2.24	5.2E-98	-2.40	1.42E-27
<i>flgM</i>	Flagellum	-1.62	1.25E-14	-2.07	1.58E-25	-2.52	5.73E-18
<i>yeef</i>	Putative transporter	-1.46	4.07E-172	-1.95	2.43E-242	-1.43	4.36E-103
<i>fliN</i>	Flagellum	-1.20	4.90E-10	-1.92	2.43E-39	-1.79	5.03E-12
<i>fliI</i>	Flagellum	-0.98	1.41E-11	-1.92	5.11E-09	-1.87	1.86E-14
<i>ybiN</i>	Conserved hypothetical protein	-1.80	5.83E-15	-1.91	3.86E-39	-1.16	0.000000294
<i>fliL</i>	Flagellum	-1.11	1.67E-14	-1.87	5.92E-46	-1.47	0.00000177
<i>flgN</i>	Flagellum	-1.59	2.12E-13	-1.83	9.32E-21	-1.88	2.25E-16
<i>nth</i>	Biosynthesis	-1.52	6.14E-14	-1.82	1.17E-32	-1.96	5.07E-08

log<sub>2</sub> fold change (l2fc) results were included. The top 20 downregulated genes for D23580 were sorted in ascending order by l2fc and matched with corresponding l2fc for SL1344 and VNS20081. A padj value of “0” indicates the value was so small that it was rounded to 0 by DESeq2.

**Table 4. MICs using Vitek 2 and ciprofloxacin eTest.**

	<b>Vitek2 ciprofloxacin result</b>	<b>M.I.C.E. ciprofloxacin eTest result (<math>\mu\text{g/ml}</math>)</b>
<b>D23580</b>	$\leq 0.25$	0.03
<b>SL1344</b>	$\leq 0.25$	0.015
<b>VNS20081</b>	2	1

**Supplementary figures**

**Figure S1. Time kill curves of *S. Typhimurium* under ciprofloxacin exposure to assess ciprofloxacin stability**

**A.** Time kill curves were performed on *S. Typhimurium* D23580 using spent medium following an initial 24-hour kill curve. Media for this growth curve was centrifuged and steri-filtered before inoculation with D23580 and growth over 24 hours. CFU were enumerated at 6 time points, and two independent biological replicates were plotted. **B.** Average CFU/ml were plotted as mean  $\pm$  SD for the 24-hour time point to compare CFU between treatment conditions. An ANOVA was performed to compare means at 24 hours, and Dunnett's test was performed to compare 24 hour means of 1x, 2x, and 4x ciprofloxacin MIC to 0x (control).

**Supplementary tables**

**Table S1. Top 20 significantly upregulated genes in 2x MIC ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 relative to NT.**

**Table S2. Top 20 significantly downregulated genes in 2x MIC ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 relative to NT.**

**Table S3. Top 20 significantly upregulated genes in 1x MIC azithromycin D23580 relative to NT.**

**Table S4. Top 20 significantly downregulated genes in 1x MIC azithromycin D23580 relative to NT.**

**Table S5. Top 20 significantly upregulated genes in 50% sucrose fraction of ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 relative to NT.**

**Table S6. 20 top downregulated genes in 50% sucrose fraction of ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 relative to NT.**

**Table S7. Top 20 significantly upregulated genes in ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 60% sucrose fraction relative to ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 50% fraction.**

**Table S8. Top 20 significantly downregulated genes in ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 60% sucrose fraction relative to ciprofloxacin-treated D23580 50% fraction.**

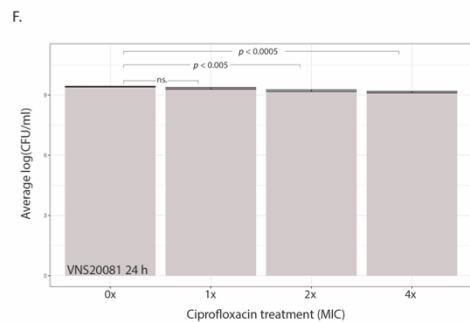
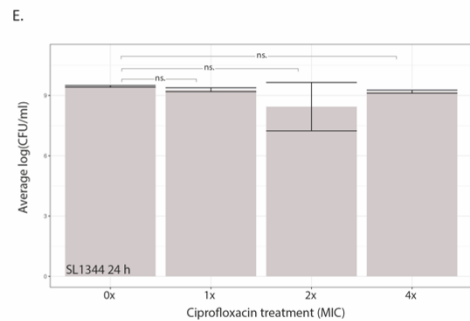
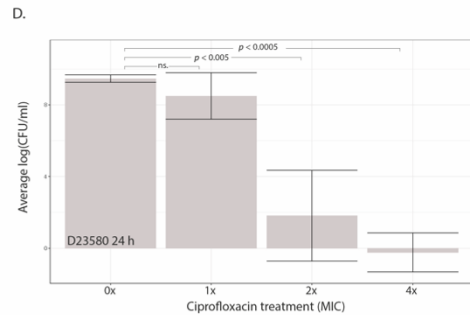
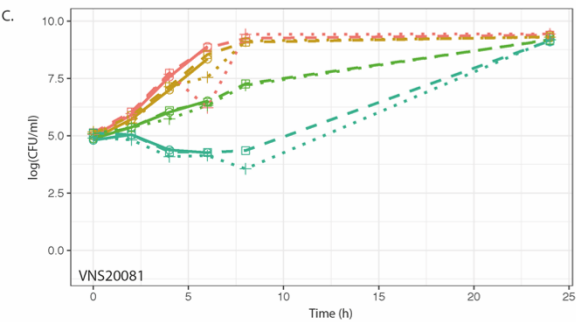
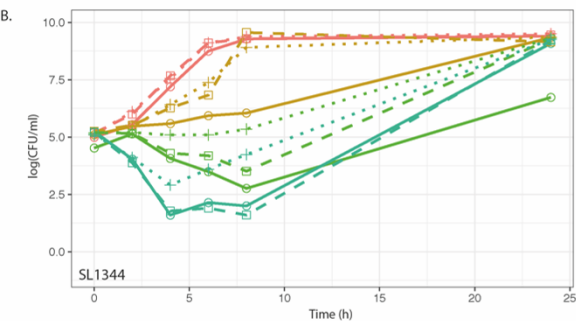
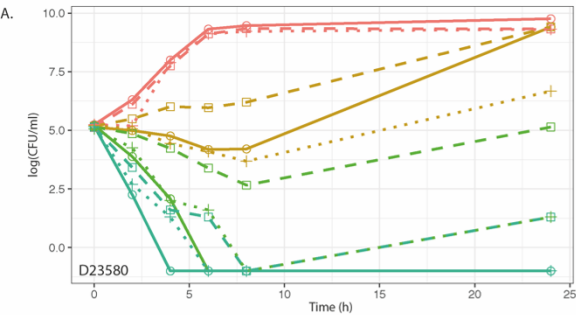
**Supplementary data file legends (available online)**

**Supplementary data file S1. RNA-seq differential expression analysis results of *S. Typhimurium* isolates SL1344, D23580, and VNS20081.** Filtered ( $\text{padj} < 0.05$ ) and unfiltered DESeq2 results for each isolate (ciprofloxacin-treated relative to untreated) and the common differentially expressed genes between isolates. Sheet 1 (“Table\_of\_contents”) provides sheet names and descriptions for data included in each sheet. Data can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/N9CW5>

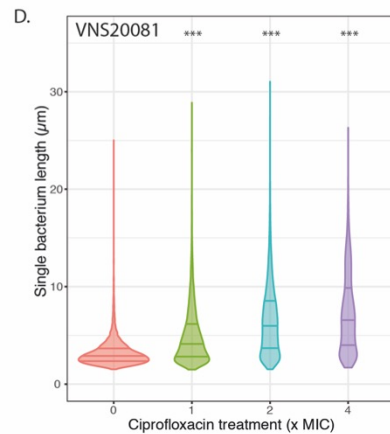
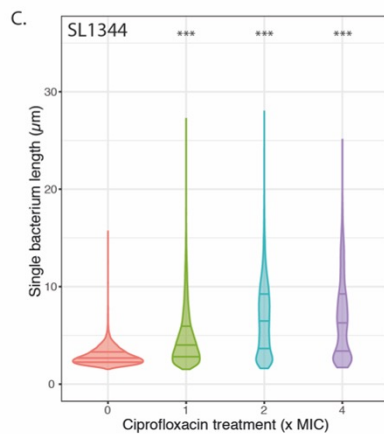
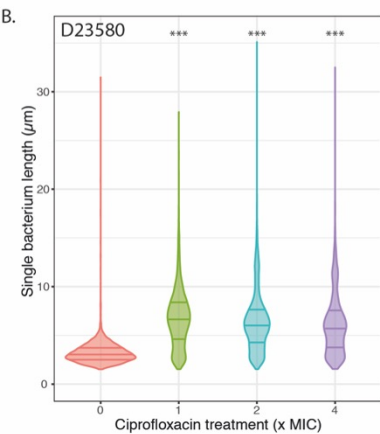
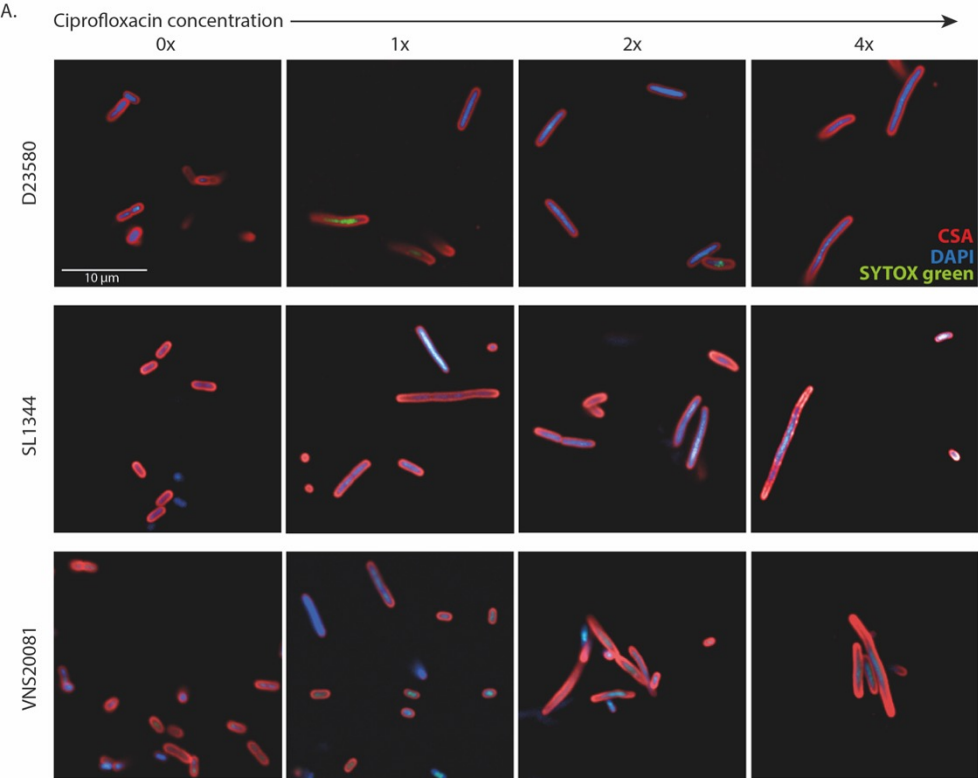
**Supplementary data file S2. RNA-seq differential expression analysis results of *S. Typhimurium* D23580 exposed to 4 parallel conditions.** Filtered ( $\text{padj} < 0.05$ ) and unfiltered DESeq2 results for each condition (0.5x MIC ciprofloxacin, 2x MIC ciprofloxacin, 1  $\mu\text{g/ml}$  mitomycin C, 1x azithromycin) relative to untreated (NT). Sheet 1 (“Table\_of\_Contents”) provides sheet names and descriptions for data included in each sheet. Data can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/N9CW5>

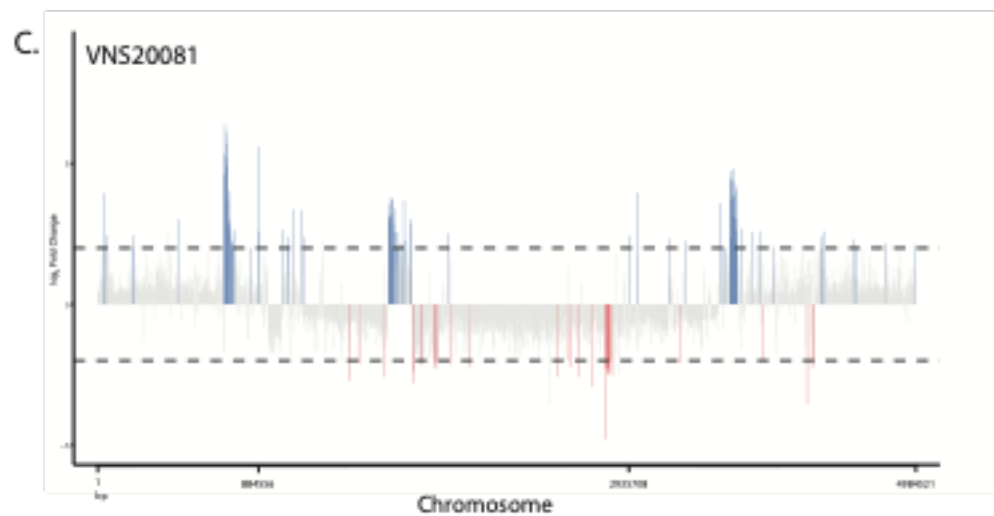
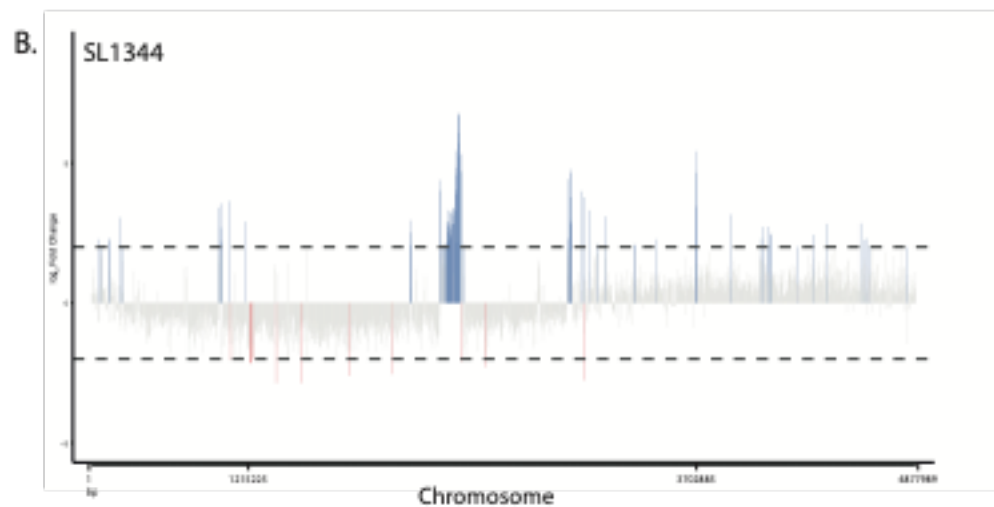
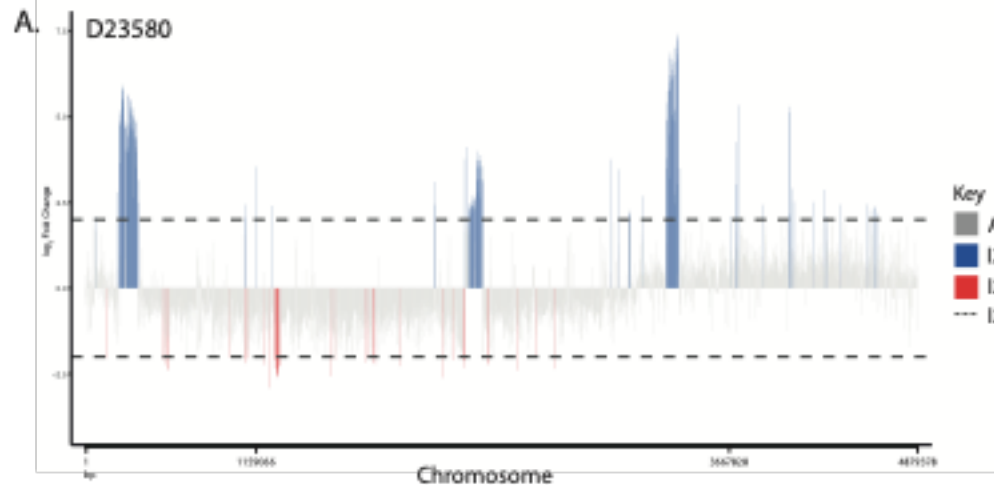
**Supplementary data file S3. RNA-seq differential expression analysis results of *S. Typhimurium* D23580 sucrose gradients.** Filtered ( $\text{padj} < 0.05$ ) and unfiltered DESeq2 results for each measured sucrose concentration (50% or 60%) and condition (ciprofloxacin-treatment or no treatment (NT)). Sheet 1 (“Table\_of\_contents”) provides sheet names and descriptions for data included in each sheet. Data can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/N9CW5>

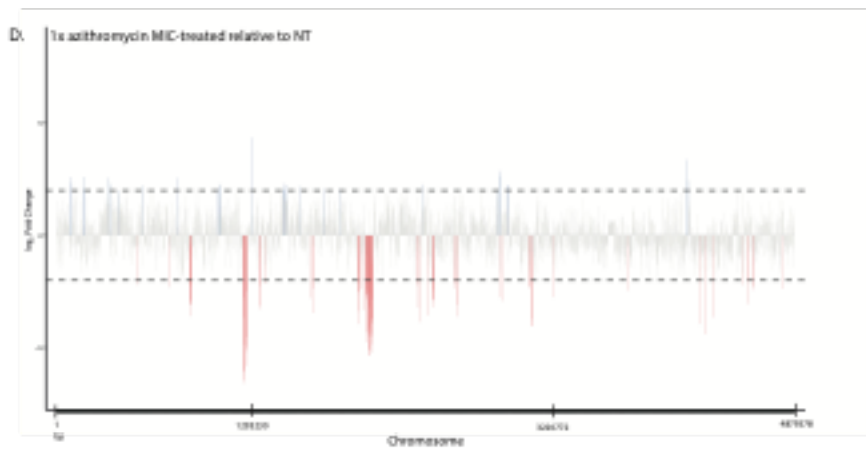
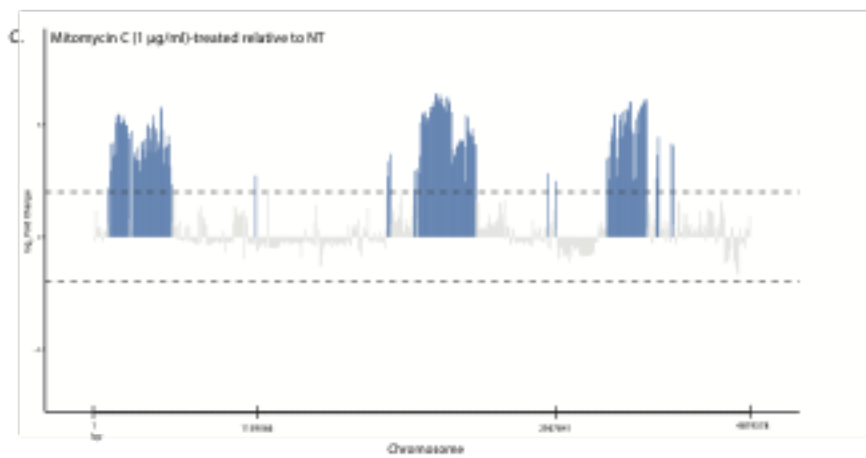
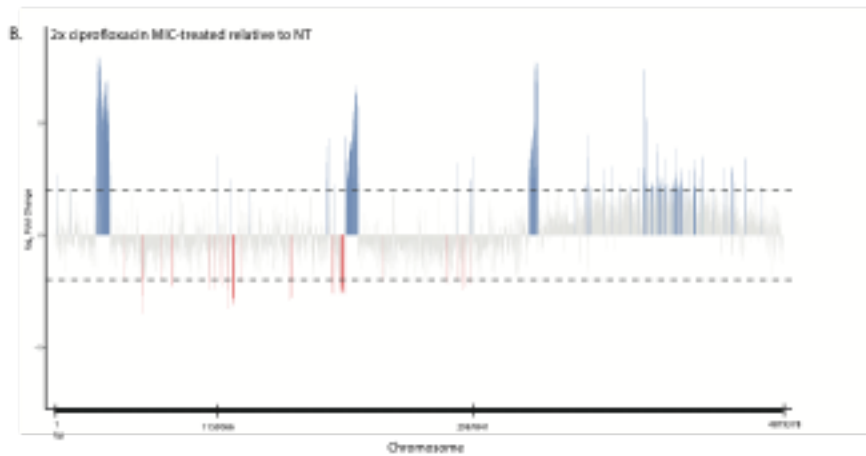
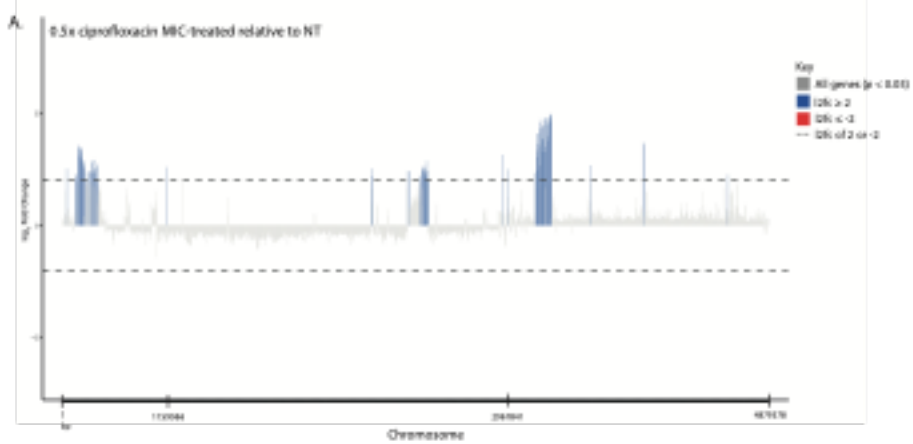
**Supplementary data file S4. Sample names and corresponding accession numbers for raw sequencing data stored in ENA.** Table of RNA-sequencing and whole genome sequencing (WGS) sample names and accession numbers for access to data submitted to the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA). Data can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/N9CW5>



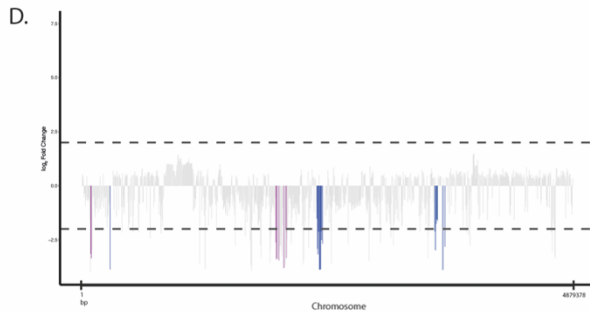
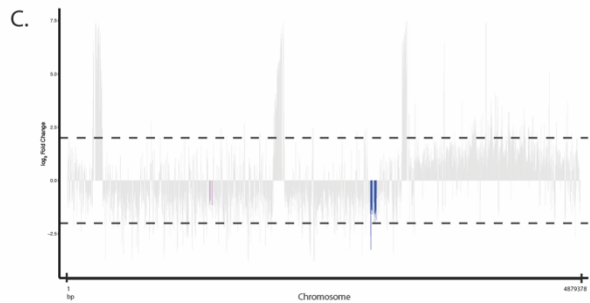
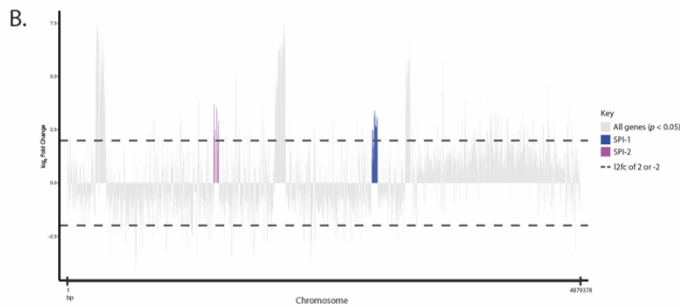
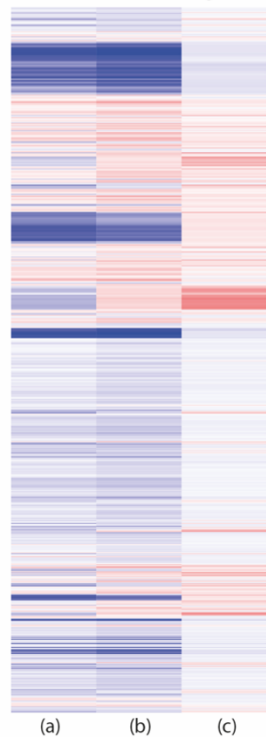
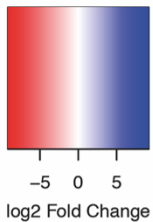




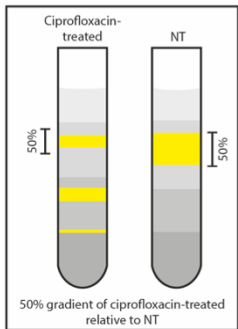




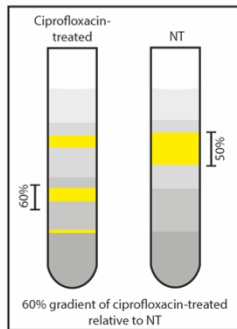
A. All genes log2 Fold Change relative to 50% sucrose gradient



(a)



(b)



(c)

