ELLIOT COLLINS, DEANNA SCHMITT, KRISTEN SIKORSKY, ANTHONY SAKO, and JOSEPH HORZEMPA, Department of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, West Liberty University, West Liberty, WV, 26074, Department of Natural Science and Mathematics, Department of Natural Science and Mathematics, Department of Natural Science and Mathematics. **The identification of novel natural immunostimulatory compounds that limit bacterial infection**.

Francisella tularensis is a highly infectious bacterium that causes the disease, tularemia. Tularemia can be transmitted to humans in many ways including: inhalation, biting insects, contact with infected animal tissue, and contaminated food and water. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention classified F. tularensis as a category A bioterror agent due to its virulence and ease of aerosolization. The intentional release of a resistant strain of F. tularensis could be devastating. Consequently, there is a need for novel treatments effective against F. tularensis infections. We previously tested a cataloged natural compound library with THP-1 cells (a monocyte line) infected with an engineered, fluorescent F. tularensis (LVS/pTC3D) to look for inhibition of bacterial growth. The focus of current investigations is to determine whether the compounds that exhibited inhibition were acting as traditional antibiotics or as immunostimulants. Disk diffusion assays indicated which compounds inhibited growth of F. tularensis in the absence of immune cells meaning these extracts exhibited were acting as antibiotics. Compounds that did not show inhibition on the diffusion assays are being tested again in the THP-1 infection model to verify their immunostimulatory action. These compounds could potentially be used as novel antimicrobial treatments.