CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have questions about your rights as a research subject, or you have concerns or suggestions and you want to talk to someone other than the researchers, you may contact the UCLA OHRPP by phone: (310) 206-2040; by email: participants@research.ucla.edu or by mail: Box 951406, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1406. If you have any questions or concerns about the research, please feel free to contact Jennifer Jay by emailing jjay@seas.ucla.edu, or by calling 310-866-2444.
OUR PROJECT
Surfer Resistance Fund

BACKGROUND
Dr. Jay’s laboratory has been working in the area of local water quality for over a decade, and more recently, we have been focused on the area of antibiotic resistant bacteria – commonly referred to as “superbugs” – in the environment. This project is at the confluence of those two research areas.

Recently our laboratory has been screening for two different antibiotic resistant pathogens in some local surfing beaches, including Venice Beach. Specifically, we have detected MRSA (methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and VRE (vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus*), both of which are categorized as Serious Threats by the Centers for Disease Control. We have seen widely differing levels from beach to beach, and we are interested in how these and other pathogens may be affecting surfer health.

We would like to continue monitoring pathogens at these beaches and concurrently take nasal swab samples from a group of surfers and a non-surfing control group to look at how these organisms colonize humans. This experimental design is a promising way to get data showing infection due to an environmental exposure of an antibiotic resistant organism.

YOUR INVOLVEMENT
If you agree to participate in our summer study, we will extract and amplify bacterial DNA from your nasal swabs. Once collected, the swabs and bacterial DNA will be coded to protect your privacy. We are interested in monitoring surfer health over the 2018-2019 winter season, so we will also ask for permission to contact you for more samples for our larger study. If you are interested in participating please contact Professor Jennifer Jay by emailing jjay@seas.ucla.edu, or calling 310-866-2444, or contact Megyn Rugh by emailing megynrugh@ucla.edu, or calling 805-975-6614.