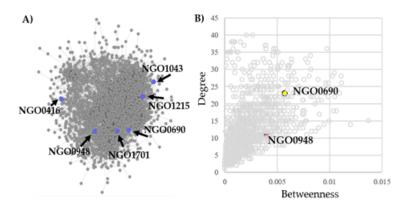
## **Supplementary Materials:**



**Figure S1.** Network analysis. **(A)** The six candidates positioned within the gonococcal gene expression network. **(B)** Centrality of the candidates within the gonococcal gene network measured in degree (y-axis) and betweenness (x-axis) values. NGO0690 (yellow dot) has both high degree and betweenness and NGO0948 (red dot) has high degree. The other four candidates have average values (not shown).

**Table S1.** Candidates alleles analysis in *N. lactamica* (288 strains in PubMLST).

Gene	Total Alleles	<sup>1</sup> Frequency		<sup>2</sup> Distribution	D: (
		Allele	# of Strains	(% of 288 strains)	<i>p</i> -Dist.
ngo0416 (NEIS0782)	-	-	288	0	0.006
ngo0690 (NEIS1164)	13	3 8	229 23	79.5 7.9	0.01
ngo0948 (NEIS0906)	17	3 70	225 21	78.1 7.2	0.005
ngo1043 (NEIS2446)	8	28 17	242 21	84 7.3	0.01
ngo1215 (NEIS1474)	10	34 7	241 23	74.3 7.9	0.012
ngo1701 (NEIS2720)	10	20 24	225 23	78.1 7.9	0.005

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Most frequent alleles in the highest number of strains. <sup>2</sup> Percent of strains expressing the high frequency alleles¹ within the total number of isolates. Data collected from PubMLST [61].