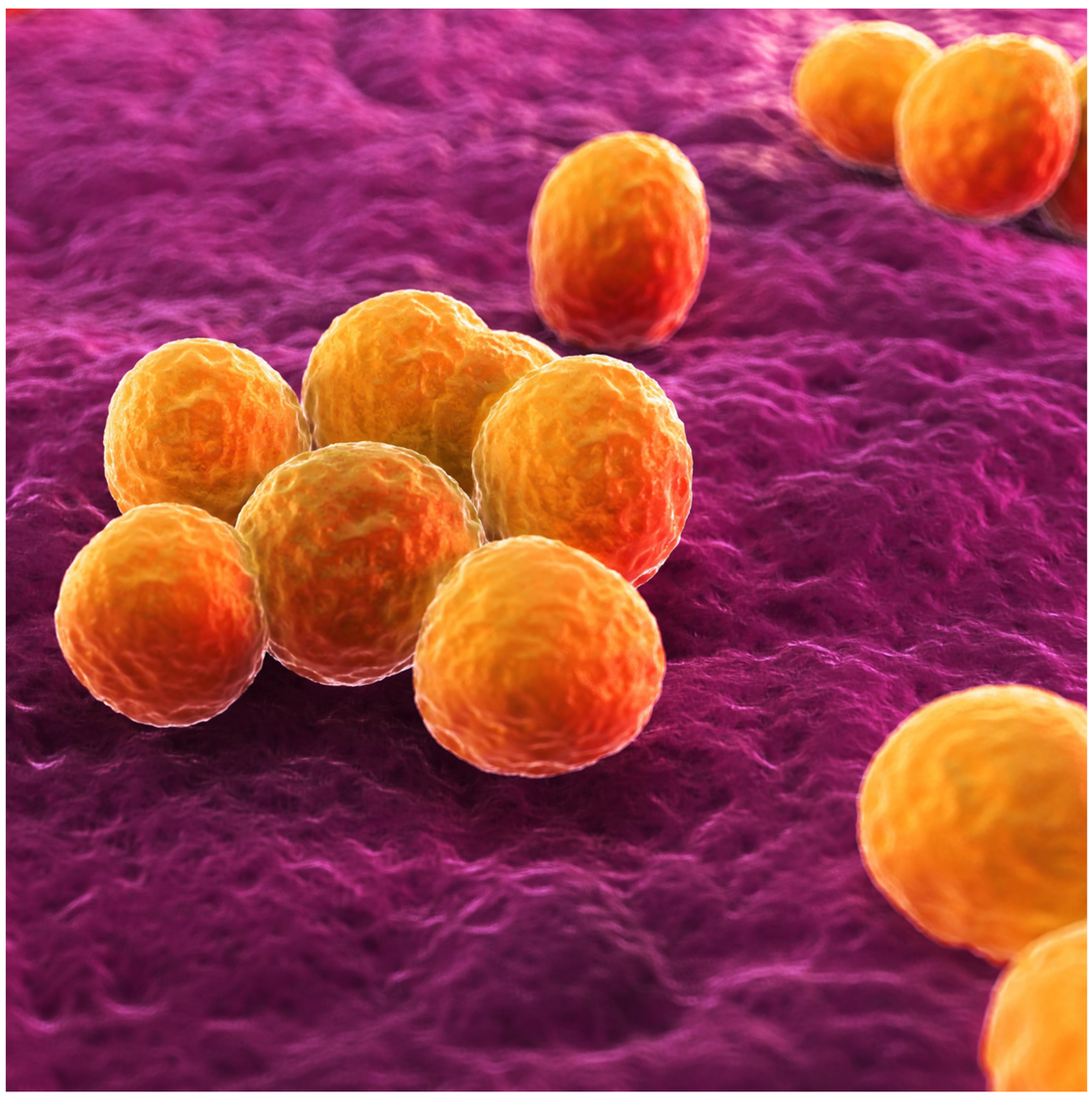
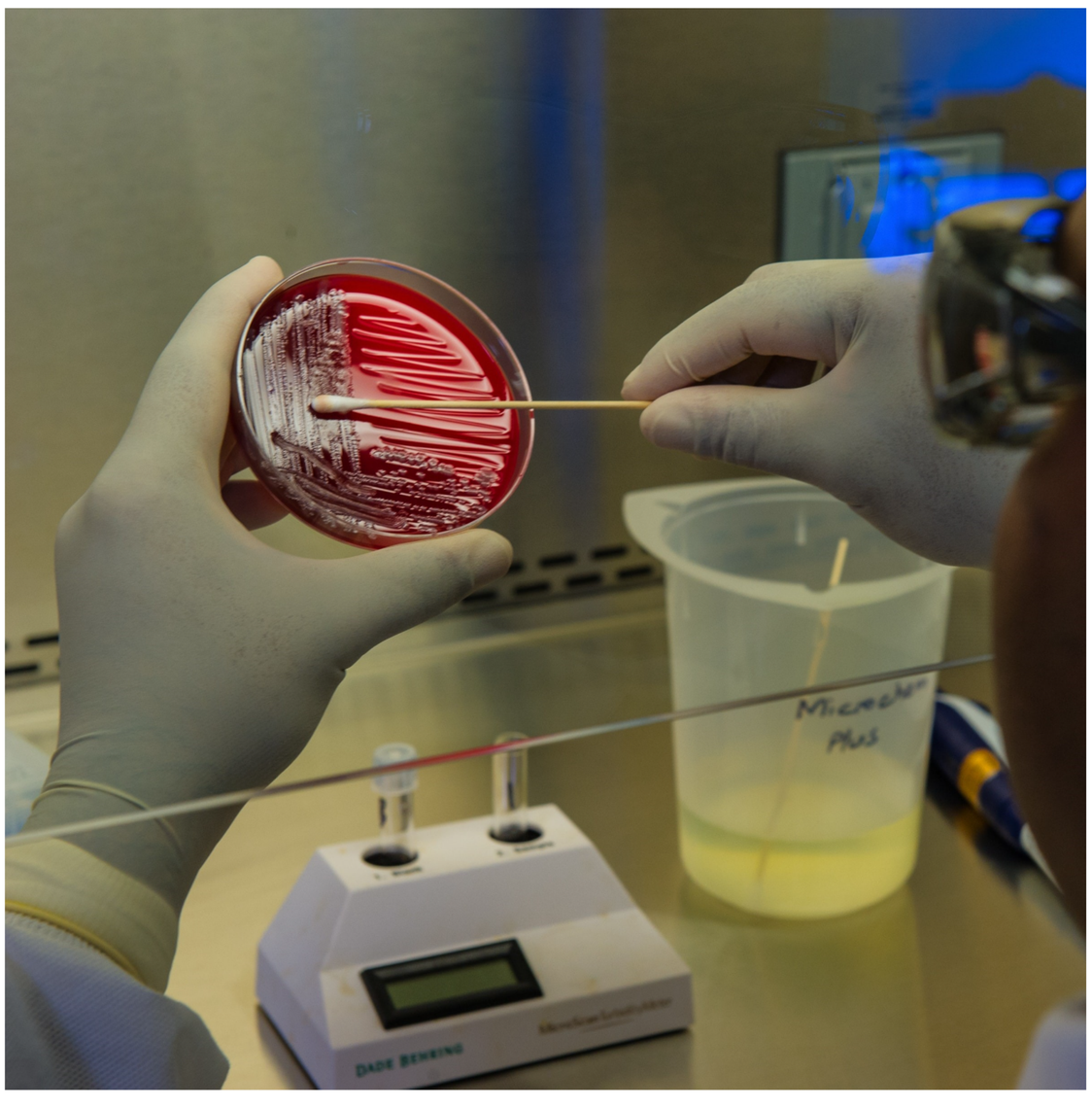
ABOUT MRSA

Understand the science behind the threat to protect your health and the health of those around you.





UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

It is estimated that approximately 1 in every 30 individuals carries Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) on their skin, alongside a plethora of other bacteria that are essential for the maintenance of the body's ecosystem. Problems arise, however, when this strain of bacteria enters beneath the skin, resulting in inflammation of the tissue at the infection site. MRSA is most commonly known to cause infections in the skin, respiratory tract, urinary tract and bloodstream.

One of the primary distinctions between MRSA and a typical septic infection is its degree of resistance to antibiotics. MRSA is resistant to several types of commonly-used antibiotics, limiting treatment options and increasing the fatality of the infection.

With the overuse of antibiotics, superbugs continue to evolve ↗

CONTRACTION

MRSA is typically spread through skin-to-skin contact or via contaminated objects or surfaces, and can cause both mild and severe infections that can be life-threatening.

MRSA can be spread through contact with contaminated medical equipment, such as catheters or ventilators, or through contact with healthcare workers who are carrying the bacteria on their hands or clothing.

Hospital footwear unexpectedly spreads MRSA ↗

In the Netherlands, the annual incidence of MRSA infections rose more than threefold from 2001 to 2006. Of these cases, one third were a result of interspecies transmission from MRSA-colonized livestock, such as cattle, pigs, and poultry. The overuse of antibiotics in animals led to the emergence of drug-resistant strains of MRSA which are capable of being spread between humans and animals.

Livestock veterinarians face eight times the risk ↗

The Texas State Department of Health conducted three studies which found that the infection rate among football players was 16 times higher than the national average. In an athletic setting, MRSA can be spread through skin-to-skin contact or through shared equipment that is not properly disinfected between uses.

MRSA threatens an end to Daniel Fells' career ↗