Supplementary data for Edwards, 2012 Phenotype-switching is a natural consequence of *Staphylococcus aureus* replication.

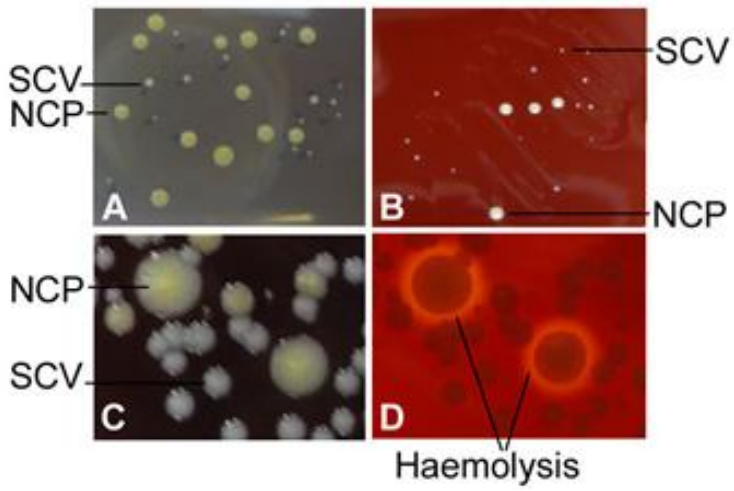

Figure S1. Phenotypic identification of SCVs. NCP *S. aureus* forms large pigmented colonies on TSA (A) or blood agar (B), whilst SCVs appear as small, non-pigmented colonies. Closer inspection of colonies (C) highlights differences in size, whilst analysis of haemolysis (D) reveals that NCPs but not SCVs have haemolytic activity.

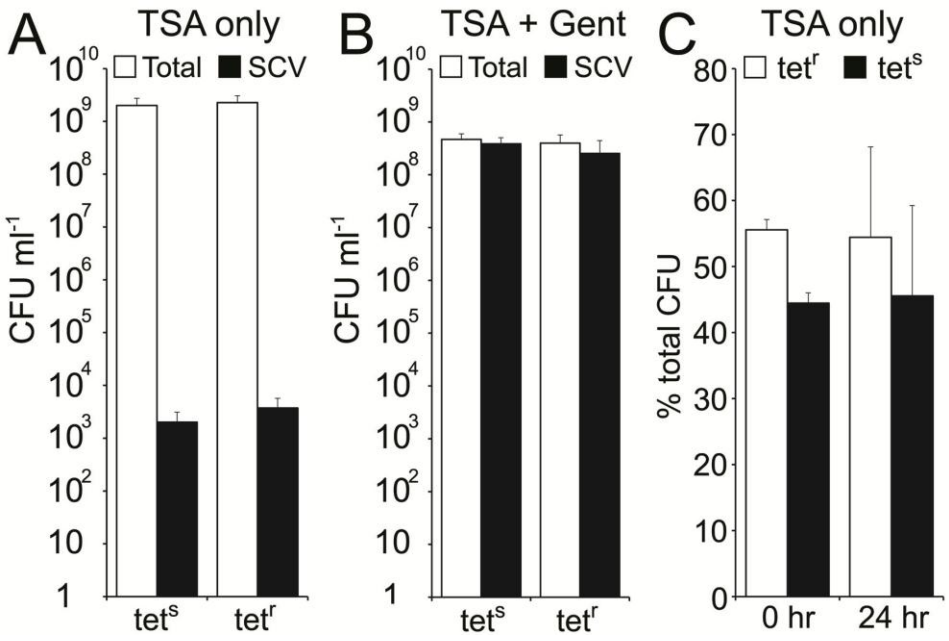

Figure S2. Tetracyline-resistant (tet^r) *S. aureus* produces the same number of SCVs as the parental tetracycline-sensitive (tet^s) strain in the absence (A) or presence (B) of gentamicin. The presence of the tet^r gene does not confer a competitive disadvantage; tet^r and tet^s *S. aureus* were mixed in a roughly 1:1 ratio (0 hr) and grown for 24 hr (C). The final % tet^r colonies was the same as the inoculum (C).

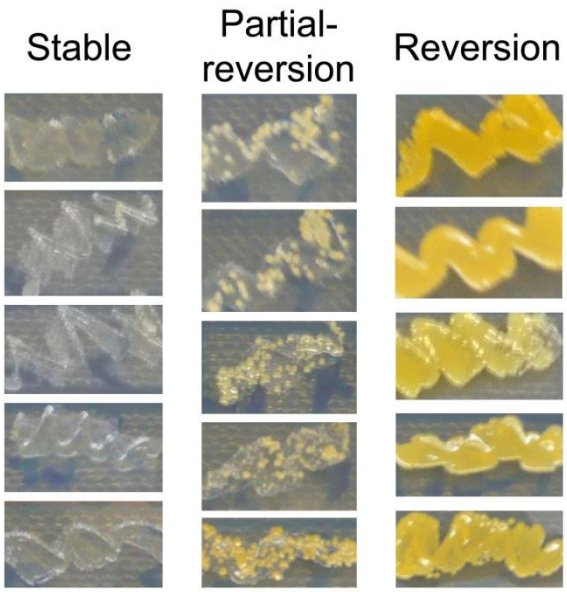

Figure S3. A basic scoring system for SCV stability. SCVs were patched onto antibiotic-free TSA and incubated for 24 hr. Some colonies retained the SCV phenotype and were classified as stable. Some colonies were a mix of SCV and NCP phenotype and were considered to have partially reverted (to NCP). Finally, some colonies completely reverted to the NCP.

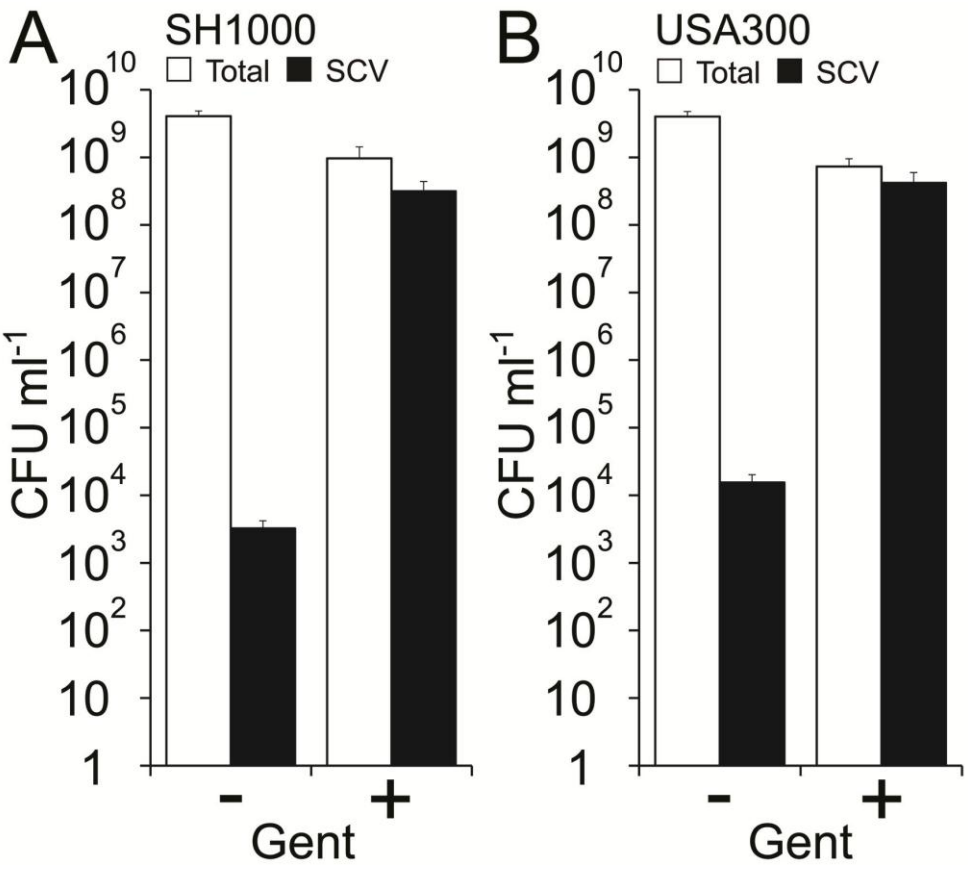

Figure S4. The composition of *S. aureus* SH1000 (A) and USA300 (B) cultures grown under highly oxygenated conditions in the absence or presence of gentamicin.