

Disruption and Prevention of Biofilm Growth: The Effect of a Cationic and Novel Zinc Porphyrin on Pseudomonas aeruginosa Biofilm **Formation on Different Substrata** David Rivetti, Nehaben Patel, Jayne B. Robinson, Karolyn M. Hansen Department of Biology, University of Dayton

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- The properties of biofilms differ greatly from free-living, or planktonic, bacterial cells.
- The structure and function of the biofilm matrix promotes cooperation, capture of resources, an enhanced rate of genetic exchange, and resistance to antimicrobial agents.
- *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a gram-negative bacterium capable of forming biofilms on both biotic and abiotic surfaces.
 - Previous experiments have demonstrated effective disruption of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* biofilm growth on abiotic surfaces (e.g. glass).
- **Research Focus: Determining the efficacy of TMP and a novel zinc** porphyrin in both disruption and prevention of biofilm growth on various substrata with medical and environmental applications.



MATERIALS AND METHODS

Disruption Experiment: 2 hour exposure to TMP or ZnP following 16 hour biofilm formation.

Prevention Experiment: 2 hour pre-soak in TMP or ZnP prior to biofilm f<u>ormation.</u>



pentafluorophenylporphyrinatozinc (II)).

Figures 3-7: Experimental design for the disruption and prevention experiments performed. Figure 3 is a streak plate of PAO1 on LB agar. Figure 4 displays the spectrophotometric readings taken before the liquid culture was adjusted to an optical density of 0.15, which is depicted in **Figure 5**. The adjusted culture was incubated under dark, static conditions for 16 hours at 37°C, as shown in **Figure 6**. Pre-treatment with a 2 hour soak in TMP or ZnP was performed in a hybridization incubator set to 37°C (Figure 7).





Figures 9-11: Confocal images of: (9a) PE Control, (9b) PE 100µM TMP, (9c) PE 225µM TMP, (10a) Steel Control, (10b) Steel 100µM TMP, (10c) Steel 225µM TMP, (11a) Glass Control, (11b) Glass 100µM TMP, and (11c) Glass 225μM TMP. Figure 12: Plate counts for: (12a) Shell Control, (12b) Shell 100μM TMP, and, (12c) Shell 225μM TMP.

Aim 1: Treatment of formed biofilm with TMP and ZnP. Aim 2: Pre-treatment with TMP and ZnP with the goal of

Glass Slide

Figure 8 (a-e): The four different substrata used. Figures 8a and 8b are of Polyethylene and Stainless Steel coupons, respectively. Figure 8c shows VWR Micro Glass Slides. Figures 8d and 8e display Crassostrea virginica shell cut with

a tile saw to 10 x 25mm. All substrata were autoclaved before experiments began.











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