obtained from a centralized, enterprise data warehouse. The study was approved by the University of Tennessee Health Science Center Institutional Review Board.

**Results.** A total of 1,055,377 patients on antibiotics from 136 facilities were included. Procalcitonin levels were evaluated for 103,913 of these patients. Within the procalcitonin group, 90% had their first procalcitonin drawn within 36 hours of the first antibiotic dose and 70% of patients had a single procalcitonin level drawn. Of those with multiple levels, 23% had levels drawn 24–72 hours apart. Only 32% had antibiotic therapy discontinued within 36 hours of meeting threshold.

**Conclusion.** There is wide variability among facilities regarding procalcitonin use and antibiotic stewardship. Procalcitonin levels are drawn disproportionately for most patients. Opportunities exist to standardize monitoring and encourage discontinuation of antibiotics when thresholds are reached. The findings of this analysis will be used to aid efforts to establish a health-system wide procalcitonin monitoring protocol to support antibiotic and laboratory stewardship.

**Disclosures.** All authors: No reported disclosures.

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**2014. TLDA Validation of a Host Response Signature to Discriminate Bacterial, Viral, and Non-Infectious Causes of Illness**

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**Background.** Bacterial and viral infections are difficult to clinically distinguish, leading to antibiotic overuse and resistance. Host response signatures are an alternative to traditional pathogen-detection methods to differentiate these etiologies. Several gene expression signatures have been described although performance in ambiguous clinical phenotypes is unknown. Here, we validate a host response signature and explore its performance in microbiology-negative and co-infection cases.

**Methods.** RT-PCR tagman low-density array (TLDA) was used to measure 87 gene targets in a training cohort of 151 samples from patients with microbiologically confirmed and clinically adjudicated phenotypes (48 bacterial; 54 viral; 49 non-infectious illness [NI]). This data were used to construct three distinct classifiers: bacterial vs. nonbacterial; viral vs. nonviral; and non-infectious vs. infectious. This model was then applied to 75 subjects with co-infection and 40 suspected bacterial cases without microbiological confirmation.

**Results.** Leave-one-out cross validation on the training cohort demonstrated AUC values of 0.85, 0.89, and 0.88 for bacterial, viral, and NI, respectively. In 40 subjects with microbiology-negative bacterial infections, a bacterial or co-infection signature was present in 72%. Of 75 subjects with co-infection, 53 included a bacterial infection following recent viral infection and 22 were bacterial infections in patients with chronic viral infection (e.g., HCV, HIV). Bacterial infection and co-infection were successfully identified in these varied scenarios.

**Conclusion.** This gene expression signature distinguished bacterial, viral, and noninfectious causes of illness. The host response was used to confirm the majority of suspected bacterial infection without conformational microbiology but also highlighted a viral response in many. Furthermore, the use of distinct viral and bacterial signatures was capable of identifying co-infection. Such a host gene expression strategy, when translated to a clinical and operational platform, can provide insights into the etiology of both simple and complex cases that are not currently available.

**Disclosures.** G. S. Ginsburg, Host Response Inc.: Board Member, Founder, Scientific Advisor and Shareholder, Stock (currently worth < $100). C. W. Woods, Host Response: Founder, Licensing agreement or royalty; Qvella: Collaborator, Research support; BioFire: Collaborator, none. E. L. Tsalik, Host Response, Inc.: Founder, Equity.

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**2015. Host Gene Expression Identifies Infection Triggers of Asthma Exacerbation**

Emily Lydon, BS; Charles Bullard, MBA; Mert Aydin, MSc; Olga Better, BS; Anna Mazur, BA; Micah T. McClinton, MD, PhD; Geoffrey S. Ginsburg, MD, PhD; Christopher W. Woods, MD, MPH, FIDSA; Thomas Burke, PhD; Ricardo Henao, PhD and Ebrahim L. Tsalik, MD, MHS, PhD;2 Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, North Carolina, 3Center for Applied Genomics and Precision Medicine, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, Emergency Department Service, Durham Veterans Affairs Health Care System, Durham, North Carolina

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**Background.** Asthma exacerbations often occur due to infectious triggers. However, determining whether an infection is present and whether it is bacterial or viral remains clinically challenging leading to antibiotic overuse. A diagnostic strategy that clarifies these uncertainties can enable personalized asthma treatment and mitigate antibiotic resistance. Host gene expression is a promising alternative to pathogen-detection methods.

**Methods.** Forty-six patients presenting to the emergency department with asthma exacerbations were enrolled. Cases were clinically adjudicated as having bacterial, viral, or noninfectious etiologies. RT-PCR tagman low density array (TLDA) was used to quantify 87 gene targets, followed by logistic regression modeling to define class. Etiologies were correlated with clinical information including symptoms and antibiotic prescriptions.

**Results.** Most clinical parameters were similar between groups including duration of symptoms, presence of sick contacts, and severity of nasal symptoms, cough, headache, throat discomfort, and malaise. Only fever/chills (P = 0.006) and a combination of subjective symptoms (P = 0.01) were found to be significantly different. In contrast to clinically adjudicated phenotypes, host response signatures identified very few bacterial triggers. Notably, none of the adjudicated bacterial cases had positive confirmatory microbiology. Instead, 29 and 57% were identified as having a viral infection or no infection, respectively. Despite the above, most bacterial infections identified using host gene expression, antibiotics were prescribed in 47.8% of all cases.

**Conclusion.** Host response signatures indicated that asthma exacerbation is frequently caused by bacterial infections, even when clinical adjudications suggest this to be the case. Instead, most are either of viral or non-infectious etiologies. Despite most cases being classified as nonbacterial, empiric antibiotics were prescribed nearly half the time. A host gene expression approach can offer clinically useful diagnostic information to guide more appropriate antibiotic use among patients with asthma exacerbation.

**Disclosures.** G. S. Ginsburg, Host Response Inc.: Board Member, Founder, Scientific Advisor and Shareholder, Stock (currently worth < $100). C. W. Woods, Host Response: Founder, Licensing agreement or royalty; Qvella: Collaborator, Research support; BioFire: Collaborator, none. E. L. Tsalik, Host Response, Inc.: Founder, Equity.

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**2016. TaqMan Multiplex PCR of a Seven-Gene Host Biomarker to Discriminate Bacterial from Viral Infections**

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**Background.** Acute infections are among the most frequent diagnoses in outpatient care settings. Early, accurate and rapid differentiation between viral and bacterial infections is critical to guide the choice of antimicrobial treatment, improve patient outcome, and to ensure antimicrobial stewardship. Current microbiological offerings rely on direct pathogen detection, which is limited by insufficient accuracy. Recently, host-response-based molecular diagnostics have been considered as a novel alternative for rapid diagnosis of bacterial/viral infections. We developed and validated a seven-gene signature set (higher in viral infections [JUP, TJP1, GAP1], and CTBI) that accurately discriminates between viral and bacterial infections (in six validation cohorts, summary ROC AUC of 0.91 [95% CI, 0.82–0.96]. We here describe the development of a rapid multiplex HostDX detector, a seven-gene host response biomarker PCR assay that discriminates bacterial from viral infections.

**Methods.** To translate the microarray-derived gene set into a rapid and easy to use assay to be run on an automated PCR instrument, TaqMan® assays were designed, multiplexed and optimized for each of the seven targets. Data were then compared with NanoString® and an ultrafast qPCR platform, respectively.

**Results.** Seven TaqMan assays were divided into two multiplex reactions, one 5-plex and one 4-plex. KPA8A was included as housekeeping control. Neither clinical nor healthy subjects showed cross-reactivity. The TaqMan® assay used improved decision making for outpatients with suspected acute infections.

**Conclusion.** The discovered seven-gene set was validated and allows for robust discrimination between bacterial and viral infections. Multiplexing permits more cost-effective method of testing. As a rapid test, HostDX® Fever could assist in improved decision making for outpatients with suspected acute infections.

**Disclosures.** W. Nie, Inflammatix Inc.: Employee, Salary. D. Rawling, Inflammatix Inc.: Employee, Salary. M. Eshoo, Inflammatix Inc.: Employee, Salary. P. Khatri, Inflammatix Inc.: Board Member, Equity. J. Romanowsky, Inflammatix Inc.: Employee, Salary. O. Liesenfeld, Inflammatix Inc.: Employee, Salary. T. Sweeney, Inflammatix Inc.: Employee, Salary.

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**2017. Improving Timely Diagnosis of Meningitis and Encephalitis: The Effectiveness of Online CME**

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**Session:** 229: Diagnostics: Biomarkers and Novel Approaches Saturday, October 6, 2018: 12:30 PM

**Background.** Timely and accurate diagnosis of meningitis and encephalitis not only guides the patient care strategy, but can reduce inappropriate antibiotic use, support antimicrobial stewardship, shorten hospital stays, and decrease morbidity and mortality.

**Methods.** To address knowledge and competence gaps among ID specialists, a CME/Certified, thirty-minute, video-based, multidisciplinary panel discussion