


ORIGINAL ARTICLE



# **Lipoteichoic acid from the cell wall of a heat killed *Lactobacillus paracasei* D3-5 ameliorates aging-related leaky gut, inflammation and improves physical and cognitive functions: from *C. elegans* to mice**

Shaohua Wang • Shokouh Ahmadi • Ravinder Nagpal • Shalini Jain • Sidharth P. Mishra •  
Kylie Kavanagh • Xuewei Zhu • Zhan Wang • Donald A. McClain •  
Stephen B. Kritchevsky • Dalane W. Kitzman • Hariom Yadav 

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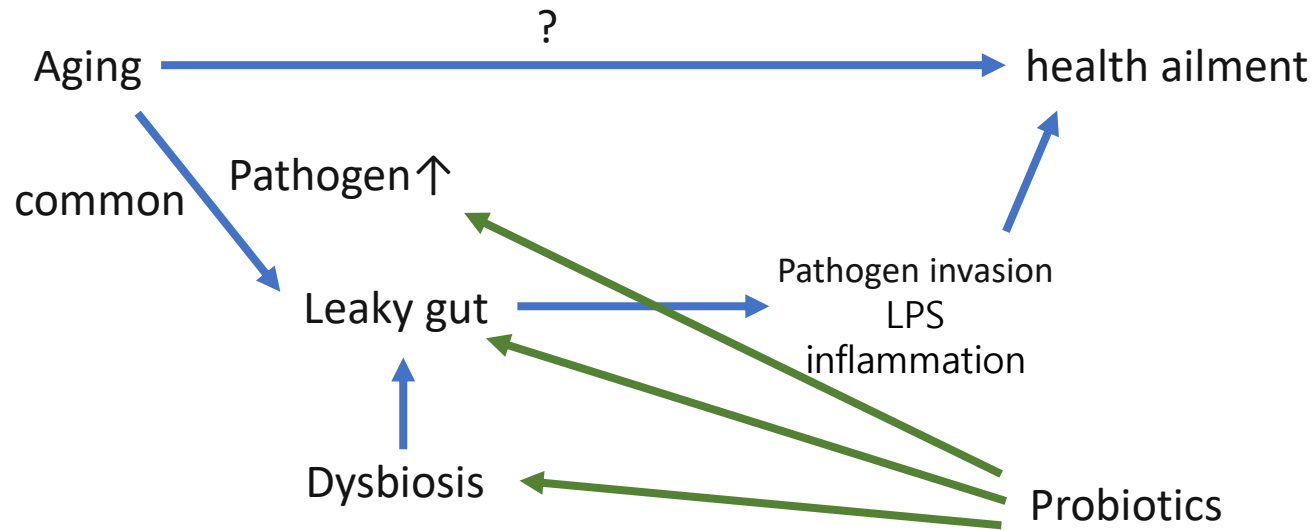
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# Introduction

The world's population is rapidly **aging**

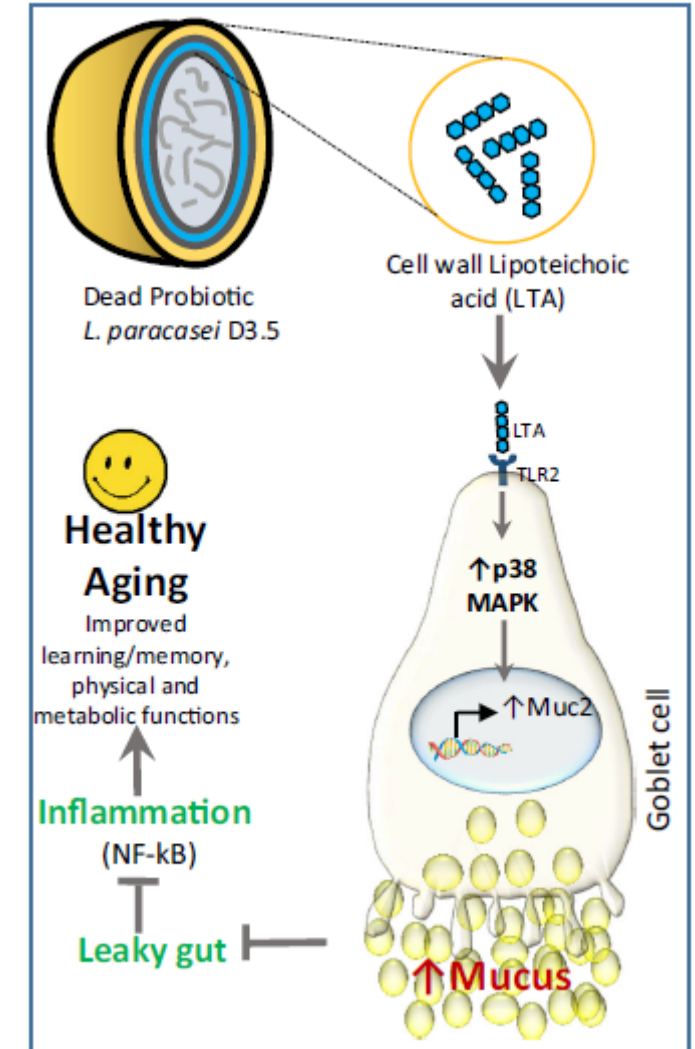
-> Aging-related comorbidities

obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, infections, cognitive decline



Few studies on the effect of probiotics in longevity

No studies using HK probiotics



# Figure 1. Feeding dead probiotics extends lifespan, improves physical function muscle mass in *C. elegans*.

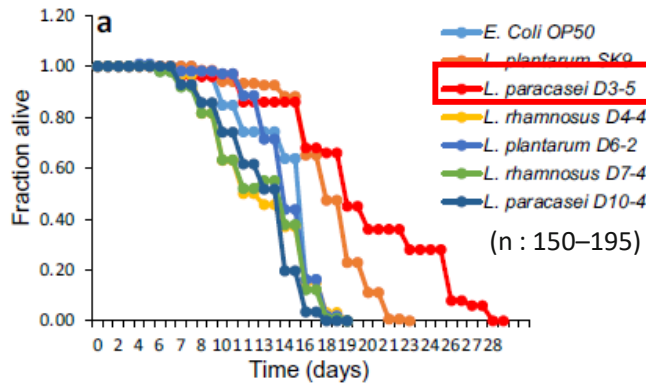
A : longevity assay, *C. elegans* N2, n : 150–195

B : picked in to M9 buffer, stroke number count

C : imageJ

D : muscle mass, muscle-specific GFP-labelled strain MAH19

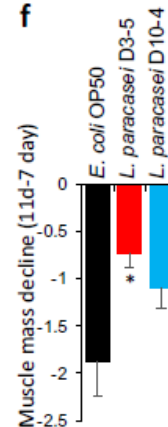
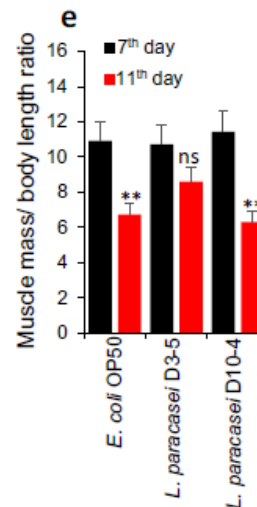
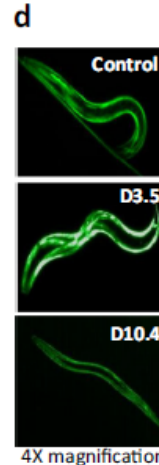
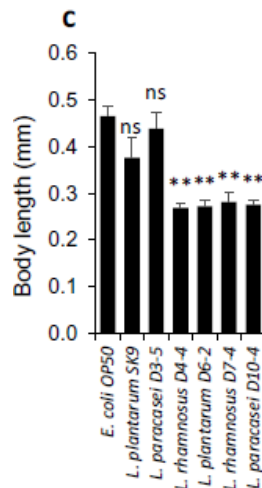
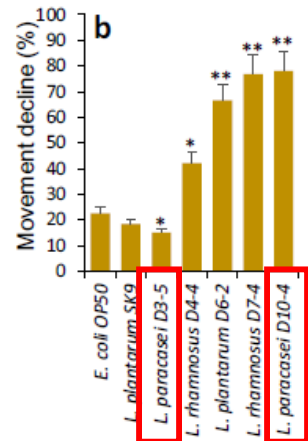
## longevity assay, *C. elegans* N2



→ Certain dead probiotics are beneficial on **extending life-span**

## Movement decline

## Body length & muscle mass



→ Certain dead probiotics are beneficial to aging related ailments **preserving better physical function & muscle mass**

beneficial effects are **strain-specific**

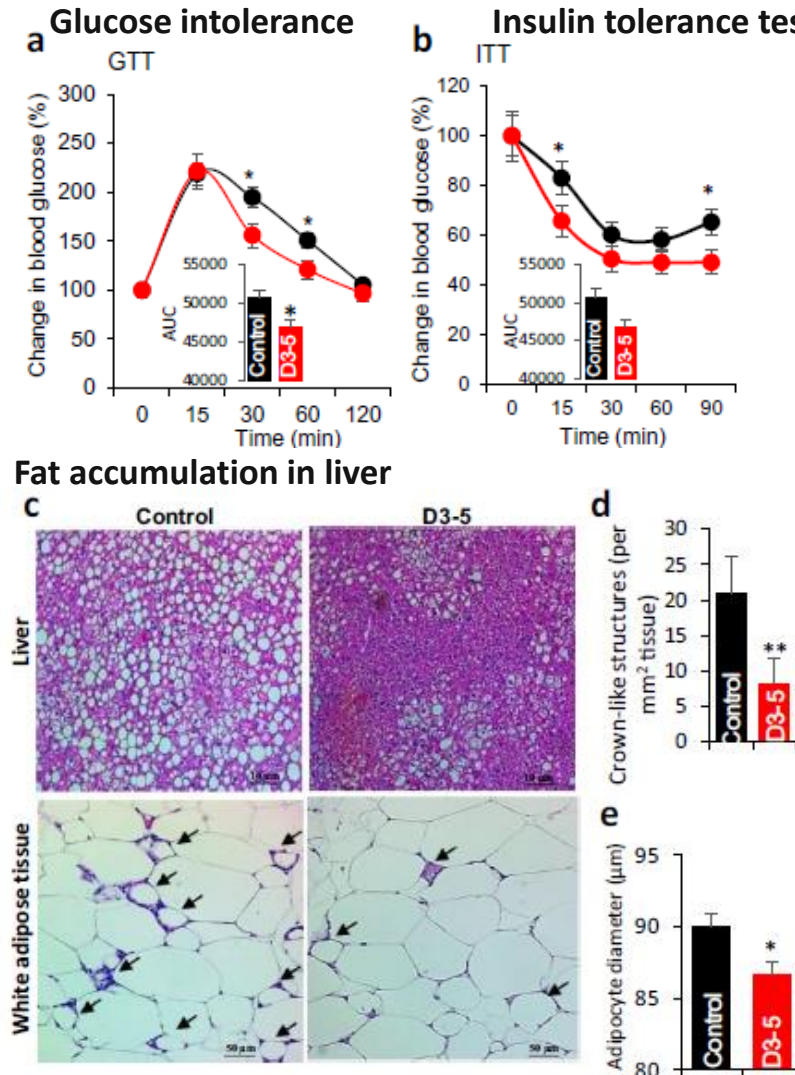
# Figure 2. Feeding dead probiotics prevents HFD-induced metabolic dysfunctions in older mice

78–80-week-old; equivalent to > 65 years of human age, fed with HK D3-5 in drinking water, High fat diet

A : Glucose tolerance test, fasted 10–12 h, gavage of glucose (2.5 g/kg bodyweight)

B : Insulin tolerance test (ITT) fasted 4–6 h, intraperitoneal injection with insulin

C : H&E staining



➡ D3-5 feeding prevented HFD-induced **glucose intolerance, insulin resistance**

➡ D3-5 feeding prevented **hepatic steatosis, inflammation** in WAT

\*Crownlike structures (indicator of inflammation) in the white adipose tissue

# Figure 3. D3-5 feeding improves aging-related ailments in older obese mice

78–80-week-old; equivalent to > 65 years of human age, fed with HK D3-5 in drinking water, High fat diet

A, B : Behavior measure

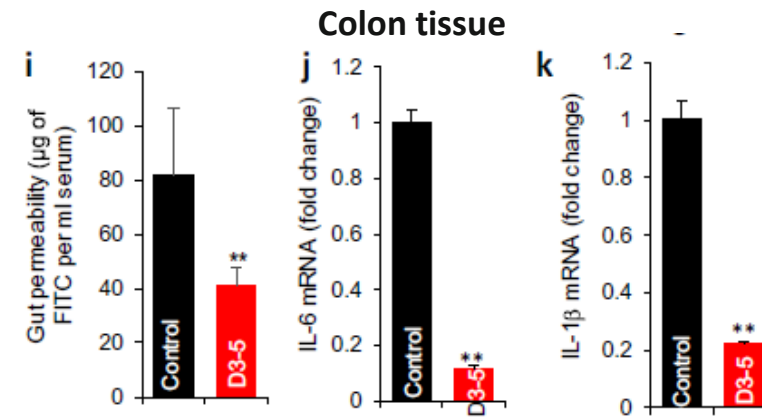
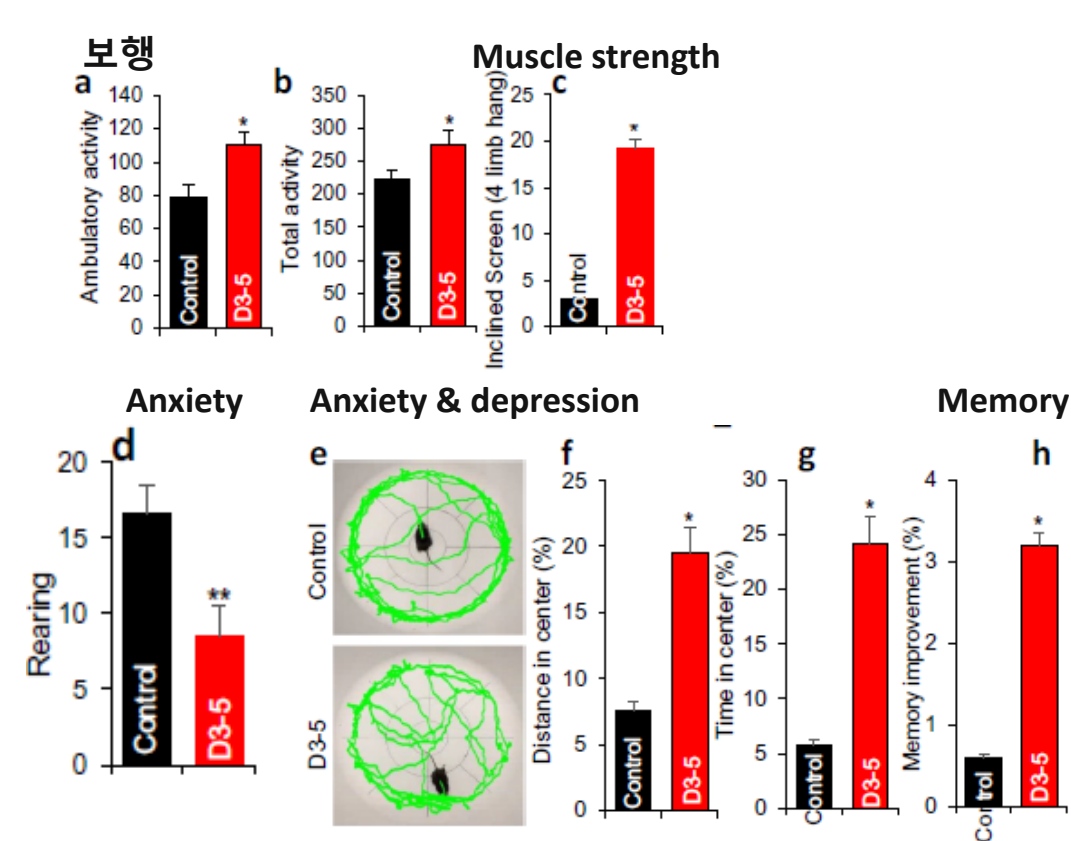
E : Open field test

H : Water maze test

I : FITC-dextran (3–5 kDa) from gut to the blood

J, K : qRT-PCR

Aging related ailment : **physical function, increased anxiety, and decreased cognition**



➡ **Decreased gut permeability and inflammation** in older HFD-fed obese mice.

➡ D3-5 feeding led to **Better physical and cognitive functions, reduced anxiety/depression**

# Figure 4. D3-5 feeding results in favorable changes in gut microbiome

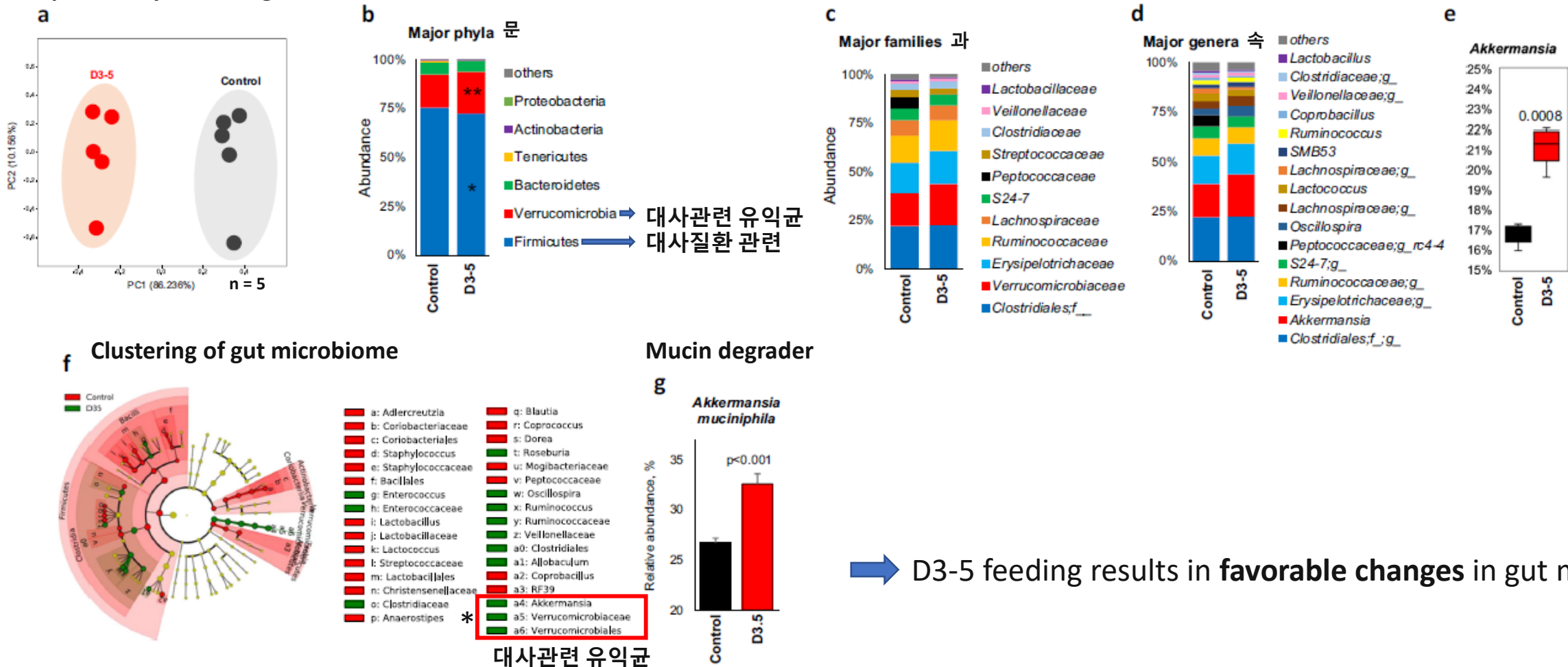
78–80-week-old; equivalent to > 65 years of human age, fed with HK D3-5 in drinking water, High fat diet

Gut microbiome analyses

A : Principal coordinate analysis (PCoA)

F : linear discrimination analysis

## $\beta$ -diversity clustering



➡ D3-5 feeding results in **favorable changes** in gut microbiome



# Figure 5. D3-5 treatment enhances mucin production and goblet cell mass in the gut of older obese mice

78–80-week-old; equivalent to > 65 years of human age, fed with HK D3-5 in drinking water, High fat diet

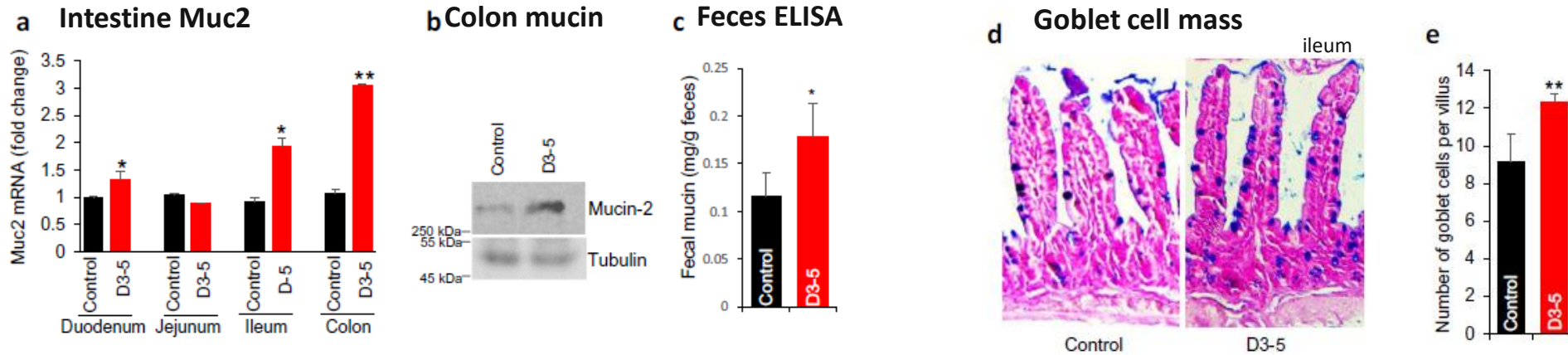
A : qRT-PCR

B : Western blot colon tissue

C, H : Feces ELISA

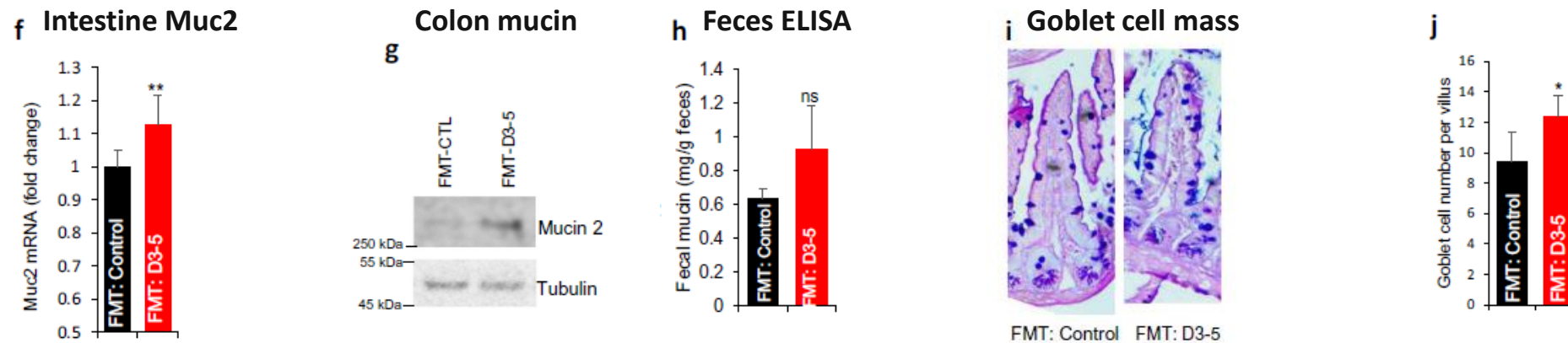
D, I : AB/PAS staining

F-J : Fecal microbiota transplantation, transplanted D3-5 fed & control mice to gut cleaned (GC; using antibiotics and polyethylene glycol [PEG] protocol) mice



➡ D3-5 treatment enhanced mucin production and goblet cell

FMT



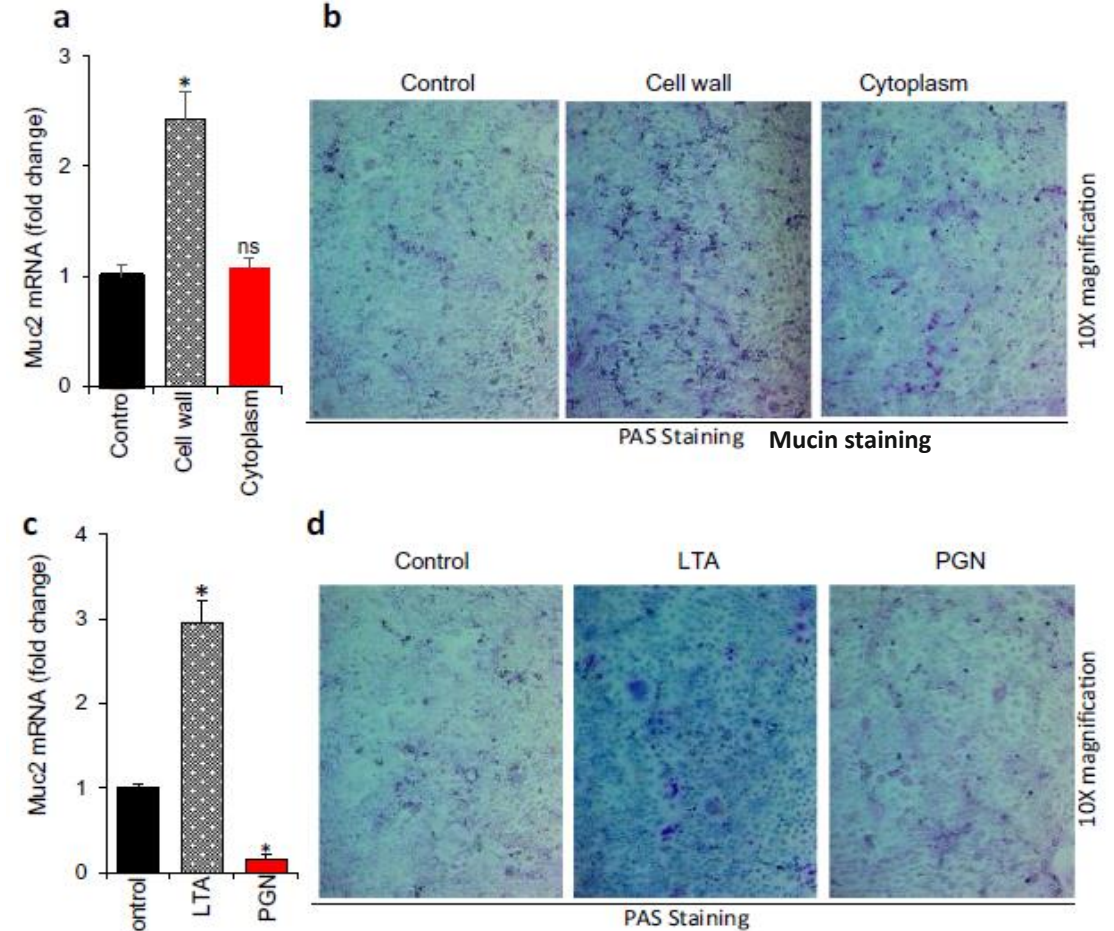
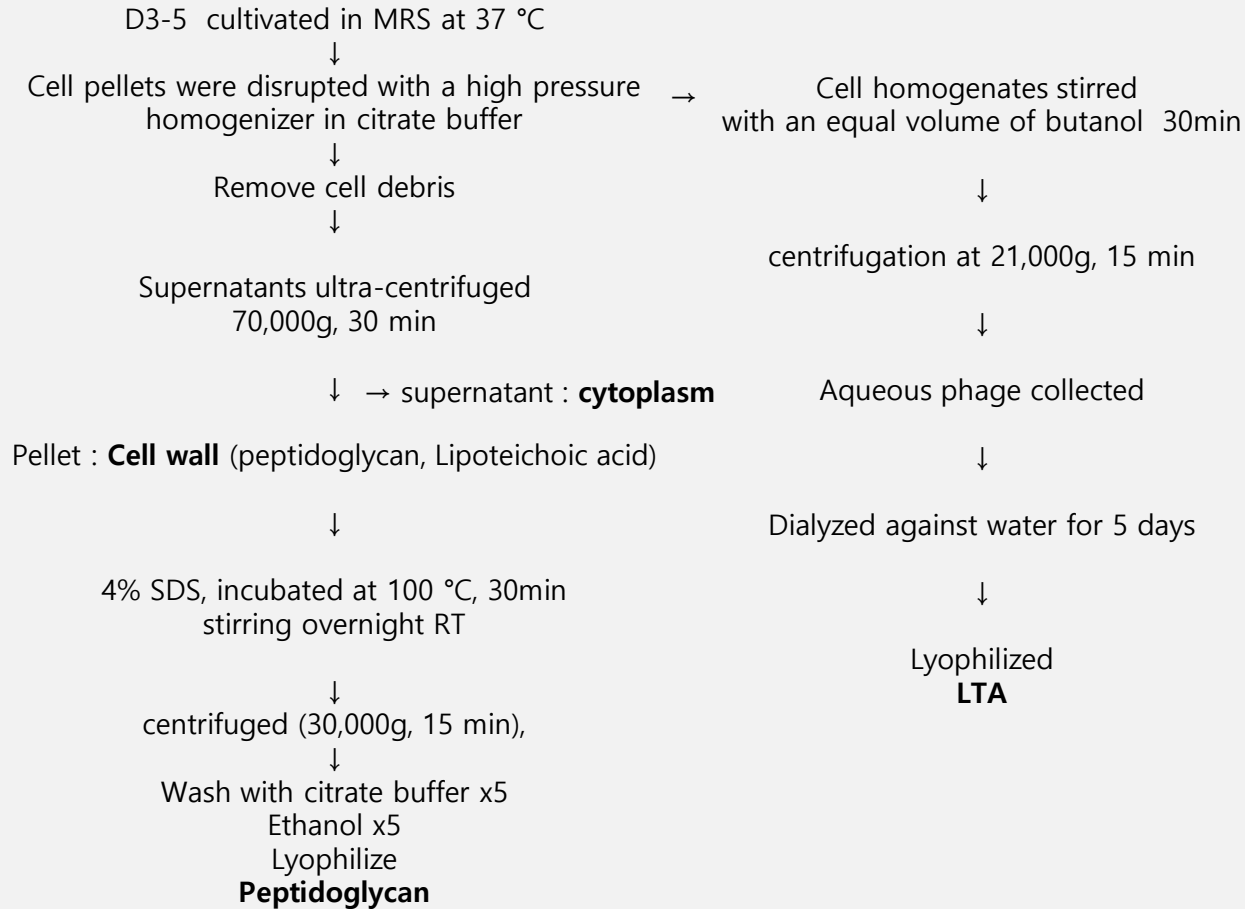
➡ D3-5-induced gut microbiome enhanced goblet cell mass and mucin production

# Figure 6. Cell wall-derived lipoteichoic (LTA) of D3-5 enhances mucin production

CMT93 cells (a mouse goblet cell line)

A : qRT-PCR

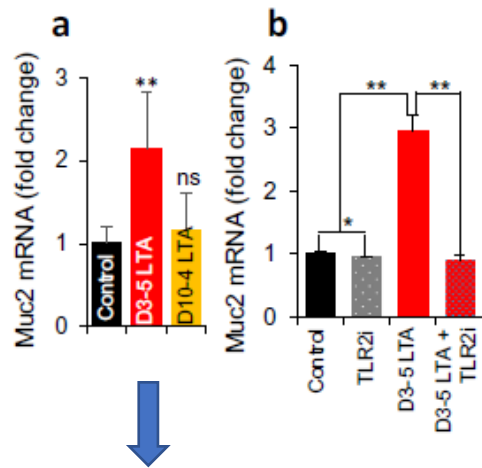
B, D : PAS staining



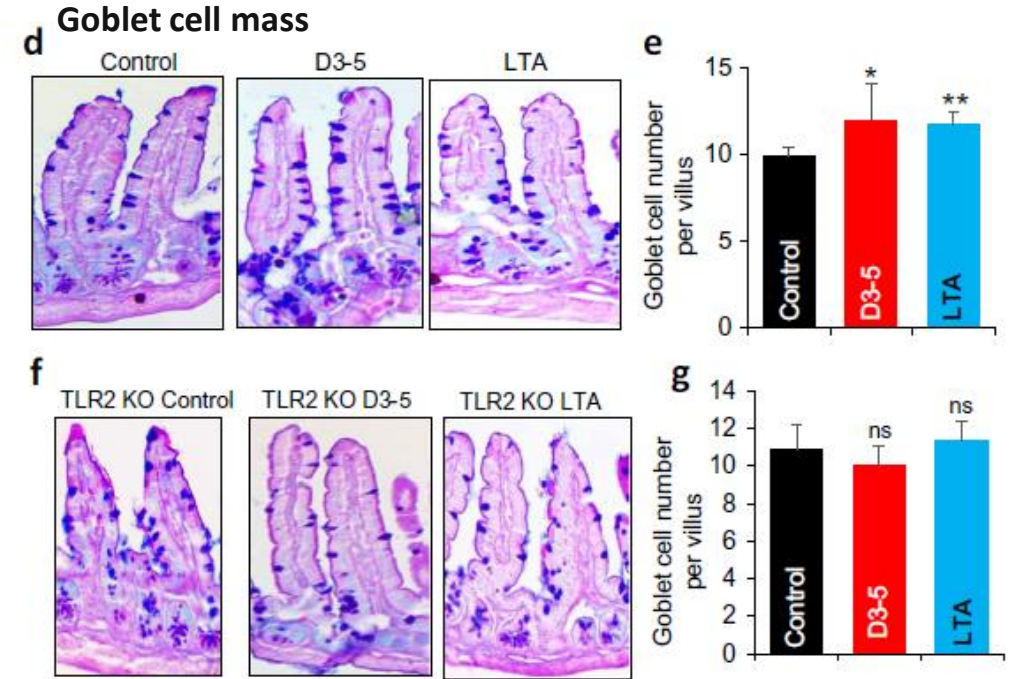


# Figure 7. LTA induces mucin via TLR2 signaling

A, B : CMT93 cells (a mouse goblet cell line), qRT-PCR  
C-G : C57BL/6 wild-type and TLR2 KO mice (6–8week-old)  
C : mouse colon tissue western blot  
D, F : AB/PAS staining



Strain-specific effect

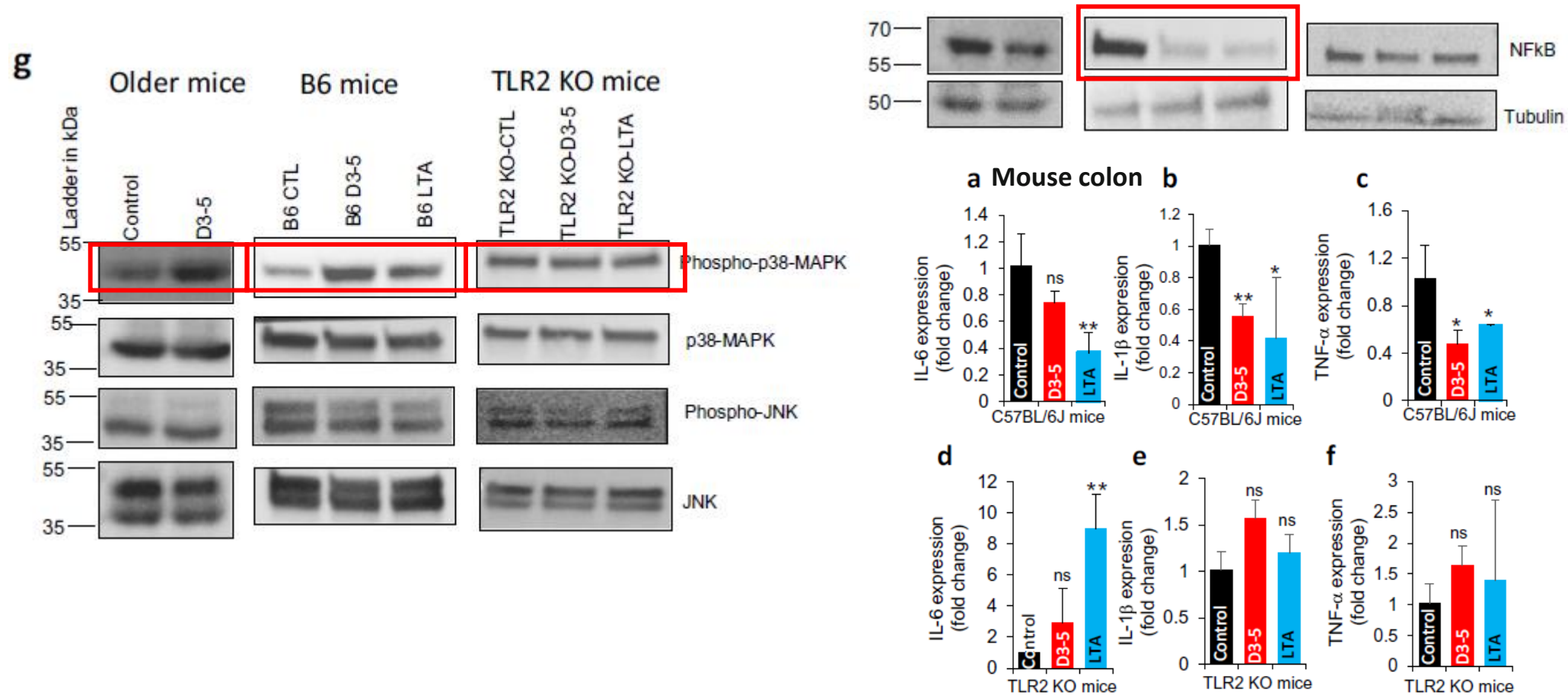


➡ LTA stimulated TLR2 signaling  
→ Enhanced goblet cell mass & mucin production

# Figure 8. D3-5 cell wall-derived LTA activates TLR2-p38 MAPK signaling and suppresses NF-κB signaling

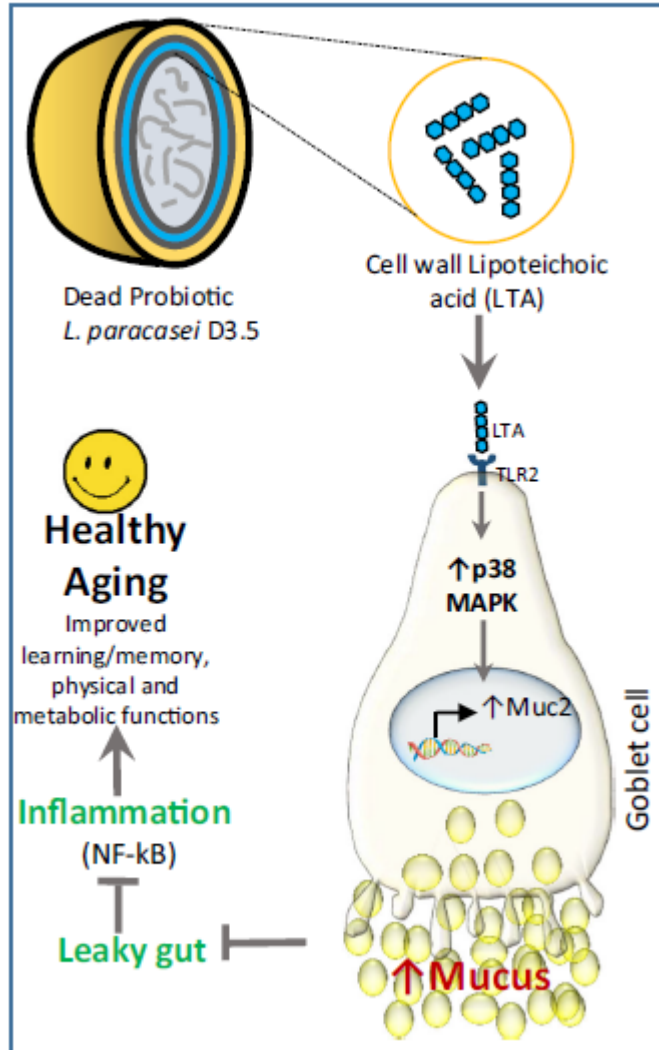
A-/f : mouse colon tissue qRT-PCR

D, F : AB/PAS staining



➡ LTA → TLR2 → p38 MAPK signaling → (improve mucin, prevent leaky gut)  
→ suppressed NF-κB signaling → reduced inflammatory cytokines

# Summary



- Feeding Specific dead probiotics extends lifespan in *C. elegans*
  - D3-5 In mouse
    - Prevents metabolic dysfunctions
    - Improves aging-related ailments
    - Favorable changes in gut microbiome
    - Enhances mucin production and goblet cell mass
  - Cell wall-derived lipoteichoic (LTA) of D3-5 enhances mucin production
  - LTA induces mucin via TLR2 signaling
  - D3-5 cell wall-derived LTA activates TLR2-p38 MAPK signaling and suppresses NF-κB signaling
- ➔ D3-5 and its LTA could be used as a biotherapy To treat age-related gut microbiome dysbiosis, leaky gut, and inflammation in older adults.