

# Clinical Testing of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* by NGS: Two Years Strong



**WADSWORTH CENTER**  
New York State Department of Health



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# Why NGS on TB?

Roughly one third  
of the world's  
population is  
infected with TB

**2016: 10.4 million**  
new infections, **1.7**  
million deaths

Tremendous  
infectious  
control and  
patient  
treatment  
benefit to  
knowing

susceptibility to

risks and  
treatment  
per case

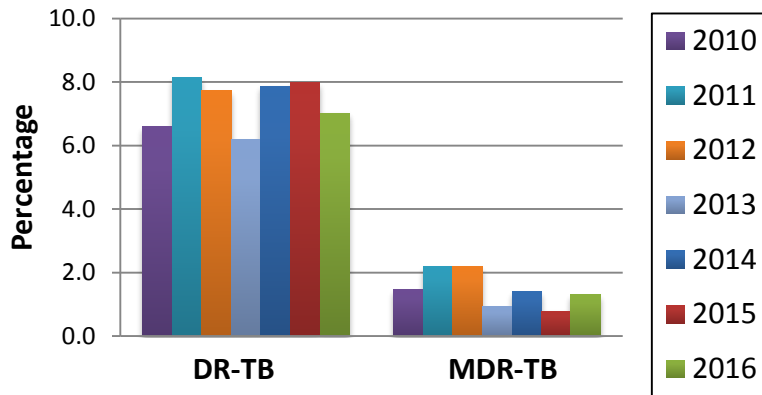
Culture and  
susceptibility  
testing can take  
weeks to  
months...

Many culture  
and molecular  
tests are  
typically  
performed  
utilizing  
different  
reagents,

instruments and

~800 cases/  
year in NY  
Many drug  
resistant  
cases

# TB in New York



## Universal FAST TRACK program:

- Implemented in 1993
- Rapid detection of MTBC from a priority group of highly infectious NY patients with newly diagnosed AFB smear positive sputum

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
TB Cases*	954	910	866	872	787	765	768
DR-TB	63	74	67	54	62	61	54
MDR-TB	14	20	19	8	11	6	10
XDR-TB	0	2	2	0	2	0	1

\* National rank #3 or #4 each year by number of cases

# Whole-genome sequencing for TB?

2013- Wadsworth Center Public Health Genomics Center (PHGC)  
funding announcement

2014- PHGC funding to test 60 TB isolates by WGS



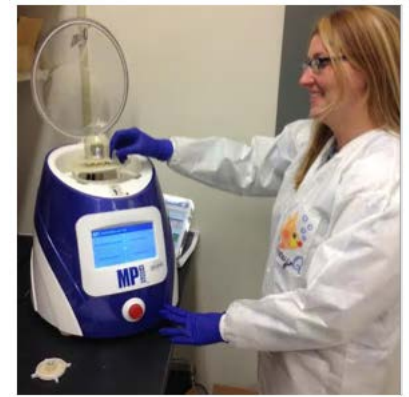
- **Goals for TB WGS:**

- Utilize as soon as possible in testing algorithm to impact patient treatment
- Expand molecular resistance prediction
- Provide more comprehensive results
  - mixed infections, heteroresistance, typing
- Assess costs and staff time

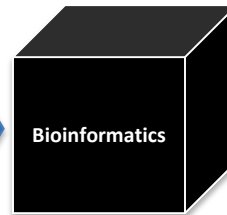


# Developing a TB WGS Assay

- Starting material ➡ Day 0 MGIT
- Compare DNA preparation methods
- Nextera XT/ MiSeq
- Build Pipeline
- LIMS/ Epidemiology Reporting (ECLRS)
- Validation Plan



# TB Bioinformatics Pipeline



Map to Reference Genome

Kraken  
K-mer  
matching

Detect  
spacers

SNP calling  
with indels

SNP calling  
ignore indels

MTBC  
member ID

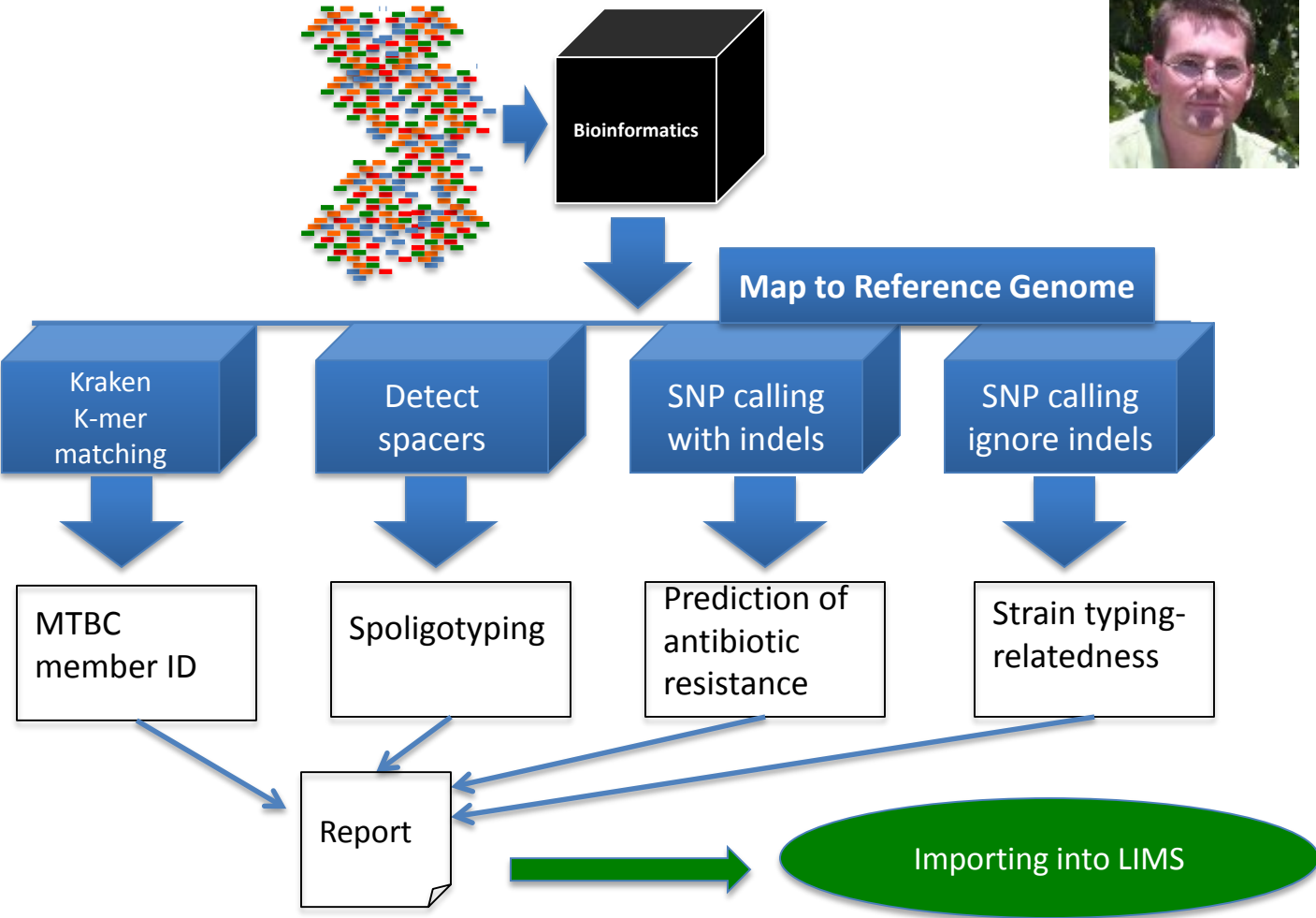
Spoligotyping

Prediction of  
antibiotic  
resistance

Strain typing-  
relatedness

Report

Importing into LIMS

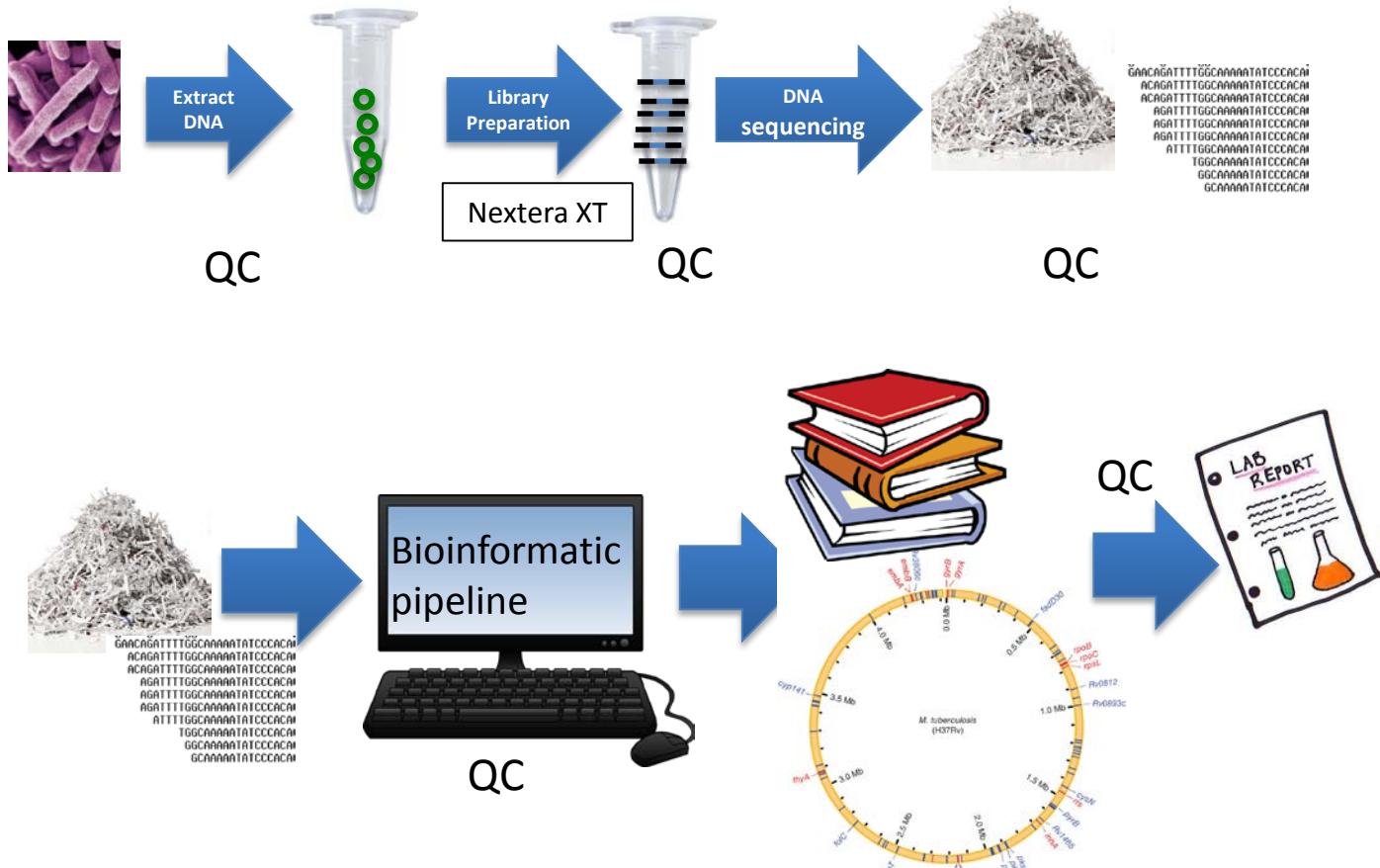


Imagine shredding a whole book into millions of shreds...then trying to put it back together in the right order

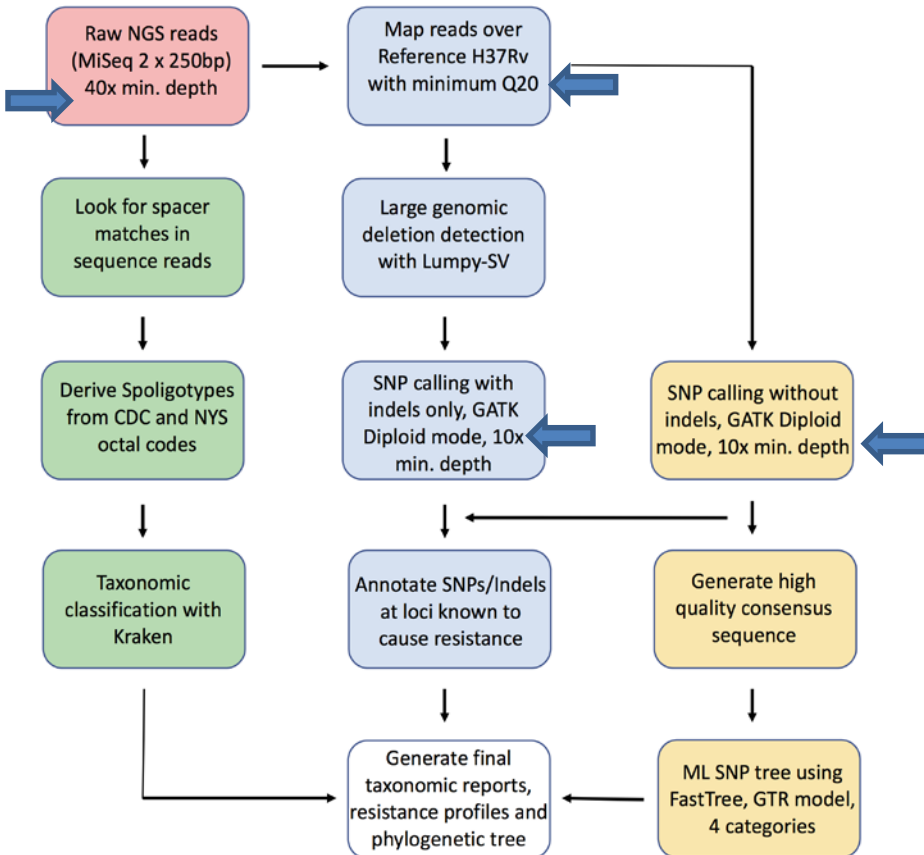


How do we apply quality control to this complicated method?

# Controls, QC, and more QC...



# What's in a pipeline?

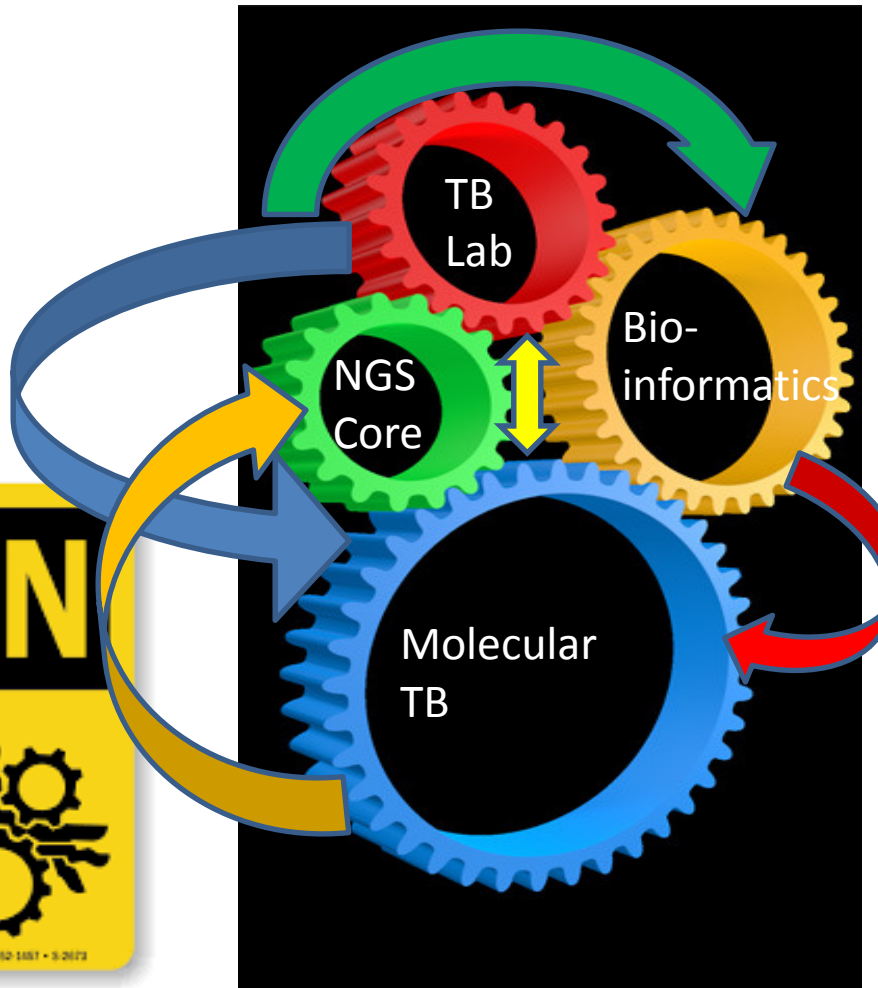


- **Species ID**
- **Spoligotype derivation**
- **Resistance Prediction**
  - Single Nucleotide Polymorphism (SNP)
  - Insertion/ deletions
- **Phylogenetic Analysis**
- **Results & Reporting**

# CLEP QC Guidance

- Minimum base calling of Q20 (99% base call accuracy)
- Minimum average 40x depth of coverage
- All QC metrics must be documented and monitored over time
- All software updates that affect key processes should be revalidated

So many moving parts...



**CAUTION**

**KEEP CLEAR  
OF MOVING  
PARTS**



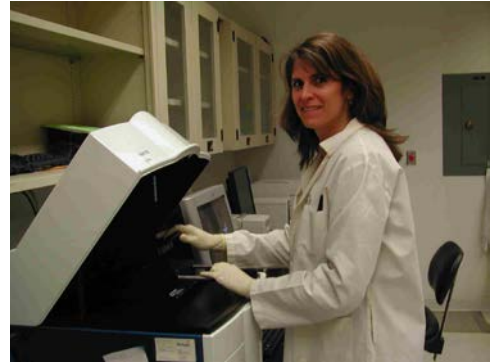
# High-confidence mutations

Drug	Locus	Codon/NT position
Rifampin (RIF)	<i>rpoB</i>	251, 511, 513, 516, 522, 526, 531, 533, 572
Isoniazid (INH)	<i>katG</i> <i>oxyR-ahpC</i> promoter region <i>mabA</i> promoter region <i>mabA</i> <i>inhA</i>	279, 315, <b>394</b> , 525 -81 -17, -15, -8 203 <b>94</b>
Pyrazinamide (PZA)	<i>pncA/pncA</i> promoter region	Any nonsynonymous change
Ethambutol (EMB)	<i>embB</i>	306, 406, 497
Streptomycin (SM)	<i>rrs</i> <i>rpsL</i>	512, 513, 516, 906 43, 88
Kanamycin/ <b>Amikacin</b> (KAN/ <b>AMI</b> )	<i>rrs</i>	1401
Kanamycin (KAN)	<i>eis</i> promoter region	-10, -37
Fluroquinolones (FLQ)	<i>gyrA</i> <i>gyrB</i>	74, 90, 91, 94 510
Ethionamide (ETH)	<i>mabA</i> promoter region <i>mabA</i> <i>ethA</i>	-17, -15, -8 203 <b>Frameshift/STOP</b>

**Red =Current validated pipeline**

# Putting it all together...

- **Detailed SOP or SOPs**
  - All QC, limitations, step by step details
- **Reporting**
  - Interpretation, disclaimers, examples
- **Quality Control**
  - Metrics, criteria, controls
- **Validation**
  - Specificity
  - Reproducibility (Inter- and Intra-)
  - Accuracy verification



# The Validation Package...

Please find attached the documentation materials that I have reviewed and approved including:

1. SOPM (SOP MB 91.0.0) for this whole-genome sequencing of Mycobacterium tuberculosis isolates using next generation sequencing technology
2. Validation Package and Appendix
3. Referenced SOPs from Applied Genomics Technology Core, Mycobacteriology Laboratory, Molecular Bacteriology Laboratory:
  - SOP MB 35.0.0 Employee Training
  - SOP MB 39.0.0 Employee CE
  - SOP MB 53.1.0 MTB complex differentiation
  - SOP AGTC 006.0 Illumina
  - SOP AGTC 007.0 Bioanalyzer
  - SOP AGTC 008.0 Qubit
  - SOP AFB-0016 Processing of Isolates
  - M. tuberculosis heat inactivation protocol
4. Testing reports
5. References for SOP MB 91.1.0 and Validation

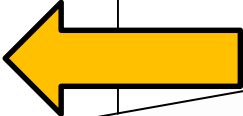
Separating  
SOPs makes  
future assay  
development  
more  
streamlined

# SOP QC Examples...

## Post run metrics for assessing success

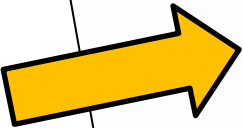
Unless a run fails entirely, determination of run success will be determined after analysis of the results through the bioinformatics pipeline. The AGTC will monitor standard run metrics to monitor overall performance of the instrument and to look for trends that indicate decreasing performance. These metrics will be entered into the CMS-MiSeqRunLog.

- 19.1 Final DAL conc. \_\_\_\_\_ pM (Library concentration loaded on instrument)
- 19.2 Cluster PF (%) \_\_\_\_\_ (Typically >75%)
- 19.3 Cluster Density \_\_\_\_\_ Normal (600-1300 K/mm<sup>2</sup>)
- 19.4 Q30 % \_\_\_\_\_ (Typically > 75% - total - all reads combined)
- 19.5 Reads PF \_\_\_\_\_ (15 million typical)
- 19.6 Aligned % (PhiX) \_\_\_\_\_ (~1% expected)
- 19.7 Error Rate (PhiX) \_\_\_\_\_ (0.6 - 1.8% overall - typical)



C. Compare the results imported into CLIMS with both the CLIMS-report.out (Appendix A) and the identification and resistance report (Appendix B) generated from the pipeline to ensure accuracy.

### 1. Organism Identification

- 
- a. If Kraken successfully identified the species, the code and species name will be imported and reported out on the CLIMS report.
  - b. If no species is reported, the identification can be determined using real-time PCR (See SOP MB 53 "Differentiation of the *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex by Real-time PCR"). This result will be imported and reported out under the real-time PCR section on the CLIMS report. If the result is inconclusive using real-time PCR, specific genetic features can aid in species identification (REF 1, 2, 3). Go to step c below.
  - c. Review the section in the report that is labeled as "All mutations in screened loci" for the following mutations in Table 1 below that may be listed and consult a supervisor to determine the identification. Once the identification is established, use the drop-down menu in CLIMS to fill in the correct code and species name that will appear in the CLIMS report.

# Retrospective study: Fluoroquinolone comparison

## 6. Fluoroquinolone Resistance:

Table 21. Summary of *gyrA*/*gyrB*<sup>†</sup> mutations identified used to predict fluoroquinolone resistance

High confidence mutations in <i>gyrA</i>	Number of isolates found to harbor mutation by WGS during retrospective study	Number of isolates with mutation confirmed by pyrosequencing or Sanger sequencing
Ala90Val	4	4
Ser91Pro	1	1
Asp94Asn	1	1
Asp94Gly	7	7
Total	13	13 (100%)

Validating  
against other  
molecular  
tests

No high confidence *gyrB* mutations were identified in this retrospective study

Table 22. DST Phenotype results compared to WGS Genotype results for fluoroquinolone resistance (target=*gyrA*)

		Fluoroquinolone DST Phenotype	
WGS Genotype		Resistant	Susceptible
	Resistant	13 <sup>*</sup>	0
	Susceptible	0	60

Validating  
against DST

Resistance Predictive Value= 100%

Susceptible Predictive value= 100%

# Retrospective Study: Isoniazid comparison

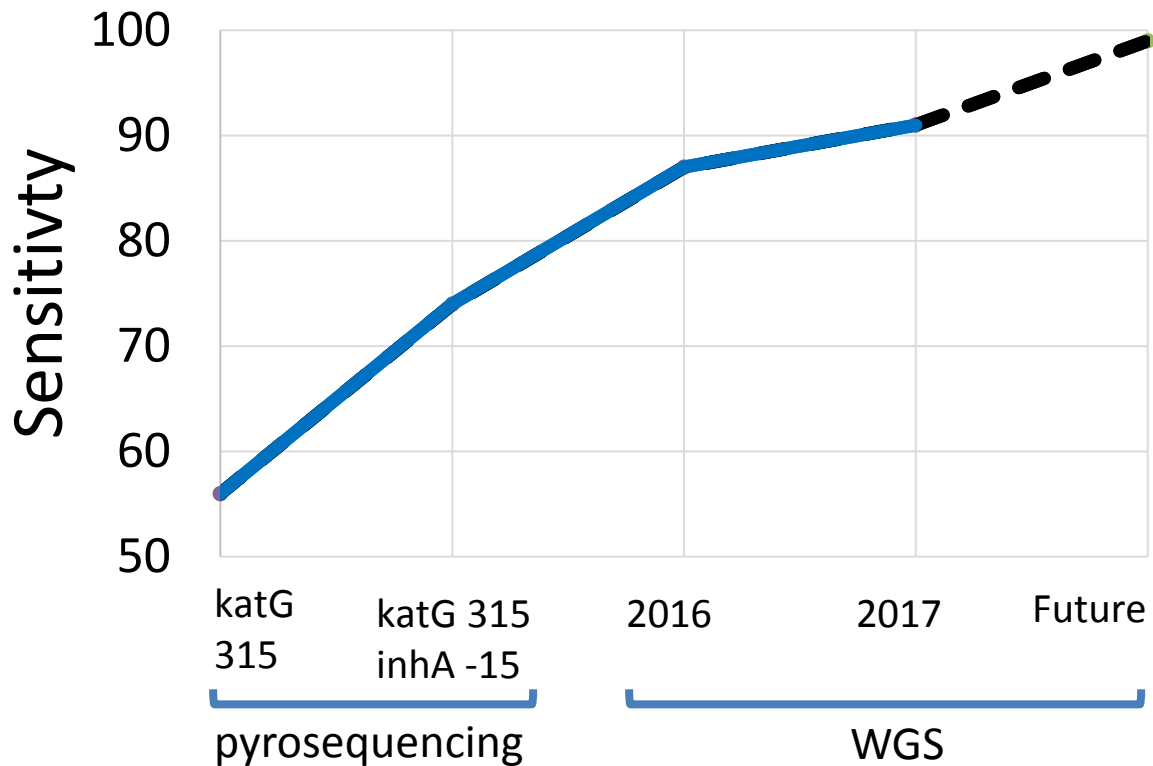
		DST Phenotype	
		R	S
WGS Genotype	Isoniazid R	55	1 <sup>1</sup>
	Isoniazid S	6 <sup>2</sup>	32

<sup>1</sup>This SNP is known to be a good but not perfect predictor of INH resistance (14/15 resistant)

<sup>2</sup> Each of the 6 has a different mutation that could potentially account for the missed resistance

Resistance Predictive Value= 98%  
Susceptible Predictive value= 84%

# Molecular INH Resistance Prediction



# What have we learned in 2+ years...

- Communication with NGS Core and bioinformaticians is critical!
- Discordance almost always is determined to be due to AST
- Not that many surprises, but continual improvement
- TB Control Epidemiologists and Regional NY colleagues love this data!





2015

# **What have we learned from NYS CLEP and CLIA Surveys?**

- **This type of testing is new to everyone**
- **Special internal audit with our QA Officer helpful**
- **Memos stating assay developers when training documentation doesn't make sense**
- **Able to utilize CDC Model Performance Evaluation Program (MPEP) for Internal Quality Assurance**
- **Tracking and QC reagents and Log**
- **Documenting pipeline updates**

Looking back... what  
would we do differently?



Consider instrumentation redundancy, utilize pivot tables to manage data, talk as much as possible about pipeline needs, talk more to TB controllers, develop training and competency documents, reagent logs and assessments initially

# Future

- Direct Sputum testing research
- WGS pipeline (2017)
  - Added drugs AST for MDR strains
  - WGS targets linezolid, clofazimine, PAS, bedaquiline
  - thyA stop mutation- PAS resistance
- Third pipeline update (2018)
  - New mutations
  - New mutation category (unclassified)
  - Externally facing pipeline
- Discontinuing DST very conservative approach on strains with no markers for resistance
- Funding
  - NIH R03- Evaluate TB WGS directly on sputum specimens
  - NIH grant award Nanopore MinION TB
  - APHL/CDC RFA to perform TB WGS



# How about Antimicrobial Resistance?



- To determine a novel carbapenemase mechanism
- To detect an IMP variant (other than IMP1)
- To assess other resistance genes
- (To determine relatedness)

# Why NGS on TB?

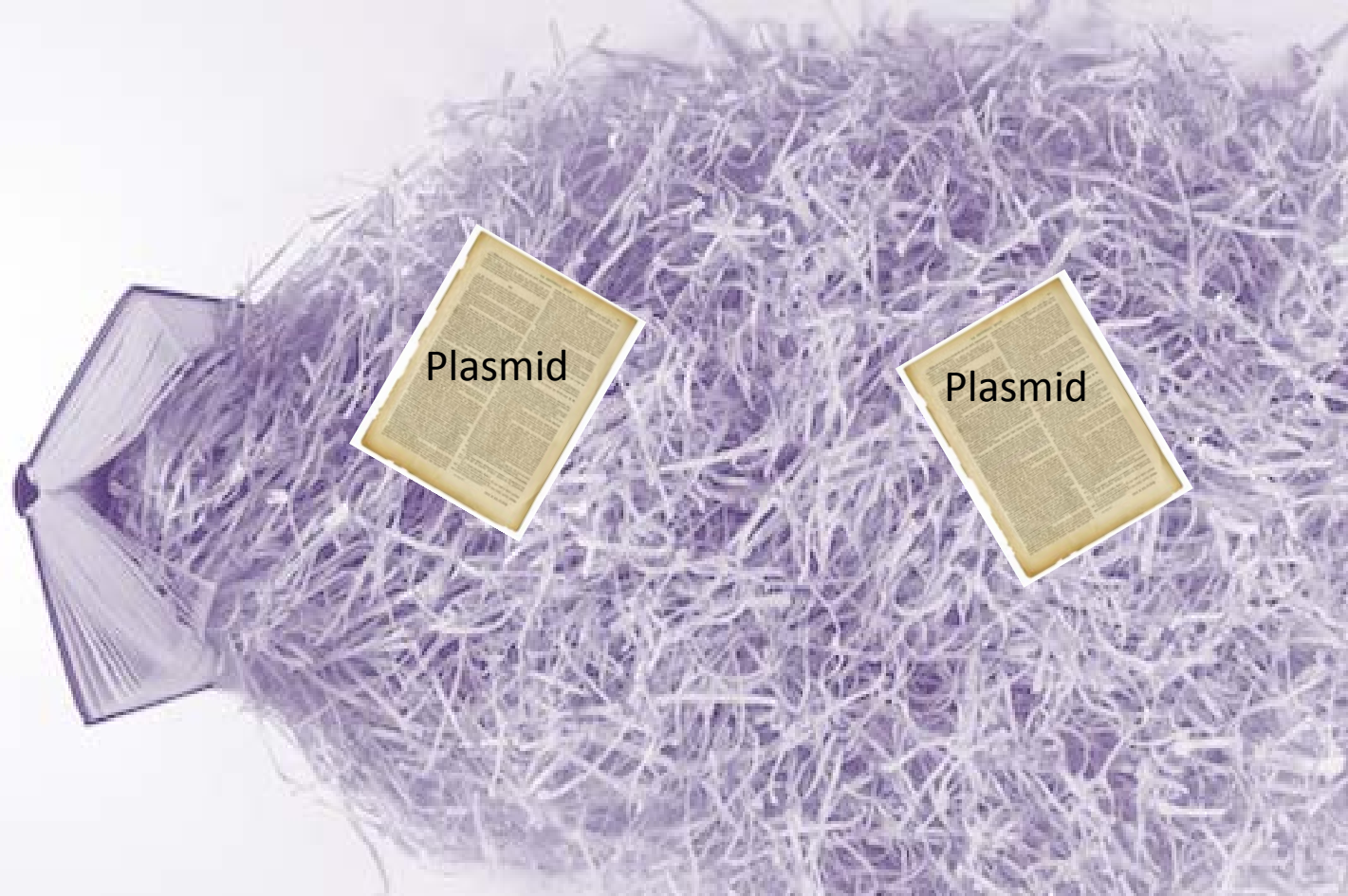
- 9000 CRE infections each year

Urgent  
threat level

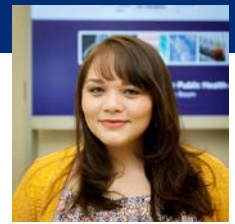
Some CRE have become resistant to nearly all available antibiotics-  
NDM

11% Screening showed hard to treat CRE that can spread easily

Dozens of genes and thousands of variants that can be assessed.

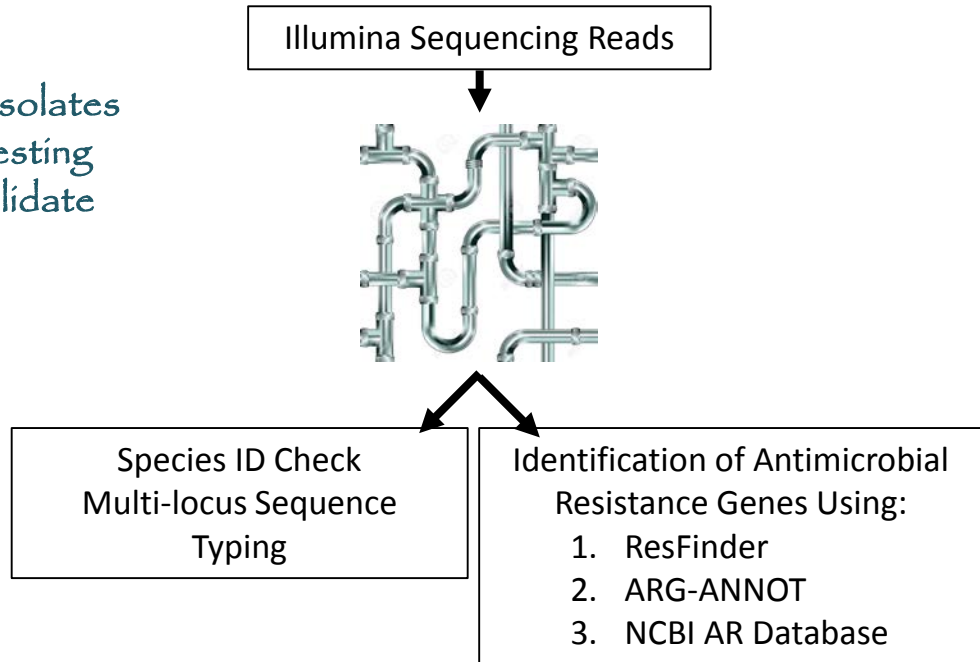


**What if there were also random pages included in the pile that needed to stay with the book**



# Along came an ARLN fellow...

Collect all data  
Characterization of isolates  
Repeat some initial testing  
Build pipeline and validate  
Assess WGS  
Summarize  
Collaborate



# Acknowledgements

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## MYCOBACTERIOLOGY LAB

## MOLECULAR BACTERIOLOGY LAB

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## APHL

Anne Gaynor

## NYS TB Control, NYC TB Control



Wadsworth Center, NYSDOH  
Public Health Genomics Initiative

Establishment of Mycobacterium tuberculosis  
complex WGS Reference Centers APHL/CDC



National Institutes of Health  
Office of Extramural Research

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis,  
STD, and TB Prevention

R03 NIH- Use of whole genome sequencing  
for tuberculosis diagnostics

**\*New Funding NIH MinION TB project**