

Supplementary Figure 1. *S. aureus* growth in different experimental conditions. (A)

Growth curves of *S. aureus* NCTC8325-4 and its isogenic mutant NCTC8325-4 Δ sdrD in RPMI/HSA and RPMI/THB. Data represents means \pm SEM of three independent experiments. **(B)** NCTC8325-4 and NCTC8325-4 Δ sdrD were inoculated in RPMI/HSA containing 10% pooled hirudin plasma. Bacterial numbers were enumerated at different time points by serial dilution plating. Data represents means \pm SEM of an individual experiment performed in triplicate.

Supplementary Figure 2. SdrD does not affect whole blood phagocytosis. *S. aureus*

NCTC8325-4 and its mutants NCTC8325-4 Δ sdrD were labeled with FITC, and 40 μ l of inoculum ($\sim 1 \times 10^7$ CFU/ml) were incubated with 25% **(A)** or 50% human blood **(B)**. Data represents geometric mean of the fluorescence intensity (GMFI) \pm SEM of an individual experiment performed in triplicate.