Methods. Premoistened swabs were used to culture sink drains, floor drains, and equipment for CPO. Percutaneous swabs were ordered monthly for all patients in non-behavioral health wards. Specimens were plated to CRE- and ESBL-selective media, and colonies identified by MALDI-TOF. The presence of the bla\_KPC\_gene was confirmed by PCR. When environmental CPO isolates were detected, EVS procedures and practices were reviewed.

Results. In June 2016, bla\_KPC\_Lecelicia\_adecarboxylata was isolated from an EVS closet floor drain, and in August 2016, from drains in four additional closets. In the previous 10 years, Lecelicia sp. was isolated just once from a clinical culture. In September 2016, routine surveillance revealed new-onset bla\_KPC\_L. adecarboxylata colonization in a stem cell transplant recipient. Investigation included 33 cultures collected from sink and floor drains, EVS equipment, and other items. EVS equipment, especially mop buckets, were identified as a likely point source due to their use in patient care areas and closets with contaminated floor drains. Among seven mop buckets sampled, one grew bla\_KPC\_L. adecarboxylata. Whole genome sequencing demonstrated genetic relatedness of the Lecelicia isolates. Floor cleaner was changed to a disinfectant solution. Extensive decontamination of 67 EVS closets and equipment was performed urgently. No further patient or environmental cultures have grown bla\_KPC\_L. adecarboxylata.

Conclusion. The recovery of a highly unusual organism, rarely found in clinical specimens, that was also carrying a bla\_KPC\_plasmid, allowed us to detect environmental spread of this organism in the hospital. The ability to track this organism using genome sequencing provided strong evidence of the mode of spread, leading to effective remediation. No evidence-based methods exist for remediating drain contamination, which can serve as a potential reservoir for transmission.

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996. Bare Below the Elbows: A Randomized Trial to Determine Whether Wearing Short-Sleeved Coats Reduces the Risk for Pathogen Transmission

Amrita John, MBBS; Heba Alhamidi, MD; Melany Gonzalez-Orta, MD; Jennifer Cadden, BS; Curtis J. Donkey, MD; Infectious Diseases and HIV Medicine, University Hospitals Case Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; Research Service, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; Division of Infectious Disease, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; Research Service, Cleveland VA Medical Center, Cleveland, Ohio; Infectious Diseases, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio

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Background. Physicians’ white coats are frequently contaminated, but seldom cleaned. Therefore, in the UK, a “bare below the elbows” dress code policy includes a recommendation that personnel wear short sleeves. However, it has not been demonstrated that wearing short sleeves reduces the likelihood of pathogen transmission.

Methods. We conducted a randomized, cross-over trial involving simulated patient care interactions to test the hypothesis that transmission of pathogens occurs less frequently when personnel wear short- vs long-sleeved coats. Healthcare personnel were randomized to wear either long- or short-sleeved white coats, while examining a mannequin contaminated with cauliflower mosaic virus DNA followed by examination of an uncontaminated mannequin. We compared the frequency of transfer of the DNA marker with the sleeves and/or wrists with the uncontaminated mannequin. During work rounds, physicians were observed to determine how often the sleeves of white coats contacted patients or the environment.

Results. During work rounds and simulated examinations, the sleeve cuff of long-sleeved coats frequently contacted the patient/mannequin or environment. Contamination with the DNA marker was detected significantly more often when personnel wore long- vs short-sleeved coats (5 of 20, 25% vs 0 of 20, 0%; P = 0.02). In one of five (20%) instances of sleeve and/or wrist contamination, the DNA marker was transferred to the second mannequin. It was also observed that healthcare personnel were less likely to include their wrist in handwashing between simulations if they were wearing long-sleeved coats.

Conclusion. During simulations of patient care, the sleeve cuff of long-sleeved white coats frequently became contaminated with a viral DNA marker that could be transmitted. These results support the recommendation that healthcare personnel wear short sleeves to reduce the risk for pathogen transmission.
998. Utility of Routine Genomic Sequencing for Infection Control Surveillance
Richard T Ellison III, MD, FIDSA, FSHEA; Andrew Hess, PhD; Jamol Mathew, PhD; Jeff Halperin, MBA PMP; Brian Gross, MSc, BSEE, RRT, SMEEE; Doyle V Ward, PhD.1 Medicine, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts; Philips Innovation Lab, Philips Healthcare, Cambridge, Massachusetts;2 Microbiology and Physiological Systems, University of Massachusetts Medical School, Worcester, Massachusetts

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Background. Recent work indicates that comprehensive genomic sequencing can be a highly effective tool in defining the transmission of microbial pathogens. We have studied the utility of the routine use of genomic sequencing for infection control surveil- lance in an academic medical center.

Methods. The genomes of inpatient and emergency department isolates of Staphylococcus, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Enterococcus faecium were sequenced. Within each species, single-nucleotide polymor-phisms (SNP) were identified in the core genome for all isolates using alignment-based methods. The number of SNP differences between isolate pairs was determined and used, in combination with the patient’s electronic medical records to identify potential transmission events.

Results. Between September 2016 and March 2017, 388 S. aureus, 66 P. aerugi-nosa, 48 K. pneumoniae, and 29 E. faecium isolates were sequenced from 573 patients. There was variation in the distribution of SNP differences between intrapatient iso-lates for the four pathogens; with the least variability for E. faecium and greatest for P. aeruginosa. The majority of the bacterial isolates from separate patients appeared to be genetically unique exhibiting marked SNP differences from other isolates. There were 19 sets of isolates where the SNP variation between interpatient isolates was either comparable to that of intrapatient variation (12) and suggestive of recent transmission events, or with SNP variation somewhat greater than the intrapatient SNP variation (7) suggesting relative relatedness. Only one of the highly related sets had been previously identified by standard infection control surveillance. Likely transmissions appeared to have occurred both in the inpatient and outpatient settings, and the transmission routes were not always apparent.

Conclusion. The routine use of genomic sequencing analysis identified previously unrecognized likely transmission events within the institution’s patient population that are of relevance to infection control surveillance. This capacity should significantly enhance our understanding of the epidemiology of hospital acquired infections, and assist in developing and implementing new prevention strategies.

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999. Invasive Mycobacterium abscessus Infection After Cardiac Surgery: Epidemiology and Clinical Outcomes
Arthur W. Baker, MD, MPhil1,2,3, Eileen K. Mazariz, MD1; Sarah S. Lewis, MD1,2 MPHP;4,5; Jason K. Stout, MD1,3MHS;6 Devierick J. Anderson, MD, MPhil1,2,3,4,5,7,8
Peter K. Smith, MD1,9; Jacob N. Schroder, MD1; Mani A. Daneshmand, MD1; Barbara D. Alexander, MD, MHS, FIDSA1,2,3,4; Daniel J. Sexton, MD, FIDSA, FSHEA1,2,3; Cameron R. Wolfe, MBBS (Hons), MPH1;4; "Duke Center for Anti-infectious Disease Stewardship and Infection Prevention, Durham, North Carolina; Division of Infectious Diseases, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina; Duke Infection Control Outreach Network, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina; Division of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina

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Background. We recently mitigated a clonal outbreak of Mycobacterium abscessus, including a large cluster of patients who developed invasive infection after expo- sure to heater-cooler units (HCU) during cardiac surgery. Recent studies have described a small number of Mycobacterium chimaera infections linked to open-heart surgery; however, little is known about the epidemiology and clinical courses of cardiac sur- gery patients with invasive infection from rapidly-growing mycobacteria, such as M. abscessus.

Methods. We retrospectively collected clinical data from all patients who under-went cardiac surgery at our hospital and had positive cultures for M. abscessus from 2013 to 2016. We excluded heart transplant recipients and patients who at time of diagnosis had ventilator assist devices. We analyzed patient characteristics, antibiotic treatment courses, surgical interventions, and clinical outcomes.

Results. Nine cardiac surgery patients who met the case definition developed culture-proven invasive infection from M. abscessus (Figure 1). Seven (78%) infec-tions occurred after surgeries that included valve replacement. Median time from suspected inoculation in the operating room to first positive culture was 49 days (interquartile range, 38–115 days). Seven (78%) patients had bloodstream infections and six (67%) patients had sternal wound infections. Six (67%) patients devel- oped disseminated disease with infection at multiple sites. All patients received combination antimicrobial therapy. The most common regimen (n = 6) was imipenem, amikacin, and tigecycline. Four (44%) patients experienced ther-a- py-limiting antibiotic toxicities (Figure 2). Seven (78%) patients were well enough to undergo at least one surgical debridement. Five (56%) patients stopped therapy due to presumed cure, but four (44%) patients had deaths attributable to M. absces-sus infection.

Conclusion. Invasive M. abscessus infection after cardiac surgery was associated with high morbidity and mortality. Most patients underwent surgical debridement and received prolonged three-drug antimicrobial therapy, which was complicated by numerous antibiotic toxicities. Treatment cured five patients, but four patients died from mycobacterial disease.

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1000. Daily Chlorhexidine Bathing in General Hospital Units – Results of the ABATE Infection Trial (Active BATHing to Eliminate Infection)
Susan S. Huang, MD, MPH, FIDSA, FSHEA1; Edward Septimus, MD, FIDSA, FSHEA2; Ken Kleinman, ScD3; Julia Moody, MS4; Jason Hickok, RN, MBA5; Lauren Heim, MPH6; Adriana Gombosev, MS7; Talisar Avery, MS8; Katherine Haffnerreffer, BS9; Lauren Shimmel, BA10; Mary K. Hayden, MD11; Robert A. Weinstein, MD12; Caren Spencer-Smith, MT (ASCP)13; Rebecca E. Kaganov, BA14; Michael V. Murphy, BA15; Tyler Forehand, BS16; Julie Lankiewicz, MPH17; Micaela H. Cosdy, MS18; Lena M Portillo, BS, MT (ASCP)19; Jalpa Patel Sarup, BS, MT (ASCP)20; Jennifer A. Irrgang, MD, MS21; Jonathan Perlin, MD, PhD, MSHA, FACP22; Michael M. Andres, BS, MT (ASCP)23; Richard Platt, MD, MS, FIDSA, FSHEA24; NIH Health Care Systems Research Collaborative; Division of Infectious Diseases and Health Policy Research Institute, University of California Irvine School of Medicine, Irvine, California; 2Clinical Services Group, HCA Inc., Nashville, Tennessee; 3University of Massachusetts Amherst School of Public Health and Health Sciences, Amherst, Massachusetts; 4Department of Population Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute, Boston, Massachusetts; 5Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, Rush University Medical Center, Chicago, Illinois; 6Cook County Health and Hospitals System, Chicago, Illinois; 7Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

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Background. Universal decolonization with daily chlorhexidine (CHG) bathing with and without nasal decolonization has significantly reduced positive MRSA clinical cultures and bloodstream infections in adult ICUs in several clinical trials. We