CLAIMS

1. An antisense molecule or salt thereof that inhibits the growth of *Staphylococcus aureus* comprising a polynucleotide sequence that is antisense to the coding region of a *Staphylococcus aureus* ribosomal protein and hybridizes to said coding region under physiological conditions, wherein said antisense molecule is 10 to 50 nucleobases in length and has a sequence that is at least 95% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 18-27, 29-46 and 48-50, and wherein said antisense molecule is conjugated to a cell penetration molecule.

2. The antisense molecule of claim 1, that has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2, 18-27, 29-46 and 48-50.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the antisense molecule of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, excipient, or carrier, wherein the antisense molecule is 99 100% homogeneous by high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC).

4. The antisense molecule of claim 1, wherein the antisense molecule comprises a modified backbone.

5. The antisense molecule of claim 4, wherein the modified backbone is a PNA backbone.

6. The antisense molecule of claim 1, which inhibits expression of LSU ribosomal protein L15p (L27Ae) or SSU ribosomal protein S17p (S11e), wherein the antisense molecule has a sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 1 and 2.

7. The antisense molecule of claim 1, wherein said cell penetration molecule is a peptide.

8. A composition comprising an antisense molecule of claim 1, complexed to a delivery polymer.

9. The composition of claim 8, wherein said delivery polymer is a cationic block copolymer comprising phosphonium or ammonium ionic groups.