

## The scourge of non-fermenters

**N**onfermenters are fast emerging as causes of nosocomial and community acquired infections. They are also highly drug resistant and have high propensity of forming biofilms over biomedical devices. They also cause a wide range of infections. Nonfermenters or non-fermenting Gram negative bacilli (NFGNB) are a diverse group of pathogens which are usually saprophytic but rarely pathogenic also [1]. Found commonly in soil and water, infections due to these bacteria are on the rise due to longer duration of hospitalization and also increased use of devices and instruments like ventilators [2]. These bacteria cause approximately 15% of all infections reported in any given hospital, and are notorious for antibiotic resistance owing to the presence of ESBL and metallo-beta lactamases [3]. The most common genera of this diverse group are *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Acinetobacter* spp. across all samples [2].

In this issue, an article by Banik *et al* highlights a subcutaneous infection caused by *Chromobacterium violaceum*. Though frequently contaminants, NFGNB can also be pathogenic and that should be correctly identified and distinguished from colonization [4]. All these factors are very important and should be taken into consideration for accurate identification and antibiotic susceptibility of *P. aeruginosa*.

**Sayan Bhattacharyya**

*From Department of Microbiology, All India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata, India*

**Correspondence to:** Dr. Sayan Bhattacharyya,  
Department of Microbiology, All India Institute of  
Hygiene and Public Health, Kolkata, India.  
E-mail: [sayantheboss@yahoo.co.in](mailto:sayantheboss@yahoo.co.in)

### REFERENCES

1. Malini A, Deepa EK, Gokul BN, Prasad AR. Nonfermenting Gram-Negative Bacilli Infections in a Tertiary Care Hospital in Kolar, Karnataka. *Journal of Laboratory Physicians* 2009; 1(2): 62-66.
2. Sukumaran J, Sriram L. Nonfermentative gram negative bacilli- characterisation and antibiotic resistant pattern study from a tertiary care hospital. *Indian J Basic Appl Med Res*; 2014; 3(4): 227-232.
3. Bhargava D, Kar S, Saha M. Prevalence of Non-Fermentative Gram Negative Bacilli Infection in Tertiary Care Hospital in Birgunj, Nepal. *Int J Curr Microbiol App Sci*. 2015; 4(7): 301-307.
4. Krishnan S, Santharam P, Shanmugavadivoo N, Usha B. Prevalence of Non-Fermenting Gram Negative Bacilli and their Antibiotic Sensitivity Pattern at a Tertiary Care Hospital in Tamilnadu, India. *Int J Curr Microbiol App Sci*. 2018; 7(2): 2751-2758.

*Funding: None; Conflict of Interest: None Stated*

**How to cite this article:** Bhattacharyya S. The Scourge of Non-Fermenters. *Eastern J Med Sci*. 2018; 3(1):1.