

RESEARCH

Researchers at the CBTBR have demonstrated that Rpf function have a surprisingly limited impact on the drug susceptibility of M. tuberculosis.

In a paper in press in the *Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy*, Bavesh Kana and Bhavna Gordhan report that strains of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that lack all resuscitation-promoting factor (Rpf)-encoding genes display a modest increase in sensitivity to the drugs, vancomycin and erythromycin, but show no significant difference in susceptibility to other antibiotics tested, including first- and second-line anti-tubercular agents. These results suggest that the possible alterations in structure and/or turnover of the key cell wall component, peptidoglycan, caused by a deficiency in Rpf function have a surprisingly limited impact on the drug susceptibility of *M. tuberculosis*.