How resistance evolves

Populations, be they bacteria or humans, contain genetic variation. It's this variation that allows populations to survive change. When a population encounters something harmful some individuals survive while others perish. Survivors pass on genes that helped them survive to the next generation and so the new population becomes more resistant.

Beating the 'bugs'

By looking at genes in many different Staphylococcus aureus strains (very closely related to MSRA) it has been possible to identify a set of genes that help the bug infect humans. These genes are under continuous selective pressure and have remained important for the bacteria for a long time. Such genes may be good candidates to try to disrupt with antibiotics, learn more about this work by watching the video podcast.