

# Transcriptome of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi within macrophages revealed through the selective capture of transcribed sequences

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The cDNA obtained by selective capture of transcribed sequences is a complex mixture that can be used in conjunction with microarrays to determine global gene expression by a pathogen during infection. We used this method to study genes expressed by *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi, the etiological agent of typhoid fever, within human macrophages. Global expression profiles of Typhi grown *in vitro* and within macrophages at different time points were obtained and compared. Known virulence factors, such as the SPI-1- and SPI-2-encoded type III secretion systems, were found to be expressed as predicted during infection by *Salmonella*, which validated our data. Typhi inside macrophages showed increased expression of genes encoding resistance to antimicrobial peptides, used the glyoxylate bypass for fatty acid utilization, and did not induce the SOS response or the oxidative stress response. Genes coding for the flagellar apparatus, chemotaxis, and iron transport systems were down-regulated *in vivo*. Many cDNAs corresponding to genes with unknown functions were up-regulated inside human macrophages and will be important to consider for future studies to elucidate the intracellular lifestyle of this human-specific pathogen. Real-time quantitative PCR was consistent with the microarray results. The combined use of selective capture of transcribed sequences and microarrays is an effective way to determine the bacterial transcriptome *in vivo* and could be used to investigate transcriptional profiles of other bacterial pathogens without the need to recover many nanograms of bacterial mRNA from host and without increasing the multiplicity of infection beyond what is seen in nature.

microarrays | *in vivo* bacterial gene expression | host–pathogen interaction

**S**almonella infections are a significant cause of morbidity in humans and animals. *Salmonella enterica* serovar Typhi (hereafter referred to as Typhi) is the etiological agent of typhoid fever, a major health problem in developing countries, and causes an estimated 16 million cases and 600,000 deaths annually worldwide (1). Publications on human typhoid that use modern immunological and molecular techniques are scarce. We have a very limited knowledge of the pathogenesis of Typhi because Typhi infects only humans, resulting in a lack of virulence assays. Many studies have relied on a murine model of human typhoid that uses *S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium (hereafter referred to as Typhimurium), which causes a typhoid-like disease in mice. Consequently, what is known about Typhi pathogenicity has been largely extrapolated from studies of Typhimurium infections in mice.

The *Salmonella* chromosome possesses insertions of large regions of DNA, containing virulence genes. These *Salmonella* pathogenicity islands (SPIs) play a key role in *Salmonella* pathogenesis (2). Thus far, 10 SPIs have been identified in Typhi (3). SPI-1 and SPI-2, which are present in all *S. enterica* serovars, represent two major pathogenesis determinants that encode type III secretion systems (TTSS). SPI-1 and SPI-2 TTSS have distinct roles in *Salmonella* pathogenesis. SPI-1 effectors are

injected into host cells via the TTSS and are required for invasion of epithelial cells (4), whereas SPI-2 contributes to *Salmonella* survival inside macrophages (5, 6). The ability to survive and replicate within macrophages is thought to be one of the major pathogenesis determinants for *Salmonella* (7, 8). After entry into macrophages, *Salmonella* adapts by modifying its gene expression to respond to the host cell environment. It was recently shown that Typhimurium alters the transcription of 20% of its genome (919 genes) once inside murine macrophages (9). It was previously shown that Typhimurium survives better in murine macrophages than in human macrophages, whereas Typhi survives better in human macrophages than in murine macrophages (10). It is possible that Typhi expresses specific factors for survival in human macrophages. Genomic comparison between Typhi strain CT18 and Typhimurium strain LT2 revealed that there are 601 genes unique to Typhi and 479 genes unique to Typhimurium (3, 11).

Microarray analysis is a powerful tool to expand our current knowledge of global bacterial gene expression, but there are very few studies on bacterial transcriptional response during infection. There are many factors that prevent using DNA microarrays effectively for studying bacterial gene expression in infected host cells or tissues, such as the low amount of bacterial RNA *in vivo*, the short half-life of bacterial mRNA, and the contamination of bacterial mRNA with rRNA and host RNA (12). To overcome these problems, researchers have used different approaches that can create additional problems, such as models of infection that do not necessarily represent conditions found within host cells or tissues during the infectious process, and which may cause artifactual bacterial gene expression.

Selective capture of transcribed sequences (SCOTS) has been used to identify genes expressed *in vivo* by bacterial pathogens such as *Mycobacterium* (13, 14), *Salmonella* (15–17), *Actinobacillus* (18), *Helicobacter pylori* (19), and avian pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (20). In this report, we demonstrate that SCOTS can be used to obtain high-quality transcript profiles from intracellular bacteria such as Typhi within human macrophages, and that the use of microarrays and SCOTS-cDNA hybridization provides an effective means to elucidate the global bacterial expression profile from infected host cells.

## Results

**SCOTS-cDNA.** To verify whether SCOTS-derived cDNAs could be successfully used for microarray analysis, we hybridized each of

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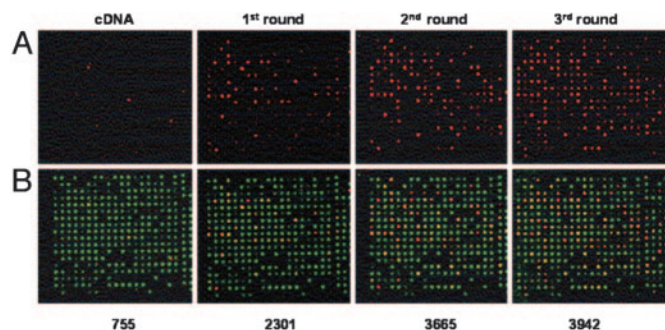
This paper was submitted directly (Track II) to the PNAS office.

Abbreviations: qPCR, quantitative real-time PCR; SCOTS, selective capture of transcribed sequences; SPI, *Salmonella* pathogenicity island; TTSS, type three secretion system; Typhi, *S. enterica* serovar Typhi; Typhimurium, *S. enterica* serovar Typhimurium.

Data deposition: The microarray data have been deposited in the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) database, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo (accession nos. GSE3094–GSE3096).

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**Fig. 1.** Scan of the first subarray of the microarray slides hybridized with, from left to right, cDNA, 1 $\times$  SCOTS, 2 $\times$  SCOTS, and 3 $\times$  SCOTS from 2 h. (A and B) Cy5 (cDNA) signal only (A) and both Cy5 (cDNA) and Cy3 (genomic DNA) signal (B). The number of genes detected after each round of SCOTS are at the bottom of each column. A set of 100 Typhimurium-specific genes were used to calculate the detection threshold. Genes with signals greater than the median of these 100 genes plus 3 standard deviations were considered to be detected.

the three rounds of SCOTS and the cDNA obtained from infected macrophages 2 h after infection (T2) to *Salmonella* arrays. The initial cDNA obtained from infected macrophages very weakly hybridized to the *Salmonella* microarrays, and only a few genes were detected (Fig. 1). This result demonstrates the inadequate sensitivity of labeled cDNA and illustrates limitations of direct identification of bacterial gene transcripts during interaction with host cells. The low number of genes detected in the initial cDNA and the low intensities of spots also confirmed the absence of contaminating bacterial genomic DNA, which was confirmed by PCR (data not shown), and the lack of host cDNA cross-hybridization. The number of detected genes increased in successive SCOTS rounds (Fig. 1, see numbers at the bottom of each column). This increasing complexity of transcripts was previously visualized by Southern blot (13). All cDNAs used for hybridization to microarrays were obtained by three rounds of SCOTS. Nearly 4,000 genes were detected by using SCOTS-cDNA in each of the conditions, without regard to whether they are up-regulated or down-regulated relative to other growth conditions (see Fig. 1 legend for detection threshold). These results illustrate that the diversity of capture efficiencies were similar for the different conditions tested and that detection was largely independent of the quantity of bacteria recovered from samples (Fig. 4, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site). Similarly, detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* transcripts by using microarrays identified 75% of genes that had measurable signal intensities (21).

The genomic content of Typhi strain ISP1820 was compared to strain CT18, the template used for the DNA array design. Seventy-six CT18 genes were missing or altered in the ISP1820 genome (Fig. 5, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site) and four regions (II, V, IX, and XIII) encoding prophage-like elements were not detected in strain ISP1820, as was observed in other Typhi strains (22).

**In Vivo Global Transcription Profiles.** cDNA of Typhi present in the supernatants of infected macrophages was obtained by SCOTS and used as an *in vitro* control. Typhi cDNA was also obtained by SCOTS from infected macrophages after phagocytosis (T0), and intracellularly at 2 h (T2), 8 h (T8), and 24 h (T24) after infection. The gene expression profiles for intracellular Typhi were compared with the transcriptome of bacteria from the cell supernatants (Table 1, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site). During the time course of infection, 36% of the Typhi genome showed significant expression differences within macrophages compared to extracellular

Typhi obtained from the cell supernatant. The number of Typhi genes down-regulated (2-fold) during infection, compared to bacteria from the cell supernatant, was 490, 474, 705, and 478 genes for T0, T2, T8, and T24, respectively. There were 1,129 genes down-regulated by intracellular Typhi from at least one time point when compared to the supernatant (Table 2, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site), and 138 genes were repressed at all intracellular time points (Fig. 6A, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site).

Typhi gene transcripts corresponding to  $\approx$ 300 different ORFs were more abundant (2-fold) at each time point (273, 309, 301, and 309 genes at T0, T2, T8, and T24, respectively). A total of 628 genes were up-regulated by intracellular Typhi at one or more time points (Table 3, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site). Some genes were more highly expressed only at one time point, others were up-regulated at two or more time points, and 117 Typhi genes were up-regulated at all intracellular time points (Fig. 6B). These intracellular expressed genes include SPI-2 genes (see below) and other genes involved in virulence, such as *pagC*, *pagD*, and *mgtBC*, and genes encoding osmotically induced proteins (*osmC* and *osmE*) and phage shock protein (*psp*).

**SPI Expression.** SPI-1 encodes a TTSS required for invasion of nonphagocytic cells (4). We found that some SPI-1 genes were up-regulated during bacterial uptake by macrophages at T0, such as *prg*, *sip*, *spa*, and *inv* genes, and then down-regulated after internalization and for the rest of the infection (Fig. 2A). SPI-2 encodes a second TTSS that is required for *Salmonella* survival inside macrophages (5, 6). In our model, some SPI-2 genes were up-regulated after bacterial uptake by macrophages (T0), and most SPI-2 genes were up-regulated after 2 h of infection (Fig. 2B). Our results are consistent with the biological roles of both TTSS. Moreover, it is notable that genes encoding for SPI-1 effectors, such as *sopE*, *sopE2*, *sopB* (*sigD*), and *sopD*, or SPI-2 effectors such as *pipB* and *sifB*, demonstrated an expression profile similar to their respective TTSS even if encoded outside the SPIs. SPI-3-localized *mgtBC* genes, which encode a Mg<sup>2+</sup> transporter required for full virulence of Typhimurium in mice (23), were found to be induced in macrophages. No significant difference in expression was observed for SPI-4 and SPI-9 components. The SPI-5 encoded gene *pipD* was overexpressed within macrophages at all time points. SPI-6 possesses a mixture of genes that were either up-regulated or repressed *in vivo*. A distinct feature of Typhi compared to Typhimurium is SPI-7, a 134-kb region (24) that encodes the type-IV pili involved in entry into intestinal cells (25) and the *viaB* locus responsible for the synthesis of the Vi-capsule, which is involved in the suppression of early inflammatory responses of intestinal cells (26). For SPI-7, 19 genes were up-regulated within macrophages, including *sopE*, a SPI-1 effector, and 47 genes were down-regulated within macrophages for at least one time point, including genes involved in Type-IV pili synthesis and genes involved in Vi capsule biosynthesis. Their role may be more important at the intestinal level than within macrophages. Most of the SPI-8- and SPI-10-encoded genes displayed signals below the background threshold.

**Functional Classes.** Typhi genes that were differentially expressed within macrophages were grouped by their function or genetic locus according to the Typhi functional classification scheme used by the Sanger Centre ([www.sanger.ac.uk](http://www.sanger.ac.uk)) and the percentage of genes that were up-regulated or down-regulated within macrophages in each of these groups was calculated (Fig. 7, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site). Genes involved in iron acquisition and transport (such as *fes*, *flu*, *feo*, and *ent*) were down-regulated intracellularly (Fig.



different expression profiles, consistent with their respective function. The results obtained from microarray experiments were corroborated by qPCR. Two different technologies applied on different biological samples were consistent, supporting the validity of SCOTS-microarray analysis as an effective way to study host-pathogen interaction.

The molecular mechanism of typhoid fever has predominantly been indirectly derived from the Typhimurium murine typhoid fever model because these serovars share many virulence genes. Our data suggest that many virulence factors and global regulators common to both Typhi and Typhimurium are similarly up-regulated inside macrophages. The genes coding for the flagellar apparatus, chemotaxis, and iron transport systems were down-regulated by Typhi within macrophages, as described for Typhimurium in ref. 9, indicating that iron is available from the vacuole, which could explain why Typhi can afford to harbor many mutations in iron acquisition genes (3).

SPI-1 encodes a TTSS involved mainly in cell invasion and is an essential system for infection of epithelial cells of the gut (4). SPI-1 genes were down-regulated after bacterial internalization in macrophages as expected (Fig. 2*A*), and the expression profile of *prgI*, a SPI-1 encoded gene, was confirmed by qPCR (Fig. 3). The up-regulation of SPI-1 at the earliest times after invasion was not previously observed by Eriksson *et al.* (9), because the earliest time point investigated in that study was 4 h after infection. It is interesting to note that SPI-1 and genes involved in motility have similar expression patterns (Fig. 2*A* and *D*), and transcription of flagella and SPI-1 genes are coregulated by *fliZ* (32), which is consistent with our results. SPI-1 genes up-regulated during uptake of Typhi by macrophages (T0) may contribute to Typhi invasion of macrophages, as shown for Typhimurium in ref. 33. SPI-1 effector SopE, which is present in some Typhimurium strains, recruits Rab5 to the *Salmonella*-containing phagosome, promoting continuous fusion with early endosomes and prevents fusion with lysosomes (34). In addition, macrophage apoptosis is thought to be mediated, in part, by SPI-1 effectors such as SipB (35). Thus, induction of SPI-1 during or immediately after invasion is not surprising. Another possible role of SPI-1 during macrophage infection was recently demonstrated by the loss of transposon mutants within SPI-1, such as *inv*, *sip*, and *prg*, after passage into macrophages (36). We may also hypothesize that some other genes that are not currently known to be effectors may be translocated by the TTSS system of SPI-1 and may contribute to the initial interaction of Typhi with macrophages. Two genes encoding for unknown protein, STY1482 and STY1353, that were up-regulated by Typhi within macrophages were recently identified as new TTSS effectors in Typhimurium (37) and named *steA* and *steC*, respectively. The detection of these genes confirms that our method can identify new virulence genes. Many cDNAs corresponding to genes with unknown functions or unique to Typhi were up-regulated inside human macrophages, including STY1361-STY1367, STY2000-STY2002, and some SPI-6 genes, and will be important to consider for future studies to elucidate the intracellular lifestyle of this human-specific pathogen.

Genes encoding the SPI-2 TTSS and the Mg<sup>2+</sup> transport system (*mgfBC* located on SPI-3) were more highly expressed *in vivo* compared to supernatant, as was observed with Typhimurium inside murine macrophages in ref. 9. SPI-2 is well known to facilitate *Salmonella* survival inside macrophages (5, 6). Many genes encoded on SPI-2 were already up-regulated after bacterial uptake (T0), and other SPI-2 encoded genes were up-regulated only after 2 h of infection. Most of the SPI-2-encoding genes were overexpressed at all time points, consistent with their implication in creating and maintaining the *Salmonella*-containing vacuole. Some SPI-2 genes were not differentially expressed, such as the *ttr* genes, which encode a tetrathionate reduction system (38). In addition, transposon mutants of *ttr* genes of Typhimurium are not lost during infection of macrophages (36).

Most of the genes responsible for the SOS response were not differentially expressed by Typhi inside human macrophages compared to the supernatant. The SOS genes (*recA*, *umuCD*, *uvrABY*, *sulA*, and *mutH*) were induced by Typhimurium inside murine macrophages (9). However, strong inductions of *dinI*, the repressor of the SOS response, and no induction of other DNA repair systems were observed. It is unclear whether Typhi encounters oxidative stress inside human macrophages as systems involved to protect against oxidative stress, such as *oxyR* and *katG*, were not differentially expressed (Fig. 2*F*). No clear induction of genes involved in acid response was observed in Typhi. It is possible that Typhi already experiences some acid or oxidative stress and that the SOS response was already activated by Typhi cells in contact with macrophages or their metabolic products, present in the supernatant, our *in vitro* control.

An important host defense mechanism involves production of antimicrobial peptides. Responses to antimicrobial peptides involved the *phoPQ* two-component system regulator, the *pmr* operon (39), *ugtL* (40), *pagP* (41), *pqaB* (42), *pgtE* (43), *virK* and its homologue *somA* (*ybjX*) (44), and *mig-14* (45, 46). These genes were up-regulated by Typhi in human macrophages (Fig. 2*E*). These data imply that Typhi strongly responds to antimicrobial peptides inside the vacuole of human macrophages by modifying its lipid A, as described for Typhimurium in ref. 47. However, among all of these genes, only *pgtE* up-regulation was identified by microarray analysis of gene expression of Typhimurium from murine macrophages (9). By contrast, most of the drug resistance systems, such as *marRAB*, *emrRAB*, *aac*, and *aadA*, were repressed or not differentially expressed by Typhi, whereas these systems were up-regulated by Typhimurium (9).

Other differences in gene expression between Typhi and Typhimurium were also identified from the microarray data (Table 4, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site). It is important to mention that the model from Eriksson *et al.* (9) contains many technical differences from our model, including opsonization of bacterial cells, a higher multiplicity of infection and number of host cells, a murine macrophage cell line (J774-A.1), a different *in vitro* control (cell culture medium), a different way to obtain cDNA (differential lysis), and the time course only overlapped at 8 h after infection. Thus differences observed may be caused by one or more of these factors instead of the different serovar used.

There are two major regulators of *Salmonella* virulence genes required for survival in macrophages: *slyA* and *phoP* (8, 48–51). We detected significant induction of *phoP* and *slyA* in Typhi inside the macrophage, which was not seen in Typhimurium (9). A recent study identified 22 genes that were coregulated by SlyA and PhoP in Typhimurium (52). Among these genes, 62% of them were significantly up-regulated by Typhi within macrophages, including well known virulence determinants such as the SPI-2 genes, *sseAB* and their regulator *ssrA*, and many genes involved in resistance to antimicrobial peptides. In contrast, Typhimurium expressed only 25% of these genes.

It was also proposed that once inside macrophages, Typhimurium uses gluconate and related carbohydrates as carbon sources (9). However, Typhi lacks the *dgo* operon involved in the utilization of this sugar, and genes *gntT* and *gntU*, encoding transport proteins, were not up-regulated *in vivo*. Repression of *gntU* was confirmed by using qPCR (Fig. 3). Other sugar transport systems (hexose and fructose) were also repressed. Therefore, Typhi likely uses different carbon sources inside macrophages than Typhimurium. Recent studies showed that isocitrate lyase, which allow the utilization of fatty acid as a carbon source via the glyoxylate bypass, is needed for persistence of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in human macrophages and Typhimurium in the mouse model (53, 54). The isocitrate lyase gene, *aceA* or *icl*, was found by SCOTS to be expressed at 48 h after infection of macrophages by two species of *Mycobacterium*

in refs. 13 and 14. In Typhi, the *aceA* gene was significantly induced starting at 8 h after infection. In Typhimurium, *aceA* induction was not detected 12 h after infection (9).

Our study demonstrates that by using SCOTS and microarray analysis, the transcriptome of intracellular bacteria can be obtained without altering the existing infection model. The method is an effective way to determine global bacterial gene expression profiling in the context of host infection. Its application on tissue biopsies from infected patients, as demonstrated with *H. pylori* in human biopsy samples (19), will be a potential means of further elucidating the bacterial genes expressed during infection of the human host. The SCOTS-cDNA mixture displayed an expected expression profile of Typhi virulence genes from infected macrophages. Our data suggest that inside THP-1 human macrophages Typhi responds to antimicrobial peptides but does not encounter an acidic or oxidative environment and that Typhi may use fatty acids as a carbon source as soon as 8 h after infection. Our global expression analysis identified many hypothetical and characterized Typhi genes that may contribute to adaptation and survival within macrophages, and such data are of importance for future experimental studies to elucidate the intracellular lifestyle of this human-specific pathogen.

## Materials and Methods

**Cell Culture and Bacterial Infection Model.** The human monocyte cell line THP-1 (ATCC TIB-202) was maintained and infected as described in ref. 55. For RNA extraction, cells were seeded at  $2 \times 10^7$  in 100-mm-wide tissue culture dishes. The wild-type virulent Typhi strain ISP1820 (obtained from D. M. Hone, Aeras Global Tuberculosis Vaccine Institute, Rockville, MD) was used because it is a well characterized strain that is sensitive to most antibiotics that are used for bacterial genetics, whereas CT18 is multidrug-resistant. The strain was grown at 37°C overnight as a static culture in Luria–Bertani (LB) broth to an OD<sub>600</sub> of 0.6 ( $\approx 3 \times 10^8$  colony-forming units/ml). Typhi cells were added to the THP-1 cell monolayer at a multiplicity of infection of 10 per cell, a low density that does not affect cell viability (data not shown). After incubation for 30 min at 37°C, the supernatant was centrifuged and the pellet was lysed with TRIzol reagent (Invitrogen) and frozen at -70°C. The infected cells were washed three times and incubated with complete RPMI medium 1640 (Invitrogen) initially containing 100 µg/ml gentamicin, which was reduced to 12 µg/ml after 2 h, to kill extracellular bacteria. At each time point, 0, 2, 8, and 24 h after infection, macrophage monolayers were washed, lysed in TRIzol, and stored at -70°C.

**SCOTS.** RNA from each condition was extracted according to the TRIzol reagent manufacturer's instructions (Invitrogen). RNA samples were then treated with RNase-free DNase (Ambion). Each RNA sample was converted to cDNA as described in refs. 13 and 55 (Fig. 8, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site). Briefly, 5 µg of total RNA was converted to first-strand cDNA by random priming by using a conserved

primer containing a defined 5' end and random nonamer at the 3' end (16), with Superscript II (Invitrogen), according to the manufacturer's instructions. Second-strand cDNA was synthesized by using Klenow fragment (New England Biolabs) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Bacterial transcripts were separated from host cDNA by SCOTS, a selective hybridization to bacterial genomic DNA as described in refs. 13 and 55. Captured cDNA was eluted, precipitated, and amplified by PCR with the conserved primer added during reverse transcription. Noncompetitive PCR amplification of short random-primed DNA fragments with a single primer has been shown to yield a generally unbiased population of amplicons, even when applied to complex nucleic acid pools (56, 57). Three rounds of this capture hybridization were used to generate cDNA mixtures used as templates for microarray analysis.

**Salmonella ORF Array.** Typhi strain CT18 array description, labeling and hybridization conditions, data acquisition, and normalization are described in ref. 27. Bacterial genomic DNA was used as the reference channel on each slide to allow comparison of each time point and different samples (58). The log ratio (base 2) was used for statistical analysis by using the ANOVA function with a standard Bonferroni correction by using TMEV software (59). Data have been deposited in the NCBI Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo) and are accessible through GEO Series accession nos. GSE3094, GSE3095, and GSE3096.

**qPCR Analysis.** The results obtained from microarray experiments were corroborated by qPCR experiments on a previously undescribed series of infection experiments (biological replicates). Infection and RNA extraction was performed as described above. cDNA was synthesized in triplicate by using SuperScript II (Invitrogen) with random hexamers (Sigma), according to the manufacturer's instructions. For each sample, a no-reverse-transcriptase reaction served as a no-template control. qPCR was performed by using QuantiTect SybrGreen PCR Kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instructions. Primers are described in Table 5, which is published as supporting information on the PNAS web site. For each qPCR run, the calculated threshold cycle ( $C_t$ ) was normalized to the  $C_t$  of the internal control *rpoD* gene amplified from the corresponding sample, and the fold change was calculated as described in ref. 60. The alternative sigma factor *rpoD* was chosen as an internal control because no significant variation of expression for this gene in either Typhi (this study) or Typhimurium (9) was observed inside macrophages. In addition, expression of *rpoD* in *E. coli* was shown to be independent of growth phase (61).

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