

## STELLINGEN

1. Increased expression of the AdeABC efflux system is an important first step in the evolution of *Acinetobacter baumannii* to become multidrug resistant. (This thesis)
2. Both activation of intrinsic mechanisms and horizontal acquisition of resistance genes play a role in the evolution of antibiotic resistance of *A. baumannii*. (This thesis)
3. The occurrence of European clones I and II of *A. baumannii* in Europe at least since the late 1970s emphasizes the stability of these clonal complexes. (This thesis)
4. Many studies describing new resistance mechanisms in *A. baumannii* used unreliable methods for species identification. Consequently, such mechanisms may be incorrectly associated with this species. (This thesis)
5. Resistance islands integrate acquired resistance genes and, therefore, are responsible for a striking variation in resistance genotypes in both clonally and epidemiologically closely related isolates. (This thesis; Adams et al., *J Bacteriol* 2008, 190: 8053-8064)
6. The finding that multidrug resistance is linked to a limited range of genetically related *A. baumannii* strains is significant in the light of the progressive increase in resistance in *Acinetobacter* strains during the last decades. (Nemec et al., *J Med Microbiol* 1999, 48: 287-296)
7. We are closer to the much-threatened 'end of antibiotics' for *A. baumannii* more than for any other common pathogen. (Livermore & Woodford, *Trends Microbiol* 2006, 14: 413-420)
8. *ISAbal* is believed to serve as a 'moving switch' to turn on those genes in *A. baumannii* with which it is juxtaposed. (Livermore & Woodford, *Trends Microbiol* 2006, 14: 413-420)
9. The acceptance of a method-free species concept would free microbiologists to choose from a range of techniques those that are most suitable for the target organism, as the concept specifies neither a specific methodology nor a specific cut-off, but rather invokes a general evolutionary criterion for speciation. (Achtman & Wagner, *Nat Rev Microbiol* 2008, 6: 431-440)
10. Two descriptions are better than one. (Gregory Bateson, *Mind and Nature: A Necessary Unity*)
11. Thought is creating divisions out of itself and then saying that they are there naturally. (David Bohm, *Thought as a System*)
12. Science cannot solve the ultimate mystery of nature. And that is because, in the last analysis, we ourselves are a part of the mystery that we are trying to solve. (Max Planck)

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