

St. Jude's Study

Abstract

2000: Triclosan, an antibacterial additive used in common household products such as liquid soaps, inhibits *FabI*, an enzyme essential for fatty acid synthesis and bacterial survival. A St. Jude research team identified a new component in bacterial fatty acid synthesis that presents resistance to triclosan. The team found that the *Streptococcus aureus* has an alternative enzyme, *FabK*, which is unaffected by triclosan; *Escherichia coli* bacteria can also develop resistance to triclosan by acquiring mutations in *FabI*. *E. coli* bacteria expressing the *FabK* gene are completely resistant to triclosan. (Richard Heath, PhD, and Charles Rock, PhD)

[Full Study \(Please Click Here\)](#)