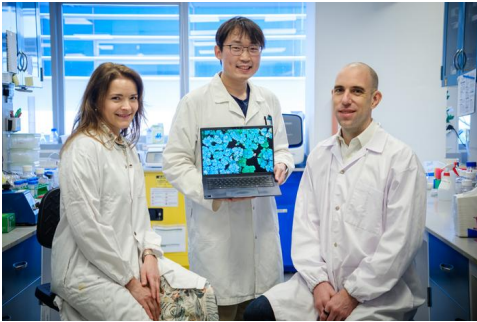


NTU Singapore Scientists Find New Way to Disarm Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria and Restore Healing in Chronic Wounds

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(From right) NTU Associate Professor Guillaume Thibault, Research Fellow Dr Aaron Tan, who is holding an image of a microbial biofilm, and SCELSE Visiting Professor Kimberly Kline from the University of Geneva. (Credit: NTU Singapore)

An international team of scientists, led by Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (NTU Singapore), has discovered a new way that could speed up the healing of chronic wounds infected by antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Worldwide, chronic wounds represent a major health challenge, with an estimated 18.6 million people developing diabetic foot ulcers [1] each year. Up to one in three people with diabetes are at risk of developing a foot ulcer during their lifetime. These wounds are a leading cause of lower-limb amputations and are frequently complicated by persistent infections that prevent healing. In Singapore, chronic wounds such as diabetic foot ulcers, pressure injuries, and venous leg ulcers are increasingly common, with over 16,000 cases annually, particularly among older adults and people with diabetes [2]. Published January 16, 2026 in *Science Advances*, the study done with collaborators at the University of Geneva, Switzerland, shows how a common bacterium, *Enterococcus faecalis* (*E. faecalis*), actively prevents wound healing. The team also demonstrated how neutralizing this biological process can allow skin cells to recover and close wounds. The [open-access article](#) is titled “*Enterococcus faecalis* Redox Metabolism Activates the Unfolded Protein Response to Impair Wound Healing.”