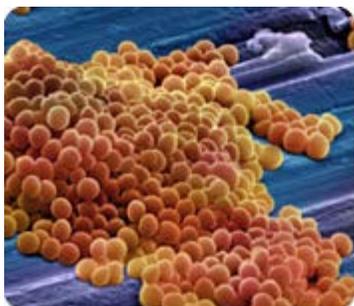




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## Pulsed-Field Type MRSA Panel – Now Available!

[ATCC® Methicillin-resistant \*Staphylococcus aureus\* \(MRSA\) Panels](#) include cultures tested for and organized into either SCCmec type or PFGE type, allowing for rapid selection of the cultures you need for applications such as genetic analysis of SCCmec types, the *in vitro*

evaluation of disinfectants and novel antibiotics, or establishing the performance characteristics of molecular-based assays.

Both [ATCC MRSA Panels](#) are now available, and include:

- **ATCC SCCmec Type MRSA Panel (ATCC® MP-2™)** – MRSA strains representing 7 different SCCmec types
- **ATCC Pulsed-Field Type MRSA Panel (ATCC® MP-3™)** – MRSA strains representing 10 different PFGE types

Data provided for [all MRSA strains](#) has now been updated with spa typing, complete with both Ridom and Kreiswirth methods.

[Learn more ▶](#)



## It's Tick Season – Resources for Tick-borne Diseases

Babesiosis has become a growing concern in the medical community, and is now a nationally notifiable disease according to the CDC. Infecting organisms from the *Babesia* genus are transmitted to humans by ixodid ticks, and is of special concern to immunocompromised patients,

blood recipients, the elderly, and individuals infected with more than one tick parasite, including *Borrelia burgdorferi* or *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*. Teal, *et al.* report that the long-standing gold standard assay for diagnosis of active babesiosis has been microscopic examination of Giemsa-stained thick and thin blood smears, and describe a new Real-Time PCR-based method of detecting *Babesia microti* in infected whole blood<sup>1</sup>. However, the authors also report that the region of the 18S rRNA gene targeted by

the assay shows species-specific sequence variation allowing for easy modification of the assay to permit detection of other species in the genus, such as *B. duncani* and the MO-1 and EU-1 strains.

## Events and Conferences

### American Society for Microbiology (ASM) General Meeting

San Francisco, CA  
June 16 – 19, 2012  
Booth: 616

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## ATCC Publications

### Resources for Animal Virology – Recently updated!

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### Resources for Microbiology – New!

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### View from the Petri Dish

An ATCC blog highlighting the intersection between microbiology and society

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ATCC currently offers four *Babesia* strains, as well as several non-protozoan species, for the continued research of tick-borne diseases.

[Learn more ►](#)

<sup>1</sup>Teal AE, *et al.*, A New Real-Time PCR Assay for Improved Detection of the Parasite *Babesia microti*. *J Clin Microbiol* (2012) 50(3):903-908.  
Photo courtesy Anna Perez, CDC



## Antarctic fungi may reveal secrets to surviving on Mars

Humans have been imagining life on Mars since before H.G. Wells published *War of the Worlds* in 1898, and the presence of eukaryotes in the driest regions of Antarctica may provide some clues as to how life might exist on the Red Planet. Onofri, *et al.* describe black meristematic fungi that are able to colonize different extreme environments characterized by dryness, high salinity, low nutrient availability and high irradiation in the McMurdo Dry Valleys – a place that was thought to be almost sterile until 1970<sup>1</sup>. These organisms are thick walled and melanized, allowing them to resist extreme dryness and high UV radiation. Onofri, *et al.* propose that these black meristematic fungi are promising

models to investigate the ability of a terrestrial microorganism to withstand past or present Martian conditions<sup>1</sup>.

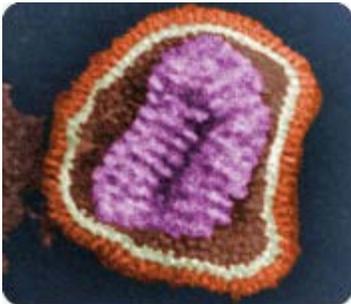
ATCC offers several fungal species isolated from Antarctica, but our most recent acquisition came straight from the McMurdo Dry Valleys:

- [ATCC® MYA-4880™](#) – *Cryomyces antarcticus* (Currently undergoing [genome sequencing](#) by the Joint Genome Institute at the Department of Energy, USA)

And, don't forget – There are less than 72 days remaining until [Mars Rover Curiosity](#) makes its landing.

[Learn more ►](#)

<sup>1</sup>Onofri S, *et al.*, Antarctic microfungi as models for exobiology. *Planetary and Space Science* (2004) 52:229-237.  
Photo courtesy NASA/JPL-Caltech



## ATCC® Viral Nucleic Acids – Fast, Affordable Tools for Assay Verification

[ATCC Viral Nucleic Acids](#) can save you the time and expense of isolating DNA or RNA yourself. ATCC offers a variety of viral nucleic acids isolated from both human and animal isolates, such as Adenovirus, *Herpesvirus*, Influenza virus, Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV), and Coronavirus. Viral nucleic acid extractions are performed by ATCC scientists under aseptic conditions to prevent cross-contamination, and evaluated for integrity, purity and quality by [several methods](#). See the growing list of ATCC Viral Nucleic Acids, and start saving the time you would have spent on expanding viral stocks to start analyzing your data faster.

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Photo courtesy of Frederick Murphy, CDC

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