

# Individuality in Bacteria: beyond nature and nurture

Martin Ackermann - Molecular Microbial Ecology ETHZ



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Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich



# Molecular Microbial Ecology



Nikki  
Freed



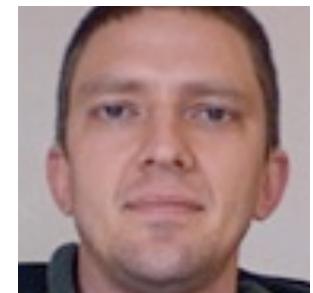
Olin  
Silander



Nela  
Nikolic



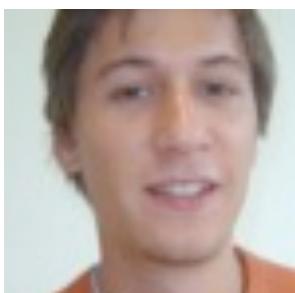
Tobi  
Bergmiller



Dave  
Johnson



Colette  
Bigosch



Markus  
Arnoldini



Teresa  
Colangelo



Felix  
Goldschmidt



Rolf  
Kümmeler

# Main collaborators

## Biocenter Basel



Urs  
Jenal



Alex  
Boehm

## UBC



Michael  
Doebeli

## ETHZ



Wolf-Dietrich  
Hardt

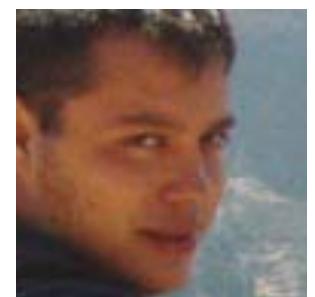


Bärbel  
Stecher

## Imperial



Rob  
Beardmore

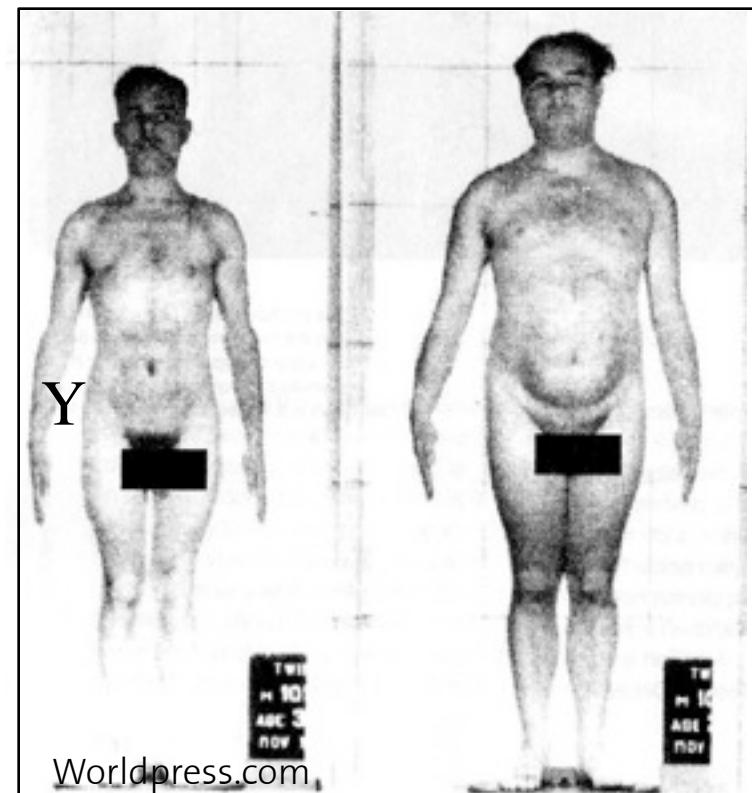


Rafael  
Pena-Miller

# Who are we?



source unknown



Worldpress.com

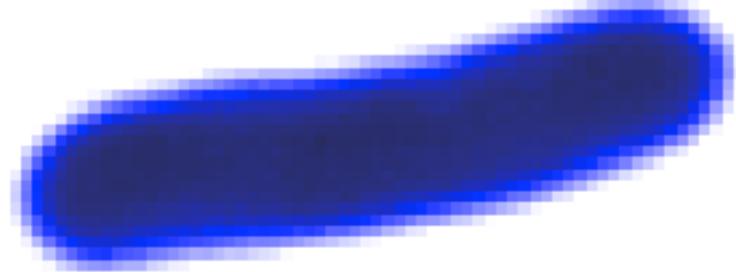
Genes are  
important

The environment  
is important

# Beyond genes and environment

Beyond genes and environment

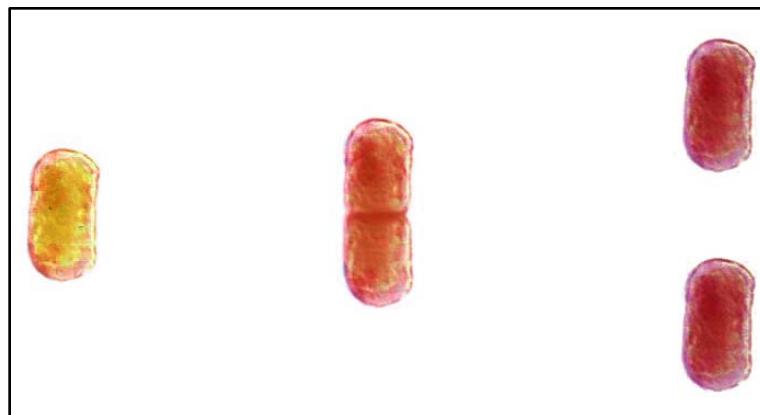
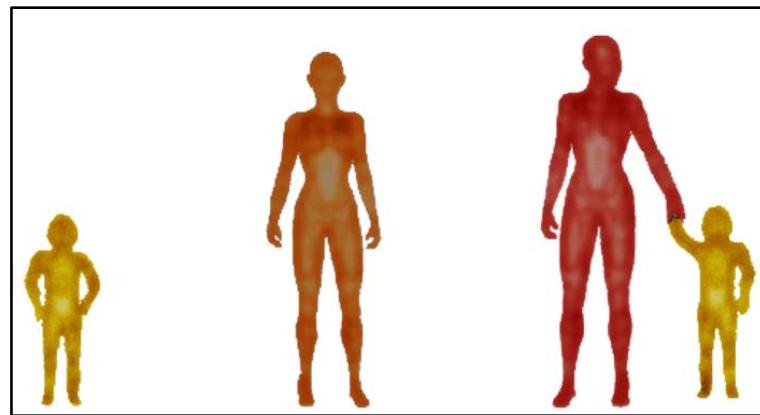
Aging

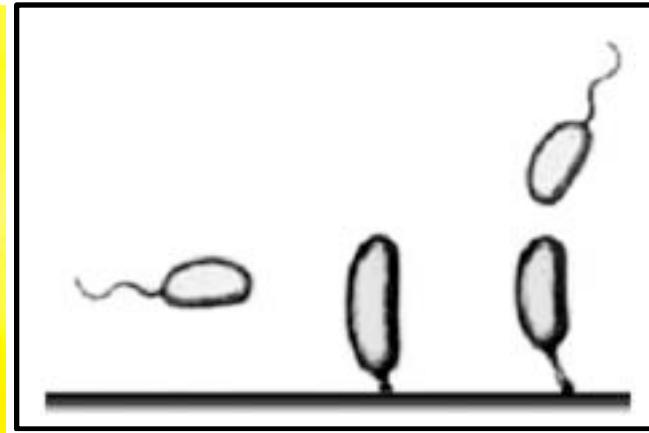
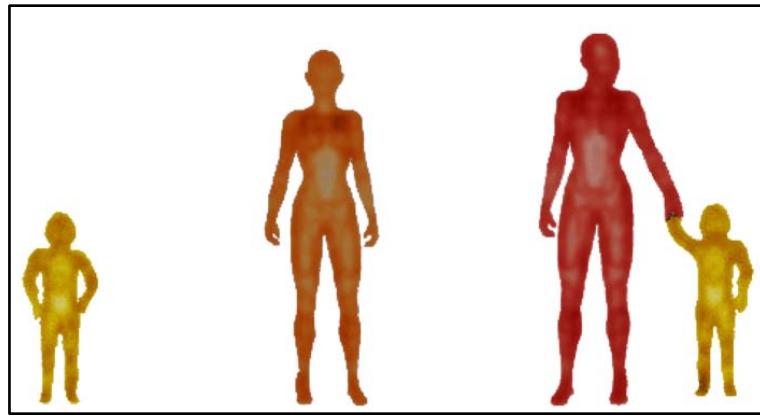


Random decisions

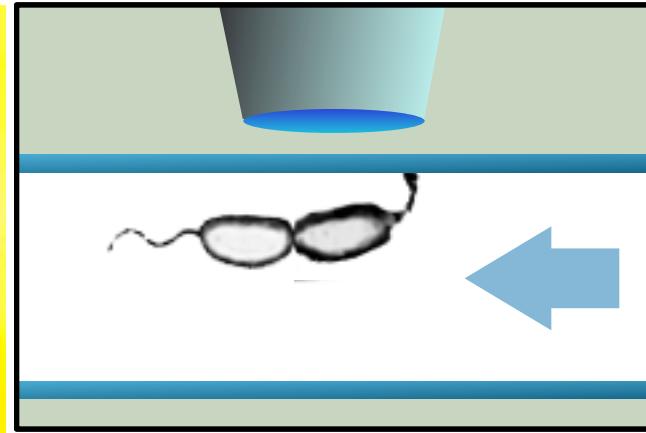
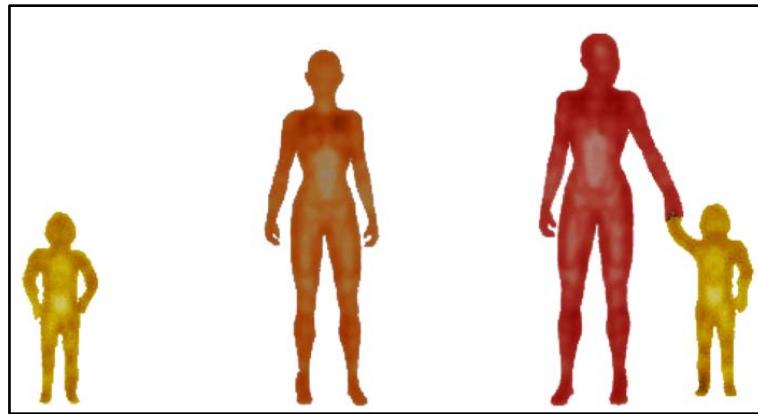
Individuality in bacteria

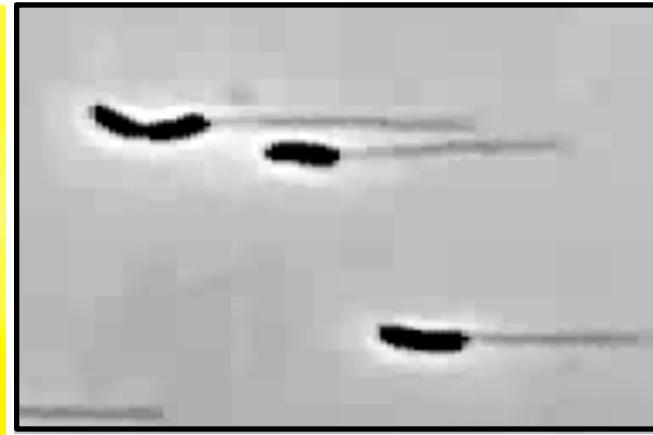
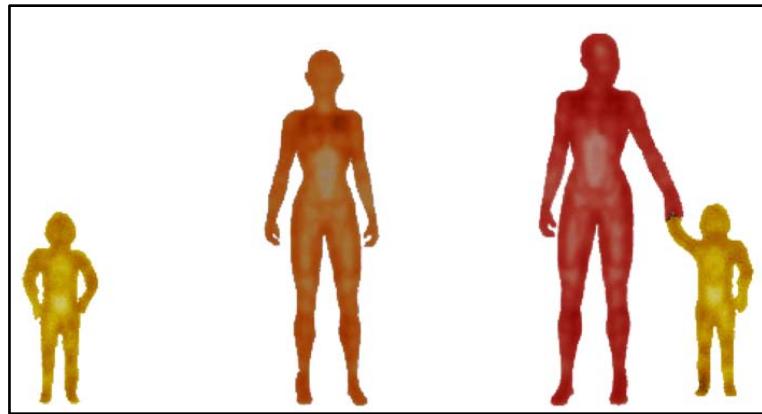
# Aging

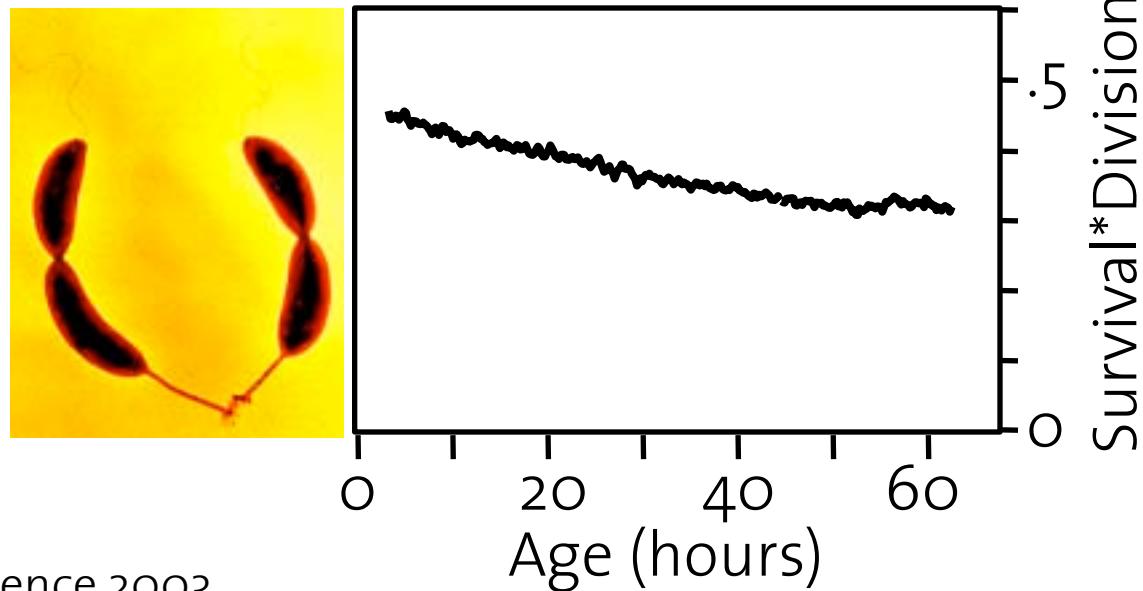
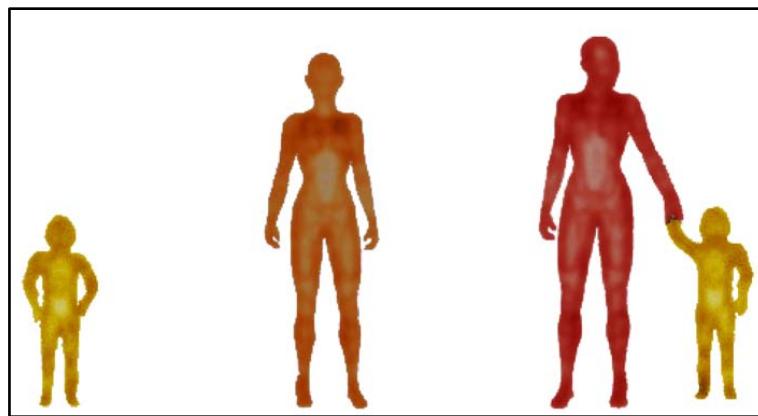


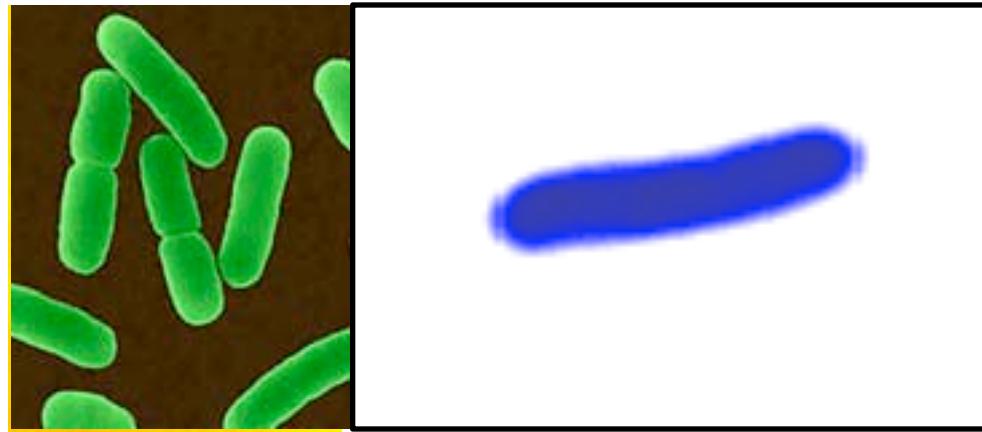
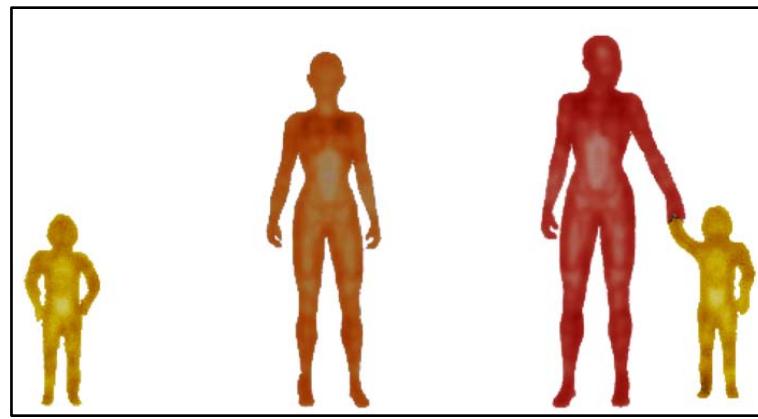


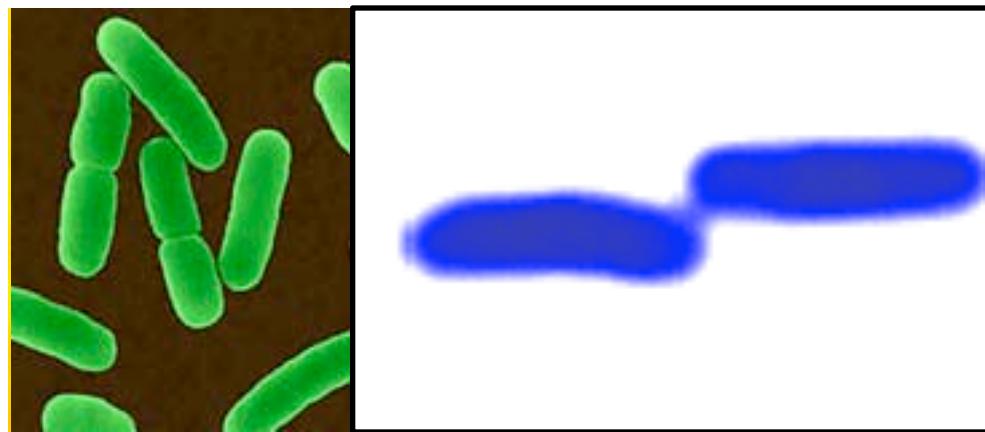
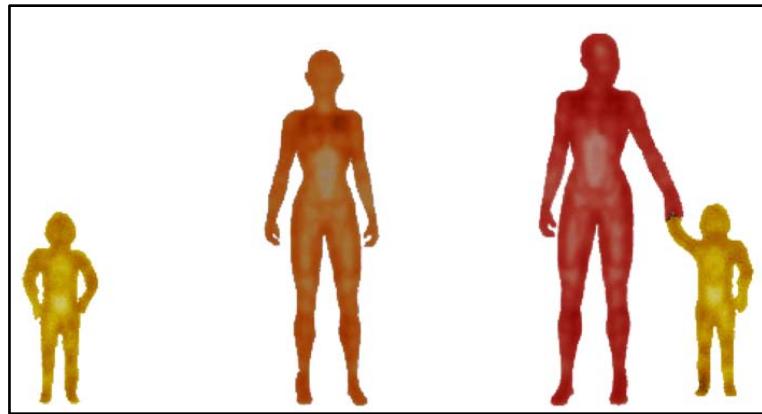
*Caulobacter crescentus*

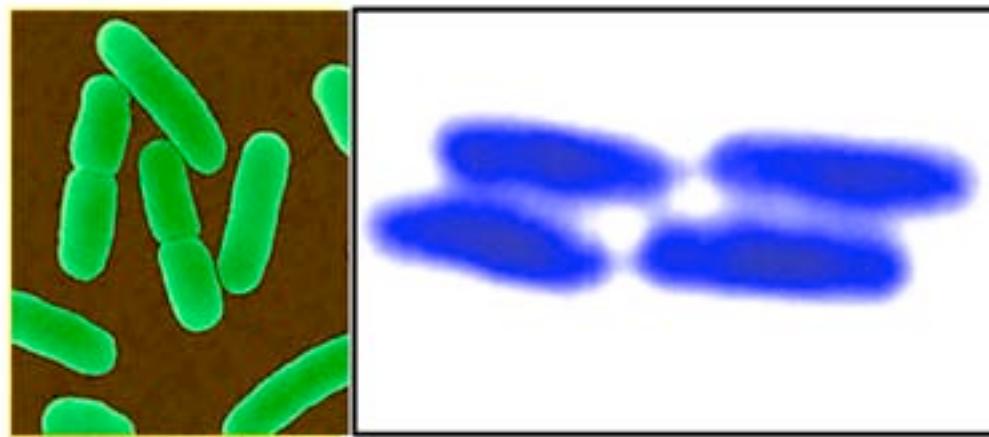
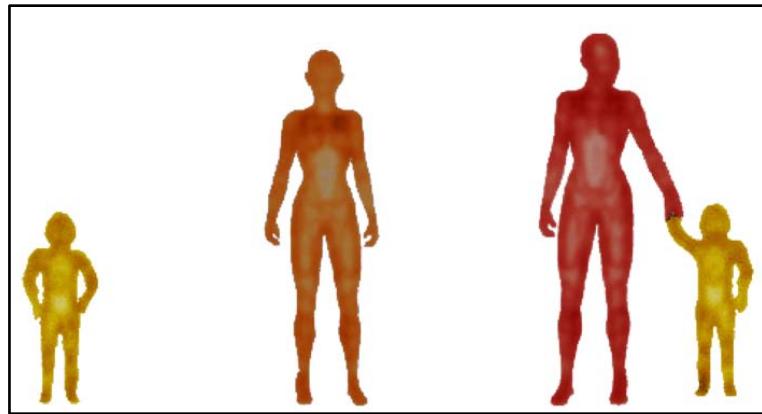


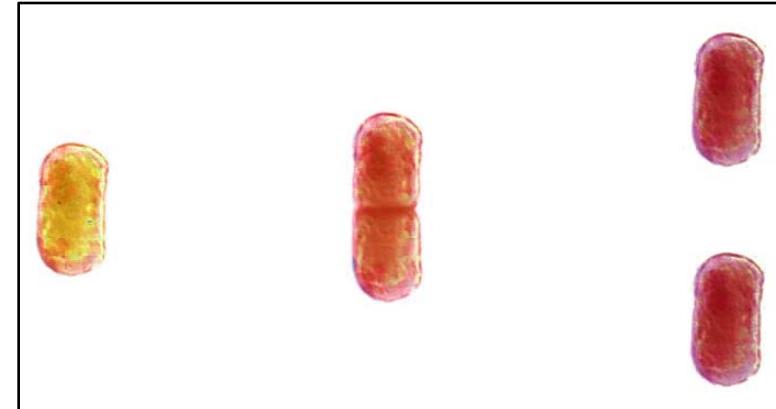
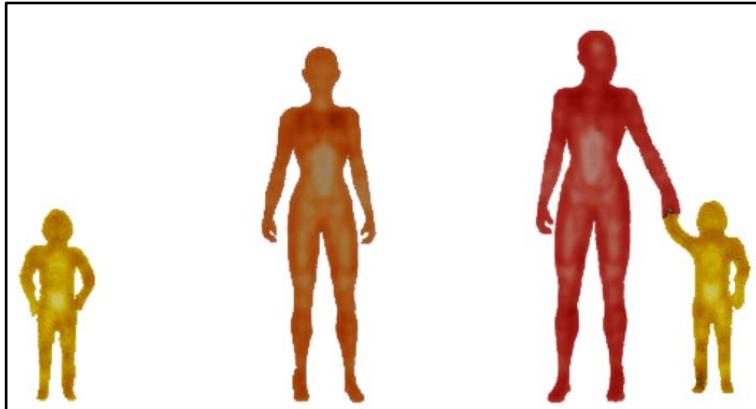


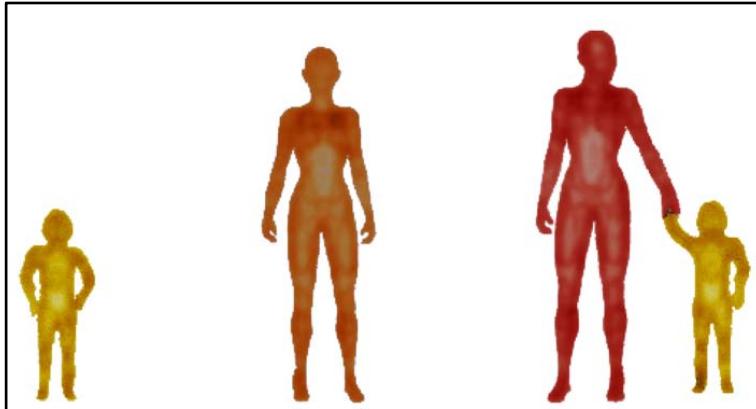




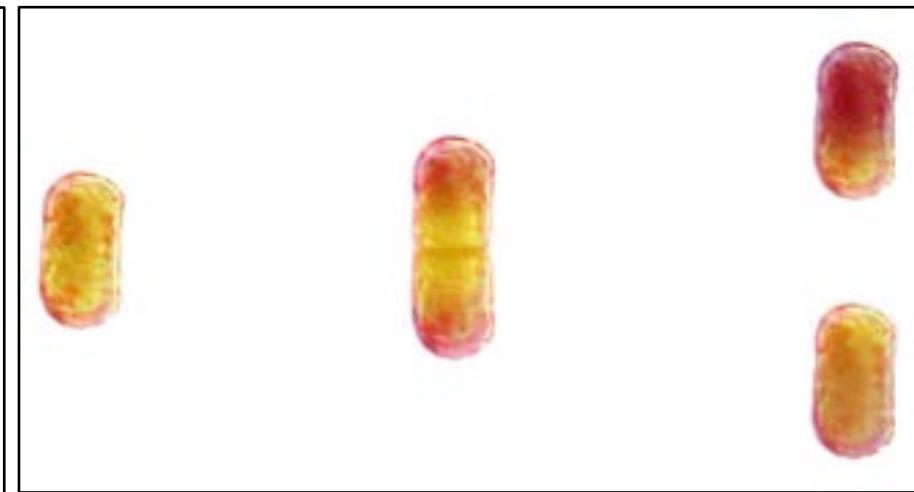
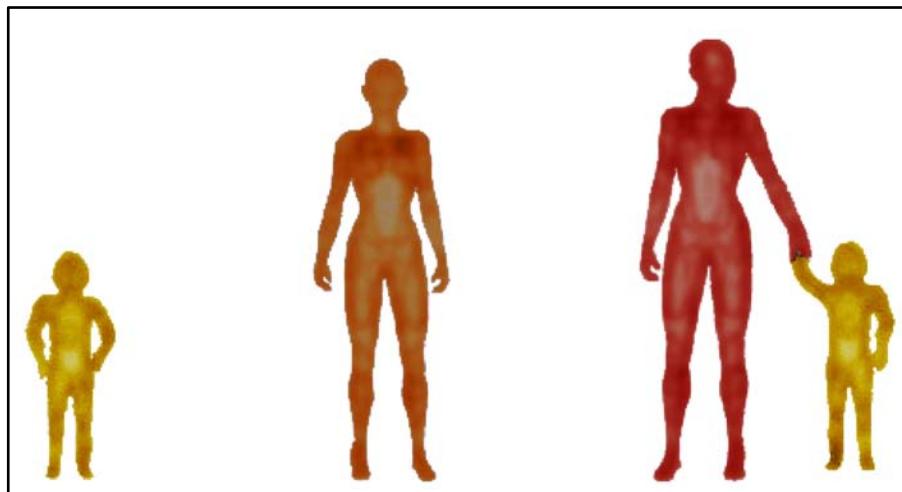


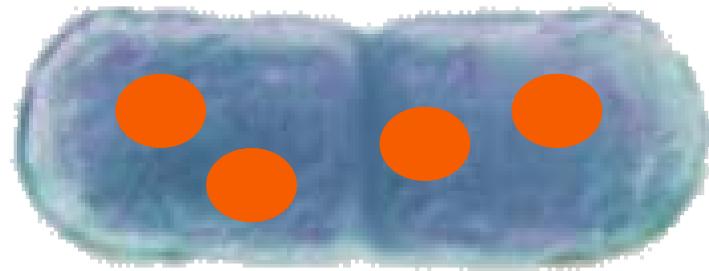
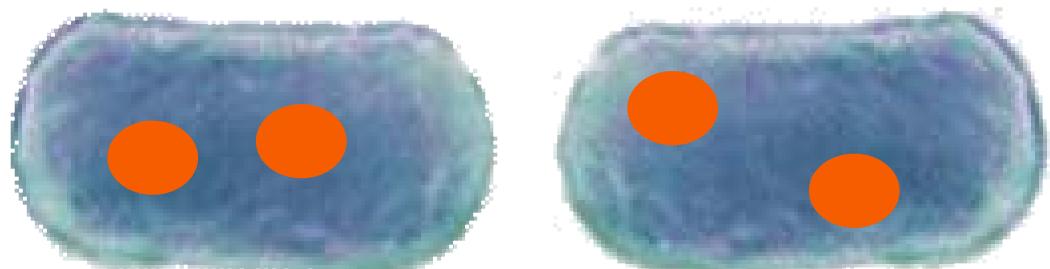


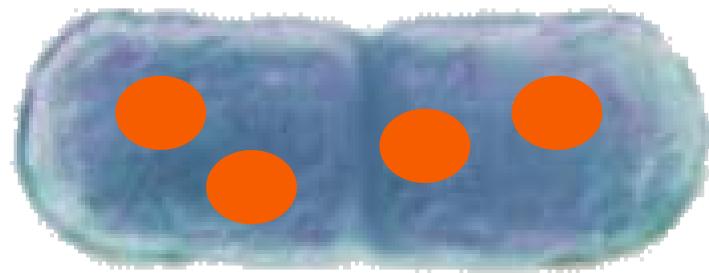
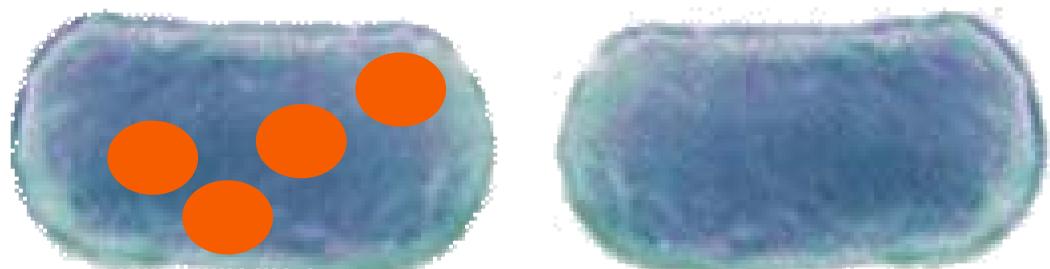


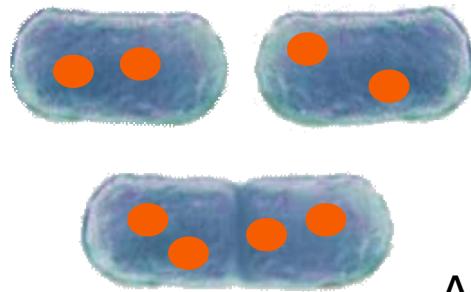
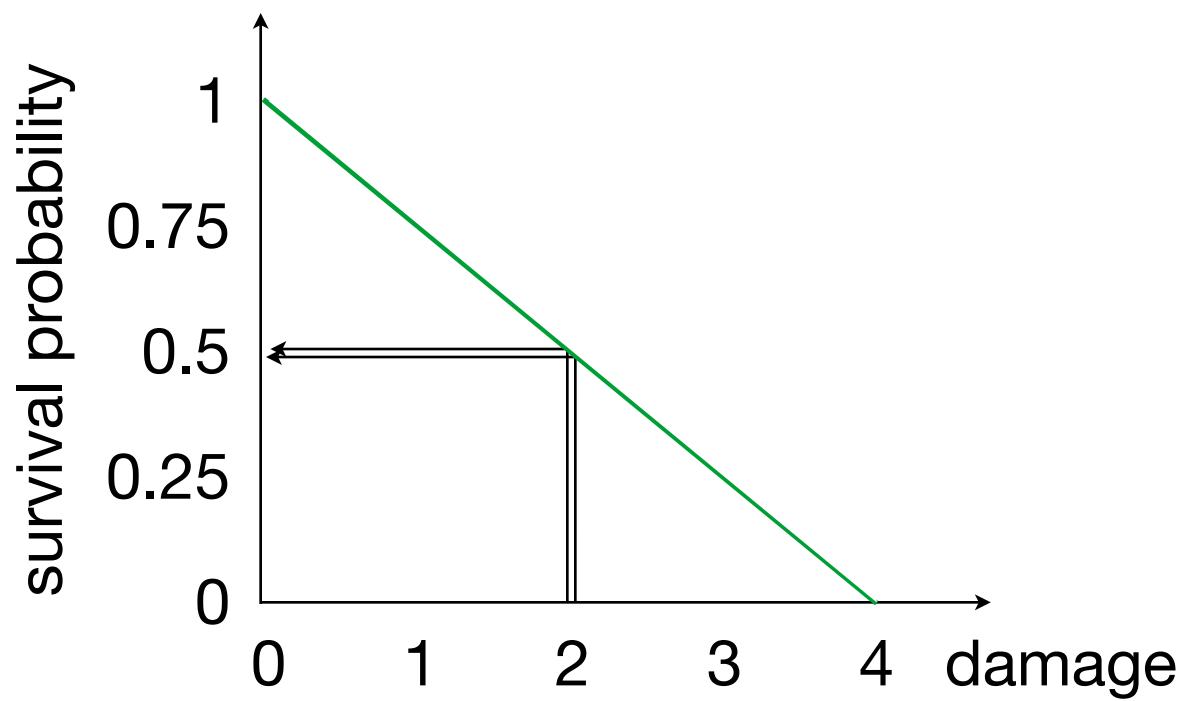


# Aging is asymmetry

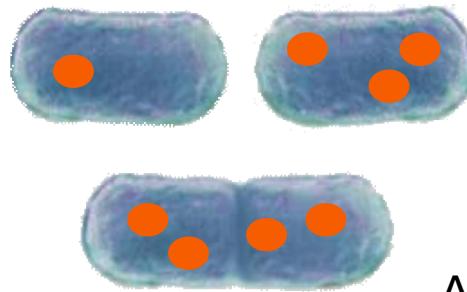
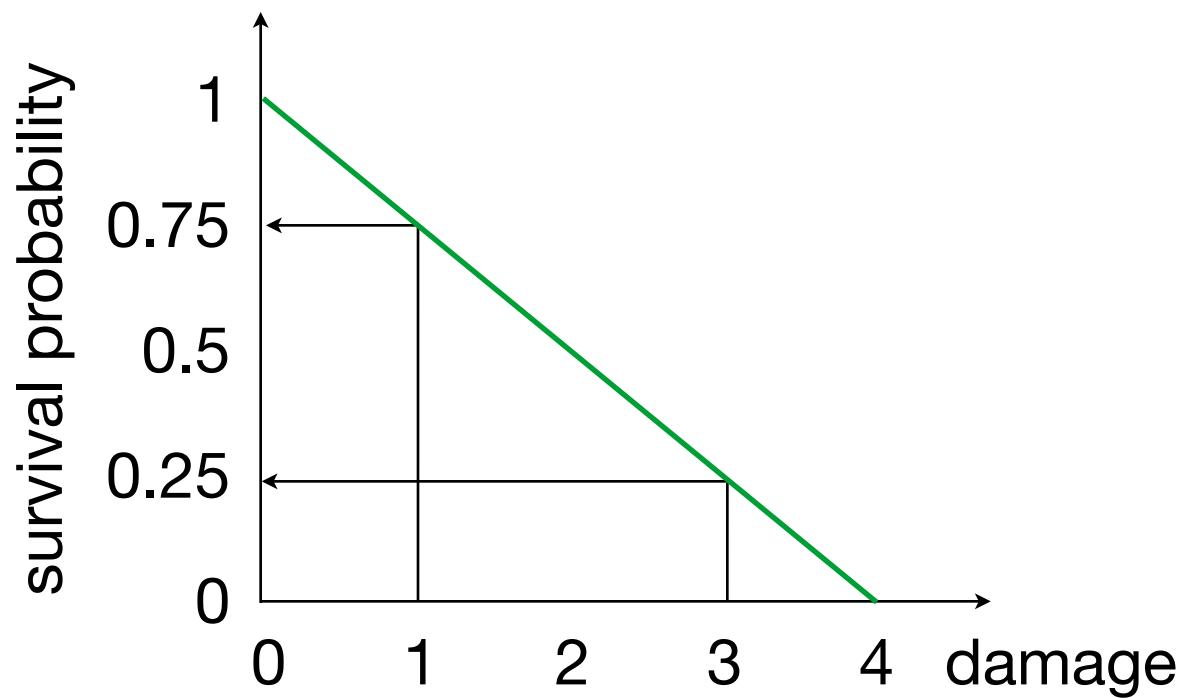




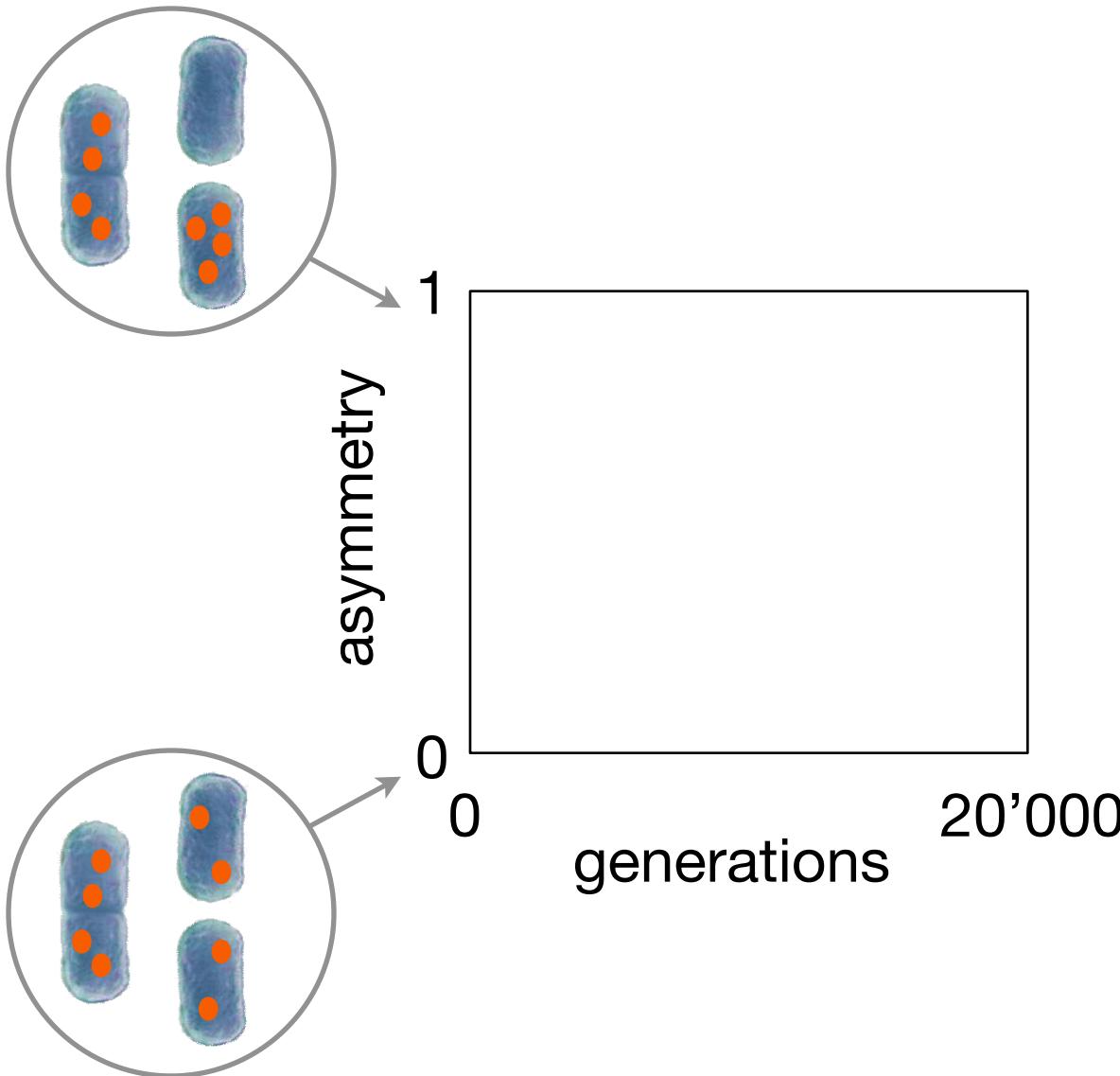


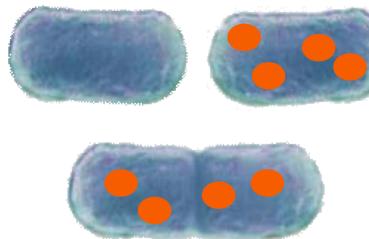
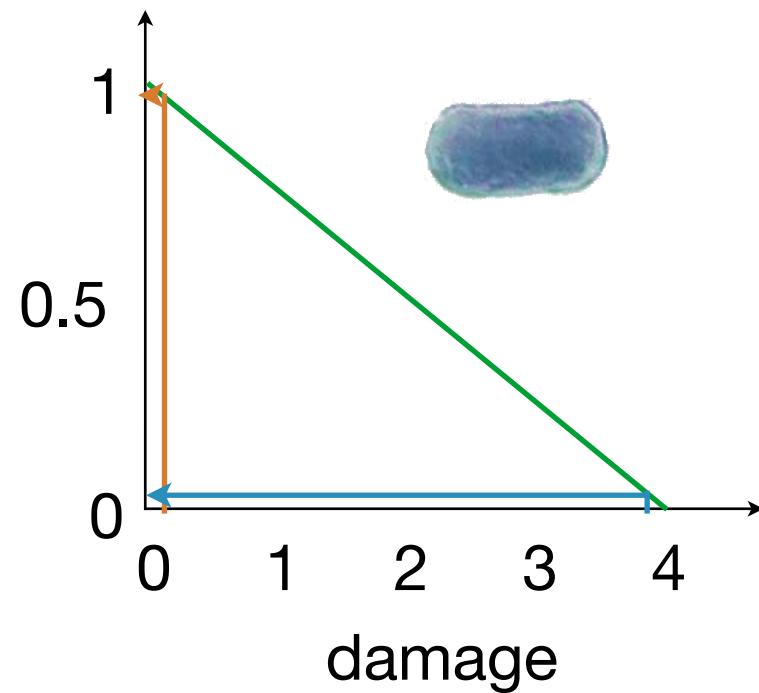
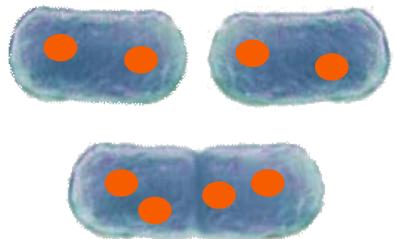
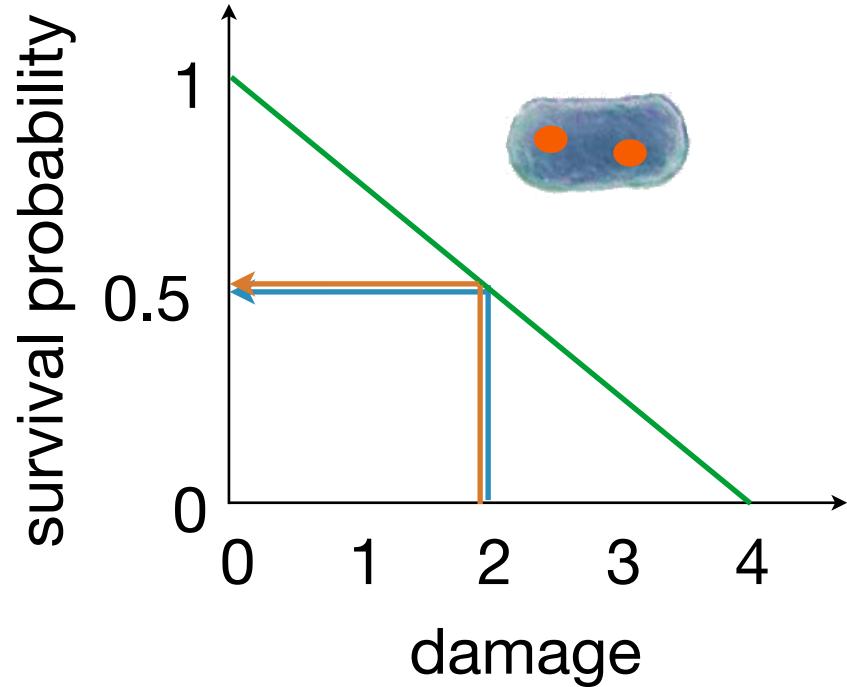


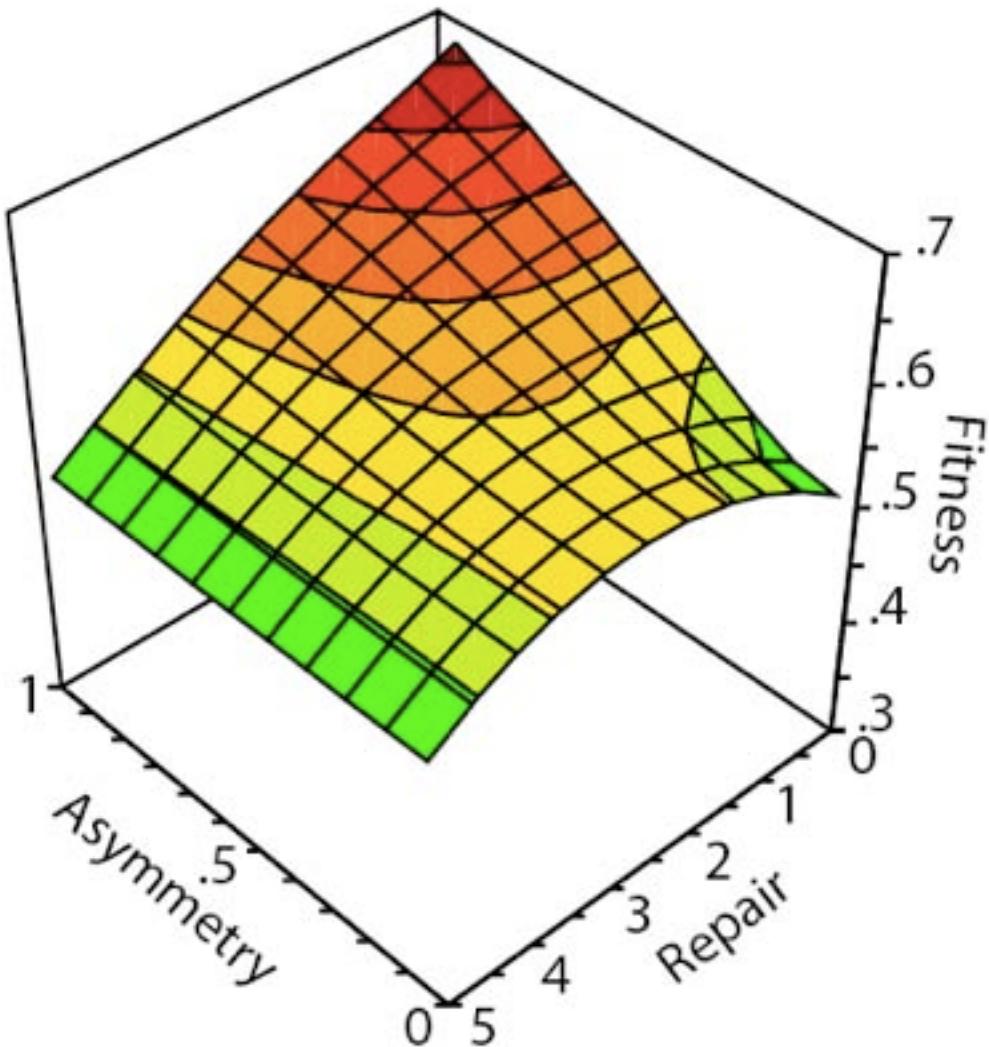
Ackermann *et al.* Aging Cell 2007



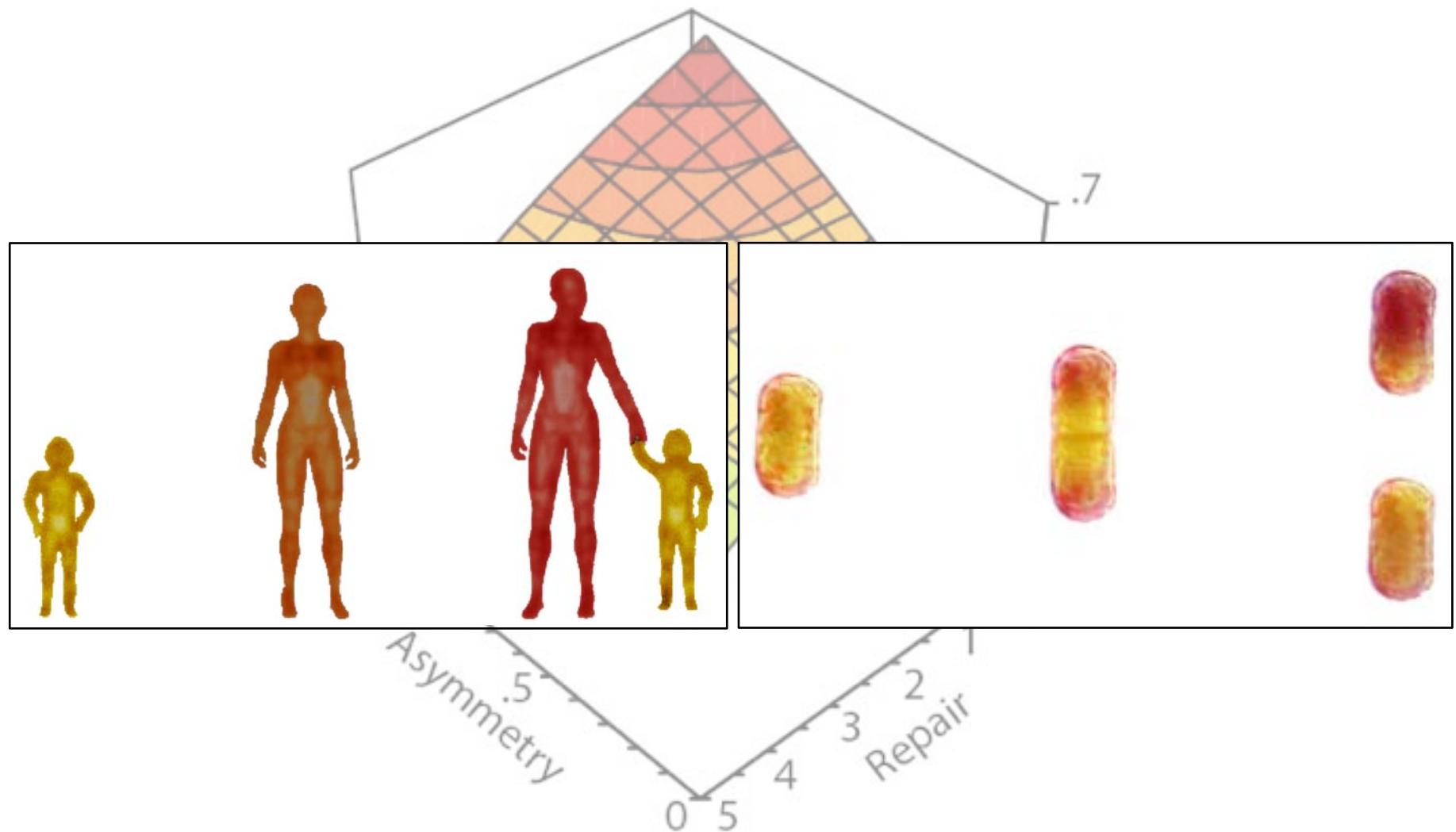
Ackermann *et al.* Aging Cell 2007



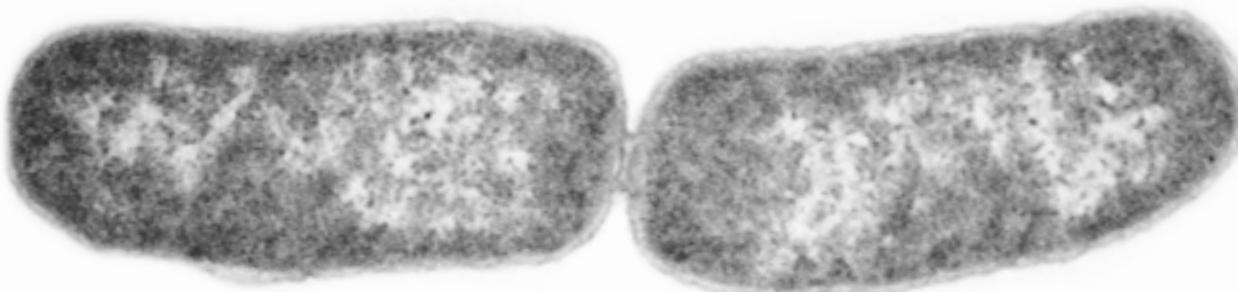




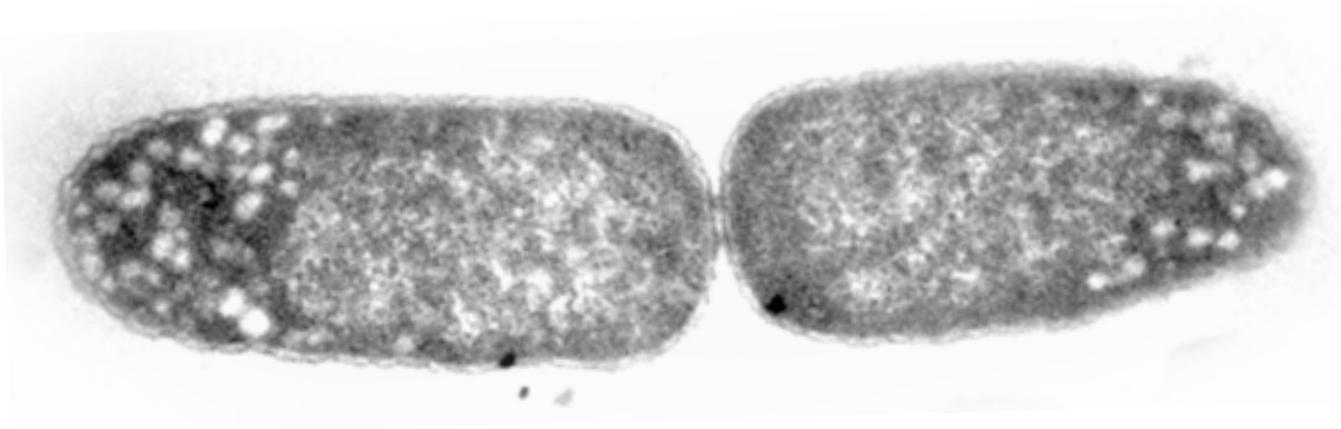
Ackermann *et al.* Aging Cell 07

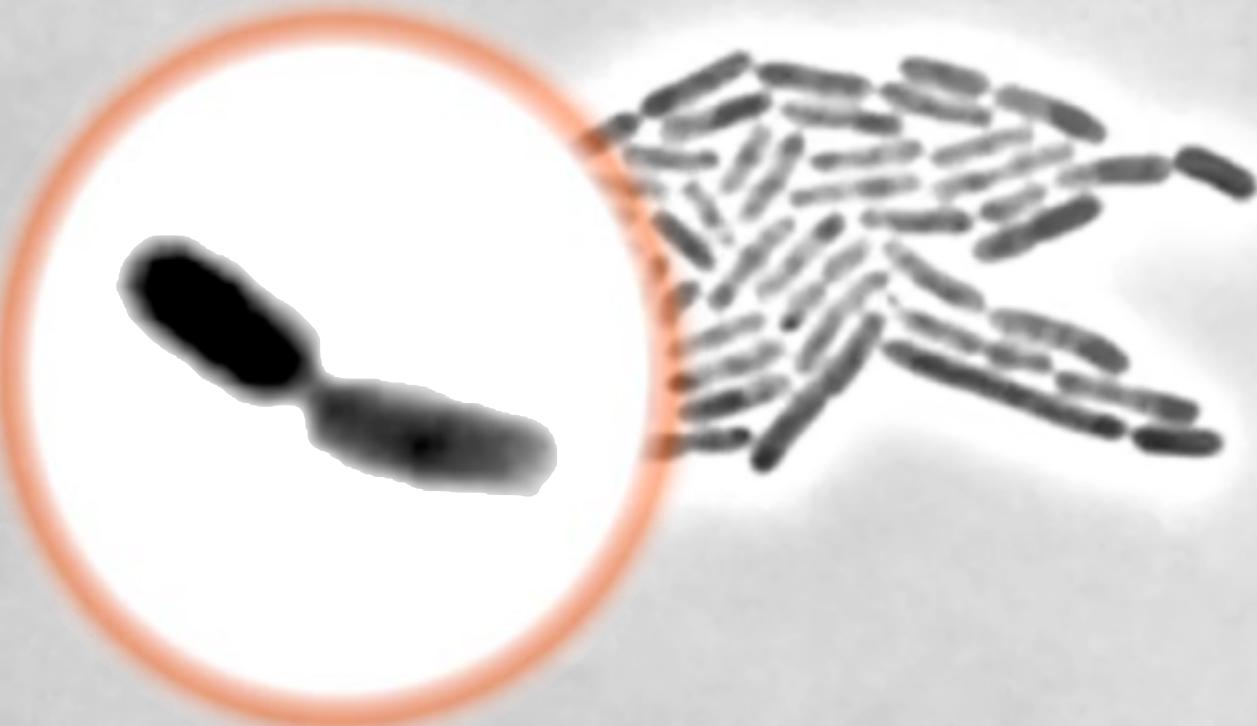


normal *E. coli*



*E. coli* that eat too much



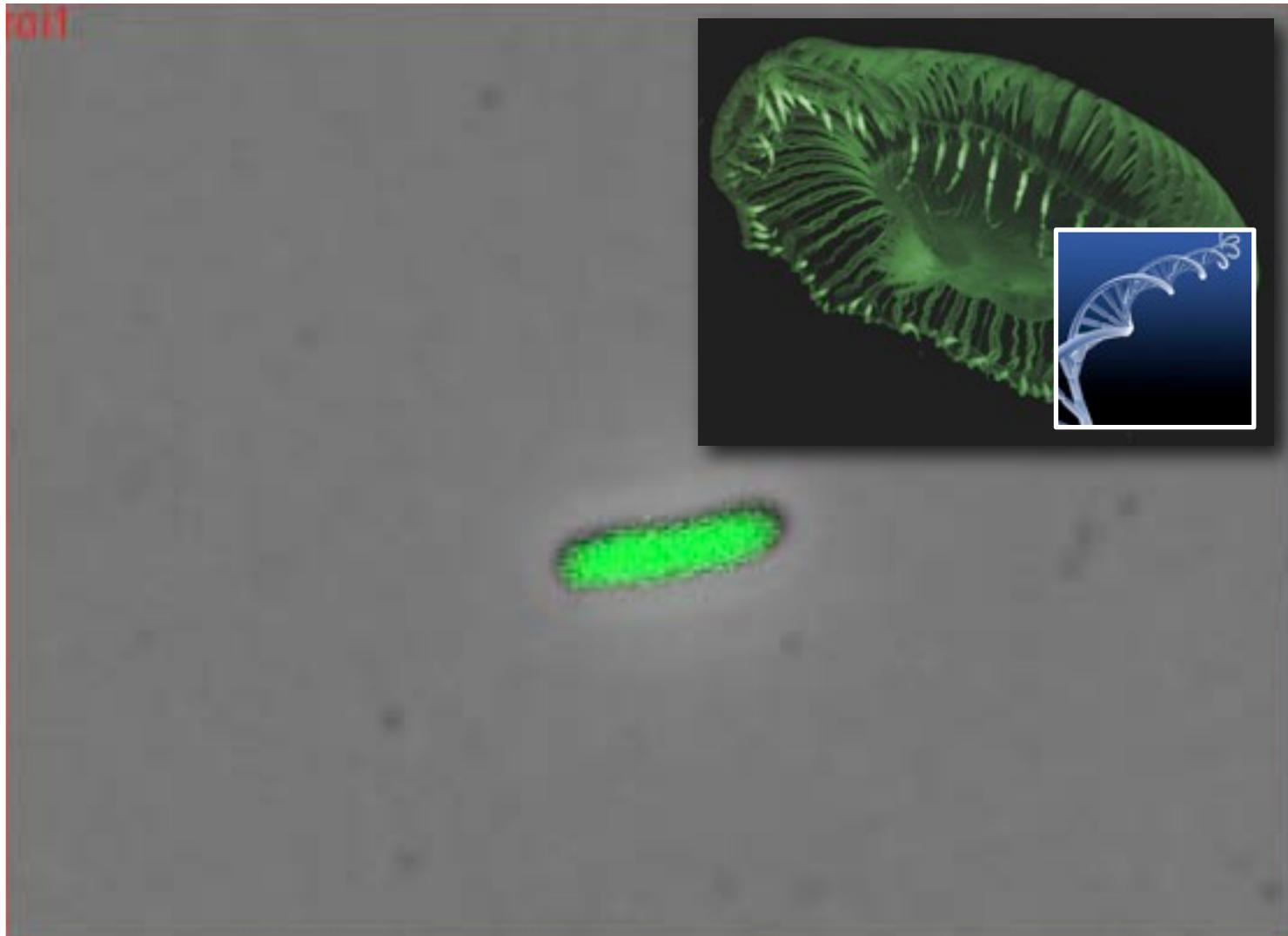


bacteria age

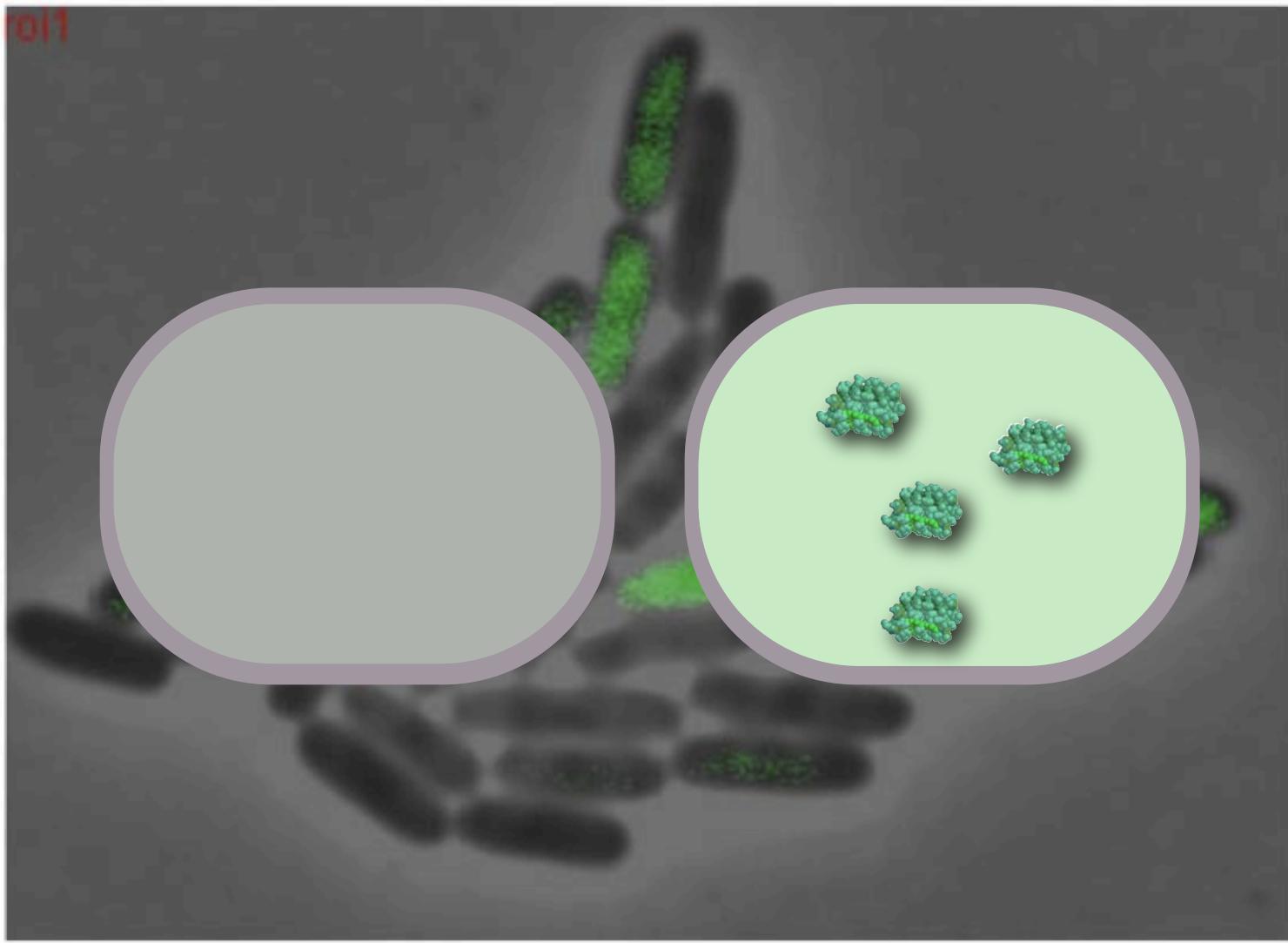
mothers and daughters

age-structured populations

# Random decisions



100



roll

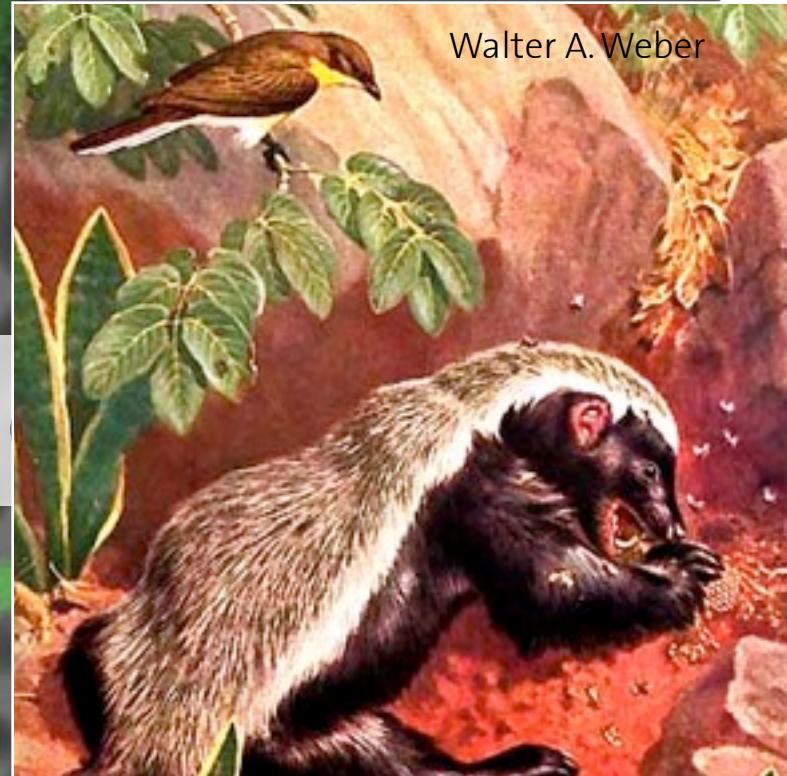
bleacherreport



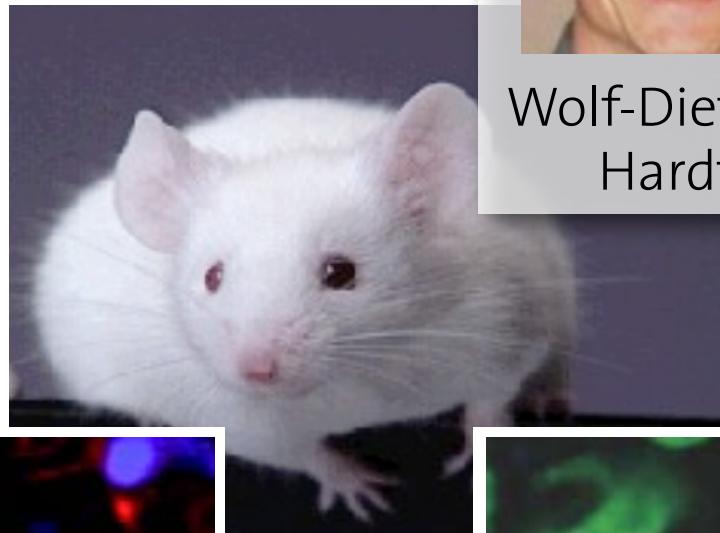
bet hedging

h

Walter A. Weber



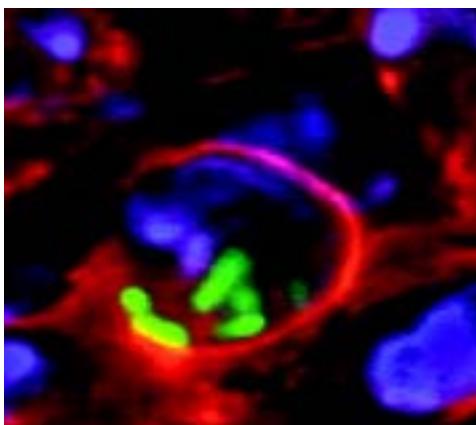
division of labor



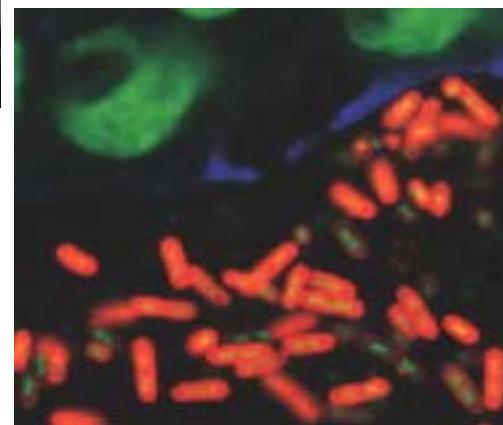
Wolf-Dietrich  
Hardt



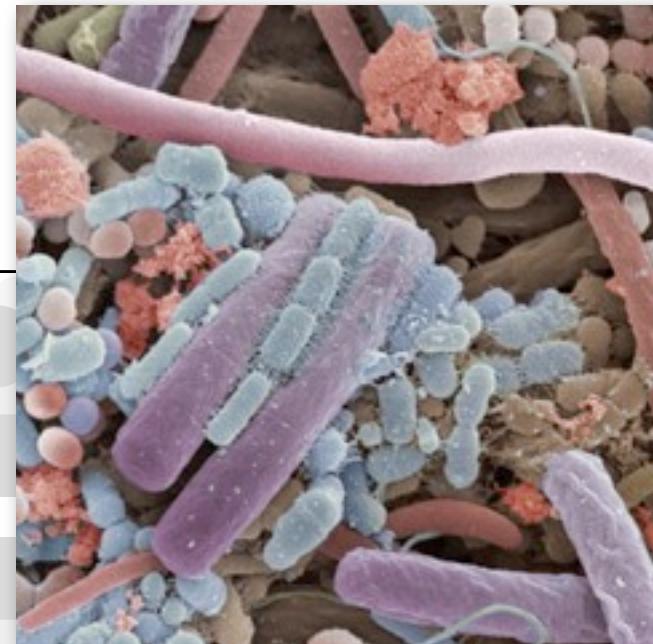
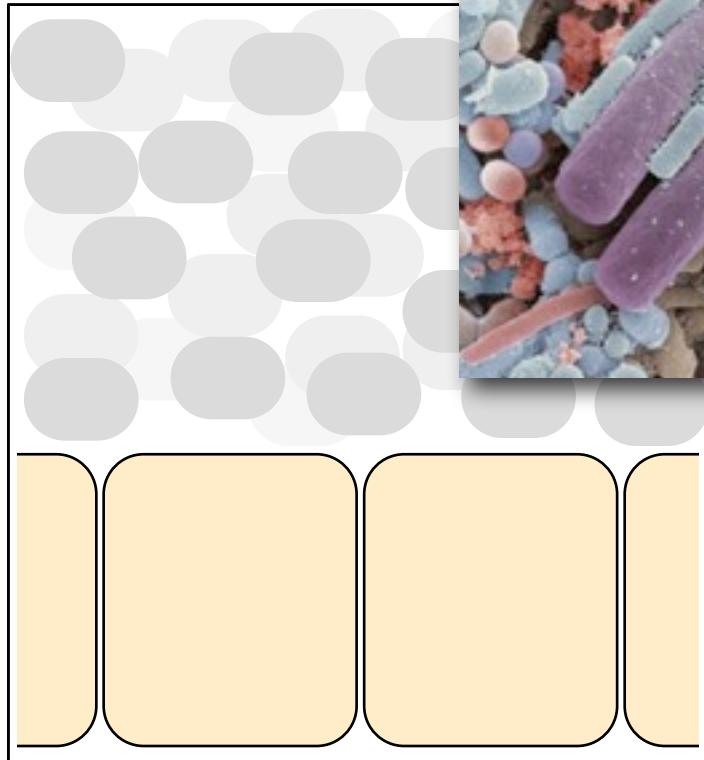
Bärbel  
Stecher



Hapfelmeier et al. 2005

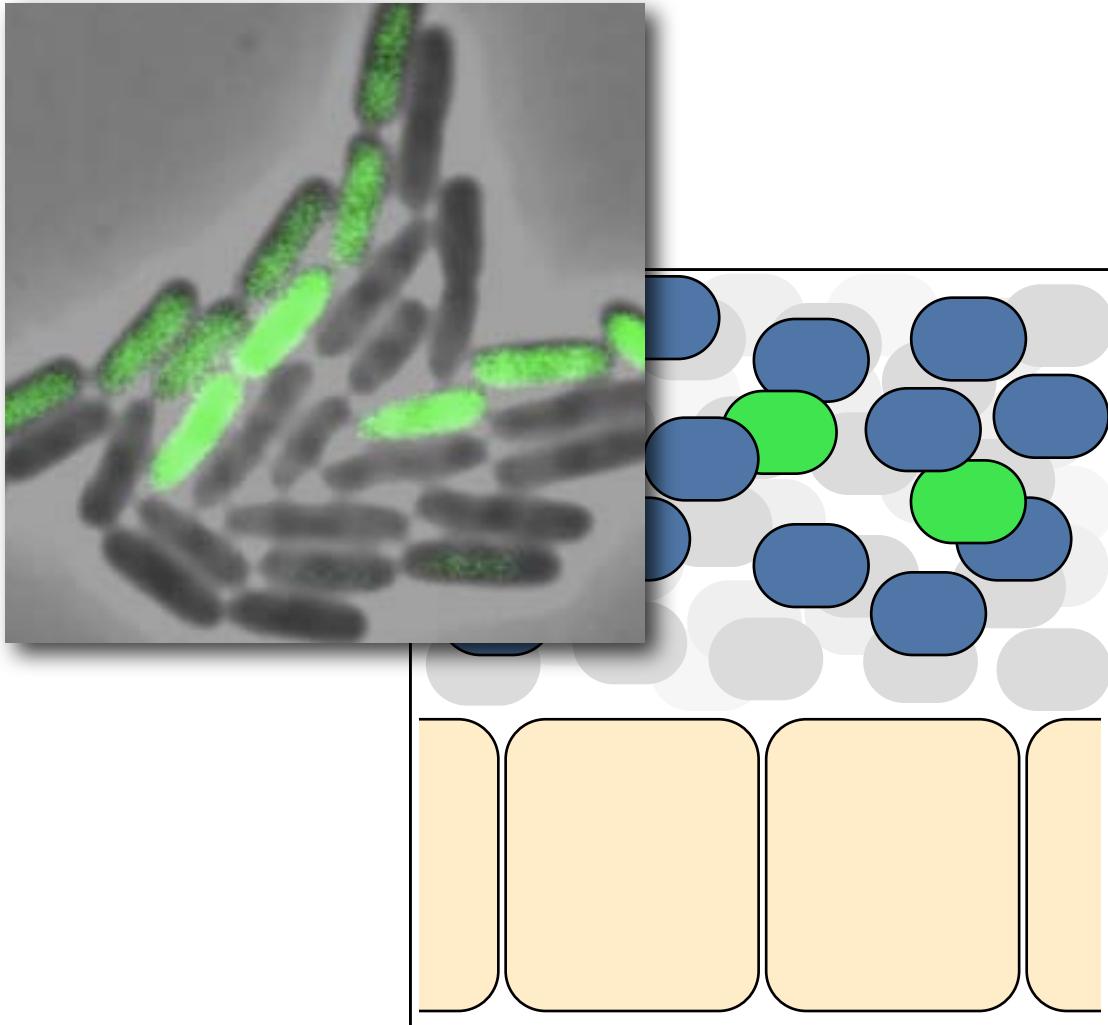


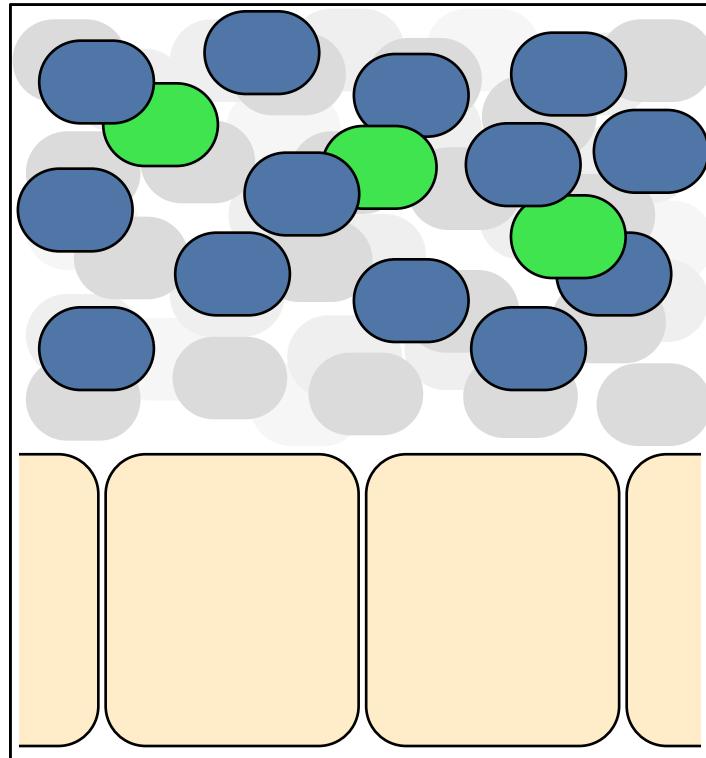
Stecher et al. 2007

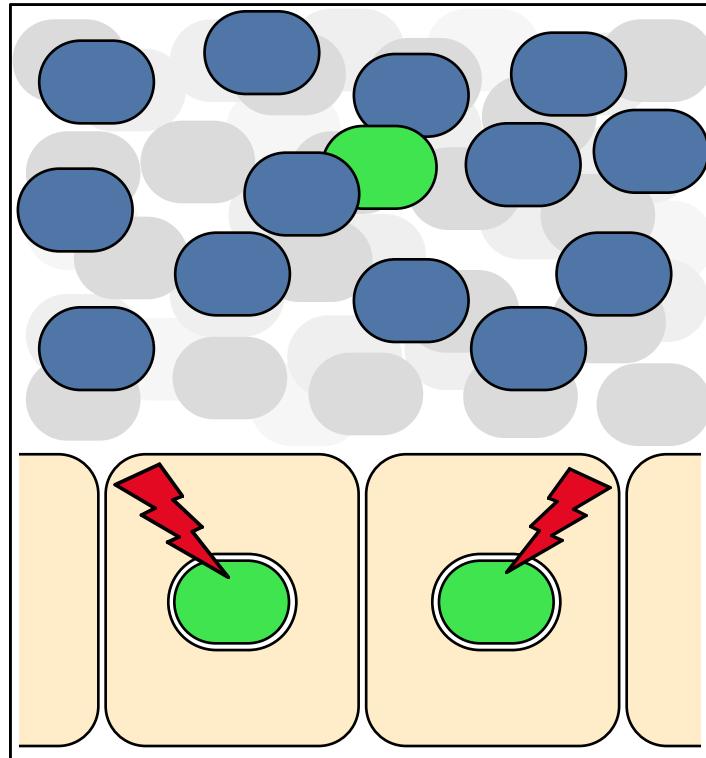


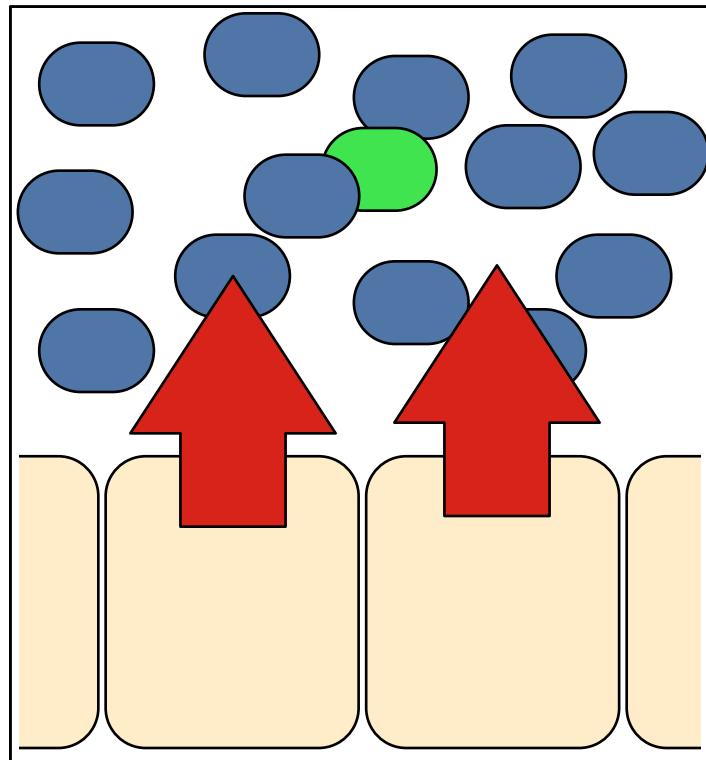
Nature.com

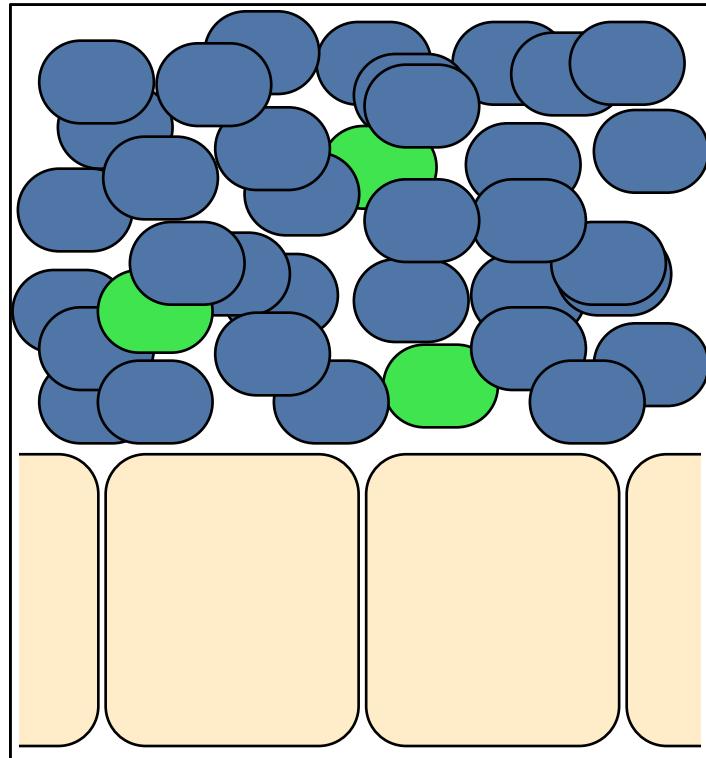
Ackermann *et al.* Nature 2008



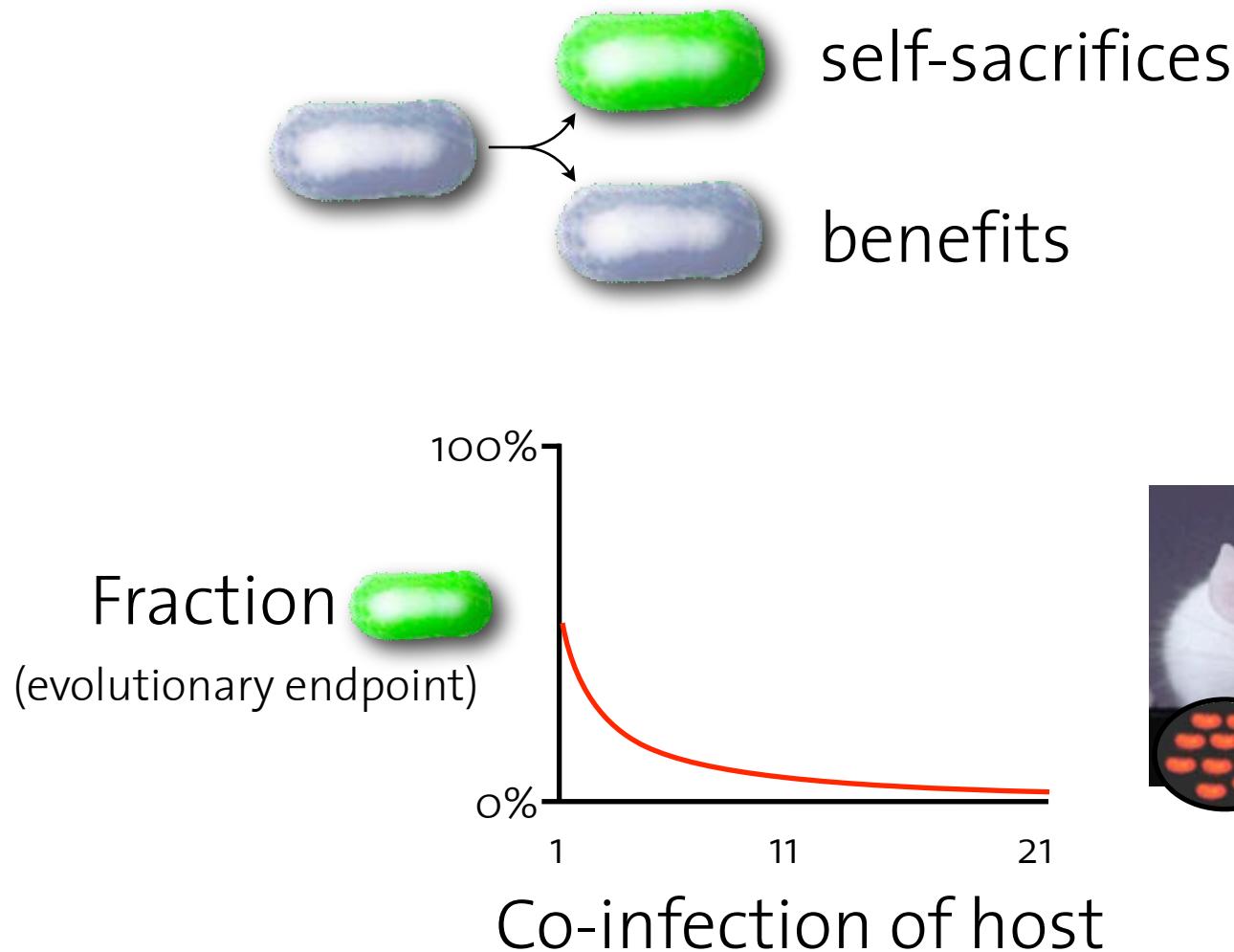








# Mathematical Model



Ackermann *et al.* Nature 2008

# A hidden complexity



source unknown