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## Characterization of the biofilm phenotype of methicillin-susceptible and resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in UZ hospital Leuven

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The ability of antibiotic-resistant bacteria to form biofilms makes them both more virulent and more difficult to treat. There are several virulence factors that help them to express this behavior. Here, the biofilm phenotype of a collection of clinical isolates of *S. aureus* that were collected from the patients in UZ hospital Leuven in Belgium was investigated. The biofilm-forming behavior and phenotypic results were compared between antibiotic-resistant and antibiotic-sensitive MRSA and MSSA strains, which indicated a common protein-dependent biofilm in both strains, especially the MRSA strains. This suggests that cell wall-anchored proteins are important factors and mostly cause cell adherence.

### Biography

Laleh Khodaparast has completed her PhD from KU Leuven, Department of Microbiology and Immunology. She is a Post-doctorate at the Faculty of Medicine, Switch Laboratory VIB-KU Leuven Center for Brain & Disease Research, Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, University of Leuven. She is currently working on a new antibacterial strategy which uses synthetic peptides to combat Gram-negative bacteria. She has published more than 8 papers in reputed journals and has been serving as an Editorial Board Member.

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