



Articles of Significant Interest in This Issue

Analysis of the mRNAs in Spores of *Bacillus subtilis*

Spores of *Clostridiales* and *Bacillales* species are known to contain hundreds to thousands of mRNA species. Korza et al. (e00007-19) now show that only ~50 of these mRNAs are present in all *Bacillus subtilis* spores in populations, some at ≥ 80 copies/spore. Almost all abundant spore mRNAs are synthesized only in the developing spore and encode spore proteins. The less abundant spore mRNAs are not contaminants in spore preparations, but the reason for their presence in spores is not clear. The role of dormant spore mRNAs appears to be as a source of ribonucleotides for new RNA synthesis when spores germinate and these mRNAs are degraded.

Multiple Biofilm Regulatory Strategies Have Evolved in Squid-Colonizing *Vibrio fischeri*

Vibrio fischeri forms a symbiotic biofilm during colonization of the Hawaiian bobtail squid. In the well-studied strain *V. fischeri* ES114, histidine kinase RscS is required for host colonization because it regulates transcription of the critical *syp* exopolysaccharide genes. Examining squid symbionts from multiple squid hosts worldwide, Rotman et al. (e00033-19) identified two evolutionary groups that do not use RscS for this regulation, though all three groups require the biofilm target locus. Therefore, there is a common biofilm pathway across the species upon which at least three distinct regulatory architectures have evolved.