

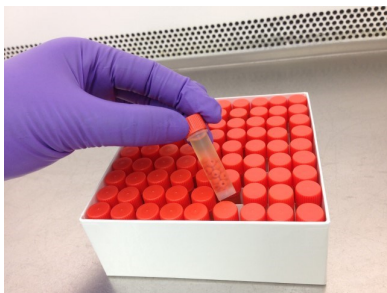
NCTC news - April 2017

NCTC: a dynamic collection with *bla bla bla*

NCTC must endure as a dynamic collection of bacteria, accessible and significant to the biomedical scientific community. With this objective in mind we have recently added five new strains that can be used as positive controls for detecting beta-lactamase genes: *bla*_{GES}, *bla*_{SME-4}, *bla*_{SPM-1}, *bla*_{NMC-A} and *bla*_{IMI-2}. We also offer two new strains for detecting genes conferring transferable resistance to the oxazolidinone class, including both linezolid and tedizolid.



[Read more](#)



Links with the PHE reference laboratories

PHE's National Infection Service Bacteriology Reference Department (**BRD**) is a national reference centre for bacterial infections. BRD regularly perform specialist testing, bacterial characterisation and susceptibility testing for a wide range of bacterial pathogens of international public health importance. NCTC benefits significantly from a close working relationship with BRD which includes access to recently circulating clinical strains, a wealth of expertise from microbiologists who are internationally recognised in their fields and access to specialist and reference testing

One such example is the newly accessioned strain of *Escherichia coli* (**NCTC13846**) which contains the *mcr-1* gene. This strain was accessioned into the collection following advice from Professor Neil Woodford of the Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections Reference Unit (**AMRHAU**). This strain has very recently been incorporated into **EUCAST** guidelines as a control strain.

Antimicrobial susceptibility testing control strains

NCTC offers a wide range of strains that can be used as controls in antimicrobial susceptibility testing to:

- monitor test performance and quality of the materials used
- confirm that methods used detect resistance

Read our leaflet to find out which guideline producers recommend our strains.

[Read more](#)



Antimicrobial susceptibility testing control strains available from NCTC

Public Health England's National Collection of Type Cultures (NCTC) offers a wide range of strains that can be used as controls in antimicrobial susceptibility testing to:

- monitor test performance and quality of the materials used
- confirm that the in-use method will detect resistance

NCTC strains are verified by Public Health England's Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (AMRHAU) Reference Unit and are used in diagnostic testing laboratories worldwide. The strains listed are specifically recommended by one or more of the following:

- The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST)
- Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI)
- United Kingdom Standards for Microbiology Investigations (formerly National Standard Methods)
- British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy (BSAC)

For more information or to order online visit: www.phe-culturecollections.org.uk



Don't forget you can order your very own copy of the NCTC brochure!
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Did you know that the **EUCAST quality control tables** were updated in January 2017?
Inclusion of a recently acquired colistin resistant strain of *E. coli* is now recommended:
***E. coli* NCTC 13846 (mcr-1 positive)**



Evaluation of UK foods as sources of ESBL-producing and carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli*

Public Health England and the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA) recently conducted a study to determine the prevalence and types of extended-spectrum β -lactamase (ESBL)-producing and carbapenem-resistant *Escherichia coli* in certain foods in five UK regions.

Reassuringly, ESBL-producing *E. coli* was not detected in any of the fruit or vegetables tested and none of the meat, fruit or vegetables contained carbapenem-resistant *E. coli*. However, around 2% of pork and beef samples and 65% of all chicken samples were found to be positive for ESBL-producing *E. coli*.

[Read the full article](#)

Meet the team: Debbie Beer

Debbie has worked for Culture Collections for 15 years. Her first role was laboratory based within ECACC and in 2005 she became the technical support coordinator for ECACC. Debbie now undertakes the role for all four Culture Collections, managing technical enquiries and feedback and working closely with our distributors.



Three facts about Debbie:

- her greatest achievement has been learning to ride a racehorse
 - she has two pets; a dog called Alfie, and a horse called Kabear
 - her party trick is the ability to conjure a delicious meal out of thin air to feed unexpected guests
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Events

NCTC will be attending the following events in April and May 2017 - we hope to see you there.

European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease

27th ECCMID
22-25 April 2017, Vienna, Austria



We hope to see you at ECCMID, come and find us!

- Stand: 34A
- Oral presentation: NCTC_3000 project, 22 April 2017 (13:30 - 15:30), Abstract 2956
- Eposter: EV0092

British Society of Microbial Technology

32nd BSMT Annual scientific conference



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