



**Insights into the reason of Human-Residential Bifidobacteria (HRB)  
being the natural inhabitants of the human gut and  
their potential health-promoting benefits**



Jin-zhong Xiao, Ph.D

Next Generation Science Institute, Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd.

## 1. *Bifidobacterium* in human gut, the concept of Human-Residential Bifidobacteria (HRB)

- **Bifidobacterium species and compatibility with human milk**
- **The distinguished metabolic profile of HRB**

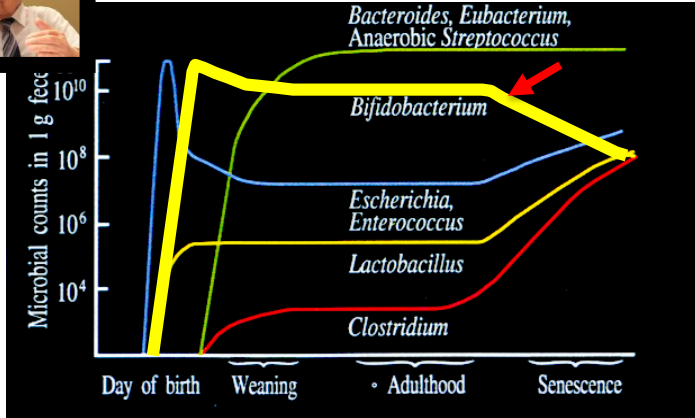
## 2. Topics of the potential health-promoting effects of HRB

- **Clinical effects to preterm infants**
- **Clinical effects in preventing cognitive impairment in elderly.**

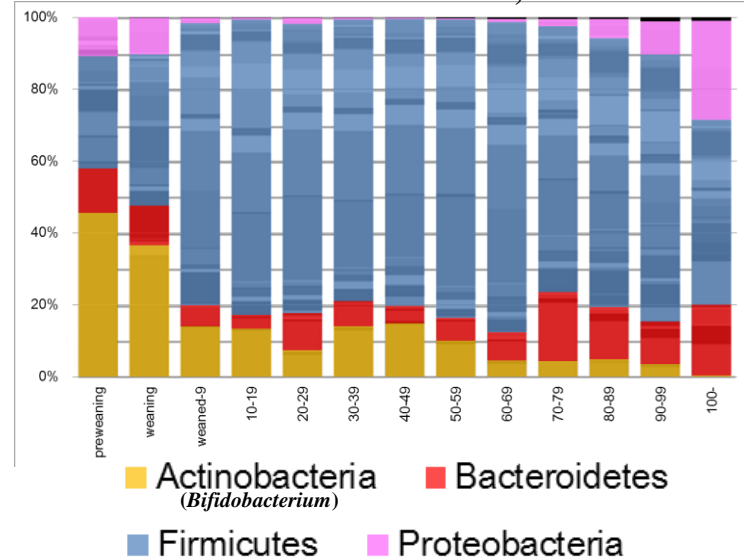
# Bifidobacterium and human health



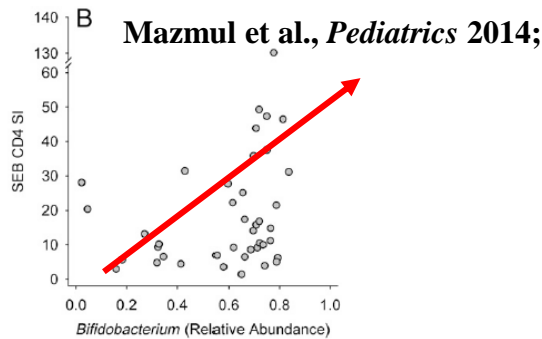
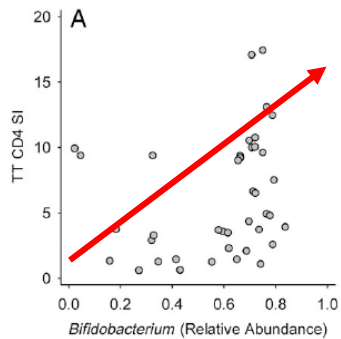
Mitsuoka T, 1978



Odamaki T. et al, BMC Microbiology, 2016



Response to vaccine



Abundance of bifidobacteria



**Bifidobacteria function in maintaining health and protecting from infection for the infants**

# Bifidobacterial species and their residences

More than 90 species/subspecies of *Bifidobacterium* have been discovered  
(<http://www.bacterio.net/>)



*B. longum* subsp. *infantis*  
*B. longum* subsp. *longum*  
*B. breve*  
*B. bifidum*



HRB



*B. animalis* subsp. *animalis*  
*B. animalis* subsp. *lactis*  
*B. thermophilum*  
*B. pseudolongum*



non-HRB



*B. longum* subsp. *longum*  
*B. adolescentis*  
*B. pseudocatenulatum*  
*B. Catenulatum*

**HRB:** Human-residential bifidobacteria

**Non-HRB:** non-Human-residential bifidobacteria

# To answer...

1. What is the **mechanism** for the characteristic residence of *Bifidobacterium* species?
2. Is there any basic difference between **HRB** and **non-HRB** in relation to health benefits?

# To understand the difference of HRB and non-HRB

A total of 50 genome sequences from NCBI database or Sequenced by MiSeq

## HRB

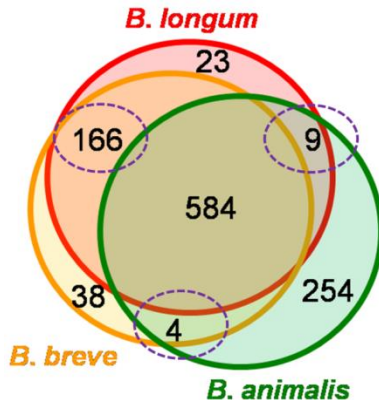
- 16 strains of *B. longum* (2 ssp. *infantis*, 14 ssp. *longum*)
- 14 strains of *B. breve*

## Non-HRB

- 20 strains of *B. animalis* (5 ssp. *animalis*, 14 ssp. *lactis*)



## Number of common clusters among 3 bifidobacterial species



## Common clusters:

*B. longum*/*B. breve*: **166**

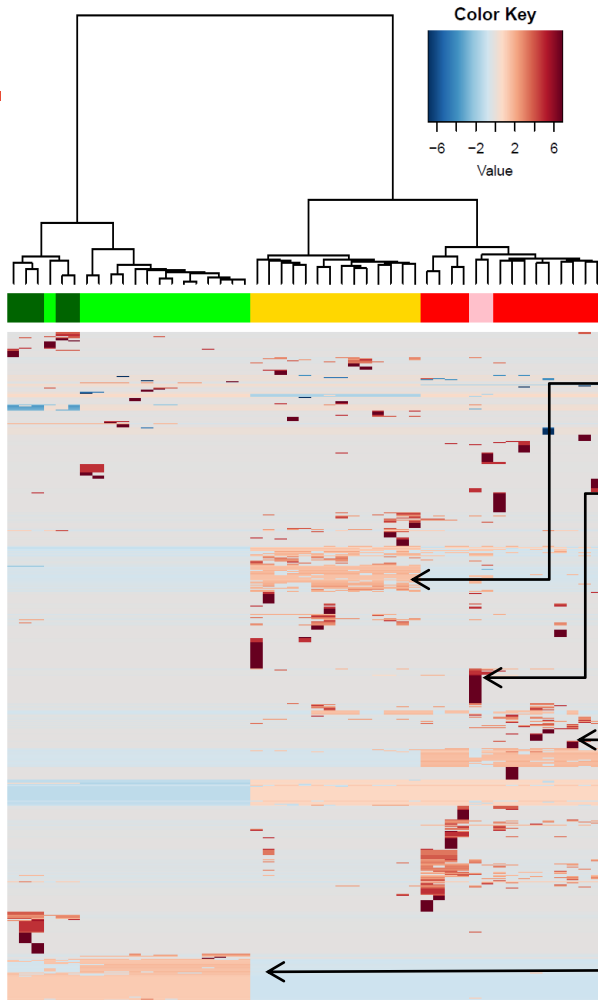
*B. longum*/*B. animalis*: **9**

*B. breve*/*B. animalis*: **4**

# Hierarchical clustering based on the genomic information.



Odamaki et al., International Journal of Genomics (2015)



- *B. longum subsp. longum*
- *B. longum subsp. infantis*
- *B. breve*

- *B. animalis subsp. animalis*
- *B. animalis subsp. lactis*

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•ROK family transcriptional regulator</li> <li>•N-acetylmannosamine-6-phosphate 2-epimerase</li> <li>•N-acetylneuraminase lyase</li> <li>•Sialidase A, etc.</li> </ul>	} <b>Sialidase related cluster</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Exo-alpha-sialidase</li> <li>•alpha-L-fucosidase</li> <li>•family 1 extracellular solute-binding protein, etc.</li> </ul>	} <b>HMO related cluster</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•arabinosidase</li> <li>•alpha-L-arabinofuranosidase A</li> <li>•xylulose kinase</li> <li>•extracellular exo-xylanase</li> <li>•endo-1,4-beta-xylanase D, etc.</li> </ul>	} <b>Enzymes for plant derived sugar</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•GTP cyclohydrolase I</li> <li>•Dihydroneopterin aldolase</li> <li>•Dihydropterolate synthase</li> <li>•L-aspartate oxidase</li> <li>•Quinolinate synthetase A, etc.</li> </ul>	} <b>Folate synthesis</b> } <b>Niacin synthesis</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•lacto-N-biose phosphorylase</li> <li>•UDP-glucose 4-epimerase</li> </ul>	} <b>GNB/LNB cluster</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•mannan endo-1,4-beta-mannosidase</li> <li>•beta-mannosidase etc.</li> </ul>	} <b>Enzymes for plant derived sugar</b>







*FEMS Microbiology Reviews*, fuaa010, 1–17

doi: [10.1093/femsre/fuaa010](https://doi.org/10.1093/femsre/fuaa010)

Advance Access Publication Date: 22 April 2020

Review article

REVIEW ARTICLE

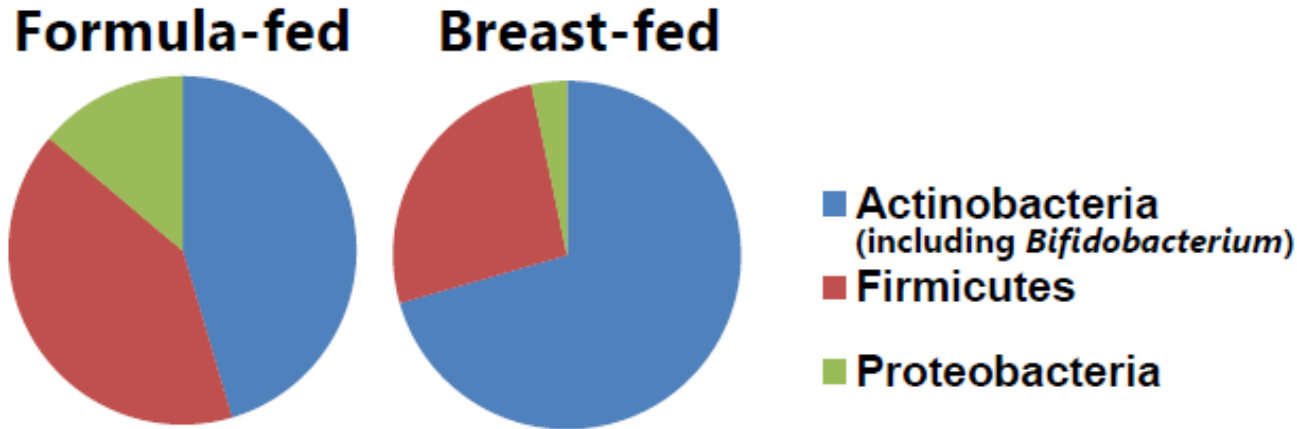
## Insights into the reason of Human-Residential Bifidobacteria (HRB) being the natural inhabitants of the human gut and their potential health-promoting benefits

Chyn Boon Wong, Toshitaka Odamaki and Jin-zhong Xiao\*

Next Generation Science Institute, Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd., 5-1-83, Higashihara, Zama, Kanagawa,

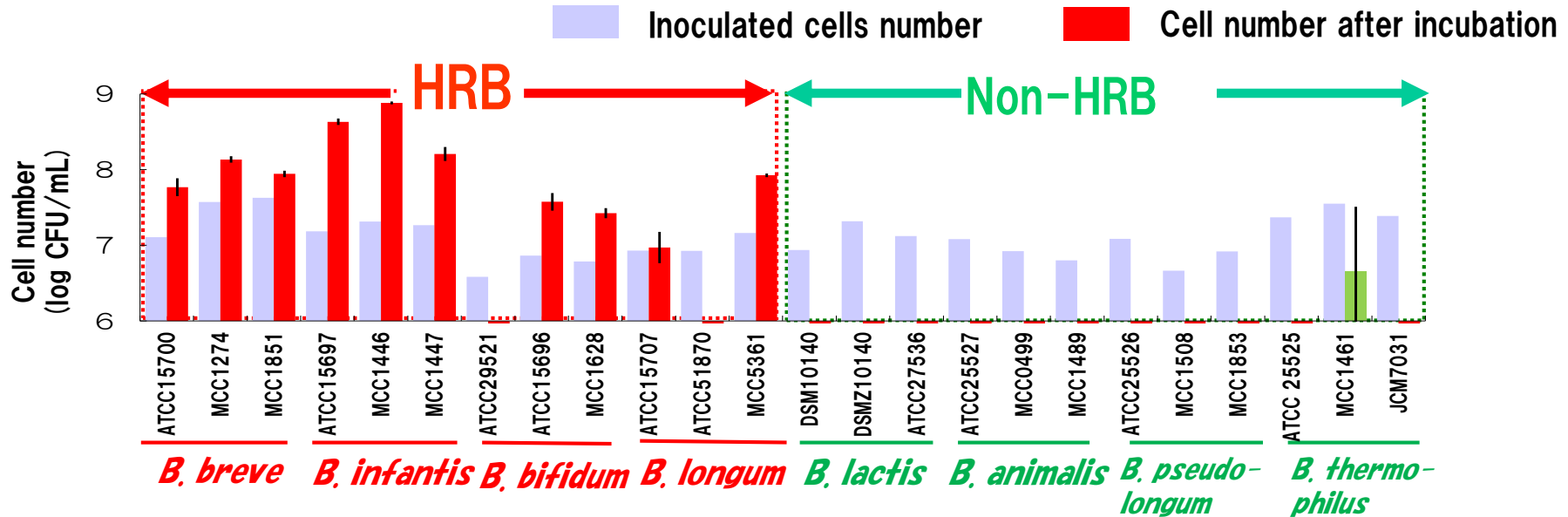
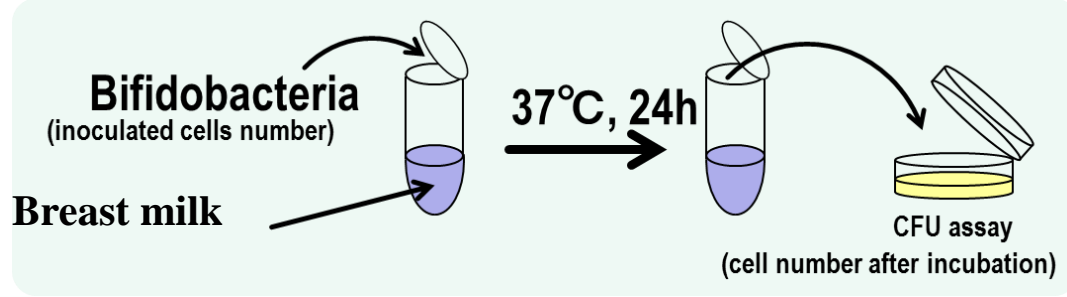
# *Bifidobacterium* and breast milk

- The abundance of *Bifidobacterium* is higher in breast-fed infants than formula-fed infants (Vandenplas, 2002)
- Milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) in breast milk are the contributing factors for the colonization of *Bifidobacterium*.

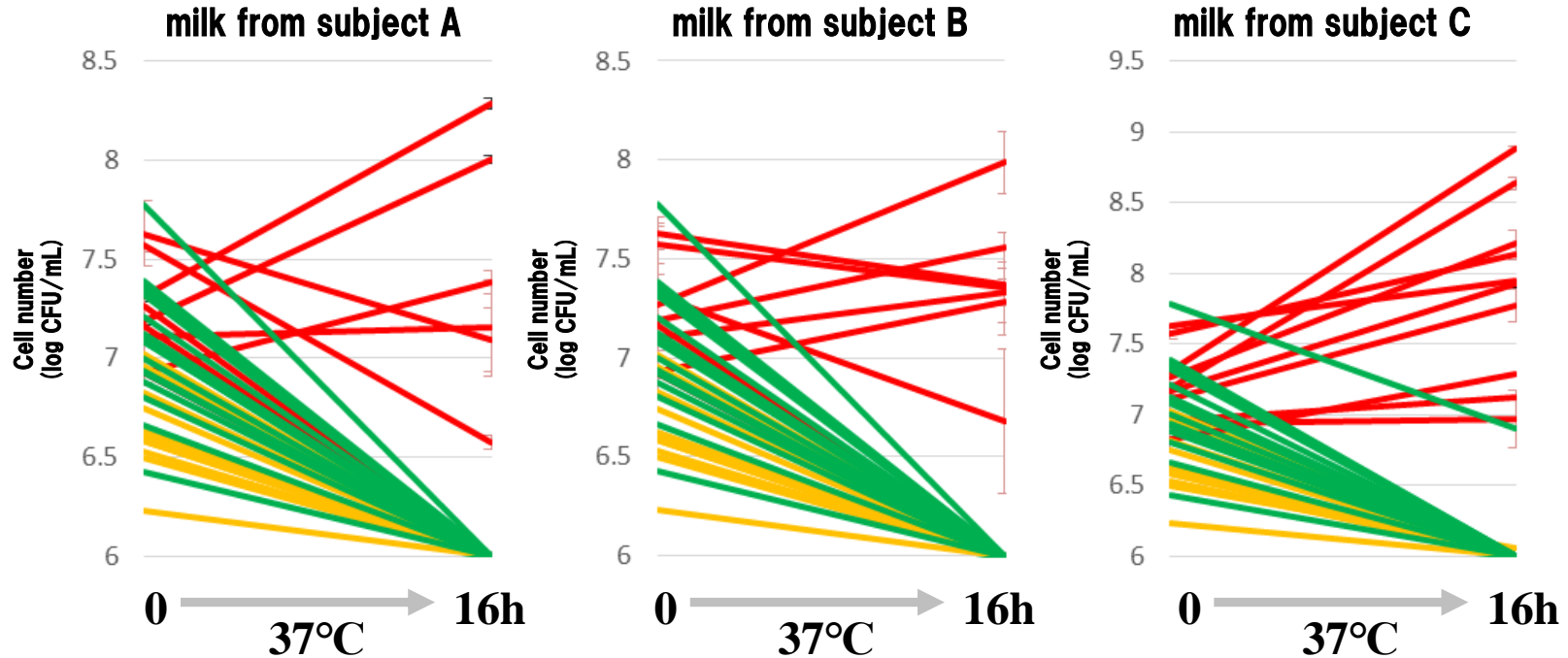


(Modified from Lee et al., Nutrition Research and Practice, 2015)

# Growth of *Bifidobacteria* in human breast milk

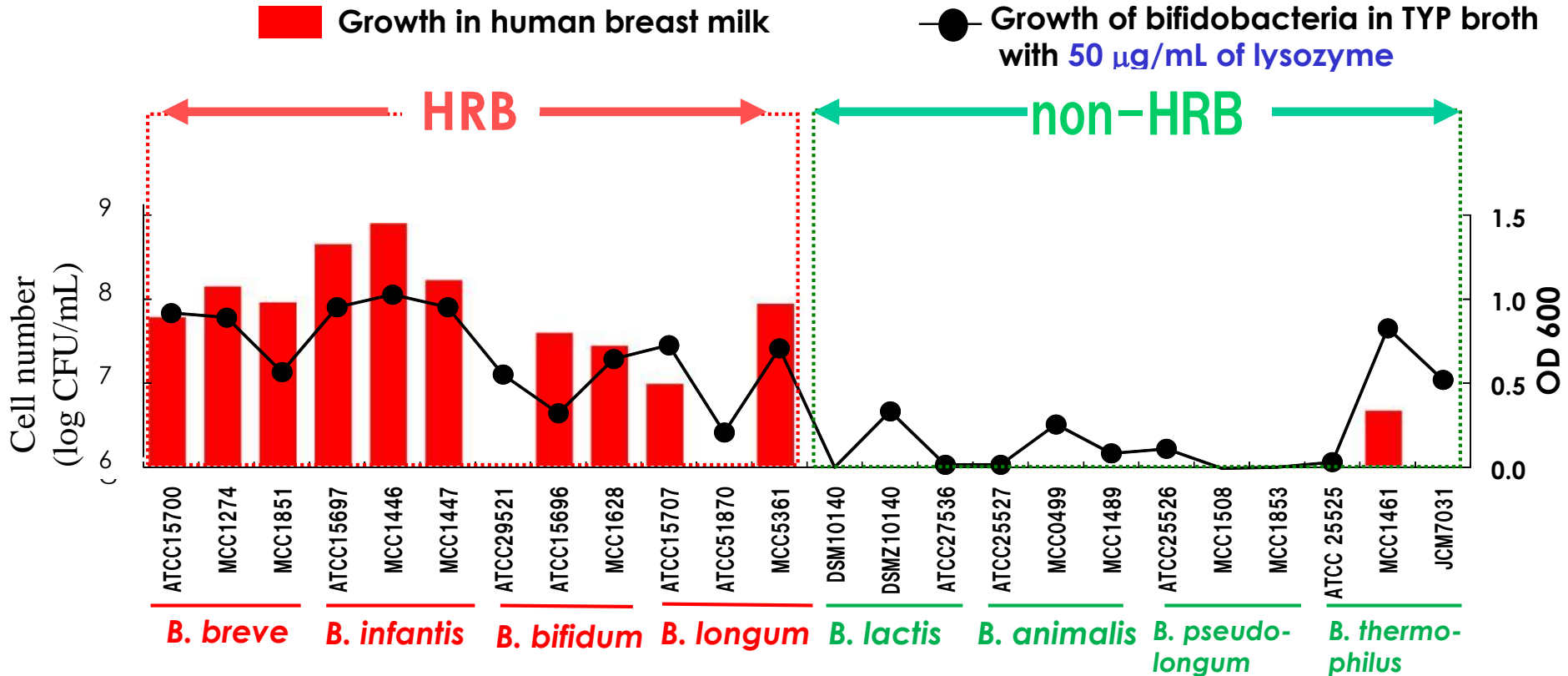


# Growth of *Bifidobacterium* in human breast milk



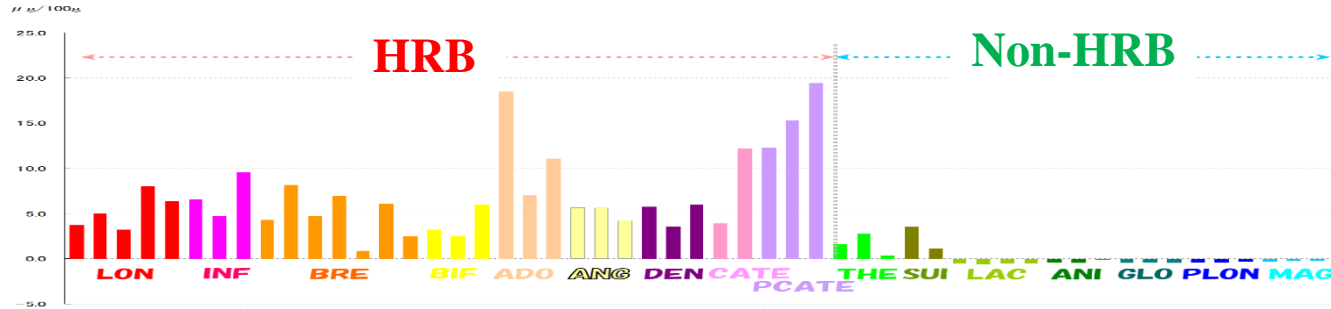
**Infant HRB strains**  
**Adult HRB strains**  
**non-HRB strains**

# Growth of *Bifidobacterium* in medium containing lysozyme



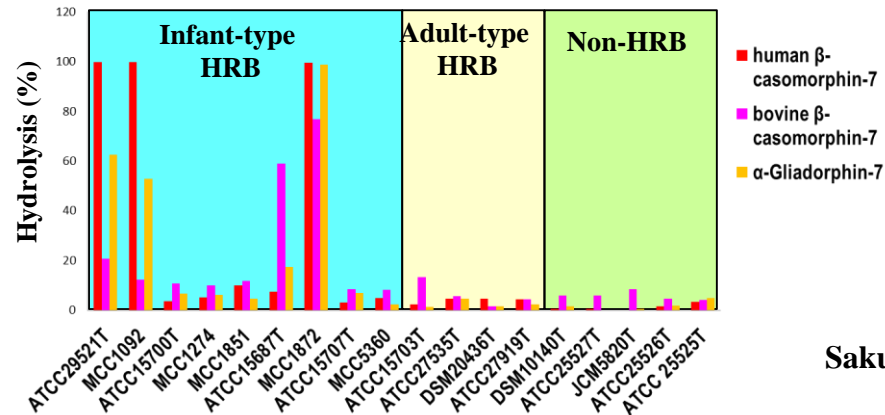
# Different metabolisms of HRB and non-HRB

- Production of folate



Sugahara et al BMFH, 2015

- Degradation of food-derived opioid peptides

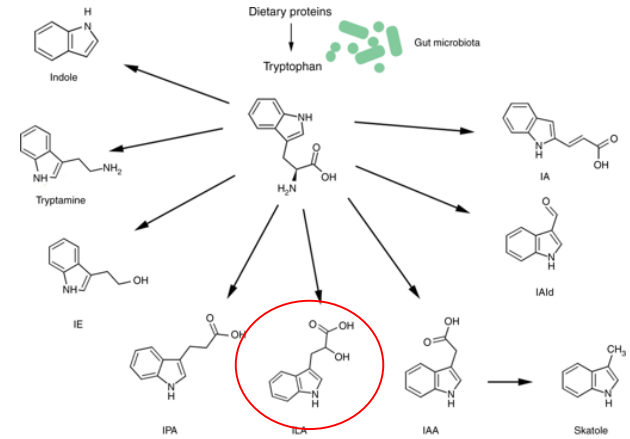


Sakurai T et al., Ben. Microbes, 2018

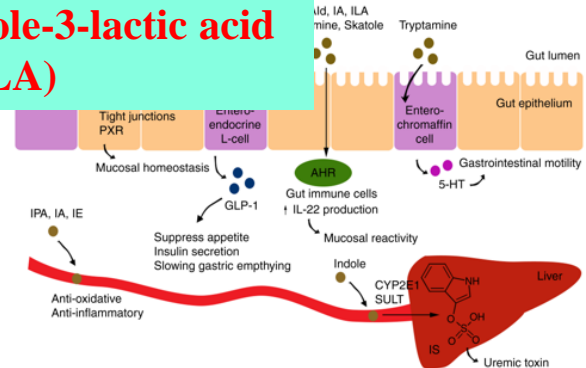
# Microbial tryptophan catabolites

Microbial tryptophan catabolites in health and disease

**Microbial tryptophan catabolites in the gut** are suggested to activate the immune system through binding to the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR), enhance the intestinal epithelial barrier, stimulate gastrointestinal motility, as well as secretion of gut hormones, exert anti-inflammatory, antioxidative or toxic effects in systemic circulation, and putatively modulate gut microbial composition. Tryptophan catabolites thus affect various physiological processes and may **contribute to intestinal and systemic homeostasis in health and disease.**

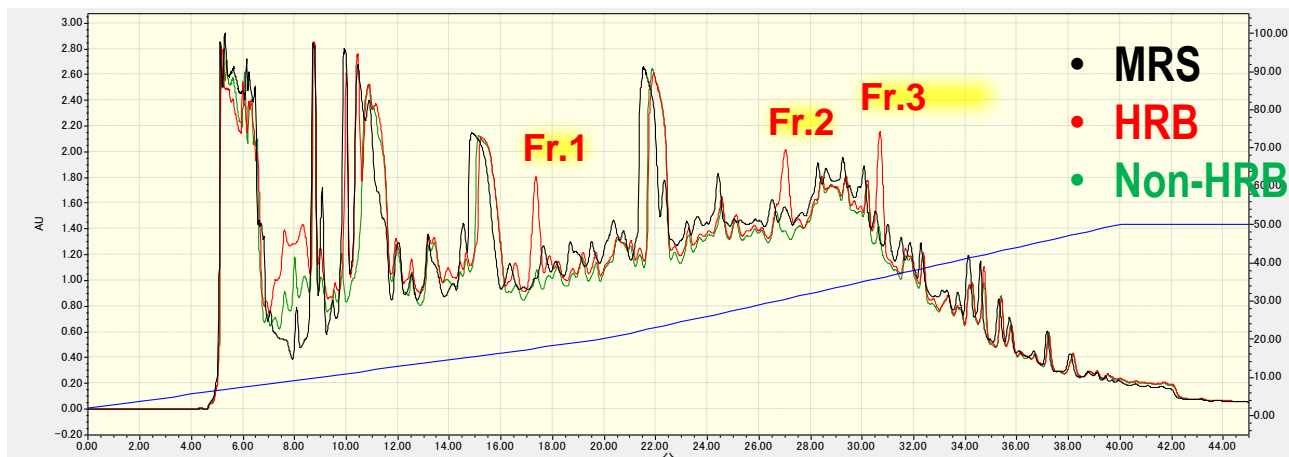


## Indole-3-lactic acid (ILA)



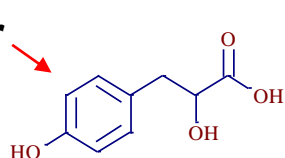
# Difference in the metabolite profiles between HRB and non-HRB

## HPLC profile of media before and after cultivation with HRB/non-HRB



Fr.1

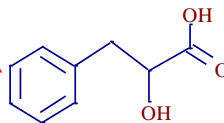
Tyr



HPLA

Fr.2

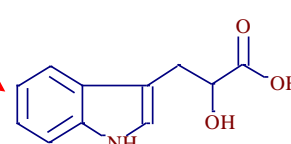
Phe



PLA

Fr.3

Trp

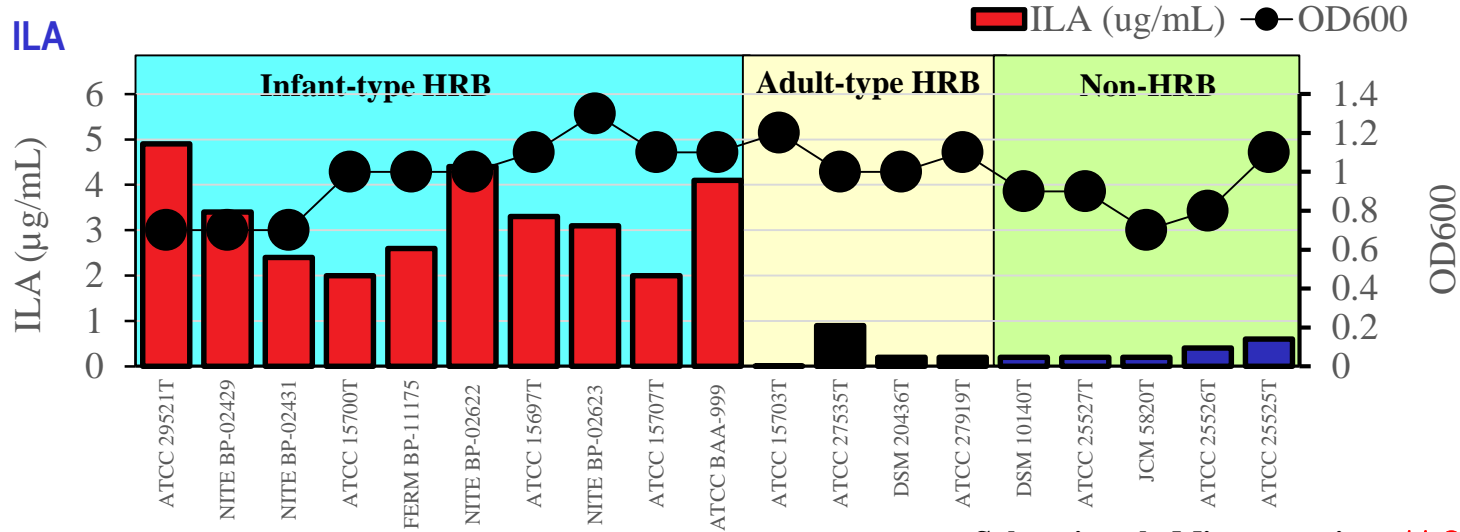


ILA

Aryllactic acids (ALAs) derived from aromatic amino acids



# Arylactic acids (ALAs) by bifidobacterial strains



Sakurai et al., Microorganism, 11 September 2019

# Production of ILA by Bifidobacteria



## BASIC SCIENCE ARTICLE

Indole-3-lactic acid, a metabolite of tryptophan, secreted by *Bifidobacterium longum* subspecies *infantis* is anti-inflammatory in the immature intestine

Di Meng<sup>1</sup>, Eduardo Sommella<sup>2</sup>, Emanuela Salvati<sup>2,3</sup>, Pietro Campiglia<sup>2,4</sup>, Kriston Ganguli<sup>1</sup>, Karim Djebali<sup>1</sup>, Weishu Zhu<sup>1</sup> and W. Allan Walker<sup>1,4</sup>

Pediatric Res, published online 16 Jan, 2020

## Article

**Potential Effects of Indole-3-Lactic Acid, a Metabolite of Human Bifidobacteria, on NGF-induced Neurite Outgrowth in PC12 Cells**

Chyn Boon Wong, Azusa Tanaka, Tetsuya Kuhara and Jin-zhong Xiao \*

Next Generation Science Institute, Morinaga Milk Industry Co., Ltd., Zama 252-8583, Japan;

Microorganisms, published: 12 March 2020

**Breastmilk-promoted bifidobacteria produce aromatic lactic acids in the infant gut**

Martin F. Laursen<sup>1#</sup>, Mikiyasu Sakanaka<sup>1,2</sup>, Nicole von Burg<sup>3</sup>, Daniel Andersen<sup>4</sup>, Urs Mörbe<sup>3</sup>, Aymeric Rivollier<sup>3</sup>, Ceyda T. Pekmez<sup>5</sup>, Janne Marie Moll<sup>4</sup>, Kim F. Michaelsen<sup>5</sup>, Christian Mølgaard<sup>5</sup>, Mads Vendelbo Lind<sup>5</sup>, Lars O. Dragsted<sup>5</sup>, Takane Katayama<sup>2,6</sup>, Henrik L. Frandsen<sup>1</sup>, Anne Marie Vinggaard<sup>1</sup>, Martin I. Bahl<sup>1</sup>, Susanne Brix<sup>4</sup>, William Agace<sup>3</sup>, Tine R. Licht<sup>1\*</sup> and Henrik M. Roager<sup>1,5#\*</sup>

bioRxiv preprint first posted online Jan. 23, 2020;

Cell

Article

**Bifidobacteria-mediated immune system imprinting early in life**

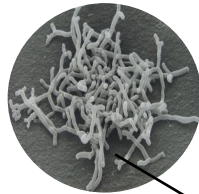
Henrick et al., 2021, Cell 184, 1–15. July 22, 2021

# Role of ALAs in infant health

**Infant-type HRB**

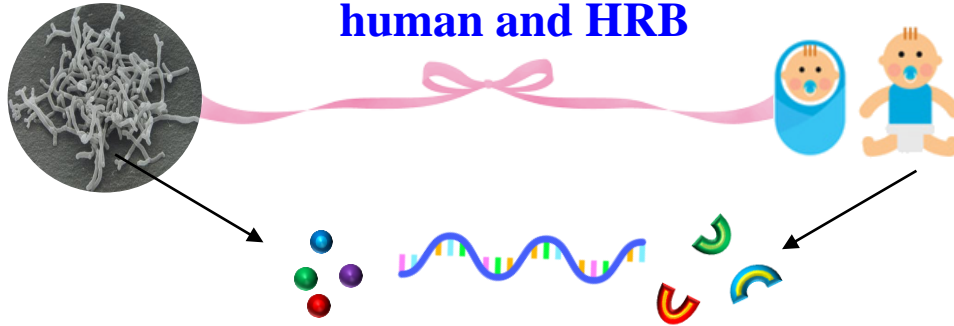
**Bonds between  
human and HRB**

**Human (Infant)**



**Metabolites  
(ALAs, etc)**

**Receptors  
(AhR, HCA3, etc)**



# Summary (1) The difference of HRB and non-HRB

Human and animals have different *Bifidobacterium* species (HRB vs non-HRB).

Traits	HRB(infant-type)	Non-HRB
Growth in breast milk	○	×
Utilization of HMOs	△~○	×
Tolerance to lysozyme	○	×
Production of folate	○	×
Degradation of opioid peptides	○	×
Production of tryptophan metabolites (ILA)	○	×

Considering the high prevalence and abundance of *Bifidobacterium* in infant gut, the health benefits of HRB to host may be beyond our expectation!

Which probiotics should we choose for human, in particular for infant ???

HRB  
?

Non-HRB  
??

Lactobacilli  
Others ??

Whisper of breast milk  
.....

**HRB for infant, the law of nature !**

1. *Bifidobacterium* in human gut, the concept of Human-Residential Bifidobacteria (HRB)
  - Bifidobacterium species and compatibility with human milk
  - The distinguished metabolic profile of HRB
  
2. **Topics of the potential health-promoting effects of HRB**
  - **Clinical effects on infants**
  - **Clinical effects in the preventing cognitive impairment in elderly.**

# Probiotic *Bifidobacterium* strains in Morinaga

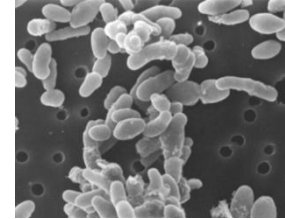


***B. longum* BB536**



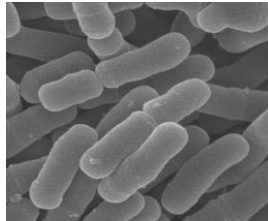
A strain for promoting GIT health, immunity

***B. breve* M-16V**



A strain for infant health

***B. infantis* M-63**



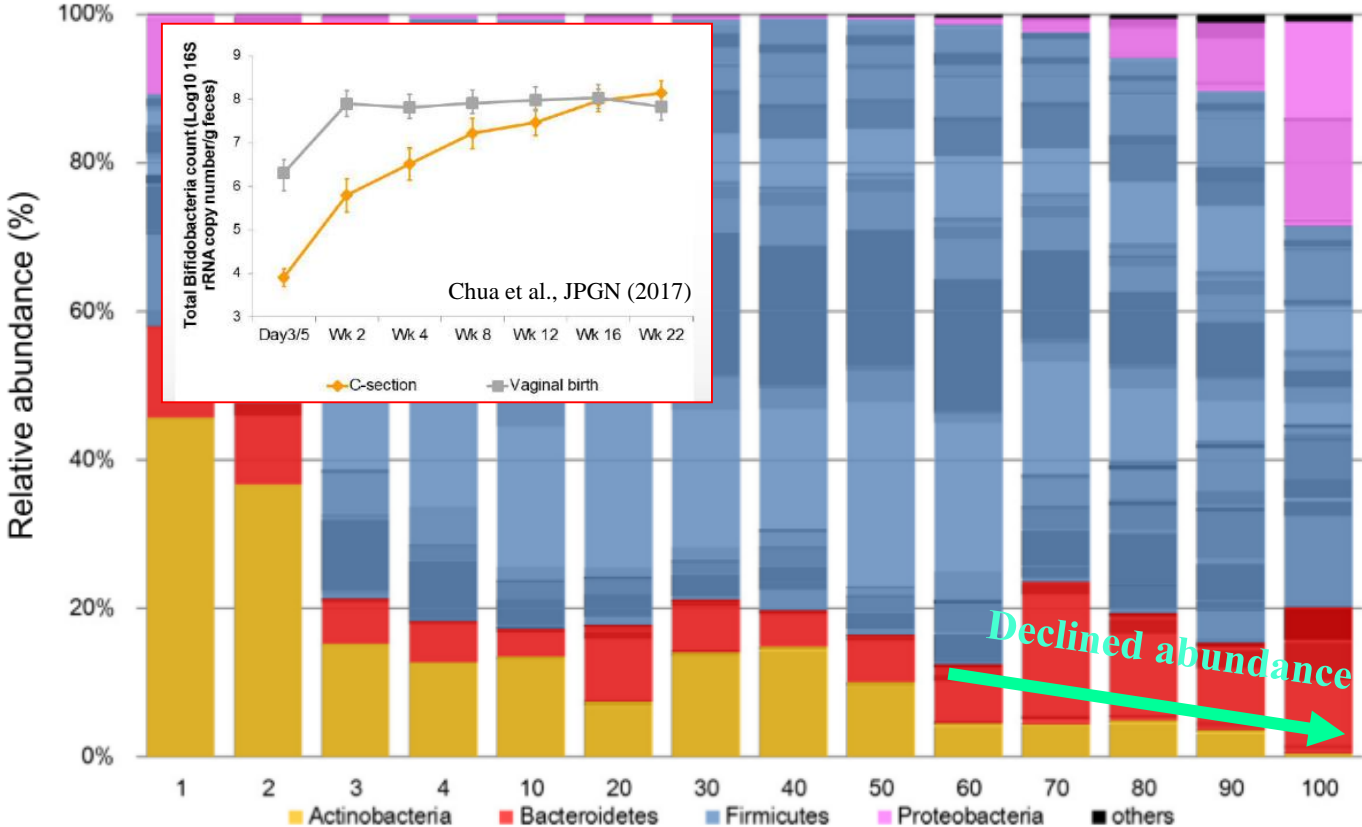
A strain with high ability for utilizing HMOs

***B. breve* MCC1274**

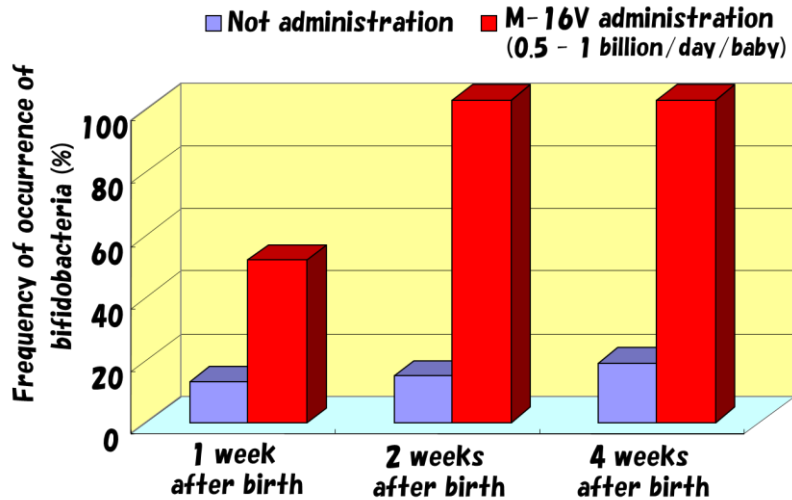


A strain with anti-inflammatory effects (preventing dementia)

# Age-related change of gut microbiota composition

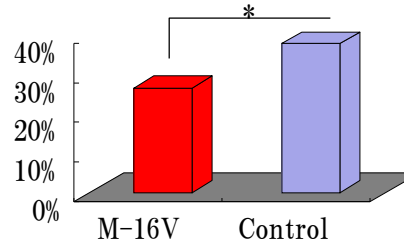


## Administration of M-16V to preterm infants

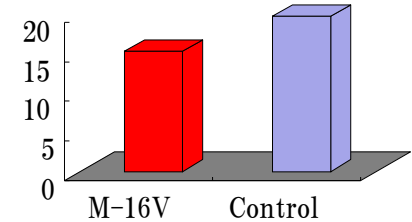


*Ishizeki et al., Anaerobe (2013)*

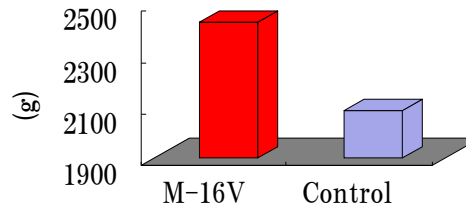
Infection rate



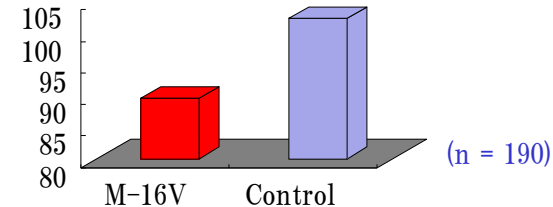
Days to reach 100 ml/d of enteral feedings



Weight at the time of expected delivery



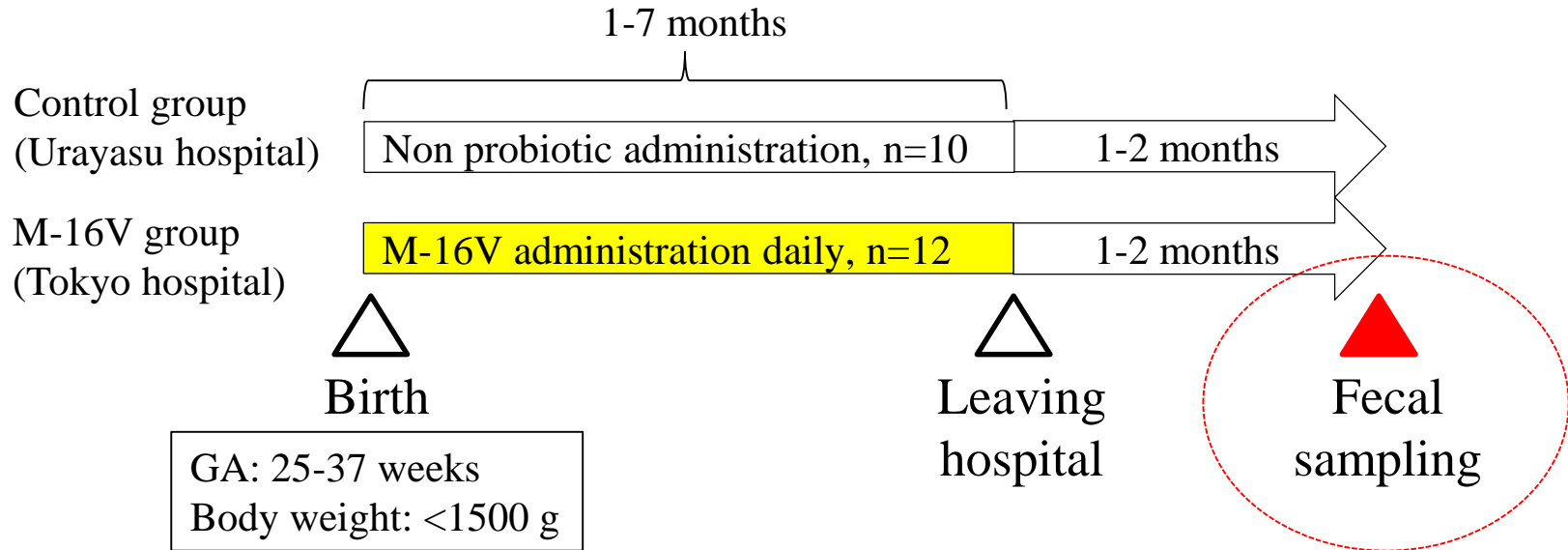
Days of hospital stay



(Sato, Acta Neotologica Japonica 2003)

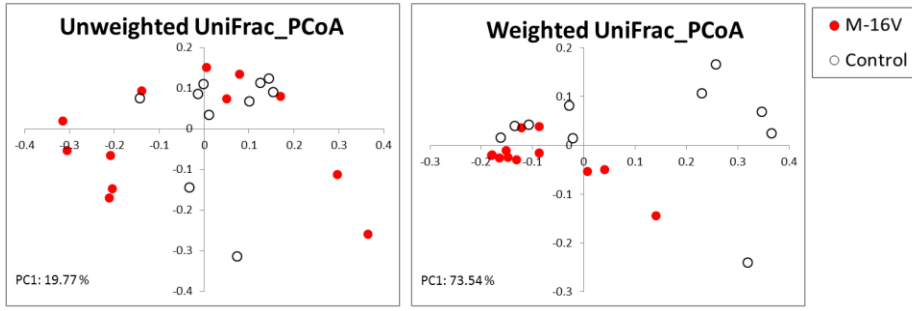


# Effects of supplemented *Bifidobacterium breve* M-16V on the gut microbiota and their persistence post administration in preterm infants

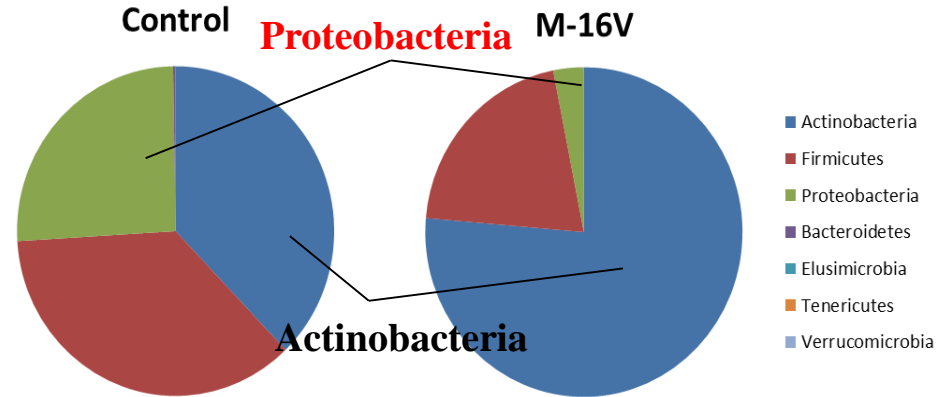


# Gut microbiota profile

## PCoA



## Proportion of bacteria at phylum level

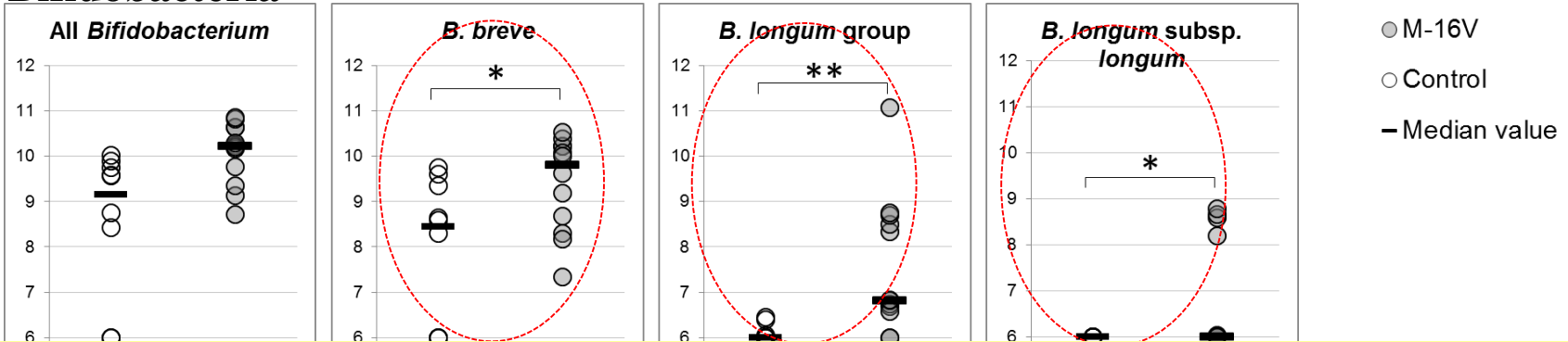


**M-16V administration to preterm infants led to the formation of a *Bifidobacterium*-predominant microbiota, beyond 1–2 months post-administration.**

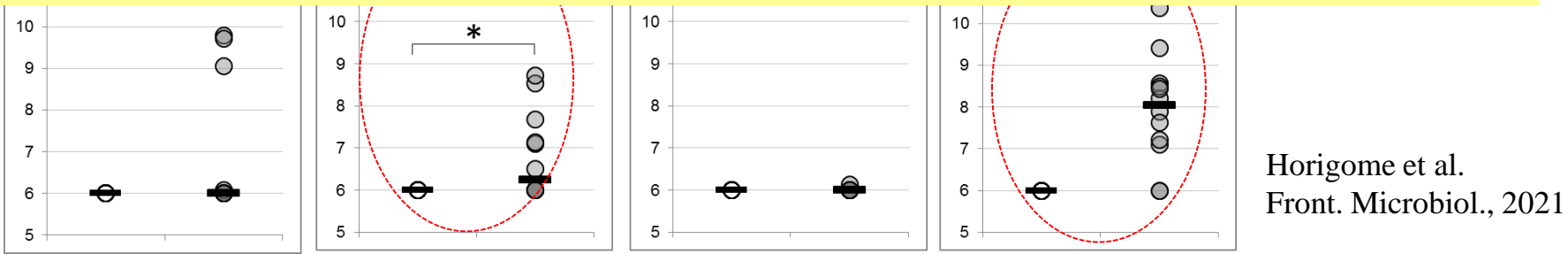
Group	Median		P value (Mann-Whitney-U)
	M-16V	Control	
k_Bacteria _	0.0%	0.0%	1.000
Actinobacteria	74.0%	33.3%	0.009
Bacteroidetes	0.0%	0.2%	0.134
Elusimicrobia	0.0%	0.0%	1.000
Firmicutes	19.9%	31.9%	0.628
Proteobacteria	3.0%	22.7%	0.000
Tenericutes	0.0%	0.0%	0.481
Verrucomicrobia	0.0%	0.0%	0.455

# Cell numbers of *Bifidobacterium* at species level by qPCR

## Bifidobacteria

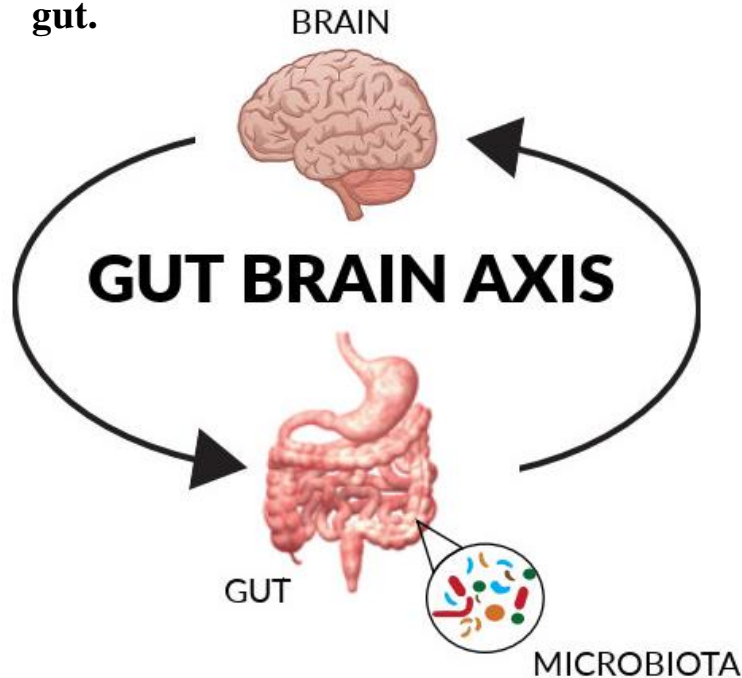


**M-16V persistently colonized most of the infants beyond 1–2 months post-administration, and enhanced colonization of other *Bifidobacterium* species was observed.**



# Brain-Gut Interaction (microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis)

The brain and gut axis is a **bilateral** interaction between the brain and the gut.



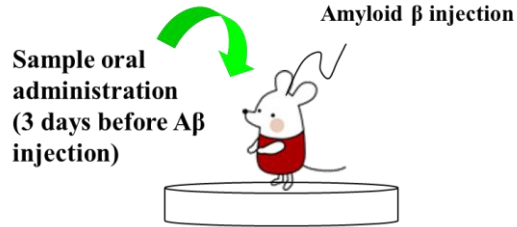
Exploring probiotics for preventing cognitive impairment in Alzheimer's disease



***Bifidobacterium breve* MCC1274**  
(synonym, *B. breve* A1)

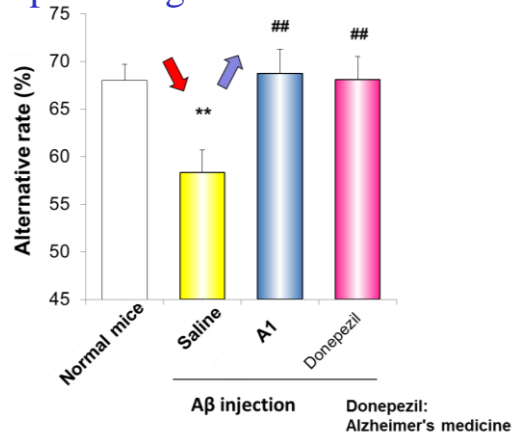
A strain originated from the gut of an infant

## Pre-clinical study



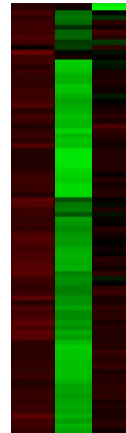
Alzheimer's disease (AD) model mice.

### Spatial cognitive function



A1 normalized the hippocampal gene expressions related to inflammatory reaction induced by A $\beta$  injection.

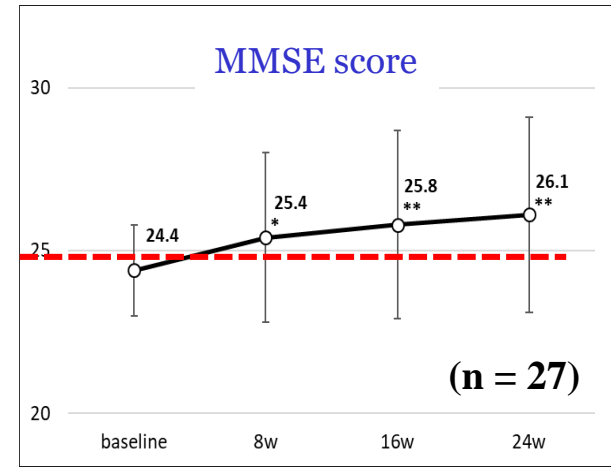
Sham-operated  
A $\beta$  + Saline  
A $\beta$  + A1



Kobayashi et al. Sci. Rep (2017)

## Pilot clinical study

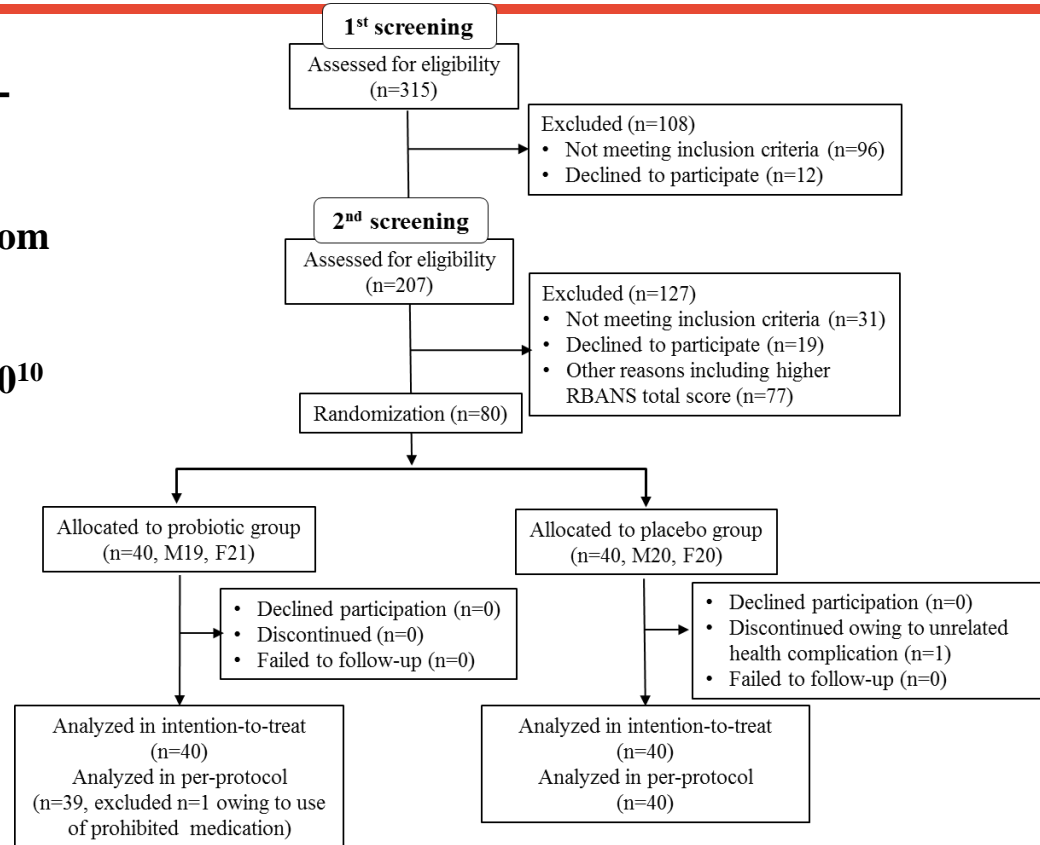
- An open-label, single-arm study
- 24-week supplementation of *B. breve* MCC1274 in elderly people with Mild Cognition Impairment (MCI).



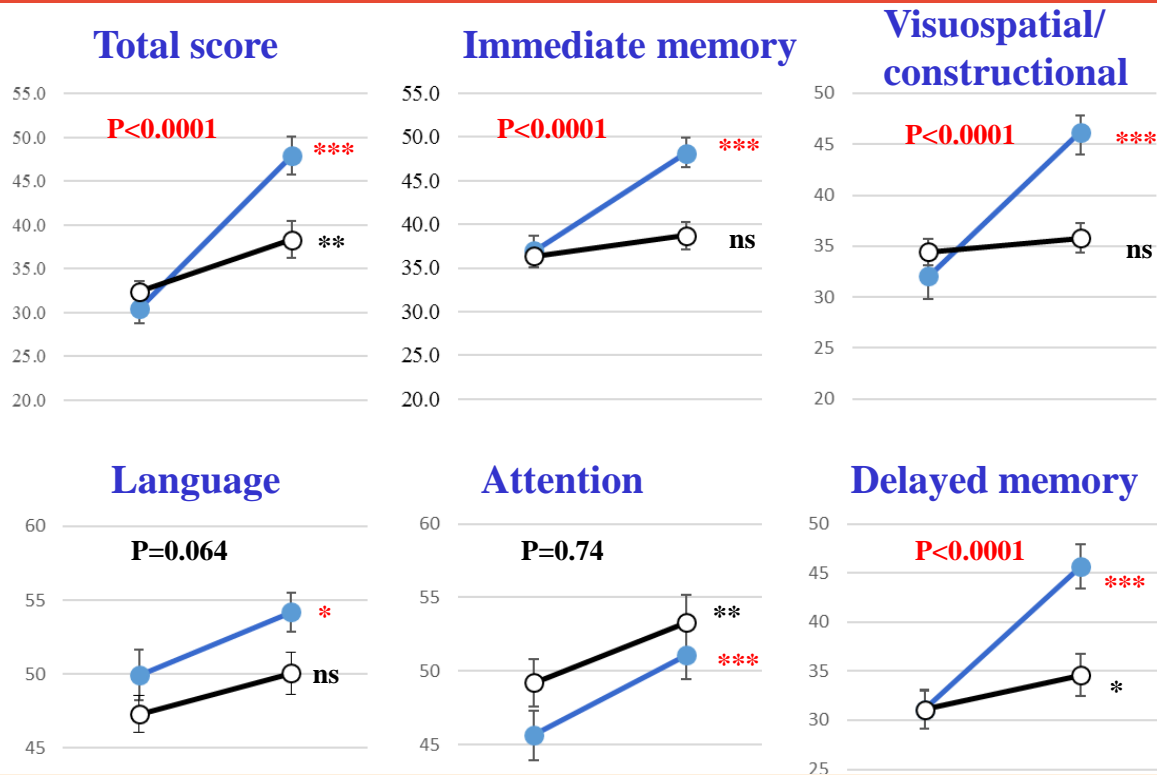
Kobayashi et al., JPAD (2018)

# Effect to human, RCT

- ◆ **Design:**  
randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial
- ◆ **Subjects:**  
80 healthy older adults suffering from MCI
- ◆ **Intervention:**  
probiotic (*B. breve* MCC1274,  $2 \times 10^{10}$  CFU) or placebo for 16 weeks.
- ◆ **Evaluation:**
  - **Primary outcome:**  
RBANS (the Repeatable Battery for the Assessment of Neuropsychological Status)
  - **Second outcome:**  
the Japanese version of the MCI Screen (JMCIIS)



# Results: Changes of RBANS Scores (Primary Endpoint)



● *B. breve* MCC1274

○ Placebo

The Japanese version of RBANS test. It includes 12 standard cognitive subtests grouped in five domains:

- **Immediate memory** (list learning and story memory)
- **Visuospatial/constructional** (figure copy and line orientation)
- **Language** (picture naming and semantic fluency)
- **Attention** (digit span and digit symbol coding)
- **Delayed memory** (list recall, list recognition, story recall, and figure recall).

Significant improvement in cognitive function in the probiotic group compared to the placebo group.

P value: Inter-group difference by ANCOVA, \*P<0.05, \*\*P<0.01, \*\*\* P<0.001, intra-group difference, paired t-test  
P values, inter-group difference, ANCOVA

## Summary (2) topics of clinical effects

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**Clinical studies showed the effects of HRB strain in**

- **Promoting the formation of health gut microbiota in preterm infants by *B. breve* M-16V.**
- **Improving cognitive function of elderly with MCI by *B. breve* MCC1274.**

**These data suggest the potential health-promoting benefits of the specific *Bifidobacterium* strains to host.**



# Acknowledgements



Kobe Univ.  
**Prof. Ro Osawa**

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**Dr. Francesca Bottacini**

**Physiological  
studies on  
HRB**

Juntendo Univ,  
**Prof. Toshiaki Shimizu**  
**Assoc. Prof Ken Hisada**

The University of Tokyo  
**Prof. Keiko Abe**

Nihonbashi Sakura Clinic  
**Dr. Kumie Ito**

Tokyo Skytree Station Medical Clinic  
**Dr. Toshiyuki Kaneko**

**Clinical  
studies on  
HRB  
strains**

**Thank you for your attention!**

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