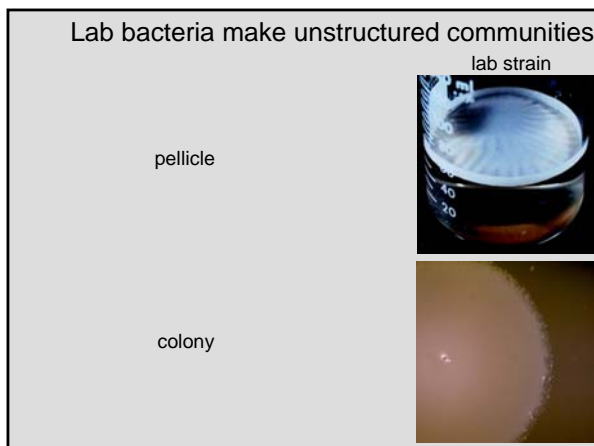
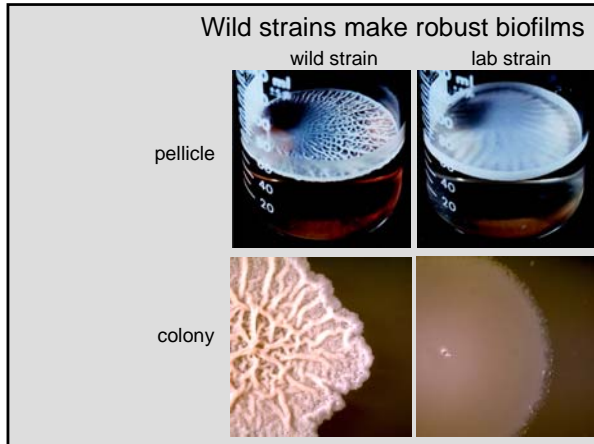
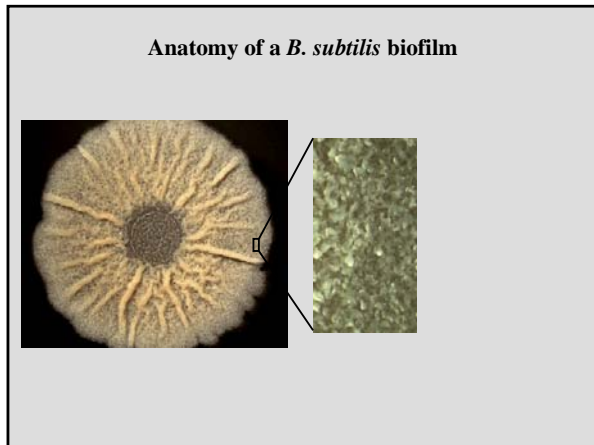
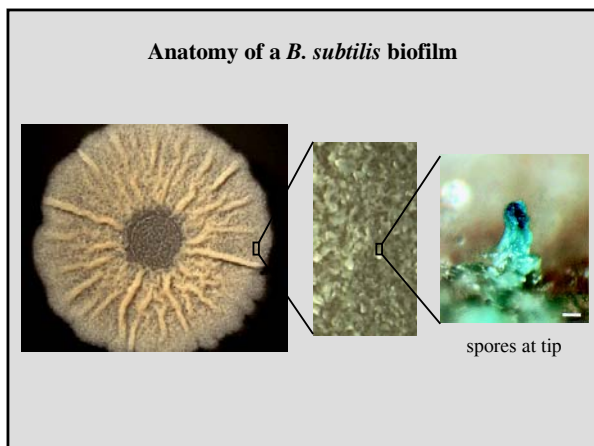


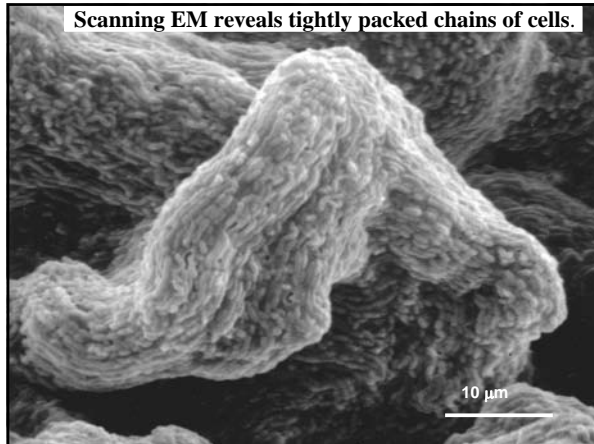
1. *B. subtilis* forms complex communities with spore-forming aerial structures.
2. The cells are held together by a matrix whose synthesis is controlled by an intricate regulatory circuit.
3. The community resembles a tissue.









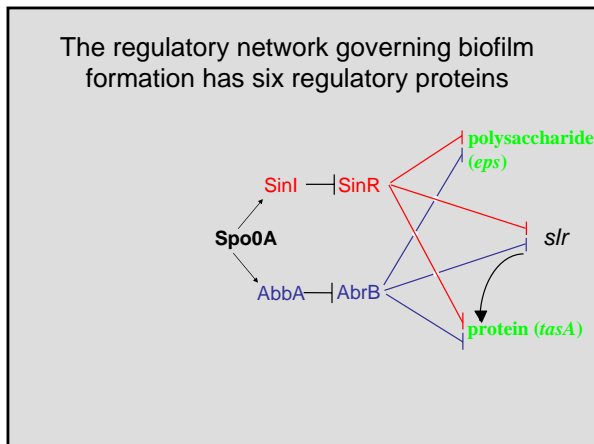


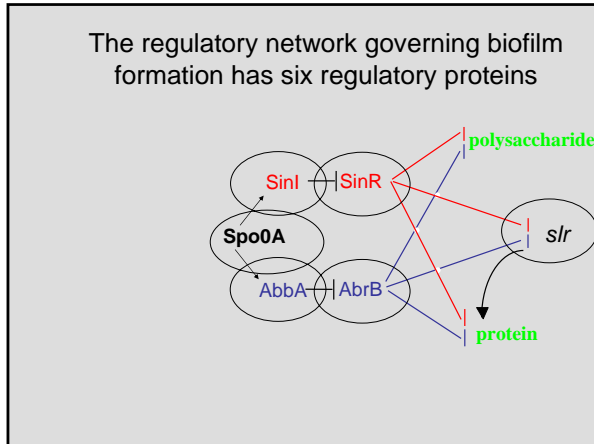
Cells are held together by an **extracellular matrix**.

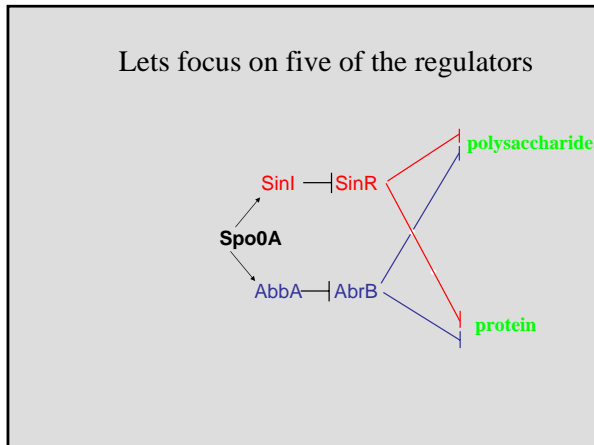
The matrix consists of **polysaccharide** and **protein**.

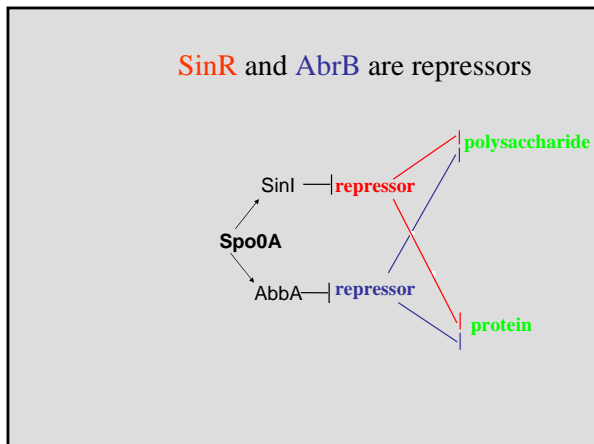
Polysaccharide is produced by the *eps* operon.

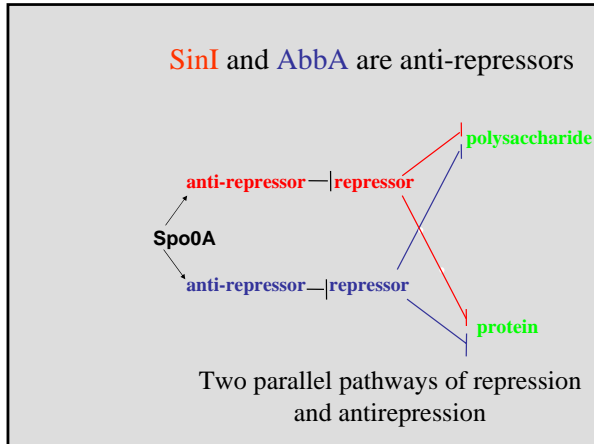
The protein is encoded by the *tasA* operon.

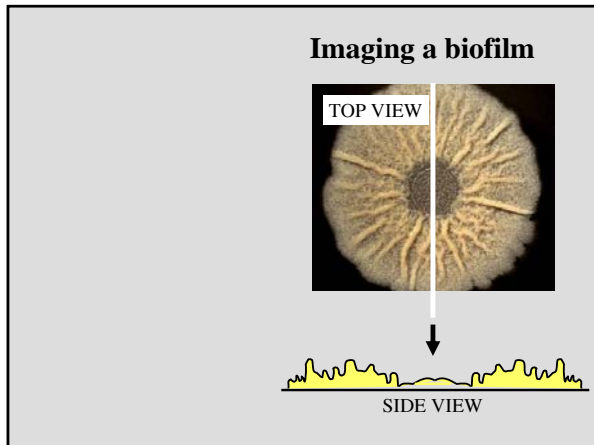


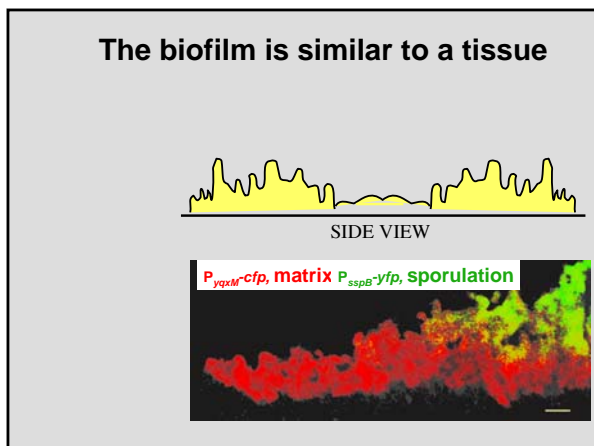


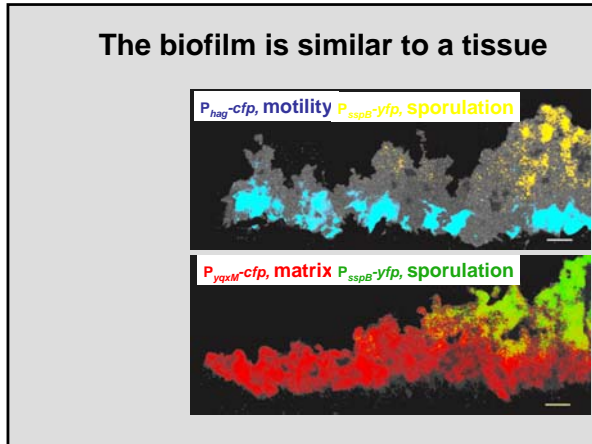


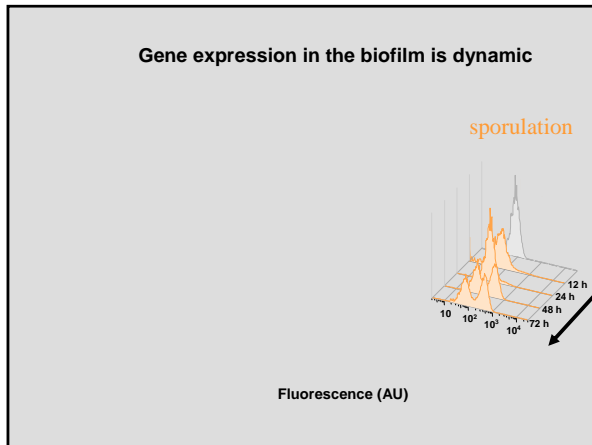


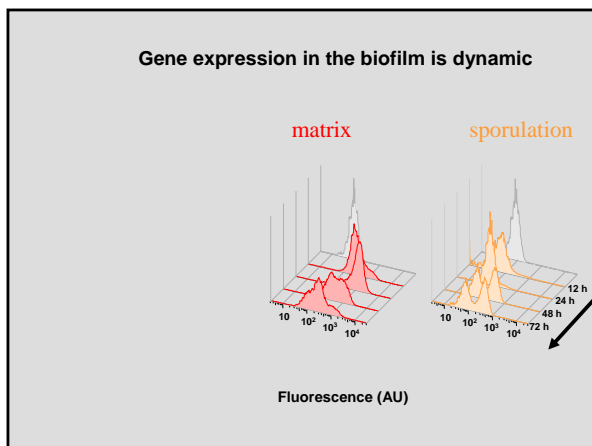


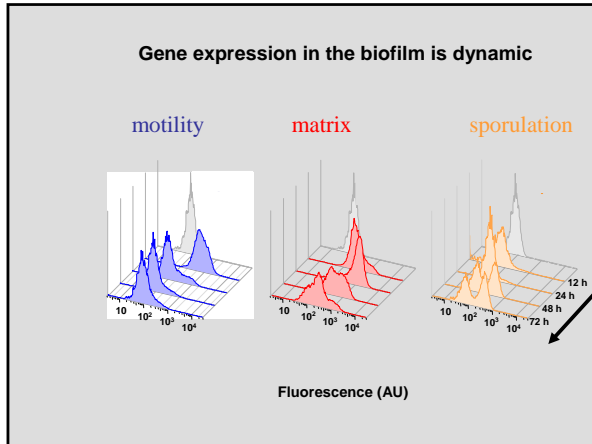


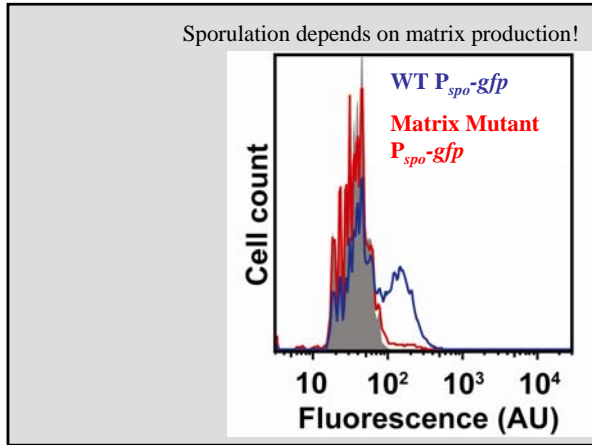














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