

# **Membrane phospholipid composition of Pseudomonas aeruginosa grown in a cystic fibrosis mucus-mimicking medium**

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Membrane phospholipid composition of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* grown in a cystic fibrosis mucus-mimicking medium 1 2

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Abbreviations: CF, cystic fibrosis; MHB, Mueller Hilton broth; SCFM, synthetic cystic fibrosis medium; DOPC, 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine; SCFM-PC, DOPC complemented SCFM; LB, lysogeny broth; ASM, artificial sputum medium; PE, phosphatidylethanolamines; PC, phosphatidylcholines; PG, phosphatidylglycerols; CL, cardiolipins; LC-MS, liquid chromatography - mass spectrometry; MS/MS, tandem mass spectrometry; MIC, minimal inhibitory concentration; ESI-MS, electrospray ionisation-mass spectrometry; PAK, *P. aeruginosa* strain PAK; CFU, colony forming units; OD600, optical density at 600 nm; AFM, atomic force microscopy; (n), number of replicates. 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

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**ABSTRACT** 28

P a g e 1 | 42 2 3 4

*Background: Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is a bacterium able to induce serious pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis (*CF*) patients. This bacterium is very often antibiotic resistant, partly because of its membrane impermeability, which is linked to the membrane lipid composition. This work aims to study the membrane phospholipids of *P. aeruginosa* grown in *CF* sputum-like media. 29 30 31 32 33

*Methods:* Three media were used: Mueller Hilton broth (MHB), synthetic cystic fibrosis medium (SCFM) and 1,2- dioleoyl-*sn*-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DOPC) complemented SCFM (SCFM-PC). Lipids were extracted and LC-MS/MS analyses were performed. Growth curves, atomic force microscopy images and minimal inhibitory concentration determination were performed in order to compare the growth and potentially link lipid modifications to antibiotic resistance. 34 35 36 37 38 39

*Results:* Semi-quantification showed phospholipid quantity variation depending on the growth medium. Phosphatidylcholines were detected in traces in SCFM. MS/MS experiments showed an increase of phospholipids derived from DOPC in SCFM-PC. We observed no influence of the medium on the bacterial growth and a minor influence on the bacterial shape. MIC values were generally higher in SCFM and SCFM-PC than in MHB. 40 41 42 43 44

*Conclusions:* We defined a *CF* sputum-like media which can be used for the membrane lipid extraction of *P. aeruginosa*. We also showed that the growth medium does have an influence on its membrane lipid composition and antibiotic resistance, especially for SCFM-PC in which *P. aeruginosa* uses DOPC, in order to make its own membrane. 45 46 47 48

*General significance:* Our results show that considerable caution must be taken when choosing a medium for lipid identification and antibiotic testing —especially for phospholipids-enriched media. 49 50 51

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*Pseudomonas aeruginosa* is an opportunistic pathogen bacterium which is a major public health concern for its ability to survive on healthcare equipments [1]. This leads to nosocomial infections which are very difficult to eradicate. Due to its high pathogenicity for immunocompromised patients, such as cystic fibrosis (CF) patients [2,3], *P. aeruginosa* is one of the deadliest bacteria in hospitals. Moreover, *P. aeruginosa* can easily develop many mechanisms of resistance against antibiotics [4], leading to most antibiotics becoming useless. For these reasons, *P. aeruginosa* was set priority number one for the research and development of new antibiotics and treatments, by the world health organization (WHO) [5]. 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

In order to develop new antibiotics, new targets and strategies are required. One of the current new drug strategies involves targeting membrane phospholipids (*e.g.* cardiolipins [6]). Such new drugs could, by themselves, allow membrane lysis or could be used in synergy to increase the effectiveness of antibiotics [7,8]. Previous analyses of the membrane lipid composition of *P. aeruginosa* were performed in culture media such as minimal glucose medium (MGM) [9,10], Muller-Hilton broth (MHB) [11,12] or lysogeny broth (LB) [13]. The membrane lipid composition mainly consisted of four lipid chemical classes: phosphatidylethanolamines (PE), phosphatidylcholines (PC), phosphatidylglycérols (PG) [13] and cardiolipins (CL) [12]. Moreover, these phospholipids were described to be constituted of saturated, unsaturated or cyclopropylated, fatty acyl chains ranging from C14 to C18 [10]. 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

Since *P. aeruginosa* is known to survive in diverse environments, by adapting its metabolism according to the available energy resources [14], an influence of the culture medium on the membrane lipids should be expected. Due to the high pathogenicity of *P. aeruginosa* in cases of CF lungs chronic infections, the CF lung sputum was chemically analysed with the purpose to reproduce it in laboratories [15]. This sputum was characterized by specific amino acid concentrations, the presence of DNA, lipids and mucin and a high viscosity [16]. Thus, several media mimicking the CF sputum were described in the literature [15–17]. The synthetic cystic fibrosis medium (SCFM) [15], first described, contained amino acids, salts and sugars at adjusted concentrations, but lacked DNA, lipids and mucin. This medium was then improved, as SCFM2, by the addition of DNA, lipids and mucin [16]. 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84

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The Artificial Sputum medium (ASM) contained amino acids, mucin, DNA and egg yolk as a phospholipid nutrient [17]. However, most of these media are not compatible with membrane lipid extraction, as the high viscosity of such media [16,17] does not allow enough bacterial growth for exploitable quantities of lipid material. For this specific reason, this work uses the commercial MHB as a reference medium and the SCFM one [15]. By adding phosphatidylcholine to SCFM (SCFM-PC), we also analysed the impact of this choline nutrient source on the *P. aeruginosa* lipid composition. 1,2-dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3 phosphocholine (DOPC) was chosen in order to simulate the presence of lipids from eukaryote cells, since DOPC is widely used for eukaryote cell modelling [18]. 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93

Herein, to our knowledge, this work reported, for the first time, the membrane phospholipid composition of *P. aeruginosa* grown in CF sputum-mimicking media —*e.g.* SCFM and SCFM-PC. The membrane lipids were identified and semi-quantified using liquid chromatography - mass spectrometry (LC-MS). Tandem mass spectrometry (MS/MS) experiments were performed to determine the fatty acyl composition of phospholipids. With the aim to link membrane lipid modifications and antibiotic resistance, the minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of four antibiotics was determined as well. 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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#### **2. Material and methods** 102

#### *2.1 Chemicals* 103

All SCFM components, chemicals required for the membrane lipid extraction and antibiotics were purchased from Sigma-Aldrich (Saint Quentin Fallavier, France). 1,2- Dioleoyl-sn-glycero-3-phosphocholine (DOPC), and phospholipids internal standards (PC 17:0/17:0, 0.5 μg; PE 17:0/17:0, 2.5 μg; PG 17:0/17:0, 1 μg; LPC 17:0, 1 μg; LPE 13:0, 2.5 μg; CL 14:0/14:0/14:0/14:0, 5 μg) were purchased from Avanti polar lipids (AL, USA). MHB media, brand Difco, was purchased from Fischer Scientific (UK). Milli Q grade water was obtained from an UltraClear TWF system (Evoqua water technologies, Germany). 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

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Methanol, chloroform, acetonitrile and isopropanol were purchased from Fischer Scientific (UK), ammonium formate from Sigma-Aldrich (Saint Quentin Fallavier, France), formic acid from Merck (Germany). Except methanol and chloroform which were HPLC grade, all solvents and buffers used were LC-MS grade. 112 113 114 115

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#### *2.2. SCFM and SCFM-PC media preparation* 117

The SCFM medium was first described by Palmer *et al.* [15]. In order to prepare this chemically defined medium more easily by hand, the number of individual stock solutions was reduced by mixing some of the individual stock solutions together (*e.g.* from 19 individual amino acids stock solutions to 6 individual or mixed amino acids stock solutions). Moreover, part of the medium was autoclaved. 118 119 120 121 122

The stock solutions were prepared from powder, using either autoclaved Milli-Q grade water or NaOH solutions (concentrations will be detailed later) and stocked in the dark at 4°C. The bottles used for the stock solutions were autoclaved as well. 123 124 125

A first stock solution was prepared by mixing the following thirteen amino acids, whose final concentrations were: 360 mM alanine, 60 mM arginine –HCl, 40 mM cysteine – HCl, 300 mM glutamate –HCl, 240 mM glycine, 100 mM histidine –HCl, 420 mM lysine–HCl, 120 mM methionine, 140 mM ornithine –HCl, 340 mM proline, 280 mM serine, 200 mM threonine and 220 mM valine. A second stock solution was prepared by mixing isoleucine and phenylalanine at 110 mM and 50 mM, respectively. Leucine was stocked at 100 mM. Aspartate was stocked at 103 mM in 0.5 M NaOH. Tyrosine was stocked at 100 mM in 1 M NaOH. Tryptophan was stocked at 130 mM in 0.2 M NaOH. 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133

The following salts were mixed into a single stock solution at these concentrations: 23 mM NH4Cl, 153 mM KCl, 511 mM NaCl, 13 mM NaH2PO4, 13 mM Na2HPO4, 3 mM K2SO4, 4 mM NaNO3. Morpholinepropanesulfonic acid (MOPS) was stocked at 100 mM. The mixed salts and the MOPS stock solution were then autoclave sterilised for storage purpose. 134 135 136 137

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CaCl2 and MgCl2 were mixed as a stock solution at 877 mM and 303 mM respectively. FeSO4 was stocked at 4 mM. D-glucose was stocked at 1 M. Sodium L-lactacte was stocked at 10% w/w. CaCl2/MgCl2, Dglucose and Sodium L-lactacte stock solutions were filter sterilised through a 0.22-μm-pore-size filter. Since the FeSO4 stock solution could neither be autoclaved (precipitation) nor filter sterilised (filter blockage), the FeSO4 powder was diluted into an autoclave sterilised bottle using autoclave sterilised Milli-Q water. Fresh FeSO4 stock solution was systematically prepared to prevent precipitation during the storage. The full protocol for the preparation of the stock solutions for SCFM and SCFM-PC medium is given in the Supplementary Information S1. 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146

For 1 L of SCFM, the following volumes of stock solutions were added: 100 mL mixed salts, 25 mL MOPS, 805 mL Milli-Q water, 10 mL mixed amino acids (first solution), 10 mL isoleucine and phenylalanine (second solution), 16 mL leucine, 8 mL aspartate, 8 mL tyrosine, 0.1 mL tryptophan. The solution was then autoclave sterilised. After cooling to room temperature, the pH was adjusted to 6.5 using HCl 33% w/w. Finally, the following volumes of stock solutions were added: 2 mL CaCl2/MgCl2, 1 mL FeSO4, 3 mL D-glucose, 10.5 mL L-lactate. 147 148 149 150 151 152 153

The SCFM-PC medium preparation was based on the SCFM 2 developed by Turner *et al.* [16]. SCFM 2 is a modification of SCFM in which DOPC (PC 18:1 (9Z) / 18:1 (9Z)), DNA and mucin are added. However, in our study, we had to develop SCFM-PC in which only DOPC was added to SCFM. Indeed, when DNA and mucin are used, the extraction of membrane lipids cannot be performed due to the high viscosity of the medium (unpublished work). The SCFM-PC medium was prepared as the following: aliquots of DOPC stock solutions were prepared in order to make different volumes of SCFM-PC with a final DOPC concentration of 100 μg/mL, (aliquots of 10 mg, or 33 mg, to respectively prepare 100 mL, or 330 mL, of SCFM-PC). The stock solutions of DOPC (250 mg/mL) were prepared in chloroform and were stored under argon, in the dark and at −20 °C. The DOPC stock solution was slowly added to the fresh SCFM medium by making it run along the inside of the Erlenmeyer flask —in order to evaporate the chloroform as much as possible. Then, the solution was stirred until neither traces nor lipid droplets could be seen anymore. Finally, in order to make sure that no traces 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166

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of chloroform were left, the SCFM-PC medium was left to rest 30 min under a biosafety cabinet. 167 168

The full protocol for the preparation of SCFM and SCFM-PC medium are given in the Supplementary Information S1. To verify that the autoclave sterilisation had not degraded the amino acids (at the concentration of the medium and without adding sugars), SCFM medium was checked using electrospray ionisation-mass spectrometry (ESI-MS) before and after sterilisation (for MS parameters, see Section 2.6). No difference was observed suggesting that no degradation occurred. Growth curves of PAK into the autoclave sterilised or filtered sterilised media were performed as well and showed no impact of the sterilisation method on the growth of *P. aeruginosa*. MS spectra and growth curves are given in S2. 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176

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#### *2.3. Bacterial strain, growth conditions and MICs determination* 178

The *P. aeruginosa* strain PAK (PAK), used in this study, was obtained from Dr. Lhousseine Touqui (Institut Pasteur, Paris, France). The *P. aeruginosa* PAK strain is known for its high virulence, a high expression of pili and flagella, glycosylations and pathogenicity islands [19] and is commonly used in medical studies. PAK was stocked in Muller-Hinton broth (MHB)/glycerol (70/30) at −80 °C. For growth kinetics, PAK was pre-cultured from this stock solution, overnight at 37 °C in MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC. This pre-culture was used to inoculate 100 mL of MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC (in a 250 mL Erlenmeyer flask) with 5.10<sup>5</sup> colony forming units (CFU)/mL. The culture was incubated at 37 °C for 24 h on a rotary shaker (140 rpm). Every hour for 8 h and at a final point of 24 h,  $OD_{600}$  (optical density at 600 nm with Cary 100 Bio spectrophotometer, Varian) was monitored and 100 μL of culture were collected for CFU numeration. For the MICs determination of carbenicillin, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, and colistin, the broth dilution method, in 96-well plates, was performed according to Wiegand *et al.* [20], using an inoculum at OD<sub>600</sub> = 0.001. All these experiments were performed in biological triplicates for MHB, SCFM and SCFM-PC. 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192

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#### *2.4. Atomic force microscopy (AFM) imaging* 197

All glass substrates (glass cover for haemocytometer, 20x26mm, 0.4 mm thick, Hirschmann) were cut in 4 parts, cleaned with ethanol and dried. Using a 6-well plates, one glass substrate was placed into each well and covered with 1 mL of MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC. A PAK preculture in either MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC media (see Section 2.3) was used to inoculate each well at 10<sup>7</sup> CFU/mL. In order to have enough attached bacteria, but with as low as possible phenotype changes, the plate was incubated for 6 h at 37 °C, without any mixing, and protected from light. A bacterial monolayer and irreversible attachment of the biofilm could be achieved using this method. Then, the culture medium was removed using a Pasteur pipette. Each glass substrate was rinsed twice using water baths, carefully drained, then dried overnight. 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207

AFM imaging was performed with a Nanoscope 8 Multimode microscope (Bruker Nano Surfaces, Santa Barbara, CA, USA) equipped with a 100 μm piezoelectric scanner. Imaging was achieved in the air either using the contact mode (for bacteria length measurements) or using the PeakForce® mode (for image presentation). In the contact mode, the cantilevers used were characterized by a low spring constant of about 0.06 N/m and were equipped with classical pyramidal Silicon Nitride tip. All the measurements were performed with the feedback loop on. For the PeakForce® mode imaging, we used a soft Silicon Nitride cantilevers (spring constant of about 0.35 N/m) with sharp Silicon Nitride tip. Images were obtained with a PeakForce Tapping frequency of 2kHz with the auto-amplitude on. Average force applied during scanning was 5 nN. 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217

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#### *2.5. Membrane lipid extraction* 219

The membrane lipid extraction of PAK was performed as described by Deschamps *et al.* [12]. Briefly, from a pre-culture overnight (see Section 2.3), PAK was grown for 7 h in 220 221

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MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC (5.10<sup>5</sup> CFU/mL for initial inoculum) and a pellet was collected by centrifugation. 222 223

Then, alginate lysis was performed using alginate lyase in PBS (0.15 mg/mL), followed by sonication, centrifugation and ultracentrifugation. Finally, lipids were extracted using a modified version of the Bligh and Dyer protocol [21]. In the present work, the liquid-liquid extraction was modified with the addition of internal standards as followed: 224 225 226 227

For a pellet of 20 mg, 500 μL of milli-Q water was added to resuspend the pellet and then vortex-mixed for 5 min. 1.2 mL of methanol was added and then vortex-mixed for 15 min, to degrade proteolipids. Then, the mixture was centrifuged (4000 ×*g*, 10 min, 22 °C) and the liquid phase recovered. After adding 0.6 mL of chloroform spiked with phospholipid standards (PC 17:0/17:0, 0.5 μg; PE 17:0/17:0, 2.5 μg; PG 17:0/17:0, 1 μg; CL  $14:0/14:0/14:0/14:0$ , 5 µg), the solution was vortex mixed for 15 min and sonicated for 15 min. 0.6 mL of chloroform was added, then the solution was vortex mixed for another 15 min. 0.62 mL of 1 M ammonium acetate was added and the solution was vortex-mixed for 15 min. Finally, the mixture was left to rest for 30 min. One milliliter of the organic phase was recovered and 0.94 mL of chloroform was added to the aqueous phase for a second liquid-liquid extraction. After vortex mixing for 15 min, the mixture was left to rest again for 30 min. The aqueous phase was removed and organic phases were pooled together and evaporated under argon. Lipid extracts were conserved under argon at −20 °C. For other samples pellet masses, solvent volumes and standard masses were adjusted proportionally. This extraction was performed in biological triplicate. 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242

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#### *2.6. Liquid chromatography - mass spectrometry (LC-MS) analysis*  244

The sample preparation for LC-MS analyses, the MS and LC parameters —including LC gradient— were as described by Deschamps *et al.* [12]. Briefly, the dried lipids extracts were re-constituted into 50 μL of chloroform/methanol (2/1, v/v) and 1/5 diluted into isopropanol/ acetonitrile/water (4/3/1, v/v). 245 246 247 248

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The LC-MS experiments were performed using an UHPLC system (Dionex Ultimate 3000 RSLC, Thermo Scientific, San Jose, CA, USA) coupled to a hybrid quadrupole time-of-flight with an ion mobility cell instrument (Q-IMS-TOF, SYNAPT G2 HDMS, Waters MS Technologies, Manchester, UK) equipped with an electrospray ionisation source. LC -MS data were acquired in triplicate in positive and negative ion modes. 251 252 253 254 255

The column used was a 1.0 × 100 mm, Acquity UPLC CSH C18 1.7 μm column (Waters, Manchester, UK) equipped with a 0.2 μm prefilter. Mobile phase A consisted of acetonitrile/aqueous 10 mM ammonium formate (60/40) + 0.1% formic acid and mobile phase B consisted of isopropanol/acetonitrile/aqueous 10 mM ammonium formate (88/8/4) + 0.1% formic acid. Data acquisition was performed using MassLynx 4.1 (Waters, Manchester, UK). 256 257 258 259 260 261

Data processing, automatic identification and integration of peaks were performed using UNIFI 1.8.2.169 (Waters, Manchester, UK). Relative areas were calculated by dividing the area of the identified phospholipids by the area of the standard from the corresponding 262 263 264

class of phospholipids (*e.g. relative area*= *Areaof PE* 34 :1 *Area of PE* 17:0/17:0<sup>)</sup>. Areas were automatically calculated, from the extracted ion chromatograms, using the monoisotopic peak of  $[M+H]^+$ or [M−H]<sup>−</sup>ions, for positive or negative ionisation respectively. The monoisotopic peak was used, instead of the sum of all isotopes, since not all isotopes could be observed for phospholipids at small concentrations (*e.g.* CL 67:3). We also selected only protonated or deprotonated species, instead of the sum of all detected adducts (i.e. [M+Na]<sup>+</sup>, [M+NH<sub>4</sub>]<sup>+</sup>, [M+CH<sub>3</sub>COO]<sup>-</sup>) for similar reasons. The standard deviation and relative standard deviation of the relative area (the number of replicates (n) in which the phospholipids were identified were; 7≤n≤9 for PE, PC and PG, 3≤n≤6 for CL) were calculated to plot error bars and to check the repeatability of the measurements. Anova tests and Turkey mean comparisons were performed using OriginPro 2016 (64-bit) b9.3.226. 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275

MS/MS experiments were performed in biological triplicate, using the parameters previously described [12]. 276 277 40

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MS/MS experiments were performed in negative ion mode using a collision energy ramp from 25 eV to 45 eV. For PE (*i.e.* PE 32:1, PE 34:1, PE 36:2) and PG species (*i.e.* PG 32:1, PG 34:1, PG 36:2), the ion selected in the quadrupole was the [M−H]<sup>−</sup> , whereas for PC species  $(i.e.$  PC 32:1, PC 34:1, PC 36:2), the ion selected was the  $[M+HCO<sub>2</sub>]$ <sup>-</sup>. MS/MS spectra were processed using MassLynx 4.1 (Waters). 279 280 281 282 283

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#### **3. Results** 285

#### *3.1. Impact of the medium composition on the growth and MIC determination* 286

The growth curves of PAK grown in MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC are given in Fig. 1. Measurements of  $OD_{600}$  (Fig. 1.A) or CFU/ mL (Fig. 1.B) as a function of time showed a similar growth of PAK in the three media. This observation included no lag phase time, an exponential phase time of approximately 8 h and a doubling time of 43, 42 or 44 minutes in MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC, respectively. As a matter of fact, using these growth curves, the growth time for the lipid extraction (7h) was chosen as it corresponds to the end of the exponential phase. Thus, exploitable quantities of bacteria could be collected without risking a lack of nutrients. 287 288 289 290 291 292 293 294

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**Fig. 1. Growth curves of PAK strain in MHB, SCFM and SCFM-PC.** black circles for MHB, red squares for SCFM, blue diamonds for SCFM-PC. **A**. optical density (OD) plotted against time. **B**. Colony Forming Unit (CFU)/ mL plotted against time. Error bars: standard deviation. 297 298 299

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AFM images (Fig. 2. A, B, C) show similar bacterial shapes for all media. For MHB and SCFM, the average lengths (2.8  $\mu$ m  $\pm$  0.7  $\mu$ m) of PAK were equivalent. However, when PAK was grown in SCFM-PC, the average length was a little smaller (2.6  $\mu$ m  $\pm$  0.6  $\mu$ m), but as a counterpart, the height was higher (Fig.2.C), showing that PAK seemed to spread less on the surface than in the other media. Interestingly, as contrary to the other two media, colonies of PAK grown in SCFM-PC showed bacteria were not glued to each other, probably due to the presence of DOPC in the growth medium. 



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**Fig. 1. AFM images of PAK young biofilms grown on glass substrates.** Images are shown as topographic images overlaid with a local contrast image (Kernel size: 2; blending depth: 2; weight: 1). Classical filters as flattening and 3-points levelling were applied to the topographic image using the Gwyddion software (http://www.gwyddion.net). **A.** PAK grown in MHB; **B.** PAK grown in SCFM; **C.** PAK grown in SCFM-PC. 309 310 311 312

The MIC values of four antibiotics (carbenicillin, gentamicin, ciprofloxacin, colistin) for PAK grown in MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC are given in Table 1. Susceptibility (S) or resistance (R) to the antibiotic were given according to the norm Eucast SFM 2019. In fact, a two-fold MIC difference cannot be considered significant, since the experiment error is of one dilution (for the protocol, see 2.4). Consequently, the influence of the medium on the MIC values could significantly be noted for carbenicillin, gentamicin and colistin, but not for ciprofloxacin. The MIC of gentamicin and colistin were higher when grown in SCFM or SCFM-PC rather than into MHB. Moreover, a switch from susceptibility to resistance could be observed for colistin and gentamicin, depending on the medium of growth. Surprisingly, the MIC of carbenicillin was much smaller when PAK was grown in SCFM rather than in MHB, but was identical between MHB and SCFM-PC media. 313 314 315 316 317 318 319 320 321 322 323

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**Table** *1***. Minimal inhibitory concentrations (MIC) for PAK strain.** (S) for susceptibility of PAK to the antibiotic, (R) for resistance. Both (S) and (R) are given according to the norm Eucast SFM 2019 —apart for carbenicillin for which reference values was not given in the norm. 325 326 327



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#### **3.2 Comparison of the membrane phospholipids composition** 329

*3.2.1 Semi-quantification* 330

The membrane lipids of PAK were identified using a home-made retention time-*m/z* library, which was previously described for PAK grown in MHB [12]. Lipid annotation was P a g e 13 | 42 331 332 52 53 54

based on the nomenclature of Liebisch *et al.* [22]. Forty-two lipids were identified. Twenty phospholipids were identified using positive ionisation: 7 phosphatidylcholines (PC) and 13 cardiolipins (CL). 333 334 335

Twenty-two were identified using negative ion mode: 13 phosphatidylethanolamines (PE) and 9 phosphatidylglycerols (PG). Please note that PE and CL could be observed in both positive and negative ion modes. However, using our analytical conditions (especially the LC mobile phase with buffers), a higher signal was observed in positive ionisation mode for CL and in negative ionisation mode for PE. 336 337 338 339 340

When PAK grown in SCFM or SCFM-PC, no new phospholipids were detected. Therefore, a semi-quantitative approach was used in order to highlight the influence of the medium. Please note that, while PC 34:0, PE 34:0 and PG 34:0 were detected as traces in the membrane of PAK, the relative area of these phospholipids could not be determined. Actually, using our chromatographic conditions, these phospholipids could not be separated from the standards (*i.e.* PC 17:0/17:0, PE 17:0/17:0, PG 17:0/17:0), therefore, the PC 34:0, PE 34:0 and PG 34:0 produced by PAK were excluded from the study. 341 342 343 344 345 346 347

Fig. 3.A., 3.B. and 3.C. show relative areas of some depictive examples of the membrane phospholipids extracted from PAK grown in MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC media. The relative areas for all the identified phospholipids are given in S2 (Fig S2.4 to S2.7). 348 349 350



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**Fig. 2. Relative areas of phospholipids extracted from PAK.** *Relative area*= *PAK PL area* . Black bars: PAK *PLstandard area* grown in MHB, red bars: PAK grown in SCFM, blue bars: PAK grown in SCFM-PC. Error bars: standard deviation (7≤n≤9 for PE, PC and PG, 3≤n≤6 for CL). P-values are reported —between MHB and SCFM, SCFM and SCFM-PC and MHB and SCFM-PC — as: \* for p<0.05, \*\* for p<0.01, \*\*\* for p<0.001, ns for non-significant. **A.** PC less or equally produced in SCFM-PC than MHB and mostly not produced in SCFM; **B.** phospholipids more produced in MHB than SCFM or SCFM-PC; **C.** phospholipids more produced in SCFM-PC than SCFM or MHB. 352 353 354 355 356 357

Depending on the medium of growth, three trends of relative areas could be observed. As shown in Fig. 3.A., apart from PC 34:1 and PC 36:2 (Fig. 3.C.), PC were significantly less produced for PAK grown in SCFM rather than MHB or SCFM-PC. As shown in Fig. 3.B. and S2 (Fig S2.4 to S2.7), most phospholipids (23) were more produced in MHB than SCFM or SCFM-PC. As shown in Fig. 3.C., phospholipids containing oleic acid (C18:1) were greatly overproduced in SCFM-PC, especially for PE 34:1, PC 34:1, PG 34:1 and PE 36:2, PC 36:2, PG 36:2. Caution must be taken regarding the high relative area of PC 36:2 extracted from PAK grown in SCFM-PC. Indeed, this may be due to i) direct incorporation of DOPC inside the bacteria membrane —without any modifications, ii) contamination of our samples with the culture medium DOPC or iii) both of i) and ii). However, it is clear from the over-production of PE 36:2, PG 36:2 and phospholipids containing oleic acid, that DOPC is at least recycled by the bacteria to produce phospholipids. Then, the presence of DOPC directly incorporated into the bacteria membrane would be a very likely hypothesis. 358 359 360 361 362 363 364 365 366 367 368 369 370

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#### *3.2.2 Fatty acid composition* 372

In order to evaluate the influence of the growth medium on the fatty acid composition, MS/MS experiments were performed, on the most intense phospholipids, in biological triplicates and for each medium. Fragment identification was performed using phospholipid fragments described in the literature [23,24]. S3 gives all the fatty acid fragments of interest in negative ion mode  $-carboxulate$  anions  $R_1COO^-$  for PC/PE/PG 32:1, 34:1 and 36:2. Please note that for SCFM medium, PC species could not be detected in negative ion mode, since they were only produced as traces in this medium (see 3.2.1) and PC are known to not ionize well in negative ion mode, even with the  $[M+HCO<sub>2</sub>]$ <sup>-</sup> adduct. 373 374 375 376 377 378 379 380

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As previously described by *Hsu et al.* [23], the loss of the fatty acid in the sn-2 position is favoured. Hence, in order to compare the proportion of the two sn-1/2 position isomers (*e.g.* PG 16:0/16:1 and PG 16:1/16:0) between the three media, the following ratio 381 382 383

was calculated *ratio* 1= *Intensity fatty acid sn*−1 *Intensity fatty acid sn*−2 . When several isomers of fatty acyl chain length (*e.g.* PE 16:0/16:1 and PE 14:0/18:1) were observed, the following ratio was calculated: 384 385 386

*ratio*2= *Intensity fatty acid sn*−2 *of isomer* 2 *Intensity fatty acid sn*−2 *of isomer* 1 . The ratio 2 was calculated using only the sn-2 fatty acid since the sn-1 fatty acid of the second isomer (less abundant) was not detected for all phospholipids. Fig 4. shows the MS/MS spectra obtained for PG 34:1 in the three media (A. MHB, B. SCFM, C. SCFM-PC) and illustrates the determination of the ratio 1. The sn-2 fatty acid of isomer 2 (C16:1) was also given to illustrate the abundance difference between isomer 1 and isomer 2. The sn-1 fatty acid of isomer 2 (C18:0) was not detected. All calculated ratios means, standard deviation and relative standard deviation, are given in S3. 387 388 389 390 391 392 393

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**Fig. 4 MSMS Spectra of [PG 34:1-H]- and determination of the ratio 1**.Ratio 1 allows to compare the proportion of the two sn-1/2 position isomers *ratio* 1= *Intensity fatty acid sn*−1 *Intensity fatty acid sn*−<sup>2</sup> ) between the three media. Bracket values: ion intensities. **A.** PAK grown in MHB; **B.** PAK grown in SCFM; **C.** PAK grown in SCFM-PC. 395 396 397

Table 2 shows the major isomers identified for PC 32:1, PE 32:1, PG 32:1, PC 34:1, PE 34:1 and PG 34:1. The major isomer was identical in MHB and SCFM media. However, when compared to MHB and SCFM, the SCFM-PC medium shows different isomers for two phospholipids: PC 32:1 and PG 34:1. In SCFM-PC, the major isomer was PC 14:0/18:1 for PC 32:1 (PC 16:0/16:1 in MHB), and PG 16:0/18:1 for PG 34:1 (PG 18:1/16:0 in MHB or SCFM). Regarding sn-1/2 position isomers, for PG 32:1, PC 34:1/ PE 34:1/ PG 34:1, the respective 398 399 400 401 402 403

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16:1/16:0 and 16:0/18:1 isomers were significantly more produced in SCFM-PC than in SCFM or in MHB (ratio values in S3). 404 405

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*Table 2. Fatty acid composition of the major isomer for six phospholipids, depending on the medium of growth.*  407 408

	PC 32:1	PE 32:1	<b>PG 32:1</b>	PC 34:1	<b>PE 34:1</b>	<b>PG 34:1</b>
<b>MHB</b>	16:0/16:1	16:0/16:1	16:0/16:1	18:1/16:0	18:1/16:0	18:1/16:0
<b>SCFM</b>	nd	16:0/16:1	16:0/16:1	nd	18:1/16:0	18:1/16:0
<b>SCFM-PC</b>	14:0/18:1	16:0/16:1		$16:0/16:1*$ $18:1/16:0*$ $18:1/16:0*$		16:0/18:1

nd: not detected; \* for PG 32:1, PC 34:1 and PE 34:1, the respective 16:1/16:0, 16:0/18:1 and 16:0/18:1 isomers were significantly more produced in SCFM-PC than in SCFM or in MHB.

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Regarding PC/PE/PG 36:2 (see S3), the major isomers were PC/PE/PG 18:1/18:1 for all media. However, whereas no other isomer could be observed for PC 36:2 in any media, other isomers were observed for PE 36:2 and PG 36:2. For PE 36:2, PE 19:1/17:1 was detected, in trace level, in MHB (ratio 2 = 0.07  $\pm$  0.02), SCFM (ratio 2 = 0.05  $\pm$  0.02) and SCFM-PC (ratio 2 =  $0.01 \pm 0.01$ ). For PG 36:2, PG 20:1/16:1 was observed in MHB (ratio 2 =  $0.55 \pm 0.09$ ), SCFM (ratio 2 = 0.52  $\pm$  0.19) and in trace level in SCFM-PC (ratio 2 = 0.04  $\pm$  0.01). 410 411 412 413 414 415

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#### **4. Discussion** 419

To our knowledge, this is the first study to analyse the membrane lipid composition of *P. aeruginosa* in CF sputum-like media (*e.g.* SCFM and SCFM-PC) and compare it with a classical medium. The three following media were used: the commercial MHB —as a 420 421 422

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reference medium, SCFM [15] and a modified version of SCFM by the addition of a phosphatidylcholine (SCFM-PC). 423 424

When studying the influence of the culture medium on the production of molecules by bacteria, checking that the bacterial growth is not affected by the culture medium is crucial. Here, growth curves (see 3.1) showed that the growth of PAK was identical when grown in MHB, SCFM or SCFM-PC. As detailed in the protocol of the membrane lipid extraction (see 2.5), the culture was stopped at the same time for every medium (end of the exponential phase, see 3.1). Therefore, the following discussion could be made assuming that the membrane lipid composition modifications were not linked to a difference in the bacterium growth phase. This should be noted as a recent work by Le Sénéchal *et al.* [13] showed that the phospholipid content of *P. aeruginosa* PAO1 was closely related to the bacterial growth. 425 426 427 428 429 430 431 432 433 434

Before going further into the discussion, one should note that a plausible criticism of our methodology is that *P. aeruginosa* was grown in planktonic conditions instead of biofilm conditions, which should better reproduce the CF sputum growth conditions. However, since laboratory biofilm are grown on abiotic sterile surfaces, the adherence of the biofilm is likely to differ from the one in CF sputum, leading to possible lipid modifications. Moreover, many studies on clinical *P. aeruginosa* were performed in shaken flasks since even the sampling of the bacterium would be enough to alter its metabolic phenotype [25]. Despite these limitations, we believe that SCFM-PC is a good compromise medium for rigorous analysis of the membrane lipids of *P. aeruginosa*. 435 436 437 438 439 440 441 442 443

The main focus of this study was to investigate the influence of the medium on the phospholipids composition of the membrane. Using LC-MS in qualitative manner, as a first approach, we could not observe any influence of the medium on the type of identified phospholipids. 444 445 446 447

Therefore, a semi-quantification approach (comparison of relative intensities, using internal standards) was used (see 3.2.1). The most remarkable result was that most phospholipids were less produced into SCFM, compared to MHB. Knowing that lipids could be found in CFsputum [26], SCFM-PC was made, by adding DOPC to SCFM, in order to avoid the lack of PC P a g e 19 | 42 448 449 450 451 76

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species. When PAK was grown in SCFM-PC, we could see the increase of the phospholipids with the longest fatty acyl chains (see Fig. 3.C). This increase might counterbalance the shortage of other lipids. However, for SCFM, we haven't identified any new phospholipids nor increase of other phospholipids. Ornithine-lipids, which were described to be produced by *P. aeruginosa* when grown in phosphate limiting conditions [27], were not detected. Two hypothesis can be assumed regarding the decrease of phospholipids of PAK grown in SCFM: i) novel phospholipids species were produced, but were neither extracted using our extraction conditions (see 2.6), nor detected using our analytical conditions (see 2.7), ii) the lipid-protein ratio, which is supposed to be around  $1/1$  (w/w) for bacteria [28], was modified. The hypothesis that PAK grown in SCFM could be smaller than grown in MHB —leading to an overall lighter weight of phospholipids— was also considered. However, as shown by the AFM images in Fig. 2. (see 3.1), no significant influence of the medium on size nor on the shape of PAK was observed, consequently this hypothesis was rejected. 452 453 454 455 456 457 458 459 460 461 462 463 464

MS/MS experiments were performed, as well, in order to evaluate the influence of the growth medium on the fatty acid composition of phospholipids (see 3.2.2). The most remarkable observation was that the fatty acid C18:1 was strikingly more abundant in phospholipids produced by PAK grown in SCFM-PC than SCFM or MHB. This resulted into an inversion of the most abundant isomer for PC 32:1 and PG 34:1 (from MHB or SCFM to SCFM-PC). Indeed, for PC 32:1, both PC 14:0/18:1 and PC 16:0/16:1 were detected into MHB and SCFM-PC, but for SCFM-PC the major isomer was PC 14:0/18:1, whereas for MHB, the major isomer was PC 16:0/16:1. Also, for PG 34:1, the major isomer was PG 16:0/18:1 in the case of SCFM-PC, whereas for MHB or SCFM, the major isomer was PG 18:1/16:0. Moreover, isomers containing C 18:1 in sn-2 position were favoured when PAK was grown in SCFM-PC. Regarding PG 32:1, PC 34:1 and PE 34:1, the respective 16:1/16:0, 16:0/18:1 and 16:0/18:1 isomers were significantly more produced in SCFM-PC than in SCFM or in MHB. 465 466 467 468 469 470 471 472 473 474 475 476

The most likely explanation for these observations would be that *P. aeruginosa* would take DOPC from the SCFM-PC, and modify it, in order to produce its own phospholipids, as previously described for polyunsaturated fatty acids [29]. As a matter of fact, this hypothesis can also be supported by the overproduction of PE 36:2 and PG 36:2 (see Fig. 3.C. in part 477 478 479 480

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3.2.1) in SCFM-PC. Indeed, in most bacteria, PC are synthesised from PE, while PG are synthesised using another pathway [30]. However, in the case of *P. aeruginosa*, it was demonstrated that PC are synthesised from a phosphatidic acid (PA) and a choline [31]. Therefore, PC, PE and PG are synthesised from three different pathways which uses PA as a common precursor. Thus, PA 36:2, recycled from DOPC, is likely used to synthesise PE 36:2 and PG 36:2. Consequently, these modifications would include: i) change of the polar head group and ii) replacement of the sn-1 fatty acid. Since adding a phospholipid to the growth medium had an influence on the membrane phospholipids of *P. aeruginosa*, we should note that caution must be taken when choosing this phospholipid, in regards to the aim of the study. 481 482 483 484 485 486 487 488 489 490

Finally, as described in 3.4.1, the other less abundant isomer of PE 36:2 (*i.e.* PE 19:1/17:1) and PG 36:2 (*i.e.* PG 20:1/16:1) were produced for MHB and SCFM, but only in traces for SCFM-PC. Taking into account these observations and the inversion of the major isomer previously described, one should note that caution must be taken when analysing the fatty acid composition of phospholipids. Our results show that for an identical fatty acyl chain length, the fatty acid composition might not be the same for different polar heads (*e.g.* PC 32:1, PE 32:1 and PG 32:1). 491 492 493 494 495 496 497

In a second approach, the MIC values of four antibiotics were determined (see 3.1) with the aim to link membrane lipids modifications and antibiotic resistance. Indeed, the antibiotic susceptibility of *P. aeruginosa* is related to its ability to guarantee membrane homeostasis —maintenance of the membrane physical properties [32]. This homeostasis can happen by modifying phospholipids in different ways. The stability of the membrane and, accordingly, the decrease of the permeability, can be enhanced by increasing the fatty acyl chain length [33]. Conversely, the fluidity and permeability can be increased by introducing a double bond or a cyclopropyl (more stable to acidic conditions than a double bond), or a terminally branched methyl on the fatty acyl chain [34]. 498 499 500 501 502 503 504 505 506

The ratio of negatively charged phospholipids (CL and PG) and neutral (PE) or positively charged phospholipids (PC) can also be modified in order to make the membrane less sensitive to pH or to the medium ion composition [35]. The replacement of PE by PC was P a g e 21 | 42 507 508 509 84

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also described to enhance the membrane stability due to the ability of PC to form bilayers more easily than PE [33]. 510 511

As described in 3.4.1., PAK was found to produce less PC species when grown in SCFM than into MHB. MIC values of carbenicillin were also seemingly smaller when PAK was grown in SCFM (MIC<sub>SCFM</sub> = 16 µg/mL) than in MHB (MIC<sub>MHB</sub> = 64-128 µg/mL). Carbenicillin mechanism of action consists in inhibiting the synthesis of the bacterial cell-wall peptidoglycan. Also, since carbenicillin is an hydrophobic antibiotic ( $logP = 1.13$  [36]), we may assume that this antibiotic can cross the lipid membrane instead of going through the porins. Hence, we can make the hypothesis that PAK, when grown in SCFM, was more susceptible to carbenicillin because the membrane cell was less stable due to the lack of PC species. Then, when DOPC was added to the SCFM medium, the presence of PC in the membrane restore a susceptibility to carbenicillin similar to the one in MHB (MIC<sub>MHB</sub> = MIC<sub>SCFM-PC</sub>). 512 513 514 515 516 517 518 519 520 521

Regarding the other antibiotics tested, the influence of the growth medium on the MIC values was observed for colistin and gentamicin, but not for ciprofloxacin (see 3.1). It is notable that, MIC values of gentamicin, colistin and ciprofloxacin in SCFM were in agreement with those from Pusic *et al.* [37] SCFM medium). We also observed an increase of MIC values from a rich medium (MHB) to the chemically defined SCFM (see Table 1). This observation was also described by Pusic *et al.* (from LB to SCFM), and for colistin between MHB and ASM, by Diaz Iglesias *et al.* [38]. In SCFM-PC, the MIC values of colistin and gentamicin were equal to the ones in SCFM. Therefore, the link between the membrane stability (decrease of the membrane stability in SCFM but restored in SCFM-PC) and the MIC, described for carbenicillin, might not be suitable for other antibiotics. The membrane permeability changes, induced by the growth medium, may partly explain *P. aeruginosa* antibiotic susceptibility modifications. Actually, it is rather a multi-factor issue since the nutrients present in the growth medium can induce particular resistance mechanisms of *P. aeruginosa* [26]. 522 523 524 525 526 527 528 529 530 531 532 533 534 535

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#### **5. Conclusion** 538

In this study, we reported the membrane lipid composition of *P. aeruginosa* grown into CF sputum-mimicking media (SCFM and SCFM-PC). We showed that the growth medium had an influence on the phospholipid quantities. We observed that PC species were produced in trace level in SCFM. Implementing DOPC to SCFM (SCFM-PC medium), as a choline nutrient, not only had an influence on the quantities of PC species, but also on the length of the fatty acids parts of the phospholipids and phospholipid isomerism. Such modifications may affect the membrane permeability. Actually, MIC variations of the hydrophobic carbenicillin antibiotic support this hypothesis. These results suggest that the membrane lipid composition should be taken into account for antibiotic susceptibility testing. Since we showed that the growth medium can influence the membrane lipid composition, caution must be taken when choosing a medium, especially for clinical studies. 539 540 541 542 543 544 545 546 547 548 549

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#### **Conflict of interest** 551

The authors declare that they have neither conflict of interest nor competing financial interest. 552 553

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#### **Funding information**  555

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#### **Amino acids stock solution to dilute into 100 mL of Mili-Q water** 665



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Note: a few minutes of mixing at 37°C can help the dissolution of the amino acids. 667

#### **Isoleucine and phenylalanine stock solution to dilute into 100 mL of Mili-Q water** 668



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#### **Using Mili-Q water, prepare the following NaOH solutions for the last 3 amino acids**  673

#### **solutions** 674



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#### **Aspartate stock solution to dilute into 50 mL of NaOH 0.5 M** 676



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### Part II: salts and others

Solutions can be kept in the dark at 4 °C for less than two months. 687

#### **Mixed salts stock solution to dilute into 500 mL of Mili-Q water** 688

This solution can be autoclave sterilised for storage purpose. 689



690

#### **Morpholinepropanesulfonic acid (MOPS) to dilute into 250 mL of Mili-Q water** 691

This solution can be autoclave sterilised for storage purpose. 692



693

**CaCl2/ MgCl2 stock solution to dilute into 25 mL of Mili-Q water** 694

#### **Filter sterilise through a 0.22-µm-pore-size filter.** 695

696



697

**FeSO4 stock solution to dilute into an autoclave sterilised bottle using 100 mL of autoclave sterilised Mili-Q water**  698 699

**Regularly check for precipitation; prepare fresh stock solution in case of precipitation.** 700 701



116

P a g e 29 | 42

117 118

**D-glucose stock solution to dilute to 50 mL using Mili-Q water** 

**Filter sterilise through a 0.22-µm-pore-size filter.** 



**60 % (w/w) Sodium L-Lactate to dilute to 10 % (w/w) using Mili-Q water** 

**Filter sterilise through a 0.22-µm-pore-size filter.** 

P a g e 30 | 42





123

124

125





Fig. S2.1. Mass spectra, in ion negative mode, of SCFM media collected during preparation, before (A) or after (B) autoclave sterilisation. The ions detected whose *m/z* are specified correspond to the deprotonated molecules [M-H] of the amino acids. 



**Fig. S2.2.** Optical Density (A) or Colony Forming Unit (B) plotted against growth time for PAK grown into SCFM autoclave sterilised (red squares) or filtered sterilised (green triangles). Experiments were made in biological triplicates. Standard deviations are represented by error bars. 





**Fig S2.3.** Optical images of PAK grown into: A. MHB, B. SCFM, C. SCFM-PC. Influence on the biofilm production depending on the growth medium was observed. Less biofilm were observed for PAK grown into MHB rather than in SCFM or in SCFM-PC. In SCFM-PC, bacterial colonies were smaller and more dispersed than the ones observed in the other two media. 

P a g e 34 | 42







Fig S2.4. Relative areas of phosphatidylcholines extracted from PAK grown into MHB (black), SCFM (red) or SCFM-PC (blue). Error bars: standard deviation (7≤n≤9). P-values are reported —between MHB and SCFM, SCFM and SCFM-PC and MHB and SCFM-PC— as: \* for p<0.05, \*\* for p<0.01, \*\*\* for p<0.001, ns for non-significant. P a g e 35 | 42 





**Fig S2.5.** Relative areas of phosphatidylethanolamines extracted from PAK grown into MHB (black), SCFM (red) or SCFM-PC (blue). Error bars: standard deviation (7≤n≤9). P-values are reported —between MHB and SCFM, SCFM and SCFM-PC and MHB and SCFM-PC— as: \* for p<0.05, \*\* for p<0.01, \*\*\* for p<0.001, ns for non-significant. P a g e 36 | 42 



Fig S2.6. Relative areas of phosphatidylglycerols extracted from PAK grown into MHB (black), SCFM (red) or SCFM-PC (blue). Error bars: standard deviation (7≤n≤9). P-values are reported —between MHB and SCFM, SCFM and SCFM-PC and MHB and SCFM-PC— as: \* for p<0.05, \*\* for p<0.01, \*\*\* for p<0.001, ns for non-significant. 

P a g e 37 | 42



**Fig S2.7.** Relative areas of cardiolipins extracted from PAK grown into MHB (black), SCFM (red) or SCFM-PC (blue). Error bars: standard deviation (3≤n≤6). ). P-values are reported between MHB and SCFM, SCFM and SCFM-PC and MHB and SCFM-PC— as: \* for p<0.05, \*\* for p<0.01, \*\*\* for p<0.001, ns for non-significant. 

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# **Supplementary Information S3: MS/MS**

# Full Excel file downloadable at https://doi. org/10.1016/j.bbamem.2020.183482





P a g e 39 | 42

 







P a g e 40 | 42





| RSD % | 19.43 |

164

165 166

RSD % | 15.02 | RSD % | 1.94





  P a g e 42 | 42