

New research into plant-based feed additives

Yanhong Liu & Kwangwook Kim

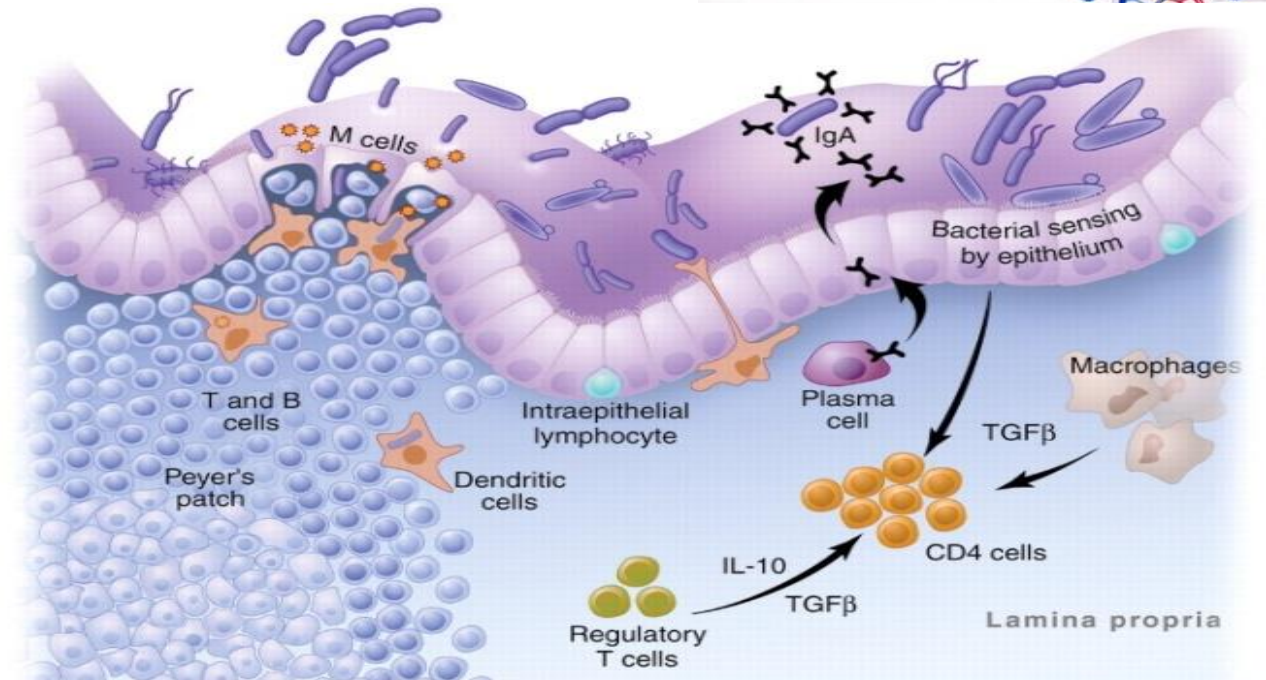
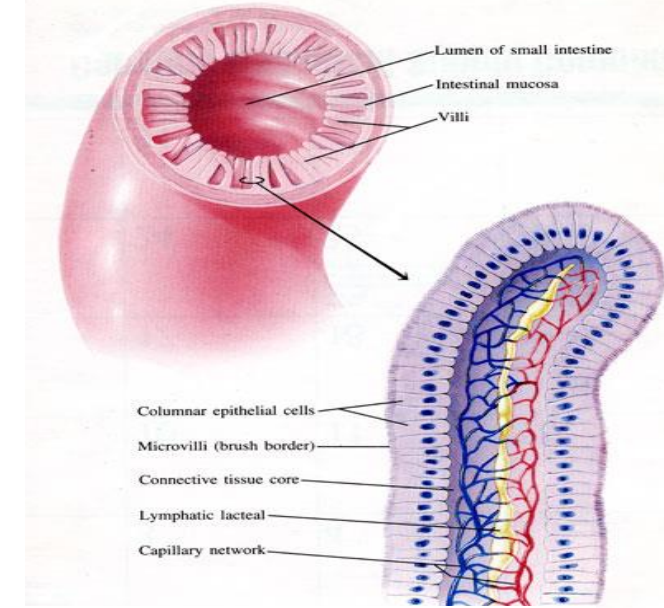
**Department of Animal Science
University of California, Davis, CA**

Outline

- **Weaning stress on intestinal development and health of pigs**
- **How to define a healthy gut**
- **Plant-based feed additives**
 - **Phytochemicals**
 - **Algae-derived products**
- **Take home message**

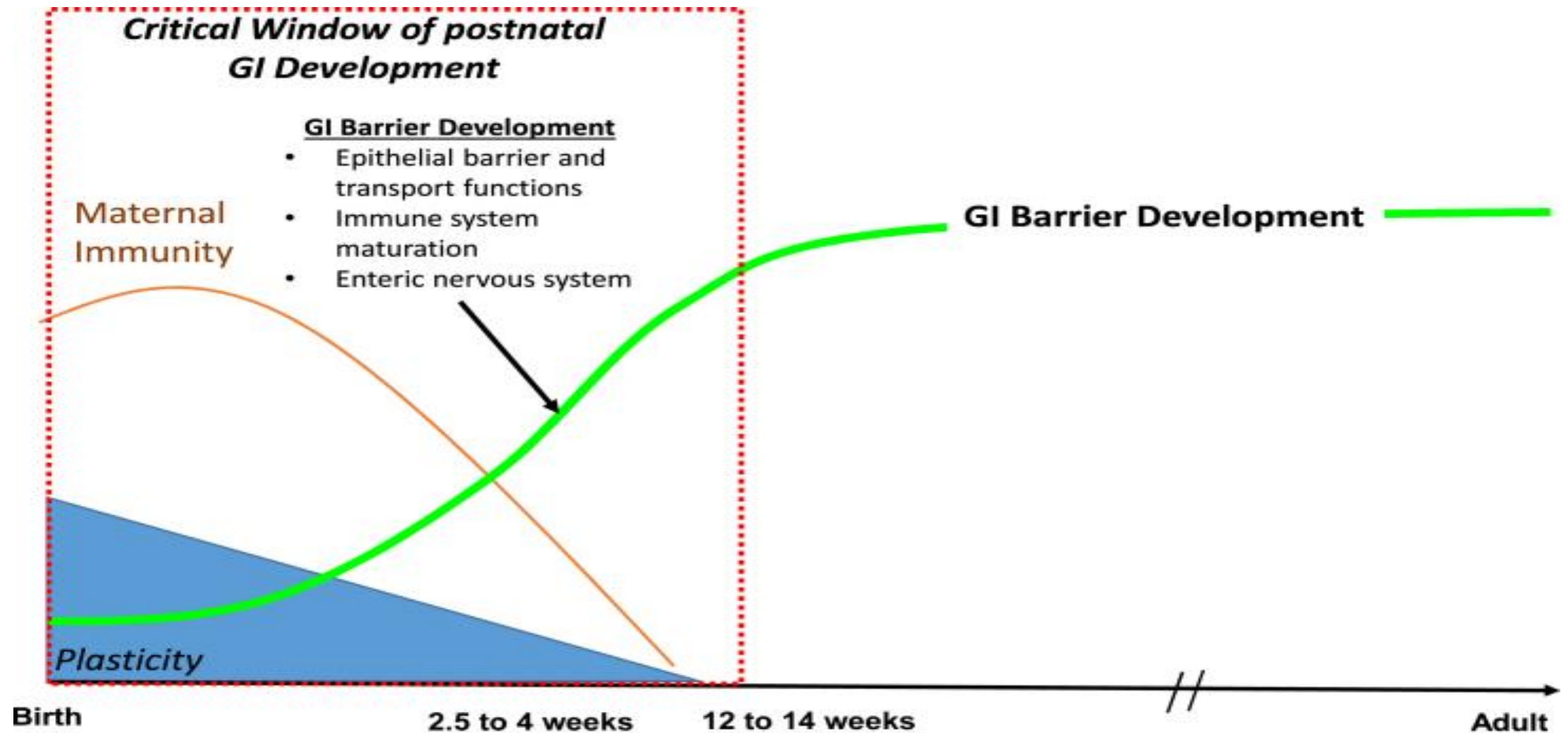
Focus on the GUT

- Digestion and absorption of nutrients
- Physical barrier against pathogenic agents
- Large immune organ
- Nutrient chemo-sensing



MacDonald and Monteleone, 2005

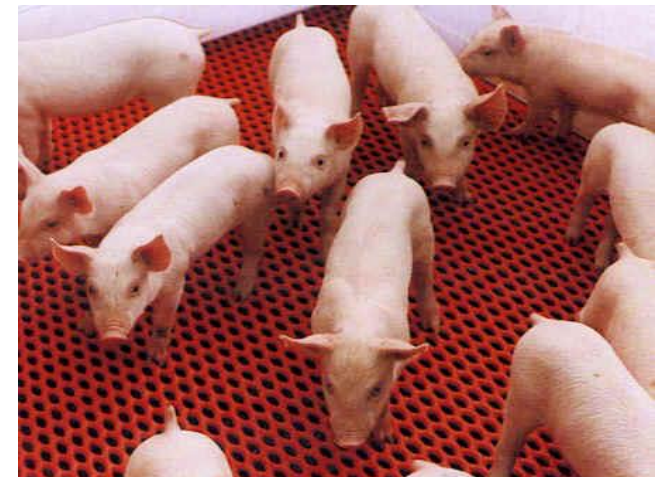
Focus on the GUT of weaning pigs



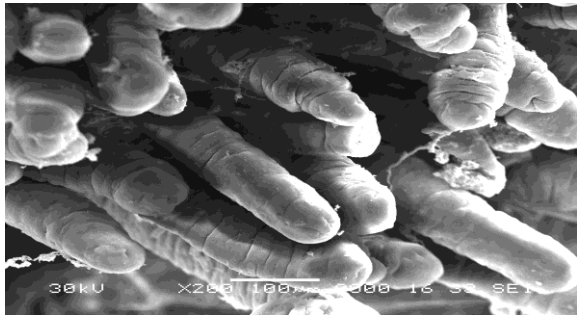
Moeser et al., 2017

Weaning stress

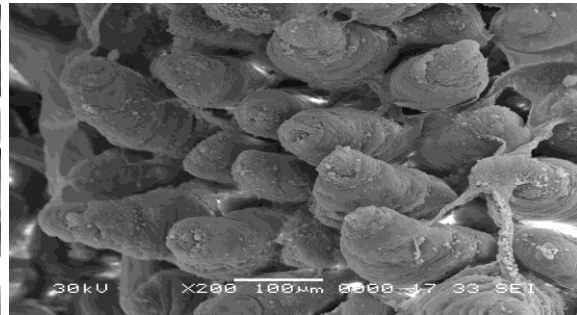
- **Maternal separation**
- **Environmental change**
- **Increased exposure to pathogens**
- **Social hierarchy stress**
- **Move to solid feed**
- **Transportation stress**



Weaning stress on intestinal morphology



d1



d7



d14



d21



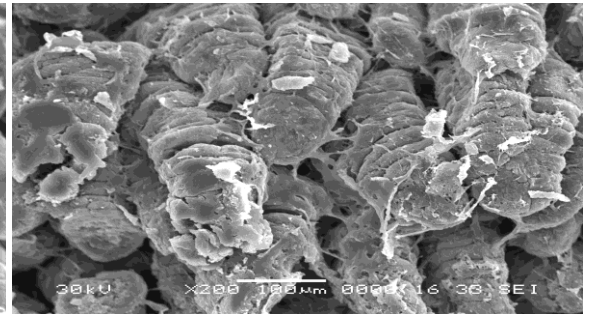
w1d



w3d



w5d

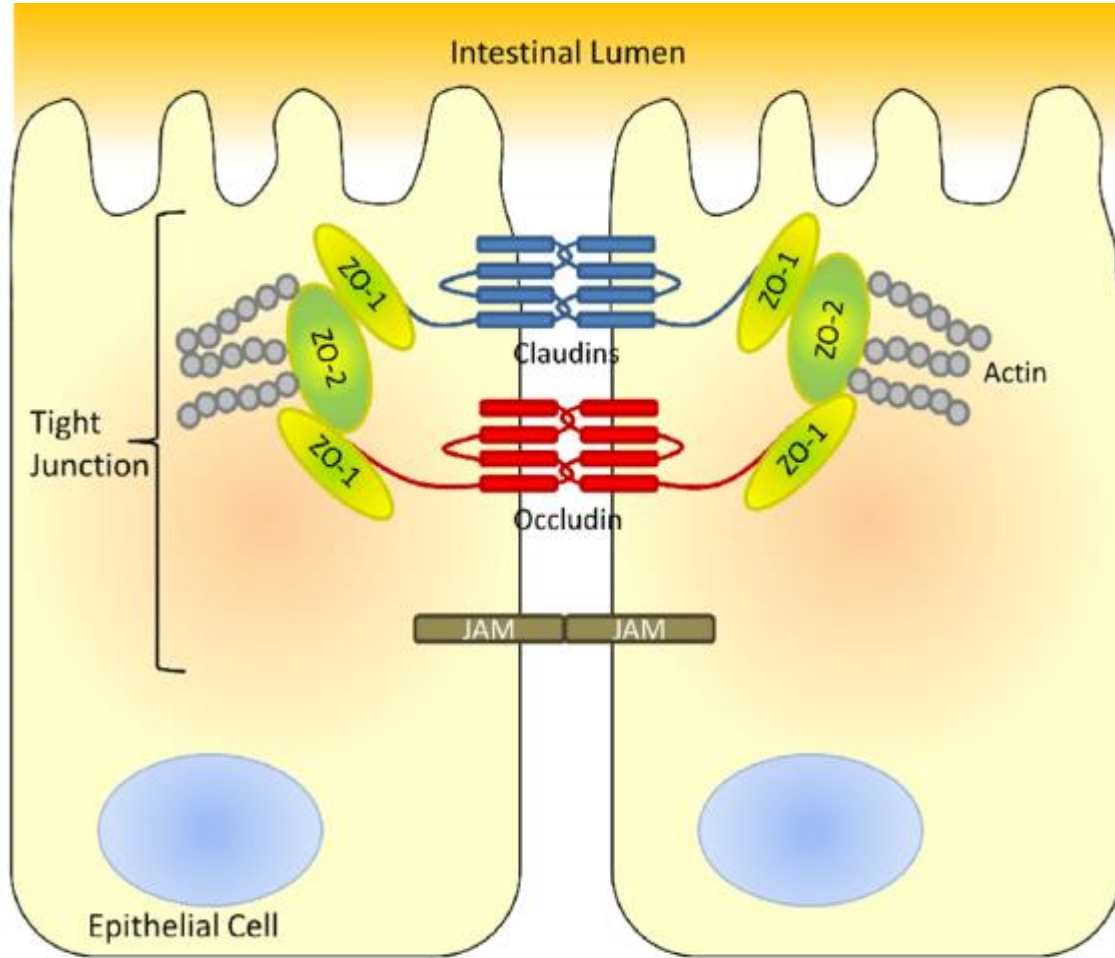


w7d

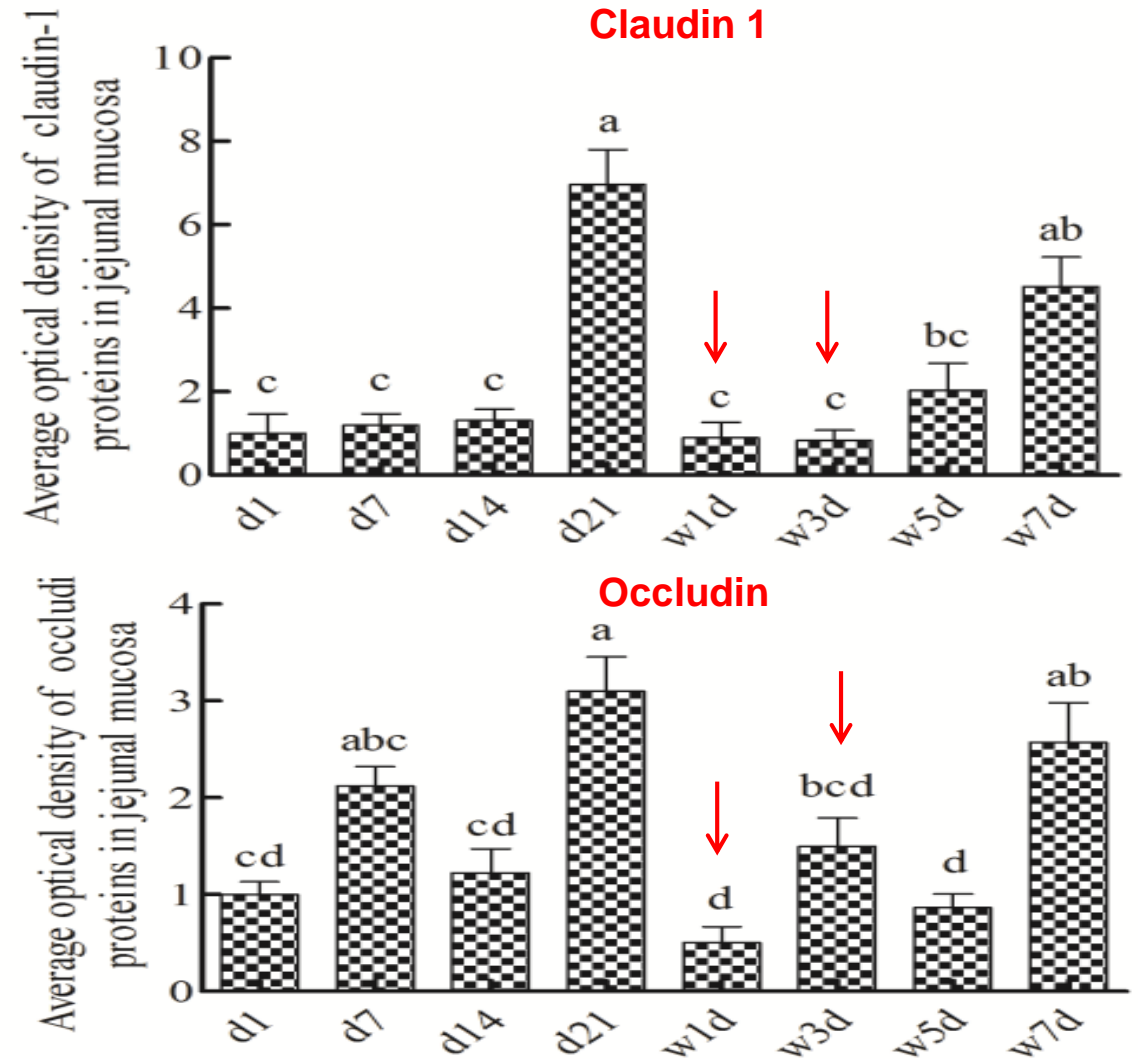
- **Pre-weaning: d 1 to 21, villi surface was increased**
- **Post-weaning: reduced villi number and folding**

Wang et al., 2016

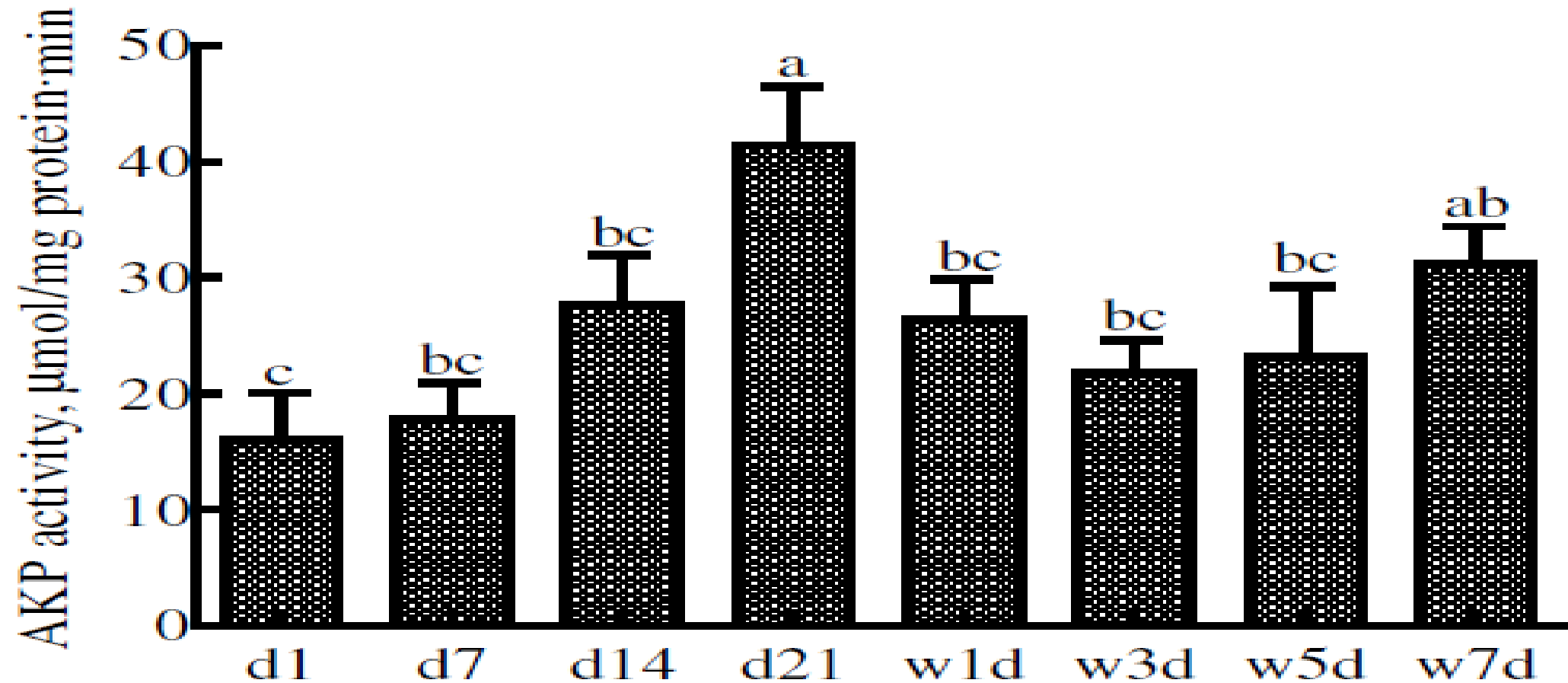
Weaning stress on intestinal barrier function



Neunlist et al., 2013; Wang et al., 2016



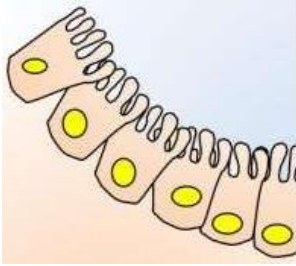
Weaning stress on intestinal barrier function, cont.



Wang et al., 2016

Weaning stress on intestinal microbial dysbiosis

Intestinal cells



Renewal and apoptosis



Nutrient pool

- Proteins and peptides
- Lipids
- Nucleic acids
- Carbohydrates

Ethanolamine
Fucose

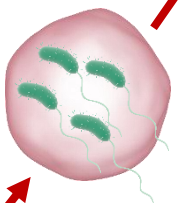


Proliferation and breakdown



Microbial communities

Intestinal inflammation
Diseases



Immune cells
Intracellular proliferation

Pathogenic bacteria
ETEC, EHEC, Salmonella

Gut microflora dysbiosis
Loss of bacterial diversity

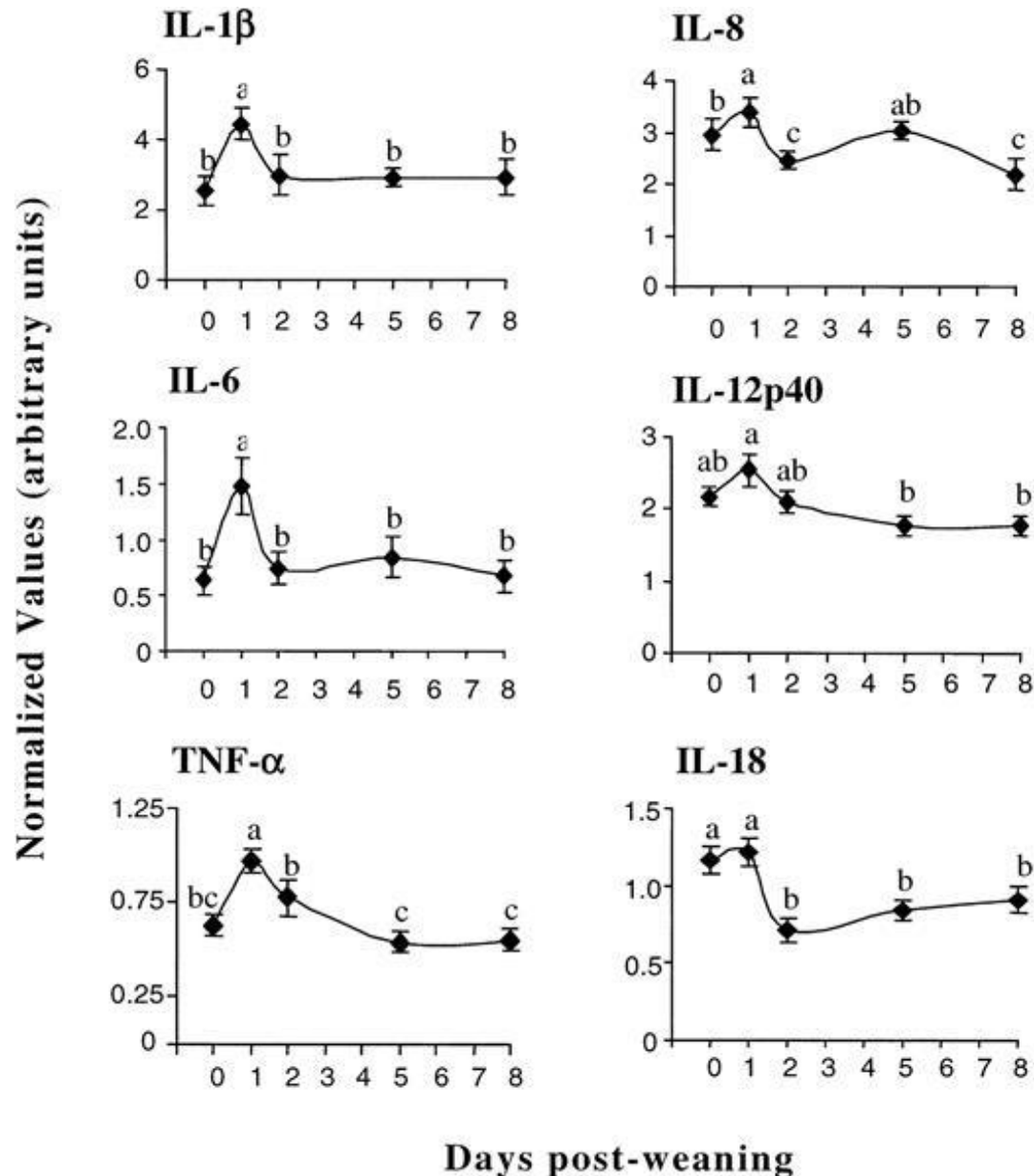
Stahl et al., 2011; Thiennimitr et al., 2011; Xiong et al., 2019

Weaning stress on intestinal mucosal immunity

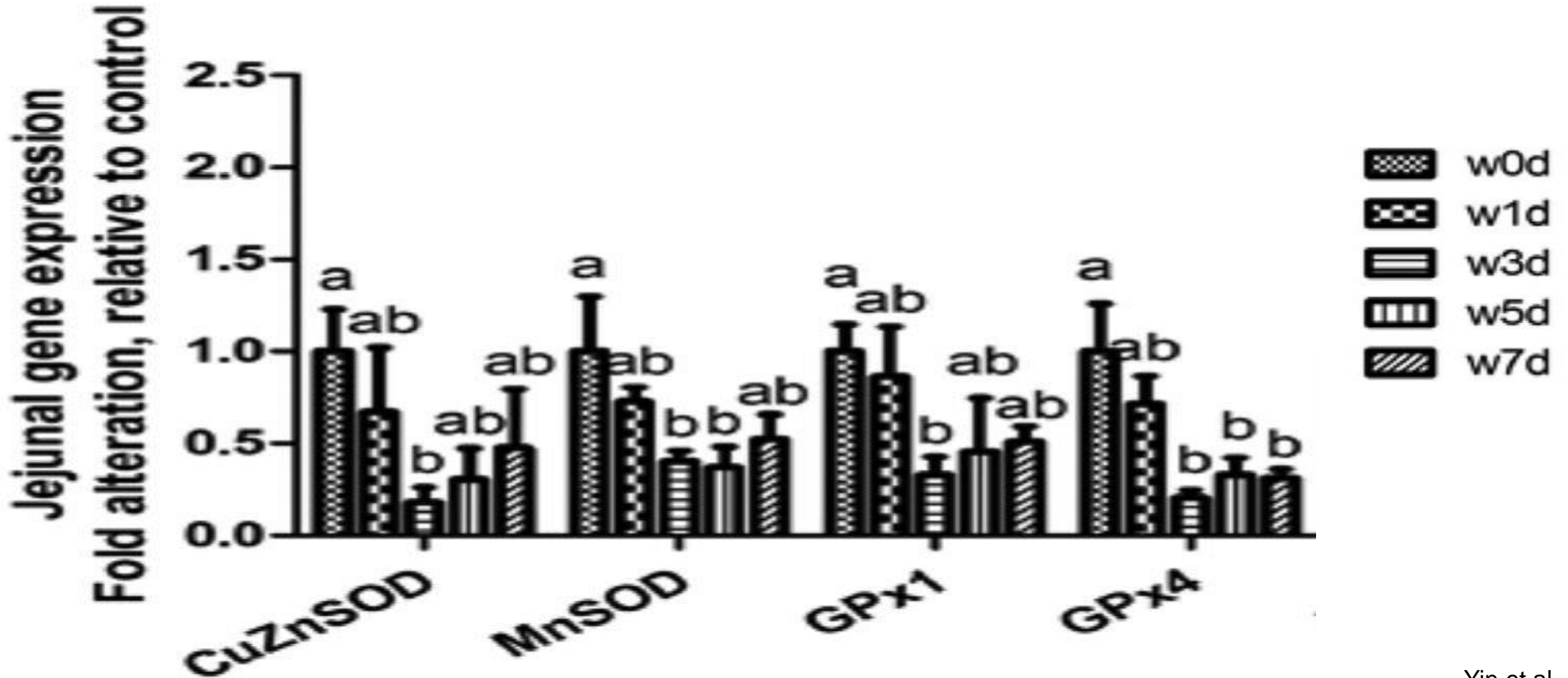
- Weaning induces a transient gut inflammation in pigs

- Enhanced pro-inflammatory cytokines
- Increased intestinal CD4+ and CD8+ T lymphocytes
- Up-regulated matrix metalloproteinase
- Down-regulated MHC I expression
- Reduced secretory IgA

Middle of the small intestine

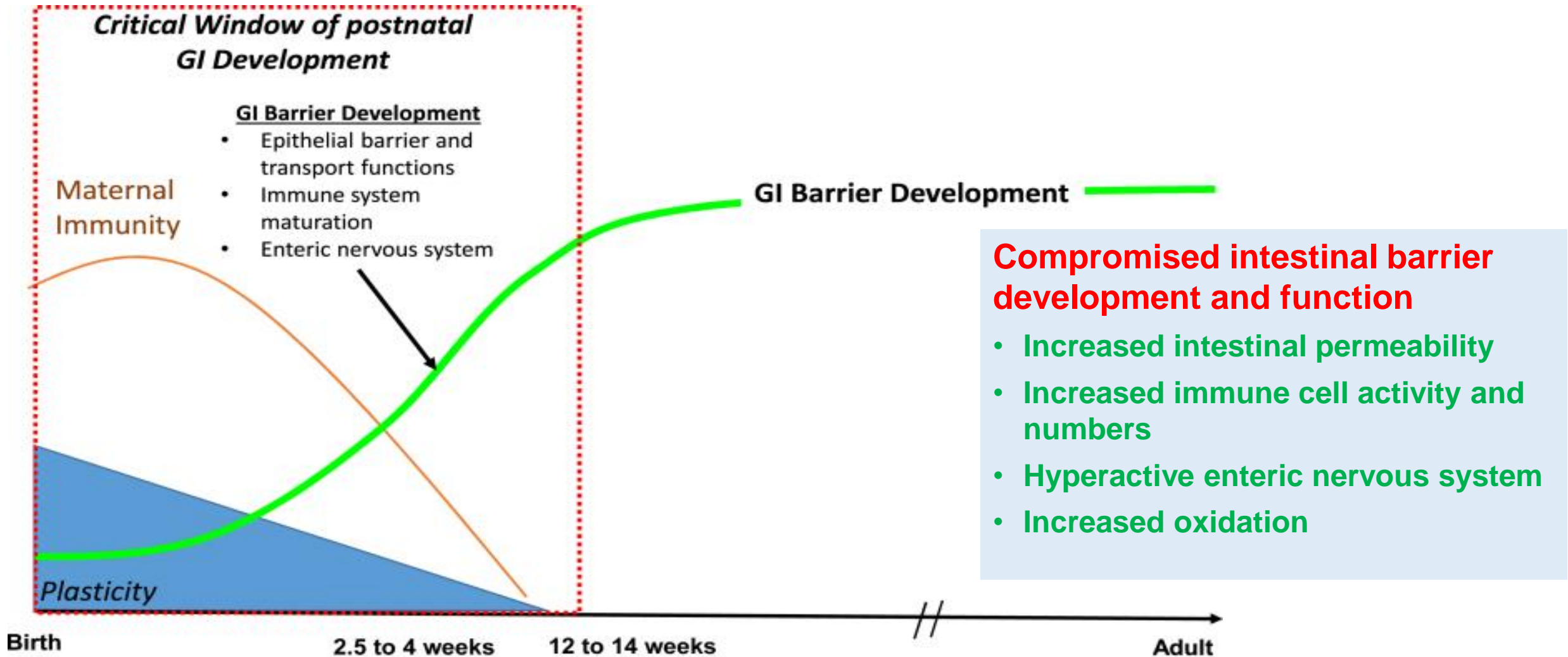


Weaning stress on intestinal oxidative status



Yin et al., 2014

Focus on the GUT of weaning pigs



How to define a healthy gut

- **Effective nutrient digestion and absorption**
- **Effective waste excretion**
- **A Overall, should be concomitant with optimal performance**
- **A absence of diseases)**
- **A functional and protective gut immunity**
- **A minimal activation of stress/neural pathways**

Nutritional strategies

- **Optimization of feed formulation**
- **Utilization of low protein diet in post-weaning period**
- **Enhancement of feed processing and manufacturing**
- **Supplementation of feed additives**

Feed additives

- Improvement of nutrient digestion and absorption (i.e. exogenous enzymes)
- Regulation of gut microbiota to more favorable bacterial species (i.e. prebiotics & probiotics)
- Immune modulation to enhance disease resistance of weaned pigs (i.e. β -glucan, phytochemicals)



Plant-based feed additives

- **Phytochemicals**

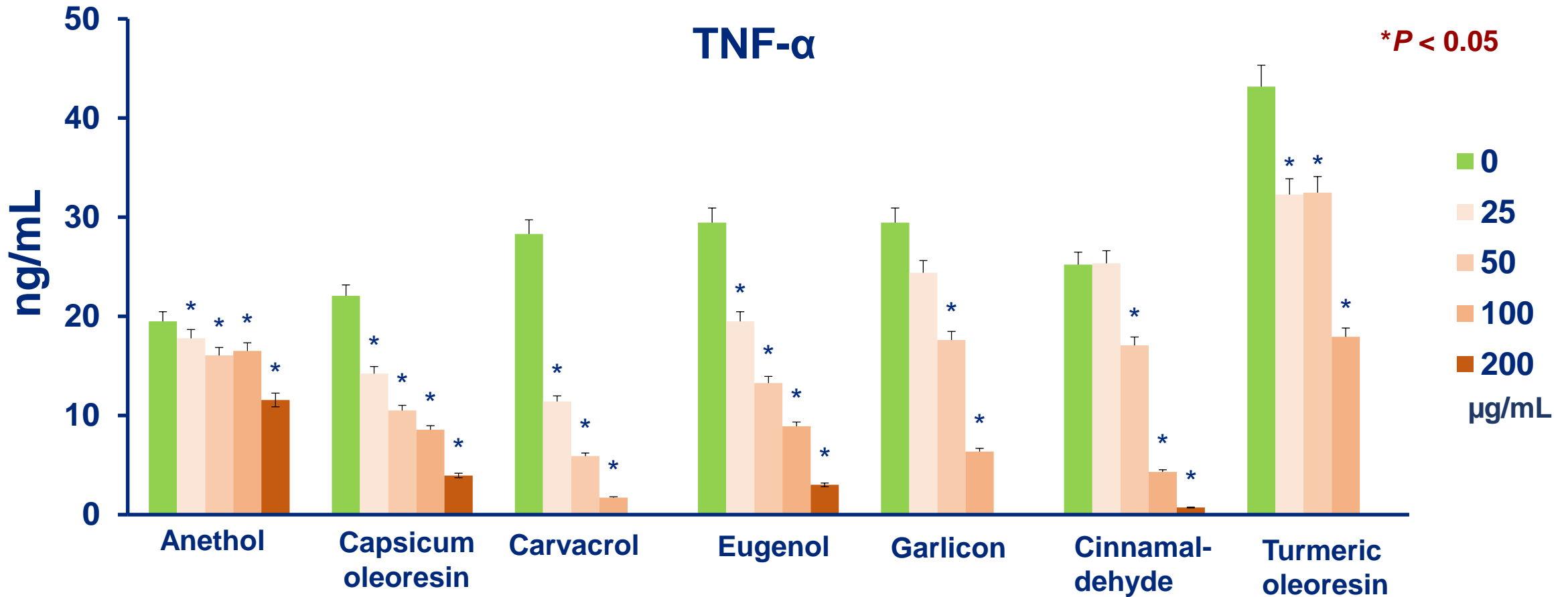
- **β -glucan**

Phytochemicals - plant extracts

- **Extracted from parts of plants or synthesized**
- **Concentrated, hydrophobic, volatile aroma**
- **Mixtures of secondary plant metabolites**
- **Liquid or powder**
- **Phenolic compounds**



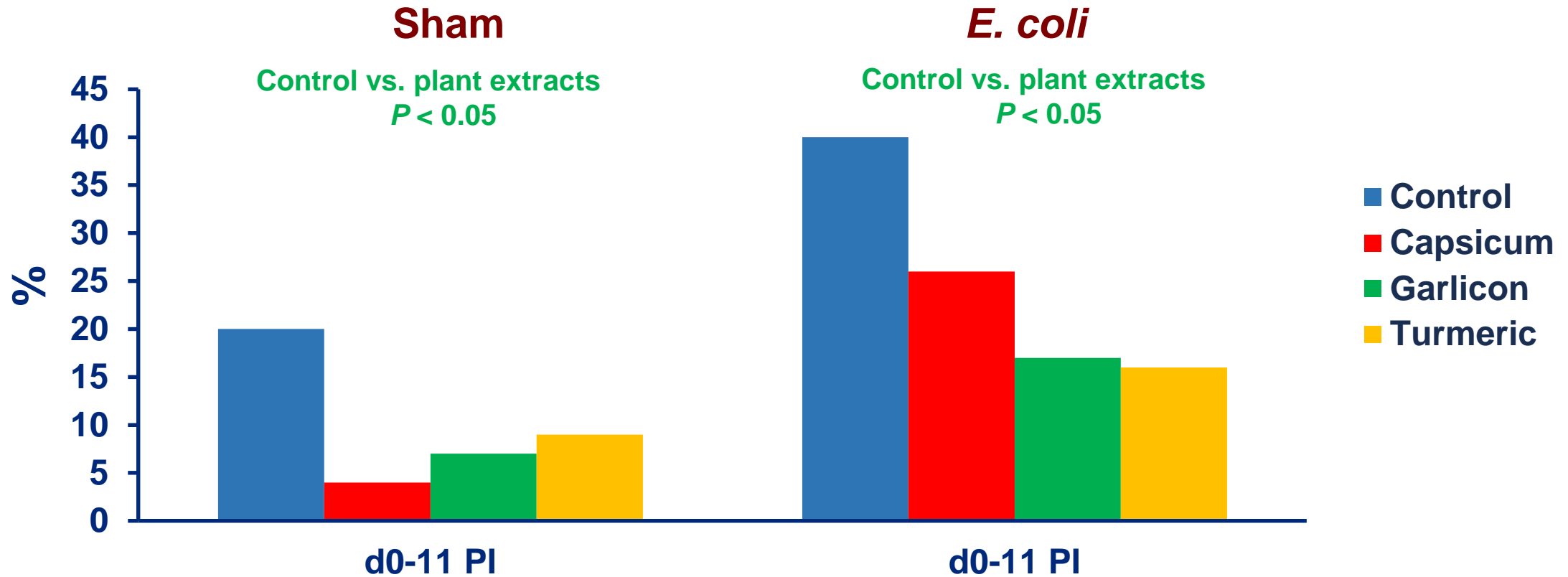
Anti-inflammatory effects - *In vitro*



LPS-stimulated porcine alveolar macrophages

Liu et al., 2012

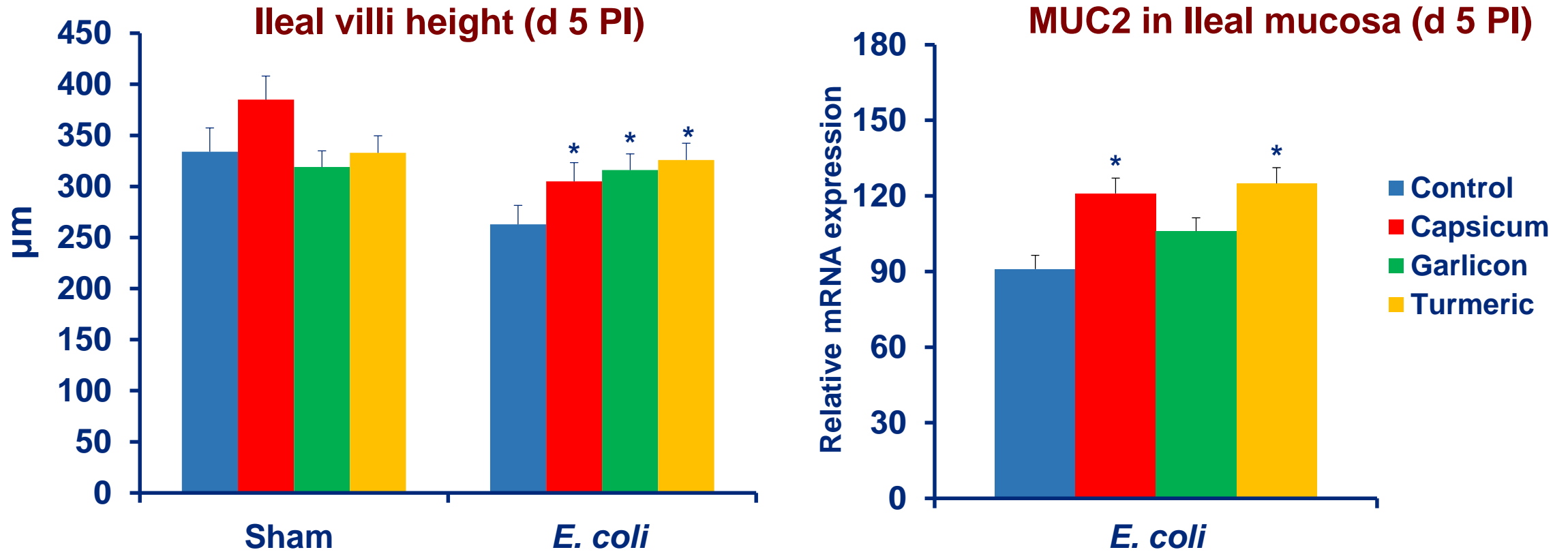
Frequency of diarrhea



Pig days with diarrhea score ≥ 3
1, normal; 5, watery diarrhea

Liu et al., 2013

Possible mechanisms for reduced diarrhea

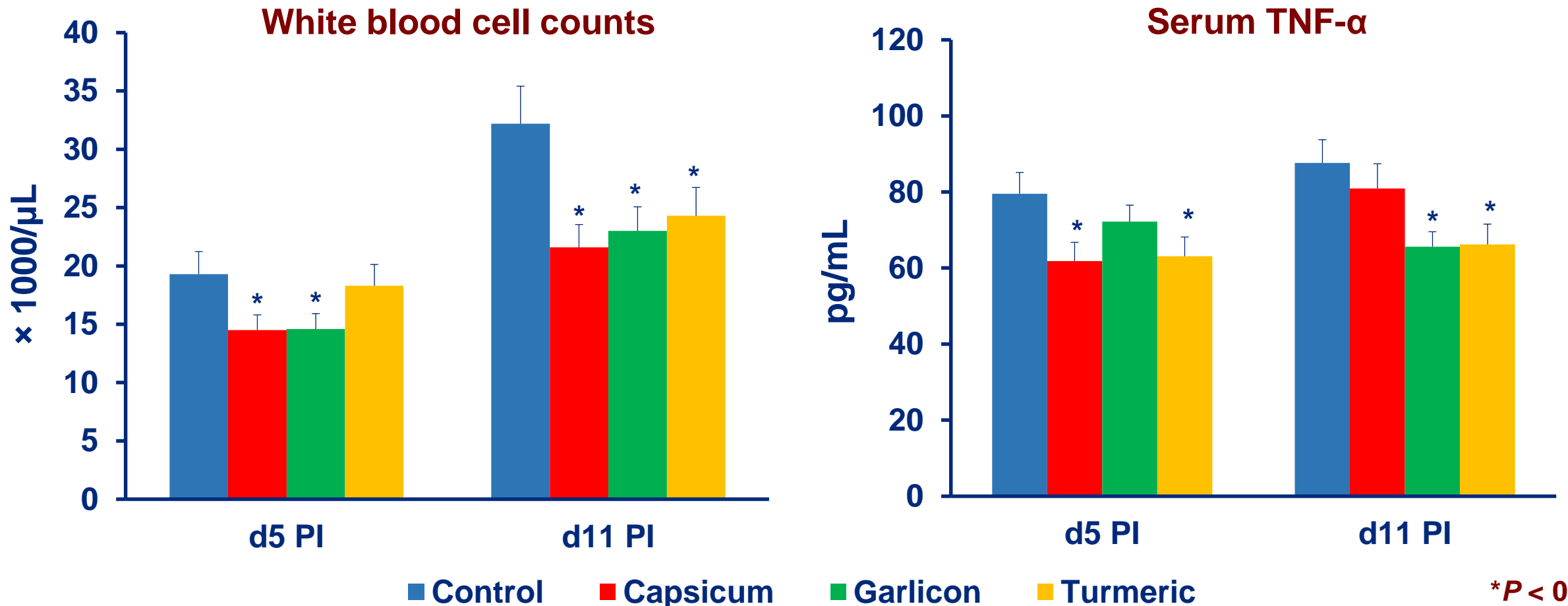


➤ Possibly improved gut barrier function!

* $P < 0.05$

Liu et al., 2013, 2014

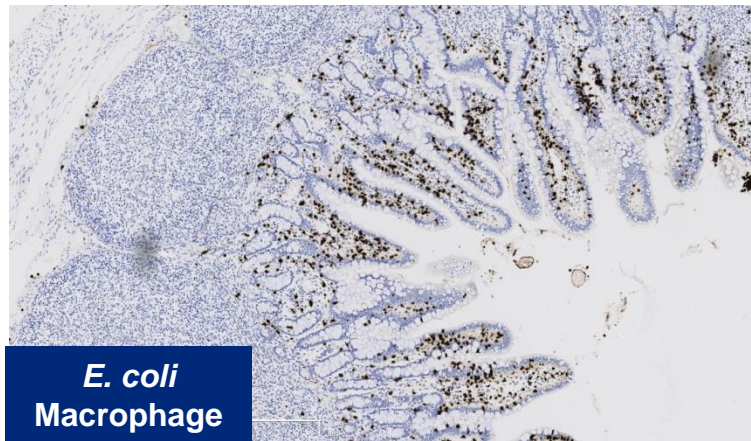
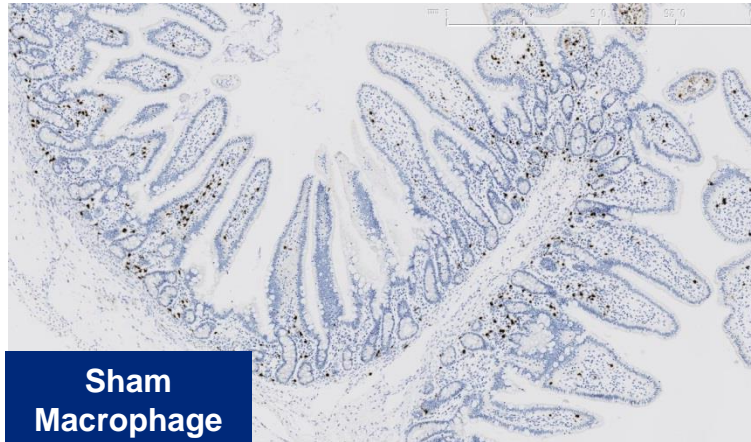
Plant extracts reduced systemic inflammation caused by *E. coli* infection



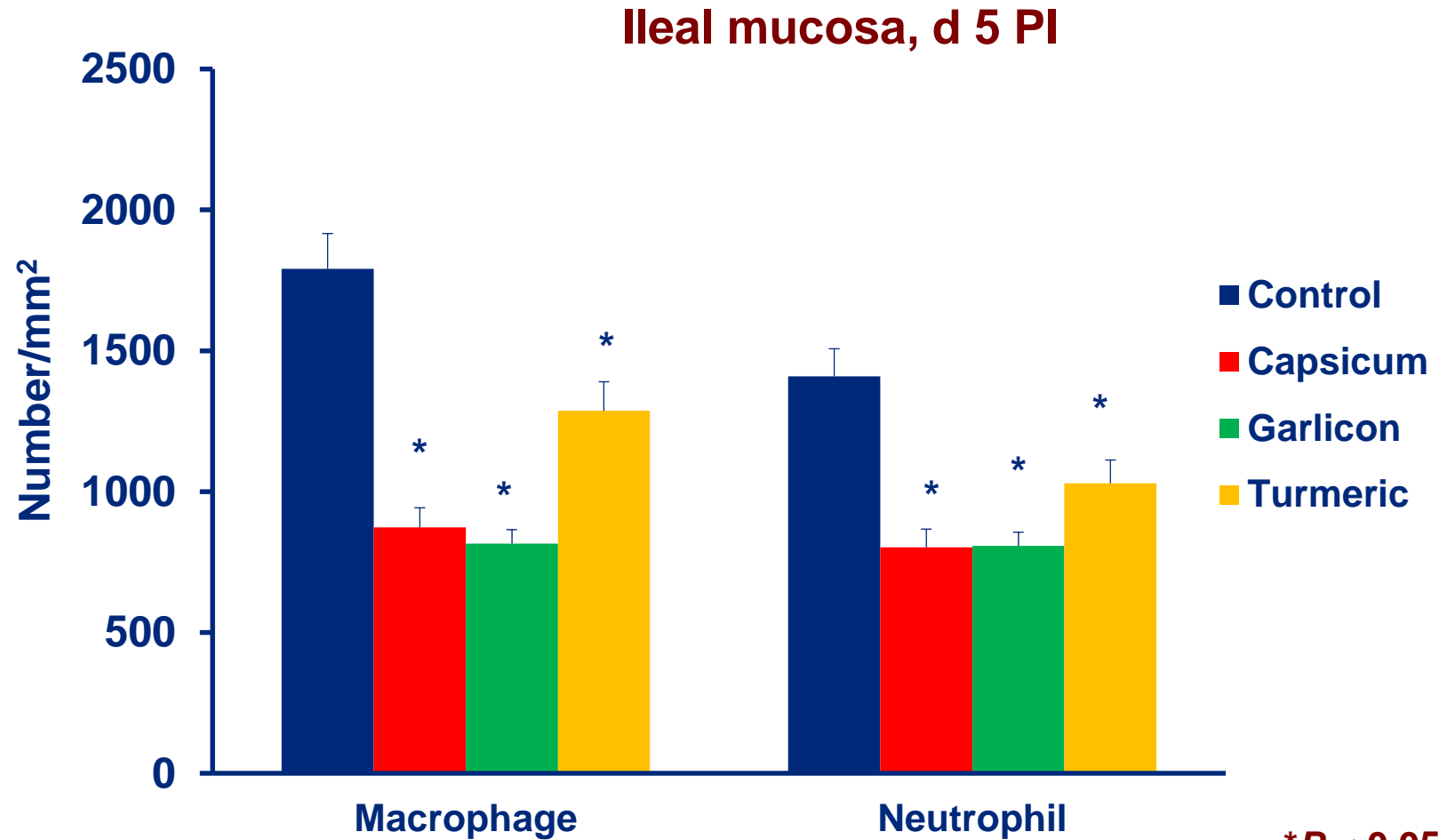
* $P < 0.05$

Liu et al., 2013

Plant extracts reduced gut inflammation caused by *E. coli* infection



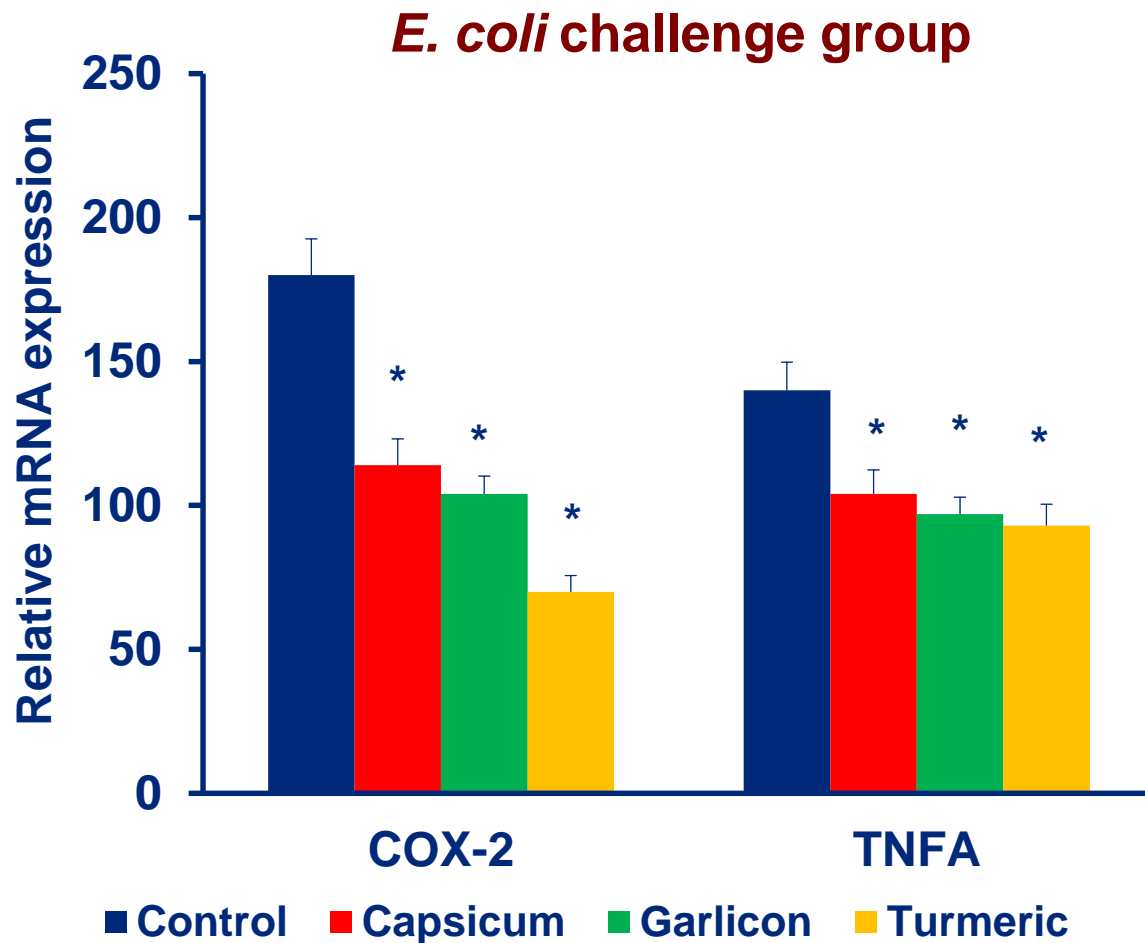
Ileum (d 5 PI)



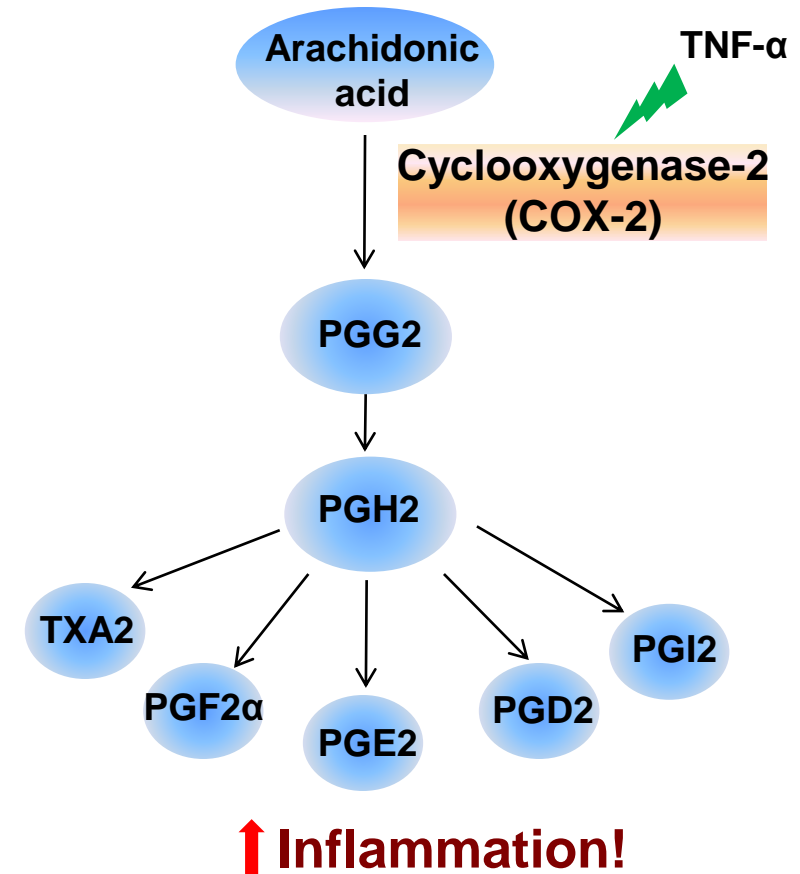
* $P < 0.05$

Liu et al., 2013

Plant extracts reduced gut inflammation caused by *E. coli* infection



The Prostaglandin Pathway



Liu et al., 2014

Summary

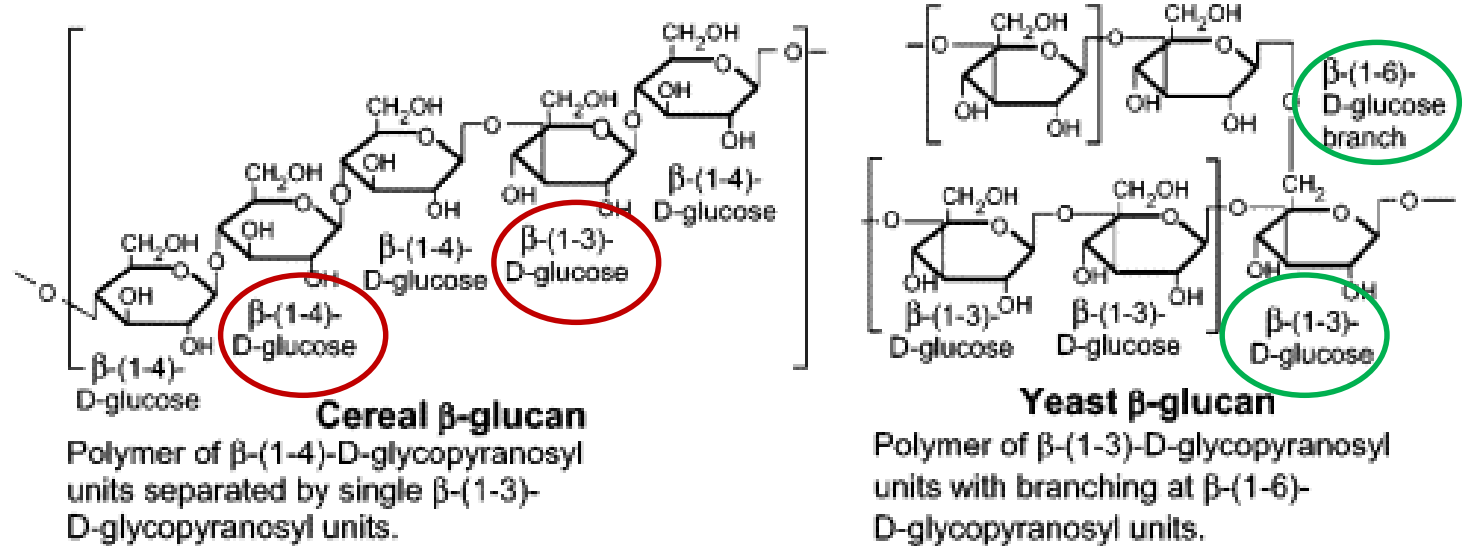
Anti-inflammatory effects of plant extracts

- **Suppressed the production of inflammatory mediators *in vitro***
- **Reduced diarrhea and enhanced disease resistance of weaning pigs**
- **Possible mechanisms**
 - **Gut barrier function**
 - **Gut mucosa immunity**
 - **Systemic immunity**
 - **Reduced oxidative stress ?**
 - **Modified gut microbiome ?**



β -glucan

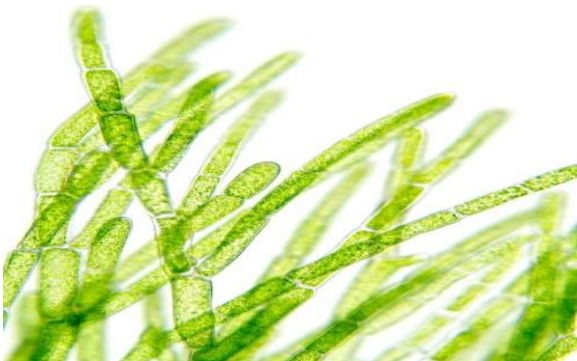
- Heterogeneous group of polysaccharides
- Naturally present in cereal grains, fungi, yeast, seaweed, and algae



β -glucan type	Structure	Description
Bacterial		Linear β 1,3 glucan (i.e. Curdlan)
Fungal		Short β 1,6 branched, β 1,3 glucan (i.e. Schizophyllan)
Yeast		Long β 1,6 branched, β 1,3 glucan (i.e. WGP β -glucan, Betafectin™)
Cereal		Linear β 1,3/ β 1,4-glucan (i.e. oat, barley, rye)

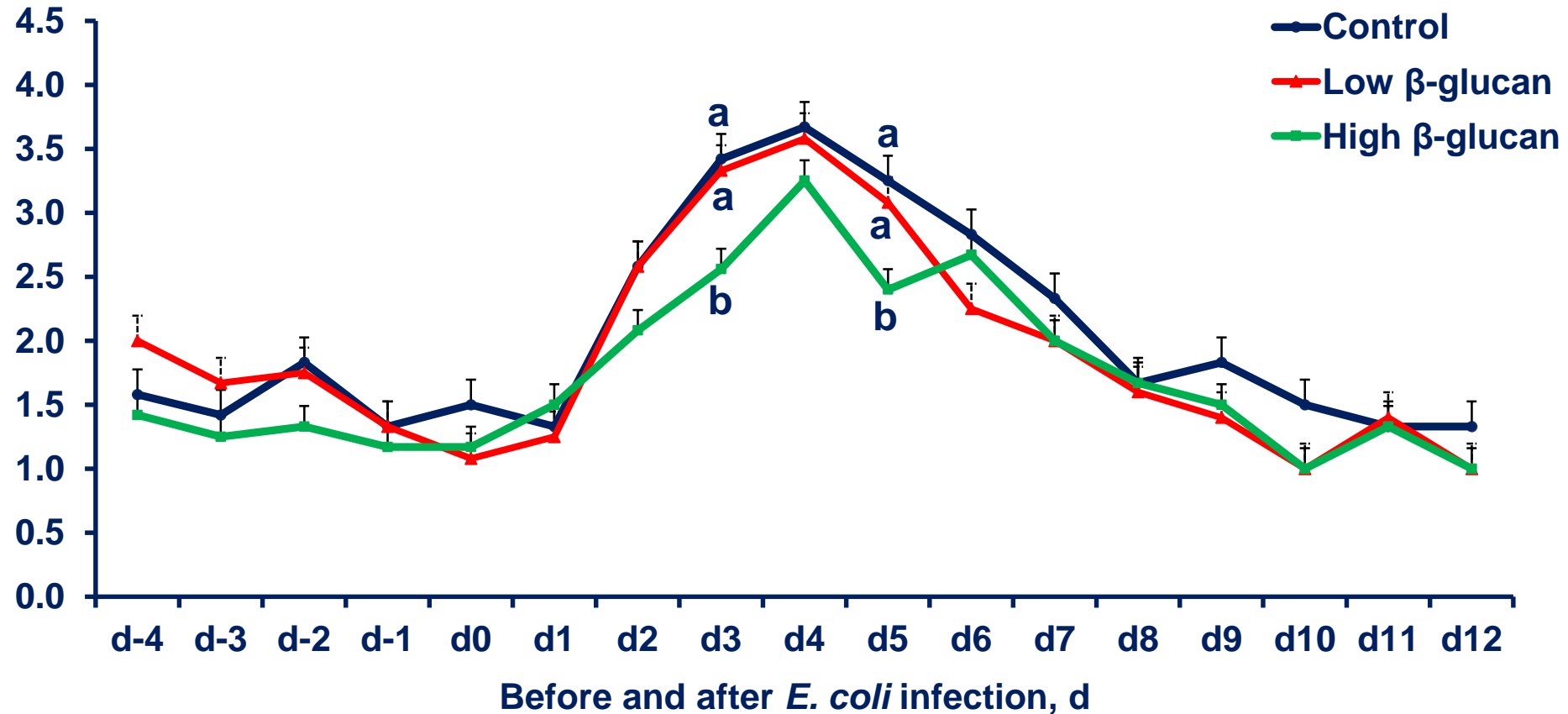
Algae-derived β -glucan

- **Extracted from algae *Euglena gracilis*, a freshwater species of single-celled alga**
- **Linked by (1,3)-glycosidic bonds and categorized as paramylon**
- **β -glucan from algae *Euglena gracilis* strongly stimulated porcine leukocytes in vitro**



Sonck et al., 2010

Daily diarrhea score

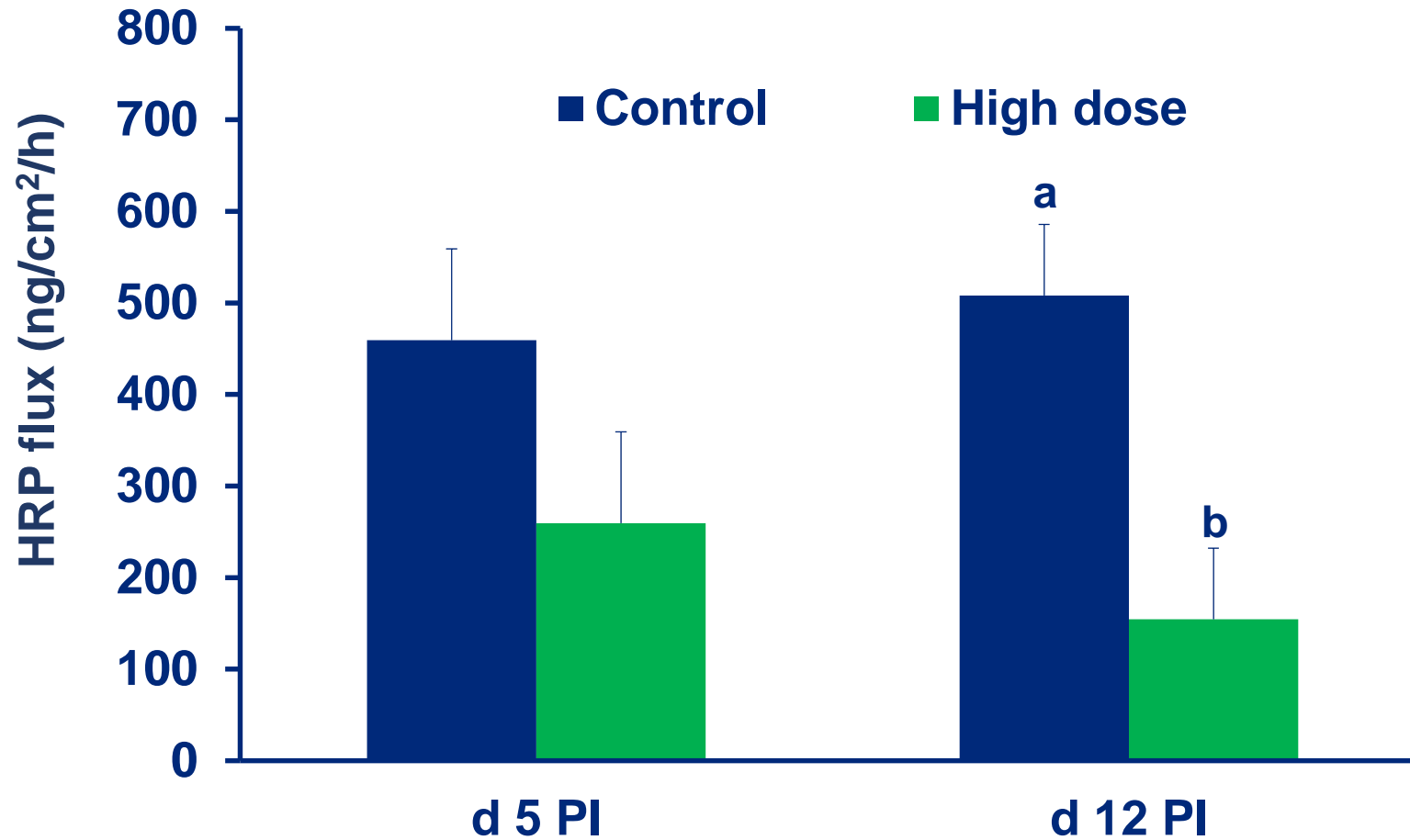


Low = **54 mg/kg** β -glucan in Control; High = **108 mg/kg** β -glucan in Control

Diarrhea score: 1, normal feces, 2, moist feces, 3, mild diarrhea, 4, severe diarrhea, 5, watery diarrhea

Kim et al., 2019

Transcellular permeability

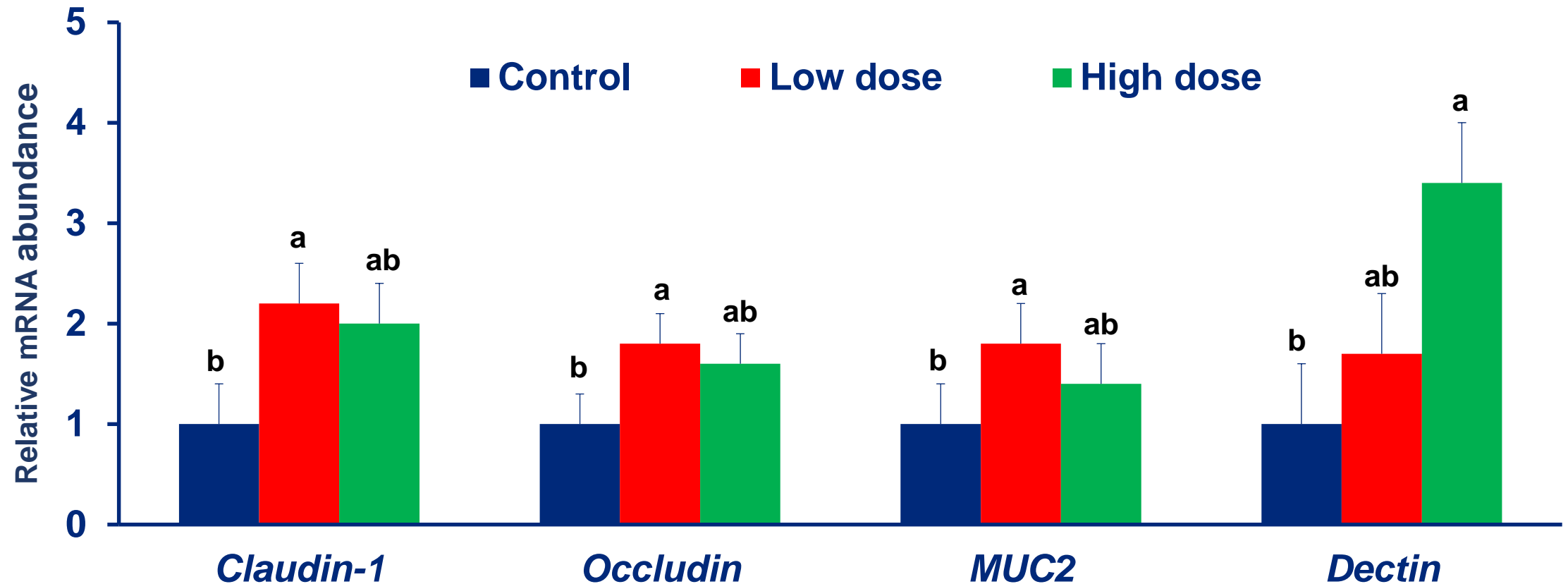


High = 108 mg/kg β -glucan in Control

Kim et al., 2019

Tight junction protein

Gene expression in jejunal mucosa, d 12 PI

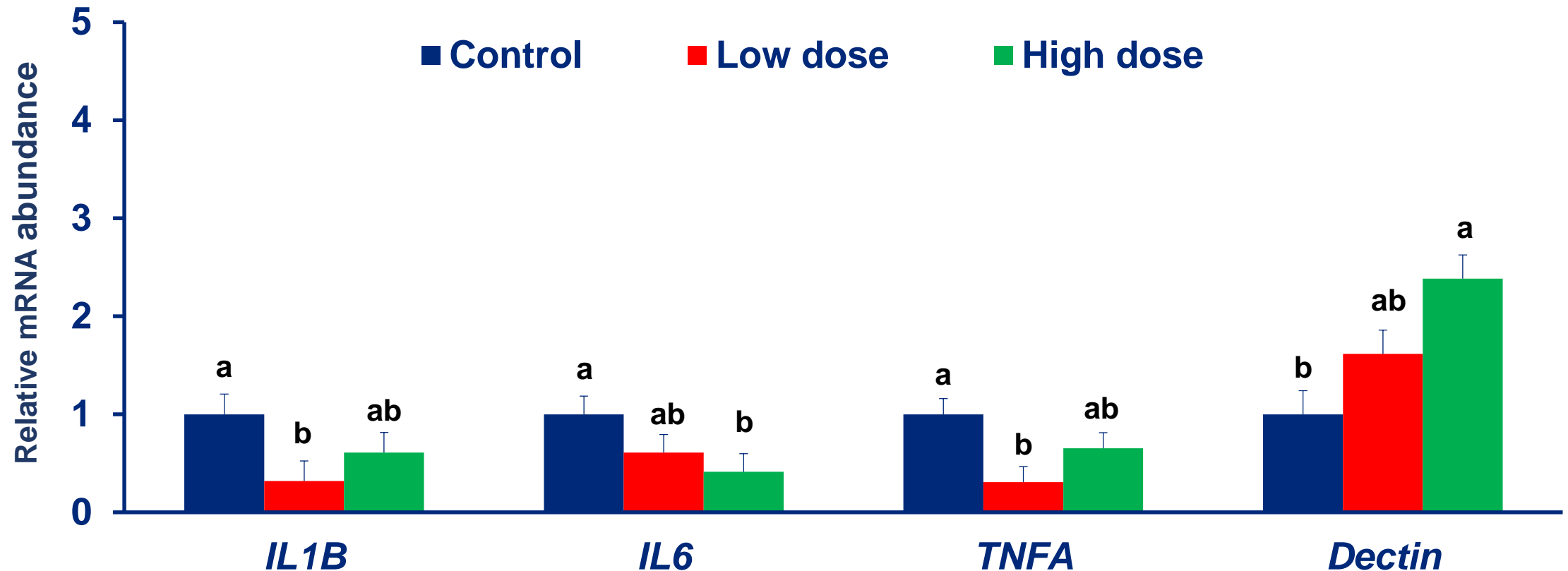


Low = 54 mg/kg β -glucan in Control; High = 108 mg/kg β -glucan in Control

Kim et al., 2019

Intestinal immunity

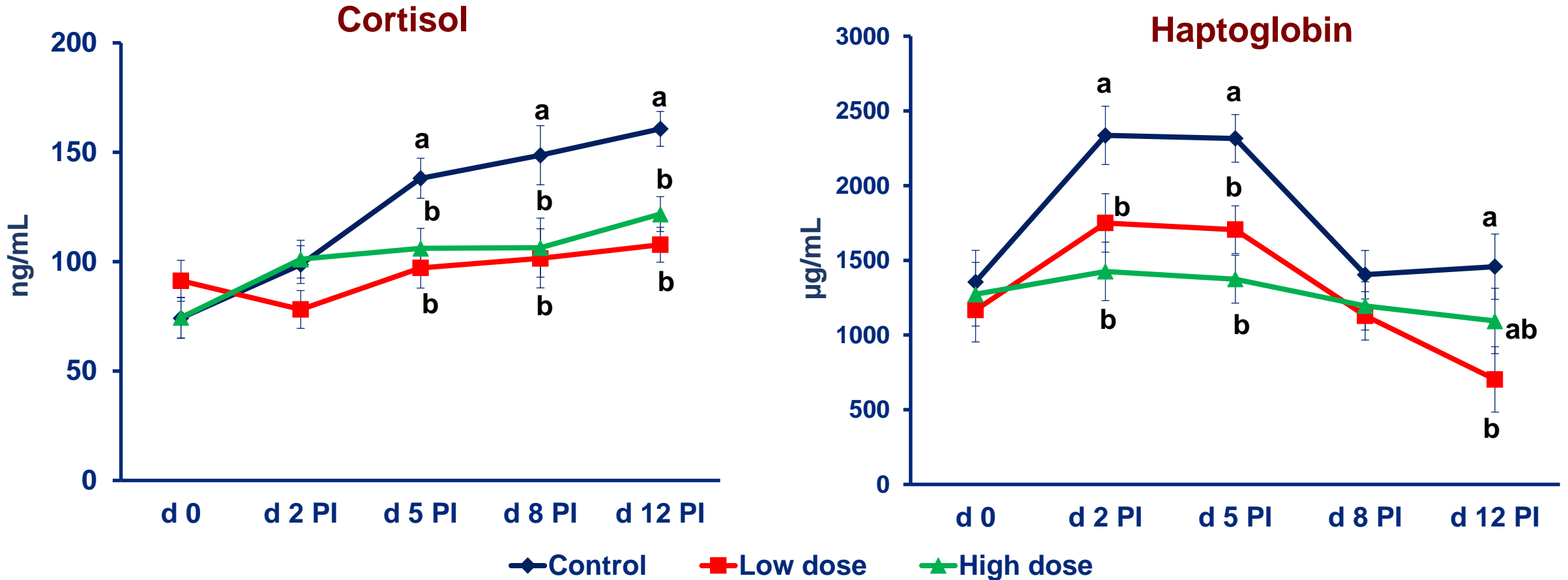
Gene expression in ileal mucosa, d 12 PI



Low = 54 mg/kg β -glucan in Control; High = 108 mg/kg β -glucan in Control

Kim et al., 2019

Serum cortisol and haptoglobin



Low = 54 mg/kg β -glucan in Control; High = 108 mg/kg β -glucan in Control

Kim et al., 2019

Summary

Protective effects of algae-derived β -glucan

- **Dietary supplementation of 108 mg/kg of algae-derived β -glucan alleviated diarrhea of F18 *E. coli* infected pigs**
 - **Enhanced gut integrity**
 - **Boosted host immune response**
 - **Stimulated T-cell activation**

Take home message



A healthy gut is extremely important for weanling pigs

Nutrient digestion
& absorption

Waste excretion

Functional and
protective gut
immunity

Functional and
protective gut
barrier

Stable & appropriate
microbial community

Acknowledgements



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