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micro scoop



Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Panels – New!

ATCC has developed [Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* \(MRSA\) Panels](#) consisting of a wide variety of MRSA strains from both hospital- and community-acquired sources, and performed additional research to determine:

- SCCmec type
- PFGE type
- Presence of the PVL gene

The first two ATCC Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* Panels is now available for purchase as a single-unit:

[ATCC SCCmec Type MRSA Panel \(ATCC® MP-2™\)](#) – comprised of 7 Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) representing SCCmec types I, II, III, IV, V, VI and XI

[ATCC Pulsed-Field Type MRSA Panel \(ATCC® MP-3™\)](#) – coming soon!

MRSA strains included in these panel are useful for studying the genetic variation between SCCmec types (*omitted “MRSA” from in front of this item*), the *in vitro* evaluation of disinfectants and novel antibiotics, and establishing the performance characteristics of molecular-based assays. [Custom DNA extraction](#) for each strain is available upon request.

A full listing of all MRSA strains evaluated by ATCC is available [here](#).

Events and Conferences

Merck Technology Symposium

Long Branch, NJ
May 8th - 9th
Booth: 34

American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Meeting

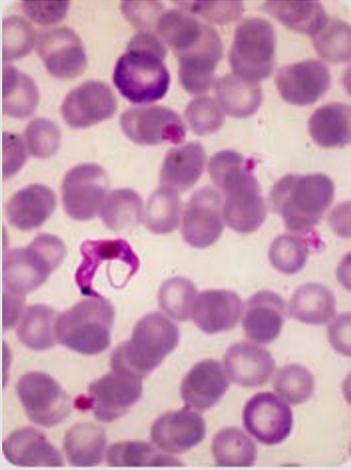
San Francisco, CA
June 16th - 19th
Booth: 616

ATCC Publications

Resources for Animal Virology – Recently updated!

An invaluable resource for selecting relevant ATCC strains for use in virus research.

[Download PDF ►](#)



Pathogenic protozoan parasites

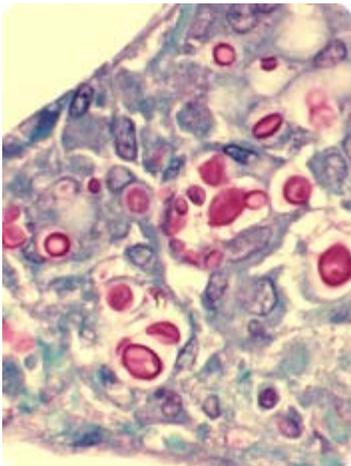
Even in the age of modern medicine, infections caused by protozoan species still pose a risk to humans and animals around the globe, including trypanosomiasis, giardiasis, cryptosporidiosis and amoebic dysentery. Many anti-parasitic drugs display toxicity to the host, while some do not fully remediate the invading organism. Research to understand the phenotypic and genotypic mechanisms of protozoan pathogenicity is on-going, and new methods for detecting early infection, followed by effective treatment, continues to be a major focus in this field of science.

Recent acquisitions in the ATCC Protistology Collection include a number of pathogenic parasite strains used in antimicrobial susceptibility assays and genomic studies, including:

- ***Trypanosoma cruzi*** strains used in anti-parasitic drug screening – learn more about [Chagas disease](#)
- ***Prototheca cutis*** pathogenic strain isolated from human skin – learn more about [protothecosis](#)
- ***Toxoplasma gondii*** strains used in genomic studies – learn more about [toxoplasmosis](#)

[Learn more ►](#)

Photo courtesy of Dr. Mae Melvin, CDC



Cryptococcus gattii – Emerging disease threat in the Pacific Northwest

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports *Cryptococcus gattii* poses a substantial disease risk to both immunosuppressed and immunocompetent persons in endemic tropical and subtropical locations. However, the diagnosis of cryptococcal disease in northern climates has steadily increased since the turn of the century. ATCC offers *Cryptococcus gattii* strains from a diverse group of clinical and environmental sources isolated from around the world, including the molecular type strain IIC and three new clinical isolates from British Columbia, to aid on-going research efforts to elucidate pathogenic mechanisms of disease and the genomic differences among strains isolated in different ecological locations.

[Read more ►](#)

Photo courtesy of Dr. Edwin P. Ewing, Jr., CDC



Update! – New information on fungal threat to US bat population

Canadian researchers have recently determined that the strain of *Geomyces destructans* causing White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in U.S. bats does not represent a uniquely mutated fungus, but rather originated from a European source. While this devastating disease leads to high mortality rates in North American bat populations, reasons for why this fungus does not kill European bats are still under investigation. [Bat Conservation International](#) reports that 5.7 million bats, including 9 species in 20 states within the U.S. and 4 Canadian provinces, have succumbed to the effects of WNS since it was first discovered in the U.S. in 2006. In an effort to aid research efforts related to WNS, ATCC now provides the [fully-sequenced gDNA from *Geomyces destructans*, strain 20631-21](#) deposited by the USGS National Wildlife Health Center (sequencing published by [The Broad Institute](#)).

Learn more about how bat mortality is currently affecting the U.S. agricultural industry (courtesy of Bat Conservation International).

[Learn more ►](#)

Photo courtesy of Ryan von Linden/New York Department of Environmental Conservation (Title: little brown bat; close-up of nose with fungus, New York, Oct 2008).



ATCC Microbiology Photo Contest

Show the world that your research has style - be a part of ATCC's Microbiology photo contest. We're looking for your most beautiful, striking or scientifically exciting images that feature use of a bacteria, virus, fungi, yeast or protist that ATCC sells. Our **1st place winner** will receive an **iPad®3** and a framed poster of their winning photograph. The **2nd place winner** will receive an **iPod touch®** and our three **3rd place winners** will each receive an **iPod nano®**.

[Submit Photo ▶](#)

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