

## Review article

## Probiotics, their prophylactic and therapeutic applications in human health development: A review of the literature

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## ABSTRACT

Antibiotics do not differentiate between good and bad germs, disrupting normal microflora and causing vitamin deficiency in the human body. They also kill healthy bacteria in the gut and genital tract on a large scale, weakening the host's defense mechanism. Probiotics are a colony of bacteria that live in our intestines and are regarded as a metabolic 'organ' due to their beneficial effects on human health, including metabolism and immunological function. They are used in clinical settings to prevent and treat conditions such as diarrhoea, colon cancer, hypertension, diabetes, acute pancreatitis, *Helicobacter pylori* infection, ventilator-associated pneumonia, migraine and autism. Probiotics may modify immunological activity by increasing innate and adaptive immune responses, altering microbial habitat in the intestine, improving gut barrier function, competitive adherence to the mucosa and epithelium, and producing antimicrobial compounds. The aim of this study is to index that further in depth researches to be conducted on probiotics pivotal role in the prophylaxis and therapeutic usage for a variety of disease that may or may not have treatment alternatives. Key words such as probiotics, microbiota, prophylactics, and therapeutic applications were searched extensively in research databases such as PubMed, PubMed Central (PMC), Scopus, Web of Science, Research Gate, Google Scholar, and Cochrane Library. This concise narrative review article summarized primarily the history, selection, mechanism/mode of action, recent advances in prophylactic and therapeutic applications, and future directions in the use of probiotics for prophylactic and therapeutic applications.

## 1. Introduction to probiotics

Antibiotics are used to treat a wide spectrum of potentially fatal bacterial infections, both prophylactically and curatively [1]. Antibiotics have been exposed to a vast portion of the world's population, either directly or indirectly, due to their importance. Antibiotic medication, on the other hand, is linked to: 1) severe side effects; 2) it fails to distinguish between good and harmful microorganisms, disrupting normal microflora and resulting in vitamin shortage in the human body (Vitamin B, Vitamin K, and so on) [2]. Antibiotic usage on a large scale indiscriminately destroys normal gut and genital tract bacteria, impairing the host's defence mechanisms. Researchers from all around the world are looking for an alternative supply as a result of these issues. Many recent studies have shown that altering the commensal microbiota can help prevent and treat a variety of gastrointestinal infections [1, 2, 3]. The human microbiota is a varied collection of microorganisms that live in the human gastrointestinal, respiratory, cutaneous, oral, and genitourinary tracts. It is estimated that the

microbiota weighs between 1-2 kg [4, 5]. After the surface area of the respiratory system, the gastro intestinal tract (GIT) has the second highest surface area [6]. The gut microbiota is formed during birth and is acquired naturally from the mother via vertical transmission (from the mother's birth canal) and the environment. The authors concluded that the GIT of a new-born is nearly sterile, in contrast to the microflora of adults. The style of delivery, cleanliness level, and mode of feeding, as well as the mother's flora, genetic factors, and medication use, all influence the microflora's proliferation after birth, which is influenced by the mother's flora, genetic factors, and medication use [6, 7]. The human gut microbiota has around 1000 phylotypes, according to recent research employing molecular methods. Anaerobes make up the majority of bacterial species (97%) [8]. The human gut microbiota has around 1000 phylotypes, according to recent research employing molecular methods. Anaerobes make up the majority of bacterial species (97%) [9, 10, 11, 12]. *Bacteroidetes* (*Porphyromonas*, *Prevotella*, *Bacteroides*), *Firmicutes* (*Ruminococcus*, *Clostridium*, *Lactobacillus*, and *Eubacteria*), and *Actinobacteria* (*Bifidobacterium*) make up the gut microbiome,

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with *Bifidobacterium* and Bactericides accounting for the majority of intestinal flora [13].

Microbial antagonism is a phenomena in which normal floras hinder pathogenic germs from colonizing and hence provide health advantages to the host. Competition between floras pushes harmful bacteria out of the intestines, improves levels of vital nutrients like short-chain fatty acids, vitamins, arginine, cysteine, and glutamine amino acids, growth factors, and antioxidants, and strengthens the immune system [14, 15, 16]. As a result, effective epithelial barrier-protective therapies against GIT discomfort and other implicated variables, such as mucosa-associated *E. coli*, must be created employing competitive probiotic bacteria-based dietary items. The microbe employed to regulate microorganisms should be nontoxic to the host and have no effect on the human gut's natural biome [14, 17]. Probiotics boost some types of micro flora in the intestine, but not the overall bacterial population. Probiotic antibacterial effect is linked to the production of organic acids, ethanol, hydrogen peroxide, or protein-containing components (bacteriocins) [18, 19]. Probiotics are the second most important immune defense system once antibiotics become ineffective owing to antibiotic resistance, according to the WHO. Microbial interference therapy is the name for this type of treatment [20]. In nutraceutical science, ingestible living microorganisms known as "probiotics" are valued for their capacity to provide customers with a variety of health benefits [21].

### 1.1. Flora imbalance

The defense mechanisms that defend the mammalian GIT from bacterial colonization are extremely complicated. Intestinal inflammation, which is caused by an imbalance in gut flora between pathogenic and commensal bacteria, causes the mucus layer to thin or disappear, allowing bacteria and their metabolites to pass through the mucus layer and invade intestinal epithelial cells, resulting in a reduction in intestinal mechanical barrier function [22]. Most mammals' GI tracts are colonized by two types of bacteria: 1) native microflora and 2) invasive pathogenic germs. Sustaining intestinal immunity and homeostasis requires a healthy gut microbiota. A shift in this equilibrium could have negative pathophysiological consequences [23].

### 1.2. History and definition

Probiotics are a type of bacteria that live in our intestines and are regarded a metabolic 'organ' because of their beneficial effects on human health, including metabolism and immunological function [24].

Microorganisms initially appeared on Earth 3.8 billion years ago, significantly earlier than the Homo genus, which appeared 2.5 million years ago in Africa. As a result, bacteria had a lot more time outside of humans to modify and adapt by inventing survival strategies that allowed them to survive in even the most hostile situations [10]. The use of live microorganisms in food, particularly bacteria that produce lactic acid, has a long history of maintaining and improving human health. Fermented dairy foods were employed to keep ancient civilizations healthy, such as the Greeks and Romans. In 76 BC, a Roman historian advised using milk fermentation products to cure gastroenteritis. Microorganisms in fermented foods and their impact on human health, on the other hand, have just recently been researched [19, 25]. In fact, probiotics have a modern history that dates back to the early 1900s. Louis Pasteur found the microorganisms that cause fermentation, whereas Metchnikoff initially sought to determine the microbes' potential impact on human health. He linked Bulgarian rural people's longer lives to the fact that they live longer [26].

### 1.3. Selection criteria and minimal requirement of probiotics

Probiotic strains for food applications should ideally come from humans, be acid and bile tolerant, adhere to GIT linings, compete with

pathogenic bacteria, and have a safe dosage for human use [16]. Probiotics selection criteria includes; 1) benefit the host, 2) survive transit through the intestines, 3) cling to the intestinal epithelial cell membrane, 4) create antibiotic substances against infections, and 5) stabilize the intestinal microflora [17].

### 1.4. Minimal requirement of probiotics

1) The microorganisms must be given alive and in large enough quantities; 2) The strains must be genetically identified, assigned letters, numbers or names, and categorised according to current nomenclature. 3) Appropriately sized and organized experiments must be performed to designate a strain as a probiotics, as well as the strain(s) being used on the host (like human, livestock, companion animal, etc.) for which probiotics are intended; 4) It's possible that strains that have been shown to help with one ailment won't help with another; 5) Throughout the testing procedure, human probiotic strains used in animal studies should be labelled as such [27]. Despite their beneficial use for a variety of diseases, research on probiotics is limited. The goal of this study is to indicate that more in-depth research on probiotics pivotal role in prophylaxis and therapeutic usage for a variety of diseases that may or may not have treatment alternatives. This paper attempts to review the definition of probiotics, the history of probiotics, the mechanism of probiotic action, and the description of prophylactic and therapeutic effects on selected areas of human disease by using a consortium of beneficial bacterial species that can easily adapt to and tolerate the human gut environment and impart health benefits.

## 2. Mechanism of probiotics action

Apart from their beneficial benefits, probiotics' mode of action has been loosely defined as improving the host's "microbial balance" or the ambient environment's balance, although molecular mechanisms are rarely examined further because there are so many alternative processes described for them. They protect epithelial membranes from harmful microorganisms by passing through the stomach and mucous membranes when consumed orally. Probiotic bacteria like *Bifidobacterium* and *Lactobacillus* which create acids like lactic acid, propionic acid, and acetic acid, which lower pH and inhibit harmful bacteria from growing. Their role in immunomodulation has also been hypothesized as a mechanism of action [16, 17, 28]. *Lactobacillus* contains 261 species (as of March 2020) that are extremely diverse on phenotypic, ecological, and genotypic levels. Because the genus *Lactobacillus* was reclassified into 25 genera, including the emended genus *Lactobacillus*, the new names for important probiotics were mentioned in the manuscript [29].

Antimicrobial compounds produced by probiotics target infections, limit adhesion sites, compete for nutrients, destroy toxin receptors, and modulate immunity. The theorized mechanism of probiotic action is summarized here: 1) Preventing harmful germs from adhering to the intestinal epithelium 2) Pathogenic bacteria are inhibited from growing by binding to gram-negative bacteria. 3) Maintaining normal short-chain fatty acid levels (SCFAs). 4) Colonocyte multiplication to repair intestinal permeability. 5) Increased electrolyte absorption in the intestine. 6) Improving the immunological response in the intestine. 7) Lipid metabolism regulation. 8) Intestinal pro-inflammatory cytokines are suppressed [11, 17, 19, 30, 31].

## 3. Clinical application of probiotics

Probiotics can help with a number of acute and chronic infectious disorders, in addition to stomach problems as shown in the Figure 1 [32]. Many factors can weaken the body's resistance, resulting in inflammatory, viral, neoplastic, and degenerative diseases. Other treatments, like as antibiotics, irradiation, and immunosuppressive therapy, may alter the usual flora makeup of the stomach. The goal of functional food products

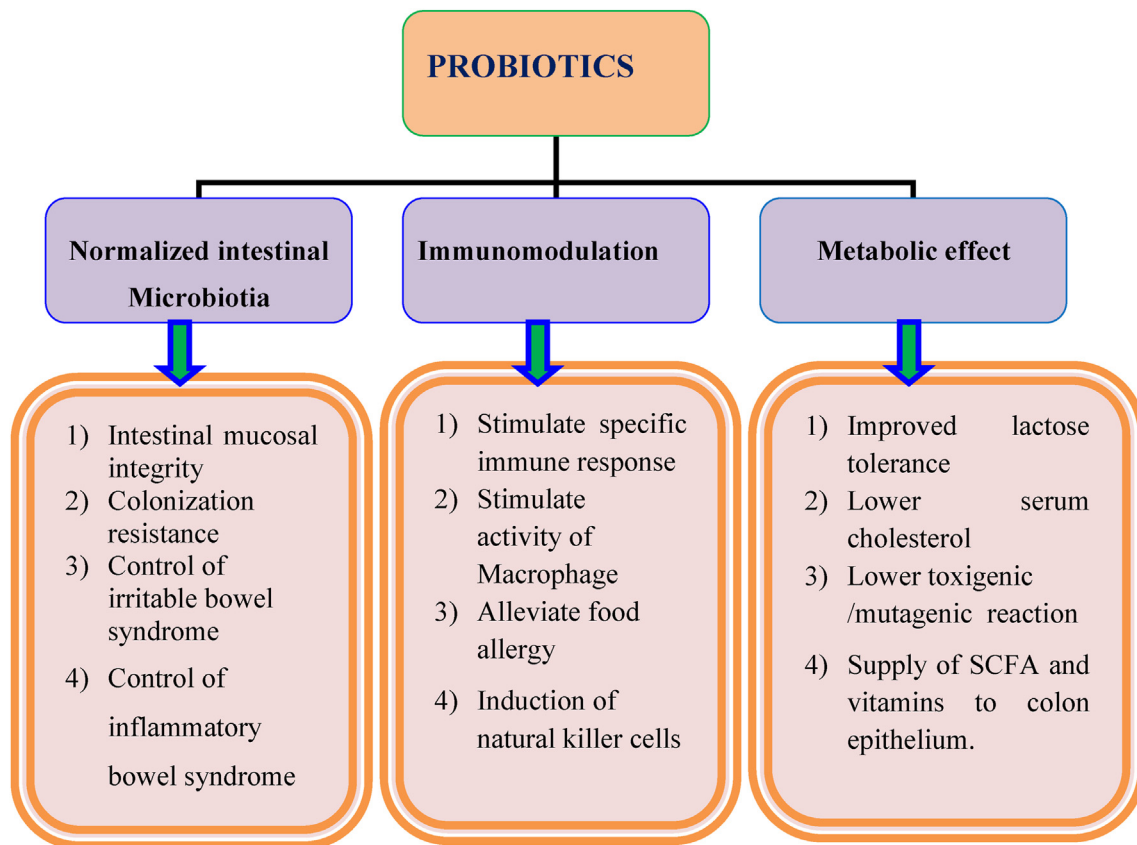


Figure 1. Schematic representation of various roles of probiotics [33].

like probiotics is to improve cellular well-being and accelerate the implementation of cells' natural defense mechanisms [18].

Several studies have looked into the effects of probiotics on human disease, diseases, mood, behaviours, and performance. Pharmacological therapy, dietary intervention, and the use of alternative substances like probiotics should all be incorporated in the treatment plan, according to the authors. Probiotics are known to have immune-modulatory effects on the host, making them a promising therapeutic and preventive option for a variety of illnesses, including inflammatory disease. Consumption of probiotics in the form of powder, capsules, and drinks helps to restore the beneficial microflora in the gut, which benefits humans by boosting their immune systems [2, 14, 34, 35].

#### 4. Prophylaxis uses of probiotics

##### 4.1. *Clostridium difficile* colitis infection in hospitalized patients

*Clostridium difficile* colitis is an opportunistic infection caused by antibiotic-induced changes in the normal gut flora. The most usually associated antibiotics include clindamycin, fluoroquinolones, broad-spectrum penicillin, and cephalosporin. *Clostridium difficile* colitis infection is a condition that ranges in severity, with the most severe instances requiring admission to an intensive care unit and being deadly. Probiotics are living non-pathogenic bacteria that colonize the gastrointestinal system and create a lytic peptide that inhibits *Clostridium difficile* toxin activity. *Saccharomyces boulardii* produces a protease that inhibits *Clostridium difficile* toxin activity [36].

##### 4.2. Probiotics prevent postoperative infections

The microbiome is now known to influence a wide range of pathologic and normal processes, and manipulating it may improve patient

outcomes while also providing host health advantages. The goal of prophylactic probiotics is to keep "good" bacteria colonized in order to contend with *Clostridium difficile* overgrowth (CD). *Clostridium difficile* toxins A and B are able to be neutralized by some probiotics. Probiotics have protective properties, according to data from in vitro and preclinical experiments [37]. Physical injury to the intestinal mucosa, which causes disruption of the gut barrier and increased intestinal permeability, as well as microbial imbalance and decreased immunodeficiency in the postoperative patient, are the most common causes of bacterial translocation. Patients undergoing abdominal surgery for medical conditions such as biliary cancer surgery, pancreaticoduodenectomy, and liver transplantation are at risk for urinary tract infection (UTI), pneumonia, wound infection, intra-abdominal abscess, and cholangitis [38]. *Clostridium difficile* colitis rates are reduced when probiotics are given alongside antibiotics to adult patients with non-surgical infections. This is a promising infection-prevention strategy that could reduce morbidity, antibiotic therapy duration, hospital stay length, and the risk of antimicrobial resistance emergence [37, 38].

##### 4.3. Probiotics in very low birth weight infants

The leading causes of neonatal morbidity and mortality in new-borns with very low birth weight (VLBW) are nosocomial infection and necrotizing enterocolitis. Endogenous host factors such as gestational age and immune response immaturity have been hypothesized as part of a complicated etiology for both diseases. Furthermore, environmental factors such as enteral nutrition and exposure to an endemic hospital environment are important because they influence abnormal gastrointestinal colonization and entero-pathogenic bacteria translocation via vulnerable intestinal mucosa [39, 40]. The prevention of necrotizing enterocolitis surgery, any abdominal surgery, and all-cause death was associated to the usage of *Lactobacillus acidophilus*/*Bifidobacterium infantis*

probiotics. Cross-talk between the developing immune system and gut microbes may be the source of probiotics [40].

#### 4.4. Prophylactic intervention of probiotics in cancer (carcinogenesis)

Colorectal cancer patients had greater populations of *Bacteroides* and *Prevotella*, whereas people with colorectal adenoma had higher populations of *Dorea spp.* and faecal bacteria spp. in their colonic microbiota. These species have the potential to create carcinogens and tumor-promoting compounds such heterocyclic amines and bile acids [33, 41, 42]. Not only do probiotic strains prevent infections, but some of them also have anticancer properties in rodents and people [43]. Probiotic bacteria have been proven to have an important function in immunomodulation and have anticancer effects in the future. Bacterial strains may be involved in the detection and degradation of possible carcinogens, as well as the synthesis of short-chain fatty acids, which regulate cell death and proliferation and are known as immune system signalling molecules. Heat-killed probiotic bacteria combined with radiation showed a positive effect on improving cancer cell immunological recognition [44]. *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium* are two of the most common probiotic bacteria found in lactic acid bacteria (LAB), and studies have demonstrated that both strains can mediate anticancer responses. This is due to the fact that lactic acid cultures can alter the activity of faecal enzymes such alpha-glucuronidase, azoreductase, and nitroreductase, all of which have a role in the development of colon cancer [41]. The researchers discovered that giving colorectal cancer patients a symbiotic combination of *Lactocaseibacillus rhamnosus GG*, *Bifidobacterium lactis Bb12*, and oligofructose-enriched inulin for 12 weeks resulted in favorable changes in the gut microbiome, with high levels of lactobacilli and bifidobacteria and low levels of *Clostridium perfringens*. Multiple studies have demonstrated that *Lactocasei bacilli casei* improves the immune-responsive activities of T cells, macrophages, natural killer cells, and T cells in the fight against cancer. It has also been demonstrated to reduce the side effects of radiotherapy and chemotherapy in the treatment of colorectal cancer [33].

The exact methods through which probiotics may suppress cancer are still being researched. unknown [45, 46]. However, such pathways could include the complex connection between nutrition, gut flora, and host energy metabolism, which causes a number of impacts [46], specifically, 1) carcinogen neutralization; 2) through increasing mucin, defensins, and immunoglobulin A (IgA) synthesis and altering pro-inflammatory cytokine and chemokine responses, contribute in the repair of the intestinal barrier and enhancement of its function; 3) Vitamin and short-chain fatty acid (SCFA) synthesis, as well as nutrition and growth signals for the intestinal epithelium, which may aid in the prevention of colon and other cancers; 4) increased production of cytokines (IL-2 and IL-12), antioxidants, and anti-angiogenic factors; 5) lower intestinal pH; 6) modulation and enhancement of the host's innate and adaptive immune responses by secreting anti-inflammatory molecules and influencing the helper T-cell response and regulation; Antiproliferative effects via apoptosis and cell differentiation regulation; 7) blockade of immunological checkpoint; 8) intestinal microflora modulation; 9) Controlling apoptosis and cell differentiation that result in antiproliferative effects; 10) inhibition tyrosine kinase and [47, 48] other signalling pathways; and 11) Conversion of linoleic acid to conjugated linoleic acid (CLA), an anti-inflammatory polyunsaturated fatty acid that aids in cancer cell viability reduction and apoptosis induction [49, 50, 51].

In response to *Lactobacillus*, some biological factors increased, such as cytokines, interleukins (IL-2, IL-12), antioxidants (SOD, CAT, GSH), indigenous microbial flora, interferons (IFN-), and immune cells (TH cells, NK cells), while others decreased, such as DNA damage, pathogens, inflammation, ulcers, tumor size, cancer specific proteins, polyamine contents, and pro-carcinogenic enzymes Figure 2 [42].

It was discovered that giving rats a combination of probiotics and celecoxib one week before inducing colorectal cancer reduced the expression of the proto-oncogene K-ras while increasing the expression of

the tumor suppressor p53, which supports previous findings. This could be owing to the combined impact of probiotics and celecoxib as shown in Figure 3, which could have inhibited cell growth by activating tumor suppressor genes while preserving cell activity and cell cycle. A combination of therapies like this could have helped to maintain gut integrity and increase immune response, resulting in reduced DNA damage [52]. Celecoxib's anti-inflammatory properties resulted in fewer colonic tumours due to down-regulation of K-ras and up-regulation of p53, which can directly induce Bax-mediated apoptosis [52, 53, 54].

- (a) DNA methylation induced by differential methylation hybridization (DMH) activates the Wnt pathway, which is accelerated by the overexpression of pro-inflammatory markers. Furthermore, carcinogenesis is caused by the presence of harmful bacteria, the production of toxic metabolites, and a reduction in pro-apoptotic markers.
- (b) Probiotics and celecoxib administration modulates the Wnt signaling pathway and improves the gut microbiome, potentially leading to reduced inflammation and increased apoptotic markers, thus preventing carcinogenesis [52].

#### 4.5. Probiotics and enteral nutrition in acute pancreatitis

The infection of necrotic pancreatic tissue is thought to be caused by bacterial translocation from the intestines, which is preceded by three pathophysiological processes: 1) Bacterial overgrowth in the small intestine due to reduced bowel motility, 2) Local mucosal and systemic immune system failure, and 3) Increased intestinal permeability, resulting in bacterial translocation to other organs, such as the pancreas. Reduced bacterial translocation may reduce the rate of subsequent infection, as well as mortality and morbidity, in pancreatic necrosis. One of the features of acute pancreatitis pathogenesis is bacterial translocation from the stomach to necrotic pancreatic tissue [55]. Bacterial translocation and pancreatic necrosis late infection are likely to be prevented in humans with prophylactic antibiotics, enteral nutrition, or probiotics. Pre-treatments with probiotics have been shown to maintain intestinal barrier function in a mouse model of acute pancreatitis, even in severe pancreatitis, whereas treatment with probiotics after pancreatitis induction did not. As a result, probiotic delivery timing is crucial to their effectiveness. Although there has only been evidence of a link between the timing of probiotic administration and the onset of pancreatitis in animal models, it is possible that the same is true in humans [55, 56].

#### 4.6. Late-onset sepsis in preterm infants

Gram-negative bacteria are less frequent than Gram-positive bacteria to cause Late-onset sepsis (LOS), but they are associated with a more severe clinical presentation, higher mortality, and a greater risk of neonatal morbidity. Sepsis can be caused by a low birth weight, being born prematurely, or being admitted to an intensive care unit. Premature babies pick up colonizing germs in the intensive care unit. Antibiotic use after delivery and lengthy hospitalization diminish the microbiome's microbial diversity [56, 57]. Colonization with commensals may improve in this population at risk for LOS after therapy with oral probiotics. The effect of probiotics is also influenced by the strain, dosage, and intended use. A randomized control trial employing a probiotic combination of *Bifidobacterium infantis*, *Streptococcus thermophiles*, and *Bifidobacterium lactis* recently published revealed a substantial reduction in LOS in the preterm subgroup of 28–31 weeks gestation [56].

#### 4.7. Necrotizing enterocolitis in preterm infants

Necrotizing enterocolitis is one of the primary causes of neonatal mortality (at least 20–30%) and morbidity among very-low-birth-weight (VLBW) infants (defined as those weighing fewer than 1,500 g at birth) (1.5KG). In premature neonates, gut colonization with probiotic

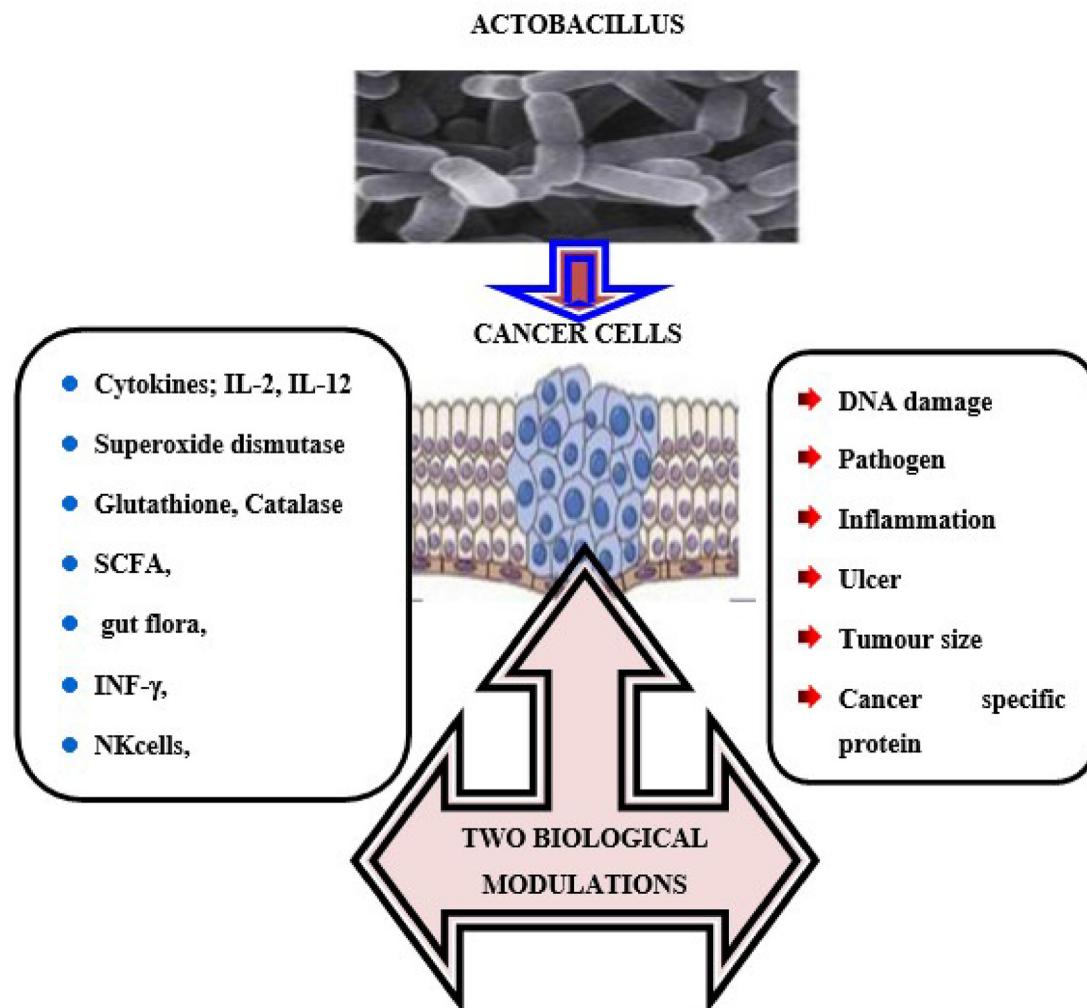


Figure 2. Lactobacillus triggered biological changes in cancer cells [42].

organisms such as *bifidobacteria* and *lactobacilli* is low and usually delayed; there may be a shift to potentially hazardous bacteria as a result of cesarean birth, delayed nursing, or postnatal antibiotic treatment [58]. Enteral supplementation of probiotics prevents severe Necrotizing enterocolitis and all-cause mortality in preterm infants [59]. Prophylactic enteral probiotics (live microbial supplements) may help to reduce Necrotizing enterocolitis and its associated morbidity by slowing bacterial migration across the mucosa, competitive exclusion of dangerous bacteria, and improving the host's immune responses. *Lactobacillus acidophilus* and *Bifidobacterium infantis*-containing probiotics have been linked to a lower risk of Necrotizing enterocolitis surgery, any abdominal surgery, and all-cause death [39, 60]. Probiotics are hypothesized to help beneficial microbial flora colonize the gut, prevent pathogen colonization, increase the maturity and function of the gut mucosal barrier, and affect the immune system. Probiotics are often administered for two weeks, beginning on the first day of life in new-borns who are not on antibiotics or after antibiotic therapy has been stopped [58, 59, 60].

#### 4.8. Ventilator associated pneumonia

The most prevalent infection in the intensive care unit (ICU) is ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP), which is linked to a high rate of morbidity and mortality. Probiotics have lately emerged as a new weapon in the fight against VAP. By improving intestinal barrier function, increasing host cell antimicrobial peptides, regulating the composition of

the intestinal flora, and reducing pathogenic bacteria overgrowth and bacterial translocation through local and systemic actions, probiotic bacteria are thought to reduce the development of VAP. Probiotics have also been demonstrated to be safe and effective in the prevention and treatment of VAP in ICU patients in various trials [61, 62, 63].

#### 5. Therapeutic use of probiotics

The biggest therapeutic effects of probiotics are defined by their direct or indirect action on the gastrointestinal tract (GIT). This is owing to the fact that probiotic micro flora are effective not only because of their activity and contact with the micro flora of the host cell mucous membranes, but also because they are taken orally. However, because not all probiotic microorganisms are prevalent in the human gut flora, the advantages of one species may not apply to others [24].

##### 5.1. Therapeutic effect of probiotics on helicobacter pylori eradication

The gram-negative, flagellated bacteria *Helicobacter pylori* is typically found on the luminal surface of the stomach epithelium. Because of severe side effects and changes in natural flora, the efficacy of standard triple therapy (STT) in treating *Helicobacter pylori* infection has declined [64]. Probiotics improve immune-regulation functions, which operate as an antidote to *Helicobacter pylori* infection, and hence inhibit *Helicobacter pylori* infection. Probiotics are beneficial to human health and can be used

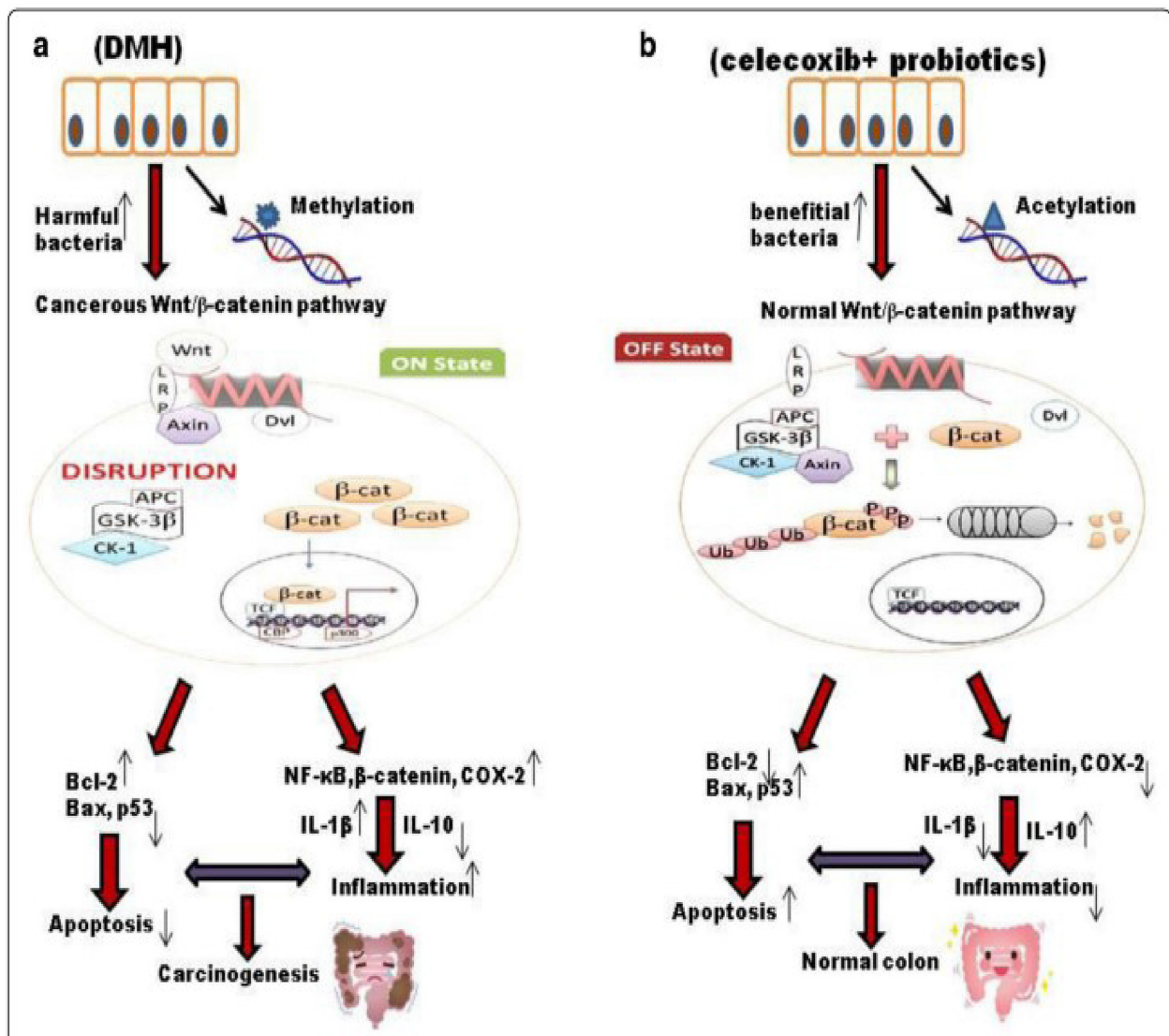


Figure 3. A diagrammatic illustration of colorectal cancer incidences [52].

as a supplement to help enhance *Helicobacter pylori* eradication rates, reduce treatment-related side effects, and reduce *Helicobacter pylori*-related gastrointestinal inflammation. However, contradictory test results have made it difficult to make conclusions about probiotics' capacity to treat *Helicobacter pylori* [4, 24, 65]. *Lactobacillus* may be more effective at eradicating *Helicobacter pylori* than other probiotics. The efficacy of probiotics in treating *Helicobacter pylori* has been attributed to several factors. Probiotic microorganisms, for example, can affect *Helicobacter pylori* activity both immunologically and non-immunologically ways. They may also have direct bacteriostatic or bactericidal effects, lower cytokine production, boost the gastric defense system, interact with the host's innate immune system, and have direct bacteriostatic or bactericidal effects [64]. By altering *L. lactis* to produce *Helicobacter pylori* lipoprotein Lpp20, Zhang et al. developed a vaccine against *Helicobacter pylori*. This customized probiotic elicited an immune response in animals when tested in vivo. In another experiment, *Bacillus subtilis* spores were engineered to express the *Helicobacter pylori* urease B protein on the surface [4, 24].

### 5.2. Therapeutic effect of probiotics in autoimmune and inflammatory disorders

Molecular mimicry, self-antigen modification, bystander activation, and immune reactivity modulation are thought to be the four pathways

that cause autoimmune disease. Probiotics are used to treat autoimmune diseases such systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA) Celiac and Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, multiple sclerosis, Sjogren's syndrome, systemic sclerosis, antiphospholipid syndrome, myasthenia gravis, and type 1 diabetes [10].

In mechanistic studies of probiotics, there have been at least 4 metabolic processes implicated, implying that the microbial-immune system interaction has been connected to: 1) Production and signalling of short-chain fatty acids, 2) Tryptophan metabolism and aryl hydrocarbon receptor activation, 3) Nucleoside signalling in the gut, and 4) Activation of the Intestinal Histamine-2 Receptor. In rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis, and multiple sclerosis, microbial alteration by probiotics has been found to alleviate gastrointestinal symptoms and multi-organ inflammation in several randomized controlled trials [14, 66]. Probiotics may improve a person's health by regulating their immune function [67].

### 5.3. Therapeutic effect of probiotic use in the management of hypertension

Hypertension (HTN) has emerged as a major risk factor for cardiovascular, cerebrovascular, and renal illness around the world. In the development of hypertension, certain gut microbial strains may have a pathogenic or protective function. Dysbiosis of the gut microbiota has

been linked to HTN progression in animal models and humans, according to recent research [68].

Probiotics work primarily by lowering luminal pH, secreting antimicrobial peptides, inhibiting bacterial invasion, blocking bacterial adhesion to epithelial cells through increased expression of Mucin (MUC2) and Mucin (MUC3) intestinal mucins, enhancing mucous secretion, activating cytokine cascades and immune modulation, and inhibiting (reducing) the concentrations of myeloperoxidase, tumour necrosis factor alpha, nuclear factor kappa B. Probiotics help improve the integrity of the gastrointestinal (GI) barrier by tightening the mucosal barrier and upregulating growth factors and receptor sites. Through the synthesis of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and benzoic acid, which block many pathogenic, acid-sensitive bacteria, probiotics promote the proliferation of non-pathogenic commensal bacteria. SCFAs have anti-inflammatory properties in both colony epithelial cells and immune cells [20]. As shown in Figure 4, fermented milk is a functional drink that aids in the reduction of HTN levels. In recent years, the potential of probiotics to lower blood pressure has been connected to the production of bioactive peptides during the fermentation process, such as angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitory peptides, which have a hypotensive effect similar to that of ACE-inhibitor drugs. Aoyagi et al. discovered two tri-peptides that inhibit ACE in sour milk fermented with *L. helveticus* and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* bacteria: 1) isoleucyl-prolyl-proline (Ile-Pro-Pro) and 2) valyl-prolyl-proline (Valyl-Prolyl-Proline) (Val-Pro-Pro). According to research, consuming fermented milk products containing *L. casei* strain Shirota (LcS) at least three times per week significantly reduces the risk of developing HTN. The antihypertensive effects of *L. casei* are due to the polysaccharide component (SG1-polysaccharide-glycopeptide complex), which promotes prostaglandin I<sub>2</sub> production and decreases peripheral vascular resistance [5].

#### 5.4. The therapeutic use of probiotics to treat inflammatory bowel disease

Inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), which includes Crohn's disease (CD) and ulcerative colitis (UC), is defined by chronic gut mucosa inflammation, disturbance of the gut barrier function, and a dysbiotic microbiota, all of which often emerge as chronic gastrointestinal mucosa inflammation [31]. Irritable bowel syndrome is a prevalent gastrointestinal disorder that affects the quality of life of millions of people

worldwide while also putting a load on healthcare systems. Inflammatory bowel disease patients were found to have a greater permeability defect in their stomach than healthy controls. Lymphocytic proliferation and the production of inflammatory cytokines were shown to be inhibited when lymphocytes consumed customized elimination diets [69, 70].

Researchers recently proposed two possibilities for the role of bacteria in the etiology of Inflammatory Bowel disease (IBD). First, there's a problem with the immune system's response to microorganisms in the natural flora of the intestine. Second, changes in the gut microbiota or a breakdown of the mucosal barrier that results in detrimental immune responses against the mucosa may have a role in the etiology of IBD. Drugs, dietary changes, and the use of alternative substances such as probiotics should all be part of the plan [14, 71].

The generation of pro-inflammatory cytokines is inhibited by fermented milk containing *Lactobacillus paracasei* L74 CBA. Because it has the ability to prevent the activation of the NF-κB, *Streptococcus salivarius* possesses anti-inflammatory properties. *Lactobacillus salivarius* requires Nucleotide Binding Oligomerization (NOD2) receptors to demonstrate protective benefits, which were also linked to local synthesis of IL-10, which has anti-inflammatory qualities, according to Fernandez et al. In a model of colitis, Duary et al. found that using the probiotic strain *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* Lp91 reduced the levels of tumour necrosis factor (TNF) and cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) and raised IL-10 expression. For example, probiotic lactic acid bacteria (the most common microorganisms used as probiotics) releasing large amounts of antioxidant enzymes could help minimize oxidative damage, which is useful in the treatment of inflammatory bowel disease. Patients with inflammatory bowel disease who consume probiotic yogurt may enhance intestinal function by increasing the quantity of probiotic bacteria in the gut and colon [14].

Antibiotic-associated diarrhoea is the most prevalent side effect of antimicrobial therapy. Broad-spectrum antibiotics such amino-penicillin, cephalosporin, and clindamycin are highly related with antibiotic-associated diarrhoea. Antibiotic use is thought to disturb the natural enteric microbiota, resulting in a decrease in native microorganisms in the gastrointestinal system. When the number of these symbiotic bacteria is diminished, the host suffers in a variety of ways [2, 72, 73]. Probiotics have been demonstrated to be effective in the treatment of acute infectious diarrhoea and antibiotic-associated diarrhoea, as well as the prevention of

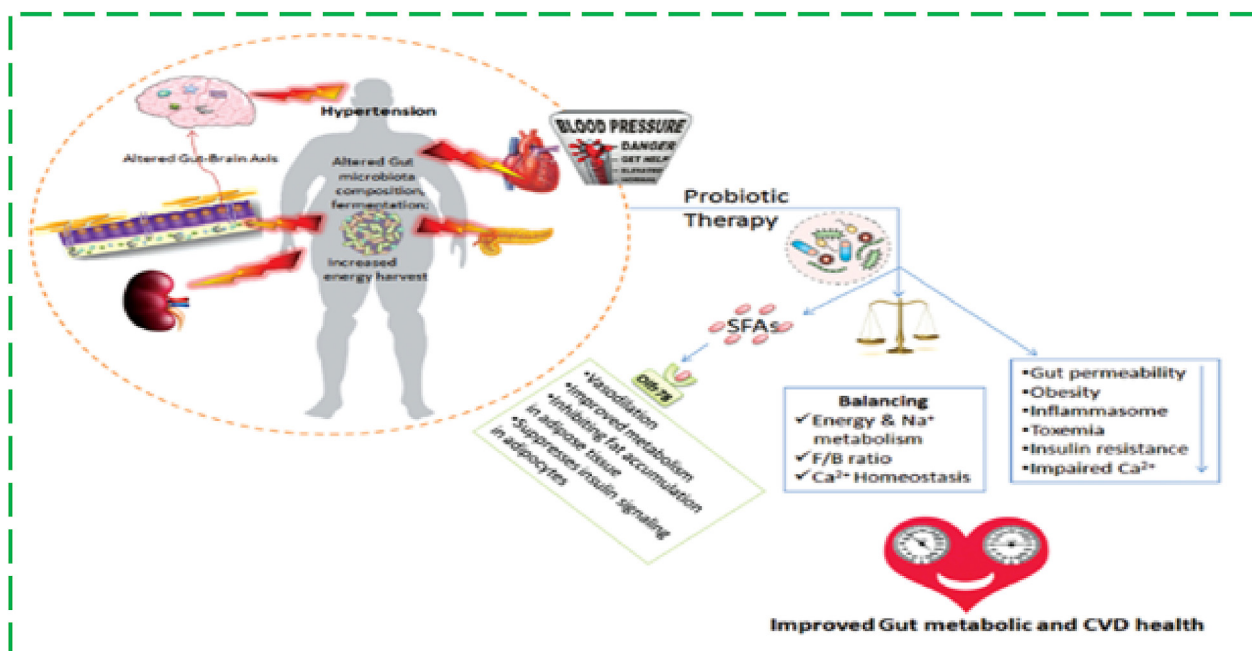


Figure 4. Probiotics use in the management of hypertension [20].

traveller's diarrhoea [74–75]. Repair of the gut microbiota, tissue architectural recovery, and reduction of systemic inflammation were all assisted by probiotic therapy for a long time, but rather than by probiotic therapy for a brief period of time. After probiotic therapy for a long time, all of the major faecal bacteria returned to normal levels, as did IL-10, IFN- $\gamma$ , and TNF- $\alpha$ . However, the effectiveness of antibiotic-associated diarrhoea probiotics was strain-specific and time-dependent as shown in Figure 5

#### 5.6. The therapeutic use of probiotics oral candidiasis colonization in denture wearers

The usage of dentures increases the risk of developing *Candida* sp.-related diseases like angular cheilitis and Down syndrome (DS). In all clinical scenarios, local variables such as insufficient occlusal vertical dimension (OVD), trauma caused by an ill-fitting denture, poor denture hygiene, and systemic illnesses and immune system deficiencies are commonly linked to the *Candida* infection. *Lactocaseibacillus rhamnosus*, *Limosilactobacillus reuteri*, and other *Lactobacillus* strains have been shown to reduce *Candida* levels in the mouth in investigations [76].

Ishikawa et al indicated that treating *Candida*-associated stomatitis with a probiotic product containing *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Lactobacillus bulgaricus*, and *Streptococcus thermophilus* combined with oral local antifungal medications (nystatin) was more effective than usual therapy. The probiotic product was effective in lowering *Candida* colonization of the oral cavity in candidiasis-asymptomatic senior denture wearers, suggesting that this multispecies probiotic could be used to prevent oral candidiasis. *Candida* colonization of the oral surface is thought to increase the risk of invasive fungal infections. *Candida* infections in senior denture users could be treated with a preparation containing *Lactocaseibacillus*

*rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, and *Bifidum* spp. [77]. Because of their potential to boost the immune system, probiotics can reduce opportunistic infections [78].

#### 5.7. The therapeutic use of probiotics in autism spectrum disorder

A probable link between autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and gut bacteria has been discovered in studies [79, 80]. Psychobiotics are a novel type of probiotic that refers to live organisms that have positive impacts on mental health. Probiotics work by adjusting the makeup and/or activity of the gut microbiota through a range of processes, such as bacteriocins and metabolites like lactic, propionic, and acetic acids [79]. Furthermore, recent research has shown that probiotic treatment can help people with ASD by modulating the microbiota–gut–brain axis [81]. By fostering "leaky gut" healing, probiotics may help with ASD rehabilitation by maintaining or improving gut barrier integrity [80]. Probiotics can down regulate gut and CNS inflammatory pathways in species and strain-specific ways by promoting the development of regulatory T cells, lowering LPS levels, providing tolerogenic signals, and raising brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) [82]. Additionally, probiotic immunomodulation may occur by reducing the production of pro-inflammatory cytokines such as IL-12, TNF- $\alpha$ , and INF- $\alpha$ , while raising the expression of anti-inflammatory mediators such as IL-10 and transforming growth factor beta ( $\beta$ -TGF $\beta$ ). By reducing gut inflammation and decreasing dysregulated immunological activity, probiotic supplementation may be effective for treating both gut microbial and behavioral abnormalities in ASD [82, 83].

Finally, several probiotic strains, such as *Bifidobacterium* sp. (*Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium breve*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, and

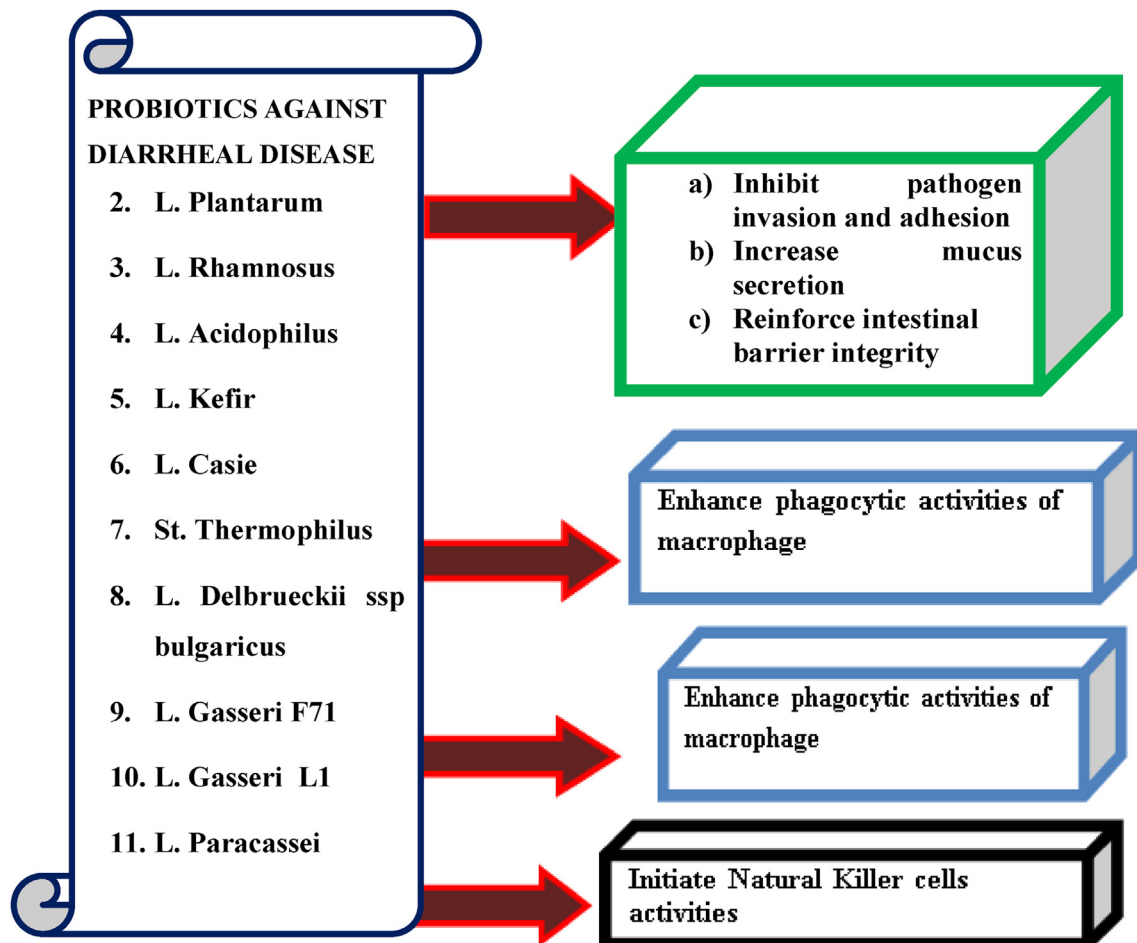


Figure 5. Probiotics and their possible mechanism of action in diarrhoea [2].



*Bifidobacterium bifidum*), *Lactobacillus* sp. (*L. acidophilus*, *L. helveticus*, *L. rhamnosus*, *L. plantarum*) may impact neurotransmission and emotional states via the vagus nerve-mediated Gut-Brain-Axis (GBA) [82].

### 5.8. The therapeutic use of probiotics on migraine

Several studies have showed that eliminating particular foods from one's diet can lower the frequency and intensity of migraine headaches. Food hypersensitivity may be indicated by a high level of food-specific immunoglobulin G (IgG). As a result, eating foods that are free of IgG may help to reduce migraine symptoms. Inflammation appears to play a role in migraine genesis, according to growing data. Probiotics may help to reduce migraine headaches by improving the function of the intestinal barrier via the gut-brain axis. Serotonin appears to be a key link in the brain-gut axis, according to several research. However, just 3% of a person's total serotonin is found in the central nervous system. The remainder is contained within the gut. The role of enteric bacteria in serotonin synthesis has been discovered. As a result, modifying the function of the intestine with the right probiotics could be a strategy to help migraine sufferers [70].

### 5.9. The therapeutic use of for treatment type 1 and type 2 diabetes

Diabetes is a group of metabolic illnesses in which blood sugar levels remain high for an extended period of time. Probiotics have become popular as dietary supplements among the general public and medical community due to their potential importance in promoting health, notably in the prevention and treatment of diabetes [84]. Probiotics are commonly used to alter the gut flora, which aids in the prevention of paediatric obesity and diabetes [85].

#### 5.9.1. Type 1 diabetes

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune illness defined by the destruction of pancreatic beta ( $\beta$ )-cells by the immune system. Type 1 diabetes is brought about by a combination of environmental influences and genetic predispositions. Increased autoantibodies against beta-cell antigens, as well as insulinitis (pancreatic inflammation), precede a decrease in insulin output and beta-cell death in type 1 diabetes [84, 86]. When probiotic strains were ingested, they were found to reduce pro-inflammatory cytokines like IL-6, IL-1, and TNF- $\alpha$  while increasing anti-inflammatory cytokines like TGF- $\beta$  and IL-10. As a result, probiotics could be able to help prevent type 1 diabetes [86]. Calcinario et al. looked into the impact of oral probiotic supplementation on the prevention of spontaneous autoimmune diabetes in non-obese diabetic mice. Finally, they discovered that an orally administered probiotic compound containing *Bifidobacteria* (*Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium infantis*, and *Bifidobacterium breve*) and *Lactobacilli* (*Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactocaseibacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus delbrueckii* subsp. *L. bulgaricus*, and *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum*) had antidiabetic activities. Furthermore, they have demonstrated that exposure to *L. plantarum* and *L. genus* can delay or prevent autoimmune diabetes in healthy individuals [84].

#### 5.9.2. Type 2 diabetes

Type 2 Diabetes (T<sub>2</sub>DM) is an epidemic; consider being a challenge to public health and economy due to its complications that lead to disability [87]. Obesity is hypothesized to be influenced by the gut microbiome, which affects energy extraction, inflammation, appetite and satiety, as well as lipid and glucose metabolism. T<sub>2</sub>DM has been linked to alterations in the gut microbiome. Short-chain fatty acids, amino acid derivatives, and secondary bile acids, which are produced by the gut microbiota, play a role in metabolic and immunologic processes, suggesting a relationship between the gut microbiota and glucose homeostasis [88, 89]. Overall, probiotics may improve gut integrity, decrease systemic levels of lipopolysaccharides (LPSs), increase Incretins, decrease endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress, and improve peripheral insulin sensitivity. Probiotics may also have anti-diabetic effects via improving

glucose tolerance, regulating lipid metabolism, increasing antioxidant status, and modifying gut flora and SCFA composition. Furthermore, probiotics diminish the inflammatory, autoimmune, and oxidative stress responses [90]. *Lactiplantibacillus plantarum* and *Bifidobacterium lactis* are probiotic bacteria that can help reduce the detrimental effects of high-fat meals and even modulate immune responses brought on by inflammatory illnesses. *Lactocaseibacillus rhamnosus*, when mixed with *Lactobacillus gasseri* and *Bifidobacterium lactis*, has been demonstrated to inhibit weight gain in humans, specifically fat tissue mass adiposity, which strengthens the efficacy of probiotics in diabetes [91, 92].

## 6. Recent advance

Although some recent studies have shown that probiotics can alter the composition of the gut microbiota, the mechanism behind this effect remains uncertain. Oral probiotics improved the disease state by 1) inducing regulatory T cell differentiation and function, 2) reducing inflammatory response, 3) modulating the gut environment, and 4) increasing the proportions of gut microbiota that produce short-chain fatty acids or beneficial metabolites, such as *Bifidobacterium*, *Faecalibacterium*, and *Akkermansia*, among others [93]. Because of the rapid speed of research in human microbiome science, innovative probiotics and prebiotics have become more important. The rules governing the launch of new probiotics and prebiotics differ depending on where you live [94]. So far, modern-day probiotics have been used to help with gastrointestinal issues. Recent advances in culturomics, such as the use of newer methods and gnotobiotic animal models, have created a fertile field for the development of novel host-specific probiotic medicines. While modern probiotics have a promising future, more stringent restrictions are required to develop genuine probiotic products and define innovative probiotics using cutting-edge research and technology [95].

### 6.1. Recent advance in engineering probiotics for treatment and prophylaxis

Advances in gut bacteria engineering for the development of novel therapeutic modalities aimed at rewiring host microbiome interactions such as host metabolism and immune systems for disease prevention and therapy [96]. According to Advances in Pharmaceutical Approaches to Colon Specific Drug Delivery, an optimal population of probiotic bacteria is critical for the preservation and proper functioning of the digestive system. Inclusion complexes with cyclodextrins efficiently, prolonged release tablets by solid dispersion technology are used to provide probiotics as nutraceutical goods in the form of both conventional pharmaceutical dose forms and traditional non-conventional food products [97].

Engineered probiotics have a number of advantages (Figure 6), including enhanced specificity, regulated antimicrobial agent release, and a lower chance of antibiotic resistance. (a) Probiotics are engineered to sense certain molecules released by pathogens (orange triangles) and in response, release the required therapeutic agents for treating infections. (b) Probiotics can be engineered to deliver antigens to treat and prevent allergies in asthmatics. (c) Engineered probiotics can produce anti-tumour factors (green squares) upon detection of quorum sensing signals (blue circles) from the accumulation of probiotics attached to the tumours tissue. (d) Rational design enables probiotics to be equipped with complex circuits to execute more accurate functions. Engineered probiotics can produce the desired therapeutics (red squares) only upon step-wise detection of two molecules (orange triangles and green diamonds) [24].

To tackle multidrug-resistant *Enterococcus* spp., *L. lactis* has been genetically engineered. The modified *L. lactis* was produced to detect the *E. faecalis* pheromone. Another pathogen that has been addressed by tailored probiotics is *C. difficile*, a common cause of antibiotic-associated diarrhoea in rich countries. Currently, faecal microbiota transplantation is the most efficacious treatment for *C. difficile* infection (FMT). *Vibrio*

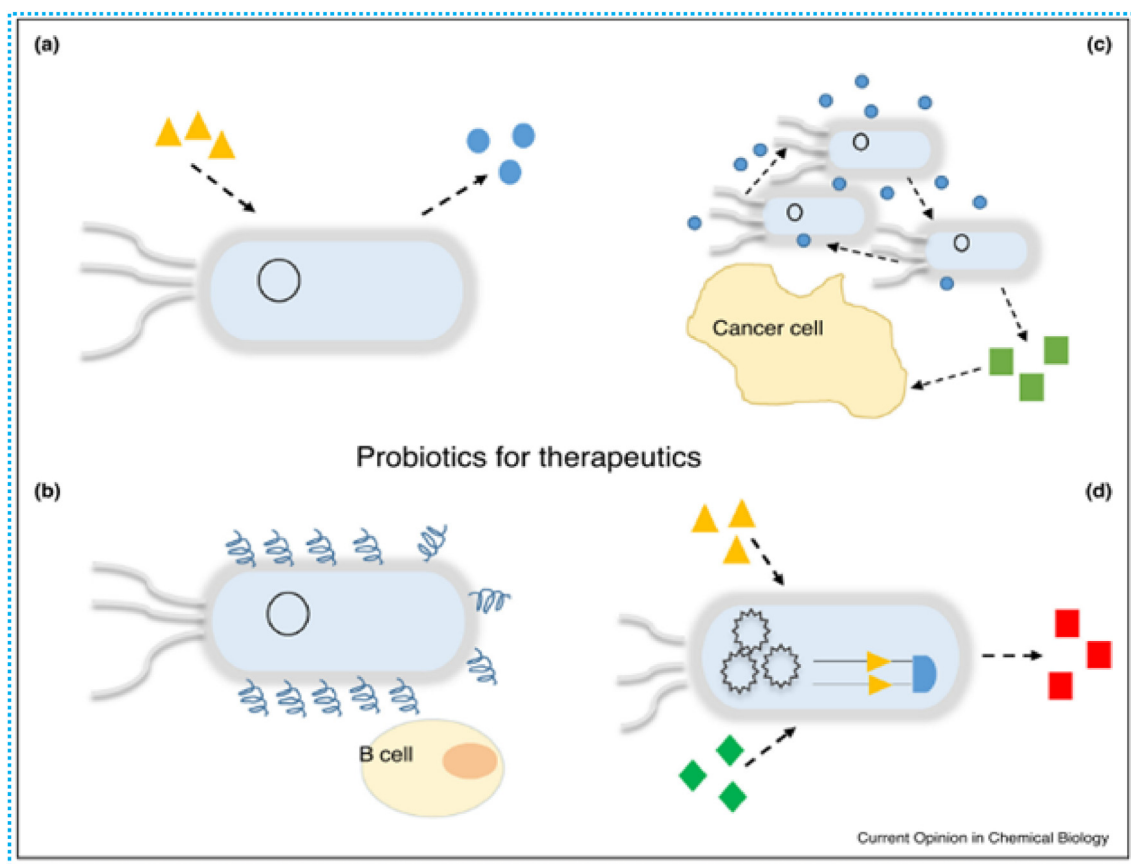


Figure 6. A diagram showing how modified probiotics can be used to fight health issues [24].

*cholerae*, *Shigella dysenteriae*, and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* have all been targeted with probiotics that express specific antigens [24, 97].

Autophagy: a novel anti-inflammatory abilities of probiotics

Autophagy is a metabolic event that occurs within cells and is required for a number of physiological processes. Because of its role in maintaining biological homeostasis in stressful situations, autophagy dysregulation or disruption may be related to human illnesses such as cancer [98]. The autophagy process begins with the development of the phagophore, a double-membrane compartment that engulfs the cargo to be degraded and then shuts to create the autophagosome, which then leads to fusion lysosomes and cargo breakdown by lysosome hydrolases [99, 100].

The discovery of more than 200 genetic risk loci for Inflammatory Bowel disease (IBD) has been made possible by genome-wide association studies (GWAS). Innate immunity, mucosal barrier function, and bacterial identification are all represented by many of these genes [99, 101]. Disrupted epithelial cell function in the gut can lead to intestinal disorders. Additionally, PRR gene defects, including those relating to toll-like receptors, C-type lectin receptors, retinoic-acid-inducible gene-I-like receptors, and nucleotide binding oligomerization domain-2 like receptors, lead to mucosal dysfunction and the subsequent induction of intestinal inflammation [102].

The gene encoding the nucleotide binding oligomerization domain-2 receptor, which detects muramyl dipeptides, a conserved motif seen in both gram-negative and gram-positive bacteria's peptidoglycan, has been extensively established to be the major susceptibility gene for Chronic disease. The strain that was most protective against acute colitis, *Bifidobacterium bifidum* PI22, was only mildly protective against chronic colitis, whereas *Bifidobacterium lactis* LA804, which was less protective in the acute model, was the most protective against chronic colitis. In vitro, *Lactobacillus helveticus* P15 was not anti-inflammatory, but it was the best at strengthening the epithelial barrier, and as a result, it was able to

greatly reduce the severity of acute colitis in mice. *Lactobacillus salivarius* LA307, interestingly, protected mice from both forms of colitis in a significant way [99, 102].

### 6.2. Recent advances in managing acute pancreatitis

Acute pancreatitis is the leading cause of gastrointestinal hospitalization in many countries, and its prevalence is increasing. Acute Pancreatitis (AP) pathophysiology involves a complex chain of events involving acinar cell inflammation, immune system involvement, and systemic clinical effects [103]. Probiotic therapy has shown much promise in surgical patients [104]. Recent guidelines advocate against the use of probiotics for severe acute pancreatitis [105]. Probiotics may help with acute pancreatitis by inducing an anti-inflammatory response by stimulating anti-inflammatory cytokines (e.g. interleukin-10), preventing bacterial overgrowth by competing with opportunistic bacteria, decreasing intestinal permeability by strengthening the gastrointestinal barrier, and improving upper gastrointestinal motility. A mixture of *Streptococcus*, *Lactobacillus*, and *Bifidobacterium* was given to an experimental animal model to minimize bacterial translocation and improve the clinical outcome of acute pancreatitis [103, 106].

### 6.3. Recent advance in antioxidation role of probiotics

Figure 7 shows the Nobel mechanisms of action of probiotics in autoxidation, which are said to provide health advantages. Probiotic microorganisms have been shown to have considerable antioxidant capacities in vivo and in vitro through a variety of mechanisms: 1) Metal ions are chelated by probiotics. 2) Antioxidases are produced by probiotics. 3) Antioxidant metabolites are produced by probiotics. 4) Probiotics increase the host's antioxidantase activity. 5) Probiotics raise the host's antioxidant metabolite levels. 6) Signalling pathways are regulated

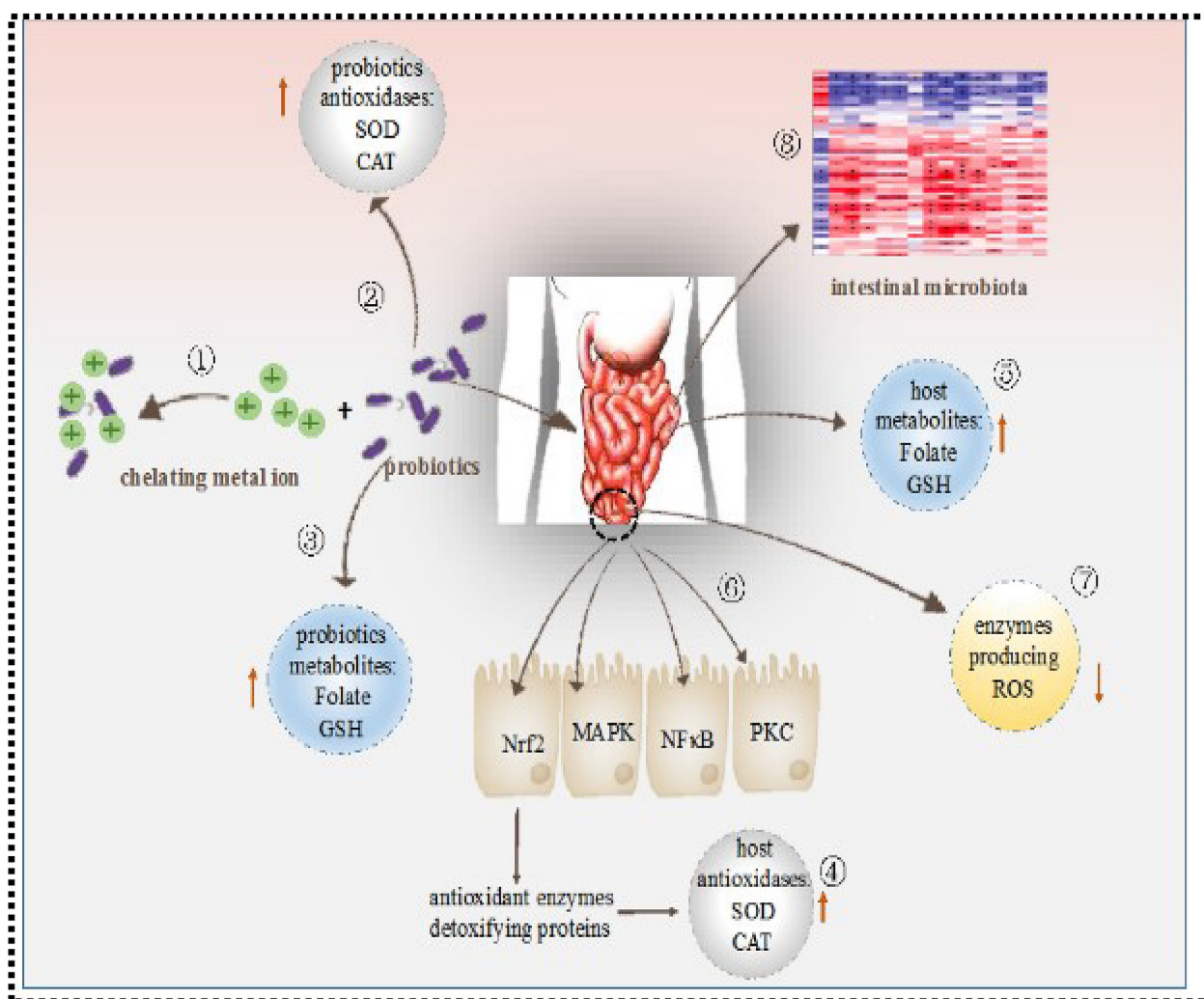


Figure 7. Nobel Modes of Action of probiotics in antioxidation [107].

by probiotics. 7) Probiotics inhibit the activity of enzymes that produce reactive oxygen species (ROS). 8) Probiotics modulate the bacteria in the intestine. *Lactocaseibacillus rhamnosus* showed substantial antioxidant activity in humans when exposed to high levels of physical stress. *Lactocaseibacillus rhamnosus*' ability to raise antioxidant levels and lessen the negative impact of reactive oxygen species may be beneficial to athletes suffering from oxidative stress. Over the last few decades, research has demonstrated that different probiotic bacteria strains can exert antioxidant activity in a variety of ways. However, few reviews on the basis for probiotic antioxidant mechanisms have been published. As a result, the sections that follow provide an overview of what is known about the oxygen resistance mechanisms of various probiotic strains [107].

#### 6.4. Recent advance in probiotics on hair toxic element levels

Chelation therapy, which comprises Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA), Meso-2,3-dimercaptosuccinic acid (DMSA), and 2,3-Dimercapto-1-propanesulfonic acid (DMPS), is now the primary method for rapidly removing harmful chemicals from the body. It may, however, cause serious adverse effects such as dehydration, liver failure, renal failure, hypoglycemia, and coagulation insufficiency, as well as reducing the levels of other vital minerals (Ca, Fe, and Zn, for example). In vitro, *Lactobacillus gasserii* and *Limosilactobacillus reuteri* can bind dangerous elements like Cd. *Limosilactobacillus reuteri* Cd70-13 and Pb71-1 eliminated Cd (25%) and Pb (59%) from Rogosa and Sharpe (MRS) culture media, implying that they may adsorb the toxic heavy metals in the

intestine. The exopolysaccharide (EPS) of *Lactocaseibacillus rhamnosus* (*L. rhamnosus*) may eliminate Al+3 and Cd+2 from water. *Bifidobacterium logum* can also eliminate copper and lead from water (*B. Longum*). To summarize the role of probiotics in reducing hair toxicity, 1) after taking probiotics, the number of patients with an abnormal concentration of Hg and Be decreased significantly. 2) taking probiotics for at least six months can help to lower Hg and Be levels significantly [108].

#### 6.5. Recent advance of probiotics for curing and preventing protozoal diseases

Probiotic usage has the potential to disrupt parasite colonization. Faecal microbiota transplantation (FMT), which has gained popularity in recent years, particularly for the treatment of recurrent *Clostridium difficile* infection, looks relevant in this situation. Inflammatory bowel disease, type 2 diabetes, metabolic disease, and potentially even neuropsychiatric disease could all benefit from faecal microbiota transplantation in the future. FMT is a procedure that involves taking a donor's feces or stool, mixing it with a saline or other solution, straining it, and infusing it into a recipient [109].

## 7. Conclusion and recommendation

Alternative approaches to combating lethal bacteria are urgently required due to the rise of multidrug-resistant diseases, significant side effects, resistance, and antibiotic depletion. Furthermore, beneficial or

antagonistic microbes are required to prevent and treat a variety of noncommunicable diseases as well as those with limited treatment options all over the world, particularly in wealthy countries. Probiotics are known to be one of the most promising biotherapies for overcoming the aforementioned problem by improving specificity, regulating antimicrobial agent release, and lowering the likelihood of antibiotic resistance development. They are also known to have immune-modulatory effects on the host, making them a promising therapeutic and preventive option for a variety of diseases, including inflammatory disease. Probiotics are chosen for their ability to: 1) benefit the host, 2) survive transit through the intestines, 3) adhere to the intestinal epithelial cell membrane, 4) produce antibiotic compounds to fight infections, and 5) stabilize the intestinal microbiota. Because probiotic effects differ based on dose, situation, and strain, understanding the probiotics' genus and species is necessary to accomplish the desired effects on the host. Despite the promising health-promoting effects of probiotics, more research into the systemic mechanisms and components that support the beneficial actions is required for the discovery and development of novel microbes derived from our microbial symbionts. It is recommended that in the new future researchers from microbiologist and pharmacologist should design engineered probiotics for those disease that are not able to controlled by the current conventional medicines at large.

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### Declaration of interest's statement

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

### Additional information

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