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**Title:** Towards an explanation for the success of Acinetobacter baumannii in the human host  
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1. Although A. baumannii strains can express a wide array of virulence factors, the outcome of infection depends on the condition of the host. (this thesis)

2. Virulence features of one Acinetobacter strain cannot be generalized to the species-level. (this thesis)

3. The csu operon plays an important role in the clinical success of A. baumannii. (this thesis)

4. Further to virulence factors, metabolic versatility is a major factor allowing A. baumannii to survive under diverse conditions, both outside and inside the host. (this thesis)

5. Membrane vesicles generated during extensive purification are not representative for naturally occurring membrane vesicles. (this thesis)

6. Organotypic culture systems should be preferred above monolayer cell cultures for in vitro pathogen-host interaction studies.

7. Systems biology approaches should be based on a clear hypothesis rather than driven by technology and computing. (based on ‘A systems biology approach to infectious disease research: innovating the pathogen-host research paradigm’, A. Aderem, mBio 2011)

8. Given the high incidence of biofilm-associated infections, the assessment of anti-biofilm activity should have a prominent role in the development of novel antimicrobial agents.

9. Results of a well-designed experiment should be published, no matter the outcome. (based on ‘Negative results need airing too’, N. Gupta & M. Stopfer, Nature 470, 2011)

10. The key to everything is patience. You get the chicken by hatching the egg, not by smashing it. (A.H. Glasgow, psychologist)