The phageome of patients with ulcerative colitis treated with donor fecal microbiota reveals markers associated with disease remission

Marwan E Majzoub^{1#}, Sudarshan Paramsothy^{2,3#}, Craig Haifer^{4,5#}, Rohit Parthasarathy¹, Thomas J Borody⁶, Rupert W Leong^{2,3}, Michael A Kamm^{7,8}, Nadeem O Kaakoush^{1*}

¹School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia

²Concord Clinical School, University of Sydney, Sydney, NSW 2006, Australia

³Department of Gastroenterology, Concord Repatriation General Hospital, Sydney, NSW 2139, Australia

⁴School of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Health, UNSW Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia

⁵Department of Gastroenterology, St Vincent's Hospital, Sydney, NSW 2010, Australia ⁶Centre for Digestive Diseases, Sydney, NSW 2046, Australia

⁷Department of Gastroenterology, St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Vic 3065, Australia ⁸Department of Medicine, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Vic 3010, Australia

[#]These authors contributed equally.

Correspondence:

Scientia A/Prof Nadeem O Kaakoush School of Biomedical Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Health University of New South Wales, Sydney, NSW 2052, Australia Tel: + 61 2 9065 9728; Email: n.kaakoush@unsw.edu.au

Quality assessment of phage identification. A: Jaccard similarity of the donor batches (D1, D5, D6, D10, D11, D14, D15, D17, D19, D20, D22, D24, D25, D28, D29, D31, D32) to the individual donors included (Yes, pink; n=4, 7, 5, 5, 6, 6, 6, 6, 7, 6, 5, 5, 5, 6, 6, 7, 7, respectively) and not included (No, yellow; n=10, 7, 9, 9, 8, 8, 8, 8, 7, 8, 9, 9, 9, 8, 8, 7, 7, respectively) in the batch. Differences were tested using two-way ANOVA with Batch x Inclusion as variables. All FOCUS vOTUs (n=7066) were included in the analysis. Errors are \pm SEM. **B:** Pielou's evenness in the individual donors (n=14) and batches (n=17). Differences were tested using a two-sided Welch's t-test (p=0.0009) following assessment of normal distribution with Shapiro-Wilk test (Donors: p=0.6542, Batches: p=0.1368) and variances with F test (p<0.0001). **C:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities between individual donor (green) and donor batch samples (purple). Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



0 -20 -10 0 10 20 PCO1 (17.9% of total variation)

Phage diversity in healthy individuals. A: Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities between samples from the individual donors. All FOCUS vOTUs (n=7066) were included in the analysis. 14 donors in FOCUS were included and sampled at their baseline (0 months). 13 of 14 were sampled a second time over a period ranging from 0.3 to 17 months (blue points). **B:** Linear regression between Bray-Curtis similarities intra-donor against time (months). Center line is linear regression equation and broken lines represent 95% confidence intervals. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Phage beta-diversity in active ulcerative colitis. A: Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities between individual donors (green; n=14) and patient samples (purple; n=53). Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. FOCUS vOTUs that were classified as a virus (n=2737) were included in the analysis. **B:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities between patients at baseline (Baseline, green; n=31) and patients following antibiotic treatment (Post Abx, purple; n=32). Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. LOTUS vOTUs that were classified as a virus (n=25941) were included in the analysis. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Effect of fecal microbiota transplantation on phage diversity. FOCUS and LOTUS vOTUs that were classified as a virus (n=2737 and n=25941, respectively) were included in the analysis where applicable. **A:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities for FOCUS samples across all groups. Donor batches (Donors, n=17), patients at baseline (Tx0, n=53), post 8 weeks of placebo (P8, n=21), 4 weeks of FMT (Tx4, n=53), 8 weeks of FMT (Tx8, n=53) and at follow-up 8 weeks following FMT (TxF, n=53). Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. **B:** Margalef's (species) richness across time during FMT or placebo in LOTUS (including Donors and Baseline). Errors are ± SEM. **C:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities for LOTUS samples across all groups. Donors, n=29 samples from 2 donors; Baseline, n=31 patients; Post Abx, n=32 patients; Placebo, n=75 samples; FMT, n=61 samples. Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Effect of FMT and placebo on relative abundance of vOTUs. FOCUS vOTUs that were classified as a virus (n=2737) were included in the analysis that was performed using ZicoSeq. A: Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Tx0; n=53) and patients following 8 weeks of placebo (P8; n=21). B: Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Tx0; n=53) and patients following 8 weeks of FMT (Tx8; n=53). C: Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Tx0; n=53). C: Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Tx0; n=53). C: Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Tx0; n=53). C: Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Tx0; n=53).



Effect of FMT and placebo on relative abundance of vOTUs. LOTUS vOTUs that were classified as a virus (n=25941) were included in the analysis. **A:** Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Baseline; n=17) and patients following 8 weeks of placebo (Post-placebo; n=13). **B:** Differential abundance analysis between patients at baseline (Baseline; n=14) and patients following 8 weeks of FMT (Post-FMT; n=10). **C:** Classification of 46 vOTUs found to be differentially abundant with FMT. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Phage diversity and response to fecal microbiota transplantation. FOCUS and LOTUS vOTUs that were classified as a virus (n=2737 and n=25941, respectively) were included in the analysis where applicable. **A:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities for FOCUS samples across all groups. Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. Non-responders at baseline (Tx0N, n=35), responders at baseline (Tx0Y, n=18), non-responders post FMT (Tx8N, n=35) and responders post FMT (Tx8Y, n=18). **B:** Effect of FMT on Margalef's (species) richness in non-responders and responders in the LOTUS trial. Differences were tested with a two-way repeated measures ANOVA and multiple comparisons testing was performed using an uncorrected Fisher's LSD. **C:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Aitchinson distances between LOTUS donors, responders and non-responders at baseline and post-FMT. Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. Baseline_n, n=7; Baseline_y, n=7; Post FMT_n, n=7; Post FMT_y, n=7. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Phage diversity during maintenance therapy or withdrawal. LOTUS vOTUs classified as a virus (n=25941) were included in the analysis. **A:** Principal coordinate analysis (PCO) on Bray-Curtis similarities for LOTUS samples across all groups. Differences between groups were tested using PERMANOVA and PERMDISP. FMT_i: patients at end of induction FMT therapy that went into maintenance arm (n=4), FMT_m: patients at end of maintenance FMT therapy (n=4), Flare_i: patients at end of induction FMT therapy that went into withdraw at end of induction FMT therapy that went into withdraw at end of induction FMT therapy that went into withdrawal arm (n=4), Flare_m: patients who withdrew from therapy around the time of disease flare (n=4). **B, C:** Changes in the relative abundances of the remaining LOTUS vOTUs that were homologous to vOTU_151 in FOCUS. Differences were tested with a two-way repeated measures ANOVA and multiple comparisons testing was performed using an uncorrected Fisher's LSD. Source data are provided as a Source Data file.



Supplementary Table 1

Results of similarities searches between phages and bacteria. Short-read data: Results of blastn searches between vOTUs of interest from FOCUS and LOTUS and the nucleotide database at NCBI limited to bacterial taxa (taxid: 2). All vOTUs showed high coverage and identity to the assembled genome of isolate *Oscillospiraceae* CE91-St42. Long-read data: Results of blastn searches between long-read contigs of interest and the nucleotide database at NCBI limited to bacterial taxa (taxid: 2). All contigs showed high identity to the assembled genome of isolate *Oscillospiraceae* CE91-St42. Long-read data: Results of blastn searches between long-read contigs of interest and the nucleotide database at NCBI limited to bacterial taxa (taxid: 2). All contigs showed high identity to the assembled genome of isolate *Oscillospiraceae* CE91-St42 but only contig 6261 had high coverage.

Short-read data			
	vOTU ID	Blastn hit	Coverage / Identity (%)
	151	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	98 / 98.7
	3124	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	83 / 98.68
	2578	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	89 / 98.71
	3315	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	94 / 98.32
	3126	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	99 / 99.61
	3093	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	99 / 99.5
	3094	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	99 / 99.37
	2838	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	99 / 99.52
	3156	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	99 / 99.5
Long-read data			
	Contig	Blastn hit	Coverage / Identity (%)
	6261	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	99 / 99.37
	7310	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	24 / 100
	46131	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	20 / 97.48
	46654	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	16 / 91.83
	51638	Oscillospiraceae CE91-St42	2 / 93.05