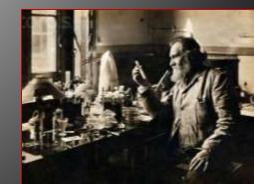
# **Nutritional and Therapeutic** Fermented Milk Products C Significance

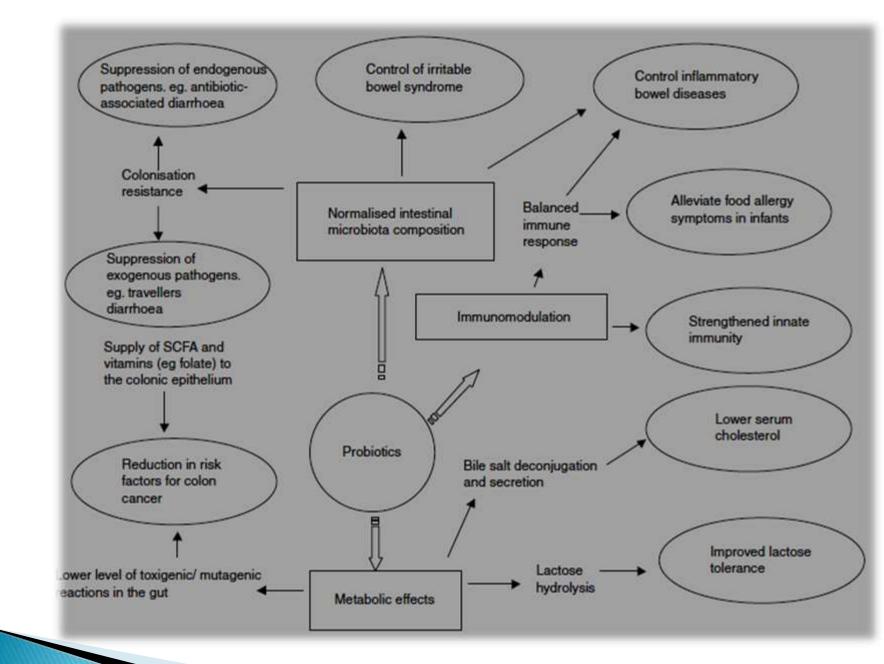


- Fermented milk in human nutrition have long been an important component of nutritional diet.
- Medicinal and nutritional properties of various fermented foods have been experienced by several generations.
- In 1910, Elie Metchnikoff suggested that man should consume milk fermented with lactobacilli to prolong his life.

## Élie Metchnikoff's Contribution

- Russian scientist and Nobel laureate Élie Metchnikoff in the beginning of 20th century suggested to replace harmful microbes with useful microbes.
- Metchnikoff proposed that consumption of fermented milk would "seed" the intestine with harmless lactic-acid bacteria and decrease the intestinal pH thus, suppressing growth of proteolytic bacteria.
- This inspired Japanese scientist Minoru Shirota to begin investigating the relationship between bacteria and good intestinal health thus, launching of "Yakult" in 1935.

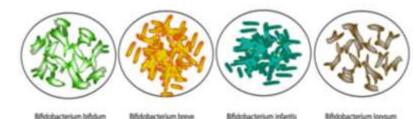




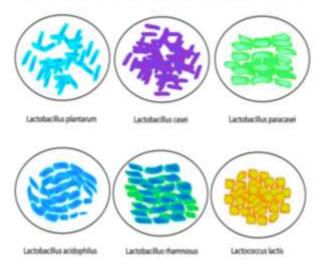
#### **Nutritional Benefits**

- Nutrient synthesis and bioavailability
- Alleviation of Lactose Intolerance
- Protection against Gastrointestinal Infection
- Anticarcinogenic Effect
- Immune System Stimulation
- Lowering of Serum Cholesterol
- Alleviation of Constipation
- Antihypertensive Activity
- Antiallergenic Qualities

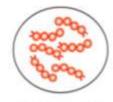
#### TYPES OF BIFIDOBACTERIA



TYPES OF LACTOBACILLUS







Streptococcus thermophilus

#### Nutrient synthesis and bioavailability

- The action of micro-organisms during the preparation of cultured foods or in the digestive tract has been shown to improve the quantity, availability and digestibility of some dietary nutrients.
- Fermentation of food with LAB increases folic acid in yoghurt, bifidus milk and kefir
- Similarly, niacin and riboflavin levels in yoghurt are increased with fermentation.

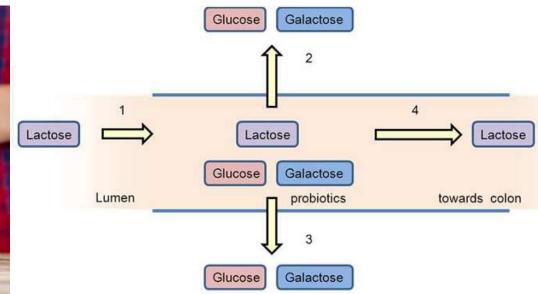
- Bacterial enzymatic hydrolysis may enhance the bioavailability of protein and fat and increase the production of:
  - free amino acids
  - short chain fatty acids (SCFA)
  - lactic acid
  - propionic acid
  - butyric acid

SCFA maintain an appropriate pH in colonic lumen, which is critical in expression of many bacterial enzymes and carcinogen metabolism in the gut.

### **Alleviation of Lactose Intolerance**

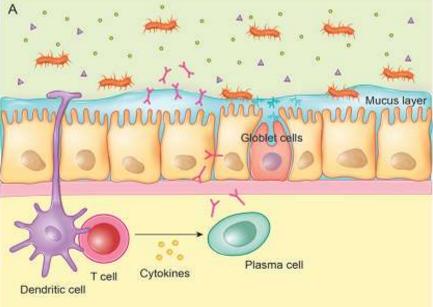
- Inability of adults to digest lactose (milk sugar) is prevalent worldwide.
- Consumption of lactose by those lacking adequate levels of lactase produced in the small intestine can result in symptoms of diarrhea, bloating, abdominal pain and flatulence.
- Lactose intolerant individuals consume fermented dairy products such as yoghurt.

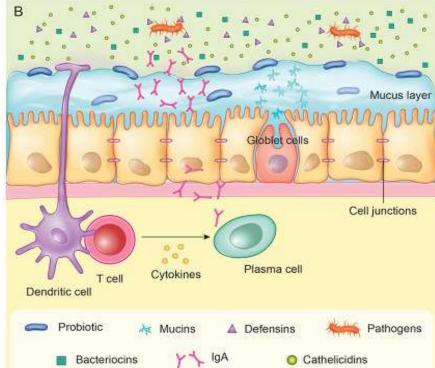




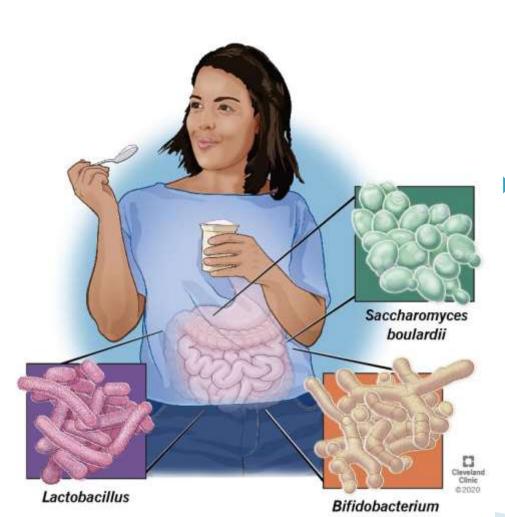
#### Protection against Gastrointestinal Infection

- LAB interfere with the colonization of food borne pathogens thus, preventing manifestation of infection. eg., *L. bulgaricus, L. acidophilus, S. thermophilus* and *B. bifidum*
- Cultured milk products suppress growth of pathogens either directly or through production of antibacterial substances and regulate intestinal population.





#### Preventative and therapeutic effects against diarrhoea



- Lactobacillus GG, Lactobacillus reuteri, S. boulardii etc. have significant benefits for diarrhoea in young children caused by rotaviruses.
- LAB release various enzymes into the intestinal lumen that exert synergistic effects on digestion, alleviating symptoms of intestinal malabsorption.

#### **Anticarcinogenic Effect**

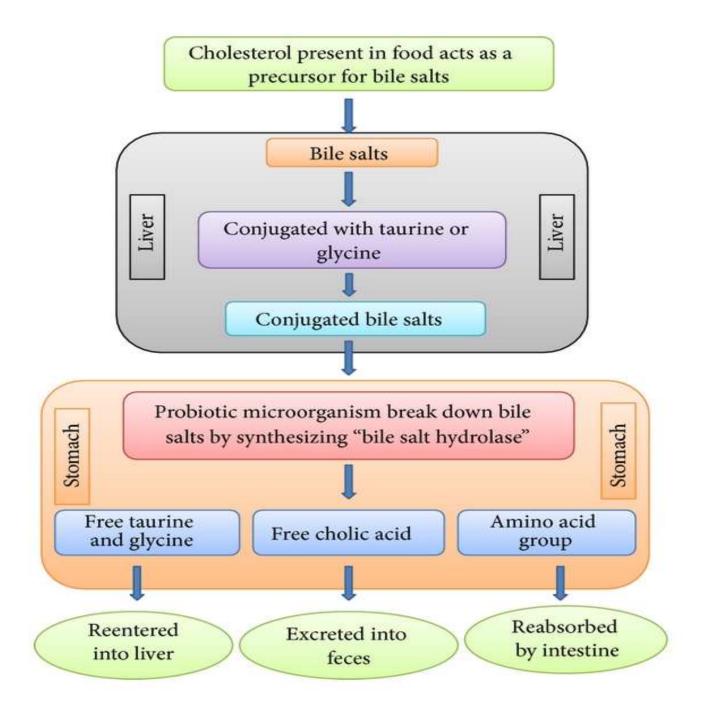
- Fermented milk products can help in control of secondary infections.
- Probiotic cultures might decrease the exposure to chemical carcinogens by:
  - (i) detoxifying ingested carcinogens.
  - (ii) altering the environment of the intestine thus, decreasing metabolic activities of bacteria that may generate carcinogenic compounds.
  - (iii) producing compounds that inhibit the growth of tumour cells.

#### **Immune System Stimulation**

- Immune system provides primary defense against microbial pathogens in body.
- Animal and human studies indicated an effect of yoghurt on enhancing levels of certain immunoreactive cells.
- Whey protein, calcium, certain vitamins and trace elements are also capable of influencing immune system.
- Consumption of yoghurt or LAB results in intestinal antibody production, increase macrophage activity etc.

#### **Lowering of Serum Cholesterol**

- Fermented milk products have hypocholesteraemic effect that impair the synthesis of cholesterol.
- Deconjugated bile salts are less soluble and less efficiently reabsorbed from intestinal lumen than their conjugated counterparts, which results in excretion of larger amounts of free bile acids in faeces.
- Deconjugation of bile acids by LAB bacteria could lead towards a reduction in serum cholesterol.



#### **Alleviation of Constipation**

- Constipation is common problem in subjects consuming the western diet and in elderly people.
- Reported benefits include alleviation of constipation using L. acidophilus NCDO 1748, L. casei Shirota and Lactobacillus GG.



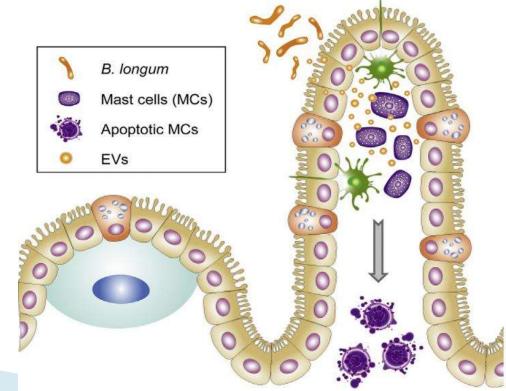


#### **Antihypertensive Activity**

- Casein hydrolysate, produced by an extracellular proteinase from *L. helveticus (CP790)* has been reported to show antihypertensive activity in rats.
- Two antihypertensive peptides have also been purified from sour milk fermented with *L. helveticus and Saccharomyces cerevisiae.* These two peptides inhibit angiotensin-converting enzyme that converts angiotensinogen I to angiotensinogen II, which is a potent vasoconstrictor.
- Consumption of certain lactobacilli, or products may reduce blood pressure in mildly hypertensive people.

#### **Antiallergenic Qualities**

- Probiotics may prevent allergic reactions in individuals having food allergies.
- Probiotic bacteria help to reinforce the barrier function of the intestinal wall, thereby possibly preventing the absorption of some antigens.



#### **Other possible benefits**

- Control of urinary tract infections
- Degradation of toxins
- Low fat fermented dairy products lower risk of diabetes.
- Local application for control of infection
- Alleviation of depression
- Food fermentations improve the balance of essential amino acids or their availability will have a direct curative effect on protein-calories deficiency nutritional diseases.