

#### Supplemental Tables:

- Supplemental Table 1 is a list of the bacterial strains and the deletion mutants used in this study. Also included are the primers used to generate the mutants.
- Supplemental Table 2 is a table of the RNA-seq data. The table includes genes,  $\log_2$  fold changes, statistics and normalized counts for each gene and each persistent (P1-3) and transient (T1-3) MPEC strain replicate (R2-4). The adjusted p-value (false discovery rate) is indicated by padj.
- Supplemental Table 3 is a list of the DNA reads mapped to genes from *E. coli* strain MG1655. Information included is the EcoGene number, gene name and the read counts for the six MPEC strains tested (P1-3; T1-3).
- Supplemental Table 4 is a list of the genes that were only found in the DNA sequencing of all 3 transient strains but not found in any of the persistent strains. These were genes that did not map to MG1655.
- Supplemental Table 5 is a list of the genes that were only found in the DNA sequencing of all 3 persistent strains but not found in any of the transient strains. These were genes that did not map to MG1655.