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# The dairy bacterium *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* against colitis and mucositis: a key role of the surface layer protein SlpB

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➤ The dairy probiotic bacterium *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* against colitis and mucositis: a key role of the surface layer protein SlpB

Gwénaél JAN

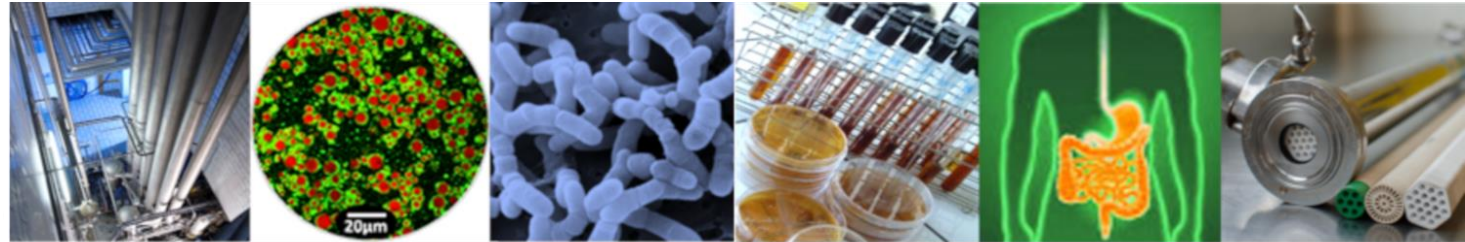
STLO, INRAE, Institut Agro, Science et Technologie du Lait et de l'Œuf, Rennes

[gwenael.jan@inrae.fr](mailto:gwenael.jan@inrae.fr)

<https://www6.rennes.inrae.fr/stlo>



# ➤ Intestinal epithelial barrier: endangered...

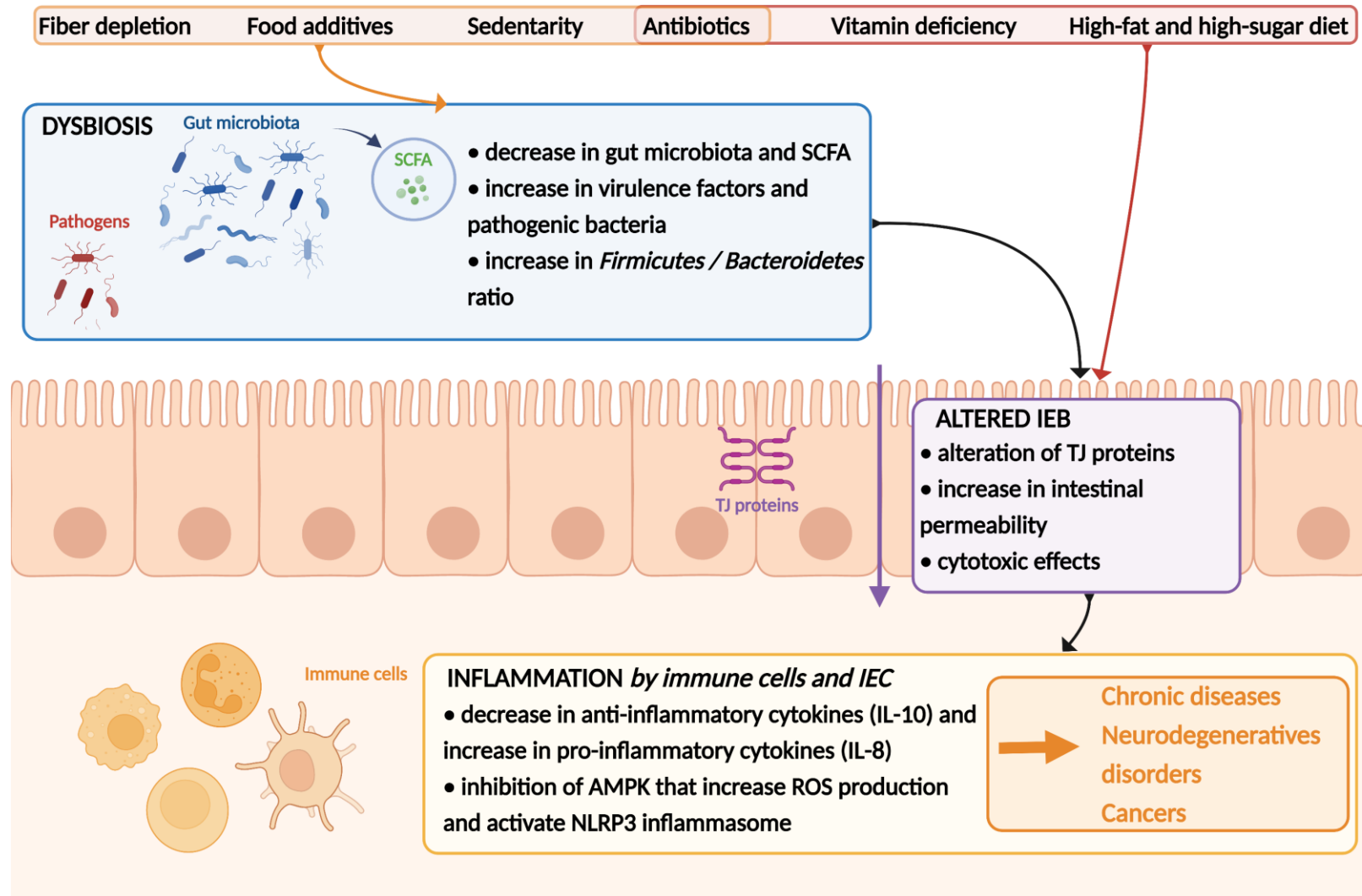


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## > ... By modern lifestyle



# ➤ Examples of digestive inflammatory diseases

## Colitis

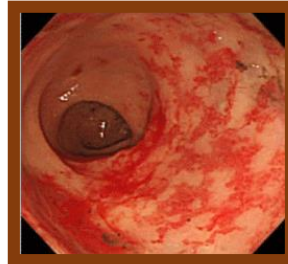
- GIT Chronic inflammation



**Ulcerative Colitis**



## Mucositis



**GI Mucositis**



**Oral mucositis**

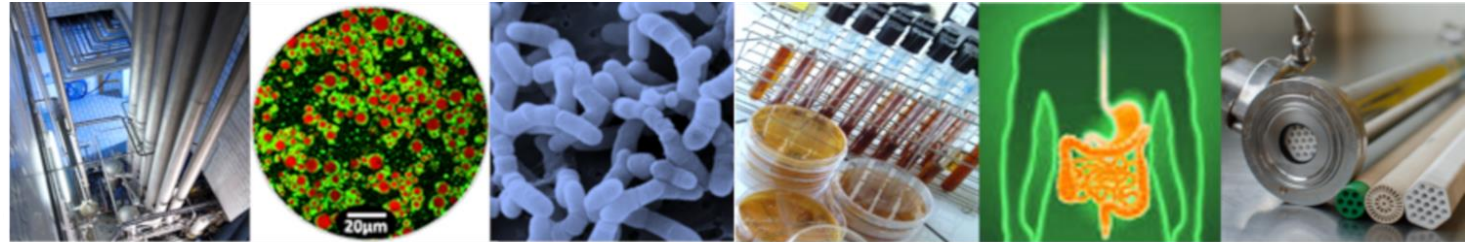
## 5-Fluoracil (5-FU)

- Head, neck and colon cancer.

(Chang *et al.*, 2012; Falvey *et al.*, 2015)



# ➤ A key role of resident and ingested microorganisms...

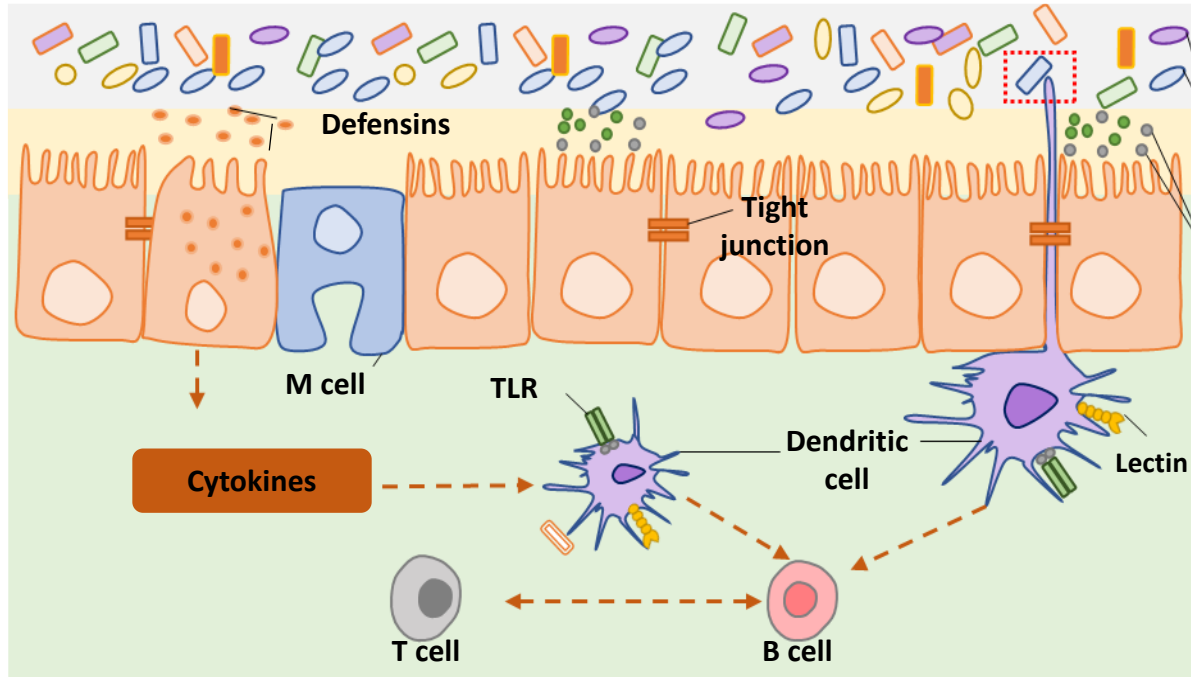


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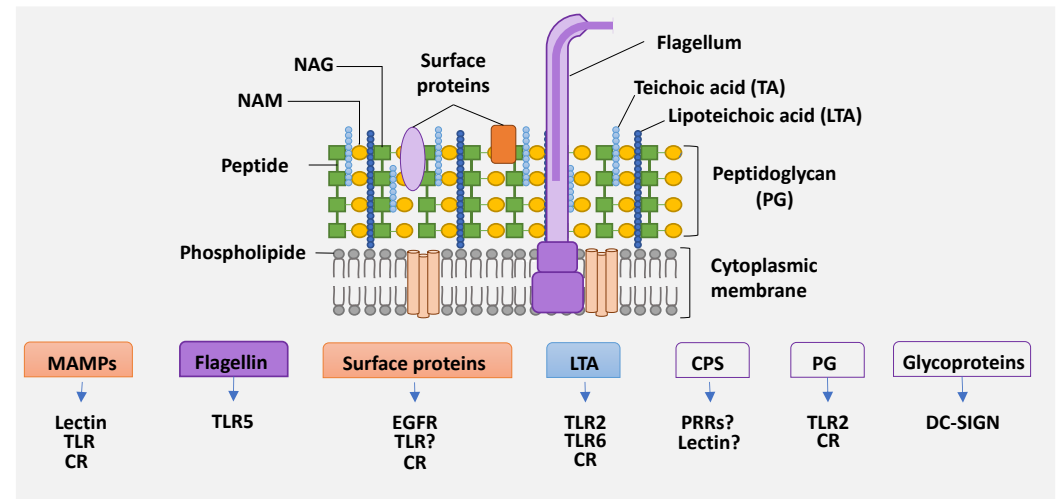
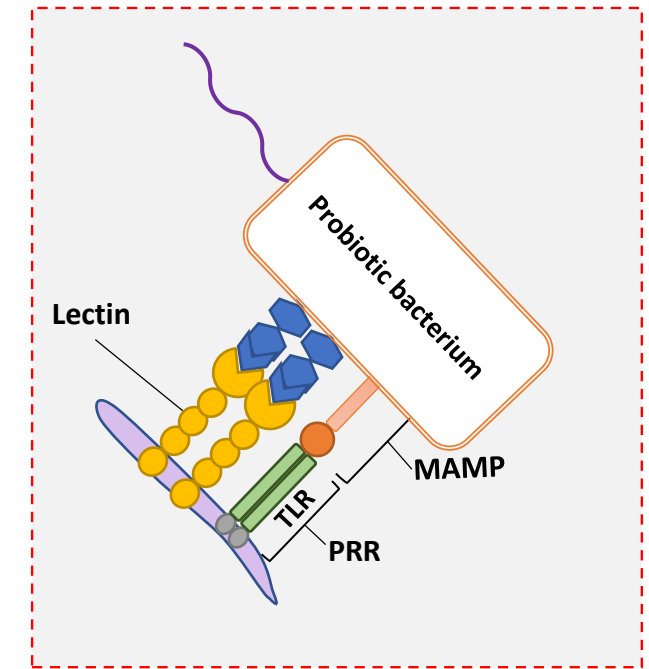
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# > ... Modulating the immune response

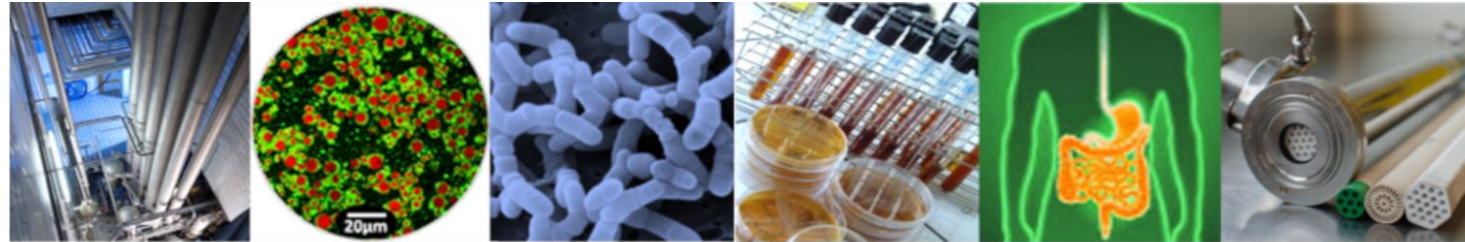


Intestinal microbiota  
Antimicrobial peptides





# ➤ Introducing *Propionibacterium freudenreichii*...



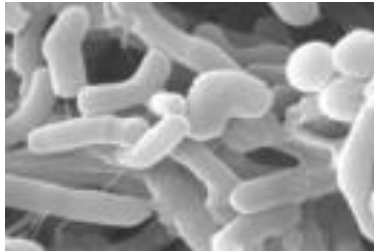
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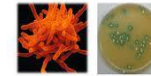


# > ... A sort of Swiss army knife



*Propionibacterium  
freudenreichii*

→ Actinobacterium



→ Vitamin producer  
B9, B12



→ Probiotic



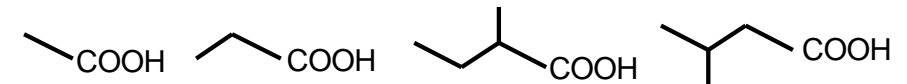
→ Food bio-preservative



→ Ripening starter



→ Short chain fatty acids



**Short Chain Fatty Acids  
(SCFA)  
Known effect on health**

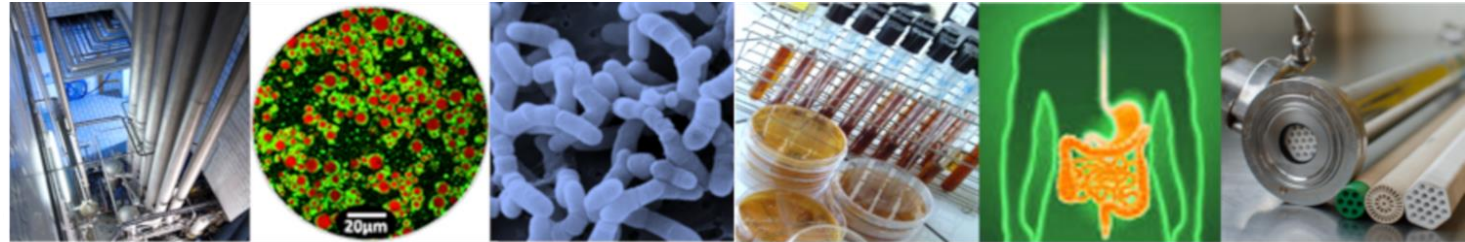


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# ➤ Immunomodulatory properties



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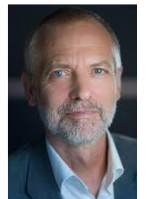
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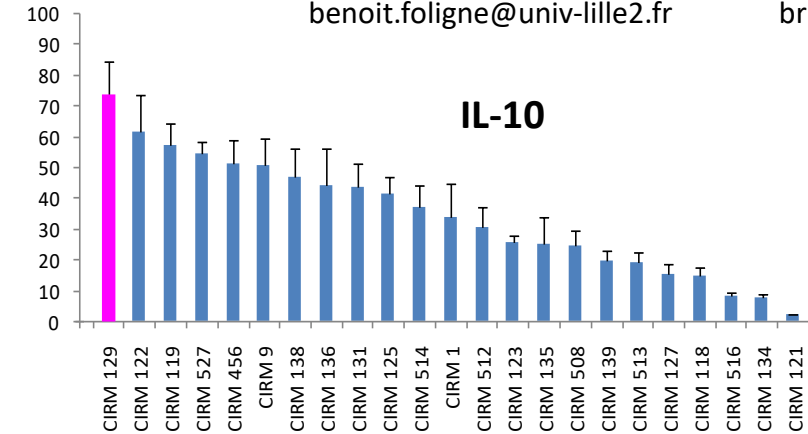
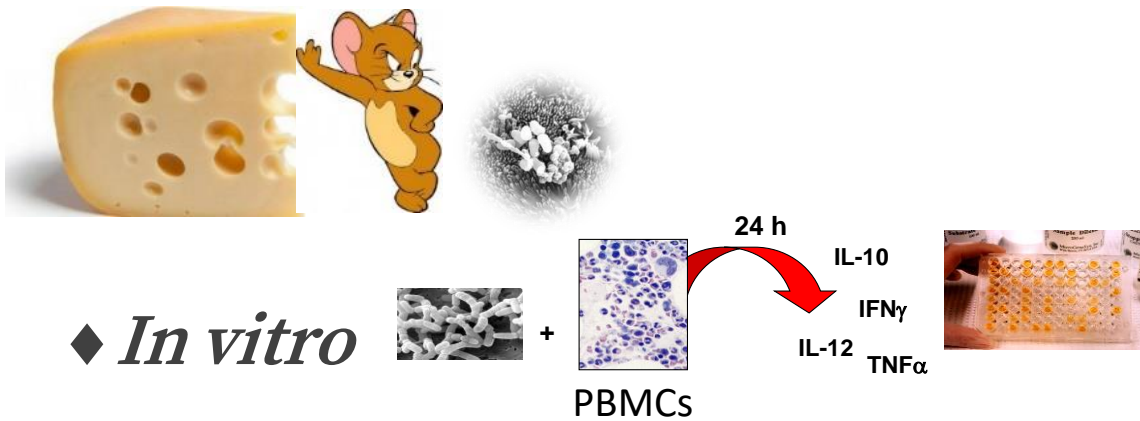
# > ... *In vitro* and *in vivo*



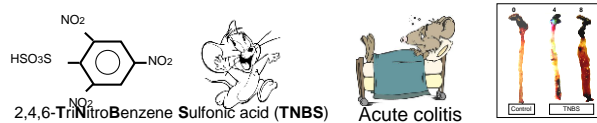
benoit.foligne@univ-lille2.fr



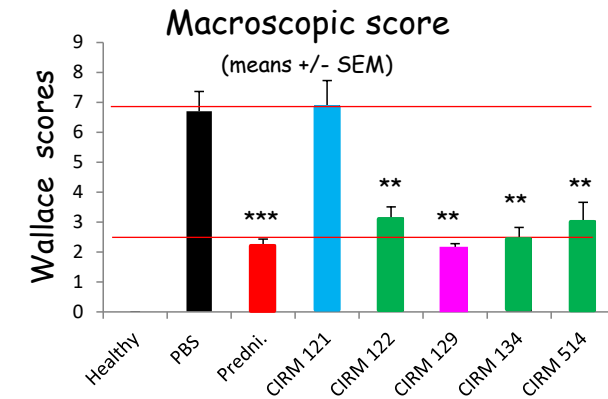
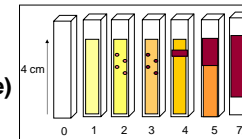
bruno.pot1@telenet.be



## ◆ *In vivo*



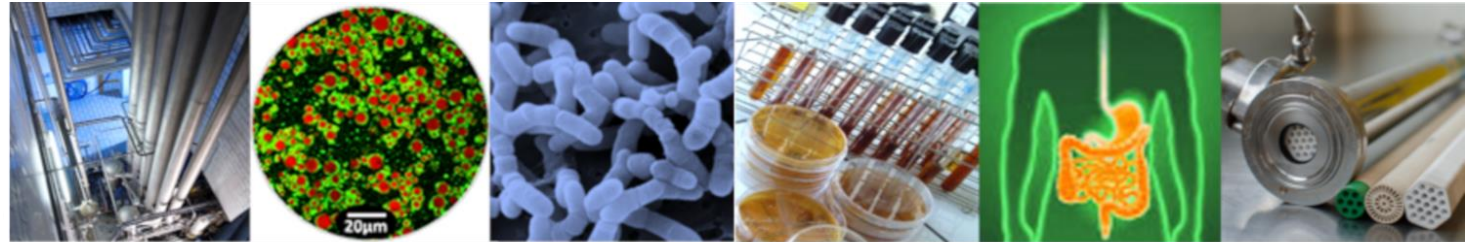
Macroscopic score (Wallace)



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## ➤ The healing effect of *Propionibacterium freudenreichii*

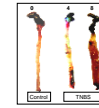
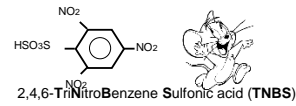


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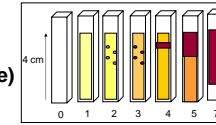
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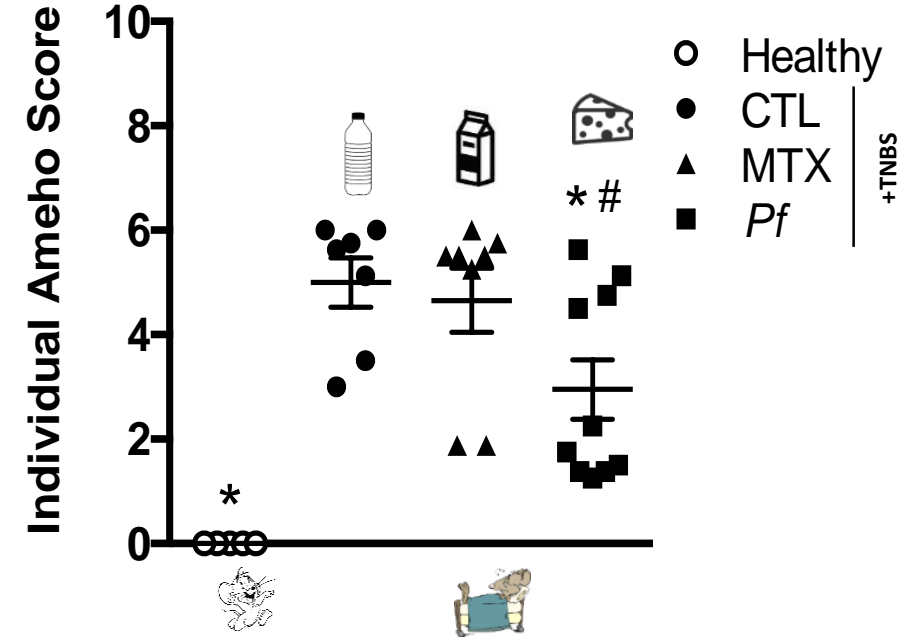
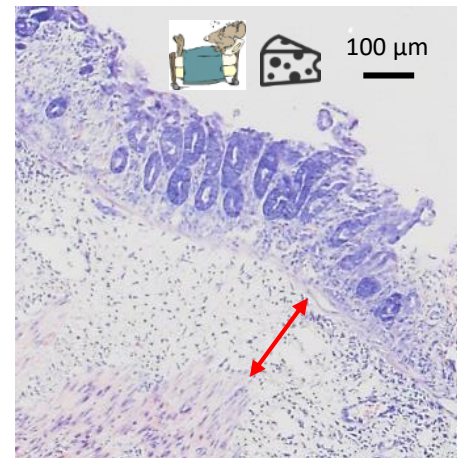
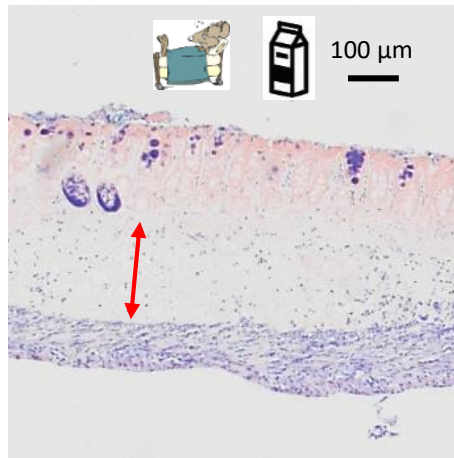
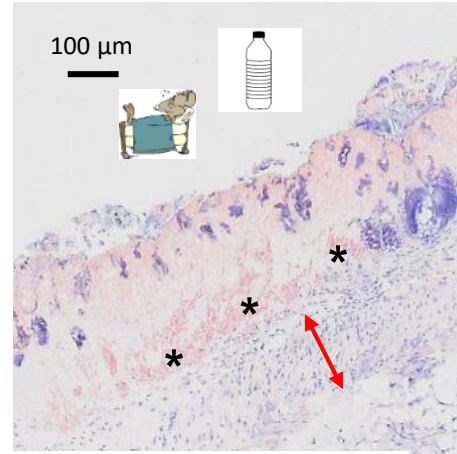
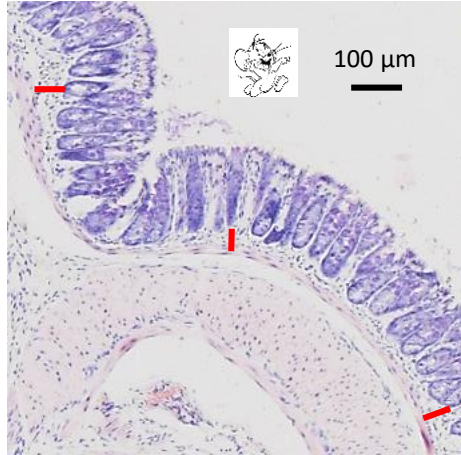
# ➤ In TNBS-induced colitis



Macroscopic score (Wallace)



A model cheese



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ID2Santé

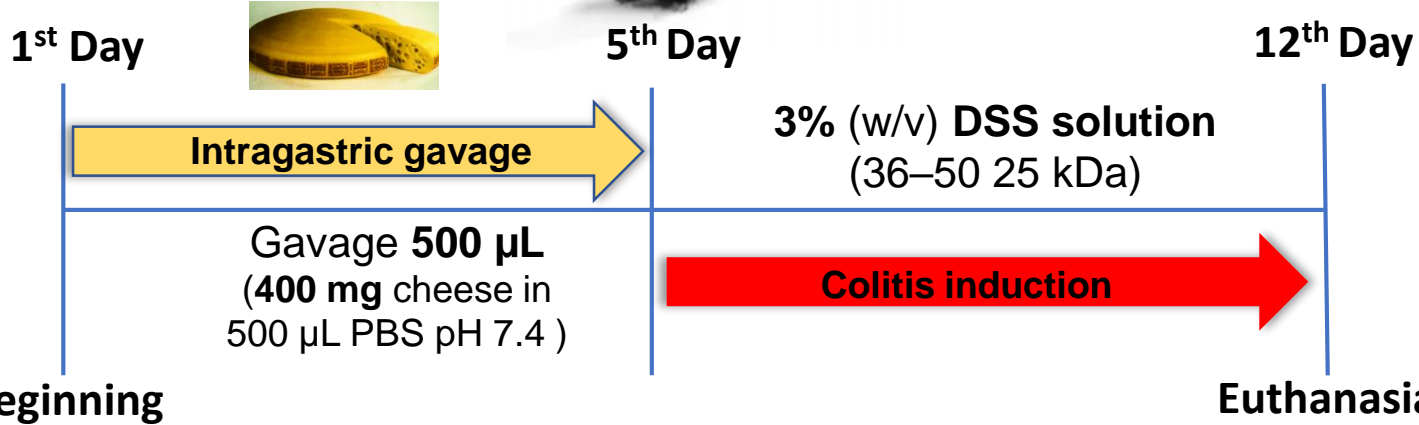




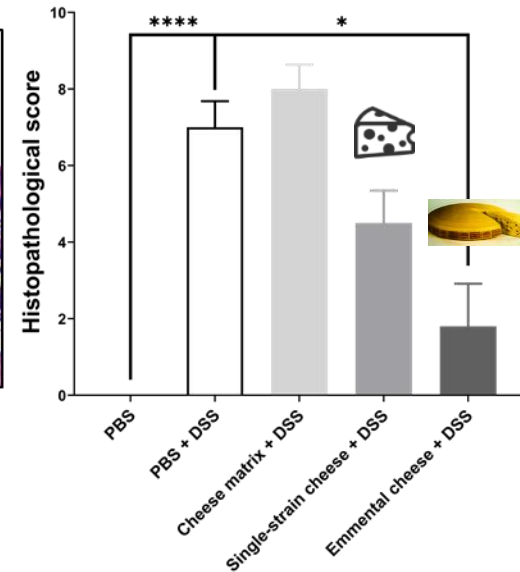
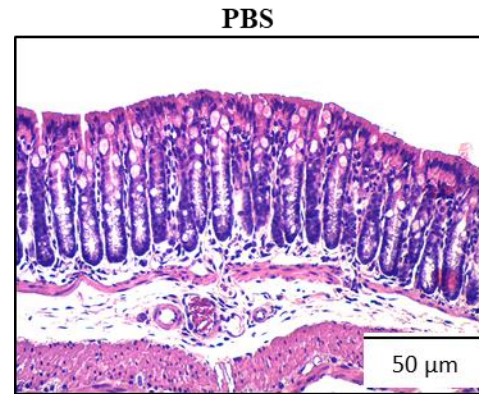
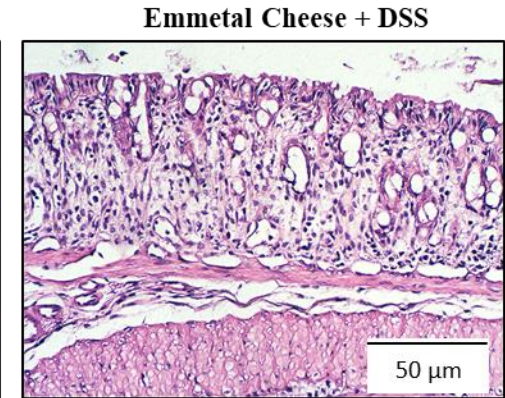
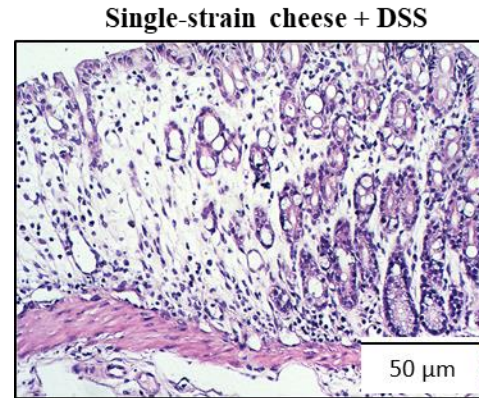
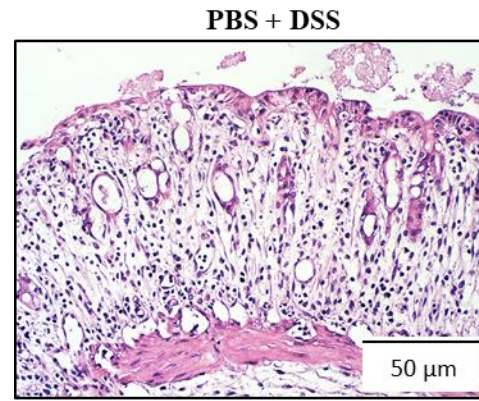
# ➤ In DSS-induced colitis

Emmental cheese with  
*P. freudenreichii*  
*S. thermophilus*  
*L. delbrueckii*

C57BL6  
8<sup>th</sup> week age



Vasco Azevedo



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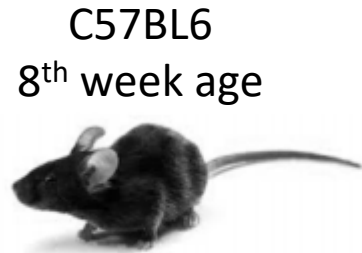


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# ➤ In DSS-induced colitis

Emmental cheese with  
*P. freudenreichii*  
*S. thermophilus*  
*L. delbrueckii*



C57BL/6  
8<sup>th</sup> week age



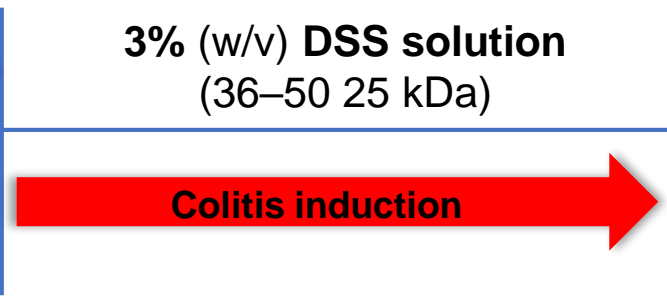
1<sup>st</sup> Day

5<sup>th</sup> Day

12<sup>th</sup> Day



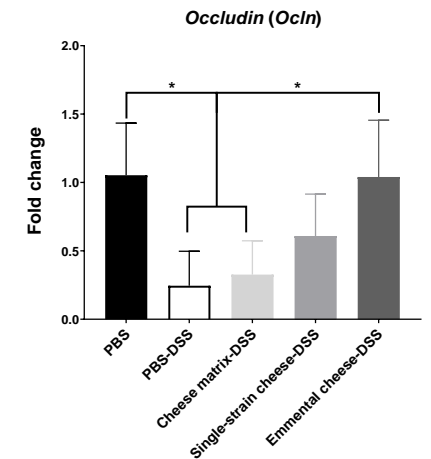
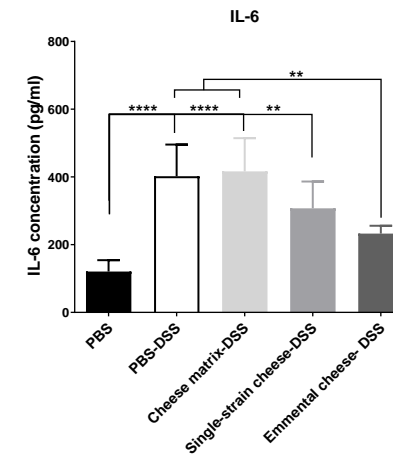
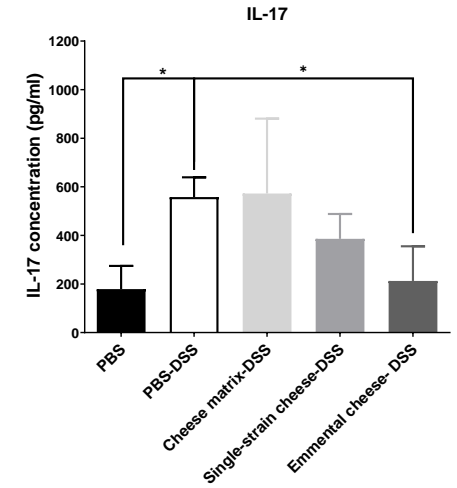
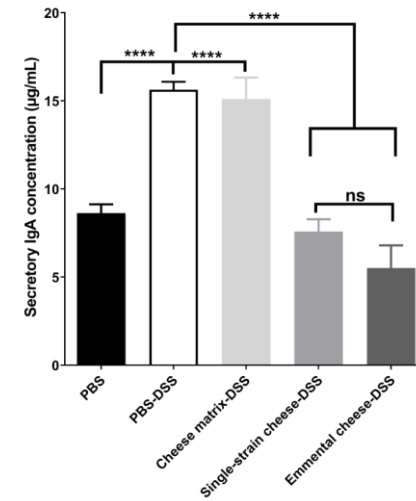
Gavage 500  $\mu$ L  
(400 mg cheese in  
500  $\mu$ L PBS pH 7.4)



3% (w/v) DSS solution  
(36–50 25 kDa)

Beginning

Euthanasia



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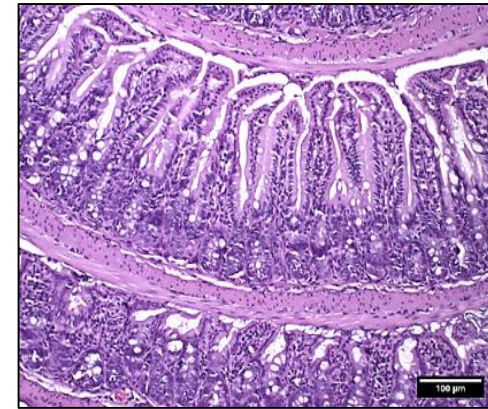
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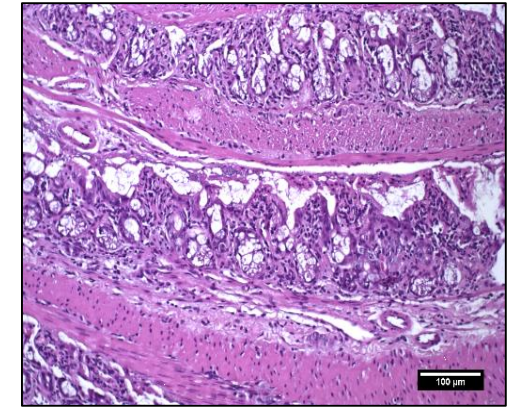


# ➤ In 5FU-induced mucositis

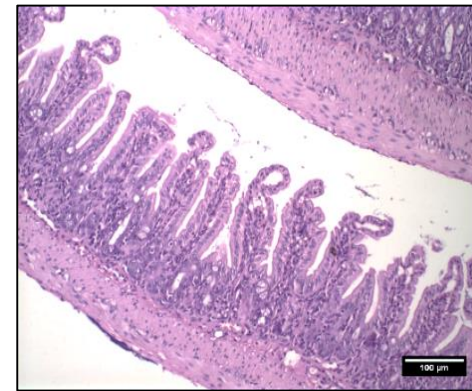
## Representative images from mucosal histopathology (H&E)



Healthy Ileum

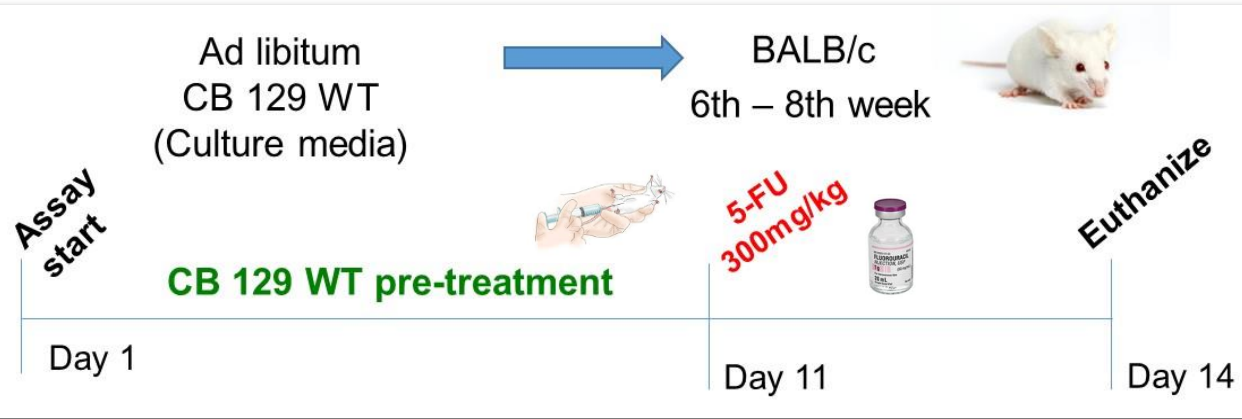
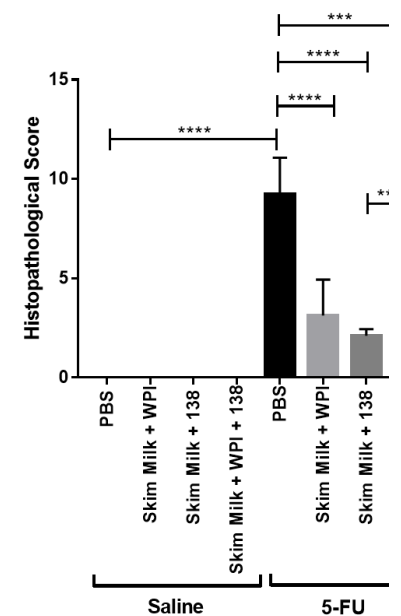


PBS + 5-FU



Skim milk + propio

### Histopathological scores



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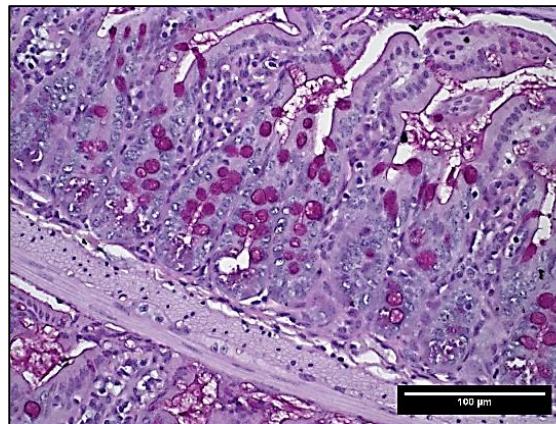
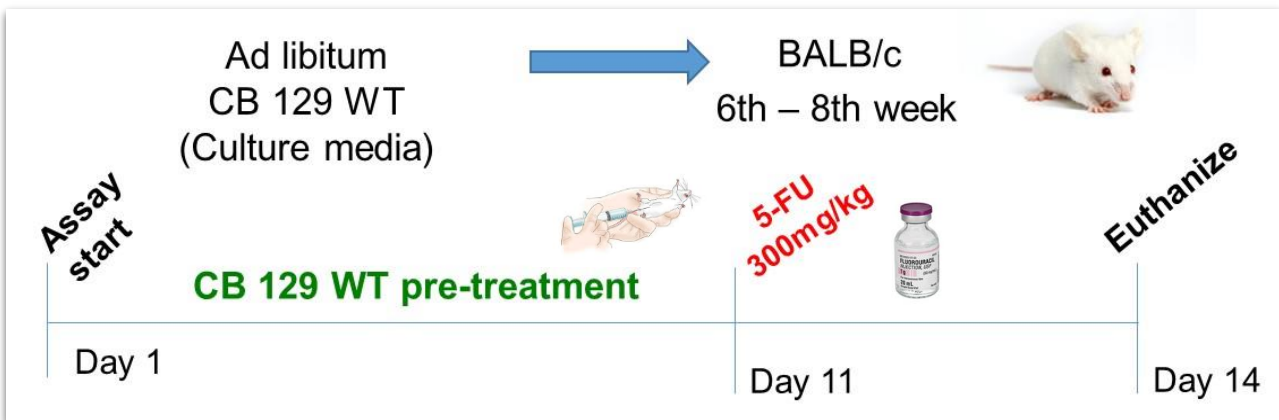


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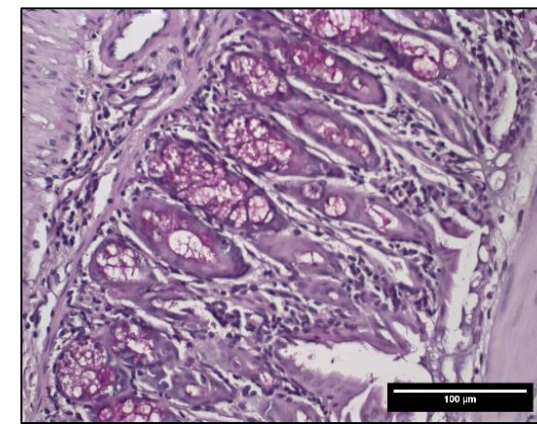


# ➤ In 5FU-induced mucositis

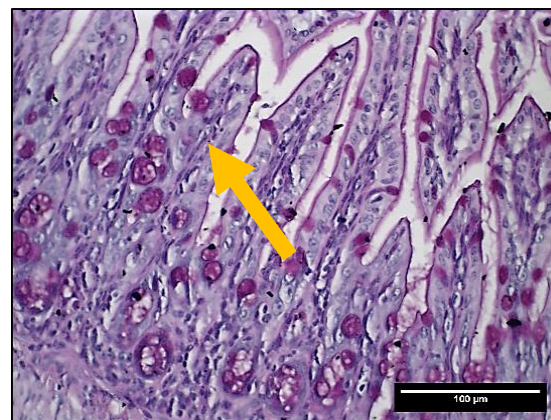
## Representative images of stained goblet cells (PAS)



Healthy ileum

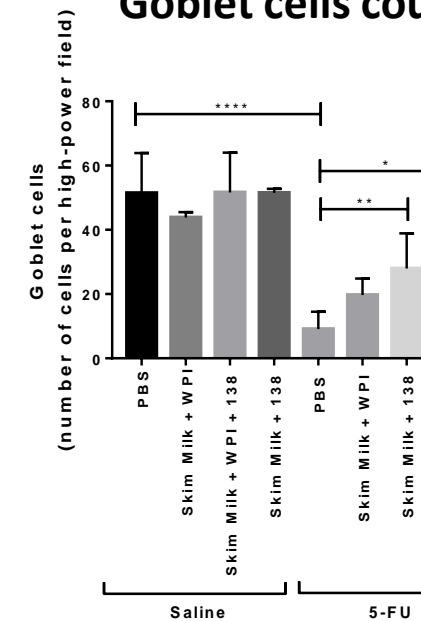


PBS + 5FU



LDF + 138 + 5FU

## Goblet cells counts



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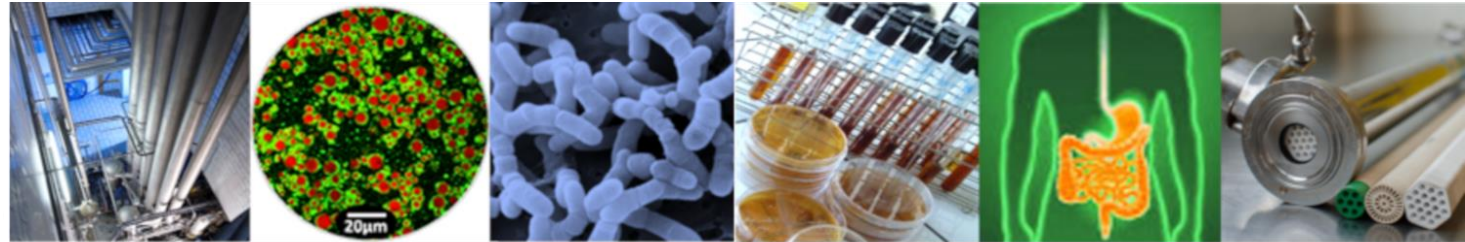


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## > How does it work?



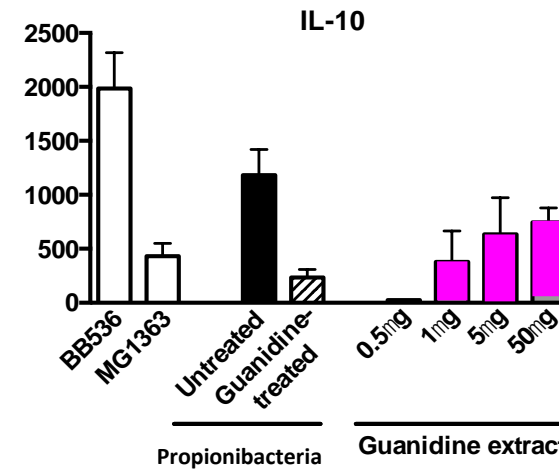
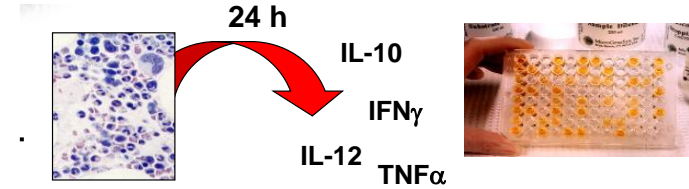
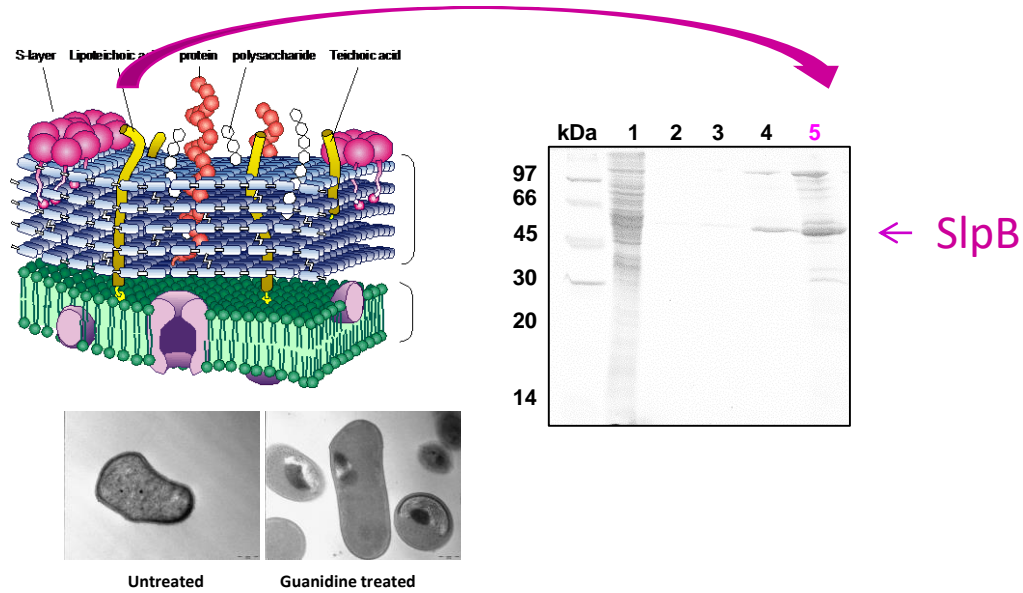
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# ➤ If we remove surface proteins: PBMC assay



**Table 1 – *Propionibacterium freudenreichii* proteins identified by nano-LC-MS/MS after guanidine hydrochloride (shaving column) or in-situ fluorescence labeling (CyDye column).**

Locus Tag	Description	Gene	Function
PFCIRM129_12235	Internalin A	inIA	Miscellaneous
PFCIRM129_05460	Surface protein with SLH domain	slpE	Cell wall
FCIRM129_09350	Surface layer protein A	slpA	Cell wall
PFCIRM129_00700	Surface layer protein B	slpB	Cell wall
PFCIRM129_11445	Large surface protein A	lspA	Cell wall

Stripped propionibacteria lose immunomodulatory properties

But extracted proteins induce IL-10

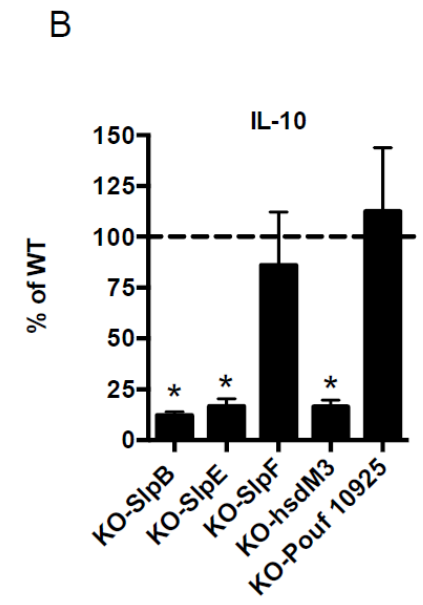
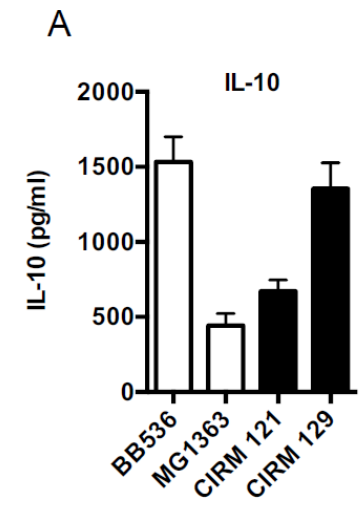
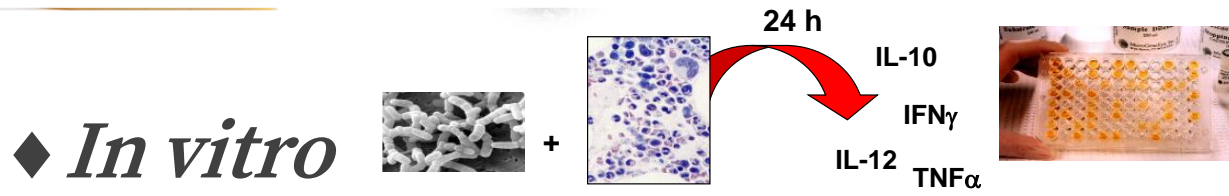
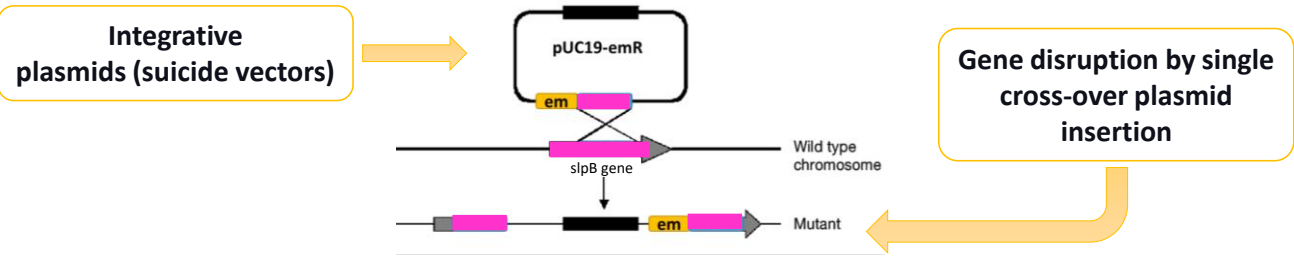


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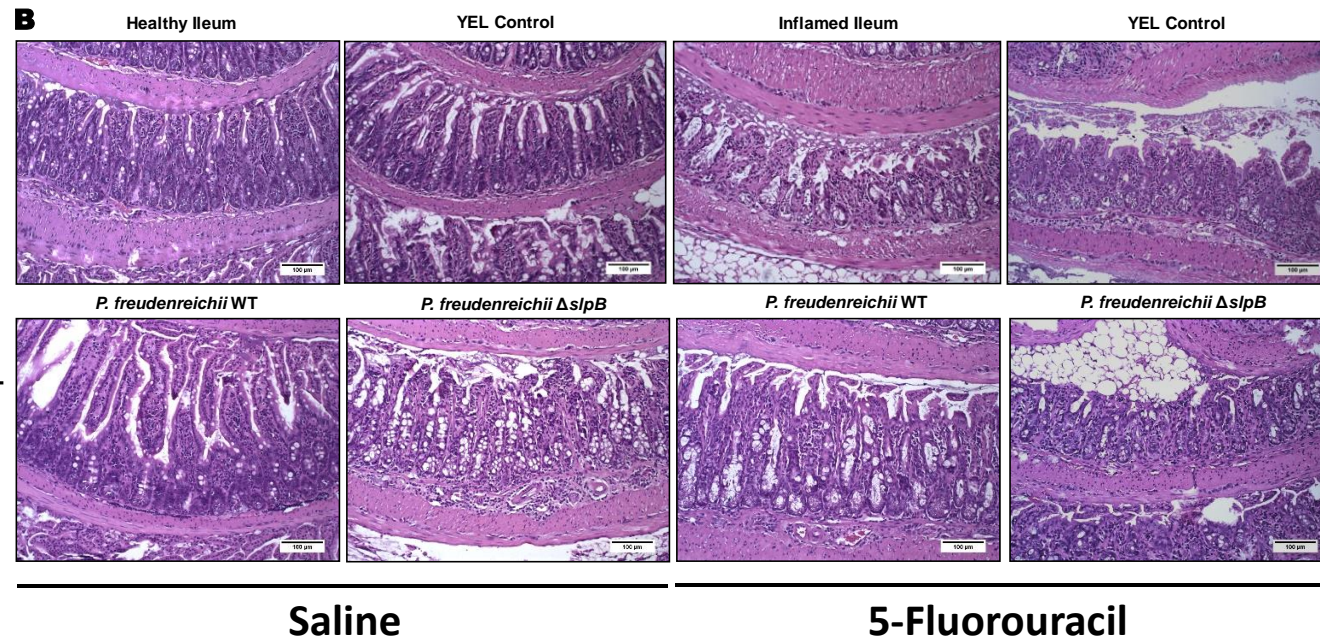
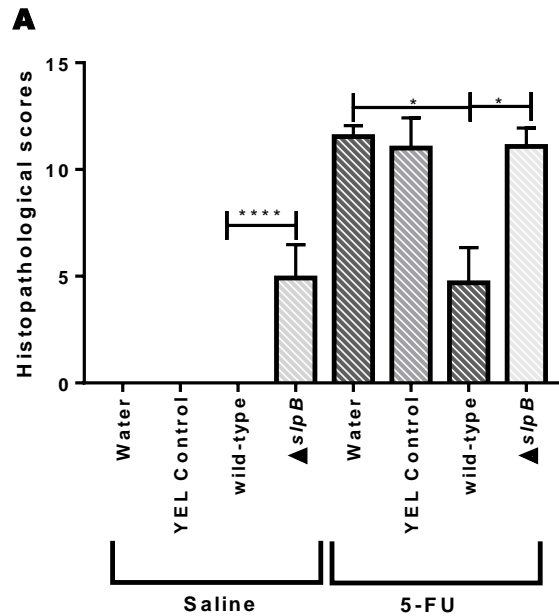
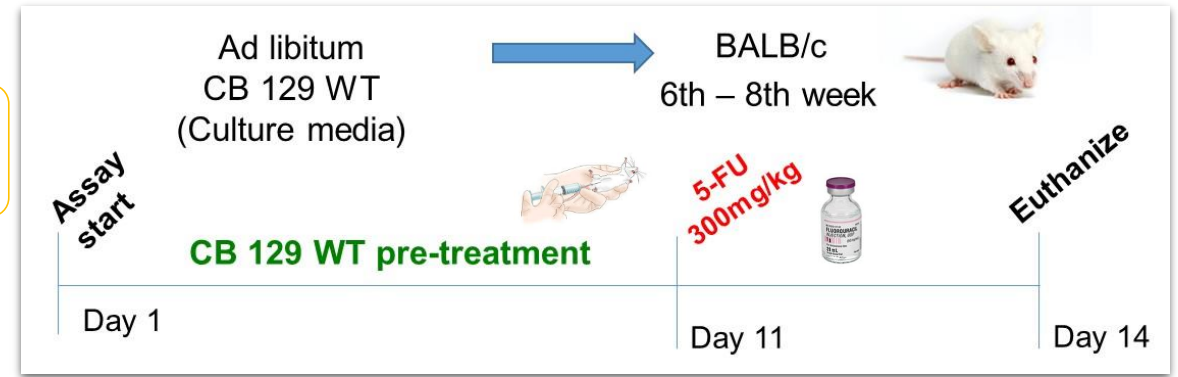
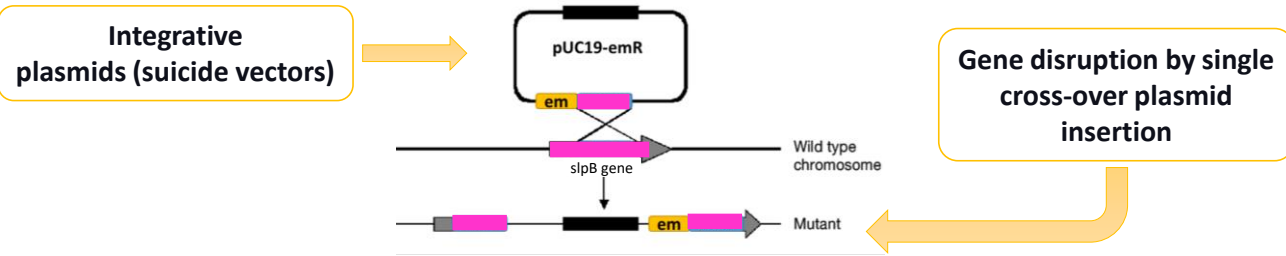
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# ➤ If we mutate Surface Layer Protein genes: PBMC assay



# ➤ If we mutate Surface Layer Protein SlpB gene: mucositis challenge



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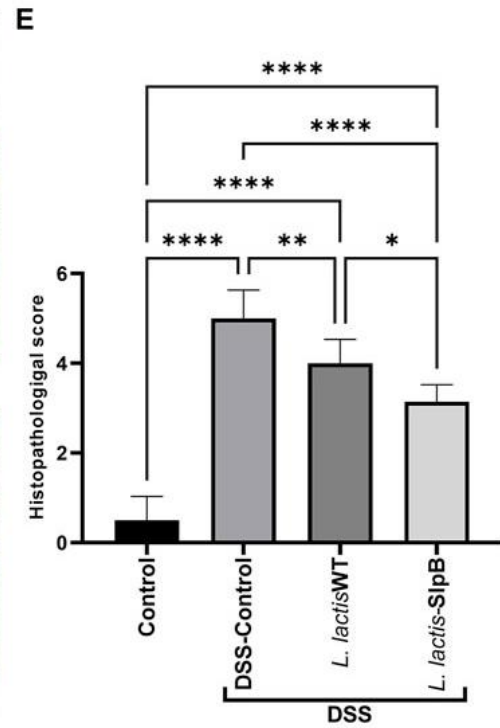
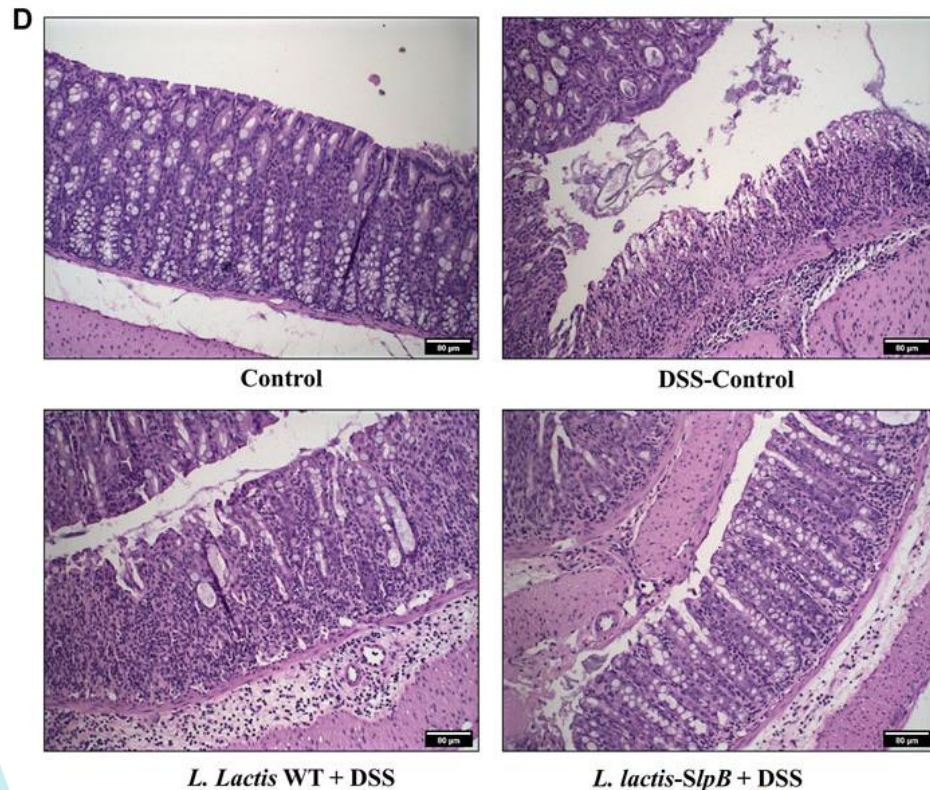
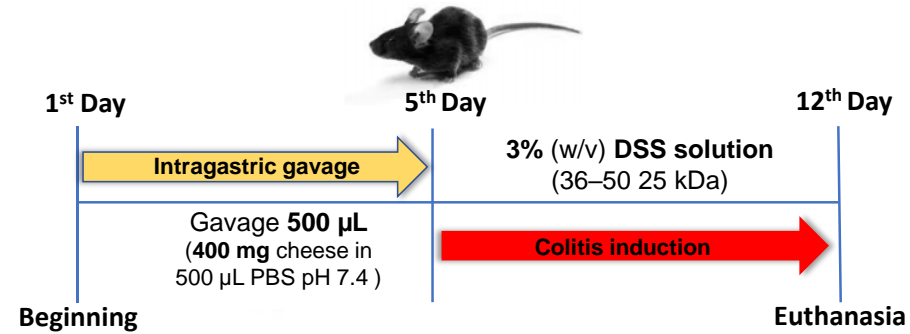
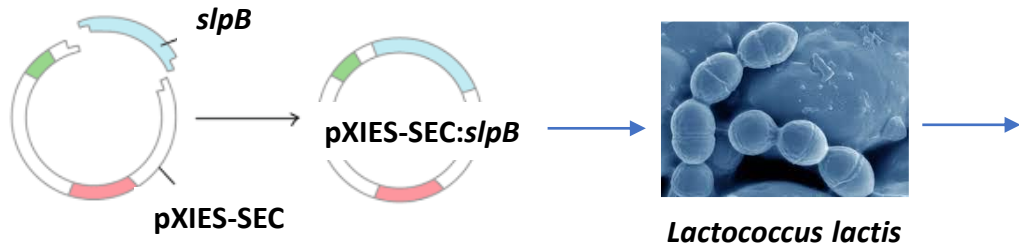
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# ➤ If we express SlpB in *Lactococcus lactis*: colitis challenge

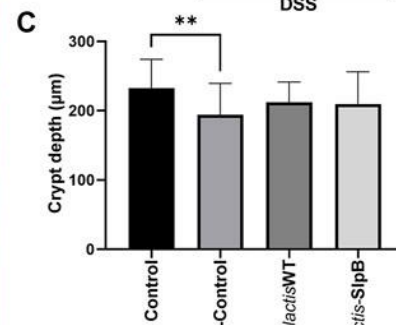
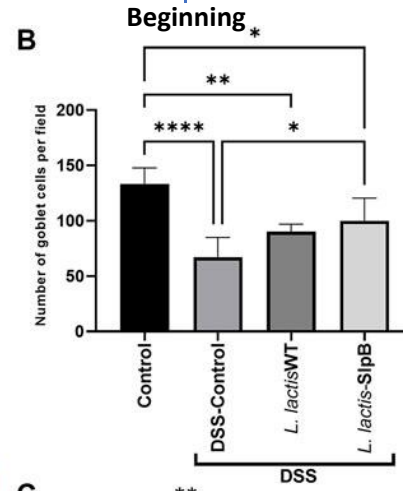
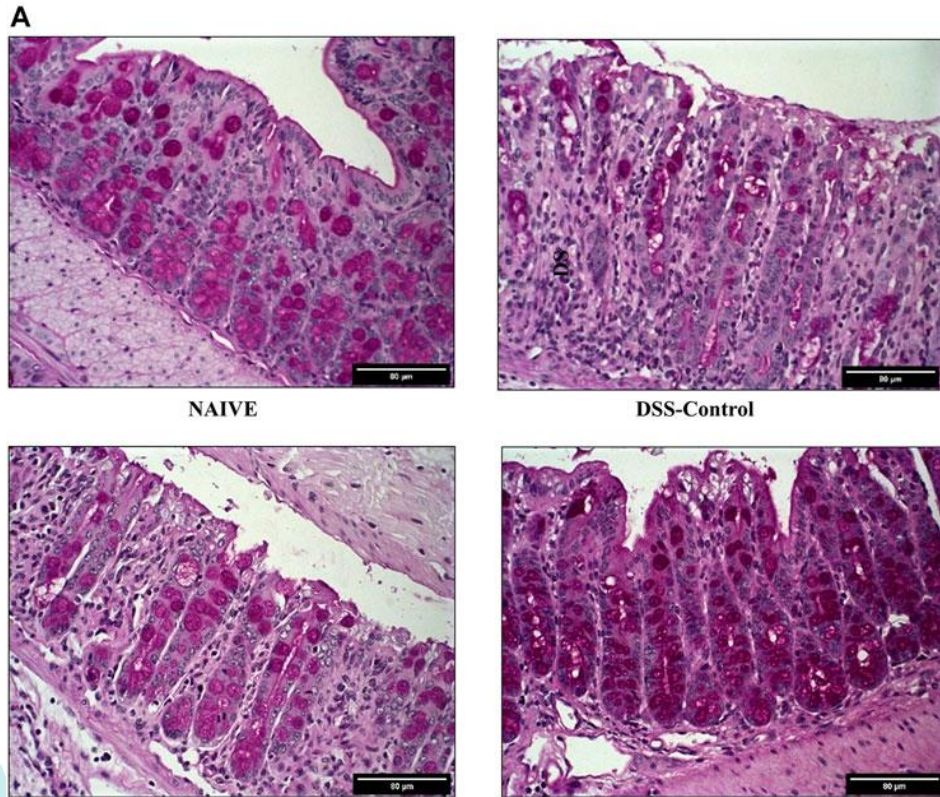
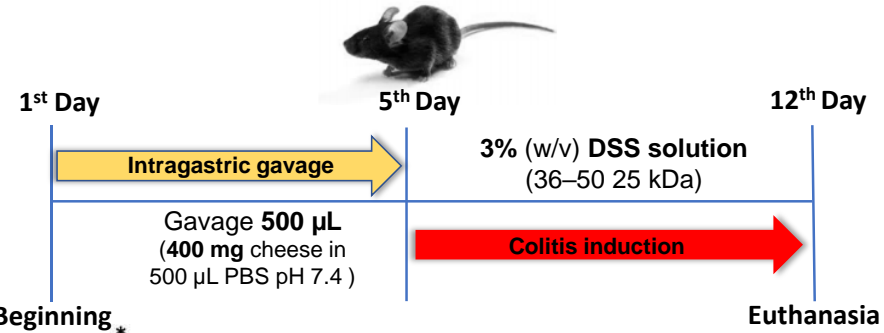


➤ SlpB expression provides *L. lactis* with enhanced anti-inflammatory properties





# ➤ If we express SlpB in *Lactococcus lactis*: colitis



➤ **SlpB expression protects from mucus and goblet cells depletion**

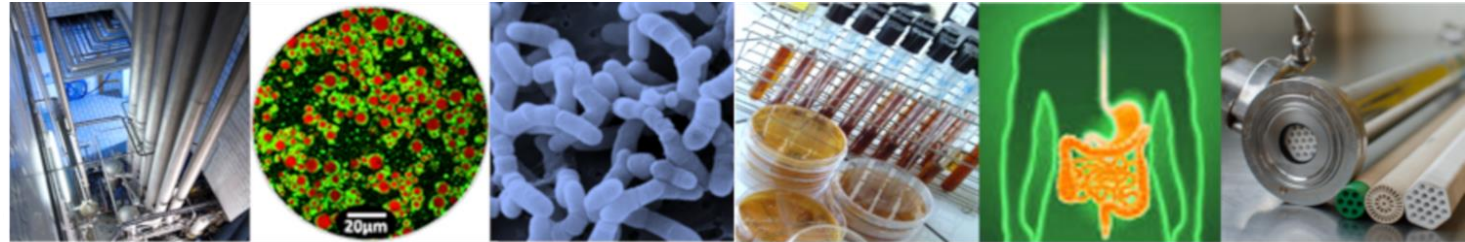
Do Carmo et.al., 2021, *Front. Pharmacol.* SlpB Protein Enhances the Probiotic Potential of *L. lactis* NCDO 2118 in Colitis Mice Model



Filipe Luiz Carmo  
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## ➤ Take-home messages



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Propionibacteria, Inflammation & SlpB

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- **Propionibacteria: strain-dependent immunomodulatory properties**
- **Anti-inflammatory effect of propionibacteria-containing cheese in different models of inflammatory diseases**
- **Surface layer protein SlpB plays a key role in this interaction**
- **This can be transferred to another bacterium via heterologous expression**



I ♥ Γραβιέρα Κρήτης

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➤ Thank you for your attention

I ♥ Emmental

