

# Assessment of intestinal health in swine (and poultry)

ECVCN Residency class 2016

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# Objective

Company.....research.....EFSA.....user



# What is intestinal (or gut) health?

Bischoff *BMC Medicine* 2011, 9:24  
<http://www.biomedcentral.com/1741-7015/9/24>



DEBATE

Open Access

## 'Gut health': a new objective in medicine?

Stephan C Bischoff

'Gut health' is a term increasingly used in the medical literature and by the **food industry**.

From a scientific point of view, however, it is still extremely unclear exactly what gut health is, how it can be defined and how it can be measured.

# What is intestinal (or gut) health?

**Table 1 Gut health and gastrointestinal health<sup>a</sup>**

Five major criteria for a healthy GI system	Specific signs of GI health
Effective digestion and absorption of food	Normal nutritional status and effective absorption of food, water and minerals Regular bowel movement, normal transit time and no abdominal pain Normal stool consistency and rare nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation and bloating
Absence of GI illness	No acid peptic disease, gastroesophageal reflux disease or other gastric inflammatory disease No enzyme deficiencies or carbohydrate intolerances No IBD, coeliac disease or other inflammatory state No colorectal or other GI cancer
Normal and stable intestinal microbiota	No bacterial overgrowth Normal composition and vitality of the gut microbiome No GI infections or antibiotic-associated diarrhoea
Effective immune status	Effective GI barrier function, normal mucus production and no enhanced bacterial translocation Normal levels of IgA, normal numbers and normal activity of immune cells Immune tolerance and no allergy or mucosal hypersensitivity
Status of well-being	Normal quality of life 'Qi (ch'i)', or positive gut feeling Balanced serotonin production and normal function of the enteric nervous system

<sup>a</sup>GI, gastrointestinal; IBD, inflammatory bowel disease; IgA, immunoglobulin A.

# (((gut health[Title]) OR intestinal health[Title])) AND pig\* 27 results PUBMED

## FACTOR STUDIED:

Algae, Seaweed, Laminarin  
Cysteamine  
Fatty acids  
Deoxynivalenol  
Fiber, Prebiotic  
Monosodium Glutamate, Glutamine  
N-acetylcysteine  
Enzyme complex  
Plant extracts, Essential oils  
Amino acids, L-methionine  
Dietary protein, Different cereals  
Antimicrobial peptide  
Wheat bran  
Zinc oxide  
Probiotic, Bacillus spp, Lactobacillus  
...

## DEPENDENT VARIABLE:

Gut health  
Intestinal health  
Growth performance  
Nutrient digestibility  
Peptide transporters  
Immune status/response  
Blood profile  
Inflammation  
Experimental infection/Challenge  
Fermentation  
Intestinal population/microbiota  
Mucin gene expression  
Cytokine gene expression  
In vitro model  
...

# Components of gut health

MICROBIOTA

MUCOSA



Nutrient  
and fluid  
uptake

Immune  
tolerance

Defense  
against  
infections

Signalling  
to the brain  
(Serotonin etc.)

The animal  
around the  
gut



LIVER



FOOD  
ALLERGENS



INFECTIOUS  
AGENTS



BRAIN

Prevention of  
malnutrition

Prevention of  
allergy

Prevention of  
infections

Energy homeostasis  
Mood regulation?

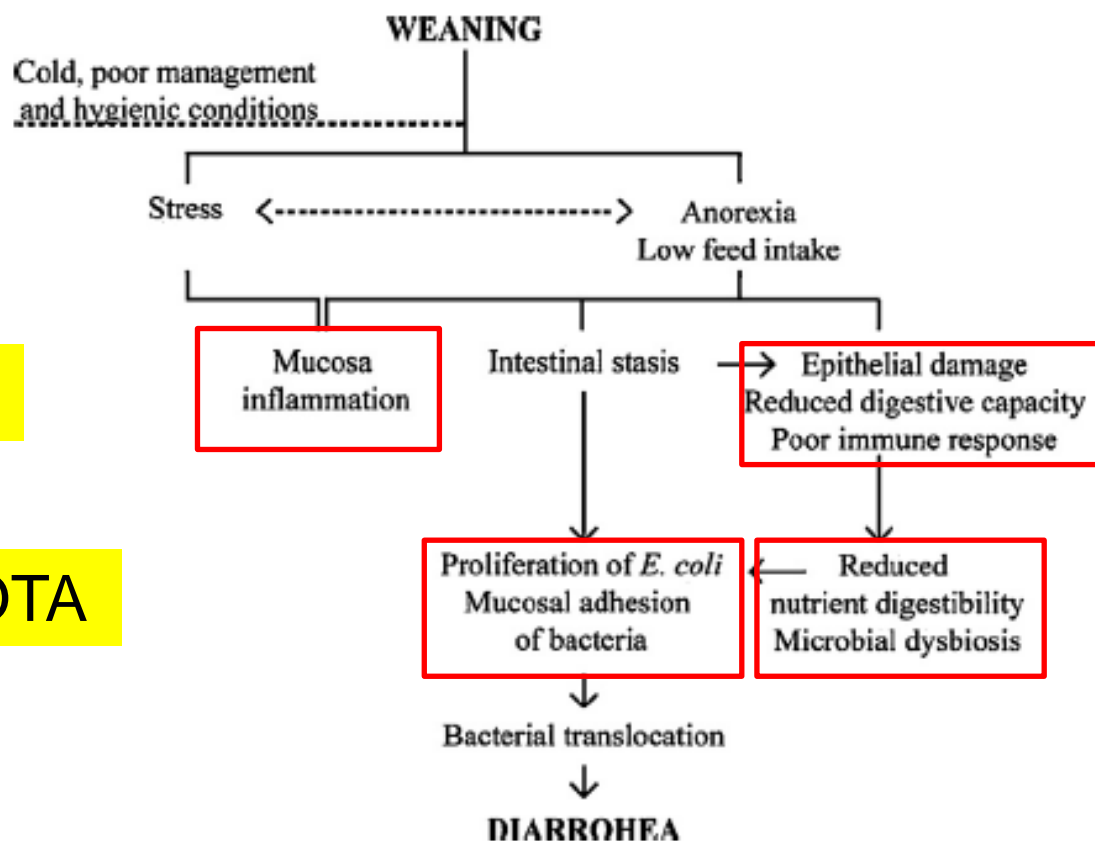
# What about the pig?

*F. Molist et al. / Animal Feed Science and Technology 189 (2014) 1–10*

The animal  
around the  
gut

MUCOSA

MICROBIOTA





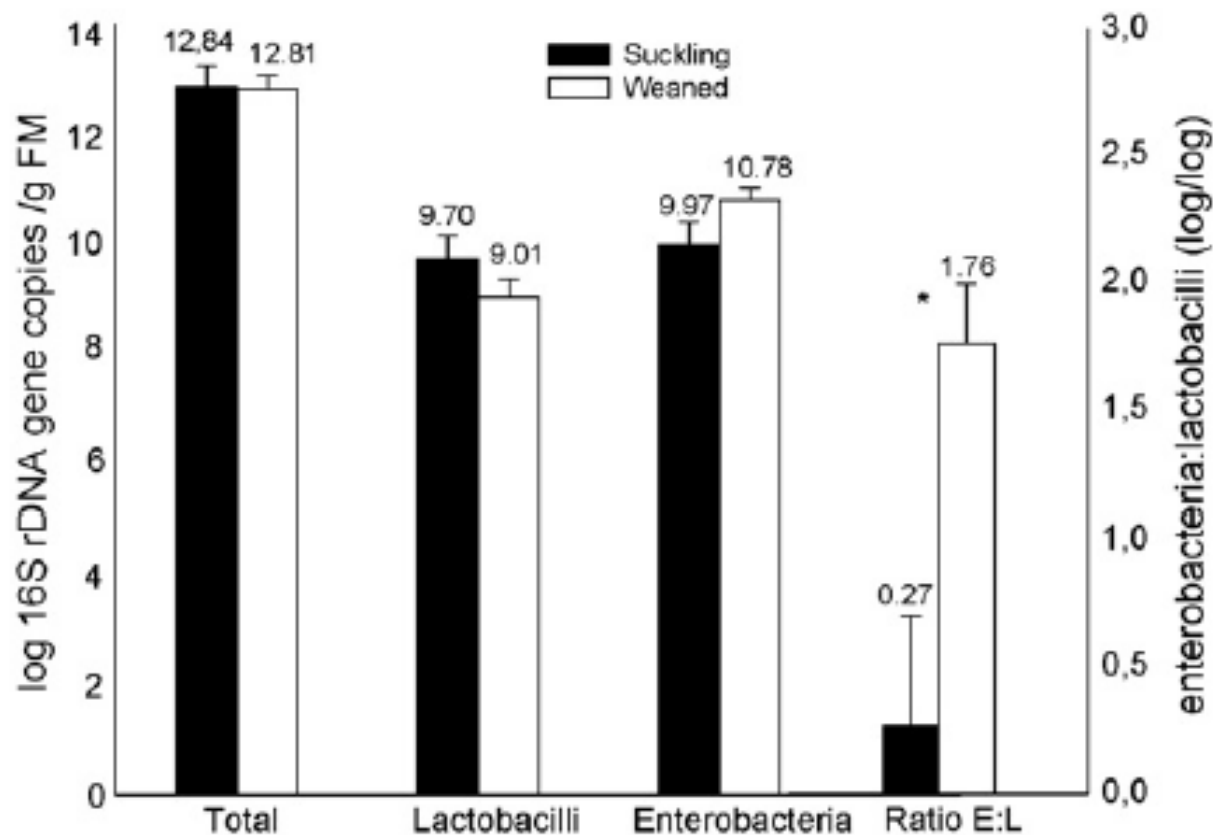
# Changes in physiology and structure with solid diet: Suckling vs. 7d after weaning

	Suckling	Weaned	P-value
Empty weight (g)			
Stomach	37.4 ± 7.54	38.7 ± 4.88	0.737
Small intestine	330 ± 56.4	370 ± 98.1	0.393
Large intestine	120 ± 31.2	195 ± 98.1	0.027
pH			
Stomach	3.2 ± 0.84	4.4 ± 0.67	0.019
Ileum	7.0 ± 0.44	6.7 ± 0.37	0.371
Cecum	6.3 ± 0.13	5.8 ± 0.12	<0.0001
Colon	6.9 ± 0.29	6.03 ± 0.18	<0.0001

*M. Castillo et al. / Veterinary Microbiology 124 (2007) 239–247*

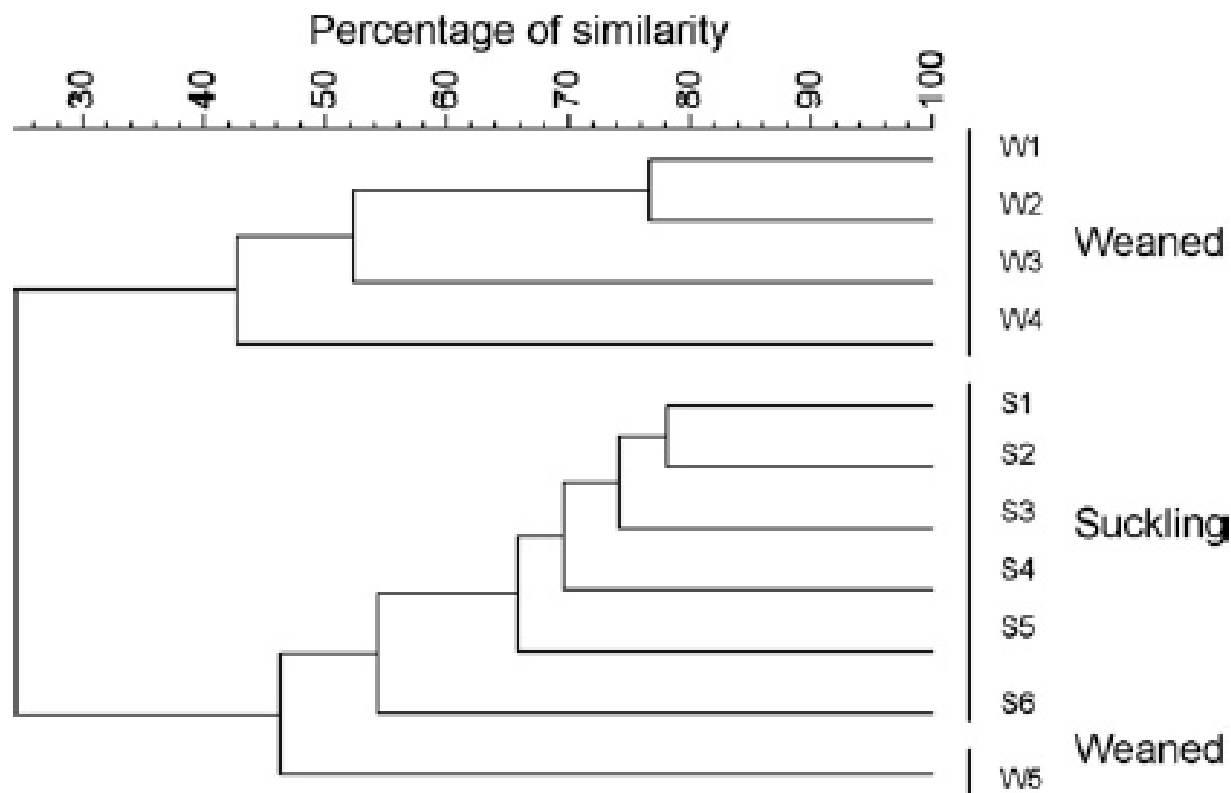


# Microbiota: suckling vs. 7d after weaning



*M. Castillo et al. / Veterinary Microbiology 124 (2007) 239–247*

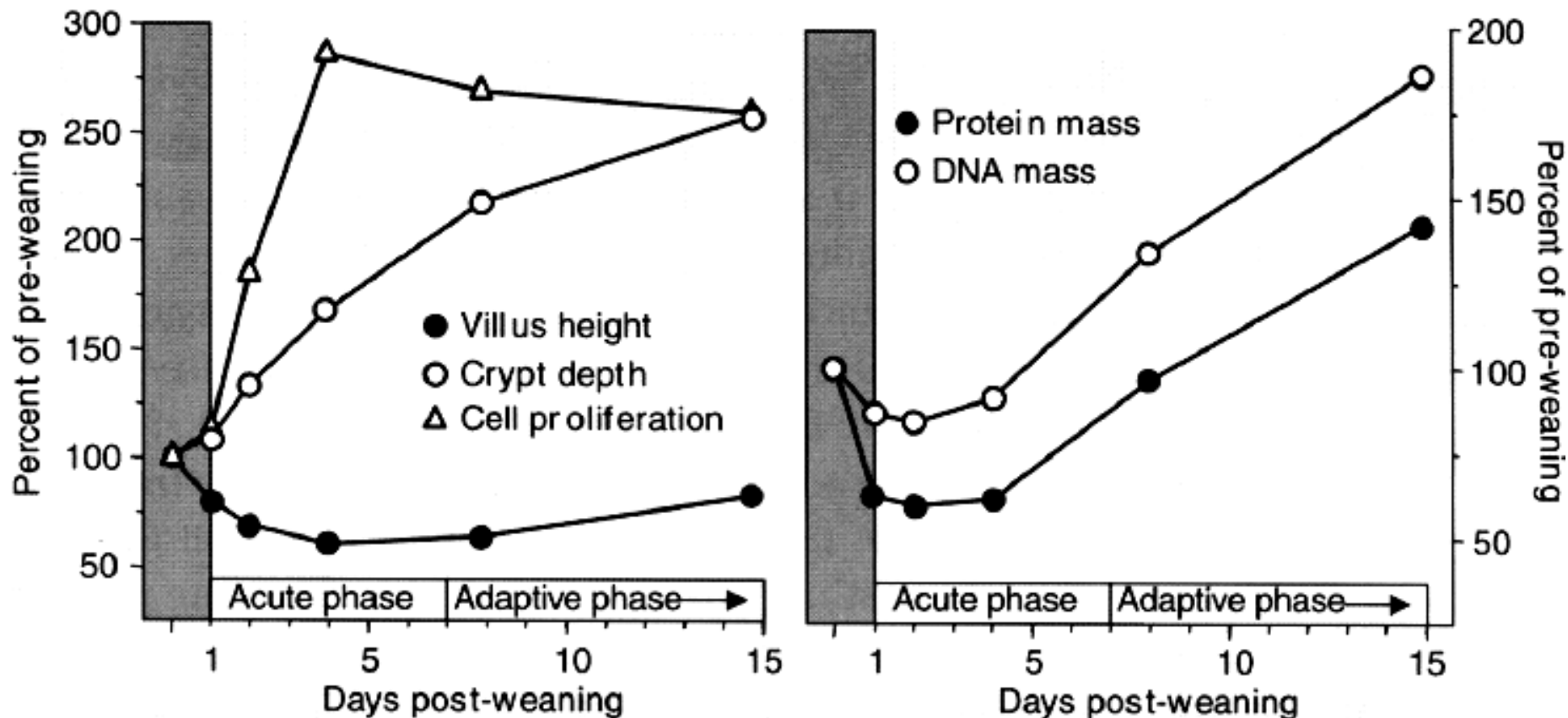
# Microbiota: suckling vs. 7d after weaning



Those animals which microbiota does not adapt to the solid diet will have diarrhea

*M. Castillo et al. / Veterinary Microbiology 124 (2007) 239–247*

# Intestinal Mucosa: Evolution after weaning



Pluske *Journal of Animal Science and Biotechnology* 2013, 4:1

# Intestinal Mucosa: suckling vs. 7d after weaning

	Suckling	Weaned	<i>P</i> -value
Caecum histological study			
Crypt depth (µm)	373 ± 48.6	359 ± 30.6	0.566
Crypt density <sup>a</sup>	12.4 ± 0.36	10.5 ± 0.25	<0.001
Mitoses/100 cells	1.0 ± 0.47	1.8 ± 0.47	0.021
Goblet cells/100 cells	25.5 ± 3.48	19.4 ± 3.30	0.011
Intraepithelial lymphocytes/100 cells	1.4 ± 0.67	2.6 ± 0.91	0.024
Lymphocyte density <sup>b</sup>	1.7 ± 0.45	2.3 ± 0.40	0.045
Total cell density <sup>b</sup>	8.7 ± 0.90	8.9 ± 0.47	0.665
Lymphocyte/total cells	0.2 ± 0.04	0.3 ± 0.07	0.109
Mucosal thickness (µm)	470 ± 74.8	528 ± 70.8	0.243
Muscular layer thickness (µm)	370 ± 49.5	328 ± 37.0	0.111
Total intestinal wall thickness (µm)	848 ± 98.1	856 ± 95.1	0.899

*M. Castillo et al. / Veterinary Microbiology 124 (2007) 239–247*

# Solution: AGP, profilaxis, metafilaxis...

## EFSA (food)

Antibiotic growth promoters

Fact: No prescription

Theory:

Same antibiotics, lower dose  
Reduces microbial population,  
less inflammation, more nutrients  
available... pathology???

## EMA (medicine)

Therapeutic use of antibiotics

Fact: Prescription

Theory:

Same antibiotics, high dose  
Fights a particular pathogen

# Methods: The world after PCR

## Meet Kary Mullis, inventor of the PCR

“Sometimes a good idea comes to you when you are not looking for it. Through an improbable combination of coincidences, naïveté, and luck mistakes, such a revelation came to me one Friday night in April, 1983, as I gripped the steering wheel of my car and snaked along a moonlit mountain road into northern California’s redwood country.” *Sci. Am.* 1990 262:56-61, 64-5.



# Methods: Microbiota

## Culture-based methods



## Molecular methods

T-RFLP  
DGGE  
Microarrays  
(90s)

Next Generation Sequencing  
(2005)

Third Generation Sequencing  
(recently)

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# Methods: Microbiota

## Culture-based methods



## Molecular methods

### PROS

- Cheap
- Live bacteria
- Physiology and biochemistry

### CONS

- Time consuming
- Processed immediately
- Unculturable bacteria

### PROS

- All bacteria present
- Fast and samples can be frozen

### CONS

- Expensive
- Inconsistency on sample processing and data analysis
- Not well developed for function

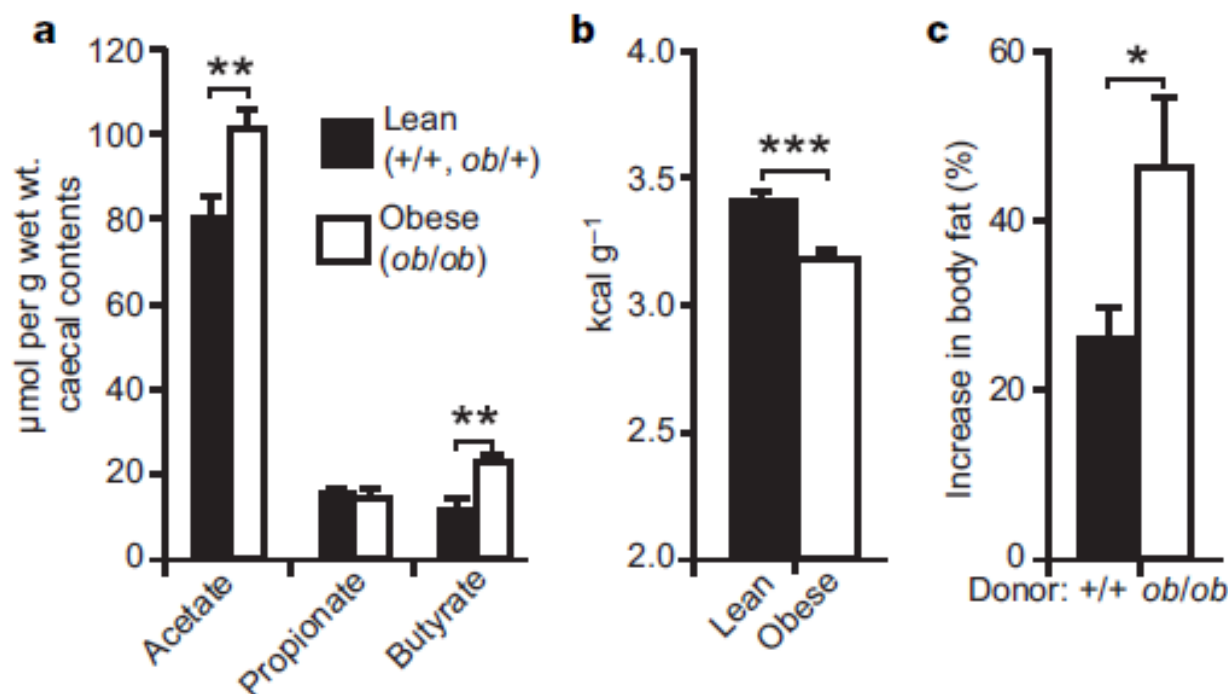
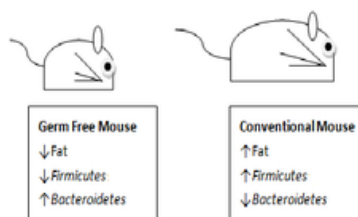
We should go beyond: “Firmicutes and bacteroidetes are the main phyla and such and such genera are different”.

# Methods: Microbiota functional measure

## Volatile Fatty Acids

Acetic  
Propionic  
Butyric  
Valeric  
Iso forms

Lactic etc...



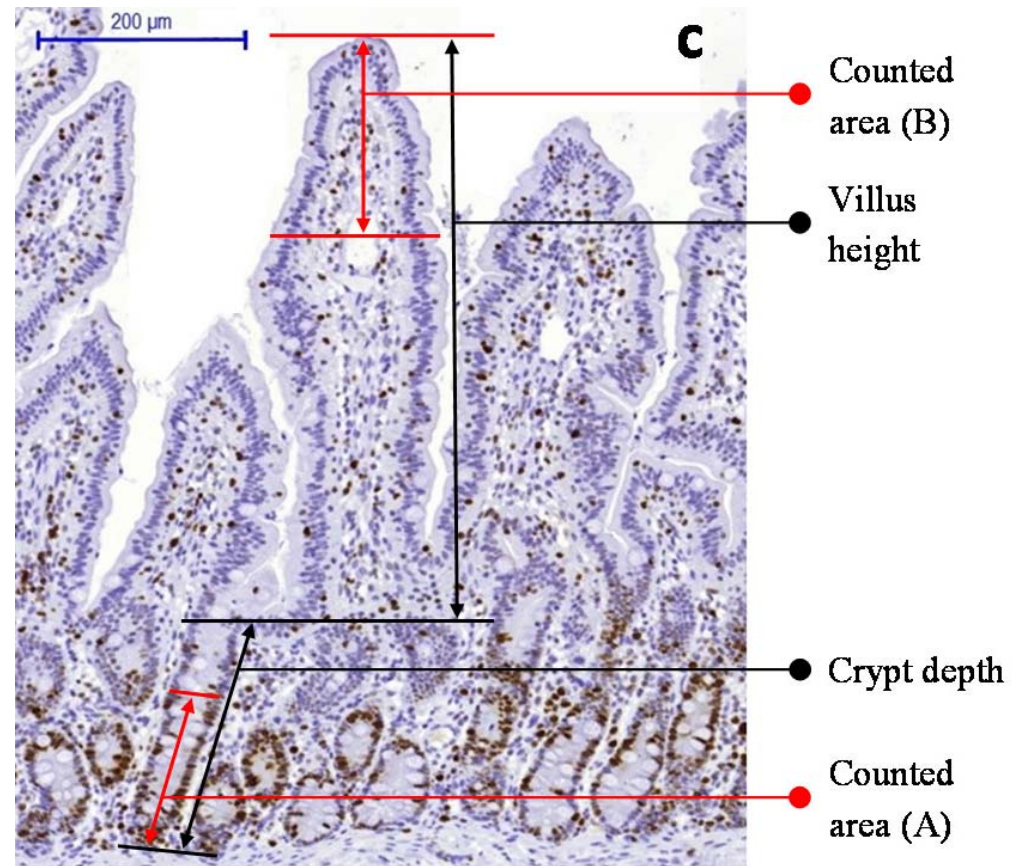
## An obesity-associated gut microbiome with increased capacity for energy harvest

Peter J. Turnbaugh<sup>1</sup>, Ruth E. Ley<sup>1</sup>, Michael A. Mahowald<sup>1</sup>, Vincent Magrini<sup>2</sup>, Elaine R. Mardis<sup>1,2</sup> & Jeffrey I. Gordon<sup>1</sup>

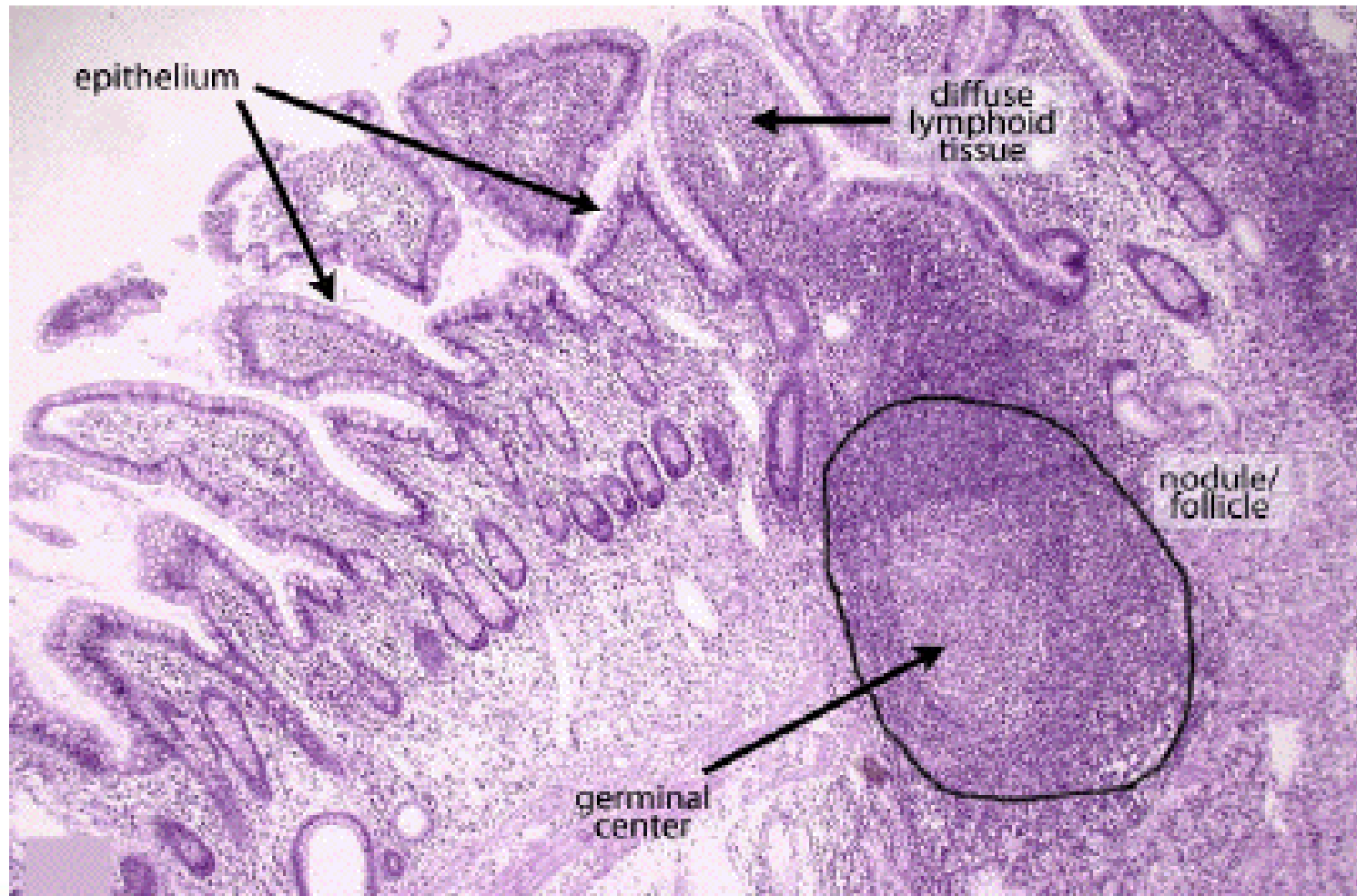
nature

NATURE | Vol 444 | 21/28 December 2006

# Methods: Mucosa

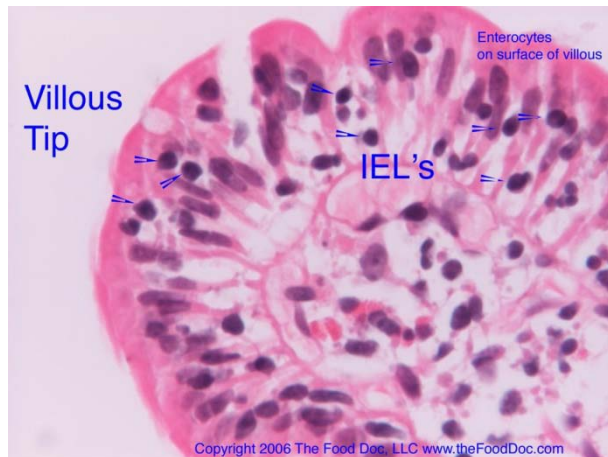
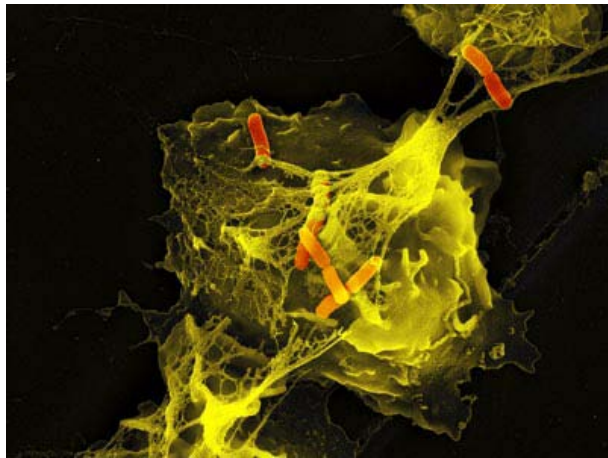


# Methods: GALT, Gut Associated Lymphoid Tissue

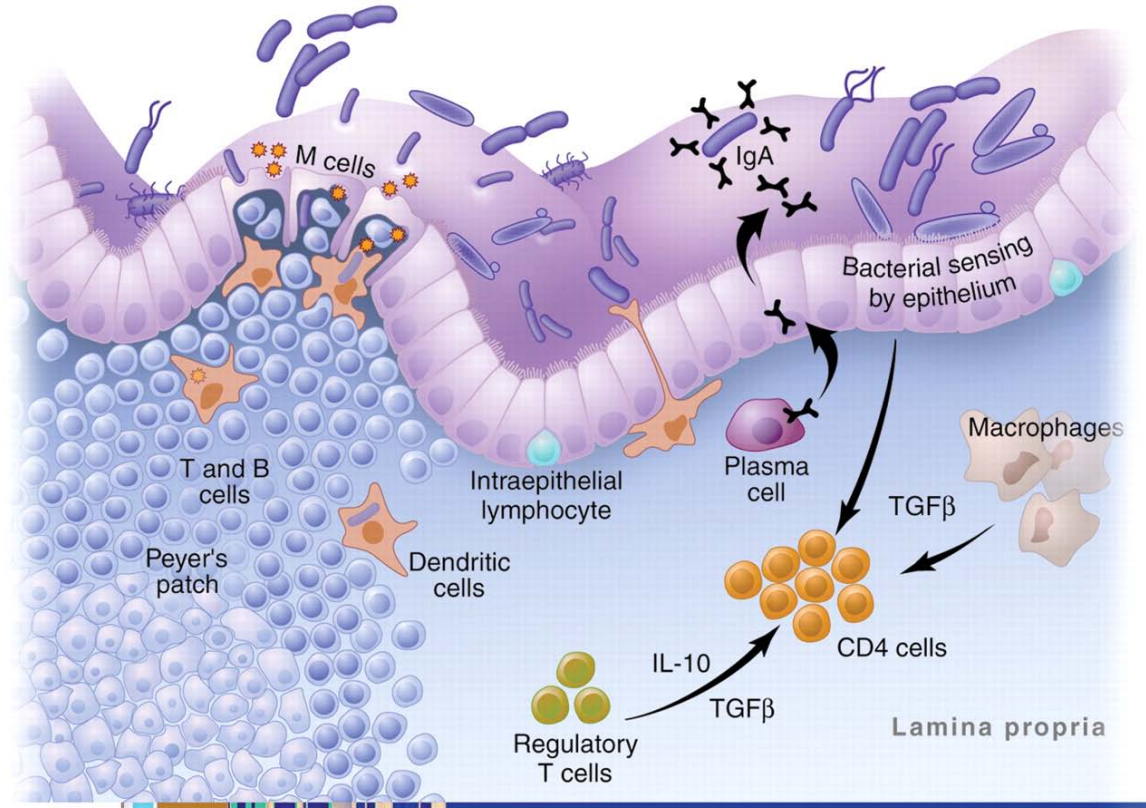




# Methods: GALT



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- In situ methods
- Cytometry
- Molecular (–omics) methods

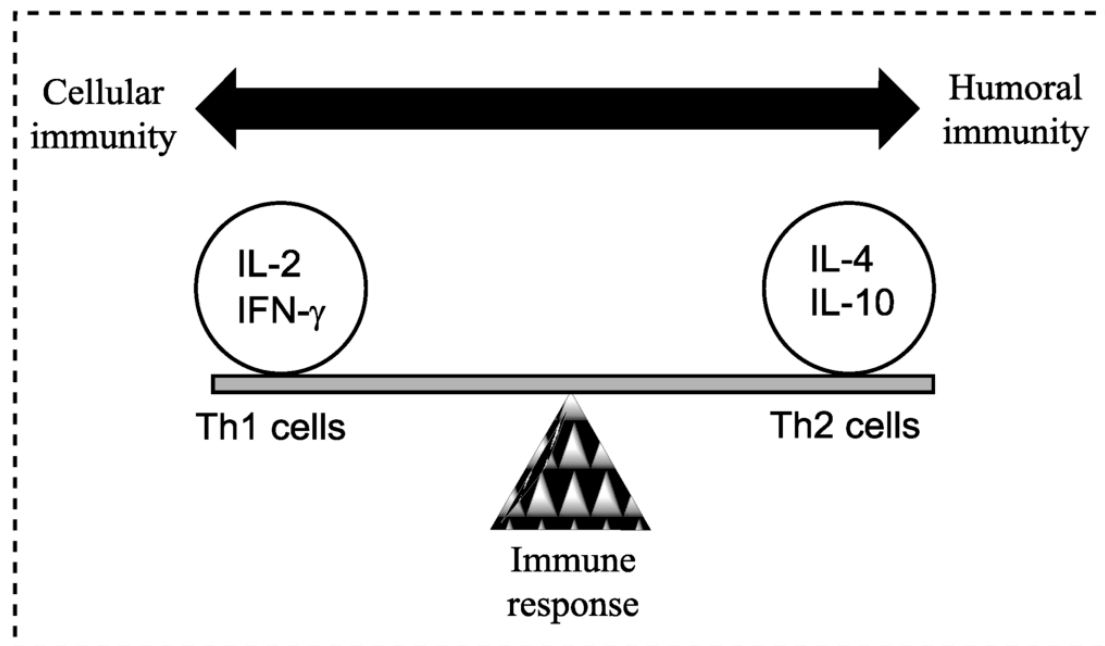
# Methods: GALT, Gut Associated Lymphoid Tissue

Table 6. Leukocyte cell subsets (flow cytometry analysis) in ileocolic lymph node and ileal Peyer's patches of pigs fed the experimental diets<sup>1</sup>

Item	Lymph node				Ileal Peyer's patches			
	CT <sup>2</sup>	SDPP <sup>2</sup>	XT <sup>2</sup>	SEM	CT <sup>2</sup>	SDPP <sup>2</sup>	XT <sup>2</sup>	SEM
SWC3 <sup>+</sup> , %	15.6	12.6*	15.7	0.9	18.4	10.5*	21.6	2.4
CD21 <sup>+</sup> , %	41.6	33.2*	32*	2.6	34.6	38.2	37.2	6.4
$\gamma\delta$ TCR <sup>+</sup> , %	16.5	12.9**	17.1	1	3	3.6	3.2	0.3
CD4 <sup>+</sup> , %	28.1	27.4	26.5	1.5	2.2	2.1	2.1	0.2
CD8 <sup>+</sup> , %	24.5	25.9	24.8	2.2	3.1	3.3	3	0.3

# Methods: The animal surrounding the gut

There is no win-win situation with immune function. Moving towards one type will reduce the other.

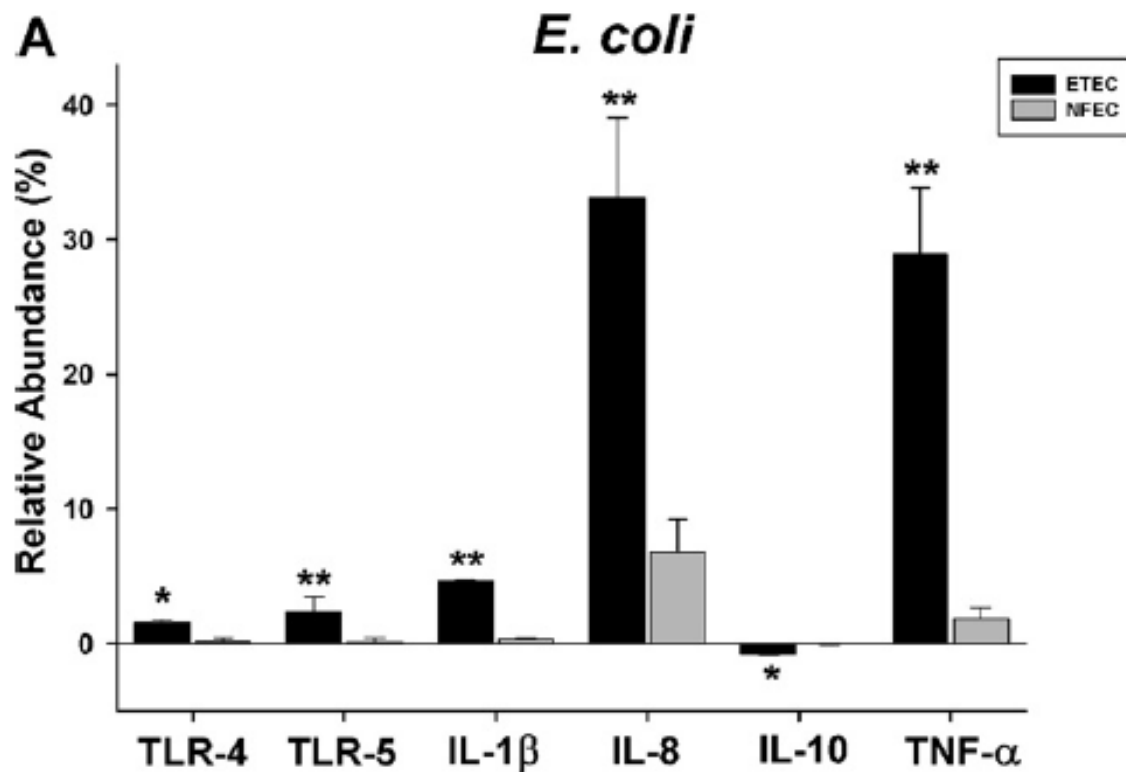
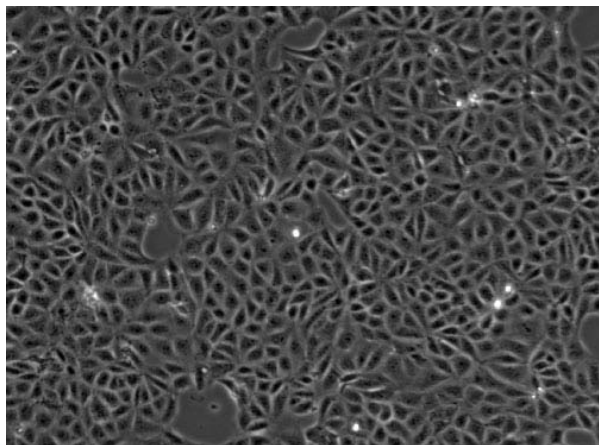




# In vitro methods & Experimental infections

In vitro methods are very useful for screening

Experimental infections will show differences that are not seen in physiological conditions



R.G. Hermes et al. / Comparative Immunology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 34 (2011) 479–488

# Effect of wheat bran on piglet gut health after weaning

# My first approach to fiber

Table 1. Ingredients of the experimental diets (as-fed basis)<sup>1</sup>

Ingredient, %	ST	CC	BP	WB	HF
Barley	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00	15.00
Soybean meal, 44% CP	27.70	27.70	27.70	27.70	27.70
Corn	54.02	54.02	45.27	42.31	35.55
Soybean oil	0.70	0.70	1.60	2.70	1.60
Sugar beet pulp	—	—	8.00	—	8.00
Wheat bran	—	—	—	10.00	10.00
Calcium carbonate	0.81	0.81	0.61	1.08	0.80
Dicalcium phosphate	0.76	0.76	0.85	0.27	0.50
Sodium chloride	0.25	0.25	0.22	0.25	0.23
Vitamin/mineral premix <sup>2</sup>	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
L-Lysine HCl	0.17	0.17	0.15	0.12	0.07
Threonine	0.04	0.04	0.03	0.02	—
Methionine	—	—	0.02	—	—

<sup>1</sup>Experimental diets: ST = standard corn diet, CC = coarse ground corn diet, BP = sugar beet pulp diet, WB = wheat bran diet, and HF = high-fiber diet.



# My first approach to fiber

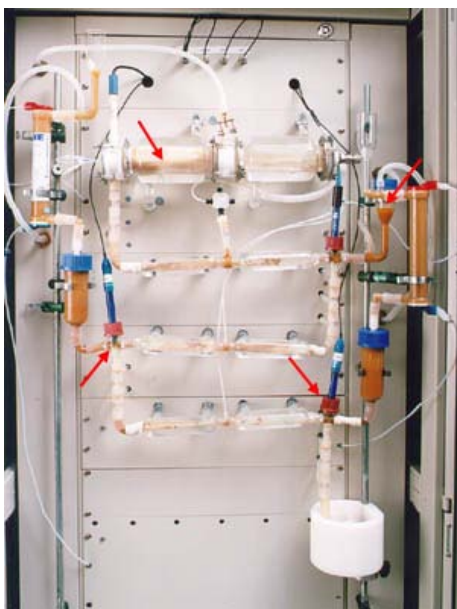


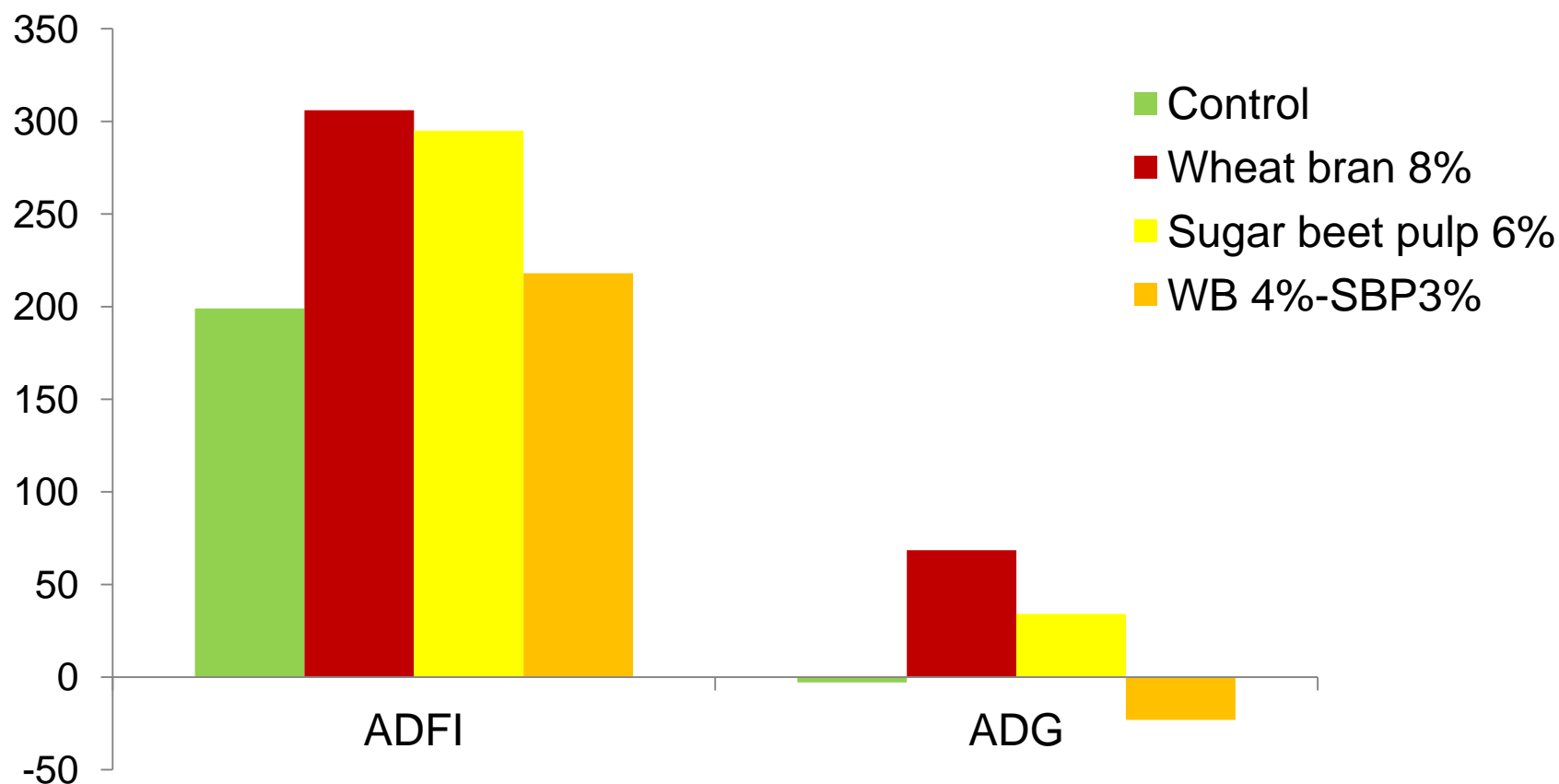
Table 3. Digestibility of OM, CP, and starch in the T-cannulated growing pigs (in vivo), in the Toegepast-Natuurwetenschappelijk Onderzoek dynamic in vitro model (TIM), or using the in vitro static method<sup>1</sup>

Digestibility, %	ST	CC	BP	WB	HF	SEM
<b>OM</b>						
In vivo	70.8 <sup>a</sup>	65.0 <sup>b</sup>	68.1 <sup>ab</sup>	69.7 <sup>ab</sup>	65.1 <sup>b</sup>	1.10
TIM 6 h	61.0 <sup>a</sup>	49.4 <sup>ab</sup>	24.4 <sup>bc</sup>	40.4 <sup>abc</sup>	16.5 <sup>c</sup>	5.09
TIM 8 h	74.9 <sup>a</sup>	61.7 <sup>ab</sup>	33.3 <sup>c</sup>	48.5 <sup>abc</sup>	24.0 <sup>c</sup>	4.84
Static method	82.5 <sup>a</sup>	81.0 <sup>ab</sup>	78.4 <sup>b</sup>	81.3 <sup>a</sup>	74.0 <sup>c</sup>	0.58
<b>CP</b>						
In vivo	76.6 <sup>a</sup>	72.8 <sup>ab</sup>	65.9 <sup>b</sup>	73.3 <sup>ab</sup>	70.9 <sup>ab</sup>	2.42
TIM 6 h	81.8 <sup>a</sup>	75.4 <sup>ab</sup>	43.0 <sup>c</sup>	64.9 <sup>abc</sup>	56.0 <sup>bc</sup>	3.16
TIM 8 h	91.9 <sup>a</sup>	87.7 <sup>ab</sup>	50.1 <sup>d</sup>	76.6 <sup>bc</sup>	68.6 <sup>c</sup>	1.67
<b>Starch</b>						
In vivo	89.3	88.9	89.5	87.7	89.8	1.79
TIM 6 h	68.6	61.1	52.2	68.8	50.2	3.76
TIM 8 h	75.0	67.4	56.3	81.2	64.7	3.83
Static method	83.6 <sup>a</sup>	70.4 <sup>b</sup>	83.0 <sup>a</sup>	80.2 <sup>ab</sup>	83.4 <sup>a</sup>	2.40

<sup>a-d</sup>Within a row, means without a common superscript letter differ ( $P < 0.05$ ).

<sup>1</sup>Experimental diets: ST = standard corn diet, CC = coarse ground corn diet, BP = sugar beet pulp diet, WB = wheat bran diet, and HF = high-fiber diet.

## Effect of different fiber sources on productive performance of piglets 10d after weaning (Molist et al., 2009)





## Effect of wheat bran in piglets challenged with E coli K88+

Item	Diets <sup>a</sup>				SEM <sup>b</sup>	P - value
	NC	PC	WBf	WBc		
<i>E. coli</i> K88 determination	4.7 <sup>x</sup>	4.7 <sup>xy</sup>	2.2 <sup>xy</sup>	0.7 <sup>y</sup>	2.66	0.021
<i>E. coli</i> population	6.3 <sup>x</sup>	6.3 <sup>xy</sup>	4.9 <sup>y</sup>	4.1 <sup>y</sup>	2.11	0.014

NC - neg control

PC - Antibiotics

WBf - Wheat bran fine

WBc - Wheat bran coarse

Faecal score <sup>c</sup>						
6 h post-challenge	1.5	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.93	0.157
24 h post-challenge	1.4	0.6	1.0	0.5	0.75	0.066
48 h post-challenge	1.5 <sup>x</sup>	0.6 <sup>xy</sup>	1.1 <sup>xy</sup>	0.5 <sup>y</sup>	0.71	0.025
72 h post-challenge	1.5 <sup>x</sup>	0.5 <sup>y</sup>	1.1 <sup>xy</sup>	0.5 <sup>y</sup>	0.70	0.014
Overall	1.3 <sup>x</sup>	0.5 <sup>y</sup>	1.0 <sup>xy</sup>	0.5 <sup>y</sup>	0.66	0.020

Richness						
Chao2	431.8 <sup>x</sup>	195.1 <sup>y</sup>	313.0 <sup>xy</sup>	230.1 <sup>xy</sup>	35.24	0.050
ICE	192.9 <sup>x</sup>	133.5 <sup>y</sup>	190.2 <sup>x</sup>	158.5 <sup>xy</sup>	21.29	0.001
MM mean	237.3 <sup>x</sup>	170.6 <sup>z</sup>	245.1 <sup>x</sup>	188.4 <sup>y</sup>	8.80	0.001

F. Molist et al. / Livestock Science 133 (2010) 214–217



## Effect of wheat bran in piglets challenged with E coli K88+

Item	Diets				SEM	P
	NC	PC	WBf	WBc		
Faecal score*	1.5 <sup>a</sup>	0.5 <sup>b</sup>	1.1 <sup>a,b</sup>	0.6 <sup>b</sup>	0.13	0.001
<i>E. coli</i> (log cfu/g digesta)	7.7	7.2	7.5	5.3	2.04	0.150
VFA concentration (mg/l)						
Total	255 <sup>b</sup>	300 <sup>b</sup>	253 <sup>b</sup>	351 <sup>a</sup>	76.5	0.041
Acetic acid	155 <sup>b</sup>	156 <sup>b</sup>	135 <sup>b</sup>	193 <sup>a</sup>	26.2	0.002
Propionic acid	62	70	63	81	18.1	0.222
Butyric acid	33	35	28	35	11.2	0.654
Isoacids	5.0	4.0	6.0	7.0	2.6	0.145

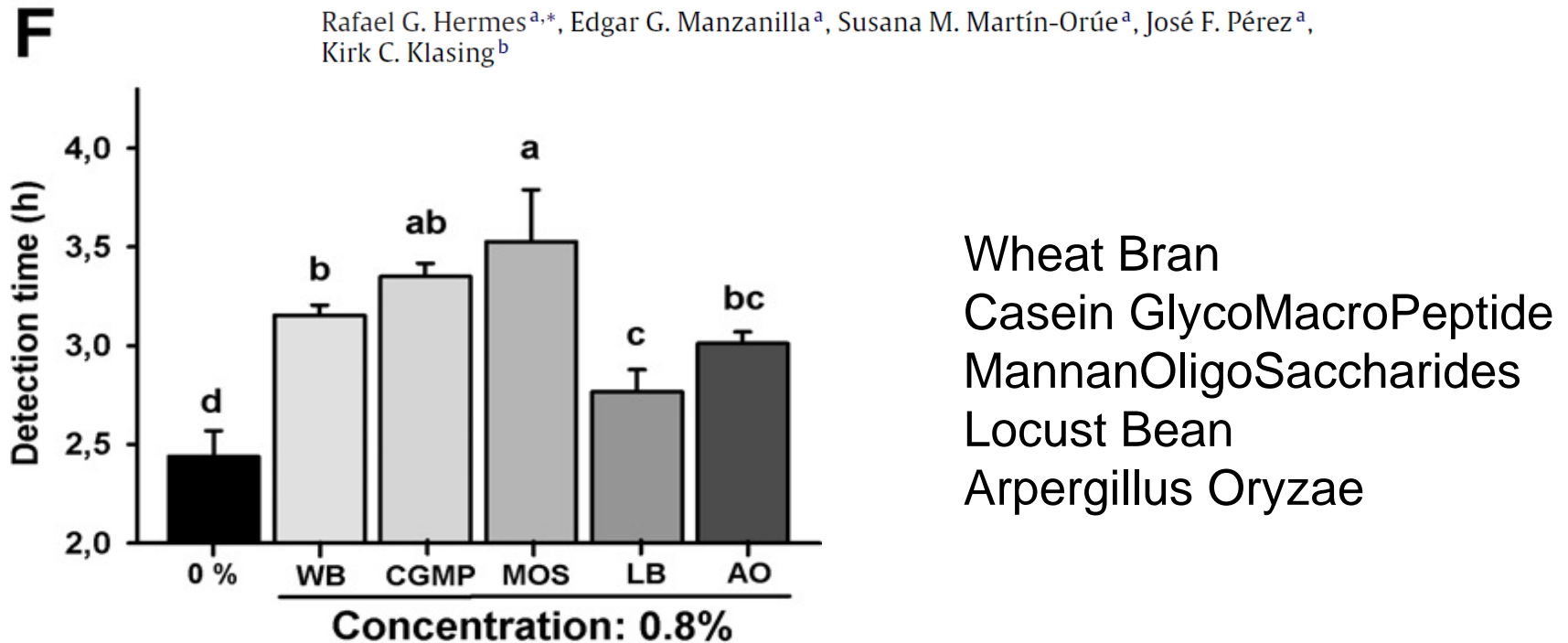
Taxon	Microbial level (%)				SEM
	NC	PC	WBf	WBc	
Day 9					
Phylum Firmicutes	59.1	66.3	67.9	70.1	2.38
Class Clostridia	56.8	64.4	65.6	67.3	2.32
Phylum Bacteroidetes	34.7 <sup>a</sup>	27.2 <sup>a,b</sup>	25.5 <sup>a,b</sup>	23.0 <sup>b</sup>	2.52
Class Bacteroidetes	34.3 <sup>a</sup>	26.9 <sup>a,b</sup>	25.0 <sup>a,b</sup>	22.6 <sup>b</sup>	2.52

F. Molist *et al.* *British Journal of Nutrition* (2012), **108**, 9–15

# E. coli Attachment to epithelial cells

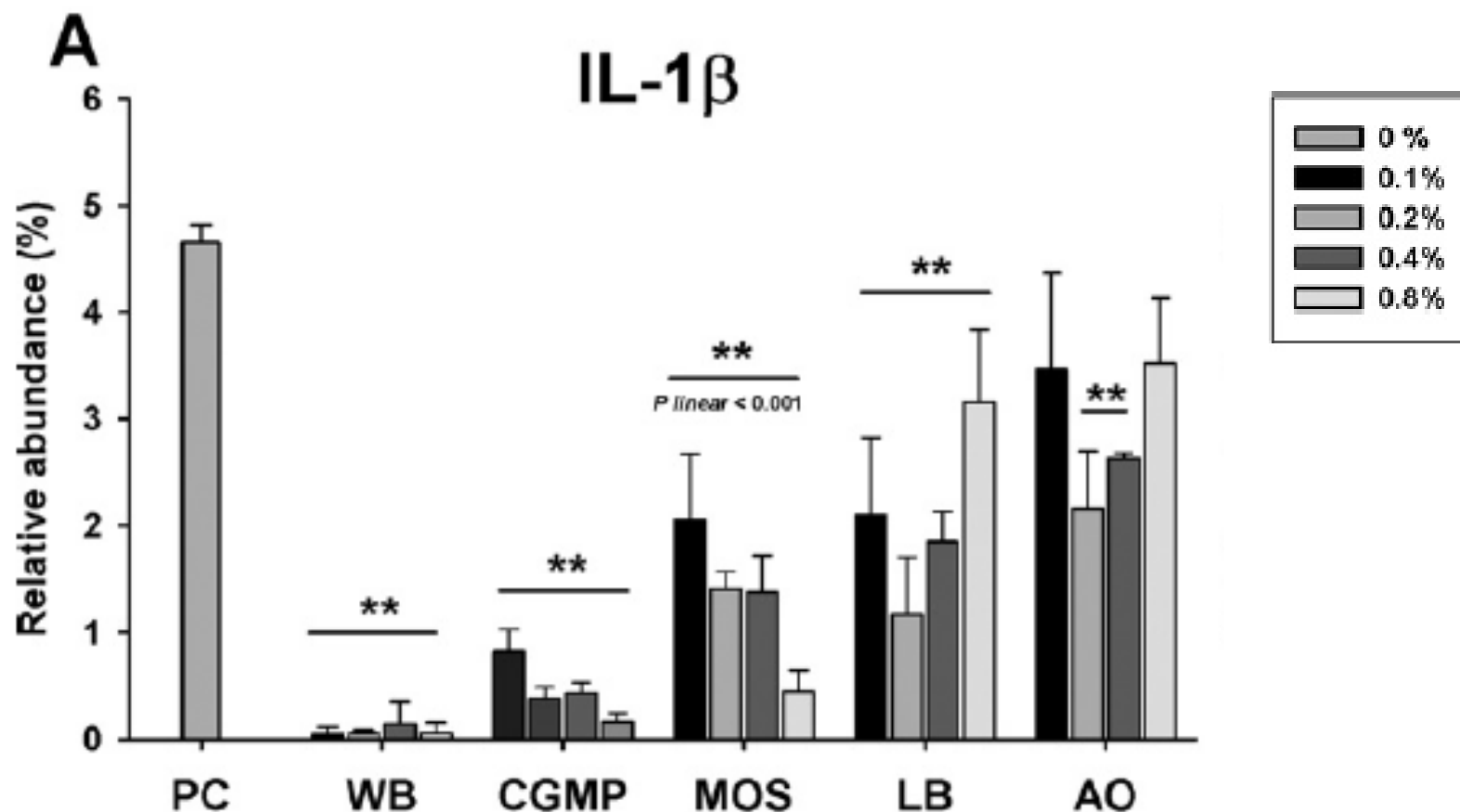
Influence of dietary ingredients on *in vitro* inflammatory response of intestinal porcine epithelial cells challenged by an enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (K88)

Rafael G. Hermes<sup>a,\*</sup>, Edgar G. Manzanilla<sup>a</sup>, Susana M. Martín-Orúe<sup>a</sup>, José F. Pérez<sup>a</sup>, Kirk C. Klasing<sup>b</sup>



R.G. Hermes et al. / Comparative Immunology, Microbiology and Infectious Diseases 34 (2011) 479–488

## Effect of different fibers in cells challenged with E coli K88+



# Final application

environmental  
microbiology



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Research article

## New properties of wheat bran: anti-biofilm activity and interference with bacteria quorum-sensing systems

Gemma González-Ortiz , H. C. Quarles Van Ufford, S. Bart A. Halkes, Marta Cerdà-Cuellar, Cees J. Beukelman, Roland J. Pieters, Rob M. J. Liskamp, José F. Pérez, Susana M. Martín-Orúe

Patents

English

French

### Wheat bran soluble extract as anti-biofilm agent

WO 2015071413 A1


#### ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to products, compositions, methods and uses thereof which are useful in relation to the prevention and treatment of pathogen infections, preferably bacterial infections. More specifically, the invention relates to the use of wheat bran soluble extract as bacterial anti-biofilm agent.

## A Proteinaceous Fraction of Wheat Bran May Interfere in the Attachment of Enterotoxigenic *E. Coli* K88 (F4+) to Porcine Epithelial Cells

Gemma González-Ortiz , Sílvia Bronsoms, H. C. Quarles Van Ufford, S. Bart A. Halkes, Ritva Virkola, Rob M. J. Liskamp, Cees J. Beukelman, Roland J. Pieters, José Francisco Pérez, Susana María Martín-Orúe



Publication number	WO2015071413 A1
Publication type	Application
Application number	PCT/EP2014/074608
Publication date	May 21, 2015
Filing date	Nov 14, 2014
Priority date 	Nov 15, 2013
Inventors	ORÚE Susana María MARTÍN, HERNÁNDEZ Jose Francisco PÉREZ, ORTÍZ Gemma GONZÁLEZ, Less «
Applicant	Universitat Autònoma De Barcelona
Export Citation	BiBTeX, EndNote, RefMan

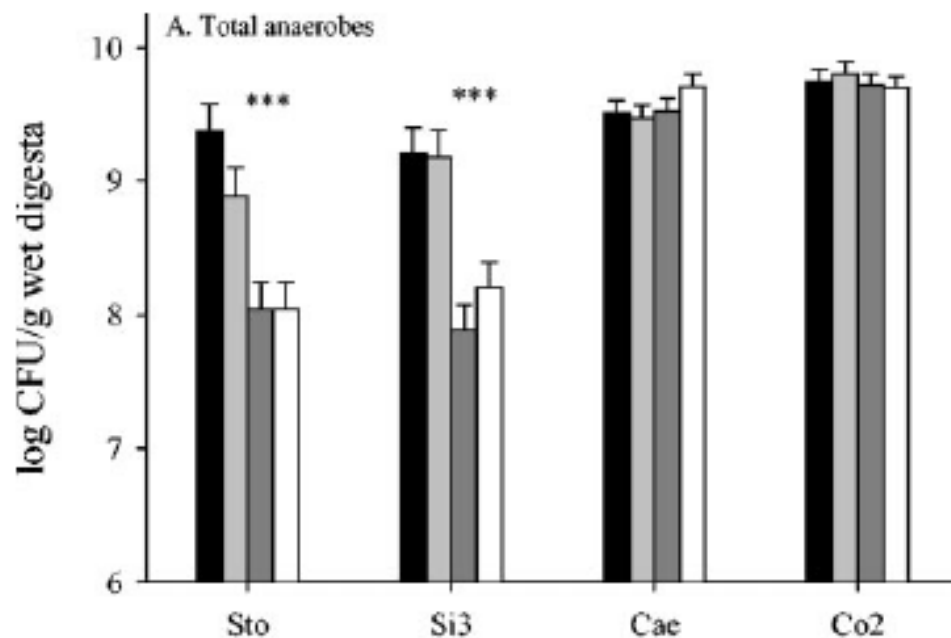
# Statistical considerations in studies on gut health

# Correlation vs. mechanistic approach (causation)

## Influence of Dietary Zinc Oxide and Copper Sulfate on the Gastrointestinal Ecosystem in Newly Weaned Piglets

Ole Højberg,\* Nuria Canibe, Hanne Damgaard Poulsen, Mette Skou Hedemann, and Bent Borg Jensen

APPLIED AND ENVIRONMENTAL MICROBIOLOGY, May 2005, p. 2267–2277



Better growth  
Less diarrhea

Decrease in lactobacilli  
Increase in coliforms  
Increase in enterococci

# Correlation vs. mechanistic approach (causation)



- Development of an improved formula for ORS solution with reduced levels of glucose and salt, which shortens the duration of diarrhoea and the need for unscheduled intravenous fluids<sup>1</sup>
- Demonstration that zinc supplements given during an episode of acute diarrhoea reduce the duration and severity of the episode<sup>2</sup>, and
- Findings that zinc supplementation given for 10–14 days lowers the incidence of diarrhoea in the following 2–3 months<sup>3</sup>

**Table 2** Zinc, iron and copper concentrations (mg/L) in plasma and blood cells

	Unweaned	Weaned	Weaned + ZnO	SEM*	p value
Plasma					
Zn	1.10 <sup>a</sup>	0.76 <sup>b</sup>	1.32 <sup>a</sup>	0.099	0.001

**Table 3** Zinc, iron and copper concentrations (mg/kg) in liver and zinc concentration in pancreas and spleen

	Unweaned	Weaned	Weaned + ZnO	SEM*	p value
Liver					
Zn	67.0 <sup>b</sup>	69.5 <sup>b</sup>	330.8 <sup>a</sup>	18.4	<0.001
Fe	153	173	156	35.7	0.896
Cu	50.6	48.5	40.1	7.79	0.545
Pancreas Zn	48.7 <sup>b</sup>	35.2 <sup>b</sup>	130.9 <sup>a</sup>	15.54	<0.001
Spleen Zn	22.1	22.7	22.7	0.738	0.801

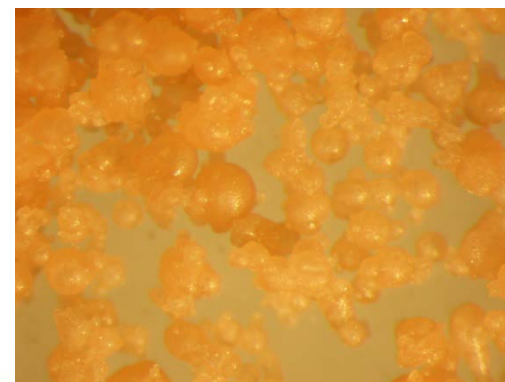
Journal of Animal Physiology and Animal Nutrition **97** (2013) 6–12



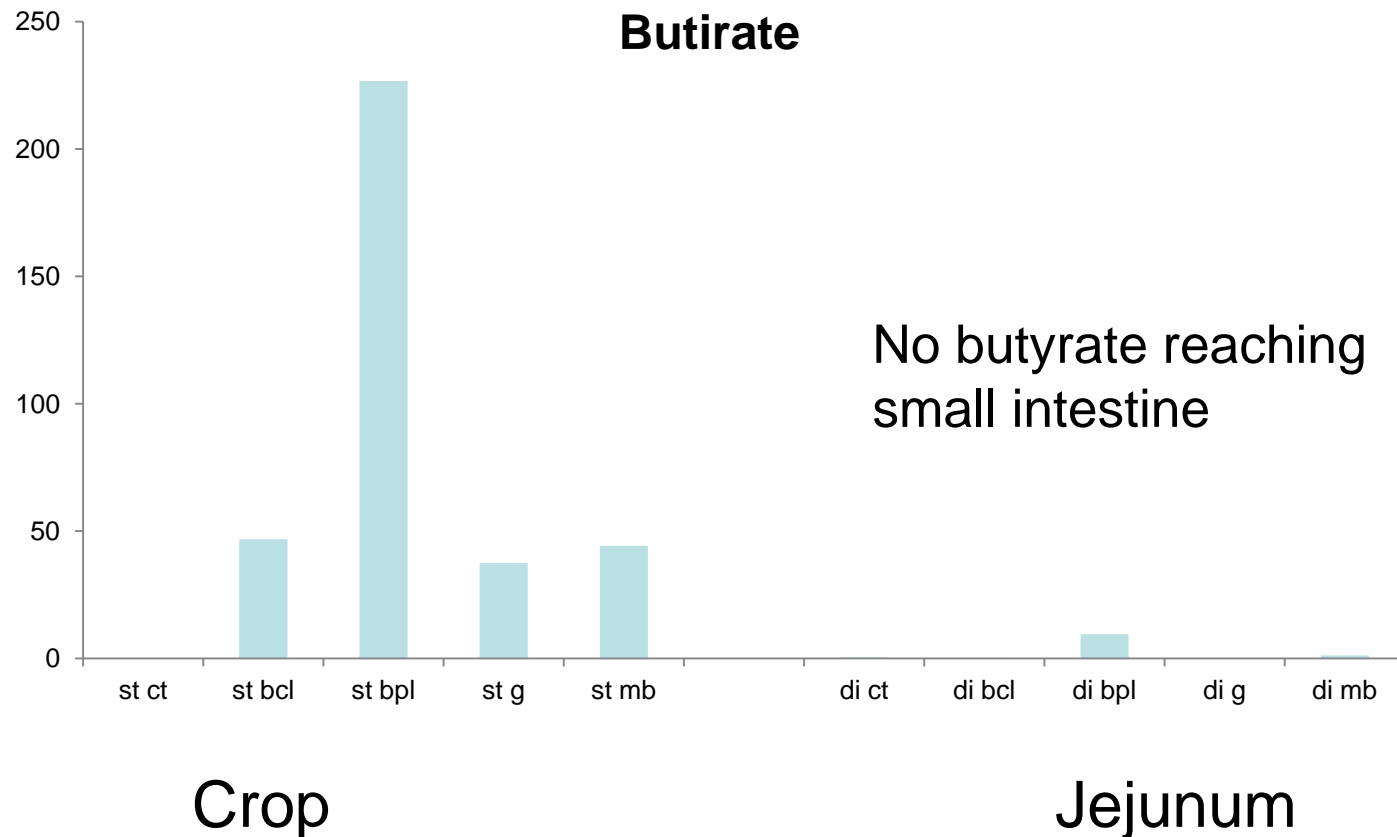
# Correlation vs. mechanistic approach (causation)

Performance of broilers fed diets containing increasing doses of sodium butyrate

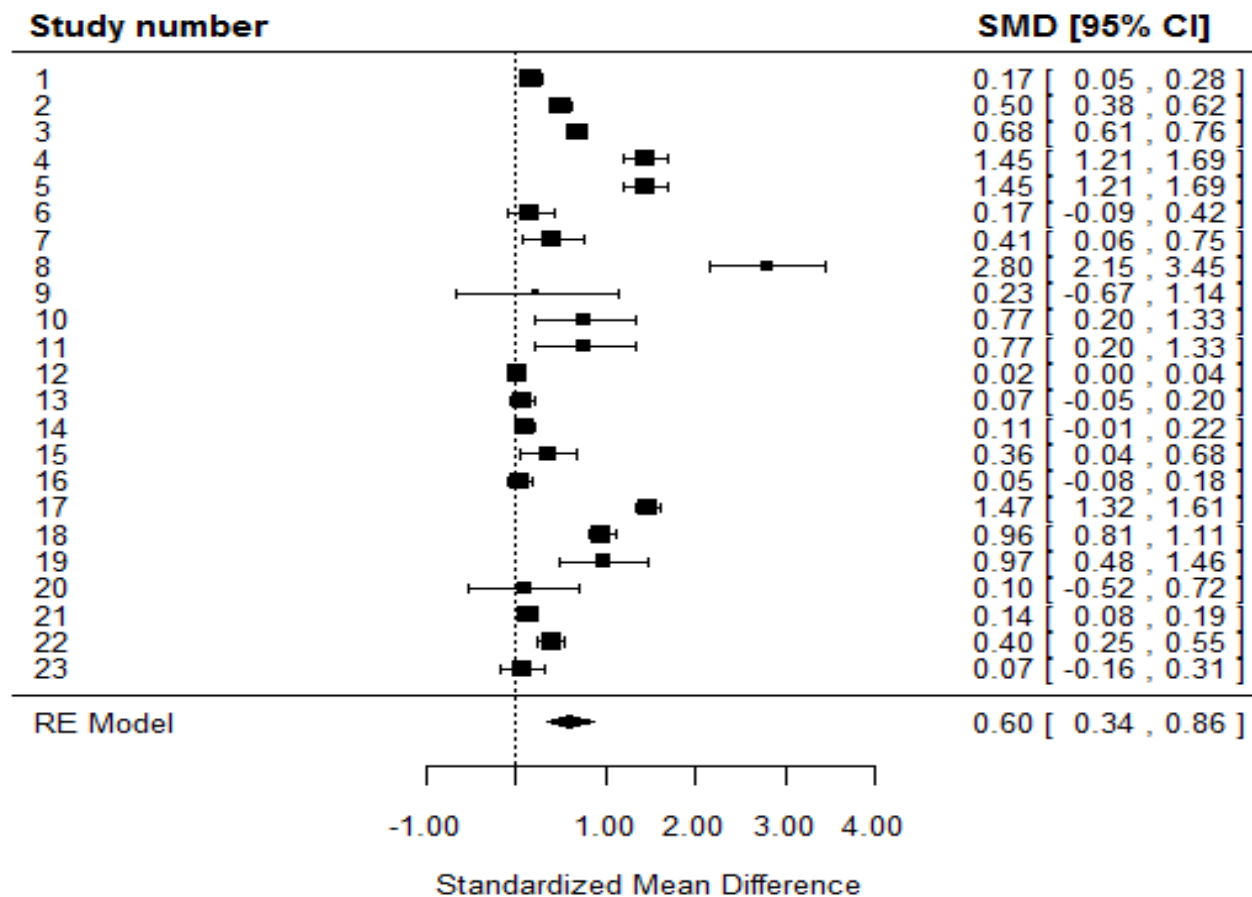
	0.0	0.1	0.3	1.0	SEM	P-value	Lineal P
0-5 d							
ADG	14.4 <sup>b</sup>	15.8 <sup>ab</sup>	15.7 <sup>ab</sup>	16.7 <sup>a</sup>	0.51	0.036	0.025
G:F	0.93 <sup>b</sup>	0.97 <sup>ab</sup>	1.00 <sup>ab</sup>	1.03 <sup>a</sup>	0.020	0.011	0.009



# Correlation vs. mechanistic approach (causation)

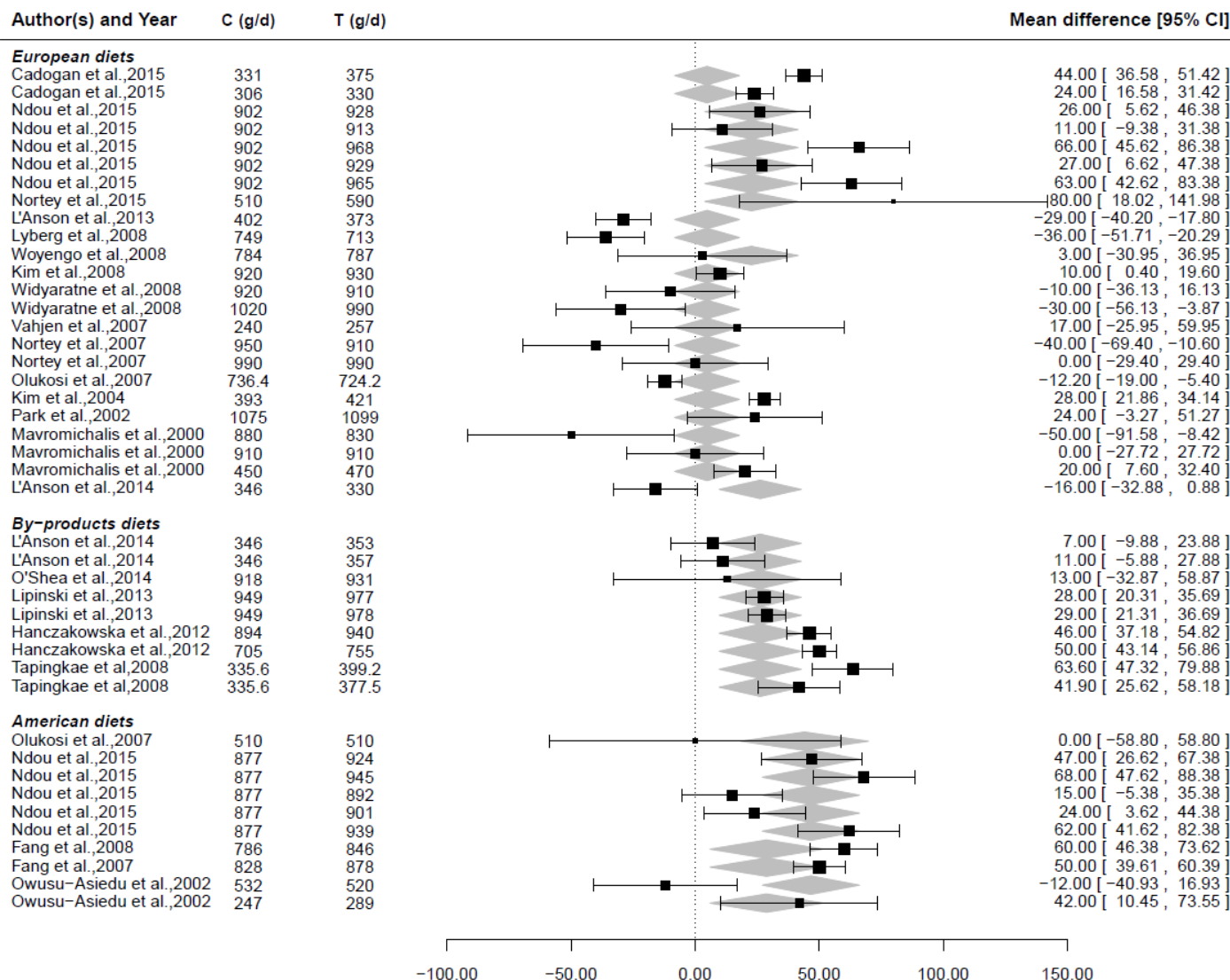


# Publication bias: Meta analysis of Tulathromycin



# Publication bias

## Effect of xylanase on pig growth



# The problem with multiple comparisons

Table 3. Intestinal histology of pigs fed the experimental diets<sup>1</sup>

Item	FM18 <sup>2</sup>		SBM18 <sup>2</sup>		SBM20 <sup>2</sup>		SEM	XT	Diet	INT <sup>3</sup>
	0	200	0	200	0	200				
Proximal jejunum										
Vill: crypt, $\mu\text{m}:\mu\text{m}$	1.86 <sup>7</sup>	2.04	2.32 <sup>x</sup>	2.19	1.96 <sup>7</sup>	1.91	0.094	0.971	0.003	0.276
Mitoses, n/100 cells	1.09 <sup>7</sup>	1.17	1.15 <sup>7</sup>	1.05	1.32 <sup>x</sup>	1.37	0.092	0.870	0.037	0.608
IEL, n/100 cells	31.7	25.1	34.6	28.8	27.7	31.0	2.33	0.137	0.393	0.094
Lamina propria cells, n/1,000 $\mu\text{m}^2$	9.25 <sup>7</sup>	9.75	9.35 <sup>7</sup>	9.30	10.70 <sup>x</sup>	11.9	0.57	0.249	0.004	0.559
Distal jejunum										
Vill: crypt, $\mu\text{m}:\mu\text{m}$	1.60	1.62	1.64	1.54	1.56	1.79	0.136	0.679	0.819	0.496
Mitoses, n/100 cells	4.31 <sup>7</sup>	6.79	2.66 <sup>2</sup>	3.99	5.95 <sup>x</sup>	5.53	0.540	0.015	<0.001	0.037
IEL, n/100 cells	32.5 <sup>x</sup>	29.6	27.8 <sup>7</sup>	29.9	32.8 <sup>x</sup>	29.0	0.62	0.140	0.185	0.066
Lamina propria cells, n/1,000 $\mu\text{m}^2$	8.60 <sup>7</sup>	10.80	10.45 <sup>x</sup>	10.55	10.50 <sup>x</sup>	9.30	0.866	0.185	0.115	0.009

Table 5. Volatile fatty acid concentration and profile in cecum and colon of pigs fed the experimental diets<sup>1</sup>

Item	FM18 <sup>2</sup>		SBM18 <sup>2</sup>		SBM20 <sup>2</sup>		SEM	XT	Diet	INT <sup>3</sup>
	0	200	0	200	0	200				
P-value										
Total VFA, μmol/g of fresh matter	233.1	187.1	204.2	181.3	188.4	184.2	13.87	0.045	0.236	0.346
Acetic acid, %	53.1 <sup>y</sup>	51.7	53.1 <sup>y</sup>	46.6	55.3 <sup>x</sup>	54.7	1.54	0.033	0.008	0.147
Propionic acid, %	31.0	30.0	29.5	30.4	28.2	29.8	1.26	0.636	0.502	0.555
Butyric acid, %	13.0	16.2	13.9	16.6	13.6	12.8	1.03	0.050	0.153	0.120
N-Valeric acid, %	1.8 <sup>y</sup>	2.7	2.6 <sup>x</sup>	4.7	2.1 <sup>y</sup>	2.0	0.51	0.027	0.009	0.124
Branched VFA, %	0.76	0.69	0.51	0.45	0.74	0.66	0.116	0.490	0.094	0.996

# The problem with multiple comparisons

Increasing the number of comparisons (p-value)

Microarrays, NGS... can provide thousands of variables

Low sample sizes

Hundreds of false positives

Genomes not well annotated



