

Researchers find transferable antibiotic resistance gene in pathogen of developing nations

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A team of investigators has found that the *mcr-1* drug resistance gene, which encodes resistance to a drug that is used as a last resort, has been found for the first time in *Shigella flexneri*. *Shigella* are one of the leading causes of diarrhea worldwide. The research is published March 2nd in *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*, a journal of the American Society for Microbiology.

In the study, the investigators screened more than 2,000 *Shigella* isolates for the [mcr-1 gene](#). (Isolates are bacteria from samples which in this case were taken from animal feces on a farm, from patients, and from the environment). Just one isolate tested positive.

That may sound scarce; however, "...as only a small number of strains (

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