1 Resource misallocation as a mediator of fitness costs

² in antibiotic resistance.

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19 Summary

20 Antimicrobial resistance poses a threat to global health and the economy. It is widely accepted 21 that, in the absence of antibiotics, drug resistance mutations carry a fitness cost. In the case of 22 rifampicin resistance in fast-growing bacteria, this cost stems from a reduced transcription rate of 23 the RNA polymerase resulting in slower ribosome biosynthesis. However, this relationship does 24 not apply in the slow-growing Mycobacterium tuberculosis, where the true mechanism of fitness cost 25 of rifampicin resistance as well as the impact of compensatory evolution remain unknown. Here we show, using global transcriptomic and proteomic profiling of selected M. tuberculosis mutants 26 27 and clinical strains, that the fitness cost of rifampicin resistance in M. tuberculosis is the result of 28 the physiological burden caused by aberrant gene expression. We further show that the perceived 29 burden can be increased, effectively suppressing the emergence of drug resistance.

30 Keywords

Antimicrobial resistance, fitness cost, tuberculosis, proteomics, transcriptomics, epistasis,
 compensatory evolution, resource allocation

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Antimicrobials are one of the cornerstones of modern medicine (Laxminarayan et al., 2016). The global increase of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) poses an existential threat, claiming an increasing number of lives and resources (O'Neill, 2016). We currently have access to a wide array of antibiotics, but their efficacy is waning, making safeguarding existing and future drugs a high priority. Understanding the mechanisms and drivers of AMR (Holmes et al., 2016), including the underlying biology, will be key to that process.

Antibiotics target essential bacterial processes. Modification of their targets is an important 40 41 mechanism through which AMR emerges. It is therefore not surprising that AMR often comes 42 with a fitness cost (Melnyk et al., 2015). Fitness cost is a broad concept capturing any negative 43 deviation in the proliferation of a mutant from its ancestor: for example, a decreased growth rate 44 in vitro, or in the case of pathogens, a decreased ability to transmit or cause disease. The 45 physiological basis for the cost of drug resistance seems to be dependent on the antibiotic, 46 bacterial species and environment (Andersson and Hughes, 2008) and is thus often unknown and 47 likely to be multifaceted. One of the better studied examples is the cost of rifampicin resistance. Rifampicin targets the bacterial RNA polymerase (RNAP), and resistance to rifampicin is usually 48 49 mediated by mutations in the ß subunit of RNAP (Campbell et al., 2001). Several studies point to 50 the rate of transcription, particularly as it pertains to the synthesis of ribosomal RNA and 51 ribosomal proteins, as an important mediator of growth rate (Gourse et al., 1996; Thiele et al., 52 2009). A slowing down of transcription is therefore the prime mechanistic candidate for the cost 53 of rifampicin resistance (Qi et al., 2014; Reynolds, 2000). The mechanism linking RNAP activity 54 to ribosome biosynthesis provides a compelling explanation for the cost of rifampicin resistance 55 in rapidly dividing bacteria such as Escherichia coli and Pseudomonas aeruginosa whose growth relies 56 on the rapid replenishment of biosynthetic machinery lost through cell division (Ehrenberg et al., 57 2013). Importantly, the fitness cost of rifampicin resistance can be mitigated or even reversed 58 through the acquisition of secondary, compensatory mutations in the α , β and β ' subunits of 59 RNAP that seem to restore normal enzyme function (Qi et al., 2014; Song et al., 2014; Stefan et al., 2018). 60

Rifampicin-resistant *Mtb* is one of the major causes of AMR-associated mortality globally, claiming an estimated 240,000 lives in 2016 (WHO, 2017), and unlike in fast-growing bacteria, the rate of transcription does not seem to reflect the fitness cost of key *rpoB* mutations, measured either as growth rate *in vitro* or prevalence in the clinic (Gagneux et al., 2006; Gygli et al., 2017; Stefan et al., 2018). While relative fitness does seem to determine the clinical success of rifampicin-resistant *Mtb* (Grandjean et al., 2015), and compensatory mutations are frequently found in settings with a high burden of drug resistant TB (Casali et al., 2014; Comas et al., 2012;

de Vos et al., 2013; Farhat et al., 2013), the basis for the fitness cost of rifampicin resistance remains unknown in *Mth*. Understanding the mechanism by which *rpoB* mutations impair normal *Mtb* physiology could help identify new intervention points, through which we could stem the tide of existing and emergent rifampicin resistance.

72 We used the known ability of mutations in the beta barrel double ψ (BBDP) domain of the β ' 73 subunit of RNAP to compensate for the fitness cost of resistance mutations occurring in the β 74 subunit in *Mtb* as a starting point (Molodtsov et al., 2017; Song et al., 2014; Stefan et al., 2018). 75 Compensatory mutations improve patient to patient transmission of rifampicin-resistant strains 76 (de Vos et al., 2013), and partially reverse biochemical changes imparted on RNAP by rifampicin-77 resistance mutations (Song et al., 2014; Stefan et al., 2018). We hypothesise that the same would 78 be true for gene expression differences. Leveraging the knowledge of the role of RpoC 79 mutations, we used transcriptomic and proteomic expression profiling to identify the signature of 80 compensation and therefore infer the likely mediators of fitness cost in a collection of strains 81 derived from a drug-susceptible clinical isolate (see Figure 1). Our findings point to the 82 idiosyncratic consequences of expressional dysregulation as a key factor conferring a fitness cost 83 to rifampicin resistance in Mtb. We expanded on this observation by profiling the expression 84 signature of rifampicin resistance in a panel of genetically diverse clinical isolates sharing the same 85 rifampicin resistance-conferring mutation: RpoB Ser450Leu. While we found very little evidence for a shared expression signature of rifampicin-resistance across the tested strain pairs, we show a 86 87 correlation between the fitness cost of the rifampicin-resistance conferring mutation and the extent to which its presence imparts a deviation from the proteome composition of the wild-type. 88 89 Finally, we show that this correlation could be exploited to suppress the emergence of rifampicin 90 resistance.

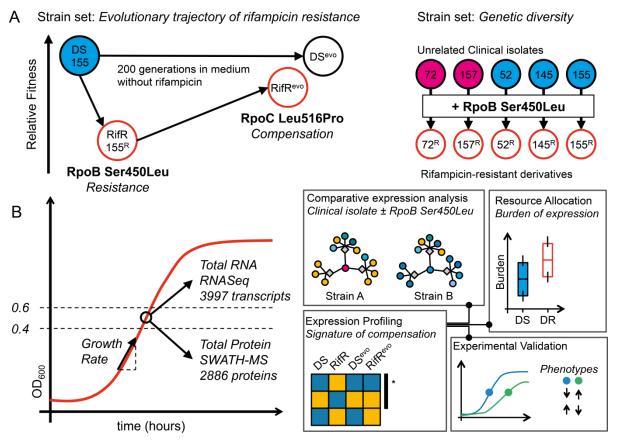


Figure 1: Conceptual workflow. A. Two complementary strain sets used for the experiments. Strains comprised in the "Evolutionary trajectory of rifampicin resistance" set were derived from a single clinical isolate (DS, N0155) by isolation of a Ser450Leu mutant in the lab and the subsequent passage for 200 generations in the absence of rifampicin. These strains were used to identify expression changes that are reversed by compensation - **signature of compensation**. The generalizability of our finding was checked using the "Genetic diversity strain set" containing five independent clinical isolates and their rifampicin-resistant derivatives. All rifampicin resistant strains shared the same resistance mutation – RpoB Ser450Leu. **B.** Experimental outline for the sampling and analyses.

91 **Results**

92 Compensatory mutations mitigate resistance-imposed expression changes

93 Physiological changes incurred by a fitness cost are likely to manifest as deviations in gene

- 94 expression. Since mutations in the BBDP domain of the β ' subunit of RNAP mitigate the fitness
- 95 cost of rifampicin-resistance mutations in *Mtb* (Molodtsov et al., 2017; Song et al., 2014; Stefan et
- 96 al., 2018) they should also impact and therefore highlight expression changes that are relevant to
- 97 the understanding of fitness cost of rifampicin resistance.
- 98 We previously reported the result of a directed evolution experiment in which we identified a
- 99 mutation in the BBDP domain: RpoC Leu516Pro as a putative compensatory mechanism for the
- 100 fitness cost of the rifampicin-resistance conferring mutation RpoB Ser450Leu in a clinical
- 101 isolate(Comas et al., 2012). The strains generated by that study comprise the original drug-

102 susceptible isolate (DS), its laboratory-derived rifampicin-resistant mutant (RpoB Ser450Leu, 103 RifR) and the resulting evolved strains obtained by serial passage in the absence of rifampicin for 200 generations (DSevo and RifRevo, respectively, see Figure 1A). Together these strains offer a 104 representative snapshot of the evolutionary process that passes through the initial emergence of 105 106 (costly) drug resistance and leads to the establishment of a mature drug-resistant strain whose 107 fitness is indistinguishable from its drug susceptible ancestor. We therefore hypothesised that comparative transcriptomic and proteomic expression profiling of these strains will allow us to 108 109 determine the signature of the fitness cost associated with rifampicin resistance.

110 First, we determined the relative fitness of RifR. Using a mixed effect linear regression model to

analyse growth assays, we noted a 26.4% decrease ($CI^{95\%}$: 21.5 – 31.0%, p < 0.001) in the growth

112 rate of RifR when compared to DS. The comparison of their evolved counterparts – DS^{evo} and

113 RifR^{evo} – showed no significant differences (-1.2%, $CI^{95\%}$: -10.8 – 7.1%, p = 0.814), illustrating the

114 fact that RpoC Leu516Pro does indeed compensate the fitness cost of rifampicin resistance.

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115 We aimed to identify differences in the baseline, unperturbed, gene expression as a proxy for describing the biological basis for reduced fitness in RifR. We sampled actively growing bacterial 116 117 cultures of each of the four strains, extracting total RNA and protein to be profiled using RNA 118 sequencing (RNAseq) and sequential window acquisition of all theoretical mass spectra 119 (SWATH-MS), respectively (see Figure 1B). In total, we were able to obtain RNA transcript 120 counts for all present regions of the Mtb genome and reliably quantify 2,886 proteins across our 121 samples (Figure S1). We used differential expression analysis to test our hypothesis that the compensatory mutation RpoC Leu516Pro had the net effect of reversing, at least partially, the 122 expression changes brought about by the rifampicin resistance mutation RpoB Ser450Leu. We 123 124 named this trend a "signature of compensation" - see Figure 2A and we derived it by identifying 125 genes that are uniquely differentially expressed in RifR compared to the other three strains in our 126 dataset. To maximise the probability of identifying the signature of compensation, we chose an 127 inclusive definition of differential expression: a p-value of less than 0.05 after adjusting for 128 multiple testing (see Methods). In keeping with our inclusive approach, we also deliberately did 129 not use an effect size threshold (e.g. minimum log-fold change).

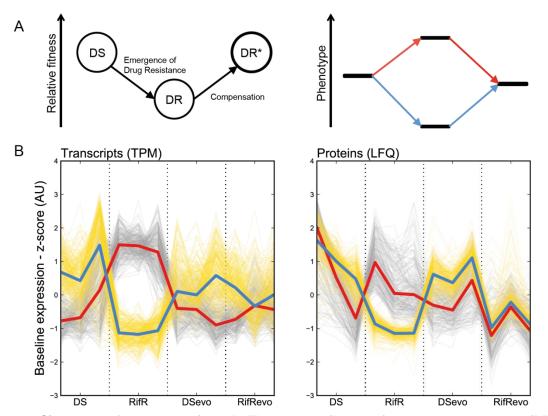


Figure 2: Signature of compensation. A. The relative fitness of drug resistant strains (DR) is expected to be lower than wild type (DS) at first, but then is expected to increase due to compensatory evolution. The phenotypic equivalent of this trend is illustrated as an increase/decrease in a measurable trait upon the emergence of resistance that is then returned to its previous level through compensation. We refer to this dynamic as the "Signature of Compensation". **B.** Plot of transcript counts per million bases (TPM) and label free quantifications (LFQ) of cellular proteins for genes whose expression is perturbed by the Ser450Leu mutation in RpoB and returned to wild type in the presence of the compensating Leu516Pro mutation. All results were standardized across measurements for a single gene to allow the comparison between strains. Grey traces show genes that are significantly more highly expressed in RifR, yellow traces show genes that were significantly less highly expressed in RifR. The red and blue bold lines show the median of the sample for more and less highly expressed proteins, respectively. Data of three independent biological replicates for each strain are shown.

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131 Using these criteria, we identified 536 transcripts that could be involved in the cost of resistance. 132 289 transcripts were less abundant and 247 were more abundant in RifR compared to the other 133 samples. Similarly, 536 proteins showed a significant signature of compensation: 260 proteins 134 were more and 276 were less-abundant in RifR (see Figure 2B). Gene set enrichment analysis of the transcriptomic and proteomic data pointed to iron homeostasis being significantly affected. 135 136 Specifically, it indicated a higher expression, in RifR, of genes that are repressed by the iron-137 dependent regulator (IdeR, Rv2711) in iron replete conditions. Among them, there was a significant enrichment of genes involved in polyketide and non-ribosomal peptide synthesis, 138 which include the biosynthetic machinery for the sole Mtb siderophore: mycobactin (see Figure 139 140 S2-4). These changes suggested that RifR faced a shortage of iron in our experimental conditions.

141 The availability of iron is an essential requirement for Mtb growth, both in culture and during 142 infection, and iron acquisition systems are therefore key virulence factors (Jones et al., 2014; 143 Reddy et al., 2013; Wells et al., 2013). Hence, an increased requirement for iron could manifest 144 itself as a loss of relative fitness. The fact that RpoB Ser450Leu led to a modification of the 145 expression of genes involved in iron homeostasis and that RpoC Leu516Pro reversed the effect provides a compelling alternative mechanism underpinning the apparent fitness cost of 146 147 rifampicin resistance. If the disruption of iron homeostasis drives fitness cost, we would expect that iron supplementation should mitigate the relative cost of RpoB Ser450Leu. Furthermore, 148 149 based on the expression profile, we expected that RifR should produce more mycobactin at 150 baseline than DS, potentially influencing the overall growth rate of the mutant.

151 We addressed the first hypothesis by comparing growth rates of RifR and DS in the presence or 152 absence of 10 µM hemin – an additional source of iron that is by itself sufficient to support the 153 growth of a mutant defective in mycobactin biosynthesis. Importantly, hemin and mycobactin 154 provide two separate routes of iron uptake, which allows us to side-step issues that might emerge 155 from deficient iron transport(Jones et al., 2014). The presence of hemin did not change the cost 156 of RifR, which we calculated to be 18.6% in the absence and 20.9% in the presence of hemin for 157 this experiment (Mixed effect linear model, p = 0.737). Similarly, hemin did not impact the growth rate of DS (- 4.7%, CI^{95%}: -16.3 – 2.3%, p = 0.128). In summary, iron did not appear to 158 159 limit the growth of RifR under normal conditions.

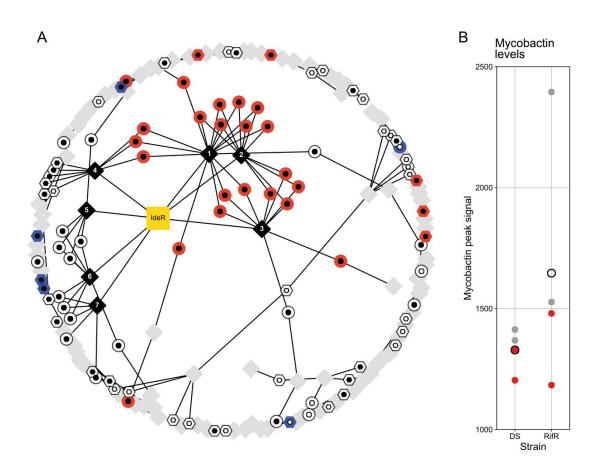


Figure 3: RifR has a higher baseline level of mycobactin biosynthesis than DS. A. Subset of the gene regulatory network (Peterson et al., 2014) containing iron responsive genes. Circles represent IdeR-regulated genes that are either induced (black inner circle) or repressed (white inner circle) in low iron conditions. Hexagons represent IdeR-independent iron responsive genes that are induced (white inner hexagons) or repressed (black inner hexagons) in low iron conditions. We used blue and red to indicate significantly lower or higher RNA expression in RifR, respectively – (n=12, see Methods for further details). Diamonds represent transcriptional modules as defined by Petersen et al, black diamonds indicate modules that contain at least 3 IdeR-responsive genes. Edges connect gene nodes with the module nodes they belong to. Labels 1-7 refer to Module 502 (1), Module 525 (2), Module 267 (3), Module 446 (4), Module 231 (5), Module 086 (6) and Module 295 (7) from the original publication. **B.** Relative mycobactin levels expressed as maximum peak heights for DS and RifR in normal medium (grey dots) and iron-supplemented medium (10µM hemin, red dots). Each filled circle represents the quantification of an independent biological replicate. Unfilled circles represent the mean of the observations.

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Next, we addressed the production of mycobactin. We prepared whole cell extracts from DS and 161 RifR grown in both, normal medium and medium supplemented with 10 µM hemin. We found 162 163 that on average RifR produced more mycobactin than DS, corroborating the physiological 164 relevance of the increased baseline expression of mycobactin biosynthesis genes. We also 165 observed a slight decrease in the production of mycobactin in bacteria grown in the hemin-166 supplemented medium, pointing to a modification of the expression of mycobactin biosynthesis 167 cluster in response to iron (See Figure 3). Given that the growth rate was not affected by the presence of hemin, these findings suggest that mycobactin itself does not modulate the growth 168

rate of the mutant. It is therefore possible that the higher expression of the biosynthetic clusteritself might impart a fitness cost.

171 Interestingly, while significantly enriched, only half of the genes reported to be repressed by IdeR 172 (Rodriguez et al., 2002) in iron-replete conditions were part of the signature of compensation (22 173 out of 40 genes). This prompted us to take a closer look at the IdeR regulon and its regulation. 174 We took advantage of recent studies modelling the global gene regulation in *Mtb* (Minch et al., 175 2015; Peterson et al., 2014; Rustad et al., 2014). We reconstructed the genome-wide gene 176 regulatory network and extracted the immediate neighbours of IdeR- and iron-responsive 177 genes(Peterson et al., 2014). There were 7 expression modules that contained at least 3 genes that 178 are part of the IdeR regulon (Figure 3, black diamonds). Together, these modules covered 82.5% 179 of all the IdeR-repressed genes, and with the exception of Module 4 (Figure 3), none of the 180 modules included IdeR-independent iron-responsive genes. All the genes that we identified as 181 candidates for compensation belonged to Modules 1-4, while none of the genes included in the 182 other modules were found to be differentially expressed in RifR. A key difference among 183 modules was that IdeR-regulated genes represented more than half of all the genes in modules 184 affected by compensation but fewer than half in those that were not part of the "signature of 185 compensation". Mapping proteomic data onto the same expression network produced similar 186 results (see Figure S5). Interestingly, few of the IdeR-independent iron-responsive genes were 187 part of the signature of compensation. This pattern implies a modulation of the canonical 188 function of IdeR, either through regulatory inputs from other transcription factors, or some 189 other mechanism.

190 These results supported our hypothesis that mutations in rpoB impart changes to the baseline 191 expression profile of *Mtb* that could be reversed in the presence of a compensatory mutation in 192 rboC. Combining the expression data with our findings that iron supplementation and mycobactin 193 levels did not affect RifR growth rates, we concluded that the transcriptional changes were not 194 driven by the demand for iron. Instead, these changes might be a reflection of a dysfunction of 195 RNAP - e.g. differences in promoter specificity or modified interaction with IdeR, whose 196 downstream consequences may impose a fitness effect. For example, as the mycobactin 197 biosynthesis cluster comprises several large proteins, their excessive production could represent a 198 drain on the cell's resources. If true, we would expect such effects to be universal across all Mtb 199 strains carrying this rpoB mutation.

200 The impact of RpoB Ser450Leu is shaped by epistasis

We wanted to test the hypothesis that higher expression of the mycobactin biosynthetic cluster is a general feature of rifampicin resistance in *Mtb* and therefore the underlying cause of its fitness

203 cost. To do so, we generated RpoB Ser450Leu mutants in five genetically diverse clinical isolates 204 belonging to two different Mtb lineages and profiled them. Globally, Mtb can be grouped into 205 seven distinct genetic lineages each with a specific geographic distribution (Gagneux, 2018). Mtb lineages can differ in their interaction with the human host, the dynamics of disease progression, 206 207 and also in their apparent propensity to acquire drug resistance (Coscolla and Gagneux, 2014; 208 Ford et al., 2013). We chose strains belonging to Lineage 1 and 2, because of their large 209 phylogenetic separation (see Figure S6) and more importantly, because drug resistance is often 210 associated with Lineage 2 and relatively rare in Lineage 1 (Borrell and Gagneux, 2009). We expected that the comparison of the transcriptome and proteome between the Ser450Leu 211 212 mutants and their cognate wild type ancestor would allow us to identify general patterns of 213 fitness cost linked to this mutation.

It is important to note that this comparison did not include any compensated strains, i.e. strains carrying mutations in the BBDP domain. We were therefore unable to focus our analysis exclusively on genes whose expression was corrected by the presence of an *rpoC* mutation. Nonetheless, direct comparison of RifR and DS is virtually indistinguishable from the signature of compensation when considering IdeR-regulated genes and therefore serves as a reasonable proxy for our analyses (see Figure S5).

We started by measuring the growth characteristics of the wild type isolates and the relative cost of the RpoB Ser450Leu mutation in the different strain backgrounds. The generation time varied from 22.7 h ($^{95\%}$ CI: 20.8 – 25.0 h) to 31.0 h ($^{95\%}$ CI: 29.3 – 35.1 h). The relative fitness cost of the RpoB Ser450Leu mutation differed as well, from a modest 2 % (mixed effect linear regression, p = 0.71) to a pronounced 27 % (mixed effect linear regression, p = 5.6 × 10⁻⁶).

225 We obtained the expression profiles for each strain to check whether the pattern we identified for 226 IdeR-repressed genes was a universal phenotype for RpoB Ser450Leu mutants. Analysing the 227 transcriptomic data by performing a single comparison across the five strain pairs, we found that 228 only 17.5% (7/40 genes) of the IdeR-repressed genes were significantly differentially expressed. A 229 single gene belonging to the mycobactin biosynthesis cluster was included in that number. 230 Proteomic analysis revealed a similar result -17.1% (6/35 detected proteins) were found to be significantly differentially expressed across all strains, none of which belonged to the mycobactin 231 232 biosynthesis cluster. None of the iron-homeostasis gene sets highlighted in the "signature of 233 compensation" were significantly differentially expressed across all strains. Since these findings 234 were contrary to our expectations, we stratified the analysis and mapped the differential 235 expression results for each strain onto the IdeR- and iron-responsive gene network we collated 236 earlier. These results echoed our combined analysis: the signature of compensation was not

universal across the tested strains. N0155, which corresponds to "DS", is the only strain to show 237 238 a transcriptional profile consistent with the signature of compensation (see Figure 4A). Proteomic 239 data corroborated this finding (see Figure S7). It is important to note that these data represent an independent replication of the experiments, from which we derived the signature of 240 compensation, showing that our original results are robust and reproducible. However, the 241 absence of a coherent IdeR-responsive phenotype was clear evidence of epistasis and raised a 242 broader question: are there any commonalities in the phenotypic manifestation of the RpoB 243 244 Ser450Leu mutation among our set of strains?

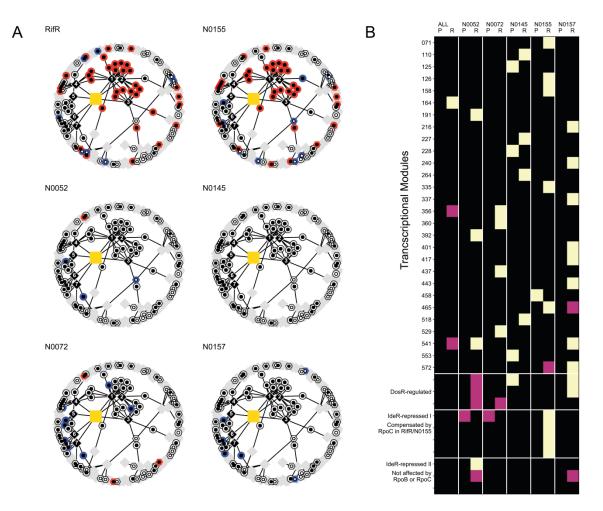


Figure 4: The prominent role of mycobactin biosynthesis in the signature of compensation is not universal. A. Iron-responsive subset the of gene regulatory network, as shown in Figure 3, coloured based on transcriptional differential expression data from pairwise comparison of genetically distinct rifampicin-susceptible clinical isolates and their cognate RpoB Ser450Leu mutants. RifR and N0155 refer to an independent sampling of the same strain pairs. See Figure S7 for the proteome counterpart of this plot. For RifR, N0072 and N0157 the plot is based on the comparison of three drug susceptible and three rifampicin resistant samples. For N0155, N0145 and N0052 we used two samples of each. **B.** Representation of the enrichment of significantly differentially expressed genes within individual transcriptional modules, as defined elsewhere (Peterson et al., 2014). The columns alternate proteomic (P) and transcriptomic data (R). "ALL" refers to the global differential expression analysis of all rifampicin-susceptible against all rifampicin-resistant strains. The remaining column annotations refer to individual pair-wise comparisons in different genetic backgrounds. Black squares represent no significant enrichment, mauve squares and yellow squares show enrichment at 0.01<p<0.05 and p<0.01 using a Fisher's exact test. These p-values are not adjusted for multiple

testing. Modules covering the DosR-regulon and IdeR-iron repressed regulon are highlighted separately.

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To address this question we sought to identify expression modules (Peterson et al., 2014) whose 246 247 membership was well represented among significantly differentially expressed genes in at least 248 one pair-wise comparison between a rifampicin-resistant strain and its cognate drug-susceptible 249 ancestor (see Methods for details). Using transcriptomic and proteomic data, we identified 33 250 expression modules that fitted our criterion (see Figure 4B). There was virtually no consensus 251 across the strains in the transcriptional or translational response to the *rpoB* mutation. The only 252 case where we observed partial agreement across genetic backgrounds concerned some of the 253 modules controlled by the hypoxia-responsive regulator DosR(Park et al., 2003). As with 254 modules containing IdeR iron-repressed genes, we observed only partial regulon induction for 255 DosR. Specific modules were clearly involved in the expression changes (either protein or 256 transcript) in each background, but the impact of these was strain-specific. A complementary 257 manifestation of this phenomenon comes from the global comparison of all rifampicin-resistant 258 strains against all wild type strains, which highlighted a single module as enriched for significantly 259 differentially expressed genes. Comparing the distribution of the effect sizes, as measured by the 260 per-gene fold-changes in expression in the combined analysis and the pairwise comparisons for 261 each strain, we saw a marked muting of the magnitude of differential expression in the former 262 (see Figure S8). This was likely due to the averaging effect of the combined analysis suppressing the contribution of the differential expression from individual strains. The magnitude of the 263 264 expression change in pairwise comparisons was comparable across strains.

265 Overall, we were able to identify a wealth of gene expression changes in our samples: as many as 958 transcripts and 1914 proteins were observed to be differentially expressed in at least one 266 267 comparison across our samples. On the level of individual genes, the transcriptome and to lesser 268 extent the proteome of each strain were perturbed in their own private way (see Supplementary 269 Figures 9&10), manifesting itself as the drug resistance iteration of the Anna Karenina principle 270 (Zaneveld et al., 2017). Because the majority of those changes were specific to individual strains 271 they were largely invisible if the comparison was made across all strain pairs. The fact that the 272 same mutation can have such profoundly different outcomes depending on the genetic context in 273 which it occurs, is clear evidence of epistasis, and shows that natural genetic variation can 274 fundamentally impact the physiological consequences and therefore evolution of drug resistance. 275 Importantly, the impact of resistance on the expression profile of any two strains was found to 276 be independent of the genetic distance between them (see Figure S11).

So far, we showed that the RpoB Ser450Leu causes a considerable re-organization of baseline gene expression, that this perturbation can be reversed by a compensatory mutation in RpoC and that the specific phenotypic manifestation was dependent on mutations that occurred more recently than those defining individual lineages. These findings were consistent with our observation that the same mutation imposed a different fitness cost to different strains. We therefore sought to find correlates of the varying fitness costs.

283 Deviation from baseline expression correlates with the cost of rifampicin resistance

Pleiotropic phenotypes of the kind described above are not normally addressed, however we wanted to explore whether the extent of the expression perturbations correlated with the varying fitness costs of Ser450Leu we observed in different genetic backgrounds. We reasoned that the cumulative impact on expression disruption, rather than the dysregulation of individual genes, would provide a conduit for a loss of fitness.

In the first instance, we considered the correlation between the fitness cost of the *rpoB* mutation 289 290 and the overall expression distance between the mutant and its cognate wild type strain (See Figure S12). Through this approach, we were able to detect a relationship between cost and 291 expression differences for the expressed proteins ($R^2 = 0.83$, p = 0.031, ordinary least squares 292 linear regression) but not RNA ($R^2 = 0.39$, p = 0.258, ordinary least squares linear regression). 293 Given that the correlation was stronger in the proteome compartment, and that the proteome 294 295 compartment seemed more affected by resistance, we elaborated on our observation by 296 incorporating a measure of physiological cost for each protein. We used two different metrics for 297 cost. In the simpler case we used the molecular weight of amino acids as proxy for the resource 298 investment necessary to generate each protein (Seligmann, 2003). We also used estimates of ATP cost for each amino acid in E. coli as a way to approximate the level of energy investment a 299 300 bacterial cell makes when synthesising its proteome (Akashi and Gojobori, 2002). Both metrics 301 showed that drug resistance imposes an additional physiological cost to the baseline proteome (Molecular Weight: Mann-Whitney U-test, $p = 8.26 \times 10^{-4}$, ATP equivalents: Mann-Whitney U-302 test, $p = 4.50 \times 10^{-4}$, see Figure S13). Furthermore, this cost was negatively correlated with the 303 relative fitness of the RpoB Ser450Leu mutation in a given strain background ($\rho_{e} = -0.90$, p = 304 0.04) - the greater the deviation from the resource investment of the ancestral proteome, the 305 306 larger the cost of the mutation (see Figure 5A). Growth rate and gene expression are not 307 independent from each other. To test the possibility that the observed correlation may be an artefact of our analysis, we took advantage of the natural variation in growth rates of different 308 309 drug-susceptible clinical isolates in our medium and compared them to the relative costs of 310 expression (See Figure S14). We performed a pairwise comparison across all the tested strains and observed no statistically significant correlation between the differences in the investment into the proteome and the difference in growth rates ($\rho_s = 0.34$, p = 0.33). The differences in the allocation of resources into the protein compartment of different bacterial strains were therefore not the main determinant of variation in their respective generation times.

Taken together, our results seemed to suggest that the ultimate manifestation of the disruption of wild type baseline gene expression by RpoB Ser450Leu was a net increase in the biosynthetic input required to maintain the steady state proteome: the greater the cost of the disruption, the greater the slowing down of growth in a given strain background. We propose this as the "Burden of Expression" hypothesis of the fitness cost of rifampicin resistance.

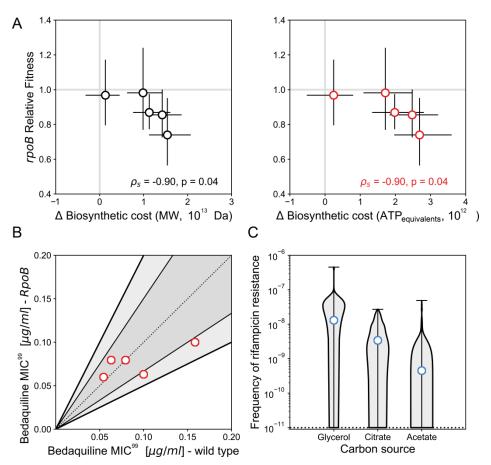


Figure 5: The fitness cost of RpoB Ser450Leu correlates with increased resource requirements. A. The relative fitness of Ser450Leu RpoB mutants estimated from growth rate data is negatively correlated with the magnitude of the deviation from the resources allocated to the wild type proteome. es - Spearman correlation. Error bars indicate the 95% confidence interval for the data. Each cost determination was obtained from a minimum of four independent cultures per strain. Protein costs were derived from a total of 24 proteomic samples. B. Comparison of minimum inhibitory concentrations (MIC) of bedaquiline in clinical isolates and their cognate RpoB mutants. Dotted line shows parity, darker shading includes 50% or lower difference in MIC and the lighter shading spans up to 2-fold change in MIC. Each dot represents the mean of three independent measurements. C. The frequency of rifampicin resistance as measured in the model organism Mycobacterium smegmatis with the Luria-Delbrück fluctuation assay in media containing different carbon sources. The blue dot corresponds to the Ma-Sandri-Sarkar maximum likelihood estimate for the frequency of rifampicin resistance. The shaded area shows the density distribution of the number of resistant colonies per scored culture. The dotted line indicates the limit of detection. Each estimate is based on 120 independent cultures for glycerol and citrate and 150 independent cultures for

acetate.

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321 Carbon allocation rather than ATP availability modulates cost of resistance

322 An implication of the "Burden of expression" hypothesis is the possibility of suppressing the emergence of rifampicin-resistance in mycobacteria by maximising the additional biosynthetic 323 324 cost imposed by the deviation from the baseline expression. We tested two types of conditions 325 that may impose such a stress: inhibition of ATP synthesis and variation of carbon-source quality. 326 The first would disrupt the ability to generate energy through catabolic processes, while the 327 second would place more emphasis on the anabolic aspects of bacterial growth. In the first instance, we tested the susceptibility to bedaquiline, an ATP synthase inhibitor that leads to a 328 329 decrease in intracellular ATP levels in Mtb (Andries et al., 2005). Given the higher baseline cost of 330 their proteome, we expected that RpoB Ser450Leu mutants should show an increased susceptibility to bedaquiline commensurate with their relative loss of fitness. We did not observe 331 332 any correlation between bedaquiline susceptibility and the cost of the RpoB Ser450Leu mutation 333 (see Figure 5B).

334 Next, we explored varying carbon source quality, expecting substrates that force the bacterial cell 335 to rely more heavily on anabolic processes to serve as amplifiers for the perceived cost of 336 rifampicin resistance. A related phenotype has been reported before for RpoB Ser450Leu(Song et 337 al., 2014). We chose the Luria-Delbrück fluctuation assay as an unbiased readout for the overall 338 increase in the cost of rifampicin-resistance, because its frequency of resistance estimate contains 339 a signal for the ability of drug resistant bacteria to propagate within the population prior to 340 antibiotic exposure(Ycart, 2013). The global increase in the cost of RpoB mutations would 341 therefore manifest itself as an apparent decrease in the frequency of resistance, as the population 342 size of pre-existing RpoB mutants would be smaller due to limited expansion post-emergence. 343 We chose glycerol, citrate and acetate to test our hypothesis in the soil organism Mycobacterium smegmatis, whose patterns of rifampicin resistance mirror those of Mtb (Borrell et al., 2013). As 344 345 expected, these three carbon sources supported different growth rates with measured generation times of the wild type being 3.24 h (^{95%}CI: 3.23 – 3.25 h), 6.17 h (^{95%}CI: 6.09 – 6.25 h) and 17.62 346 h (^{95%}CI: 17.61 – 17.62 h), respectively. We then determined the frequency of rifampicin 347 resistance for bacteria grown on each carbon source using the Luria-Delbrück fluctuation assay. 348 349 We found a striking correlation between carbon source and the calculated frequency of 350 resistance, with bacteria grown in glycerol giving rise to rifampicin-resistant bacteria at a rate of 1.3×10^{-8} ($^{95\%}$ CI: $1.2 \times 10^{-8} - 1.5 \times 10^{-8}$), those grown in citrate at a rate of 3.4×10^{-9} ($^{95\%}$ CI: 2.9 351 $\times 10^{-9} - 4.0 \times 10^{-9}$) and acetate-cultured bacteria at a rate of 4.5×10^{-10} ($^{95\%}$ CI: $3.4 \times 10^{-10} - 5.6$ 352

 $\times 10^{-10}$) – see Figure 5C. This trend was remarkable, because it showed that changing only the carbon source, keeping all other variables constant, could lead to a 28-fold change in the frequency of resistance.

The disparity in outcomes between the two experimental approaches suggests that the availability of catabolic energy does not disproportionately influence the ability of RpoB mutants to survive. However, the impact of carbon source on the frequency of rifampicin-resistant bacteria within a population clearly suggests that carbon allocation might be an important driver of the fitness cost of rifampicin resistance.

361 Discussion

We normally expect that form follows function in bacteria: expression differences should reflect 362 variations in physiological states. Indeed, we show that RpoB Ser450Leu imparted a measurable 363 364 physiological perturbation in addition to conferring rifampicin resistance. Consistent with the 365 suggested role of compensatory mutation (Comas et al., 2012), we confirmed that in one strain, RpoC Leu516Pro reduced both, the apparent fitness cost of rifampicin resistance and the 366 magnitude of the expression changes arising from it. However, we also showed that the nature of 367 368 the perturbation was not consistent across different genetic backgrounds. Instead, we observed a 369 strain-specific response to the RpoB mutation, both in terms of the relative impact on growth 370 and the rearrangement of gene expression. We further observed that the magnitude of the fitness 371 cost that RpoB Ser450Leu imposes on a strain was related to the overall increase in the resources 372 allocated to the proteome. Based on these observations, we proposed the "Burden of expression" hypothesis, with which we posited that in *Mtb*, the cost of rifampicin resistance was mediated by 373 374 the metabolic burden imposed by the modified baseline protein expression of resistant strains. 375 Elaborating on this hypothesis we demonstrated that interfering with anabolic processes could 376 suppress the emergence of rifampicin resistance in the related organism M. smegmatis.

377 The "Burden of expression" hypothesis stems from experimental data with clear caveats. First, 378 we started our analyses assuming that ribosomal biosynthesis is unlikely to play a key role in the 379 cost of rifampicin resistance in Mtb and that therefore expression data were a better window into 380 the modified physiology. Our data seem to support the validity of this assumption: ribosomal 381 proteins represented only 5.5%, on average, of the total protein biomass in our experiments. This 382 proportion was marginally higher in RpoB mutants, and it seemed to increase with increasing generation time (see Figure S15). These trends were more consistent with a cost imposed by the 383 384 metabolic burden of making ribosomes. Second, some of our key conclusions are based on a 385 relatively small number of strains. Nonetheless, to the best of our knowledge, this sample set

represents the most comprehensive and best curated account of rifampicin resistance-induced 386 387 global expression changes in *Mtb* to date, covering both: evolutionary dynamics and phylogenetic diversity. We were also able to show that patterns of expression detected in the DS-RifR 388 comparison were robust when the same strain pair was sampled again (see Figure 4 and Figure 389 390 S7). Importantly, key inferences that led us to propose the hypothesis came from SWATH-MS 391 proteomic data drawn from the five different strain backgrounds. These data showed a clear 392 clustering of biological replicates (see Figure S16), with the exception of N0145 for which we were also unable to detect a significant cost for the Ser450Leu mutation or any significant 393 changes to the expression. Third, we assumed that label free quantification (LFQ) using the "best 394 395 flyer peptide" or TopN approach, which reflects the proportional abundance of individual 396 proteins within our samples (Schubert et al., 2015), can be used to draw conclusions about the 397 resource investment of the cell and can be extended to the growth rate of bacteria. It is possible 398 that the roles are reversed and the growth rate of bacteria in fact determines the protein 399 complement being expressed (Beste et al., 2007). We addressed this possibility by performing a 400 comparison of proteome investment and growth rate for wild type strains only. If the growth rate of Mtb did indeed determine the protein complement of cells across genetic distances on an 401 402 evolutionary timescale, we would expect a strong correlation between differences in proteome 403 and differences in growth rates between any two strains. This was however not the case (see 404 Figure S13). Finally, we also assumed that the proteome plays a central role in imposing a limit to 405 the growth rate of an Mtb cell. There are other components that require considerable investment 406 in carbon: in the case of Mtb both lipids and cell wall may act as a sink for resources limiting 407 growth as they can account for over half of the dry mass of actively growing cells(Beste et al., 2005). Lipidomic analysis of RpoB mutants in Mtb pointed to differences in mycobactin 408 biosynthesis as one of the biggest discrepancies between rifampicin-resistant mutants and their 409 410 susceptible ancestors (Lahiri et al., 2016). While echoing a key observation from our quest for 411 determining the cost of resistance, we saw no evidence that mycobactin biosynthesis itself 412 changes the rate of bacterial growth. The virulence-associated phthiocerol dimycocerosates (PDIM) have also been implicated in the cost of rifampicin resistance (Bisson et al., 2012), as 413 have other changes in lipid composition (du Preez and Loots du, 2012). The full exploration of 414 415 the role of lipids in the physiology of rifampicin-resistant *Mtb* is beyond the scope of this study, but it would provide an interesting new and complementary avenue to pursue. 416

Keeping these considerations in mind, there are two striking features to emerge from our results. The first is the pervasive epistasis modulating the impact of RpoB Ser450Leu: the same mutation has markedly different effects on the physiology of different *Mtb* strains. The second is the apparent mechanism through which modulation of gene expression is propagated across the

421 levels of bacterial physiology. Modification in RNAP function seems to have pleiotropic effects
422 that transcend the disruption of any single group of genes, and impart a perturbation that appears
423 to affect bacterial resource allocation.

424 One question that remains open is what sits at the heart of the disparity in phenotypes? The 425 sequence of RNAP is effectively the same in all strains (Borrell and Trauner, 2017); and by 426 extension so are the biochemical changes that arise from resistance (Stefan et al., 2018). We 427 envisage that part of the answer lays in differences in underlying robustness: a strain's capacity to 428 buffer perturbation. Furthermore, we can consider this a window into the evolutionary 429 adaptation of each strain and a sign of how different their physiologies really are. The 430 amalgamation of mutational differences that effectively makes up a strain genetic background weaves a baseline phenotype that allows different *Mtb* strains to be successful pathogens despite 431 differences in their underlying physiology: i.e. there are several successful approaches to solving 432 433 the same problem. These differences are unmasked by the presence of a mutation that sits at the 434 core of gene expression and reveals idiosyncratic transcriptional responses to rifampicin 435 resistance that are poorly conserved across genetic distances. This observation has the implication 436 that, beyond the described mutations in BBDP, which seem to alleviate some of the biochemical 437 and gene expression effects of rifampicin resistance more generally, further investigation of 438 positive selection of compensation of resistance-related traits should be performed in genetically 439 related strains as they could vary considerably when comparing phylogenetically distant strains 440 (Farhat et al., 2013; Zhang et al., 2013).

The strain-specific nature of resistance-related expression perturbations can be used to provide a 441 442 credible link to disparate growth rate modulation. Our suggestion that proteome composition 443 influences growth rate is not without precedent. This connection has been made before (Scott et 444 al., 2010), and resulted in the formulation of a collection of "growth laws" that linked growth 445 rates to the partitioning of the limited proteome between ribosomes and other proteins carrying 446 out the rest of the cellular functions. Growth on different carbon sources impacted this balance, 447 with "poorer" ones requiring a greater investment into the functional proteome, presumably 448 because of the need for anabolic reactions increased the reliance on biosynthetic enzymes. A 449 similar relationship has been observed in a wide range of microbial species (Karpinets et al., 450 2006). An elaboration of these growth relationships also led to the conclusion that the efficiency 451 of proteome allocation can impact growth rates and cell physiology (Basan et al., 2015). Our finding that the increase in the relative cost of the proteome brought about by the gain of a 452 453 mutation correlates with the relative fitness of that mutation is consistent with these reports, as is

454 our observation that anabolic processes may play a mechanistic role in setting the cost of a 455 mutation.

456 The observed differential cost of rifampicin resistance across *Mtb* strains, provides a lens through 457 which we can better understand the emergence of drug resistance in clinical TB. However, it also 458 indicates a new avenue to pursue in the fight against rifampicin resistant Mtb and perhaps 459 uncover a new paradigm for chemotherapeutic intervention. Agents that impart a considerable shock to the expression equilibrium of bacteria could exhibit potent activity against rifampicin 460 461 resistant strains due to collateral sensitivity. Furthermore, when given in combination with 462 rifampicin, such agents may act to suppress the emergence of resistance; a valuable attribute for 463 lengthening the shelf life of rifampicin.

464 Methods

465 Strains and culture conditions

We used four strains described by Comas *et al.*(Comas et al., 2010): namely the wild type, clinical isolate T85 (N0155, DS), a rifampicin resistant mutant of T85 carrying the Ser450Leu mutation (N1981, RifR), a derivative of T85 that was evolved by serial passage (200 generations) in the absence of rifampicin (N1588, DS^{evo}) and an evolved derivative of the rifampicin resistant strains carrying an additional mutation in RpoC – Leu516Pro (N1589, RifR^{evo}).

471 In addition to these strains we used four clinical isolates that are part of the recently compiled 472 Reference set of *Mtb* clinical strains(Borrell et al., 2018) covering the genetic diversity of *Mtb*. Two strains belonging to Lineage 1 (N0072, N0157) and two to Lineage 2 (N0052, N0145). We 473 474 plated each of these strains on 7H10 plates containing 5 µg/ml Rifampicin, and picked colonies 475 of spontaneous mutants. We checked the rifampicin-resistance conferring mutations using Sanger amplified 476 sequencing of the RRDR region (Forward primer: 477 TCGGCGAGCTGATCCAAAACCA, Reverse primer: ACGTCCATGTAGTCCACCTCAG, product size: 601 bp), and kept a Ser450Leu derivative of each clinical strain (N2027, N2030, 478 479 N2495 and N1888, respectively).

Bacteria were cultured in 1l bottles containing large glass beads to avoid clumping and 100 ml of media incubated at 37°C rotated continuously on a roller. Unless otherwise stated we used a modified 7H9 medium supplemented with 0.5% w/v pyruvate, 0.05% v/v tyloxapol, 0.2% w/v glucose, 0.5% bovine serum albumin (Fraction V, Roche) and 14.5 mM NaCl. Compared to the usual composition of 7H9 we omitted glycerol, tween 80, oleic acid and catalase from the

485 medium. We added 10 μ M Hemin (Sigma) when supplementing growth medium with iron. We 486 followed growth by measuring optical density at 600 nm (OD₆₀₀).

Fluctuation assay experiments were performed using *Mycobacterium smegmatis*, mc² 155. *M. smegmatis* was grown either in 10 ml cultures within 50 ml Falcon conical tubes in a shaker incubator (37°C, 200 rpm), or as 200 μ l aliquots within flat-bottomed 96-well plates at 37°C and shaken at 200 rpm. We followed growth by measuring OD₆₀₀. We used unmodified 7H9 medium or medium where glycerol was replaced with citrate or acetate added at concentrations that matched the molarity of carbon.

493 Fitness determination

Mtb fitness was determined by comparative growth rate estimation. We grew bacteria as described and followed their growth by measuring OD_{600} with a Ultrospec 10 (GE Lifesciences). We transformed the optical density measurements using logarithm base 2 and trimmed all early and late data points that deviated from the linear correlation expected for exponential growth. Next, we fitted a linear mixed effect regression model to the data. Fitness cost was calculated as the resistance imposed deviation from wild type growth dynamics.

For *M. smegmatis*, we determined the growth rates by culturing bacteria as described above. We monitored the increase in OD_{600} using a Tecan M200 Pro Nanoquant at 20 min intervals. The data were log2-transformed, trimmed to retain only the portion of data pertinent to exponential growth and used for fitting a mixed effect linear regression model to estimate growth parameters.

504 Transcriptional analysis with RNAseq

We transferred a 40 ml aliquot of bacterial culture in mid-log phase (OD₆₀₀ = 0.5 ± 0.1) into a 505 506 50ml Falcon conical tube containing 10 ml ice. We harvested the cells by centrifugation $(3,000 \times g,$ 507 7 min, 4°C), re-suspended the pellet in 1 ml of RNApro solution (MP Biomedicals) and 508 transferred the suspension to a Lysing matrix B tube (MP Biomedicals). We disrupted the 509 bacterial cells using a FastPrep24 homogeniser (40s, intensity setting 6.0, MP Biomedicals). We 510 clarified the lysate by centrifugation (12,000×g, 5 min, 4°C), transferred the supernatant to a clean 511 tube and added chloroform. We separated the phases by centrifugation $(12,000 \times g, 5 \text{ min}, 4^{\circ}\text{C})$ 512 and precipitated the nucleic acids from the aqueous phase by adding ethanol and incubating at -513 20C overnight. We performed a second acid phenol extraction to enrich for RNA. We treated 514 our samples with DNAse I Turbo (Ambion), and removed stable RNAs by using the RiboZero 515 Gram Positive ribosomal RNA depletion kit (Epicentre). We prepared the sequencing libraries 516 using the TruSeq stranded Total RNA kit (Illumina) and sequenced on a HiSeq2500 high output 517 run (50 cycles, single end).

Illumina short reads were mapped to the Mtb H37Rv reference genome using BWA(Li and 518 519 Durbin, 2010) (ver 0.7.13); the resulting mapping files were processed with samtools(Li et al., 520 2009) (ver 1.3.1). Per-feature read counts were performed using the Python module htseq-521 count(Anders et al., 2015) (ver 0.6.1p1) and Python (ver 2.7.11). We performed differential 522 expression analysis using the R package DESeq2(Love et al., 2014) (ver 1.16.1) and R (ver 3.4.0). In the case of the identification of the signature of compensation we performed a comparison of 523 RifR vs DS + DS^{evo} + RifR^{evo}. For the follow-up experiments we performed two separate 524 comparisons: $(DR^{N0072} + DR^{N0157} + DR^{N0052} + DR^{N0145} + DR^{N0155})$ vs $(DS^{N0072} + DS^{N0157} + DS^{N0052})$ 525

526 $+ DS^{N0145} + DS^{N0155}$) as well as individual DR vs DS comparisons.

- 527 Gene set enrichment analysis was based on functional annotation from the Kyoto Encyclopaedia
- 528 of Genes and Genomes and a custom collation of curated gene sets based on published reports.
- 529 The overrepresentation analysis was based on Fisher's exact as the discriminating test.
- 530 In addition we transformed per-feature counts into transcript counts per million bases (TPM).
- 531 TPM for each feature for each sample were calculated using the following formula:

$$TPM_{i} = \frac{\frac{counts_{i}}{size_{i}}}{\sum_{j}^{n} \frac{counts_{j}}{size_{i}}}$$

532 Where *counts*_{*i*} refers to the number of reads that map to a feature *i*, and *size*_{*i*} refers to the length (in 533 bp) of feature *i*. This ratio was normalized by dividing by the sum of all the ratios across all the 534 features.

535 Proteomic analysis with SWATH-MS

536 We harvested 20 OD₆₀₀ equivalents from mid-log phase (OD₆₀₀ = 0.5 ± 0.1) bacterial cultures by 537 centrifugation $(3,000 \times g, 7 \text{ min}, 4^{\circ}\text{C})$. We washed the bacterial pellet twice with phosphate 538 buffered saline (PBS) to remove residues of tyloxapol. We re-suspended the bacterial pellet in 500 539 µl of protein lysis buffer (8M Urea, 0.1 M Ammonium bicarbonate, 0.1% RapiGest [Waters]) and transferred the suspension to a Lysing matrix B tube (MP Biomedicals). We disrupted the 540 bacterial cells using a FastPrep24 homogeniser (40s, intensity setting 6.0, MP Biomedicals). We 541 542 clarified the lysate by centrifugation $(12,000 \times g, 5 \text{ min}, 4^{\circ}\text{C})$, and sterilised the supernatant by 543 passing it twice through a 0.22 µm syringe filters (Milipore).

Following protein extraction for each sample, we used trypsin to digest proteins into peptides and then desalted them using C_{18} columns (The Nest Group). The cleaned up peptides were resuspended in MS buffer (2% v/v acentonitrile, 0.1% v/v formic acid). Finally, the RT-kit

547 (Biognosis) containing 11 iRT retention time normalization peptides was spiked in to every 548 sample.

549 We measured every sample in sequential window acquisition of all theoretical mass spectra 550 (SWATH) mode, a data independent acquisition implementation, on a tripleTOF 5600 mass 551 spectrometer (AB Sciex) coupled to a nano flow HPLC system with the gradient of one 552 hour(Banaei-Esfahani et al., 2017). The raw files acquired through a 64 variable width window precursor isolation scheme were centroid normalized using Proteowizard msconvert. We used 553 554 the Mtb spectral library described earlier (Schubert et al., 2013) to extract data using the 555 OpenSWATH workflow(Reiter et al., 2011; Rost et al., 2014; Rost et al., 2016). The processed data were filtered by MAYU to 1% protein FDR(Reiter et al., 2009). R packages aLFQ and 556 557 MSstats were used for protein quantification (Top3 peptides and top5 fragment ions(Schubert et al., 2015)) and differential expression analysis respectively(Choi et al., 2014; Rosenberger et al., 558 559 2014).

560 Mycobactin determination

We harvested 5 OD_{600} equivalents from mid-log phase ($OD_{600} = 0.5 \pm 0.1$) bacterial cultures by 561 562 centrifugation $(3,000 \times g, 7 \text{ min}, 4^{\circ}\text{C})$. We washed the bacterial pellet three times with 15ml of cold, sterile 7H9 medium base devoid of additives (BD) to remove residues of tyloxapol. After 563 564 washing we resuspended the pellets in 80 µl of cold, sterile 7H9 medium base and added 750 µl 565 of 1:2 Chloroform: Methanol. We vortexed the samples for 5 minutes at top speed and added 750 µl of Chloroform. The samples were shaken for 1.5h at room temperature and clarified by 566 567 centrifugation (16,000 \times g, 10 min). We transferred the organic phase to a fresh tube, dried the 568 samples in a speedvac and re-suspended each sample in 120 µl of 44:44:2 569 Acetonitrile:Methanol:H2O, (v:v:v).

570 Chromatographic separation and analysis by mass spectrometry was done using a 1200 series HPLC system with a Phenomenex Kinetex column (1.7 μ l × 100 mm × 2.1 mm) with a 571 SecurityGuard Ultra (Part No: AJ-9000) coupled to an Agilent Technologies 6550 Accurate-Mass 572 Q-Tof. Solvent A: H₂O, 10mM ammonium acetate; Solvent B: acetonitrile, 10mM ammonium 573 574 acetate. 10 µl of extract were injected and the column (C18) was eluted at 1.125 ml/min. Initial 575 conditions were 60% solvent B: 0-2 min, 95% B; 2-4 min, 60% B; 4-5 min at initial conditions. 576 Spectra were collected in negative ion mode form 50 - 3200mz. Continuous infusion of 577 calibrants (Agilent compounds HP-321, HP-921, HP-1821) ensured exact masses over the whole 578 mass range.

579 We converted the raw data files to the mzML format using msConvert and processed them in R

580 using the XCMS(Smith et al., 2006) (ver 3.0.2). We extracted targeted ion chromatograms with

581 CAMERA(Kuhl et al., 2012) (ver 1.34.0).

582 Transcriptional module analysis.

The iron-responsive sub-graph of the global gene regulation network published by Peterson *et al.* (Peterson et al., 2014), was generated by using all expression modules and all iron-responsive genes as nodes, with edges connecting them representing module membership. All other gene nodes were discarded, keeping only the information pertinent to the number of genes present in each module (its degree). We focused explicitly on modules with at least 3 IdeR-dependent iron-responsive genes within them. Finally we marked significant differential expression of the gene nodes in every comparison.

590 For the purposes of contextualising the expressional profiling of RpoB Ser450Leu we selected a 591 subset of expression modules as follows: first we collated all the genes that were differentially 592 expressed in at least one genetic background as determined by pairwise comparisons. We then 593 scored each expression module for enrichment of membership by differentially expressed genes 594 using a binomial test. We retained all modules for which the test pointed to an excess of differentially regulated genes (p < 0.05). We constructed a new sub-graph of the global regulatory 595 596 network using all enriched modules and their constituent genes irrespective of whether or not 597 individual genes were significantly differentially expressed. Edges reflected module membership. We added expression information in the form of log-fold changes of abundance to each 598 599 subgraph based on pairwise analyses.

600 Calculation of genetic distance between clinical isolates

601 Genetic distance between strains was defined as the number of single nucleotide variants (SNV) 602 that separate two strains. The numeric value of this parameter was extracted from the phylogeny 603 published elsewhere(Borrell et al., 2018).

604 Quantification of the relative impact of the *rpoB* mutation on gene expression in 605 different clinical isolates

We define the dissimilarity in the expressional response to the presence of the *rpoB* mutation using three metrics: absolute number of shared significantly differentially expressed genes, the fraction of both the shared significantly differentially expressed genes and shared non-affected genes (hamming distance) and the Euclidean distance between ratios of TPM. The first is simply the number of shared genes that were found to be significantly affected by the presence of the *rpoB* mutation in two different genetic backgrounds. For the second we use the same input to 612 calculate the hamming distance between the patterns of genes significantly affected by the 613 mutation in rpoB in two different genetic backgrounds. In the third case we first calculate the 614 TPM. We then calculate the mean TPM for each gene across the biological replicates as well as 615 the ratio of mutant to wild type mean TPM for every gene. This gives us a vector containing 4000 616 ratios for each mutant-wild type pair. Finally we calculate the Euclidean distance between these 617 vectors for the different genetic backgrounds. We plotted each of these metrics against genetic 618 distance and calculated the spearman correlation and the coefficient of variance: standard deviation over mean multiplied by 100 ($\sigma / \mu \times 100\%$). 619

620 Quantification of the absolute impact of the *rpoB* mutation on gene expression of a 621 clinical isolate

We used transcript counts per million bases (TPM) and label free quantification (LFQ) to 622 623 generate an RNA vector and a protein vector containing all the available information for each 624 measured sample. We then calculated all the possible DS - RifR pairwise Euclidean distances for 625 the RNA and protein vectors within each genetic background. We used the mean and standard 626 deviation for the dissimilarity estimates. We evaluated the correlation between the fitness cost of RpoB mutations and the expression distance using the R²-coefficient derived from ordinary least 627 628 squares linear regression as well as the Spearman correlation. Arbitrary units expressing the dissimilarity were obtained by dividing the calculated distances by 500,000 or 10,000,000 for TPM 629 and LFQ, respectively. 630

631 Estimation of the biosynthetic cost of protein production

632 The calculation of biosynthetic cost was based on the molecular weight of amino acids
633 (MW)(Seligmann, 2003) or on the estimate of *E. coli* ATP investment into individual amino acids
634 derived by Akashi *et al.*(Akashi and Gojobori, 2002) using the following formulae:

$$p_{i} = LFQ_{i,X} \times \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j}^{MW} \text{ or } p_{i} = LFQ_{i,X} \times \sum_{j=1}^{k} \alpha_{j}^{ATP}$$
$$P_{X} = \sum_{i}^{n} p_{i}$$

Where the cost of protein $i(p_i)$ was calculated as the sum of the cost for each constituent amino acid $(\alpha_i^{MW/ATP})$ based either on its molecular weight (MW) or ATP investment (ATP) and adjusted by the proportional contribution of protein i to the total proteome of sample X $(LFQ_{i,X})$. The overall cost of the proteome P for a sample X (P_X) is expressed as the sum of the costs of individual proteins (p). The difference between the biosynthetic investments in the proteome of

640 sample X when compared to sample Y was simply: $P_X - P_Y$. We estimated the biosynthetic 641 perturbation of RpoB Ser450Leu within a genetic background, by resampling sample-specific

- 642 proteome costs for DS and RifR with replacement 100-times, and using the median as well as the
- 643 3rd and 98th quantiles to provide the 95% confidence interval. Finally, we quantify the correlation
- 644 with the relative fitness of RpoB Ser450Leu by calculating the Spearman coefficient.

645 Minimum inhibitory concentration determination

646 We used the microplate alamar blue assay(Franzblau et al., 1998) to determine the minimum 647 inhibitory concentrations of bedaquiline in all drug susceptible and drug resistant strains used in 648 our study. We tested bedaquiline using a two-fold dilution series spanning a concentration of 4 649 $ng/ml - 1 \mu g/ml$.

650 Fluctuation Assay for determining the frequency of rifampicin resistance

651 We used the Luria-Delbrück fluctuation assay(Luria and Delbruck, 1943) to determine the 652 frequency of rifampicin resistance in Mycobacterium smegmatis. Briefly, we inoculated 30 parallel 653 cultures containing 10 ml of modified Middlebrook 7H9 medium containing either glycerol, citrate or acetate as the main carbon source with 5000 colony forming units of pre-adapted M. 654 655 *smegmatis.* We grew the cultures to mid-log phase ($OD_{600}=0.5$) at which point we chose three 656 cultures at random for the determination of overall population size. We harvested the remaining 657 bacteria by centrifugation $4000 \times g$ for 7 minutes, re-suspended the cellular pellet with 500 µl of 658 fresh Middlebrook 7H9 medium and plated onto Middlebrook 7H10 solid media supplemented 659 with 200 µg/ml Rifampicin. Plates were incubated at 37°C for 3-4 days and scored by counting the resulting resistant colonies. We determined the population-wide number of mutants (m) using 660 661 an in house implementation of the Ma-Sandri-Sarkar maximum likelihood estimation(Sarkar et 662 al., 1992), and adjusted it by the estimated population size to determine the frequency of resistance. 663

664 Quantification and statistical analysis

665 Unless otherwise stated we preformed the analyses using Python 3.5.2 augmented with the 666 following modules to provide additional functionality: Matplotlib (ver 2.0.0), Numpy (ver 1.12.1), 667 Scipy (ver 0.19.0), Pandas (ver 0.20.1), statsmodels (ver 0.8.0), sklearn (ver 0.18.1), and netwrokX 668 (ver 1.11). All the details pertaining to the statistical treatment of data can be found where results 669 are described: either in the main text, figure legends or methods.

670 Data and Software availability

671 All RNAseq data were deposited in the ArrayExpress repository of the European Bioinformatics

672 Institute under the E-MTAB-7359 accession. The mass spectrometry proteomics data have been

deposited to the ProteomeXchange Consortium via the PRIDE partner repository with the
dataset identifier PXD011568. These data are pertinent to Figures 2-5 and all Supplementary
Figures with the exception of Figure S6.

676 A record of data analysis pertinent to this paper will be made available at 677 <u>http://www.github.com/swissTPH/TBRU_cost_of_resistance/</u>.

678

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688 Author Contributions

AT, RA and SG designed the project and wrote the manuscript. AT, SMG and SB generated samples for expression profiling, mycobactin determination and measured the fitness of *Mtb* strains. JF obtained MICs for bedaquiline. SS measured the frequency of resistance in *M. smegmatis.* PW and MZ performed the sample acquisition and data analysis for mycobactin determination. ABE and BCC performed the sample acquisition, data processing and differential expression analysis for *Mtb* proteomes. KE and CB processed and sequenced RNAseq samples. AT performed the data analysis for RNAseq and all other aspects of computational analysis.

696 **Declaration of Interests**

697 The authors declare no competing interests.

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