

**A novel rhamnose-rich hetero-exopolysaccharide isolated from
Lactobacillus paracasei DG activates host's immune cells**

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Figure S1. Gene expression analysis by qRT-PCR in human macrophages THP-1 after 4 h stimulation with strain *L. paracasei* DG (MOI 50) and strain DG after removal of the exopolysaccharide (EPS) (nDG; MOI 50), with or without the addition of purified the EPS molecule ($1 \mu\text{g ml}^{-1}$). Expression levels of TNF- α , IL-6, IL-8, and CCL20 are shown as the fold change of induction (FOI) relative to the control (unstimulated macrophages), which was set at a value of 1 (red line). Data are presented as mean of two independent experiments conducted in duplicate \pm standard deviation. Asterisks indicate statistically significant differences according to two-tailed unpaired Student's t test: *, $P < 0.05$; **, $P < 0.01$. Non-significant P values under 0.1 are specified in the figure.

