A probiotic bi-functional peptidoglycan hydrolase sheds NOD2 ligands to regulate gut homeostasis in female mice

Jie Gao^{1,‡}, Lei Wang^{1,‡}, Jing Jiang^{2,‡}, Qian Xu^{1,‡}, Nianyi Zeng¹, Bingyun Lu³, Peibo Yuan¹, Kai Sun^{4*}, Hongwei Zhou^{1,5*}, Xiaolong He^{1*}

¹Microbiome Medicine Center, Department of Laboratory Medicine, Zhujiang Hospital, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510655, China.

²Department Gerontology, Sichuan Academy of Medical Sciences & Sichuan Provincial People's Hospital, Chengdu, Sichuan, 610072, China.

³Department of Gastroenterology, Shenzhen Hospital, Southern Medical University, Shenzhen, Guangdong, 518101, China.

⁴Department of General Surgery, Nanfang Hospital, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510515, China.

⁵State Key Laboratory of Organ Failure Research, Southern Medical University, Guangzhou, Guangdong, 510655, China.

^{*}These authors contributed equally to this study

*Correspondence: biodegradation@gmail.com (H.Z.), hxl2027315@smu.edu.cn (X.H.) sunkai9602@sina.com (K.S.)

Supplementary Information

Supplementary Figure 1 Supplementary Figure 2 Supplementary Figure 3 Supplementary Figure 4 Supplementary Figure 5 Supplementary Figure 6 Uncropped scans of all gels in Supplementary Figure 3



Supplementary Figure 1. LPH-treated mice were also resistant to OXA- or DSSinduced colitis. **a**, **f** Body weight changes of OXA- (**a**) or DSS-induced colitis model (**f**). Colon length (**b**, **g**); serum FITC-dextran level (**c**, **h**); representative H&E staining of colonic tissue, scale bar, 200 μ m (**d**, **i**), and inflammation score (**e**, **j**). n = 6 mice per group, female. OXA: oxazolone; DSS: dextran sulfate sodium. Data are representative of 2 independent experiments and presented as mean ± SD. Statistical analyses were performed using repeated measures ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (a, f), one-

way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (b, c, e, g, h, j). Source data are provided as a Source data file.



Supplementary Figure 2. Two homologues of LPH from *L. rhamnosus* and *L. paracasei* could also protect mice from TNBS-induced colitis. a-e Body weight loss (a); colon length (b); serum FITC-dextran level (c); representative H&E staining of colonic tissue, scale bar, 200 μ m (d), and semiquantitative scoring of inflammation (e) of mice from indicated groups. LRP: homologues of LPH from *L. rhamnosus*; LPP: homologues of LPH from *L. paracasei*. Data are representative of 2 independent experiments and presented as mean \pm SD. Each dot indicates an individual mouse (n = 6, female). Statistical analyses were performed using repeated measures ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (a), one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (b, c, e). Source data are provided as a Source data file.



Undigested PG (M. luteus)

Predigested PG (M. luteus)

Supplementary Figure 3. Evaluation of LPH's peptidoglycan hydrolytic activity using ANTS labeled gel electrophoresis. a-b ANTS visualization of peptidoglycan from *S. aureus* (**a**) or *M. luteus* (**b**) digested with indicated enzymes suggested that LPH has a similar function with a combination of mutanolysin (M, N-Acetyl-β-Dmuramidase) and SagA (DL-endopeptidase). **c-f** ANTS visualization of peptidoglycan from *S. aureus* (**c**, **d**) or *M. luteus* (**e**, **f**) digested with indicated enzymes suggested that LPH-AS1/LPH-AS2 lost the ability to generate MDP from intact peptidoglycan while preserving the ability to generate MDP from mutanolysin predigested peptidoglycan. Data are representative of two independent experiments. PG: peptidoglycan; LPH-AS1: D316A mutation of LPH; LPH-AS2: D329A mutation of LPH; LPH-AS3: P295A, G297A, and T298A mutations of LPH; LPH-3D, the 3D-domain truncation of LPH; Mutanlolysin (M) was used as a positive control for N-Acetyl- β -D-muramidase; SagA was used as a positive control for DL-endopeptidase.



Supplementary Figure 4. Evaluation of LPH's peptidoglycan hydrolytic activity using HEK293 NOD reporter cells. a NF-κB activation in NOD1 and NOD2 reporter cells after incubation with BSA or LPH-treated peptidoglycan. NOD1 agonist (iE-DAP) and NOD2 agonist (MDP) served as the positive control. **b** Cell pellets of *E*. *coli* or *S*. *aureus* (2.5×10^7) colony forming unit) were digested with different doses of LPH as indicated, and the ability of digests to activate NOD2-expressing NF- κ B reporter HEK293 cells were detected. n = 3 per group. c-d The growth curve of E. coli (c) or S. aureus (d) in a medium containing 20 µg/ml BSA or LPH. e NF-κB activation in NOD2 reporter cells after incubation with BSA-, M-, LPH-3D-, LPH-, SagA- or M+SagA-treated peptidoglycan. f-g Peptidoglycans were predigested with or without M (f)/LPH-AS3 (g), and incubation with BSA, LPH, LPH-AS1, LPH-AS2, or LPH-3D. The ability of peptidoglycan digests to activate NF-κB in NOD2 reporter cells were detected. BSA: bovine serum albumin; PG: peptidoglycan; LPH-AS1: D316A mutation of LPH; LPH-AS2: D329A mutation of LPH; LPH-AS3: P295A, G297A, and T298A mutations of LPH; LPH-3D, the 3D-domain truncation of LPH; Mutanlolysin (M) was used as a positive control for N-Acetyl-β-D-muramidase; SagA was used as a positive control for DL-endopeptidase. The values are ratios of cells with corresponding treatment to those with BSA treatment. Data are representative of 3 independent experiments and presented as mean \pm SD. Each dot indicates an individual sample. Statistical analyses were performed using one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (a, b, f, g), two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test (e). Source data are provided as a Source data file.



Supplementary Figure 5. The predicted secondary structure of LPH. The secondary structure of LPH was predicted using the web tool LambdaPP pipeline (https://embed.predictprotein.org/o). LPH has 40% α -helix and 20% β -sheet. The N-terminal (1-143) and C-terminal of LPH is composed of helix and sheet (231-351), while the middle of protein is mainly helix (144-230). Two conserved aspartic acids (D316, D329) were predicted as binding sites.



Supplementary Figure 6. The intact PGH activity is required and the generated MDP is sufficient for LPH's colitis-protective effects. a-e Mice were pretreated with pectin/zein beads containing LPH or its different active sites mutants at 1 mg/kg body weight for 3 days, followed by challenge with TNBS for 4 days. The colitis protective effects were evaluated: body weight loss (a), colon length (b), serum FITC-dextran level (c), representative H&E staining of colonic tissue, scale bar, 200 μ m (d), and the semiquantitative scoring of inflammation (e). f-g Mice were gavaged with indicated dosage of pectin/zein beads containing LPH (1-5 mg/kg body weight) or MDP (2-10 mg/kg body weight), and the ability of colonic homogenate (f) or fecal extract (g) to activate NOD2-expressing NF- κ B reporter HEK293 cells were detected. Data are presented as fold change relative to BSA treated group (control). h-l Mice were pre-

treated with pectin/zein beads containing LPH (2.5 mg/kg) or MDP (5 mg/kg) before being challenged with TNBS for 4 days. The protective effects of LPH and MDP on colitis were evaluated by measuring body weight loss (**h**), colon length (**i**), serum FITCdextran level (**j**), and semiquantitative scoring of inflammation (**l**). Representative H&E staining of colonic tissue was also performed, and the scale bar is 200 μ m (**k**). Each dot indicates an individual mouse (n = 6, female). Data are representative of 3 independent experiments and presented as mean \pm SD. Statistical analyses were performed using repeated measures ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (a, h), one-way ANOVA with Bonferroni post hoc test (b, c, e, i, j, l), two-tailed unpaired Student's t-test (f, g). Source data are provided as a Source data file.

Uncropped scans of all gels in Supplementary Figure 3.

е





PG from M. luteus

f



Undigested PG (S. aureus)



Predigested PG (S. aureus)



Undigested PG (M. luteus)



Predigested PG (M. luteus)