

1 MATERIALS AND METHODS

2

3 Mice and diets

4 Seven-week-old male C57BL/6J mice (Janvier, Le Genest-Saint-Isle, France) were co-housed
5 in pairs under Specific and Opportunistic Pathogen Free conditions (SOPF) in a controlled
6 environment (temperature of 22 ± 2 °C, 12-h daylight cycle) with free access to food and
7 water. Upon arrival, all the mice underwent a 1-week acclimatization period, during which
8 they were fed a control diet [1] (AIN93Mi, Research Diet, New Brunswick, NJ, USA).

9 A set of 30 mice was randomly divided into 3 groups of 12 mice: 1) CT group, fed a
10 control diet 2) HFD group, fed a high-fat diet (60% fat and 20% carbohydrates (kcal/100g),
11 D12492, Research diet, New Brunswick, NJ, USA), and 3) HFD+2'FL group, fed a HFD diet
12 supplemented with 10% of prebiotic 2'-fucosyllactose added in drinking water (DSM,
13 Denmark). The dose of 10% of 2'FL represents the effective dose to elicit metabolic
14 effects.[2,3] The treatment continued for 6 weeks.

15 Body weight, food and water intake were recorded three times per week. Body
16 composition was assessed once a week by using a 7.5-MHz time-domain nuclear magnetic
17 resonance (LF50 minispec; Bruker, Rheinstetten, Germany). Feces were harvested weekly
18 since the beginning (Day 0), until the end of the experiment (Day 45). All mouse experiments
19 were approved by and performed in accordance with the guidelines of the local ethics
20 committee. Housing conditions were specified by the Belgian Law of 29 May 2013, regarding
21 the protection of laboratory animals (agreement number LA1230314).

22

23 Oral Glucose Tolerance Test

24 One week before the end of experiment, the mice were fasted for 6 hours before receiving
25 an oral gavage glucose load (2 g glucose per kg body weight). Blood glucose was measured 30
26 minutes before (time point -30), just prior the oral glucose load (time point 0) and then after
27 15, 30, 60, 90 and 120 minutes. Blood glucose was determined with a glucose meter (Accu
28 Check, Roche, Switzerland) on blood samples collected from the tip of the tail vein.

29

30 Tissue sampling

31 At the end of the experiment (week 6) and after 6h of fasting, all mice were anesthetized with
32 isoflurane (Forene®, Abbott, Queenborough, Kent, England) and blood was collected from the

33 portal and cava veins. Then, the mice were immediately euthanized by cervical dislocation.
34 Adipose depots (epididymal, subcutaneous, visceral and brown), muscles (tibialis anterior,
35 vastus lateralis, gastrocnemius, soleus) and intestinal segments (jejunum, ileum, caecum and
36 colon) were dissected, weighed and immersed in liquid nitrogen before long-term storage at
37 -80°C for further analysis.

38 One segment of colon from each mouse was opened, without flushing it before, for
39 the collection of the mucus layer by gently scraping with a microscope glass slide and then
40 weighed.

41

42 **Biochemical Analysis**

43 To determine the plasma insulin concentration, blood was harvested from the tip of the tail
44 vein using capillaries prior to glucose load (-30 min) and 15 min after glucose load. Plasma
45 insulin concentration was measured using an ELISA kit (Merckodia, Uppsala, Sweden),
46 according to the manufacturer's instructions. Insulin resistance index was determined by
47 multiplying the area under the curve of the blood glucose (-30 to 15 min) and plasma insulin
48 (-30 min and 15 min).

49

50 **Plasma Multiplex Analysis**

51 Plasma levels of glucagon-like peptide 1 (GLP-1), peptide YY (PYY), ghrelin, leptin and glucagon
52 were measured from the portal vein by multiplex assay kits based on chemiluminescence
53 detection and following manufacturer's instructions (Meso Scale Discovery (MSD),
54 Gaithersburg, MD, USA). Analyses were performed using a QuickPlex SQ 120 instrument
55 (MSD) and DISCOVERY WORKBENCH[®] 4.0 software (MSD, Rockville, MD, USA).

56

57 **RNA Preparation and gene expression analysis by real-time qPCR analysis**

58 Total RNA was prepared from tissues using TriPure reagent (Roche). Quantification and
59 integrity analysis of total RNA was performed by running 1 μl of each sample on an Agilent
60 2100 Bioanalyzer (Agilent RNA 6000 Nano Kit, Agilent). cDNA was prepared by reverse
61 transcription of 1 μg total RNA using a Reverse Transcription System kit (Promega, Leiden,
62 The Netherlands). Real-time PCRs were performed with the StepOnePlus real-time PCR
63 system and software (Applied Biosystems, Den Ijssel, The Netherlands) using Mesa Fast qPCR
64 sybr green mix (Eurogentec, Seraing, Belgium) and with the CFX Manager 3.1 software (Bio-

65 Rad, Hercules, CA) using Mesa Fast qPCR (GoTaq qPCR Master Mix, Promega, Madison, WI,
66 USA) for detection, according to the manufacturer's instructions. RPL19 was chosen as
67 housekeeping gene. All samples were run in duplicate in a single 96-well reaction plate, and
68 data were analyzed according to the 2- $\Delta\Delta$ Ct method. The identity and purity of the amplified
69 product was checked through analysis of the melting curve carried out at the end of
70 amplification. Primer sequences for the targeted mouse genes are available in Supplemental
71 Table 9.

72

73 **Analysis of the mucus layer thickness, goblet cells and immunohistochemistry**

74 Colon segments were immediately removed and fixed in Carnoy's solution (ethanol 6: acid
75 acetic 3: chloroform 1, vol/vol) for 2h at 4 °C. They were then immersed in ethanol 100% for
76 24 h. For the analysis of the mucus layer thickness and goblet cells, paraffin sections of 5 μ m
77 were stained with alcian blue. Images were captured at \times 20 magnification and obtained using
78 a SNC400 slide scanner and digital Image Hub software 561 (Leica Biosystems, Wetzlar,
79 Germany). Analyses were performed using ImageJ (version 1.48r, National Institutes of
80 Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA) in a blinded manner. For the mucus layer thickness, two to
81 six fields were used for each mouse and a minimum of 20 different measurements were made
82 perpendicular to the inner mucus layer per field. For the goblet cells, the luminal side,
83 muscularis mucosae, submucosa and muscle layer were removed and the blue area and the
84 total area were measured separately in the remaining mucosal part of the colon. The
85 proportion of the goblet cells was quantified based on the ratio between the blue area over
86 the total area.

87

88 **Histology and Fluorescent in situ hybridization**

89 Segments of the distal colon from mice were fixed in water-free Methanol-Carnoy's fixative
90 [60% methanol, 10% chloroform and 30% acetic acid] before paraffin embedding. Paraffin
91 sections were dewaxed with Xylene substitute and hybridized with a general bacterial probe,
92 EUB 338 conjugated to C3 (Merck, Ref: MBD0033). Immunostaining after hybridizations was
93 performed with anti-MUC2C3 antiserum as described previously [4]. Pictures were obtained
94 with a LSM800 confocal microscope from Zeiss.

95

96

97 **Bacterial distance and density**

98 The bacterial penetration of the mucus was assessed using two parameters: the distance from
99 the bacterial front to the epithelial cells and the density of bacterial cells within the inner
100 mucus layer. The location of the bacterial front was easily delineated as the outermost border
101 of the zone with high intensity for bacterial stain. The inner mucus was defined as the MUC2
102 positive layer between the bacterial front and the epithelial cells. To assess the first
103 parameter, at least 10 pictures from different locations of at least 2 different distant sections
104 were analyzed per mouse, with at least 10 measurements (distance between bacterial front
105 and closest epithelial cell) taken per pictures to determine the average distance between the
106 bacterial front and the apical side of the epithelial cells. For the second parameter, the
107 bacterial density of the inner mucus, the area of the MUC2 positive layer between the
108 bacterial front and the epithelial cells was measured and bacteria within this layer were
109 counted manually by two independent investigators in a blinded manner. For this analysis, at
110 least 5 pictures were analyzed per mouse. Analyses were performed using (Fiji Is Just) ImageJ
111 2.14.0/1.54f For Mac OS and 2.14.0 for Windows. Measurements were first averaged per
112 section, then per mouse, then per group.

113

114 **Mucin glycan extraction and composition**

115 Colonic mucus was suspended in 400 μ l mucin extraction buffer (0.2 M Tris, pH 8, 1% SDS, 10
116 mM DTT). The samples were incubated at 60°C for 90 min. Iodoacetamide was added from a
117 1M stock solution to a final concentration of 100 mM. The samples were incubated at RT for
118 90 min in dark. The reduced samples were spin filtered through a 100k MWCO amicon 0.5
119 filter (merck) for 15 min at 14000 g. Lithium dodecyl sulphate (LDS) loading buffer (10 μ l;
120 Thermo Fischer) was added to the samples and loaded onto a 1% vertical agarose gel cast in
121 Tris-Glycine-SDS (TGS) buffer (Biorad). Vertical agarose gel electrophoresis (VAGE) was carried
122 out at 100 V for 45 min. The mucins/proteins were transferred onto Immobilon Psq(Merck)
123 in Tris-glycine [5] buffer, using Trans-blot Turbo (25 V, 1 A, 60 min; Biorad). The region of the
124 blot where mucins migrated was cut out and the blot was immersed into 500 μ l 0.5M NaBH₄
125 in 0.05 M NaOH. The β -elimination reactions were incubated at 45°C for 16 h and quenched
126 by the stepwise addition of 1ml 5% aqueous acetic acid. The samples were desalted on in-
127 house prepared cation exchange columns using Amberlite 50Wx8 H+ 200-400mesh. The

128 samples were dried under vacuum and removal of borates was carried out with co-
129 evaporation with methanol under nitrogen.

130 For the base required for permethylation, 400 µl of 50% NaOH were mixed with 800 µl dry
131 MeOH and 4 ml of anhydrous DMSO. The resulting gel was washed 5 times with 4 ml DMSO
132 before resuspended in 4 ml DMSO. The dried samples were dissolved in 100 µl anhydrous
133 DMSO, followed by the addition of 150 µl of the prepared base and 75µl of iodomethane. The
134 samples were vortexed for 2 h at 2000 rpm and the reactions were quenched by the addition
135 of 500 µl H₂O. Excess of iodomethane was removed with a flow of nitrogen.

136 The permethylated glycans were loaded onto a Swift-HLB cartridge (Merck). Salts and other
137 hydrophilic contaminants were removed with 4x1 ml washes with H₂O and permethylated
138 glycans were eluted with 4x1 ml of MeOH. The eluted glycans were dried under vacuum and
139 redissolved in 10 µl of 30% acetonitrile in 0.1% aqueous trifluoroacetic acid (TA30). The
140 sample (0.5 µl) was mixed with 0.5 µl of 2,5-dehydroxy-benzoic acid (DHB, 20 mg/ml in TA30)
141 and spotted onto a MTP ground steel MALDI target plate. The samples were analysed by
142 MALDI-ToF MS on a Bruker Autoflex in positive reflectron mode. Peak detection and
143 integration in the mass spectra was done using flexAnalysis (v3.4, Bruker Daltonics) with the
144 following settings: Peak detection algorithm was Snap2, signal to noise threshold = 2, relative
145 intensity threshold = 0, minimum intensity threshold = 2, SNAP2 average composition was set
146 to "sugar", baseline subtraction was set to TopHat. Relative abundance of each peak
147 identified as glycan was calculated as the area of the peak over the sum of all peaks that were
148 identified as glycans. Only glycans present in at least 3 mice and in at least one group were
149 shown.

150

151 **Endocannabinoid and lipid content**

152 The endocannabinoid and lipid content in the cecal tissue was analyzed by UHPLC-MS. Briefly,
153 lipids were extracted by ultraturax homogenisation and internal standards (d₄-AEA, d₄-PEA,
154 d₄-OEA, d₄-SEA and d₅-1-2-AG) were added, followed by protein precipitation (acetone) and
155 recover the supernatant. The samples were analyzed with Xevo-TQS mass spectrometer (from
156 Waters). Absolute quantifications were obtained first by normalizing the area under the curve
157 [6] of the lipid species with the AUC of the respective internal standard and second by
158 extrapolation of the compound's ratio in his own calibration curve. The LC-MS methods was
159 the following: BEH LC-18 column 50*2.1, 1.7µm (Waters) at 40°C. The mobile phase consisted

160 in a gradient between A: H₂O 25% -MeOH 75%; B: MeOH 100%, all containing acetic acid
161 (0.1%). ESI probe operated in positive mode was also used for sample ionization. The mass
162 spectrometer parameters were the following: capillary voltage: 2.9kV ; cone voltage : 30V ;
163 desolvation temperature : 550°C ; desolvation gas flow : 1100L/Hr : cone gas flow : 170L/Hr :
164 nebuliser : 6bar.

165

166 **DNA extraction and 16S rRNA gene amplicon sequencing**

167 Analysis of gut microbiota composition was performed for fecal samples collected at the
168 beginning (day 0) and at the end (day 45) of the study and for the caecal content collected
169 and kept frozen at -80°C until use. Genomic DNA was extracted using a QIAamp DNA Stool
170 Mini Kit (Qiagen, Hilden, Germany), according to the manufacturer's instructions, including a
171 bead-beating step. The V4 region of the bacterial 16S rRNA gene was amplified with the
172 primers 515F(GTGYCAGCMGCCGCGGTAA) and 806R (GGACTACNVGGGTWTCTAAT). Purified
173 amplicons were sequenced using Illumina MiSeq technology following the manufacturer's
174 guidelines. Sequencing was performed at MR DNA (www.mrdnalab.com; Shallowater, TX).
175 Sequences were processed using the QIIME2 pipeline (version 2021.4).[7] Demultiplexed 225-
176 bp paired-end sequences were denoised using DADA2 to obtain an amplicon sequence variant
177 (ASV) table.[8] Singletons (ASV present < 2 times) and ASVs present in less than 10% of the
178 samples were discarded. Taxonomic classification was performed using a pre-trained naive
179 Bayes classifier implemented in QIIME2 against the SILVA 132 reference database.[9] Taxa
180 that could not be identified on genus-level are referred to the highest taxonomic rank
181 identified.

182

183 **Quantitative PCR for total bacteria**

184 Quantification of total bacteria was carried out by qPCR with universal bacterial primers
185 (338F: ACTCCTACGGGAGGCAGCAG, 518R: ATTACCGCGGCTGCTGG), with the StepOnePlus
186 real-time PCR system and software (Applied Biosystems, Den Ijssel, The Netherlands) using
187 GoTaq qPCR sybr green mix (Promega, Madison, Wisconsin, USA), according to the
188 manufacturer's instructions. All samples were run in duplicate in a single 96-well reaction
189 plate. The cycle threshold [1] of each sample was compared with a standard curve made by
190 serially diluting genomic DNA isolated from a pure culture of the type strain of *Lactobacillus*
191 *acidophilus* (DSM 20079 01-21) (BCCM/LMG, Ghent, Belgium; DSMZ, Braunschweig, Germany).

192 The absolute abundances of individual bacterial genera were estimated by multiplying their
193 relative abundance by total bacterial density as described previously.[10]

194

195 **Preparation of mouse fecal extracts**

196 Fecal extracts were processed based on the protocol of Redinbo et al.[11], with modifications.
197 Briefly, 1-2 fecal pellets collected at the end of the experiment and stores at -80 °C were
198 rehydrated with 350 µl cold extraction buffer (pH 6.5, 25 mM HEPES, 25 mM NaCl with Roche
199 cOmplete™ protease inhibitor cocktail). The mixture was then transferred in new tubes
200 containing autoclaved 0.7 mm garnet beads and vortexed to break up dense and fibrous
201 material. Bacterial cells were lysed using MP FastPrep-24™ Classic high-speed benchtop
202 homogenizer (MP Biomedicals, Santa Ana, CA, USA) for 2 minutes at 30 Hertz. The resulting
203 homogenate was sonicated two times for 2 min, with an intermediate step of mixing by
204 inversion. The resulting homogenate was centrifugated at 13,000xg for 10 min at 4 °C and the
205 supernatant was decanted. The total protein concentration was calculated using Pierce™ BCA
206 Protein Assay Kit (#23225, Thermo Fisher Scientific, Waltham, MA, USA). The mouse fecal
207 extract was aliquoted and stored at -80°C until further use.

208

209 **In-gel activity-based probes (ABP) fluorescent labelling of mouse fecal extracts**

210 Mouse fecal extracts were diluted with buffer (pH 6.5, 125 mM HEPES, 125 mM NaCl, final)
211 to have 1 µg of total protein in 9 µL of lysate working solution. 1 µL of Cy5-ABP at a final
212 concentration of 1 µM for alpha-L-fucosidase labeling (JJB381)[12] and 0.5 µM for alpha-D-
213 galactosidase (TB474)[13] was added to the lysate working solution (9 µL) on ice, and the
214 resulting mixture was incubated at 37 °C for 1 h. The samples were denatured by adding 2.5
215 µL 5x Laemmli buffer (containing 0.3 M Tris-HCl pH 6.8, 50 % (v/v) 100 % glycerol, 8 % (w/v)
216 dithiothreitol (DTT), 10 % (w/v) sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS), 0.01 % (w/v) bromophenol blue)
217 and boiled at 98 °C for 5 min. Samples were cooled on ice and run on 1.00 mm 10%
218 polyacrylamide gel at 200 V. Wet-slab gels were scanned for ABP-emitted fluorescence using
219 the Typhoon™ FLA 9500 scanner (Amersham Biosciences, Piscataway, NJ, USA), at 700 PMT
220 and 50 µm resolution. Wet-slab gels were subsequently stained with Coomassie Brilliant Blue
221 (CBB) staining agent to verify accurate protein loading. Full gel images and the relative CBB
222 scanned images can be found in Supplemental Figure 7A,B.

223

224

225 Total proteomic analysis of mouse fecal extracts

226 5 µg of proteins from mouse fecal extracts were diluted in 5 µL of buffer (pH 6.5, 125 mM
227 HEPES, 125 mM NaCl, final). 100 µL 8 M urea/100 mM ammonium bicarbonate (pH 8) were
228 added to each sample and shaken for 30 minutes, 25 °C, 800 rpm to denature the proteins.
229 Samples were reduced with 10 µL of 20 mM DTT and incubated for 30 minutes at 37 °C and
230 shaken at 800 rpm. The samples were cooled at RT for 10 minutes and then 10 µL 50 mM
231 iodoacetamide (IAA) were added. The samples were incubated in the dark at RT for 30
232 minutes. 900 µL 20 mM ammonium bicarbonate (pH 8) were added to each sample and then
233 200 ng of trypsin were added to digest the proteins. The samples were incubated overnight
234 at 37°C and shaken at 500 rpm. The following day, to lower the pH to pH < 3, 10 µL of formic
235 acid (FA) were added. The samples were desalted using stage tips and prepared for LC/MS
236 analysis.

237

238 Nano-LC-MS settings for total proteomic analysis

239 Desalted peptide samples were reconstituted in 30 µL LC-MS solution (97:3:0.1 H₂O, CH₃CN,
240 FA) containing 10 fmol/µL yeast enolase digest (cat. 186002325, Waters) as injection control.
241 Injection amount was titrated using a pooled quality control sample to prevent overloading
242 the nanoLC system and the automatic gain control (AGC) of the QExactive mass spectrometer.
243 The desalted peptides were separated on an UltiMate 3000 RSLCnano system set in a trap-
244 elute configuration with a nanoEase M/Z Symmetry C18 100 Å, 5 µm, 180 µm x 20 mm
245 (Waters) trap column for peptide loading/retention and nanoEase M/Z HSS C18 T3 100 Å, 1.8
246 µm, 75 µm x 250 mm (Waters) analytical column for peptide separation. The column was kept
247 at 40 °C in a column oven. Samples were injected on the trap column at a flow rate of 15
248 µL/min for 2 min with 99% mobile phase A (0.1% FA in ULC-MS grade water (Biosolve)), 1%
249 mobile phase B (0.1% FA in ULC-MS grade acetonitrile (Biosolve)) eluent. The 85 min LC
250 method, using mobile phase A and mobile phase B controlled by a flow sensor at 0.3 µL/min
251 with average pressure of 400-500 bar (5500-7000 psi), was programmed as gradient with
252 linear increment to 1% B from 0 to 2 min, 5% B at 5 min, 22% B at 55 min, 40% B at 64 min,
253 90% B at 65 to 74 min and 1% B at 75 to 85 min. The eluent was introduced by electro-spray
254 ionization (ESI) via the nanoESI source (Thermo) using stainless steel Nano-bore emitters (40
255 mm, OD 1/32", ES542, Thermo Scientific). The QExactive HF was operated in positive mode

256 with data dependent acquisition without the use of lock mass, default charge of 2+ and
257 external calibration with LTQ Velos ESI positive ion calibration solution (88323, Pierce,
258 Thermo) every 5 days to less than 2 ppm. The tune file for the survey scan was set to scan
259 range of 350 – 1400 m/z, 120,000 resolution (m/z 200), 1 microscan, automatic gain control
260 (AGC) of 3e6, max injection time of 100 ms, no sheath, aux or sweep gas, spray voltage ranging
261 from 1.7 to 3.0 kV, capillary temp of 250 °C and an S-lens value of 80. For the 10 data
262 dependent MS/MS events the loop count was set to 10 and the general settings were
263 resolution to 15,000, AGC target 1e5, max IT time 50 ms, isolation window of 1.6 m/z, fixed
264 first mass of 120 m/z and normalized collision energy [5] of 28 eV. For individual peaks the
265 data dependent settings were 1.00e3 for the minimum AGC target yielding an intensity
266 threshold of 2.0e4 that needs to be reached prior of triggering an MS/MS event. No apex
267 trigger was used, unassigned, +1 and charges >+8 were excluded with peptide match mode
268 preferred, isotope exclusion on and dynamic exclusion of 10 sec. In between experiments,
269 routine wash and control runs were done by injecting 5 µl LC-MS solution containing 5 µL of
270 10 fmol/µL BSA or enolase digest and 1 µL of 10 fmol/µL angiotensin III (Fluka,
271 Thermo)/oxytocin (Merck) to check the performance of the platform on each component
272 (nano-LC, the mass spectrometer (mass calibration/quality of ion selection and
273 fragmentation) and the search engine).

274

275 **MaxQuant processing**

276 Raw files were analyzed with MaxQuant (version v2.1.4.0).[14] The following changes were
277 made to the standard settings of MaxQuant: Label-free quantification was enabled with an
278 Lfq minimal ratio count of 1. Match between runs and iBAQ quantification were enabled.
279 Searches were performed against a Uniprot database created by merging reviewed (Swiss-
280 Prot) and unreviewed (TrEMBL) sequences (downloaded the 21st September 2022) from mus
281 musculus (taxonomy_id:10090; 88,023 results), bacterial fucosidase (32,942 results),
282 sialidase (73,638 results), galactosidase (146,928 results) and hexosaminidase
283 (37,896 results). “proteingroups.txt” file was used for further modifications in Perseus
284 (version 2.0.7.0)[15], including logarithmic transformation (log₂) and removal of proteins
285 ‘Only identified by site’, ‘Reverse’, ‘Contaminant’ and identified based on only one peptide.
286 Non-existing Lfq value due to not enough quantifies peptides were substituted with zero. To
287 analyze the abundance of proteins, their label-free quantification (Lfq) intensities were

288 compared using GraphPad Prism (version 9.4.1 for macOS) and MetaboAnalyst (more details
289 in “Statistical and Bioinformatics Analysis”).

290

291 **Caecal Short Chain Fatty acids analysis**

292 We used a derivatization method prior to UPLC-MS analysis. Briefly, cecal contents (50 - 60
293 mg wet material) were homogenized in double-distilled water and then sonicated 10 min in
294 an iced water bath. An aliquot of the resulting material (50 μ L) was transferred into tubes
295 containing acetonitrile (200 μ L) and valproic acid (used as internal standard). Following
296 incubation at -20°C (1h) the samples were centrifuged, and supernatants were transferred
297 into glass tubes for derivatization (1 h, 40 °C) using 3-nitrophenylhydrazine in the presence of
298 EDC and pyridine. Samples were then purified by liquid-liquid extraction using chloroform to
299 remove the remaining reagents. The SFCA-containing samples were then analyzed using a
300 Nexera LC 40X3 coupled to ZenoTOF 7600 instrument (from Shimadzu and Ab Sciex,
301 respectively). The SCFA were analyzed using a Kinetex F5 (150 \times 2.1 mm; 1.7 μ M) column
302 maintained at 40 °C. A gradient between H₂O-ACN-acetic acid (94.9:5:0.1; v/v/v) and ACN-
303 acetic acid (99.9:0.1; v/v) was used to separate the different isomers. For compound
304 ionization, an ESI source operated in positive mode was used. SCIEX OS 3.0 was used for data
305 analysis. The signal (AUC) of the different SCFA was normalized to the signal of the internal
306 standard (valproic acid). SCFA content was normalized to the caecal content weight.

307

308

309 **Human fecal proteomics**

310 The MASCOT Generic Format files from previously analyzed human fecal proteomes[16] were
311 used to identify and quantify the proteins. The MS/MS data were processed using Sequest HT
312 search engine within Proteome Discoverer 2.5 SP1 against a human protein database
313 obtained from Uniprot (81.579 entries January 2023) trypsin (RK) was specified as cleavage
314 enzyme allowing up to 2 missed cleavages, 4 modifications per peptide and up to 5 charges.
315 Mass error was set to 10 ppm for precursor ions and 0.6 Da for fragment ions. Oxidation on
316 Met (+15.995 Da), Carbamidomethyl on Cys (+57.021 Da), pyro-Glu formation from Gln or Glu
317 (-17.027 Da or - 18.011 Da respectively), Acetylation (+42.011Da) and Met-loss (-131.040 Da)
318 on protein-terminus were considered as variable modifications. False discovery rate (FDR)
319 was assessed using a target/decoy PSM validator and set to <5%. Relative quantification was

320 performed by taking the number of PSMs for each protein identified. Before statistical
321 analysis, the proteomic data were filtered to only include proteins having unique peptides \geq
322 2 and PSMs \geq 3.

323

324 **Statistical and Bioinformatics Analysis**

325 Statistical analyses were performed using GraphPad Prism version 9.4.1 for macOS (GraphPad
326 Software, San Diego, CA, USA) and RStudio version 2022.12.0+353. Data are expressed as the
327 mean \pm s.e.m. Comparison between three groups at one time-point was performed by one-
328 way ANOVA followed by Tukey's test for normally distributed data and Kruskal-Wallis
329 followed by Dunn's test for not normally distributed data. Comparison between three groups
330 at different time-points was performed by 2-way repeated measures ANOVA, followed by
331 Tukey's test. The results were considered statistically significant at $P < 0.05$. The presence of
332 outliers was assessed using the Grubbs test.

333 For the gut microbiota, statistical analysis was performed using the R package *mare*.^[17] To
334 account for the varying sequencing depth, the number of reads per sample was used as an
335 offset in all statistical models. Overall microbiota structure was assessed using principal
336 coordinate analysis (PCoA) on beta diversity computed using the Bray-Curtis dissimilarity,
337 representing the compositional dissimilarity between the samples. Significant differences
338 between groups were tested using nonparametric multivariate analysis of variance
339 (PERMANOVA) (*adonis* in the *vegan* package^[18]). Differential abundance testing was
340 performed using the *mare* function "*GroupTest*" with both relative and absolute abundance
341 data fitted in generalized linear models assuming a negative binomial distribution. If the fitted
342 model failed to fulfil model assumptions (primarily heteroscedasticity of the residuals),
343 generalized least squares models were used. P-values were adjusted by the Benjamini-
344 Hochberg method for multiple testing. FDR-adjusted p-values < 0.05 were considered
345 statistically significant. As absolute microbiota measurements have been suggested to better
346 reflect true changes,^[19] log₂ fold change values of absolute abundances of the significant
347 genera identified by differential abundance testing (FDR-p < 0.05) were further visualized
348 using the *ggplot2* package (figure 11) .

349 Statistical analysis for the mouse proteomics, including non-parametric tests (Wilcoxon rank-
350 sum test), volcano plot and principal component analysis (PCA), were done using
351 MetaboAnalyst (version 5.0)^[20]. For human proteomics, t-test was performed after data

352 normalization (Log transformation (base 10) and auto scaling) using MetaboAnalyst and PCA
353 was computed from scaled data using PCA function in “FactoMineR” package. Differences
354 between clusters were estimated by PERMANOVA test with 999 permutations on Euclidean
355 distance using adonis2 function from “vegan” package. Proteins that were significantly
356 up/down-regulated were used to create a gene list and execute Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes
357 and Genomics (KEGG) pathway and functional annotation clustering, giving which
358 term/annotation groups were enriched (using DAVID 2021, <https://david.ncifcrf.gov>).[21,22]
359 Following default settings, only clusters with P-values <0.05 (corresponding to enrichment
360 scores ≥ 1.3) were shown in Supplemental figure 4 and 5. For human fecal proteomes, DAVID
361 tool was also used to investigate the molecular function, biological process, KEGG pathway
362 and diseases, as shown in figure 14.

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