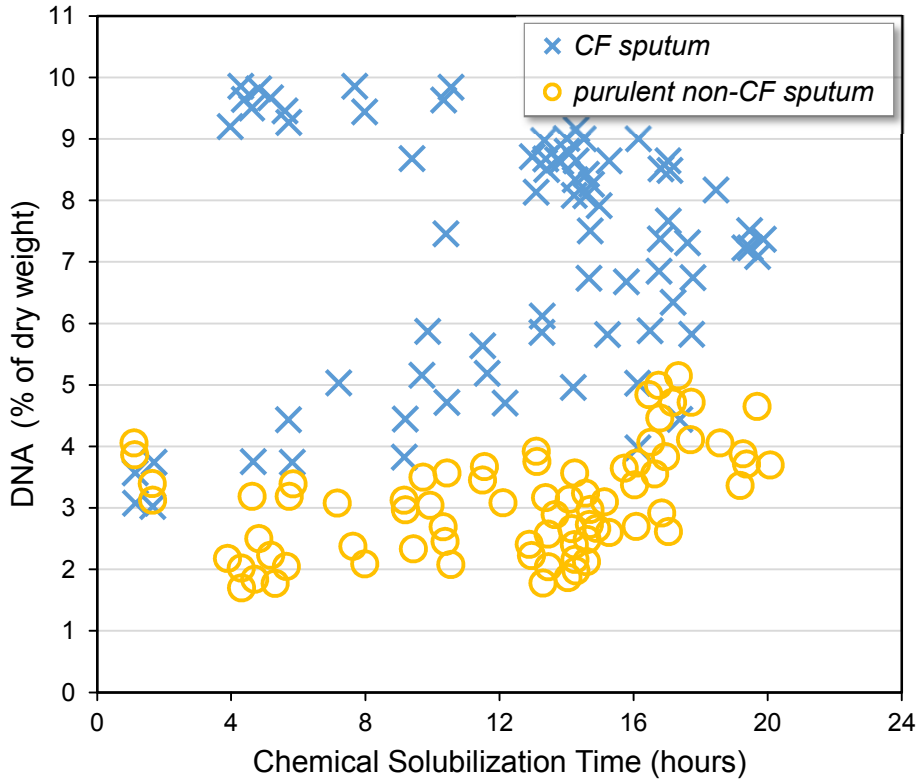

Figure S1. Examples of solubilization times of purulent CF and purulent non-CF sputa. DNA % of specimen macromolecular dry weight (MDW) and time required to completely solubilize CF (x) and purulent non-CF (o) sputum specimens are compared. The solubilization solvent was a 5 mM potassium phosphate buffer, pH 8.0, containing 5.0 M guanidinium hydrochloride, 1% 2-mercaptoethanol and 0.01% disodium ethylenediaminetetraacetate. With 85% of purulent non-CF sputa having DNA % of MDW of 4% or less, and all < 6%, these sputa only slightly followed a trend of increased time to complete solubilization with increasing DNA content ($y = 0.0684x + 2.2588$, $R^2 = 0.1638$, $p < 0.1$). For CF sputa, in contrast, only 10% showed DNA % MDW of < 4% and solubilization times reflected DNA content in a complex manner. As seen in Figure 2b also, for CF sputa of DNA < 7.1% MDW, the trend toward increasing solublization times with increasing DNA content was positive, while CF specimens with DNA > 7.1% MDW showed a inverse correlation, with a negative trend for further increases in DNA content above 7.1% MDW.