

Written responses to open questions of the webinar ‘Exploring non-traditional antimicrobials: Insights from three cases’ by Jennifer Schneider (speaker), Rida Mourtada (speaker), Gregorio Iraola (speaker), and Sina Gerbach (moderator) originally broadcast on 22 August 2024.

See the recordings of the presentations here: <https://revive.gardp.org/exploring-non-traditional-antimicrobials-insights-from-three-cases/>

Question asked	Response from the speakers
How to address the two limitations of bacteriophages: narrow host specificity and the risk of bacteria developing resistance against them too in the long run?	<p>Narrow host specificity is something we are working to improve with our jumbo phages, which naturally have a broader spectrum.</p> <p>Regarding resistance, for therapeutic use, we don't use phage cocktails, we use single phages and reserve others in case resistance appears quickly.</p>
It has been reported that phages if given systemically, are rather quickly cleared into the spleen. Did you observe something of the kind as well?	Treatments we have performed so far have been 100% successful from a microbiological standpoint (bacterial eradication). However, we have mainly not treated patients IV locally which possibly cause a faster clearance.
What is the current regulatory framework for phage interventions in hospitals?	It greatly depends on the country. In Uruguay, we have generated a framework that allows us to treat patients under the request of a doctor and the medical institution.
How can personalized phage therapy be scaled and what business model can support its broader use?	We have incepted a decentralized network of phage therapy centers and a subscription model that we are scaling through Latin America.
What defines the genome of jumbo phages in comparison with standard phages (beyond their size)?	Their expanded genomes translates into expanded genetic repertoires coding for a vast diversity of enzymes and molecular mechanisms conferring them distinguishing biological properties, like mechanisms to avoid bacterial phage-resistance mechanisms.

Remaining audience questions from the webinar ‘Exploring non-traditional antimicrobials: Insights from three cases’ by Jennifer Schneider, Rida Mourtada and Gregorio Iraola originally broadcast on 22 August 2024