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## Short presentation

**John Elmerdahl Olsen** is a veterinarian by training, and he has specialized in clinical and molecular microbiology. He is head of the research group "Molecular Veterinary Bacteriology". Here he works in a team consisting of himself, three Associate Professors (Line Elnif Thomsen, Henrik Christensen and Arshnee Moodley), and a varying number of Post Doc fellows, PhD students, Graduate Students and one Technician. The research focuses on prevention of bacterial diseases and antimicrobial resistance in animals. Where relevant, problems are viewed in a one health perspective. Currently, his own research projects are:

### 1) Molecular mechanisms behind host-specificity of *Salmonella* serovars.

The most severe *Salmonella* infections are caused by serovars which are host specific. This project studies the avian specific *Salmonella* serovar, S. Gallinarum, to understand why it only infects avians, and why it has such a high ability to cause Typhoid-like systemic infection in these species. It uses a combination of genomic, molecular-biology and infection biology approaches to identify how this serovar differs from closely related serovars without host-restriction and without the tendency to cause systemic infection.

The project is funded by Independent Research Fund Denmark, and it is carried out in collaboration with other researchers within the Department (Immunology) and Professor Ferric Fang, University of Washington, US.

### 2) Metabolic responses in antibiotic resistant *Escherichia coli* to treatment with antibiotics to which the strain is resistant.

Antimicrobial resistance is a world health problem and we need to find ways to be able to treat infections caused by antimicrobial resistant bacteria. This project identifies genes, besides the actual resistance genes, which are essential for the ability of antimicrobial resistant *E. coli* to grow in the presence of high concentrations of antimicrobials, to which the strain is resistant. Such genes are termed "the secondary resistome", and the proteins encoded by such genes are putative targets for helper drugs, which, when used along with antimicrobials, may re-sensitize resistant bacteria to treatment. Relevant genes are identified by transposon guided differential insertion sequencing technique (TraDIS). Libraries have been constructed in *E. coli* which are resistant to antibiotics of the classes: beta-lactams (cephalosporin), aminoglycosides, sulphonamides and trimethoprim. Metabolic modelling in collaboration with Oxford Brookes University, UK, is used to understand, which metabolic pathways are changed in response to treatment.

The project is financed by the EU-funded Ph.D training school (ITN-network) "INNOTARGETS" and a PhD scholarship from Pakistan. The training school is a collaboration between four Universities, two sector research institutes and two drug developing companies in Europe. John Elmerdahl Olsen is the coordinator of the ITN training network.

### 3) Inactivation of bacteria in stables using UV-light.

Use of antimicrobials for livestock in Denmark is particularly high in pig production, and we need to find ways to reduce pathogen load to reduce the number of infections, which needs to be treated. This project, UVIBA, determines inactivation of pathogenic bacteria and virus by LED-UV light. The idea is that lamps in stables can deliver this type of light in addition to traditional white-light, and that constant or cyclic use of UV-light may reduce pathogenic load in the air and dust in the stables. This may lead to reduced problems with diseases. Inactivation is determined under laboratory conditions with models of the lamp and selected indicator and pathogenic bacteria, as well as for pathogenic bacteria and virus in stables with pigs and proto-type lamps.

The project is funded by GUDP, and it is headed by the company FarmLight, which has developed the lamps. Other partners include DTU and Århus University.

### 4) *Escherichia coli* pathotypes associated with diarrhoea in new borne calves.

Diarrhoea in calves due to *E. coli* is common in the first one to two weeks of age and is an important reason for use of antimicrobials in young calves. Traditionally, the disease has been associated with the pathotype Enterotoxigenic *E. coli* (ETEC), characterized by production of enterotoxins and fimbriae which specifically allows colonization of the small intestine of calves, and current vaccines are directed against this pathotype. However, in recent years, this type of *E. coli* is not so commonly isolated from cases of diarrhoea in calves in Denmark. The project uses whole genome sequencing of isolates subjected to diagnostic laboratories or collected as part of dedicated sampling strategies, as well as metagenomic

approaches with Nanopore sequencing of faecal samples, to elucidate which pathotypes, other than ETEC, one can detect in faeces from calves with *E. coli* diarrhoea.

The project is funded by a stipend from the African Research Excellence Foundation and from the Danish Contingency Program. It is carried out in collaboration with Associate professor Jibril Abdurrahman, Sokoto University, Nigeria and other researchers at the Department (Food Safety).

##### 5) Development of improved vaccines against post weaning diarrhoea in pigs.

Diarrhoea in the post weaning period is the single most important reason for use of antimicrobials in Danish livestock. This project, PigVac, develops and tests novel vaccines against the three most common bacteria associated with diarrhoea in the period from weaning to when pigs are transferred to the fattening unit. The vaccines are based on so-called virus like particles, where antigens are coupled to the surface of empty virus particles. The structure of these particles with high density of antigens on the surface are known to give optimal priming of the immune system. The tested vaccines are directed against Entotoxigenic *E. coli* of fimbria types F4 and F18, *Lawsonia intracellularis* and *Brachyspira pilisicoli*. Prototype vaccines are first tested in mice models of infection and then in pigs. Outcome measurements include antibody responses, tolerance to vaccines, as well as the ability to protect against infections.

The project is funded by Innovation Fund Denmark, and it is carried out in collaboration with researchers at Department of Microbiology and Immunology, KU, SEGES and the vaccine company AdaptVac.

## Employment

### Professor

Veterinary Clinical Microbiology

Frederiksberg C, Denmark

25 Sep 1987 → nu

### Professor

Veterinary Clinical Microbiology

Frederiksberg C, Denmark

26 Sep 1987 → nu

### !!Professor

Food Safety and Zoonoses

Frederiksberg C, Denmark

26 Sep 1987 → 3 Apr 2013

## Research outputs

### **Salmonella Gallinarum mgtC mutant shows a delayed fowl typhoid progression in chicken**

Rodrigues Alves, L. B., Freitas Neto, O. C. D., Saraiva, M. D. M. S., do Monte, D. F. M., de Lima, B. N., Cabrera, J. M., Barbosa, F. D. O., Benevides, V. P., de Lima, T. S., Campos, I. C., Rubio, M. D. S., Nascimento, C. D. F., Arantes, L. C. R. V., Alves, V. V., de Almeida, A. M., Olsen, John Elmerdahl & Berchieri Junior, A., 20 Jan 2024, In: Gene. 892, 147827.

### **Diet composition drives tissue-specific intensity of murine enteric infections**

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### **Genome-wide identification of fitness-genes in aminoglycoside-resistant Escherichia coli during antibiotic stress**

Wellner, Sandra Marina, Alobaidallah, M. S. A., Fei, Xiao, Herrero-Fresno, A. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2024, In: Scientific Reports. 14, 16 p., 4163.

### **Genomic Features and Phylogenetic Analysis of Antimicrobial-Resistant *Salmonella* Mbandaka ST413 Strains**

Benevides, V. P., Saraiva, M. M. S., Nascimento, C. F., Delgado-Suárez, E. J., Oliveira, C. J. B., Silva, S. R., Miranda, V. F. O., Christensen, Henrik, Olsen, John Elmerdahl & Berchieri Junior, A., 2024, In: Microorganisms. 12, 2, 16 p., 312.

**Lack of correlation between growth, stress, and virulence phenotypes in strains of *Salmonella enterica* serovar Enteritidis, S. Typhimurium DT104, S. 4,12, b- and S. Liverpool**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl, Frees, Dorte, Kyvsgaard, N. C. & Barco, L., 2024, In: Letters in Applied Microbiology. 77, 2, 9 p., ova015.

#### **SKIN ULCERATIONS IN DANISH NURSERY PIGS**

Barington, Kristiane, Pankoke, K., Hartmann, Katrine Top, Hansen, Mette Sif, Jensen, Henrik Elvang, Blirup-Plum, Sophie Amalie, Jørgensen, B. M., Nielsen, Jens Peter, Eriksen, E. Ø., Kudirkie, E., Olsen, John Elmerdahl & Pedersen, Ken Steen, 30 Aug 2023.

#### **A Virus-like Particle-Based F4 Enterotoxigenic Escherichia coli Vaccine Is Inhibited by Maternally Derived Antibodies in Piglets but Generates Robust Responses in Sows**

Aves, Kara-Lee, Guerra, Priscila Regina, Fresno, A. H., Saraiva, M. M. S., Cox, E., Bækbo, P. J., Nielsen, Morten Agertoug, Sander, Adam F. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2023, In: Pathogens. 12, 12, 19 p., 1388.

#### **An observational field study of porcine post-weaning diarrhea: clinical and microbiological findings, and fecal pH-measurements as a potential diagnostic tool**

Eriksen, E. Ø., Kudirkie, E., Barington, Kristiane, Goecke, Nicole Bakkegård, Blirup-Plum, Sophie Amalie, Nielsen, Jens Peter, Olsen, John Elmerdahl, Jensen, Henrik Elvang, Pankoke, K., Larsen, Lars, Liu, G. & Pedersen, Ken Steen, 2023, In: Porcine Health Management. 9, 33.

#### **Assessing phenotypic virulence of *Salmonella enterica* across serovars and sources**

Petrin, S., Wijnands, L., Benincà, E., Mugnini-Gras, L., Delfgou-van Asch, E. H. M., Villa, L., Orsini, M., Losasso, C., Olsen, John Elmerdahl & Barco, L., 2023, In: Frontiers in Microbiology. 14, 1184387.

#### **Bacteriostatic and Haemolytic Activities of Extracts and Compounds of *Commiphora swynnertonii***

Msengwa, Z., Credo, D., Mafuru, M., Mwesongo, J., Mabiki, F. P., Mwang'onde, B. J., Mtambo, M. M., Kusiluka, L. J., Mdegela, R. H. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2023, In: Research Journal of Pharmacognosy. 10, 2, p. 47-56 10 p.

#### **Effect of feeding dairy calves with milk fermented with selected probiotic strains on occurrence of diarrhoea, carriage of pathogenic and zoonotic microorganisms and growth performance**

Fresno, A. H., Farias Alencar, Anna Luiza, Liu, G., Wridt, M. W., Andersen, F. B., Pedersen, H. S., Martin, H. L., Nielsen, Søren Saxmose, Aabo, S., Olsen, John Elmerdahl & Jensen, A. N., 2023, In: Veterinary Microbiology. 286, 109885.

#### **Epifriedelanol is the key compound to antibacterial effects of extracts of *Synadenium glaucescens* (Pax) against medically important bacteria**

Msengwa, S. Z., Rwegoshora, F., David, C., Mwesongo, J., Mafuru, M., Mabiki, F. P., Mwang'onde, B. J., Mtambo, M. M., Kusiluka, L. J. M., Mdegela, R. H. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2023, In: Frontiers in Tropical Diseases. 3, 1104543.

#### **Estimating potential farm economic benefits of advanced microbiological diagnostics in veterinary medicine**

Jensen, Jørgen Dejgård, Christensen, Tove, Pansri, P. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2023, In: Animal Production Science. 63, 15, p. 1545-1558

#### **Gastro-intestinal lesions are not relatable to diarrhoea or specific pathogens in post-weaning diarrhoea (PWD) in pigs**

Blirup-Plum, Sophie Amalie, Jensen, Henrik Elvang, Nielsen, Søren Saxmose, Pankoke, K., Hansen, Mette Sif, Pedersen, Ken Steen, Eriksen, E. Ø., Nielsen, Jens Peter, Olsen, John Elmerdahl, Kudirkie, E., Larsen, Lars, Goecke, Nicole Bakkegård & Barington, Kristiane, 2023, In: Acta Veterinaria Scandinavica. 65, p. 1-18 18 p., 30.

#### **Genomics, biofilm formation and infection of bladder epithelial cells in potentially uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* (UPEC) from animal sources and human urinary tract infections (UTIs) further support food-borne transmission**

García, V., Lestón, L., Parga, A., García-Menijo, I., Fernández, J., Otero, A., Olsen, John Elmerdahl, Herrero-Fresno, A. & Mora, A., 2023, In: One Health. 16, 100558.

**Identification of *Salmonella* Pullorum Factors Affecting Immune Reaction in Macrophages from the Avian Host**  
Fei, Xiao, Li, Q., Jiao, X. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2023, In: *Microbiology Spectrum*. 11, 3, e00786-23.

**Incidence and Genomic Background of Antibiotic Resistance in Food-Borne and Clinical Isolates of *Salmonella enterica* Serovar Derby from Spain**  
Vázquez, X., García-Fierro, R., Fernández, J., Bances, M., Herrero-Fresno, A., Olsen, John Elmerdahl, Rodicio, R., Ladero, V., García, V. & Rodicio, M. R., 2023, In: *Antibiotics*. 12, 7, 1204.

**Lesions and pathogens found in pigs that died during the nursery period in five Danish farms**

Barington, Kristiane, Eriksen, E. Ø., Kudirkiene, E., Pankoke, K., Hartmann, Katrine Top, Hansen, Mette Sif, Jensen, Henrik Elvang, Blirup-Plum, Sophie Amalie, Jørgensen, B. M., Nielsen, Jens Peter, Olsen, John Elmerdahl, Goecke, Nicole Bakkegård, Larsen, Lars & Pedersen, Ken Steen, 2023, In: *Porcine Health Management*. 9, 26.

**Phenotypic and genotypic antimicrobial resistance correlation and plasmid characterization in *Salmonella* spp. isolates from Italy reveal high heterogeneity among serovars**

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**Uncovering the Important Genetic Factors for Growth during Cefotaxime-Gentamicin Combination Treatment in bla<sub>CTX-M-1</sub> Encoding *Escherichia coli***

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**Whole strains vs MGEs in short and longterm transmission of ESBL genes between healthcare and community settings in Uganda**

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**Antimicrobial-induced horizontal transfer of antimicrobial resistance genes in bacteria: a mini-review**

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**Effect of pH and Salinity on the Ability of *Salmonella* Serotypes to Form Biofilm**

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**Evaluation of a novel multiplex qPCR method for rapid detection and quantification of pathogens associated with calf diarrhoea**

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**GENOMIC CHARACTERIZATION OF MULTIDRUG-RESISTANT EXTENDED-SPECTRUM  $\beta$ -LACTAMASE-PRODUCING ESCHERICHIA COLI AND KLEBSIELLA PNEUMONIAE FROM CHIMPANZEES (PAN TROGLODYTES) FROM WILD AND SANCTUARY LOCATIONS IN UGANDA**

Bager, S. L., Kakaala, I., Kudirkiene, E., Byarugaba, D. K. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2022, In: Journal of Wildlife Diseases. 58, 2, p. 269-278 10 p.

**Garlic-Derived Metabolites Exert Antioxidant Activity, Modulate Gut Microbiota Composition and Limit *Citrobacter rodentium* Infection in Mice**

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**Genome-wide analysis of fitness factors in uropathogenic Escherichia coli in a pig urinary tract infection model**

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**Inhibition of Virulence Gene Expression in *Salmonella* Dublin, *Escherichia coli* F5 and *Clostridium perfringens* Associated With Neonatal Calf Diarrhea by Factors Produced by Lactic Acid Bacteria During Fermentation of Cow Milk**

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**Prediction of *Pasteurella multocida* serotypes based on whole genomic sequences**

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**Proteomes of Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* Growing in Human Urine and in J82 Urinary Bladder Cells**

Andersen, S., Nawrocki, A., Johansen, A. E., Herrero-Fresno, A., Menéndez, V. G., Møller-Jensen, J. & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2022, In: Proteomes. 10, 2, 15.

**Recommendations on diagnostic investigations of post-weaning diarrhea outbreaks: assessing the prevalence of diarrhea and determining microbiological etiologies**

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**Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) Analysis of Virulence and AMR Genes in Extended-Spectrum  $\beta$ -Lactamase (ESBL)-Producing *Escherichia coli* from Animal and Environmental Samples in Four Italian Swine Farms**

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**“Omics” Technologies - What Have They Told Us About Uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* Fitness and Virulence During Urinary Tract Infection?**

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**Association between antimicrobial usage and resistance in *Salmonella* from poultry farms in Nigeria**

Jibril, A. H., Okeke, I. N., Dalsgaard, Anders & Olsen, John Elmerdahl, 2021, In: BMC Veterinary Research. 17, 234.

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**Duo: A Signature Based Method to Batch-Analyze Functional Similarities of Proteins**

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**ESBL and AmpC  $\beta$ -Lactamase Encoding Genes in *E. coli* From Pig and Pig Farm Workers in Vietnam and Their Association With Mobile Genetic Elements**

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**Genome-wide analysis of fitness-factors in uropathogenic *Escherichia coli* during growth in laboratory media and during urinary tract infections**  
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**Identification and characterization of a spreadable IncI1 plasmid harbouring a bla<sub>CTX-M-15</sub> gene in an Italian human isolate of *Salmonella* serovar Napoli**  
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**A plasmid-encoded fetmp-fls iron uptake system confers selective advantages to *Salmonella enterica* serovar typhimurium in growth under iron-restricted conditions and for infection of mammalian host cells**  
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**Combining *Salmonella* Dublin genome information and contact-tracing to substantiate a new approach for improved detection of infectious transmission routes in cattle populations**

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**Epidemiology of *Salmonella* enterica Serovar Dublin in Cattle and Humans in Denmark, 1996 to 2016: a Retrospective Whole-Genome-Based Study**

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**F4- and F18-Positive Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* Isolates from Diarrhea of Postweaning Pigs: Genomic Characterization**

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## Activities

**Medicinforbrug og antibiotikaresistens - kan det måles objektivt som forudsat i veterinærforliget**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
18 Nov 2009

**Possible human health consequences of the use of antibiotics in animals**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
18 Nov 2008

**Further eduction for pig veterinarians: Antibiotic resistance**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Participant)  
11 Nov 2008

**Bedømmelsesudvalg for PhD Lc 2482 Lina Cavaco. Afhandlingens titel: Mechanisms of selection of resistance to quinolones and cephalosporins in *Escherichia coli*. (External organisation)**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)  
8 Sep 2008 → ...

**Investigation of correlation between gene expression of 162 selected genes and survival and colonization abilities of *Salmonella* strains in the food chain**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
8 Sep 2008

**Journal of Medical Microbiology (Journal)**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Editor)  
8 Sep 2008 → ...

**Food Micro 2008 : Invited chairman for session vedrørende *Salmonella***  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Participant)  
1 Sep 2008 → 4 Sep 2008

**Bedømmelse af PhD afhandling fra Lc2480 Arshnee Moodley. Afhandlingens titel: Zoonotic transmission of antimicrobial resistant bacteria of human clinical significance by direct contact with animals (External organisation)**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)  
8 Aug 2008 → 1 Oct 2008

**Methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* clonal complex 398 - a new zoonosis in pig production**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
17 Jun 2008

**The emergence of multi-resistant bacteria in pet animals: clinical problems and zoonotic implications**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
13 May 2008

**Survival of *Salmonella* on carcasses during storage**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
12 May 2008

**Avian enterococci and streptococci - emerging pathogens in poultry production**  
Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)  
8 May 2008

**Extended spectrum beta-lactamase producing *Escherichia coli* and methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* in pig production: possible zoonotic implications**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)

7 May 2008

**Diverse tidsskrifter (Journal)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Editor)

1 Jan 2008

**LIFE, Københavns Universitet (External organisation)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)

14 Sep 2007 → 21 Dec 2007

**Bedømmelsesudvalg for lektorat i klinisk mikrobiologi (External organisation)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)

14 May 2007 → 31 Jan 2008

**Gæstelærer ved Lithauens Veterinære Akademi: Underviser i veterinary public health**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Participant)

5 May 2007 → 11 May 2007

**Københavns Universitet (External organisation)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)

14 Apr 2006 → 14 Feb 2008

**LIFE, Københavns Universitet (External organisation)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)

14 Apr 2006 → 14 Feb 2008

**LIFE, Københavns Universitet (External organisation)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Member)

14 Apr 2006 → 1 Feb 2008

**The current state of Pasteurellaceae systematics**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Lecturer)

23 Oct 2005

**Journal of Medical Microbiology (Journal)**

Olsen, John Elmerdahl (Editor)

1 Apr 2005 → ...

## Qualifications

Diplomate, European College Veterinary Microbiology

Award Date: 20 Sep 2020

Dr.med.vet., Den Kongelige Veterinær og Landbohøjskole

Award Date: 27 Jun 2005

Lic.med.vet. (Ph.D), Den Kongelige Veterinær og Landbohøjskole

Award Date: 20 Jun 1989

Cand.med.vet., Den Kongelige Veterinær og Landbohøjskole

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