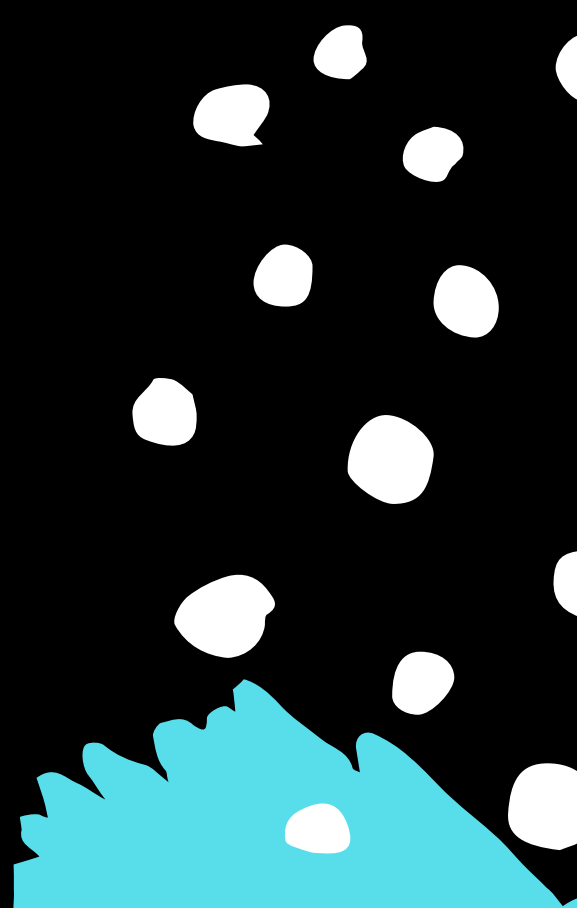
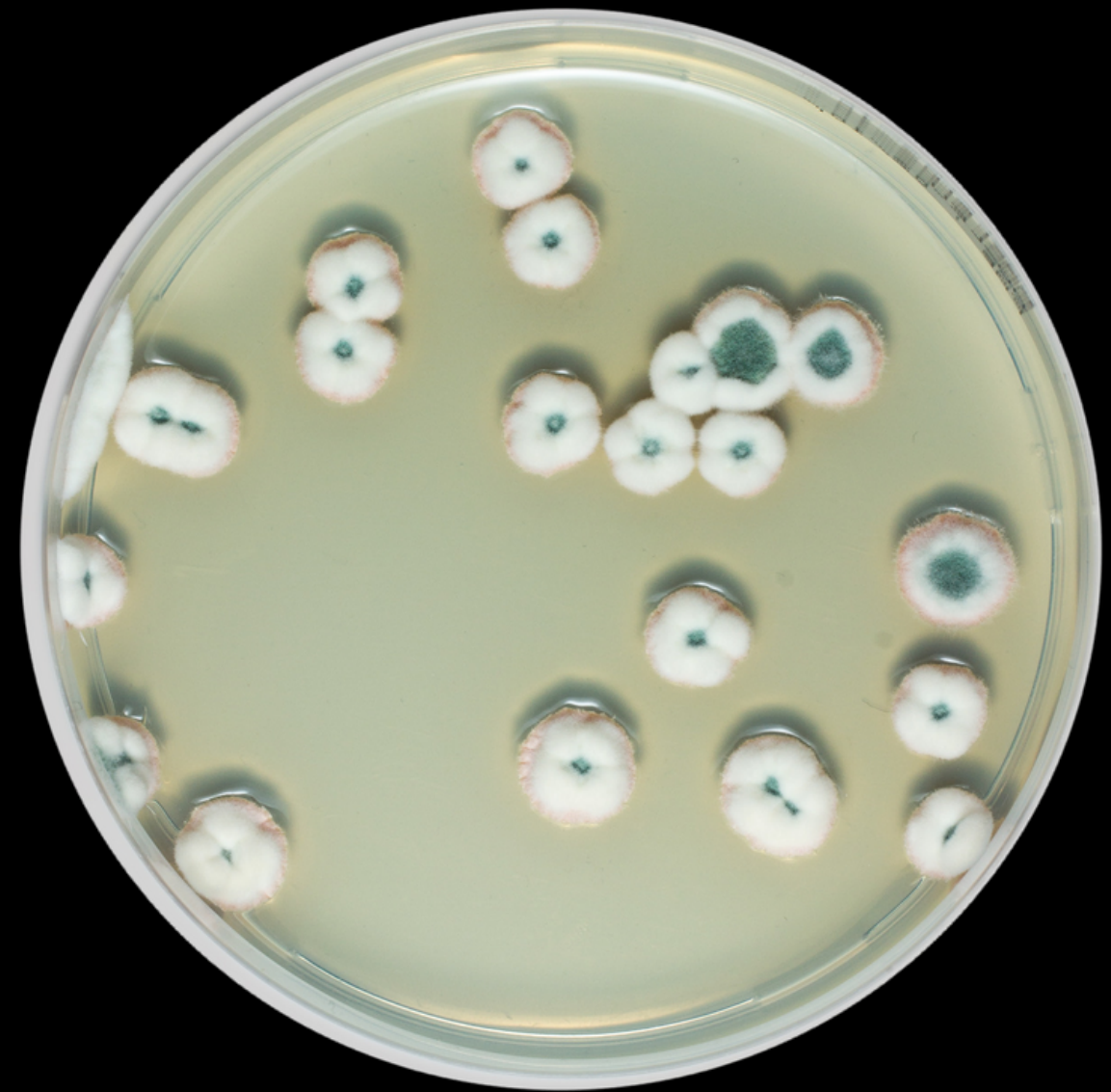




Understanding Bacteria



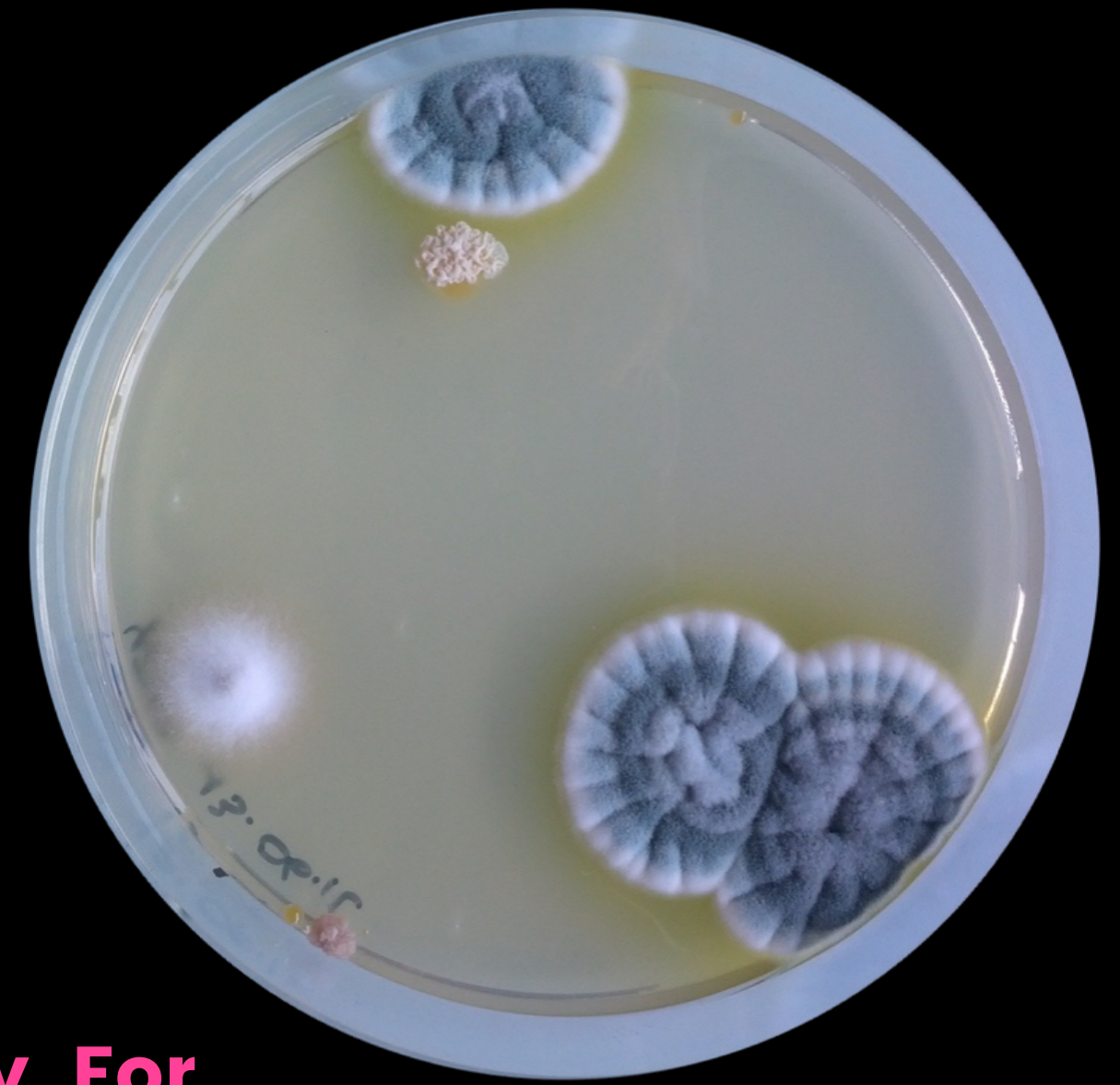
- **Bacteria are everywhere on and in our bodies. They are on our skin, in our gut, our lungs, our mouths, our sinuses.**
- **Some estimates are that there are 3 times as many bacterial cells associated with our bodies as the number of our own cells (although they are much much smaller than our cells**



- **People think that bacteria make us sick, but because we live with so many bacteria, they can't all be bad.**

- **Some do make us sick (for example, E. coli, Listeria, Salmonella, and Shigella give us diarrhea)**

- **Some bacteria help us stay healthy. For example, bacteria in our guts can break down the foods we eat in a way our own body can't. "Good" bacteria also help our body by taking up the space that "bad" bacteria would want to live in, and eating the nutrients that bad bacteria would want to eat.**



- **Bacteria grow in different colonies. the colony is a group of many millions of cells, all derived from one single cell that divided many times.**
- **We can see colonies with the naked eye because the cells have all gotten stuck in the agar and accumulated together.**
- **A colony can have different size, shape, color, and texture. Scientists can use the way the colony looks to start to identify what bacteria it is.**

