**Supplementary File 4: Strains and plasmids used in this study**

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| **Strain** | **Genotype** | **Reference** |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UGA) | Wild Type | ATCC |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UW) | Wild Type | 33 |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UGA) | Δ*mlaF* | This study |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UW) | Δ*mlaF* | 33 |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UW) | *mlaC::kan* | This study |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UW) | *mlaF::kan* | This study |
| *E. coli* W3110 | WT, F- λ-, *rph-1 IN*(*rrnD,rrnE*)1 | *E. coli* Genetic Stock Center (Yale) |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UW) | *obgE::kan*, pMMB67EH-*obgE\** | This study |
| *A. baumannii* 17978 (UW) | Δ*mlaC, obgE::kan,* pMMB67EH-*obgE\** and mutations described inTable S3 | This study |
| **Plasmid** | **Description** | **Reference** |
| pMMB67EH-Kn | pMMB67EH with KanR | 46 |
| pMMB67EH-Hyg | pMMB67EH with HygR | This study |
| pRecAB | pMMB67EH with RECAB system | 46 |
| pFLP | pMMB67EH with FLP recombinase | 46 |
| pKD4 | FRT-flanked KanR | 46 |
| pMMB67EH-*obgE\** | pMMB67EH-Hyg with *obgE\** | This study |