

Fumarate-mediated persistence of *Escherichia coli* against antibiotics

Jun-Seob Kim^{a,b}, Da-Hyeong Cho^a, Paul Heo^a, Suk-Chae Jung^a, Myungseo Park^a, Eun-Joong Oh^b, Jaeyun Sung^c, Pan-Jun Kim^{c,d}, Suk-Chan Lee^a, Dae-Hee Lee^e, Sarah Lee^f, Choong Hwan Lee^f, Dongwoo Shin^g, Yong-Su Jin^{b,1}, and Dae-Hyuk Kweon^{a,1}

Supplementary information

Table S1. The primers that were used for preparation of a gene knockout or operon knockout.

All primers contain ~50 bp of homologous sequence for each target genomic DNA and ~20 bp of sequence for amplification of a Kan or chloramphenicol selection marker.

| Knockout mutant | | Sequence (5' to 3') |
|-----------------|----|---|
| <i>ΔSDH</i> | FW | TGTGCCCGTAGTCCCCAGGGAATAATAAGAACAGCA TGTGGGCGTTATTCTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | CGGCACTGGTTGCCTGATGCGACGCTTGCGCGTCTT ATCAGGCCTACGGTCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <i>ΔFRD</i> | FW | CTTACCCTGAAGTACGTGGCTGTGGGATAAAAACAA TCTGGAGGAATGTCTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | CAAACGGCCCCGCCATAGGCGGGCCGGATTACATT GGCGATGCGCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <i>ΔCYD</i> | FW | CTTTCTAACGGGGTTCCTCTCGGAGTCTTCATGCG ATGAGCAAGGAGTCTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | AAGAAGCGTTCCCAGAATCCATGCGAAATACCACAT TTTTAGCTCCTTACCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <i>ΔCYO</i> | FW | TGCCACACACTTTAAACGCCACCAGATCCCGTGGA ATTGAGGTCGTTAATGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTTC |
| | BW | TAATGCTAAGAAAAAAGGTGCCGTAGCACCTTTTAA ATAGAGAGGTTTTGCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <i>ΔTOR</i> | FW | ATTGCTCATTAAGATCGCTTCACTAAACCATAATTC TACAGGGTTATTTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | ATAATGCCTGATGCGACGCTAAACGCGTCTTTTCAG GCGCACAAACGACGCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <i>ΔNAR</i> | FW | AGCAATGTCGATTTATCAGAGGGCCGACAGGCTCCC ACAGGAGAAAACCGTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | GCCATAAAAAAACCCCGCCGAAGCAGGGTCTATGT GAACTAAAATTCGCCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |

| | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| <i>ΔDMS</i> | FW | AGGTGAGTCGCCGTGGTTTGGTAAAAACGACAGCG ATCGGCCGGCCTGGCATGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | AACGAAGCAGAAATAAAAGAGAACCGGGGCCGAA ACCCCGGTTGTTATGACATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>ΔNUO</i> | FW | ATGGTCAGCAGGATCTCAATCAGTTCCGGTGATATCC AACTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | GCAGTATCGATTTTGTATGTCAGATGTGGACCGCTA ATTCATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>Δndh</i> | FW | CATTAATTAACAATTGGTTAATAAATTTAAGGGGGTC ACGTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | CGGATGAGGCGTTTATGCCACATCCGCCAGTGTACG TCGACATCCGCCAGTGTACGTCGACATATGAATACCT CCTTA |
| <hr/> | | |
| <i>ΔdctA</i> | FW | ATAACCTTACAAGACCTGTGGTTTTACTAAAGGACA CCCTTGTGTAGGCTGGAGCTGCTTC |
| | BW | CCCGCACTCGGGGAAGGGAGTGCGGGCATAAGTGA TGAGACATATGAATATCCTCCTTA |

Table S2. Gene knockout strains of *Escherichia coli*.

| Strain | Description |
|-------------------------|---|
| BW25113 | $\Delta(\text{araD-araB})567$, $\Delta\text{lacZ4787}>::\text{rrnB-3}$, lambda-, <i>rph-1</i> , $\Delta(\text{rhaD-rhaB})568$, <i>hsdR514</i> |
| BW25113 Δ NUO | <i>nuoEFG::Kan</i> |
| BW25113 Δ NDH | <i>Ndh::Cm</i> |
| BW25113 Δ FRD | <i>frdABCD::Cm</i> |
| BW25113 Δ NAR | <i>narGHJI::Kan</i> |
| BW25113 Δ TOR | <i>torCAD::Kan</i> |
| BW25113 Δ DMS | <i>dmsABC::Cm</i> |
| BW25113 Δ CYD | <i>cydAB::Cm</i> |
| BW25113 Δ CYO | <i>cyoABCDE::Kan</i> |
| BW25113 Δ SDH | <i>sdhCDAB::Kan</i> |
| BW25113 Δ SDHFRD | <i>sdhCDAB::Kan frdABCD::Cm</i> |
| BW25113 Δ menA | <i>menA::Cm</i> |
| BW25113 <i>hipA7</i> | G22S and D291A |

Table S3. The number of bacterial species that have the genes FRD, *ampC*, and *emrB*. The first column shows gene names, the second column shows the number of bacterial species having the gene in the first column, the third column shows bacterial species having both the gene in the first column and FRD, and the fourth column shows the P value characterizing the number in the third column; a small P means that the gene in the first column and FRD tend to coexist in the same species statistically significantly. Note that the number of species that have *FRD* is 46.

| Gene | # of species | # of species including both | P value |
|-------------|---------------------|--|-----------------------|
| <i>ampC</i> | 196 | 28 | 1.8×10^{-5} |
| <i>emrB</i> | 129 | 27 | 2.0×10^{-10} |

Table S4. Taxonomic clades of the 28 bacterial species that have orthologs of both FRD and ampC in their genome. ^ϕThe name of a strain or substrain.

| Phylum | Class | Order | Family | Genus | Species ^ϕ |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <i>Actinobacteria</i> | <i>Actinobacteria</i> | <i>Actinomycetales</i> | <i>Mycobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Mycobacterium</i> | <i>Mycobacterium bovis</i> AF2122/97 |
| <i>Actinobacteria</i> | <i>Actinobacteria</i> | <i>Actinomycetales</i> | <i>Mycobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Mycobacterium</i> | <i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i> H37Rv |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Rhizobiales</i> | <i>Methylobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Methylobacterium</i> | <i>Methylobacterium radiotolerans</i> JCM 2831 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Alphaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Rhodobacterales</i> | <i>Rhodobacteraceae</i> | <i>Rhodobacter</i> | <i>Rhodobacter sphaeroides</i> 2.4.1 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Betaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Burkholderiales</i> | <i>Comamonadaceae</i> | <i>Verminephrobacter</i> | <i>Verminephrobacter eiseniae</i> EF01-2 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Betaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Burkholderiales</i> | <i>Oxalobacteraceae</i> | <i>Herminiimonas</i> | <i>Herminiimonas arsenicoxydans</i> ULPAs1 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Betaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Neisseriales</i> | <i>Neisseriaceae</i> | <i>Chromobacterium</i> | <i>Chromobacterium violaceum</i> ATCC 12472 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Aeromonadales</i> | <i>Aeromonadaceae</i> | <i>Aeromonas</i> | <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> subsp. <i>hydrophila</i> ATCC 7966 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Aeromonadales</i> | <i>Aeromonadaceae</i> | <i>Aeromonas</i> | <i>Aeromonas salmonicida</i> subsp. <i>salmonicida</i> A449 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Alteromonadales</i> | <i>Psychromonadaceae</i> | <i>Psychromonas</i> | <i>Psychromonas ingrahamii</i> 37 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Alteromonadales</i> | <i>Shewanellaceae</i> | <i>Shewanella</i> | <i>Shewanella putrefaciens</i> CN-32 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Citrobacter</i> | <i>Citrobacter koseri</i> ATCC BAA-895 |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Enterobacter</i> | <i>Cronobacter sakazakii</i> ATCC BAA-894 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Enterobacter</i> | <i>Enterobacter</i> sp. 638 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Escherichia</i> | <i>Escherichia coli</i> str. K-12 substr. MG1655 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Klebsiella</i> | <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> subsp. <i>pneumoniae</i> MGH 78578 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Photobacterium</i> | <i>Photobacterium luminescens</i> subsp. <i>laumondii</i> TTO1 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Salmonella</i> | <i>Salmonella enterica</i> subsp. <i>enterica</i> serovar <i>Typhi</i> str. CT18 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Serratia</i> | <i>Serratia proteamaculans</i> 568 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Shigella</i> | <i>Shigella boydii</i> Sb227 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Shigella</i> | <i>Shigella dysenteriae</i> Sd197 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Shigella</i> | <i>Shigella flexneri</i> 2a str. 301 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Shigella</i> | <i>Shigella sonnei</i> Ss046 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Enterobacteriales</i> | <i>Enterobacteriaceae</i> | <i>Yersinia</i> | <i>Yersinia enterocolitica</i> subsp. <i>enterocolitica</i> 8081 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Vibrionales</i> | <i>Vibrionaceae</i> | <i>Photobacterium</i> | <i>Photobacterium profundum</i> SS3 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Vibrionales</i> | <i>Vibrionaceae</i> | <i>Vibrio</i> | <i>Vibrio fischeri</i> ES114 |
| <i>Proteobacteria</i> | <i>Gammaproteobacteria</i> | <i>Vibrionales</i> | <i>Vibrionaceae</i> | <i>Vibrio</i> | <i>Vibrio parahaemolyticus</i> RIMD 2210633 |

Proteobacteria

Gammaproteobacteria

Vibrionales

Vibrionaceae

Vibrio

Vibrio vulnificus CMCP6

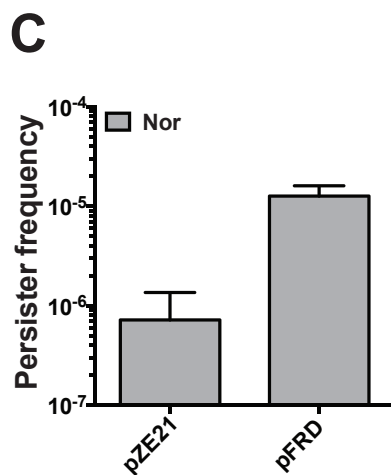
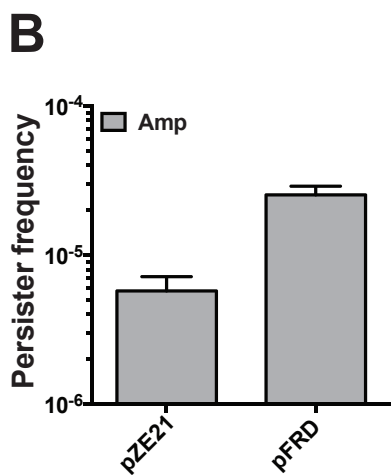
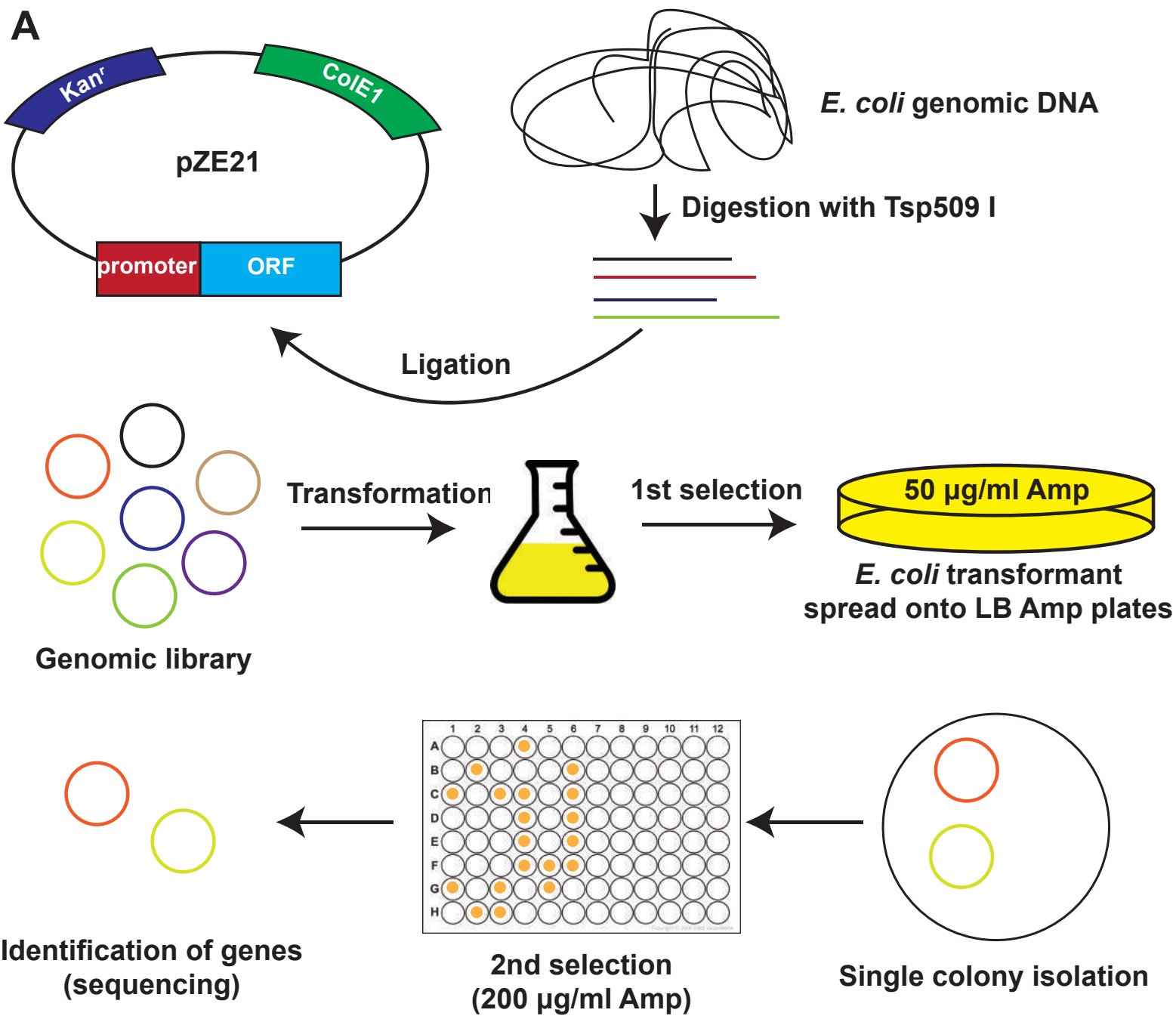


Fig. S1. Screening of a genomic library for persistence-enhancing genes and operons. (A)

Escherichia coli K12 genomic fragments (2–6 kbp) were inserted into the plasmid pZE21 according to the procedure described in Materials and Methods. The plasmids were introduced into *E. coli* DH5 α cells, and the transformants were selected with Kan. The *E. coli* DH5 α strain (an equivalent of 10^7 cells) that was transformed with the genomic library was spread on a Luria-Bertani (LB) agar plate containing Amp (50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$). After cultivation at 37 °C for three days, 48 colonies were randomly selected. Each colony was then exposed to 200 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ Amp in LB broth for 16 h. Nineteen transformants survived this harsh treatment and gave rise to colonies when subsequently spread on LB agar plates without Amp. All plasmids were isolated and sequenced to identify the genes that improved the antibiotic tolerance. (B, C) Overexpression of *FRD* by means of the pFRD vector increases persister frequency toward antibiotics at exponential phase.

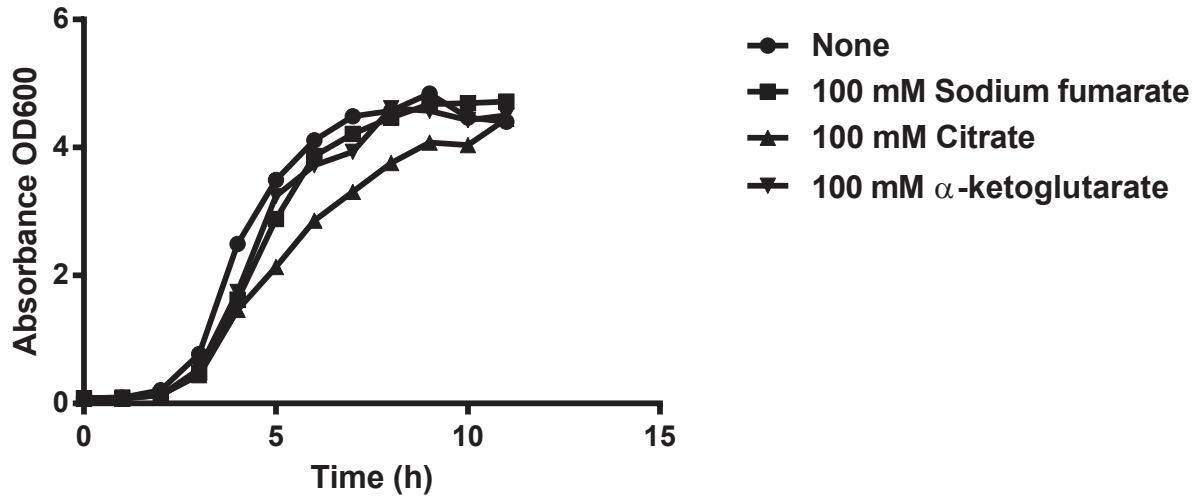
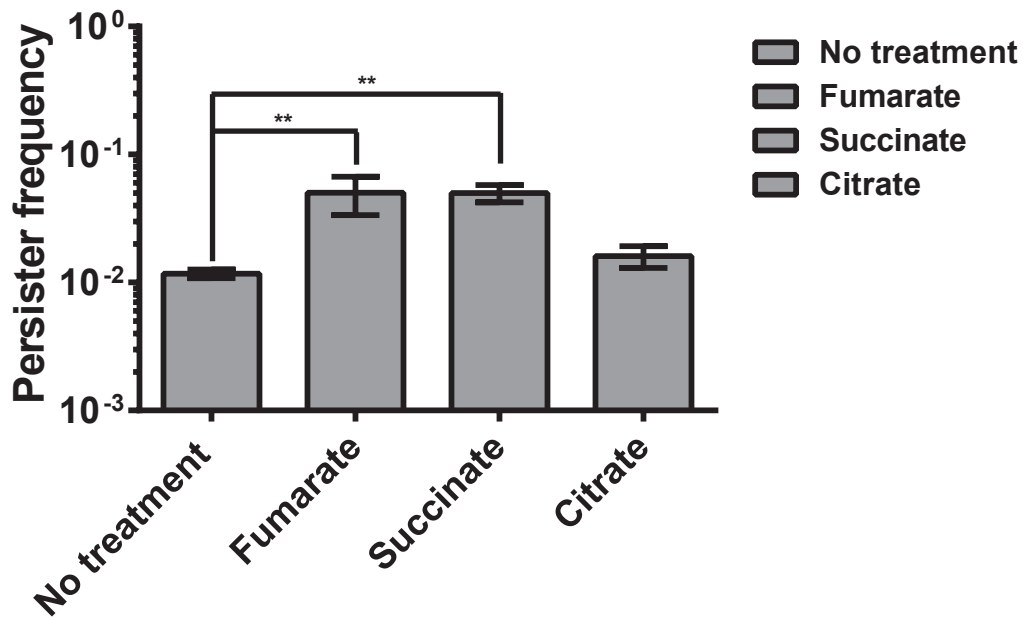
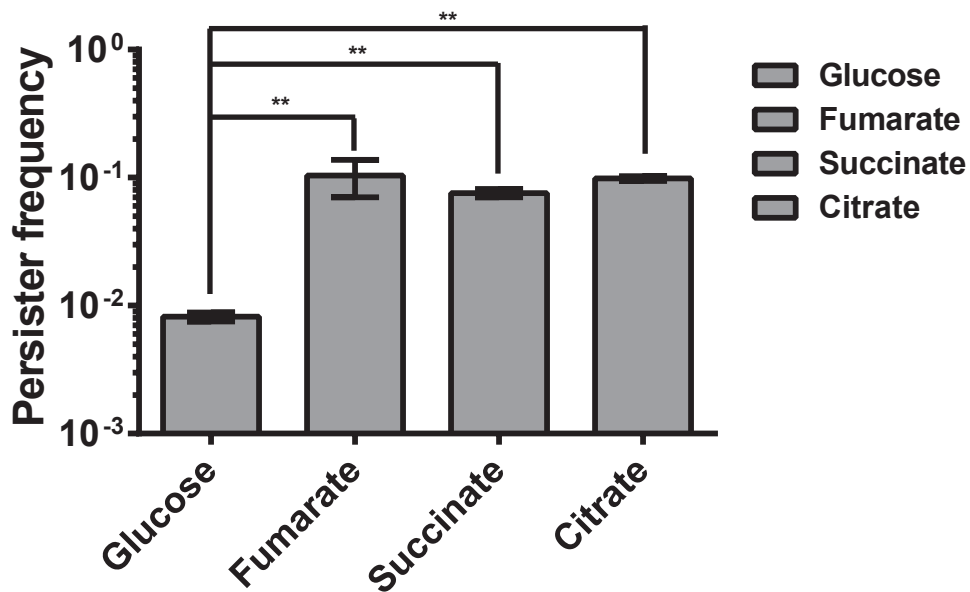
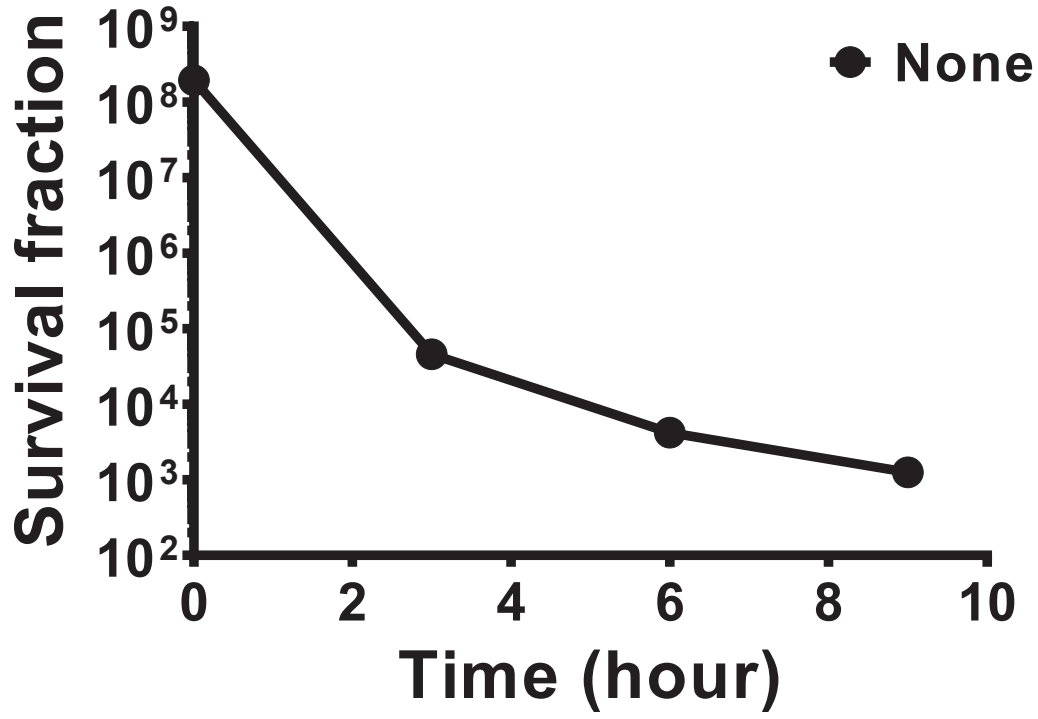
A**B****C**

Fig. S2. The effect of TCA intermediates pre-exposure on persister formation. (A) Cell growth profile in the presence of various TCA intermediates in LB. When persister frequency was measured cells were harvested and treated with antibiotics in fresh LB broth after pre-exposure to TCA intermediates in LB. Cell growth was not severely inhibited by 100 mM TCA intermediates in LB broth during this pre-exposure stage. (B) When the cells pre-exposed to TCA intermediates (100 mM) until exponential phase, harvested and were resuspended in fresh M9 broth containing 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ Nor, persister frequency was elevated by fumarate or succinate but was not changed by citrate. (C) When TCA intermediates (6.75 mM) were present together with 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ Nor and were used as sole carbon source in M9 broth, persister frequency was similarly affected by different intermediates, emphasizing that pre-accumulated fumarate inside cells plays role in persister formation.

A



B

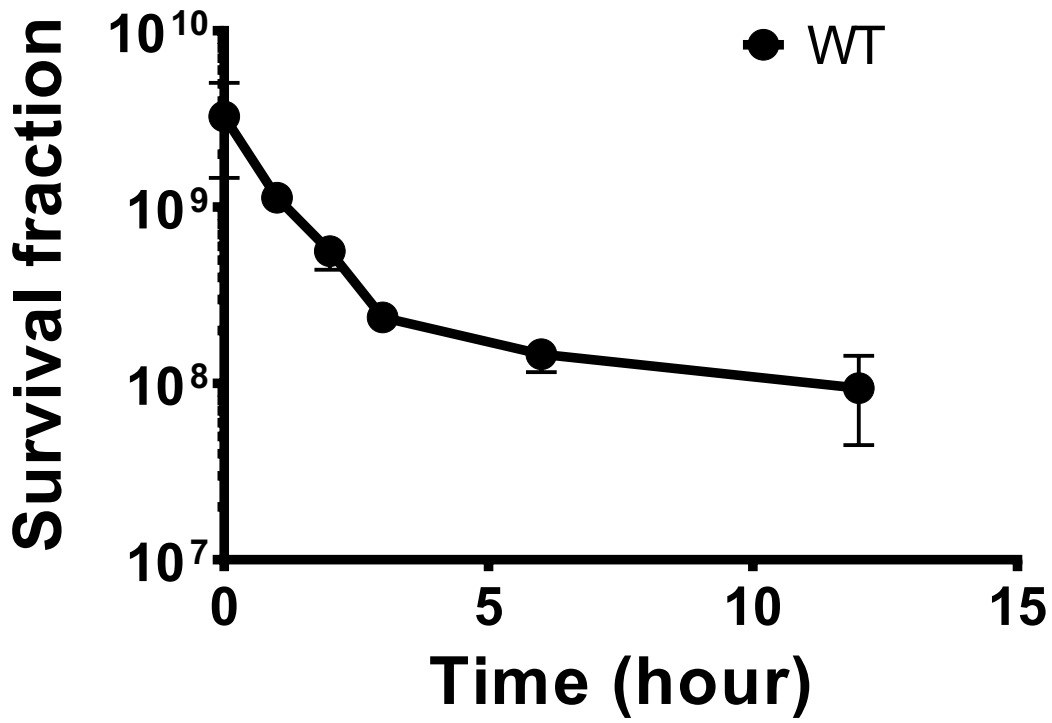


Fig. S3. Nor-induced cell death kinetics. (A) Biphasic death kinetics of cells at exponential phase. Cell death rate was reduced after 3 h of Nor treatment. (B) Biphasic death kinetics of cells at stationary phase.

Phyla

- Actinobacteria
 - Bacteroidetes
 - Chlorobi
 - Chloroflexi
 - Cyanobacteria
 - Firmicutes
 - Fusobacteria
 - Proteobacteria
 - Spirochaetes
 - Thermi
 - Verrucomicrobia
- *frdABCD*
 - *ampC*
 - *frdABCD & ampC (co-occurrence)*

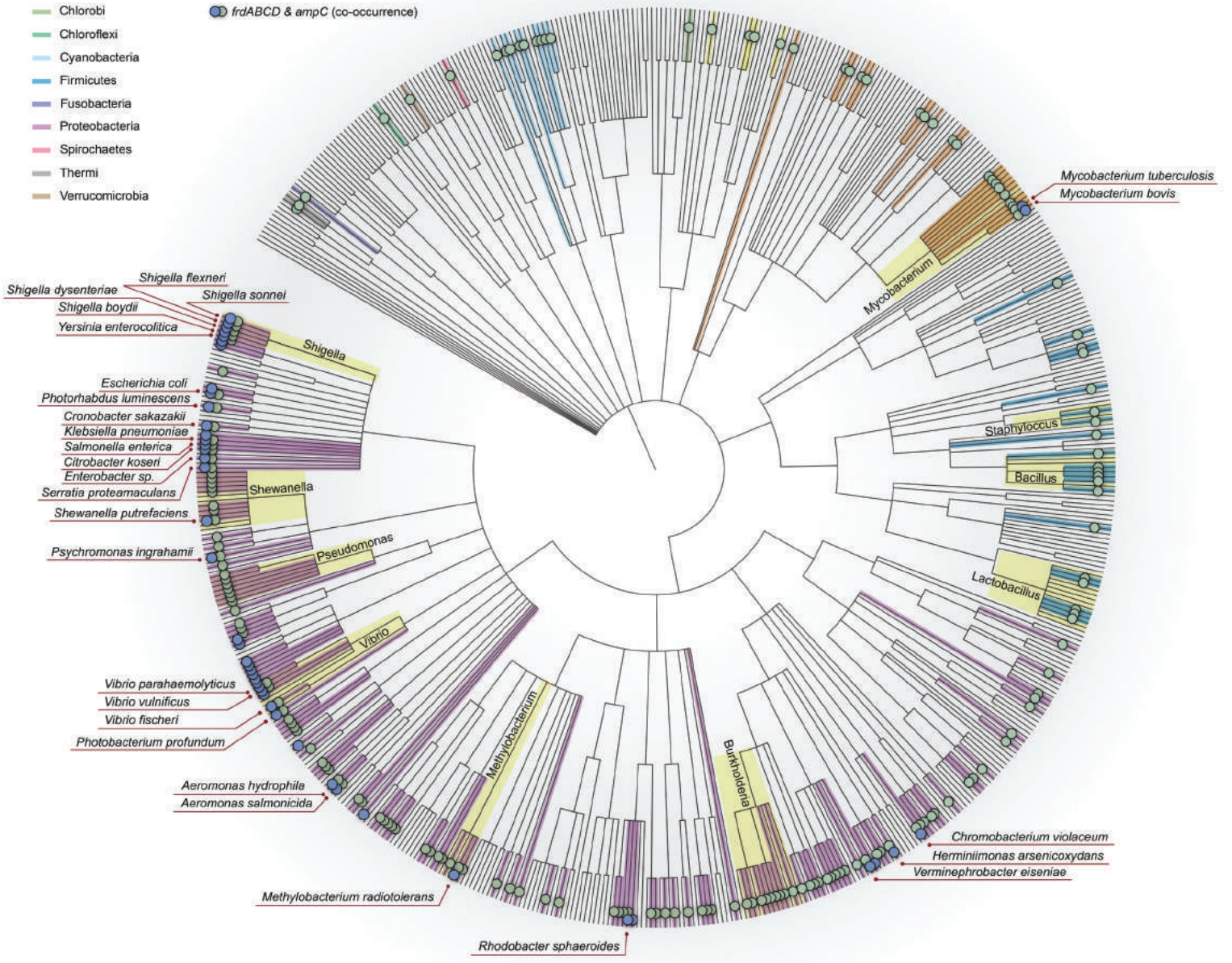


Fig. S4. Taxonomic Signatures of *FRD* Are Related to Antibiotic Tolerance. To confirm the role of FRD in the persistence, we performed the identification of taxonomic and genomic signatures of FRD in bacterial genomes. First, we found that orthologs of *FRD* and *ampC* tended to be present in the genome of the same organism across numerous bacterial species: much more frequently than what can be expected by chance ($P = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$; Table S3). The bacteria carrying both orthologs even belonged to lineages of two phyla: Actinobacteria and roteobacteria (Fig. S4 and Table S4), meaning that this co-occurrence was not limited to closely related taxa only. Similarly, we observed significant co-occurrence of another antibiotic-resistant gene (*emrB*) with *FRD* ($P = 2.0 \times 10^{-10}$; Table S1). Because genes with favored co-occurrence across organisms are likely to have related biological functions (1, 2), such co-occurrence of *FRD* and antibiotic-resistance genes supported our experimental findings about the role of *FRD* in antibiotic tolerance. Next, we compared the genomic locations of *FRD* and *ampC*. We found that not only does *E. coli* have FRD in close proximity to *ampC* in its genome (Fig. 1A) but so do other bacterial species of the same *Enterobacteriaceae* family, such as *Enterobacter sp. 638* and *Shigella boydii* (Fig. S5). Taken together with our experimental findings, these taxonomic and genomic signatures were suggestive of a putative role of the *FRD* complex in antibiotic tolerance.

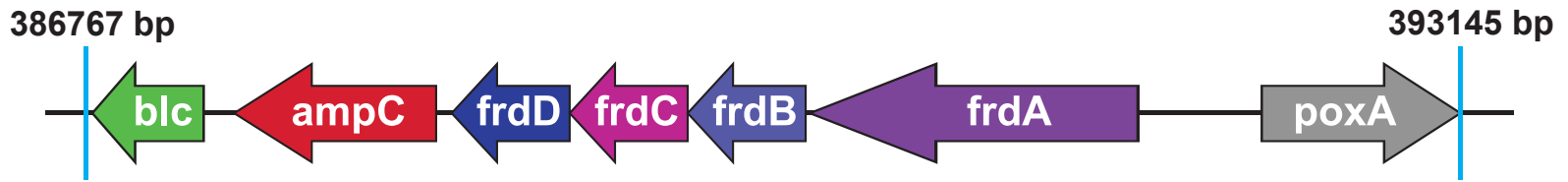
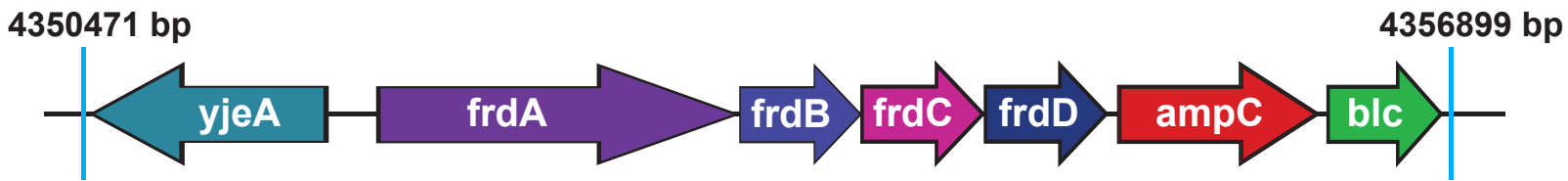


Fig. S5. Schematic representation of the *FRD* and *ampC* gene cluster in (A) *Enterobacter sp. 638* and (B) *Shigella boydii Sb227*. Each arrow indicates the direction of transcription and relative size of the open reading frame. The sequence locations were obtained from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) Genome Browser. In total, the following bacterial species have *FRD* proximal to *ampC* in their genome: *Escherichia coli*, *Enterobacter sp. 638*, *S. boydii*, *S. dysenteriae*, *S. flexneri*, and *S. sonnei*.

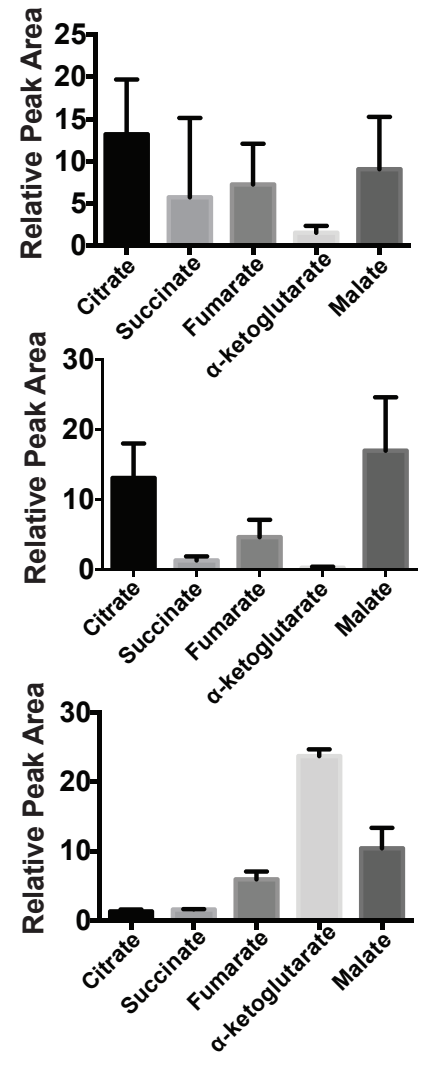
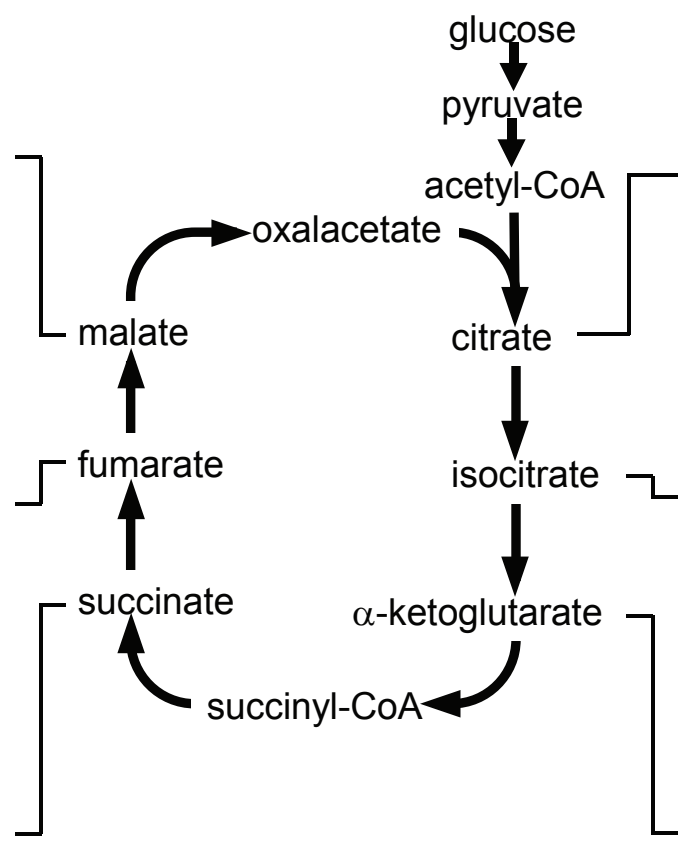
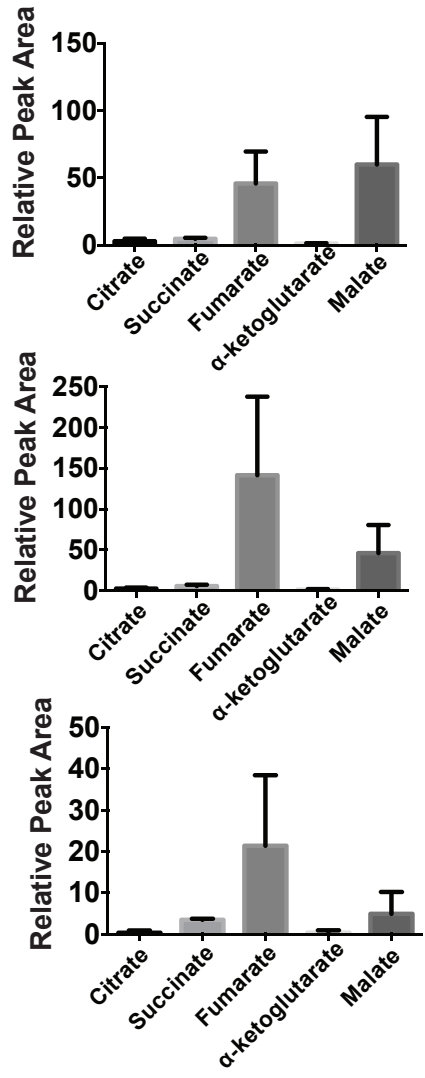


Fig. S6. Changes in the overall composition of the tricarboxylic acid (TCA) cycle after supplementation of the culture medium with each intermediate. After addition of a TCA intermediate to the culture medium until exponential phase, intracellular metabolites were extracted from the bacterial cells and were subjected to gas chromatography with time-of-flight mass spectrometry (see Materials and Methods).

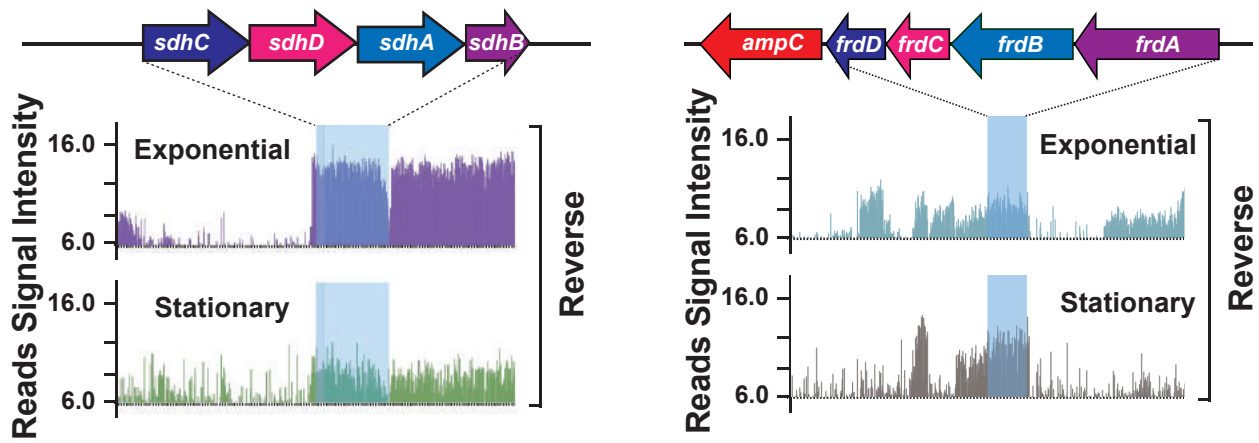
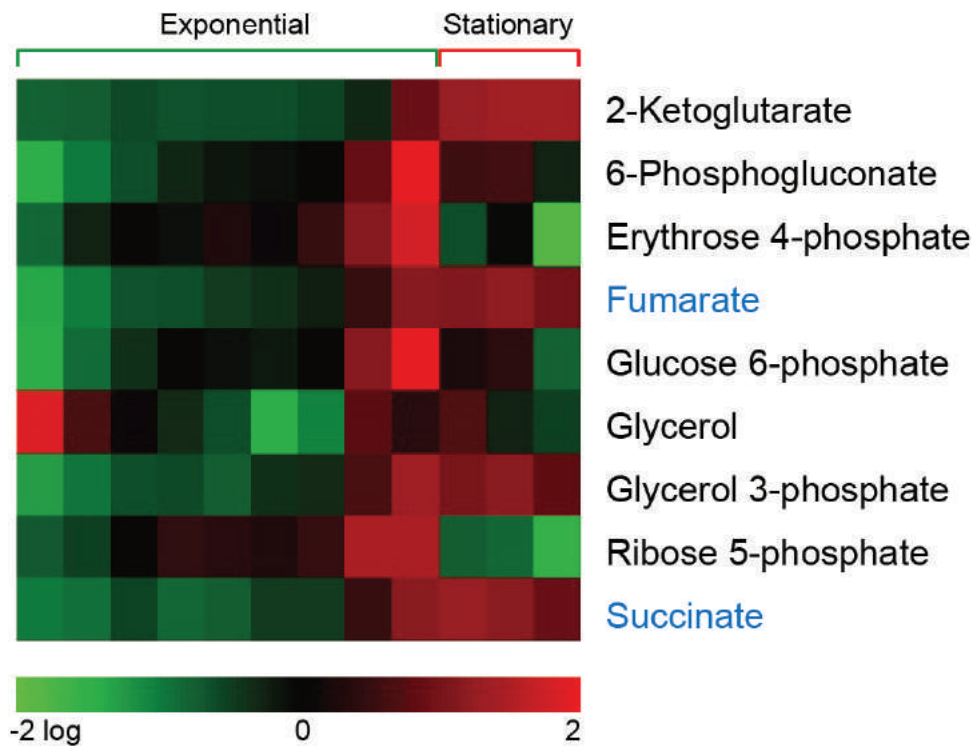
A**B**

Fig. S7. Analysis of deposited data regarding the fumarate metabolism in *E. coli*. (A) *FRD* expression is enhanced in the stationary phase, and *SDH* is highly expressed in exponential phase. For growth stage-specific transcription of *Escherichia coli FRD* and *SDH* operons during growth, we used Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO) data on *E. coli* K-12 MG1655 grown in the M9 glucose minimal medium (accession No. GSE15534). The source data were obtained from (3). The expression levels were visualized using SignalMap (Roche NimbleGenm, Basel, Switzerland). (B) Changes in metabolites of *Escherichia coli* K-12 MG1655 during growth in the M9 glucose minimal medium under aerobic conditions. The source data were obtained from (4).

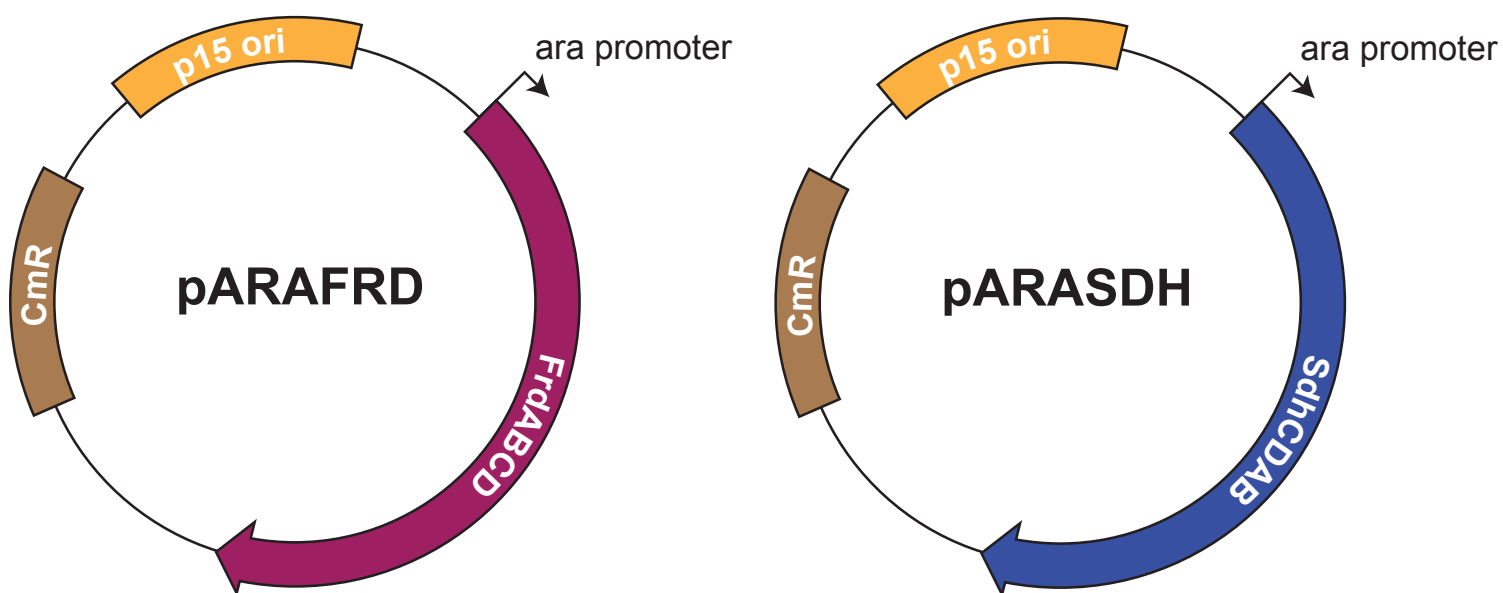
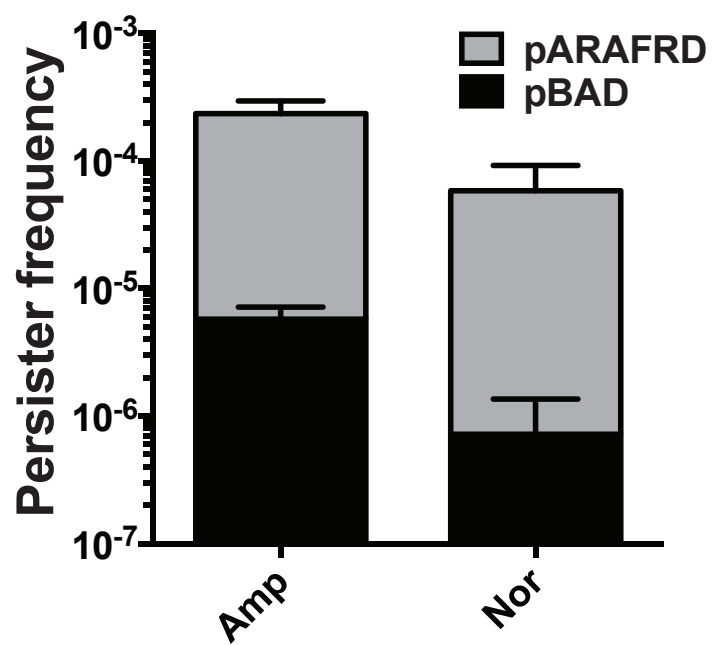
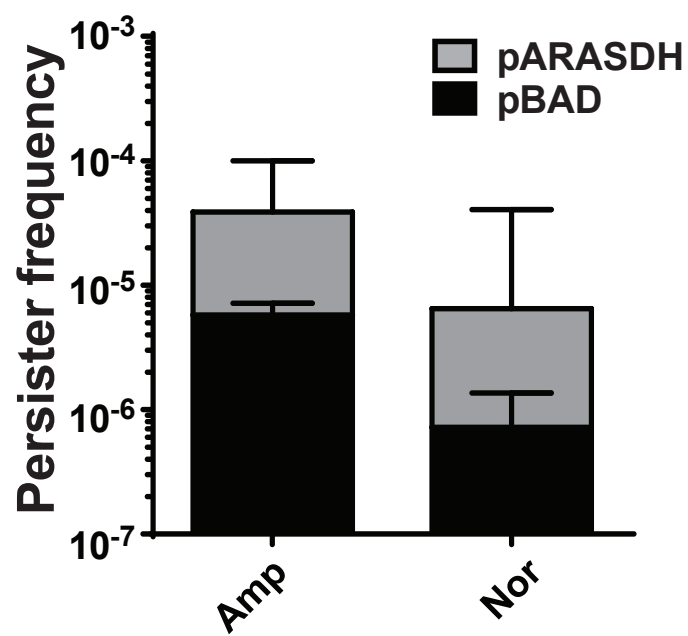
A**B****C**

Fig. S8. The effects of overexpression of *SDH* or *FRD* on persister frequency. (A) Maps of the plasmids containing arabinose-inducible fumarate reductase or succinate dehydrogenase. (B) Overexpression of *SDH* by the arabinose-inducible promoter increases the persister frequency. (C) Overexpression of *FRD* by the arabinose-inducible promoter increases the persister frequency. Cell at exponential phase was used for this experiments.

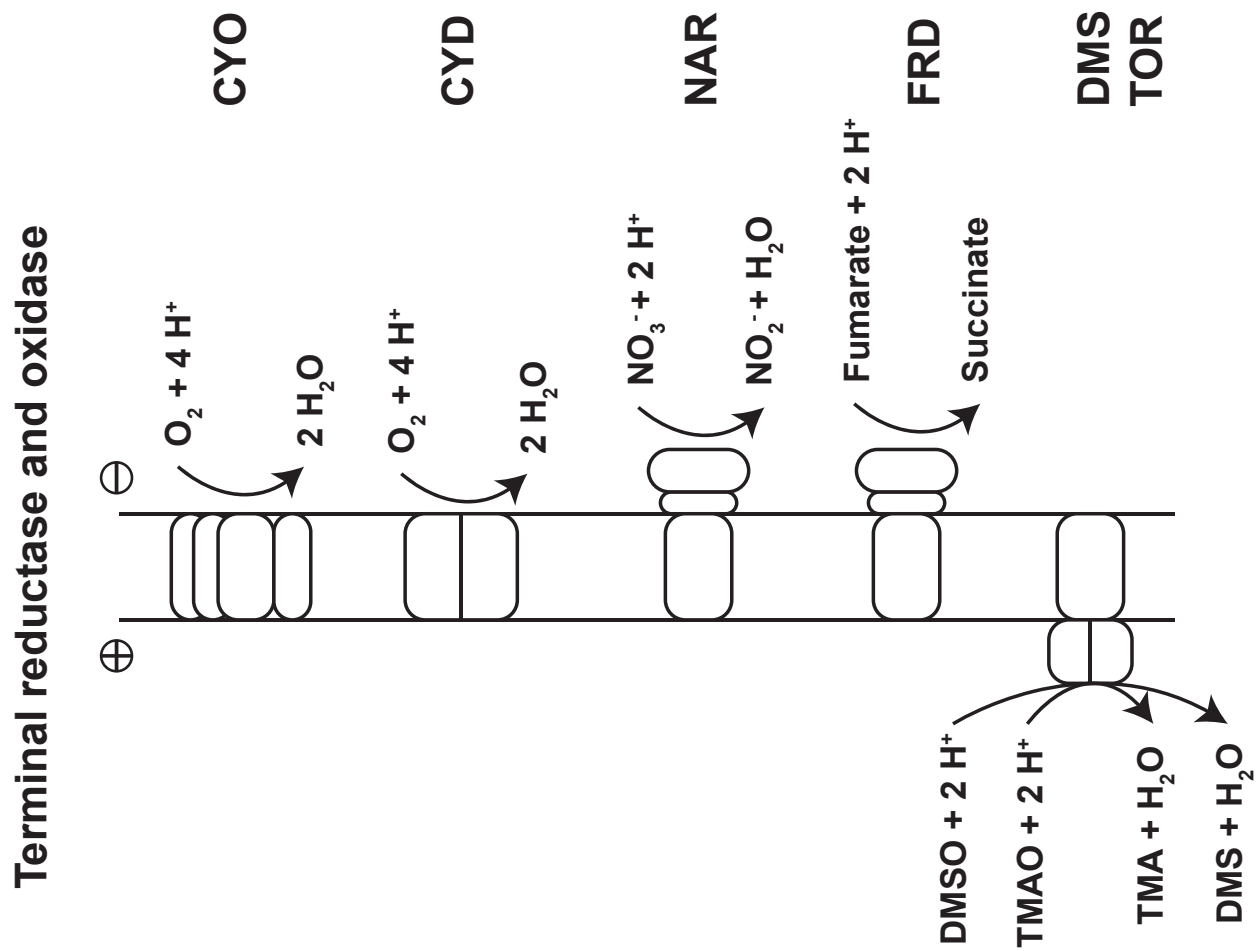
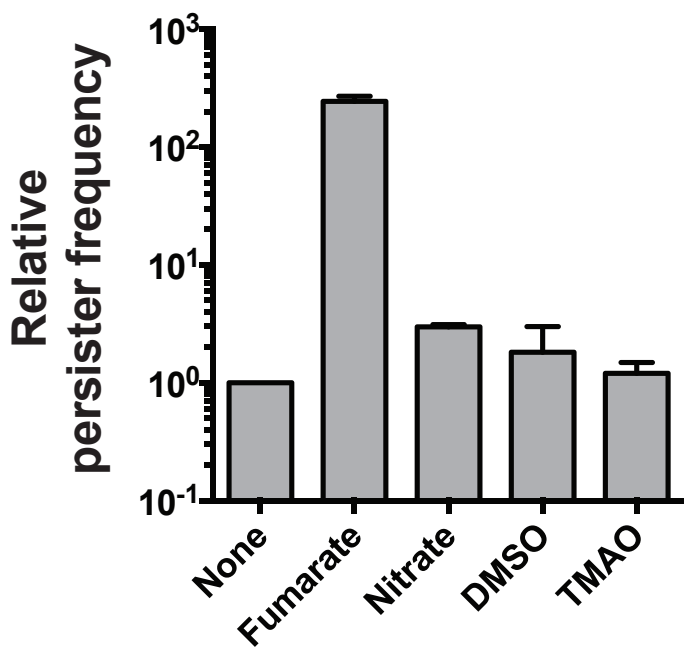
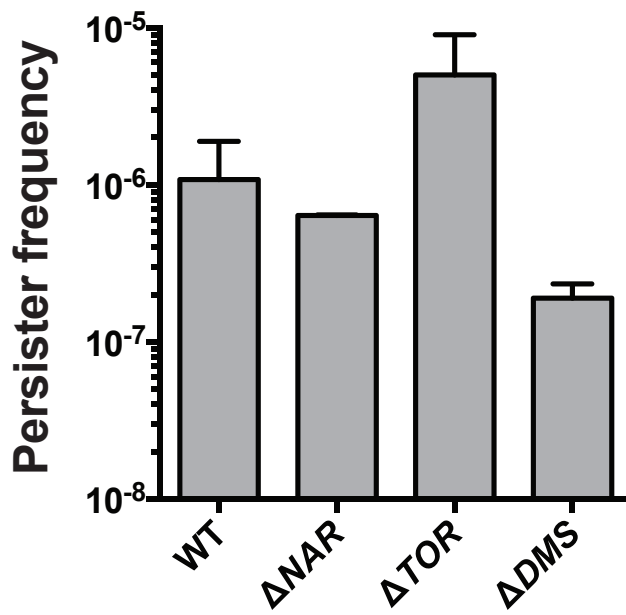
A**B****C**

Fig. S9. The effects of terminal oxidoreductases and alternative electron acceptors on *E. coli* persister frequency. (A) The reaction scheme of the electron transport chain that is mediated by each terminal oxidoreductase. NAR, nitrate reductase operon; DMS, dimethyl sulfoxide reductase operon; TOR, trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) reductase operon. (B) The effects of alternative electron acceptors on the persister frequency under aerobic condition. Only fumarate increased the persister frequency of stationary-phase cells. (C) Terminal reductase operons mediating anaerobic respiration were deleted from the chromosome of *Escherichia coli*, and the persister frequency was measured using each knockout mutant. None of the mutations affected persister frequency under aerobic condition as strongly as the deletion of SDH did. Both experiments (B, C) indicated that fumarate is the major alternative electron acceptor that allowed the bacterial cells to tolerate antibiotics. Cell at exponential phase was used for this experiments.

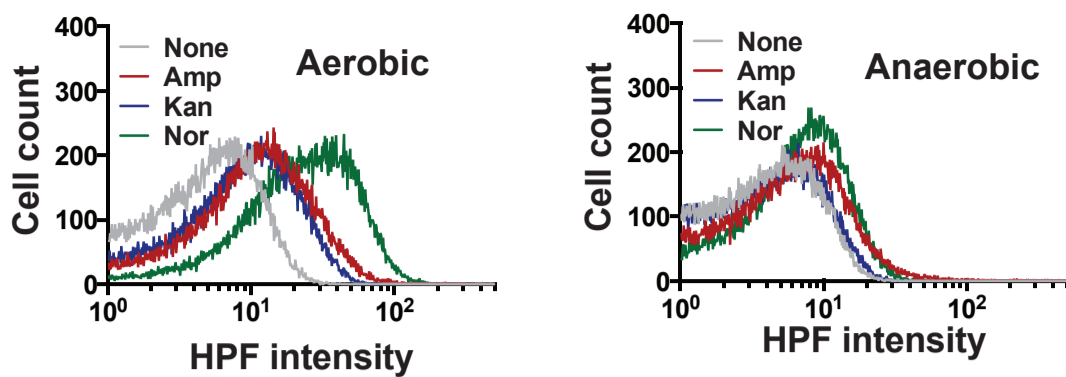
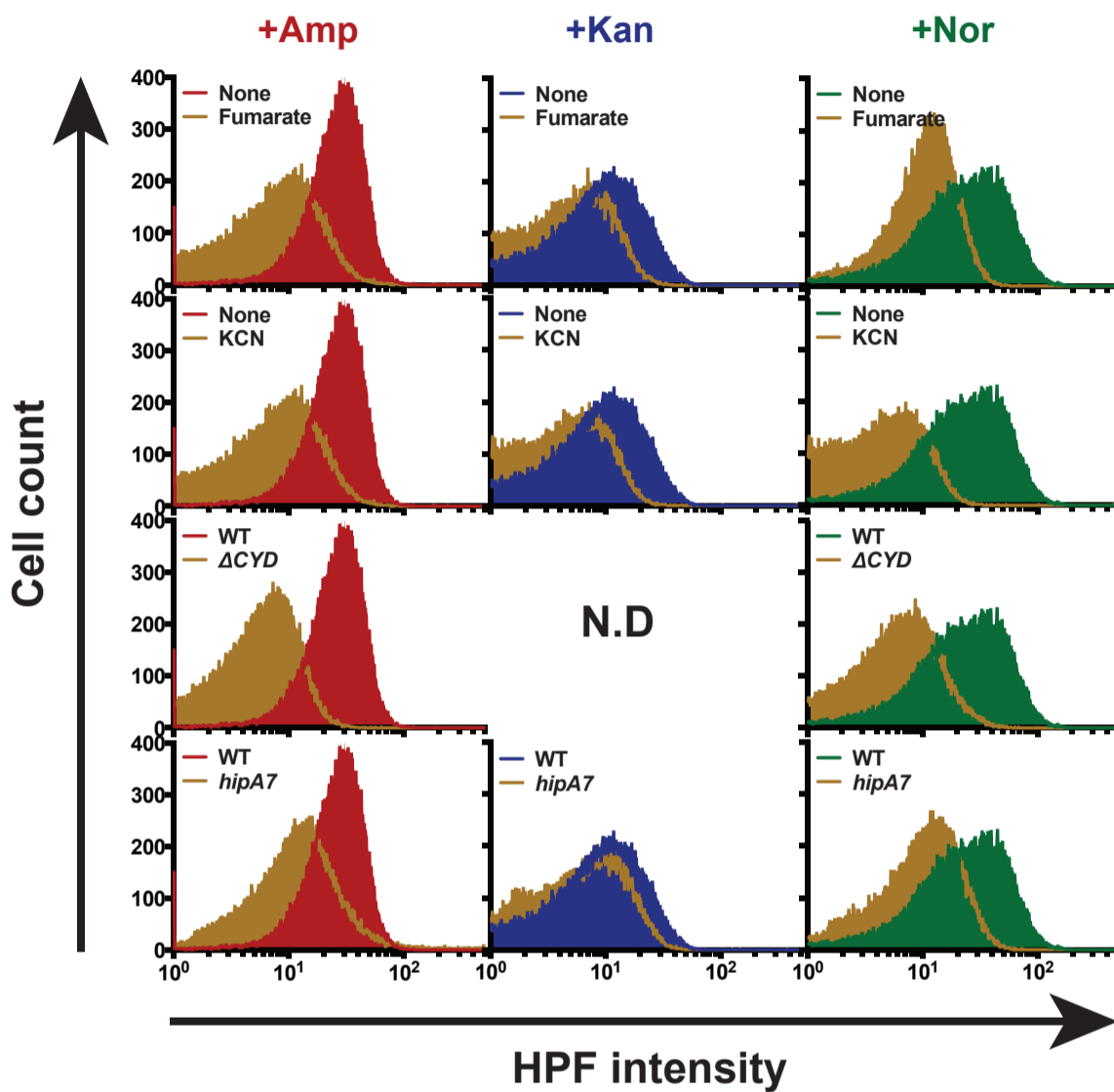
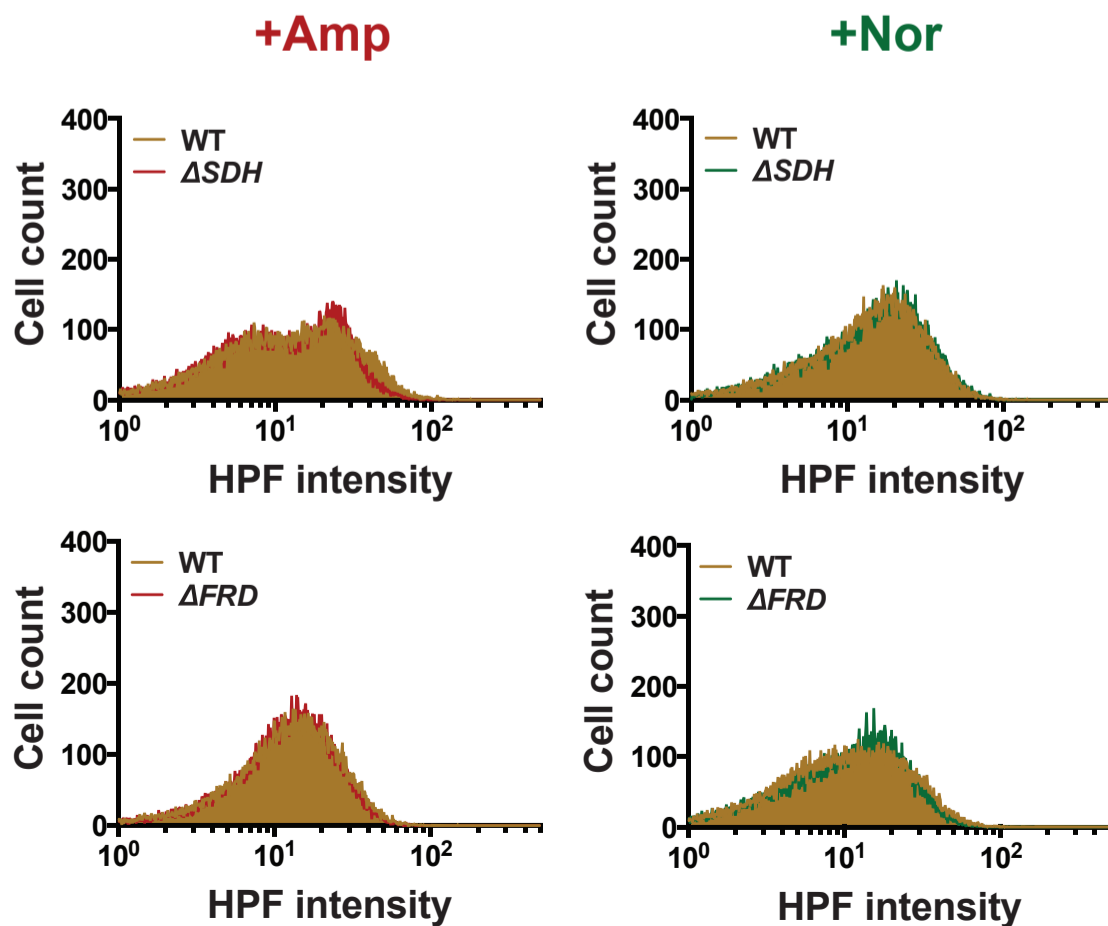
A**B****C**

Fig. S10. FACS histograms measured at different conditions. (A) As was first demonstrated by Kohanski et al. (5), low concentration of antibiotics (10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ Amp, 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ Kan and 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$ Nor) induced the increase of HPF intensity. Cells under anaerobic conditions did not produce $\cdot\text{OH}$. (B) Supplementation of KCN or ΔCYD , that blocks aerobic respiration, reduced $\cdot\text{OH}$ generation. Pre-exposure of fumarate and the *hipA7* mutation reduced $\cdot\text{OH}$ generation even under aerobic conditions. (C) Though the deletion of *SDH* reduced the persister frequency due to lowered intracellular fumarate concentration, the knock-out mutant did not exhibit increased $\cdot\text{OH}$ generation. Cell at exponential phase was used for this experiments.

References

1. **Jozefczuk S, Klie S, Catchpole G, Szymanski J, Cuadros-Inostroza A, Steinhauser D, Selbig J, Willmitzer L.** 2010. Metabolomic and transcriptomic stress response of *Escherichia coli*. *Mol Syst Biol* **6**:364.
2. **Cho BK, Zengler K, Qiu Y, Park YS, Knight EM, Barrett CL, Gao Y, Palsson BO.** 2009. The transcription unit architecture of the *Escherichia coli* genome. *Nat Biotechnol* **27**:1043-1049.
3. **Pellegrini M, Marcotte EM, Thompson MJ, Eisenberg D, Yeates TO.** 1999. Assigning protein functions by comparative genome analysis: protein phylogenetic profiles. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A* **96**:4285-4288.
4. **Kim PJ, Price ND.** 2011. Genetic co-occurrence network across sequenced microbes. *PLoS Comput Biol* **7**:e1002340.
5. **Kohanski MA, Dwyer DJ, Hayete B, Lawrence CA, Collins JJ.** 2007. A common mechanism of cellular death induced by bactericidal antibiotics. *Cell* **130**:797-810.