

A bird's eye view of genomic projects in the ANSES laboratory for food safety

*Dr. Michel-Yves MISTOU,
Head of the Foodborne pathogens department*

Nanyang Technological University Food Technology Centre (NAFTEC)
Food Safety Risk Assessment, 5th November 2018

Laboratory for food safety



Head, Laurent Laloux

3 departments

Sea products

Chemistry

Foodborne Pathogens

- Staff 140 people
- European Community Reference Laboratory (CRL)
- **Accredited EN ISO 17025** for most of its activities. In particular regulatory analyses performed under National (13) and European (2) References Mandates



Foodborne Pathogens Department (FBP)

Enteric viruses

Noroviruses, HAV, HEV

Salmonella & Listeria

Toxins producing bacteria

Staphylococcus, *B. cereus*, *C. perfringens*

High-Throughput PCR platform



E. Coli STEC

Official Laboratory FBO investigations

Genomics & Modelisation

Staff of about 80 people

- 3 units focused on pathogens
- 2 transversal teams
- 1 technological platform
- 1 official laboratory

- 4 NRLs mandates 
Listeria, *Staphylococcus*, *Salmonella* and
Enteric viruses
- 2 EURL mandates 
Listeria, *Staphylococcus*

Collections of FB Pathogens:

- *Salmonella* (15,000 isolates)
- *Listeria* (5000)
- SCP (2000)
- *B. cereus* (500)
- *C. perfringens* (200)

Typology of activities in the FBP Dpt

Detection, typing and characterization of FB pathogens

✓ **Surveillance** (official control plans and coordination of lab networks (unofficial))

✓ **FBO investigations**



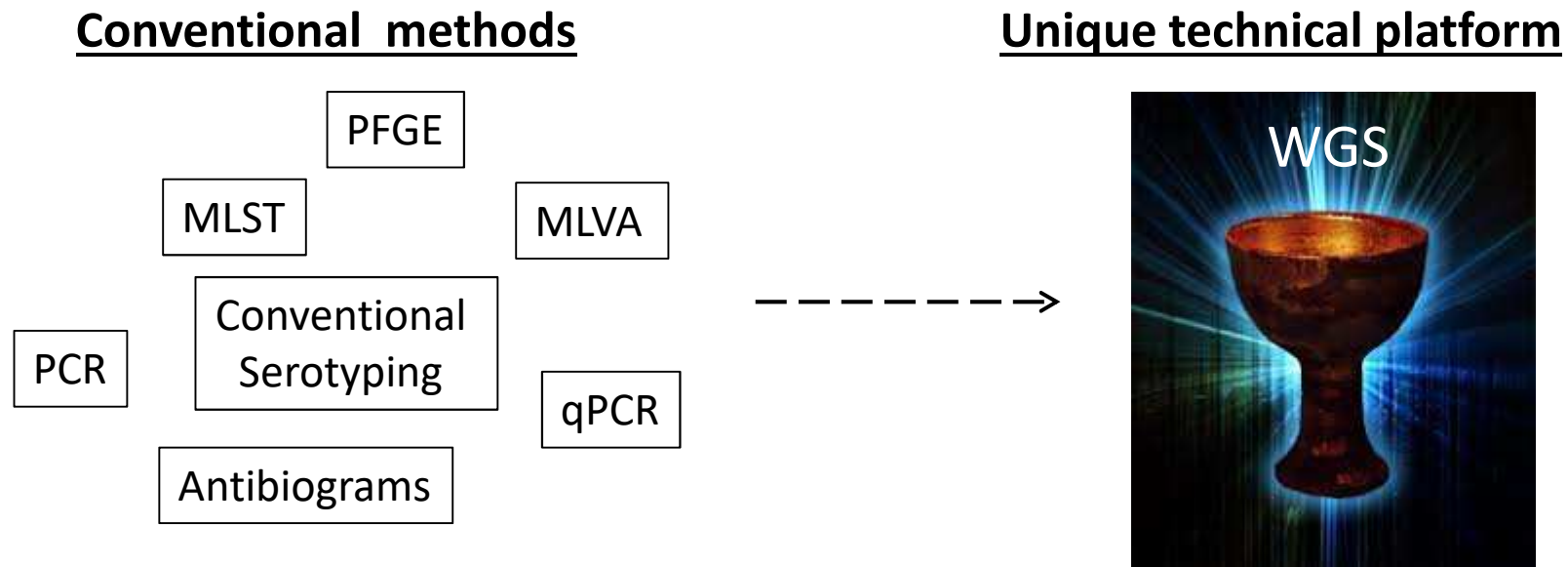
✓ **Scientific & technical support** to Anses Risk Assessment and regulated products divisions, National and European public health authorities

✓ **Coordination** of laboratories networks through **Technical support** and organization of **Proficiency trials** and **Training courses**

✓ **Research projects** : Innovative methods for pathogens detection, counting, typing, characterization, quantitative modelisation of risk assessment (QMRA), Source attribution, FBO investigations ...

> **Implementation of Whole Genome Sequencing Approaches**

Finding our way to WGS



> Many challenges in term of expertise and staff training / financial resources / IT infrastructure / regulatory issues ...

Our strategic line

- **Sequencing – The choice of Externalisation**

Public tender: Sequences are produced on a public platform.

60 € per genome – 10 days.

- **Data Analysis - Build bioinformatics expertise**

Hire competent people / Build IT infrastructure / develop in-house pipelines

/ Dissemination of the competence among microbiologists

- **Learn while doing - *Genomics Research projects***

> 20 ongoing financed research projects / Valorizing Anses bacterial

collections / Building collaborations /

Creation of the Genome Analysis Modelisation and Risk Team (GAMeR)



1st jan 2016



Objectives of the GAMeR Team:

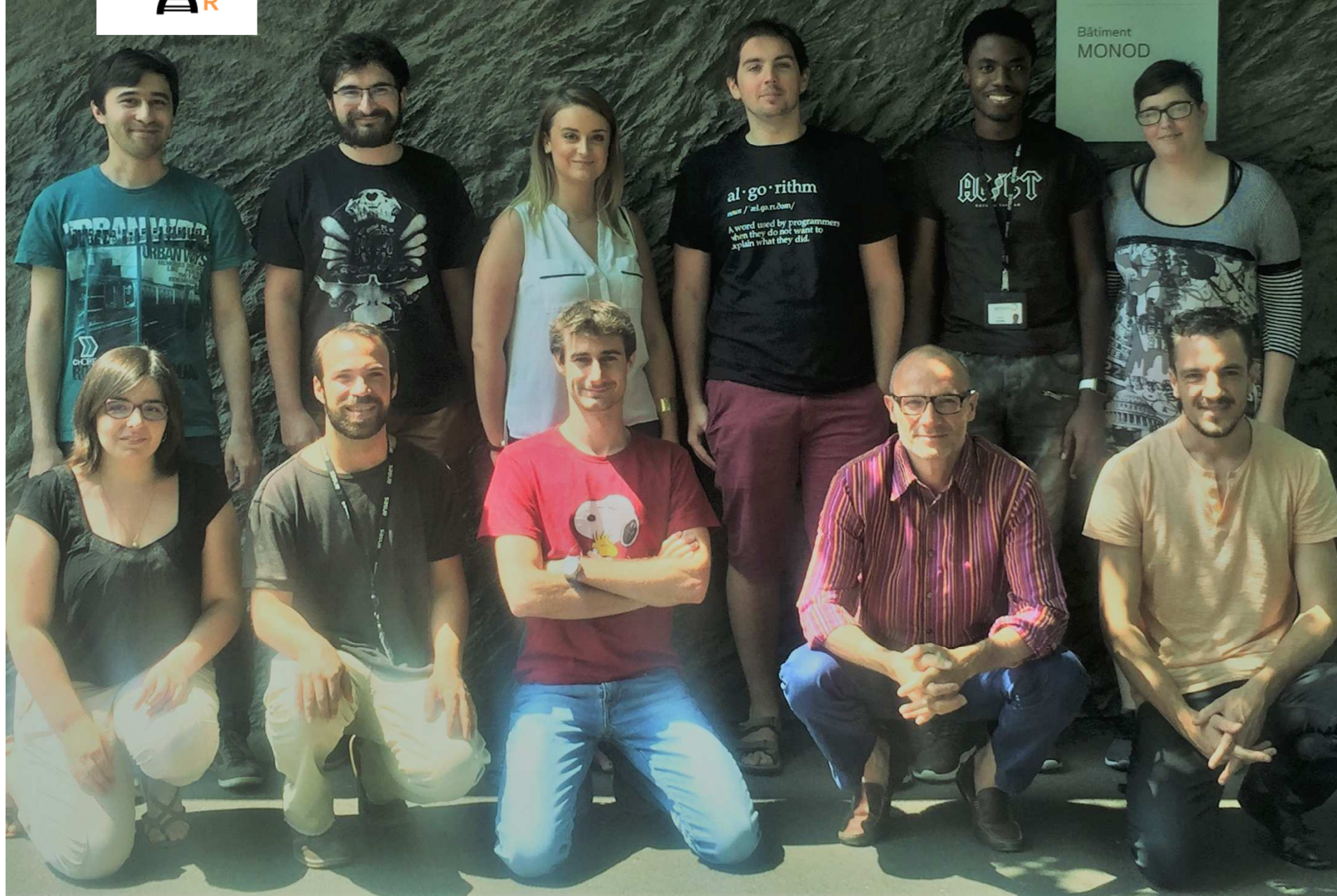
- Develop the IT infrastructure
- Develop in-house data analysis pipelines
- Organize training sessions for the scientific staff
- Provide full Assistance to genomics projects in the FBP Dpt
- Scientific seminars / thematic days
- Research projects



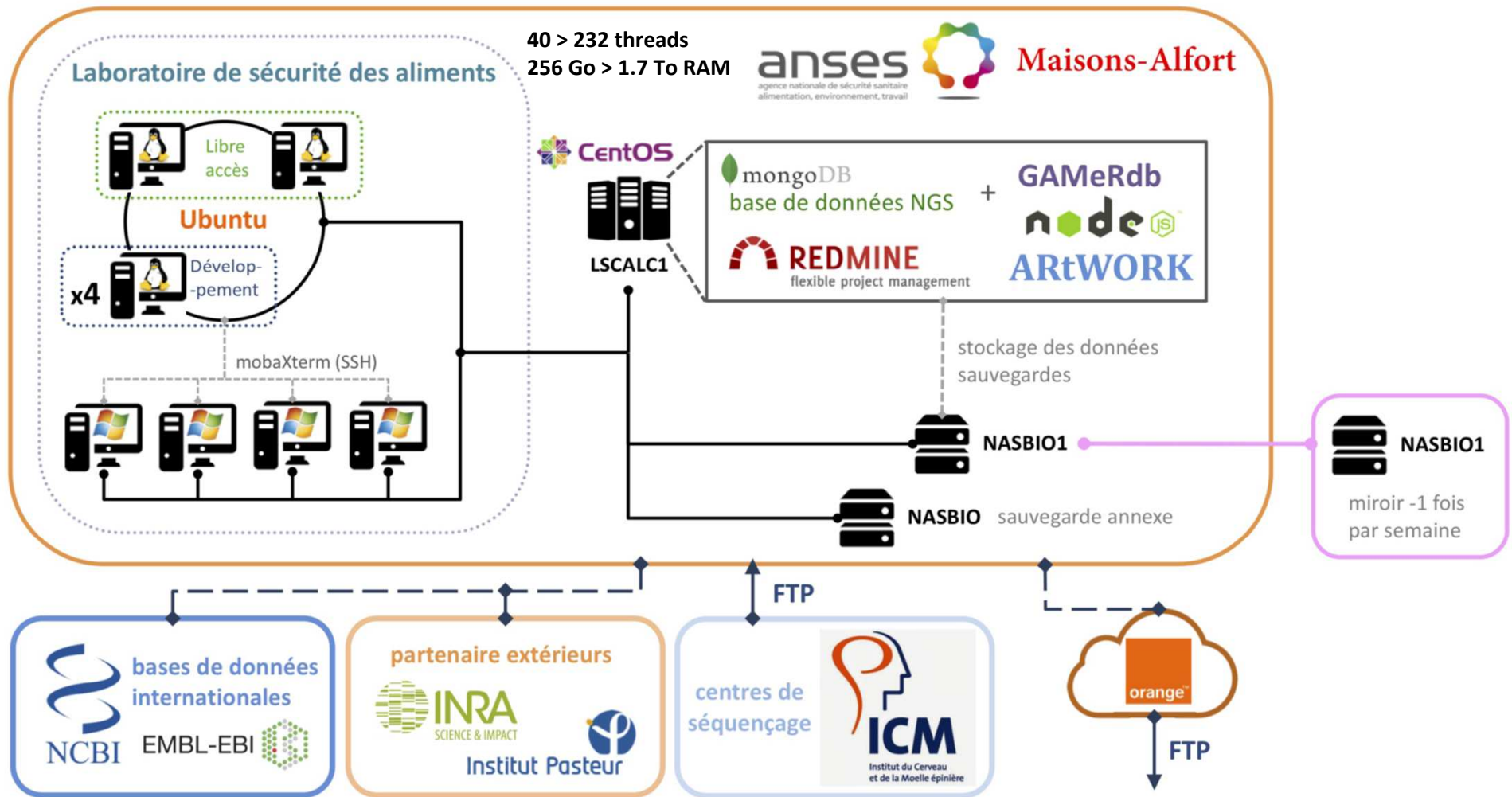
The GAMeR team

anses

Bâtiment
MONOD

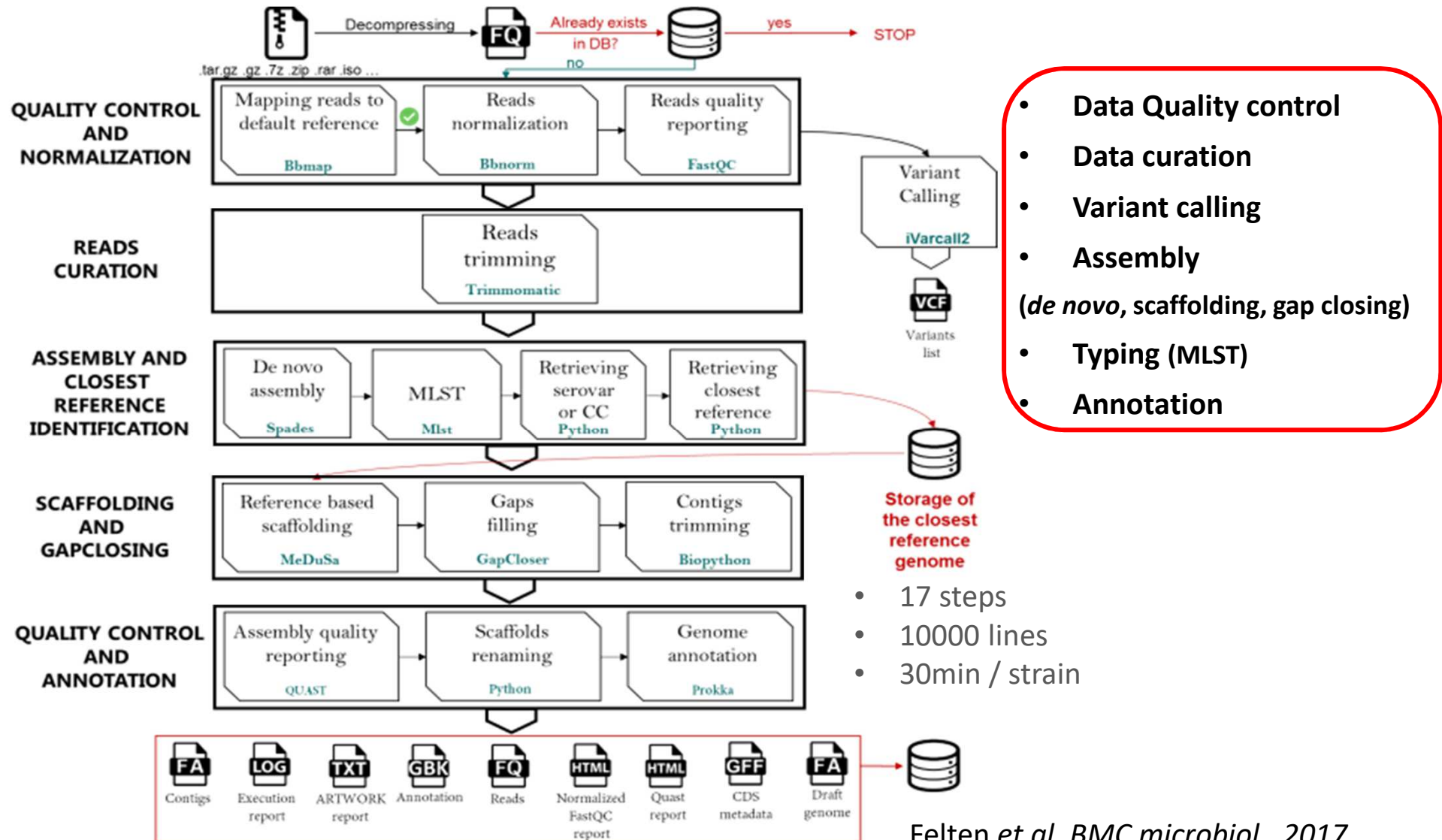


Setup of a GNU/Linux based-environment



- Training microbiologist and molecular biologists staff to command lines
- Easy access to calculation and storage resources

ARTwork pipeline: the entry door of WGS data

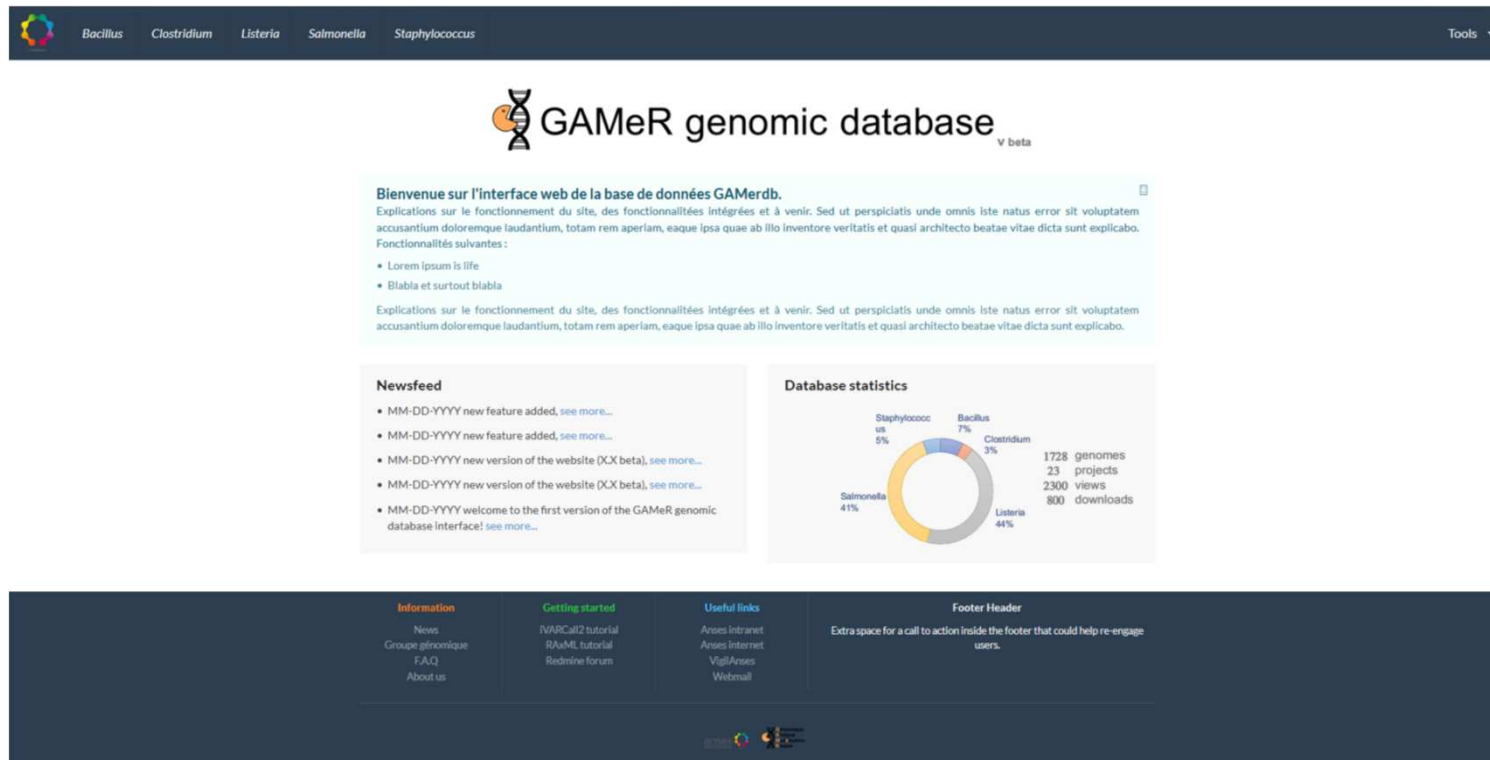


Felten et al, BMC microbiol., 2017

Henri et al., Frontiers microbiol., 2017

Development of a local DB for easy and secure access to genomic data and analysis

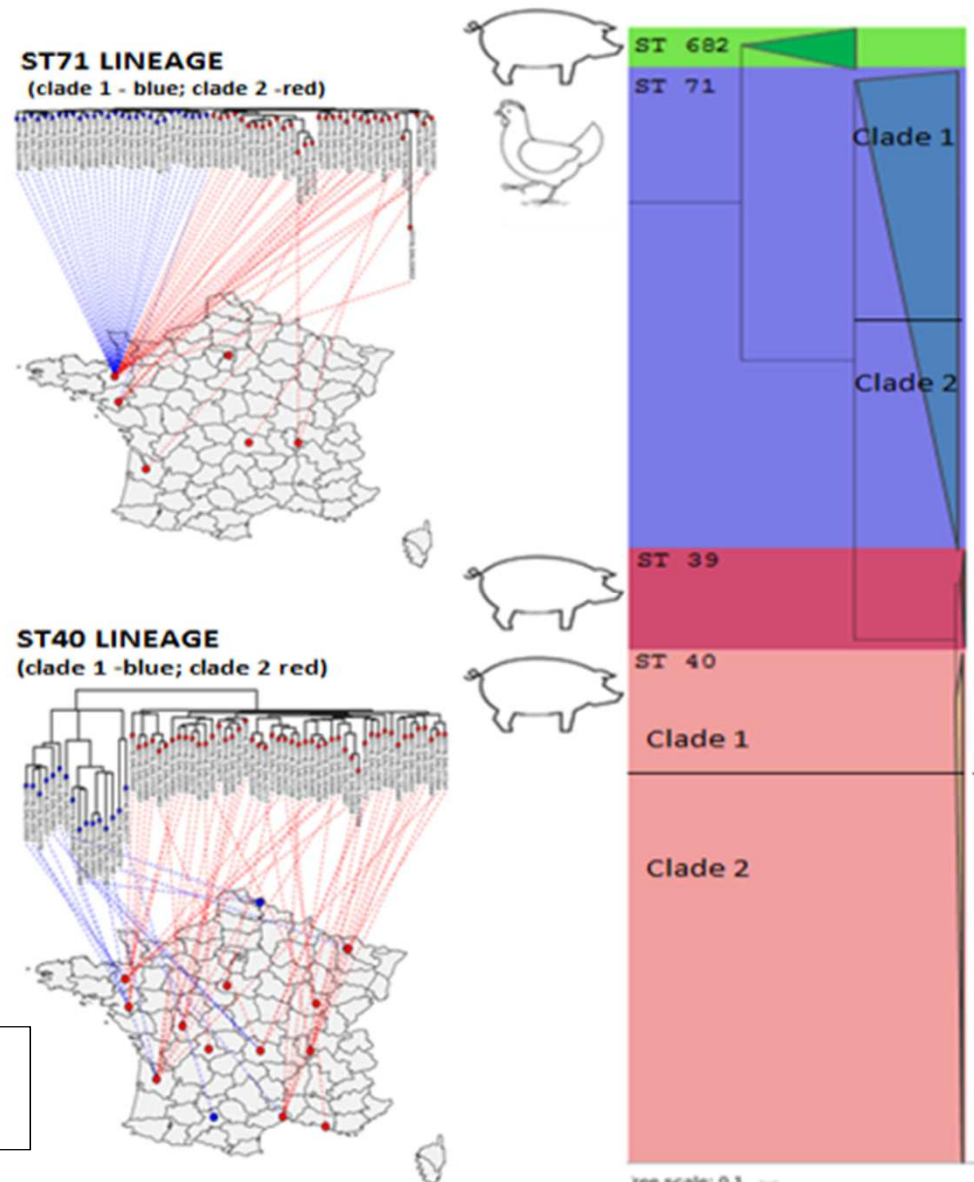
- Storage / traceability
- Web interface for easy querying of genomic data and Artwrk analysis



Phylogenetic analysis of *Salmonella* Derby isolates

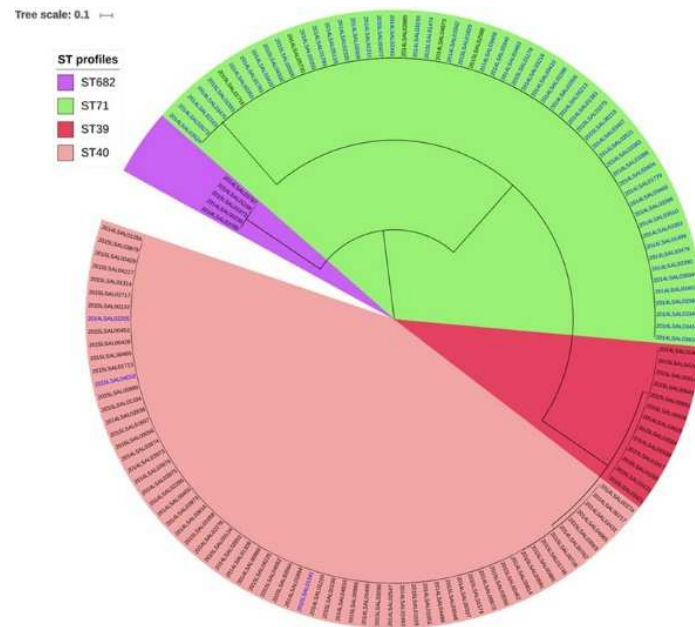
- Derby is among the Top 5 clinical serovar in France
 - *S. Derby* 1st serovar isolated in pork meat in Europe
 - Low discriminatory power (ID*: 0,789) of the PFGE
-
- ✓ Sequencing and analysis of 140 animal and food strains representative of the production sectors and geographical origins (France 2014-2015)
 - ✓ **One serovar : 6 genetic clades !**
 - ✓ **Host-clade specific associations**

Sevellec et al., Frontiers microbiol., 2017
Sevellec et al., Genome announc., 2017

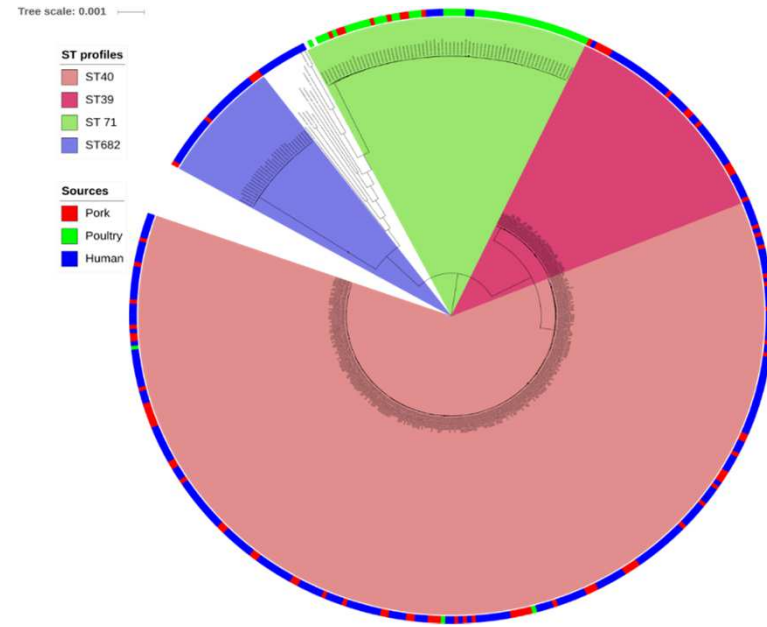


Clarification of the *Salmonella* derby epidemiological situation

Adding **302 human clinical** isolates into the picture (collab. NRC Salmonella Institut Pasteur)



Food/animal



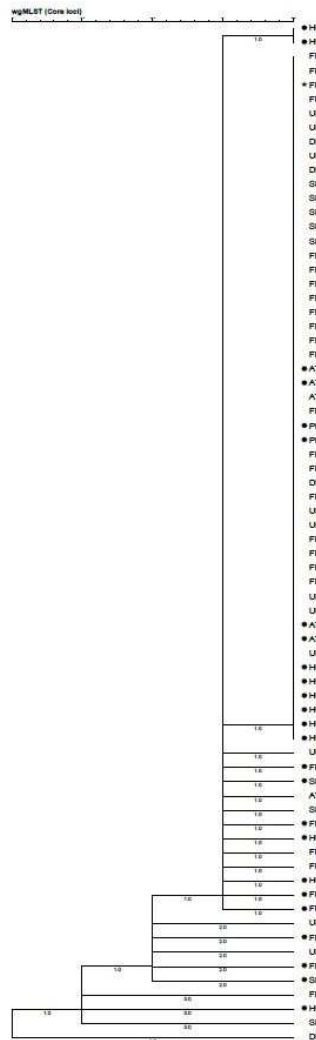
Food/animal + human (blue)

- ✓ **98% of the human isolates** are linked to the genetic clades associated to the **pork sector** : Actionable information !

FBO investigation at the european level

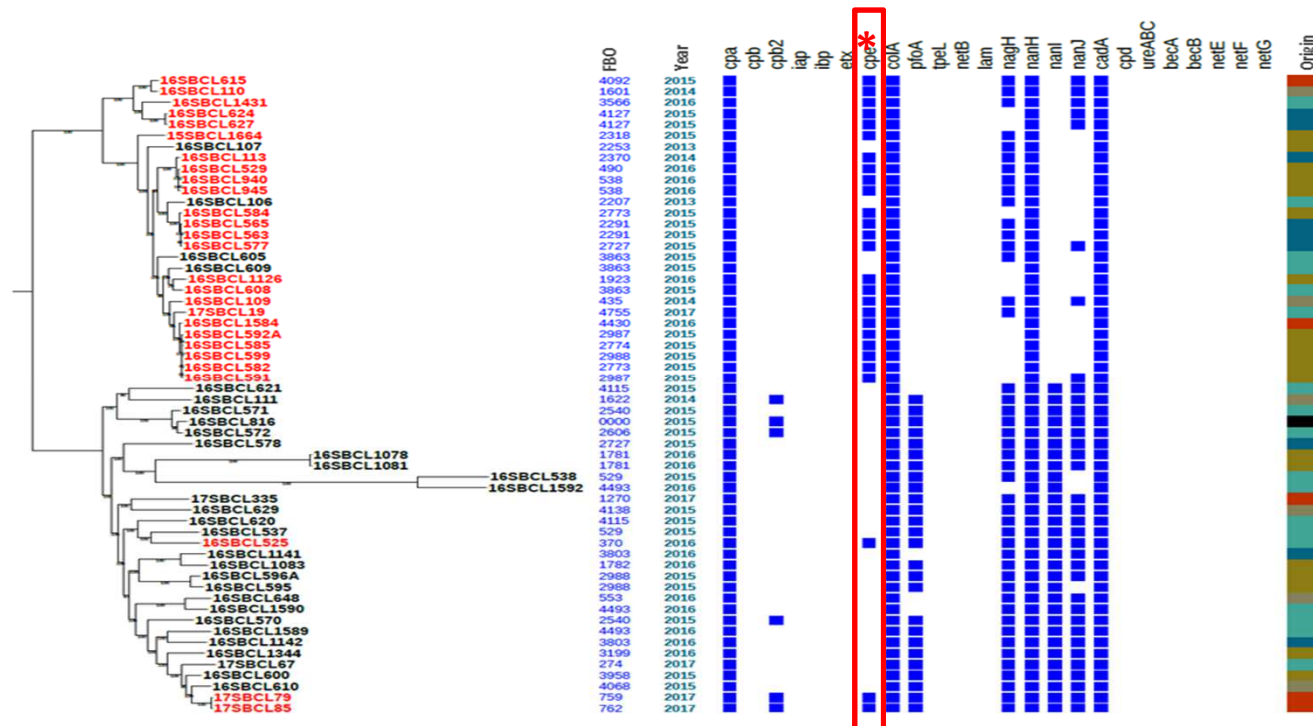
July 2018 - Multi-country outbreak of *L. monocytogenes* ST6
47 human cases, 9 deaths

- The EURL interviewed its NRL network, selected, received, sequenced and analyzed 29 isolates from 6 member states.
- Strong microbiological links between human and non-human isolates (0-7 allelic differences).
- Epidemiological and WGS analysis point to a common source related to frozen corn contaminated in a hungarian freezing plant whose activities have been halted.



Large-scale Genomic Analyses and Toxinotyping of *Clostridium perfringens* Implicated in Foodborne Outbreaks in France

- 15,000 humans cases in EU (EFSA,2016)
 - Ranks 4th in toxin producing bacteria associated with FPO
 - Genetic diversity of *C. perfringens* is poorly characterized
 - No typing methods relevant for FBO investigation is available
- ✓ Genome analysis of 141 isolates involved in 42 French FBOs

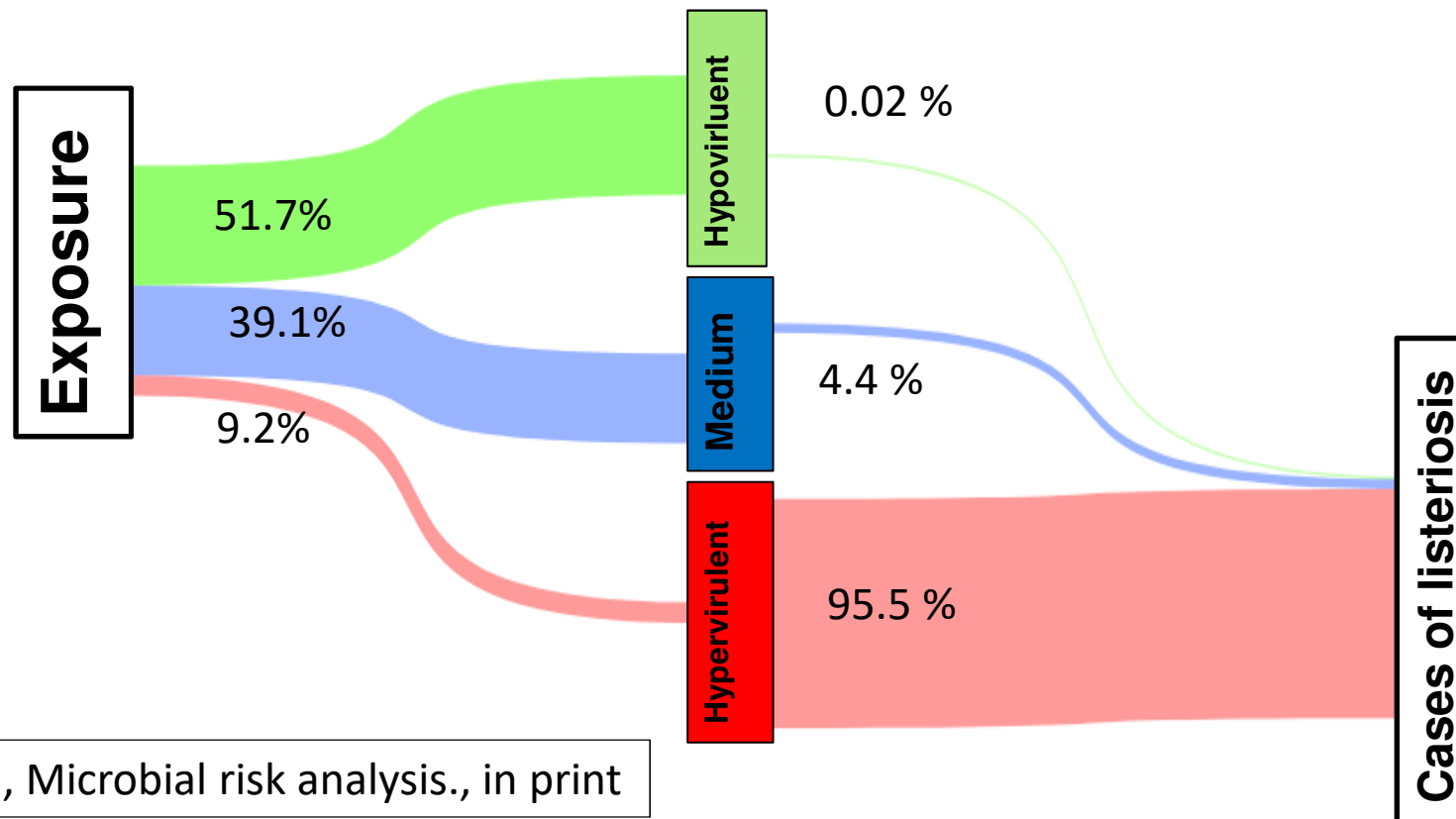


Genomic analysis revealed new features for *C. perfringens* food poisoning

- Heterogeneous contamination (multiple isolates) of food *C. perfringens* is frequent 25%
- Food poisoning is not always associated with the presence of the *cpe* gene
- An unexpected diversity of *cpe* loci – Impact on toxin production ?
- Development of a multiplex PCR-method targeting 19 toxin genes for rapid typing of isolates

Feeding QMRA with genomics data

- Risk assessments neglects within-species heterogeneity in microbial virulence
- Genomics offer the discriminatory power to distinguish pathotypes



Others on going WGS projects

H2O2O, COMPARE project (DTU Food coordination), 20 M€

- Phylogenetic-independent approach to FBO investigation
- Microevolution of *Salmonella* monophasic variants (APHA, DTU)



H2O2O, EJP OneHealth project, 90 M€ (Anses coordination)



- **RADAR** project 12,000 Plasmids curated DB construction (RIVM coord.)
- **Listadapt** Comparative genomic analysis of 1000 Lmo isolates from environmental sources
- ***Bacillus thuringiensis* hazard** in **organic food** products
(Under coordination of the ANSES regulated products division)
- **Genomic-based design of genetic markers for *Salmonella* serotyping** –patent pending
Arnaud FELTEN, Nicolas RADOMSKI, Sabrina CADEL-SIX, Patrick FACH

People involved

- **Multi-country outbreak *Listeria monocytogenes* – Salmonella & Listeria Unit**
Benjamin FELIX (EURL *Listeria monocytogenes*), Jean-Charles LEBLANC, David ALBERT

- **DerbyClone project - Salmonella & Listeria Unit**

Yann Sevellec (PhD), Sabrina CADEL-SIX, Nicolas Radmoski, Arnaud FELTEN
Financed by the ministry of agriculture



- ***Clostridium perfringens* genomic characterization – Toxin producing bacteria Unit**
Abdelrahim ABABAKAR (PhD), O. FIRMESSE, N. RADOMSKI, JA Hennekinne
Financed by the ministry of agriculture



- **MQRA *L. monocytogenes* – Feeding MQRA models with genomics data**
Lena Fritsch (PhD), Laurent Guillier, Jean-Christophe AUGUSTIN

Aknowledgments

- French Ministry of Agriculture
- DG Santé EURL SCP and *Listeria* Mandates
- EU commission Horizon 2020 program COMPARE
- EURLs Laboratoty Networks
- French Ministry of Research ANR
- Pasteur Institute Salmonella CNR, Pasteur Institute Collection
- DTU
- Technical institutes supporting livestock sectors



Technical University
of Denmark



A last message

“Impact of whole genome sequencing of foodborne pathogens
on public health protection”

Joint scientific conference organized by

The French Agency for food, environmental and occupational health & safety (ANSES) ; The
Federal risk assessment institute (BfR), Germany ; The Danish Technical University National Food
institute (DTUFood) ; The National Institute of food and drug safety evaluation (NIFDS), Korea.

Paris, 26-28 March 2019

<https://www.anses.fr/en/content/joint-scientific-conference-ansesbfrdtufoodnifds>



MINISTRY OF FOOD AND DRUG SAFETY
National Institute
of Food and Drug Safety Evaluation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION