**Supplementary** **Table S1 Bacterial strains and plasmids used in the present studies**

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| **Strains** | **Genotype** | **Reference** |
| ***E. coli*** |  |  |
| *E. coli* DH5α | λ- φ80d*lac*ΖΔΜ15 Δ(*lacZYA*-*argF*)U169 *recA1* *endA* *hsdR17*(rk- mk-)*sup*E44 *thi-1* *gyrA* *relA1* | [1] |
| *E. coli* TOP10 | Cloning host for TOPO vector; F- *mc*rA Δ(*mrr*-*hsdRMS*-*mcrBC*) λ- φ80d*lac*ΖΔΜ15 Δ*lacX74* *recA1* *araD*139 Δ(*ara*-*leu*)7697 *galU galK* *rps*L (Strr) *endA*1 *nupG* | Invitrogen Life Technologies |
| ***S. aureus*** |  |  |
| RN4220 | Restriction-deficient derivative of NCTC8325, cured of all known prophages | [2] |
| SH1000 | NCTC8325-4 derivative, *rsbU*+, *agr*+ | [3] |
| SH1000Δ*cidA::km* | *cidA*, Kmr | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*dsbA* | *dsbA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*lgt* | *lgt* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*lrgA::km* | *lrgA*, Kmr | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*lspA* | *lspA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*prsA* | *prsA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*secG* | *secG* | [4] |
| SH1000 Δ*secY2* | *secY2* | [4] |
| SH1000 Δ*spsA* | *spsA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*srtA* | *srtA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*srtB* | *srtB* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*tatA* | *tatA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*tatC::km* | *tatC*, Kmr | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*tatAC* | *tatA* *tatC* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*mscL* | *mscL* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*fnbpA* | *fnbpA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*fnbpB* | *fnbpB* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*fnbpA* Δ*fnbpB* | *fnbpA, fnbpB* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*clfA* | *clfA* | [5] |
| SH1000 Δ*clfB* | *clfB* | [5] |
| SH1000 Δ*clfA* Δ*clfB* | *clfA, clfB* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*fnbpA* Δ*fnbpB,* Δ*clfA* | *fnbpA, fnbpB, clfA* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*fnbpA* Δ*fnbpB,* Δ*clfB* | *fnbpA, fnbpB, clfB* | This work |
| SH1000 Δ*fnbpA* Δ*fnbpB* Δ*clfA* Δ*clfB* | *fnbpA, fnbpB, clfA, clfB* | [5] |
| NCTC8325 | HA-MSSA strain, *agr*+, *rsbU*- | [6] |
| NCTC8325 Δ*srtA* | *srtA* | This work |
| Newman | NCTC 8178 clinical isolate | [7] |
| Newman Δ*srtA* | *srtA* | This work |
| ***S. epidermidis*** |  |  |
| 1457 | Biofilm positive strain | [8] |
| 1457 Δ*srtA* | *srtA* | This work |
| **Plasmids** | **Relevant properties** | **Reference** |
| pUC18 | Apr, ColE1, φ80d*lac*Ζ; *lac* promoter | [9] |
| TOPO | pCR-Blint II-TOPO vector; Kmr | Invitrogen Life Technologies |
| pCN51 | *E. coli*/*S. aureus* shuttle vector that contains a cadmium-inducible promoter; Apr Emr | [10] |
| *srtA*-pCN51 | pCN51 with *S. aureus srtA* gene; Apr Emr | This work |
| *srtASe*-pCN51 | pCN51 with *S. epidermidis srtA* gene; Apr Emr | This work |

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