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| **Table S4. Bacterial strains and plasmids used in this study\*** |
| **Strain or plasmid** | **Phenotype, genotype and/or description** | **Source**  |
| *P. aeruginosa* strains |  |  |
|  PAO1 CmS | Alg-, prototroph, CmS | [7] |
|  WFPA934 | Alg-, PAO1 CmS, *algD-cat* | This study |
|  WFPA936  | Alg-, PAO1 CmS, *algD-cat,* ∆*mutS* | This study |
|  WFPA937  | Alg-, PAO1 CmS, *algD-cat,* ∆*dinB*::*aacC1* | This study |
|  WFPA938 | Alg-, PAO1 CmS, *algD-cat,* ∆*mutS* ∆*dinB*::*aacC1* | This study |
|  PDO300 | Alg+, PAO1∆*mucA22* | [15] |
|  FRD1 | Alg+, FRD1 ∆*mucA22,* clinical isolate | [16] |
|  FRD440 | Alg-, FRD1 ∆*mucA22, algT::Tn501* | [17] |
|  |  |  |
| *E. coli* strains  |  |  |
|  UTI89 | prototypic cystitis uropathogenic *E. coli* isolate | [18] |
|  SM10/λpir | *thi recA thr leu tonA lacY supE* RP4–2-Tc::Mu1::*pir* KmR | Laboratory strain |
|  |  |  |
| Plasmids |  |  |
|  pKK61 | pCP19 (*oriV*[RK2], TcR) P*algD-cat* | [19] |
|  pHL16  | ApR, GenR; pHL13 bearing *P. aeruginosa ΔdinB::aacC1* (GenR) | [1]  |
|  pEX18Ap | ApR (CarbR); suicide replacement vector containing *B. subtilis sacB* gene | [20]  |
|  pHL170  | ApR (CarbR); pEXAp bearing *P. aeruginosa* in-frame deletion of *mutS* | This study |
|  pHERD20T | pUCP20T P*lac* replaced with 1.3-kb AflII-EcoRI fragment of *araC*-PBAD cassette (5,087 bp) | [21]  |
|  pHERD20T-*mucA* | *mucA* in pHERD20T EcoRI/HindIII | [21] |
| \*Alg-, non-mucoid phenotype, Alg+, mucoid phenotype |