

# Young Scholar Presentation

## Effects of monoglycerides on intestinal morphology and immune responses of weanling pigs experimentally infected with a pathogenic *E. coli*

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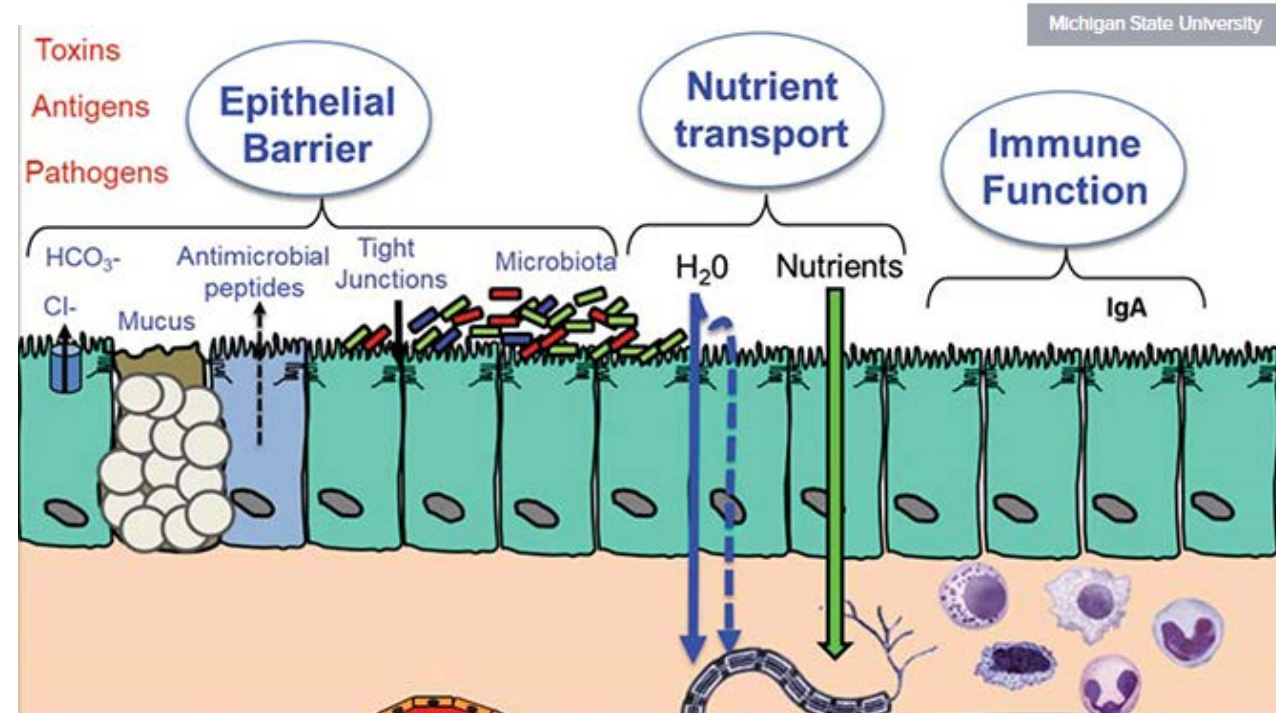
<sup>3</sup>BASF SE, Lampertheim, Germany

# Outline

- ❖ Gut health and post-weaning diarrhea in pigs
- ❖ Monoglycerides
- ❖ Experimental design
- ❖ Results and conclusions

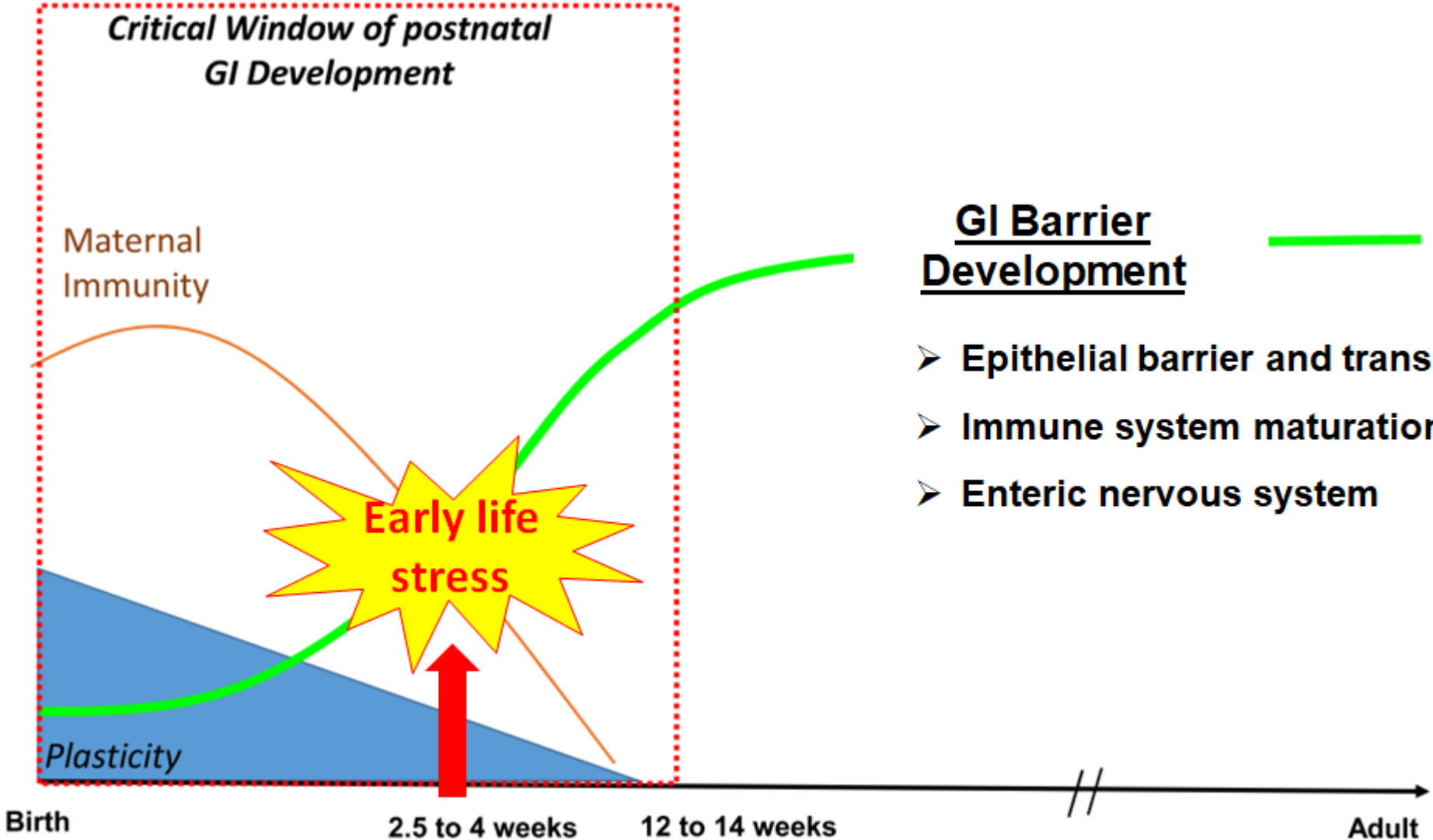
# Gut health of weaning pigs

- ❖ Intestinal functions
  - Digest and absorb nutrients
  - Protect the host
- ❖ Growth and health of pigs
- ❖ Early-life stress
  - Harmful impacts on gut health



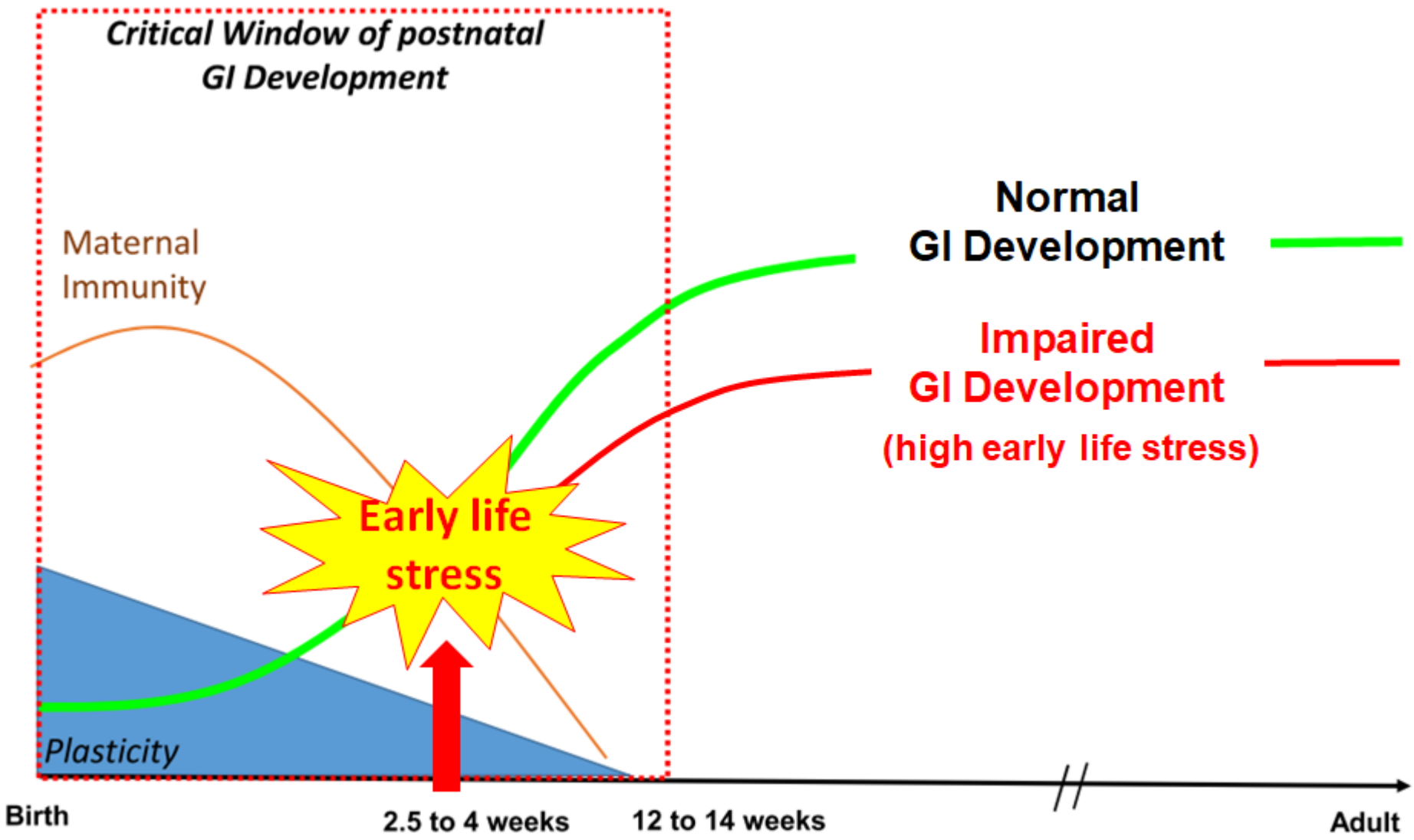
Moeser et al., 2018

# Gastrointestinal (GI) function development in pig



Moeser et al., 2017

# Gastrointestinal (GI) function development in pig



Mooser et al., 2018

# Weaning stress



## ❖ Multifactorial issue

- Nutritional, physiological, and environmental challenges

## ❖ Stressor-induced changes

- Reduced appetite
- Induced intestinal dysfunctions
- Increased exposure and risk to pathogens
- **Post-weaning diarrhea (PWD)**

# Post-weaning diarrhea (PWD)

## ❖ Gastrointestinal disease

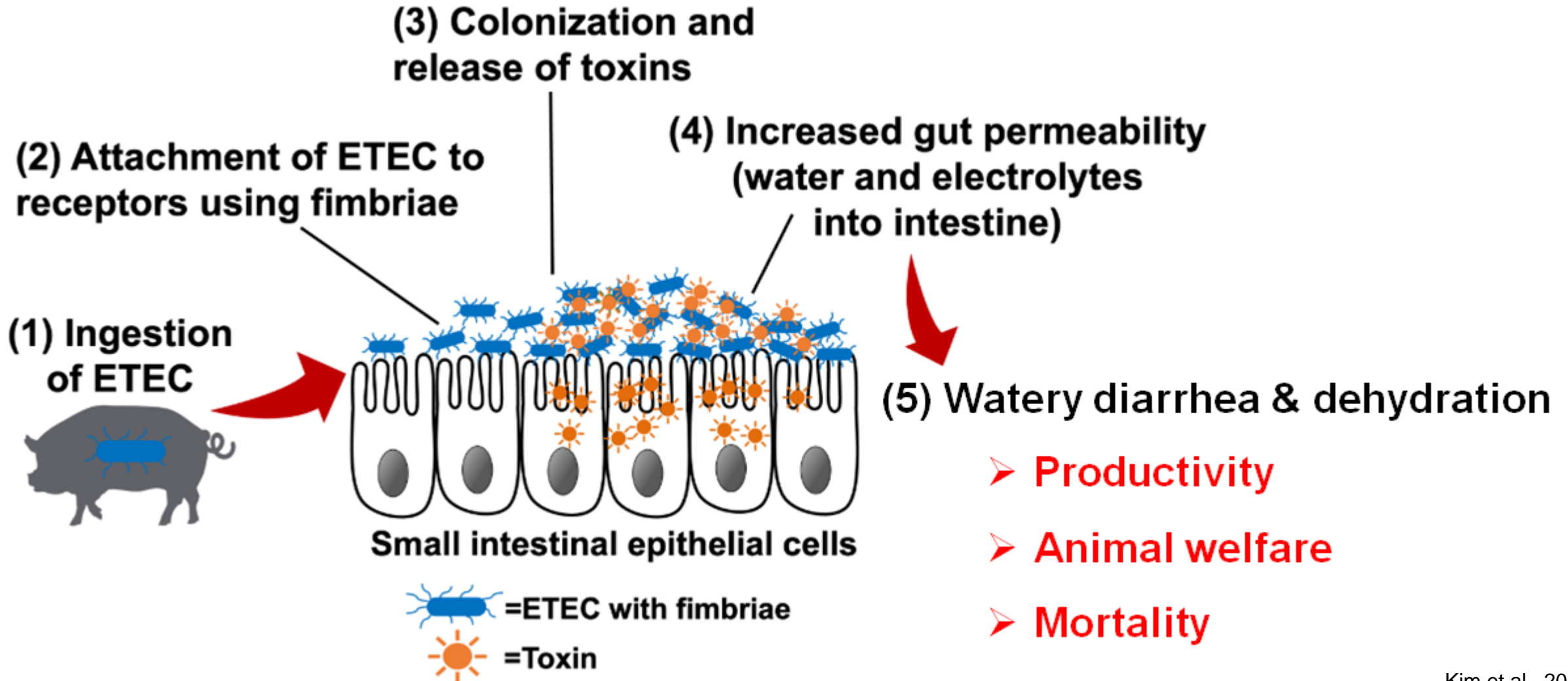
- Economic losses

## ❖ Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* (ETEC)

- F4 (K88) and F18 *E. coli*
- Enterotoxins
  - ✓ Secretory diarrhea



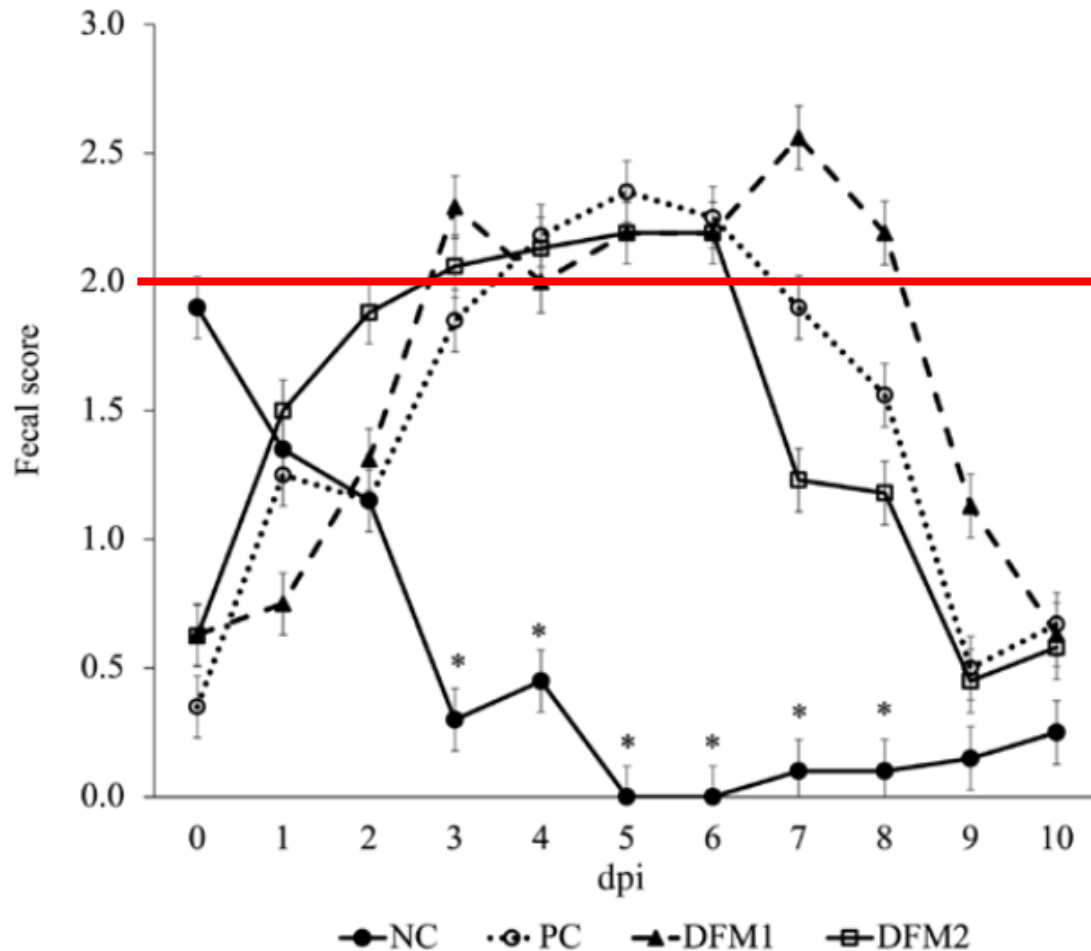
# Post-weaning *E. coli* diarrhea



Kim et al., 2022



# *E. coli* challenge and diarrhea



## NON RUMINANT NUTRITION

### Effects of an F18 enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* challenge on growth performance, immunological status, and gastrointestinal structure of weaned pigs and the potential protective effect of direct-fed microbial blends

Spenser L. Becker,<sup>\*</sup> Qingyun Li,<sup>\*</sup> Eric R. Burrough,<sup>†</sup> Danielle Kenne,<sup>†</sup> Orhan Sahin,<sup>†</sup> Stacie A. Gould,<sup>\*</sup> and John F. Patience<sup>\*,1</sup>

**Figure 1.** Effects of treatment on the daily fecal score of pigs challenged with F18 ETEC. NC (n = 10); PC (n = 9); DFM1 = PC + direct-fed microbial 1 (n = 8; three strains of *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*;  $7.5 \times 10^5$  cfu/g of feed); DFM2 = PC + direct-fed microbial 2 (n = 7; two strains of *B. amyloliquefaciens* and one strain of *Bacillus subtilis*;  $1.5 \times 10^5$  cfu/g of feed). Supplementation rates were based on manufacturer's recommendations (Danisco Animal Nutrition). P (NC vs. PC; day postinoculation (dpi) 3) < 0.001, P (PC vs. DFM1, DFM2; dpi 3) > 0.10, P (all treatments; dpi 10) > 0.10.

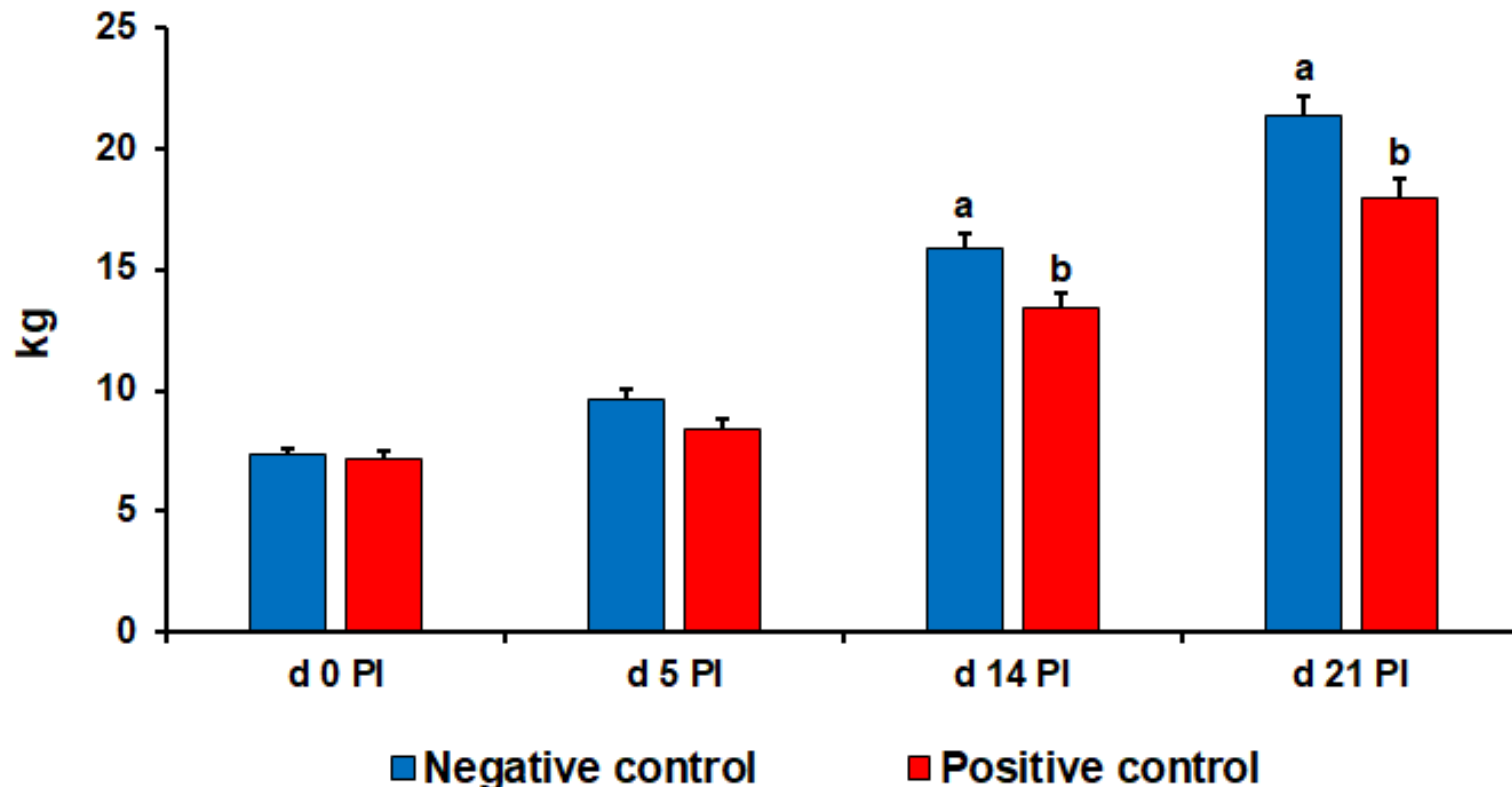
\*Fecal score: 0 = solid; 1 = semi-solid; 2 = semi-liquid; 3 = liquid ( $\geq 2$  was considered diarrhea)

# *E. coli* challenge and performance

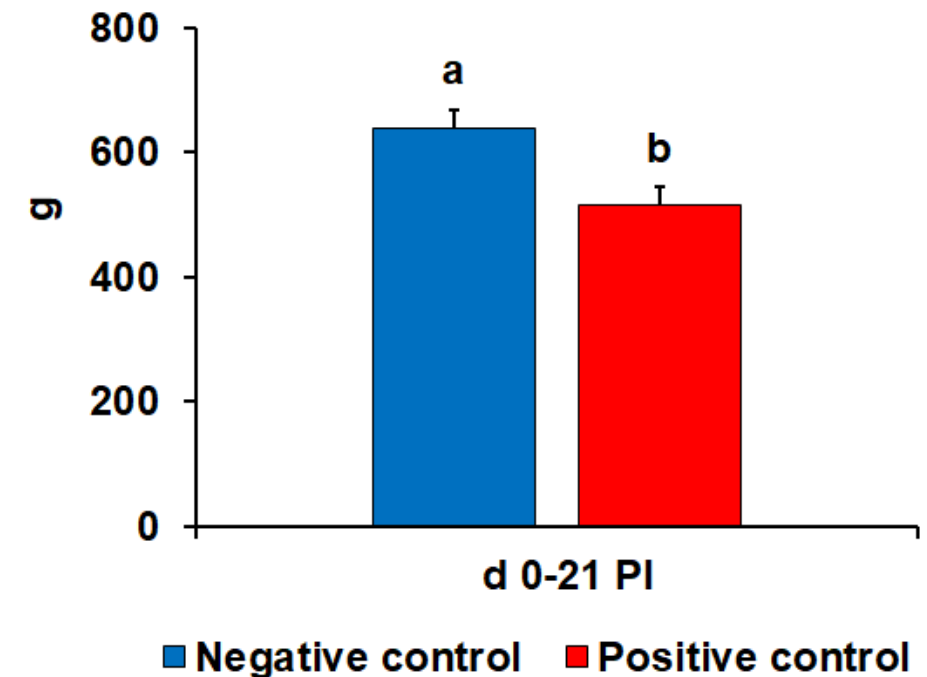
Dietary supplementation of botanical blends enhanced performance and disease resistance of weaned pigs experimentally infected with enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* F18

Braden T. Wong,<sup>†</sup> Sangwoo Park,<sup>†,1</sup> Lauren Kovanda,<sup>†</sup> Yijie He,<sup>†</sup> Kwangwook Kim,<sup>†,2</sup> Shiyu Xu,<sup>†</sup> Christopher Lingga,<sup>†</sup> Monika Hejna,<sup>†,2</sup> Emma Wall,<sup>||,2</sup> Ravichandran Sripathy,<sup>||</sup> Xunde Li,<sup>‡</sup> and Yanhong Liu<sup>\*,3</sup>

Body weight



Average daily gain



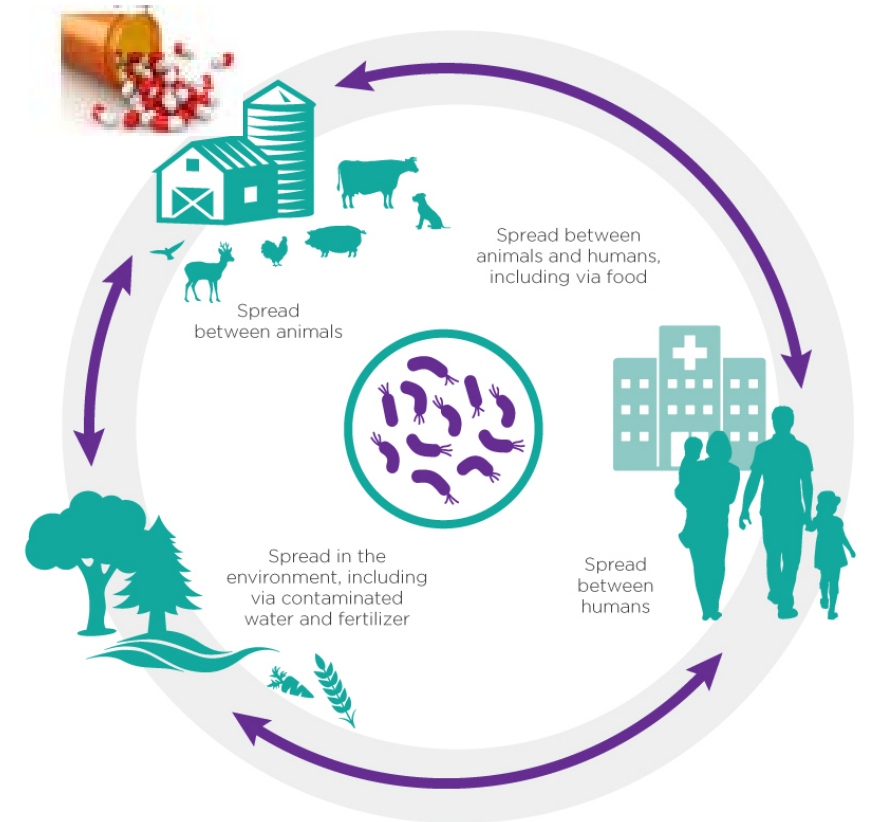
# Antibiotics and pharmacological dose ZnO

## ❖ Prevent and treat PWD

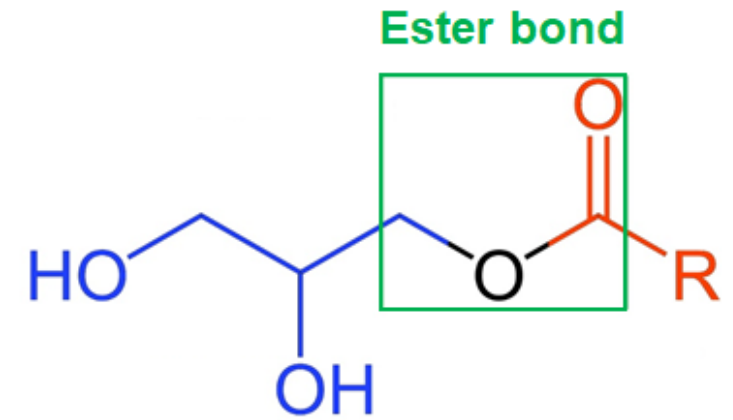
- **Antimicrobial effects**
- **↑ Nutrients availability**

## ❖ Public health risk and concern

- **Antimicrobial resistance**
- **Environmental** transmission
  - Prohibition of AGPs (Jan 2017, FDA)
  - Prohibition of pharmacological dose ZnO (June 2022, EU)



# Monoglycerides (MGs)



❖ **Glycerol** linked to **fatty acid** (esterification)

➤ Short chain and medium chain fatty acids

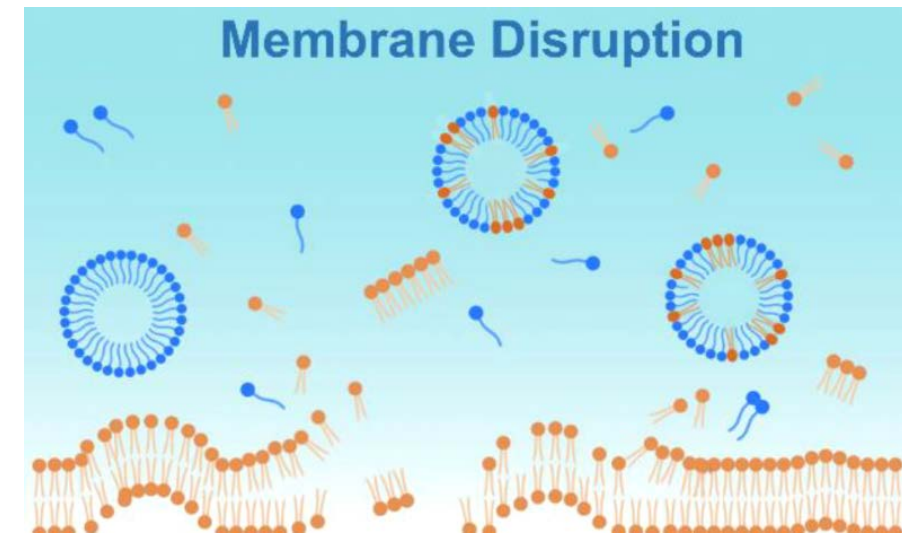
❖ Natural compound

➤ Used in food processing and production

❖ Amphiphilic nature

➤ Hydrophobic & hydrophilic

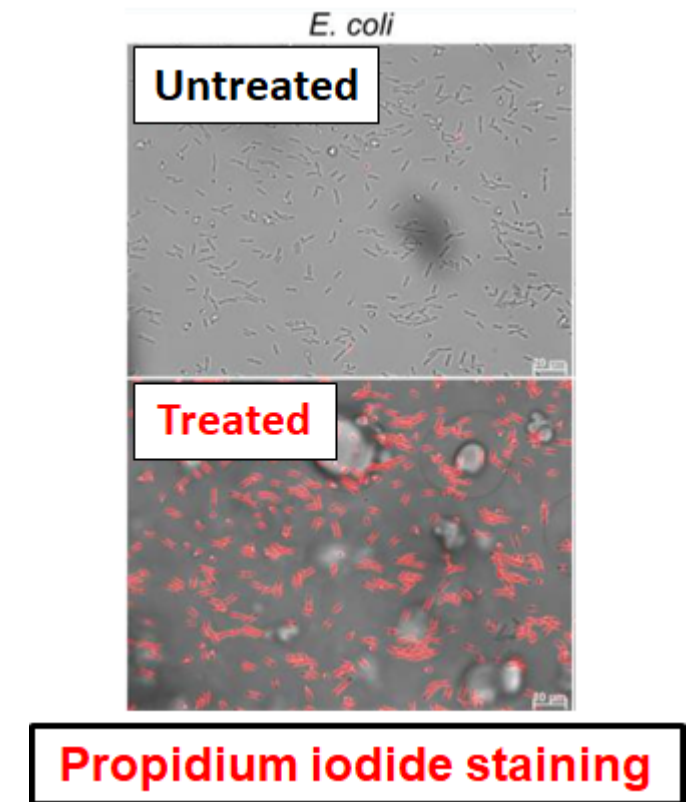
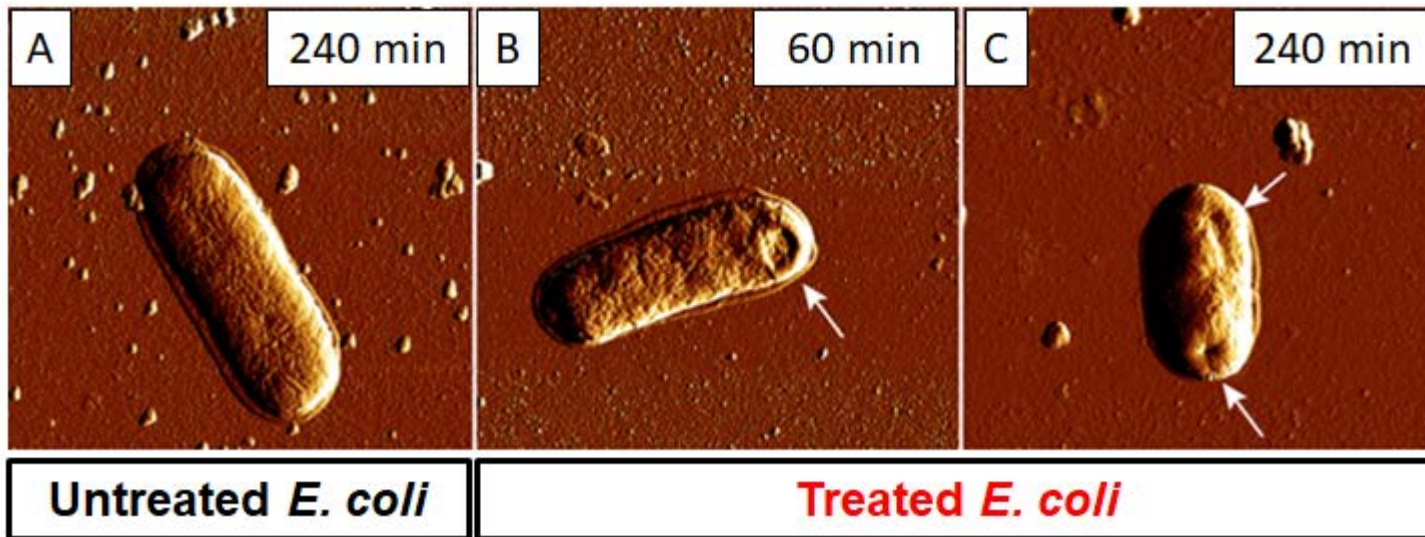
➤ **Antimicrobial activity**



Jackman et al., 2022

# Antimicrobial effects of MGs (*in vitro*)

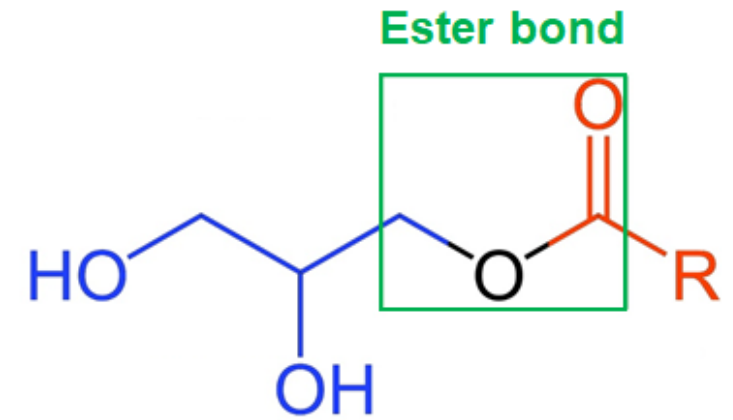
- ❖ Incorporate into the lipid membrane of microorganisms and **change the permeability**



Hylgaard et al., 2012; Joshua et al., 2020

# Additional benefits of MGs

## ❖ Strong covalent bond



	Organic acid	Monoglycerides
Antimicrobial	✓	✓
Non-corrosive	-	✓
Non-volatile	-	✓
Heat stable	-	✓
Neutral taste odor	-	✓
pH-independent	-	✓

## ❖ Easy to handle and use

# Objective

- ❖ Effects of **a mixture of monoglycerides** on weaned pigs experimentally infected with a pathogenic *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) F18
  - ✓ **Growth performance**
  - ✓ **Diarrhea**
  - ✓ **Intestinal health**
  - ✓ **Immune responses**

# Animals & experimental design

## ❖ Animals

- 60 weaned pigs (initial BW =  $6.5 \pm 0.74$  kg; 21 d old)
  - ✓ Individual house (15 replications/treatment)

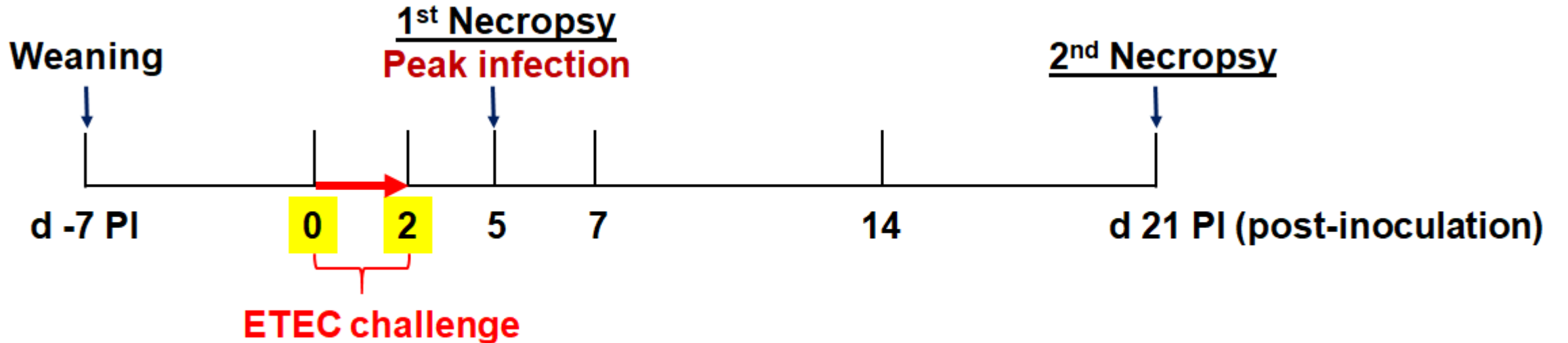
## ❖ 4 dietary treatments

- Corn-soybean meal-based diet (**Control**)
- Control + **0.3% monoglycerides**
- Control + **3000 ppm zinc oxide (ZnO)**
- Control + **50 mg/kg of antibiotic (carbadox)**

## ❖ 2-phase feeding (2 weeks/phase; overall 4 weeks)



# Timeline and data collection (I)



➤ All pigs were orally inoculated with pathogenic *E. coli* F18 ( $10^{10}$  CFU/dose)

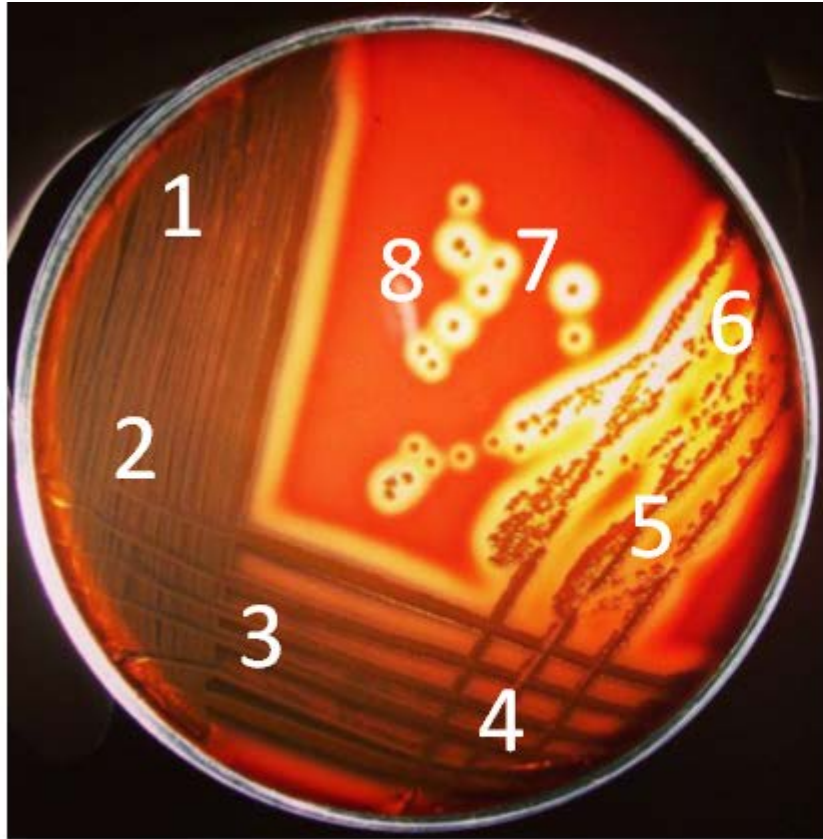
## ❖ Daily fecal scores

➤ Score 1 to 5 = firm feces to watery diarrhea

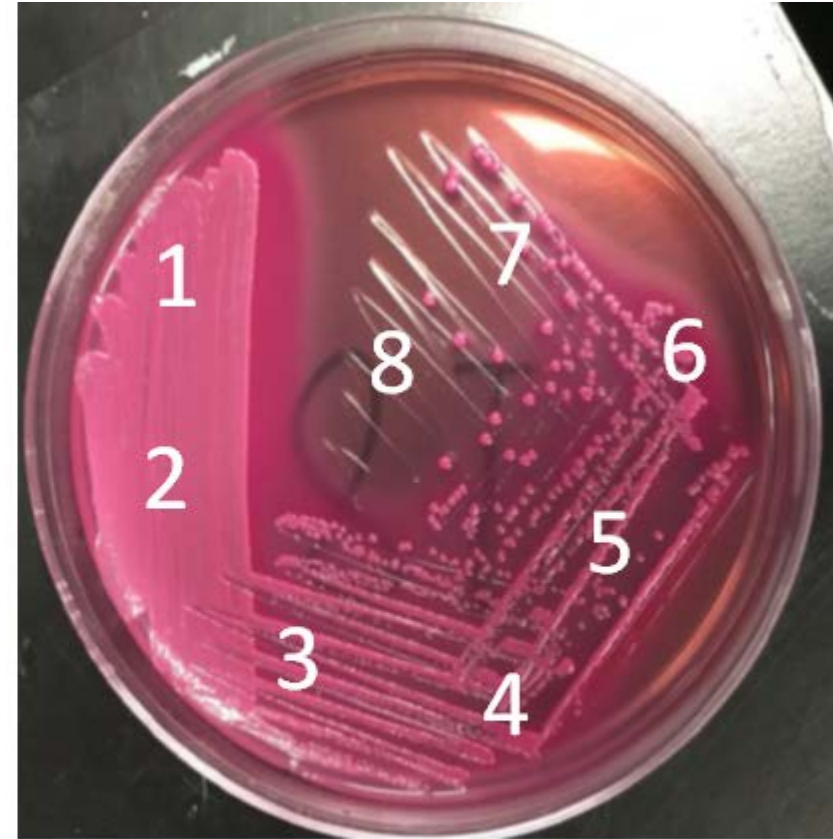
## ❖ Percentage of **$\beta$ -hemolytic coliforms** in feces

## ❖ **Growth performance** (ADG, ADFI, and G:F)

# $\beta$ -hemolytic coliforms (feces)

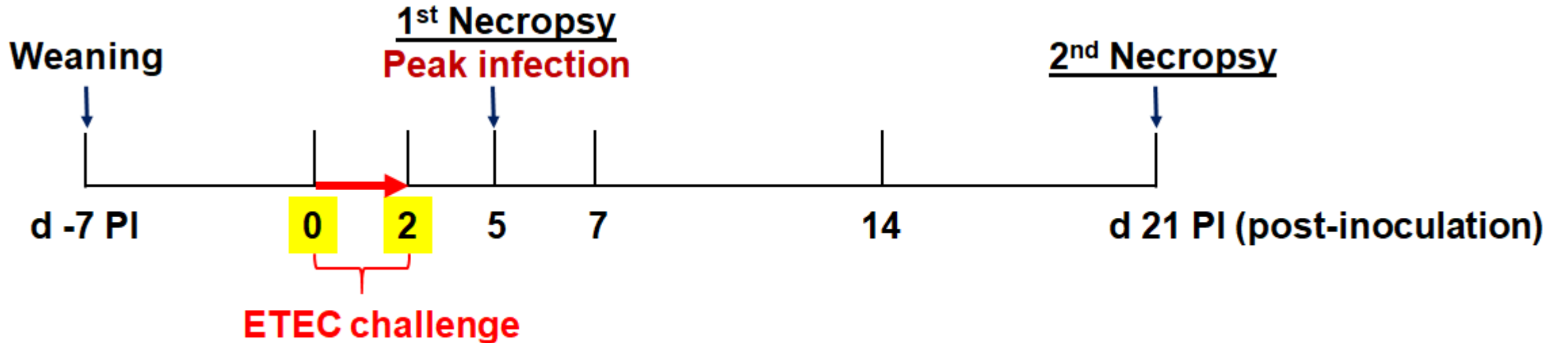


**Columbia blood agar**  
( $\beta$ -hemolytic coliforms)



**MacConkey agar**  
(Lactose-fermenting bacteria)

# Timeline and data collection (II)



➤ All pigs were orally inoculated with pathogenic *E. coli* F18 ( $10^{10}$  CFU/dose)

- ❖ Serum **acute phase protein level** (d 0, 2, 5, and 21 PI)
  - C-reactive protein and haptoglobin
- ❖ Intestinal **morphology** and **immune-related gene expression**
  - d 5 PI (6 pigs/treatment) and d 21 PI (9 pigs/treatment)

# Statistical analysis

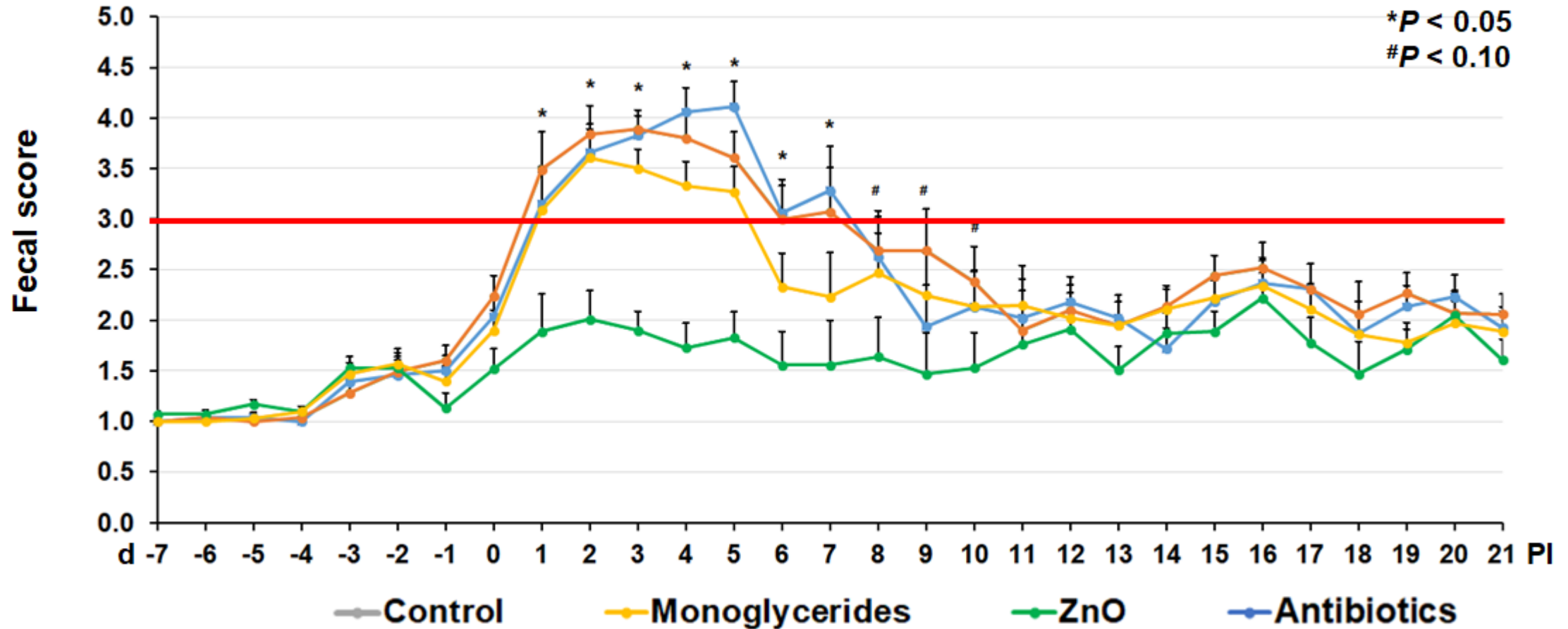
## ❖ PROC MIXED of SAS

- Randomized complete block design (block: BW)
- Experimental unit: pig
- Fixed effect: dietary treatment

## ❖ Chi-square test

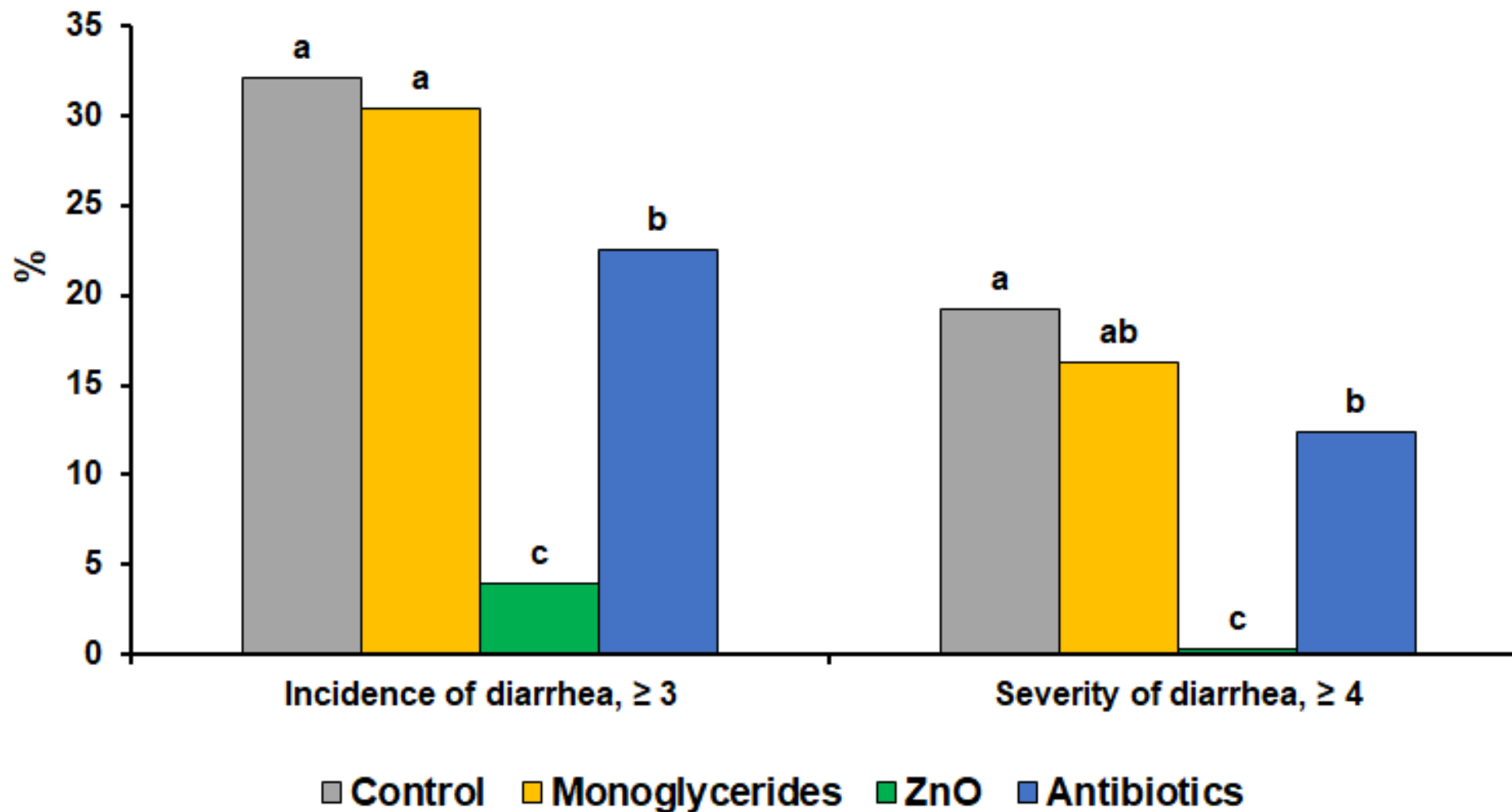
- Frequency of diarrhea

# Daily fecal score

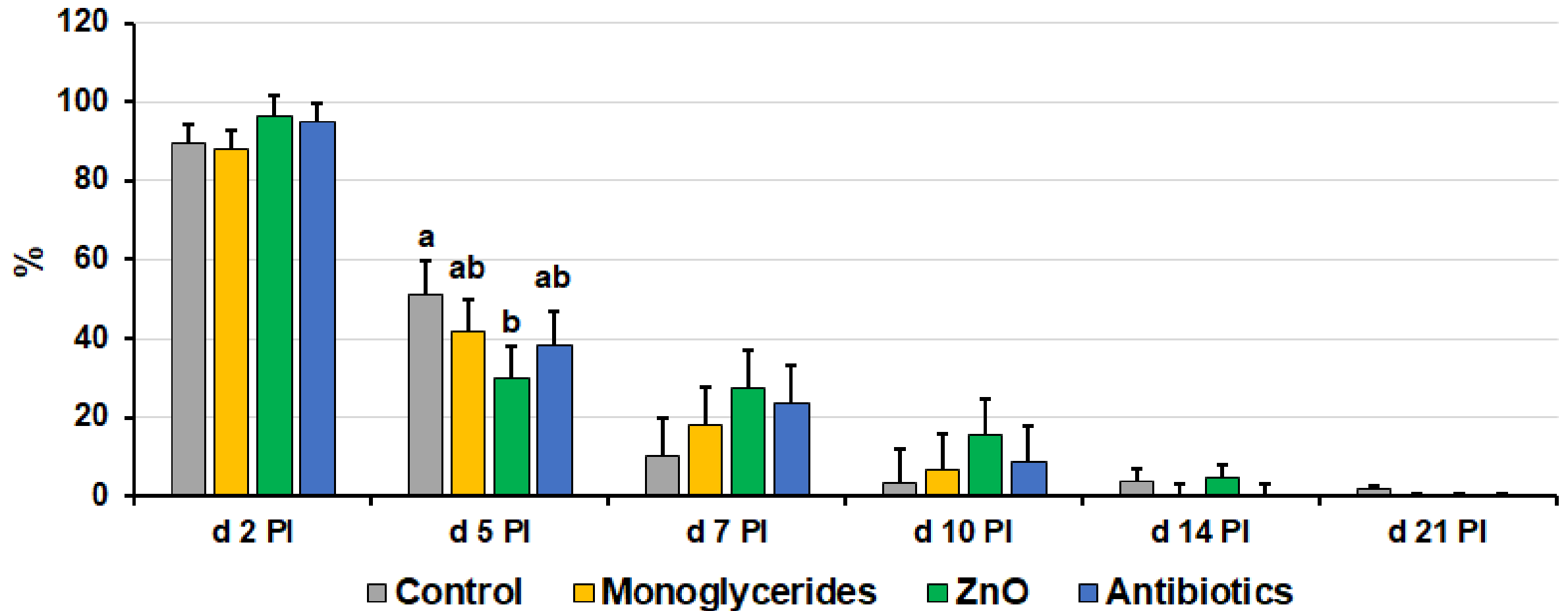


\*Fecal score = 1, firm feces; 2, moist feces; 3, mild diarrhea; 4, severe diarrhea; 5, watery diarrhea

# Frequency of diarrhea (overall)

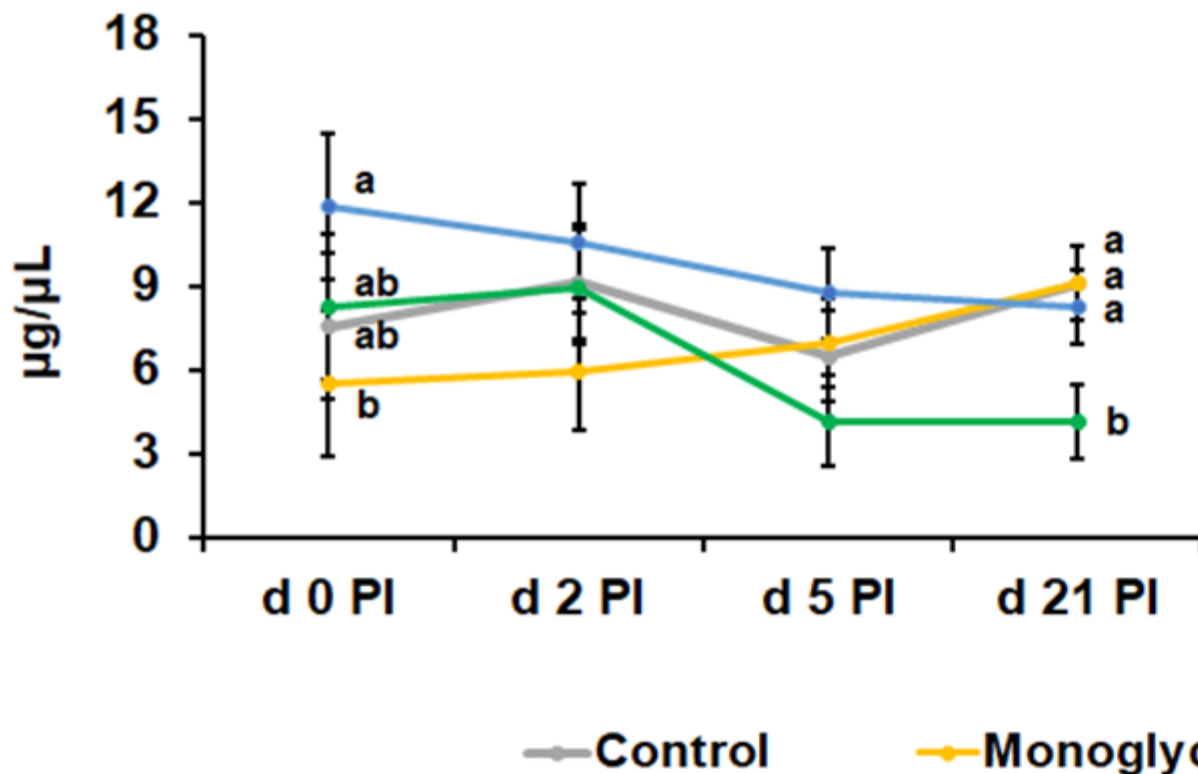


# $\beta$ -hemolytic coliforms (feces)

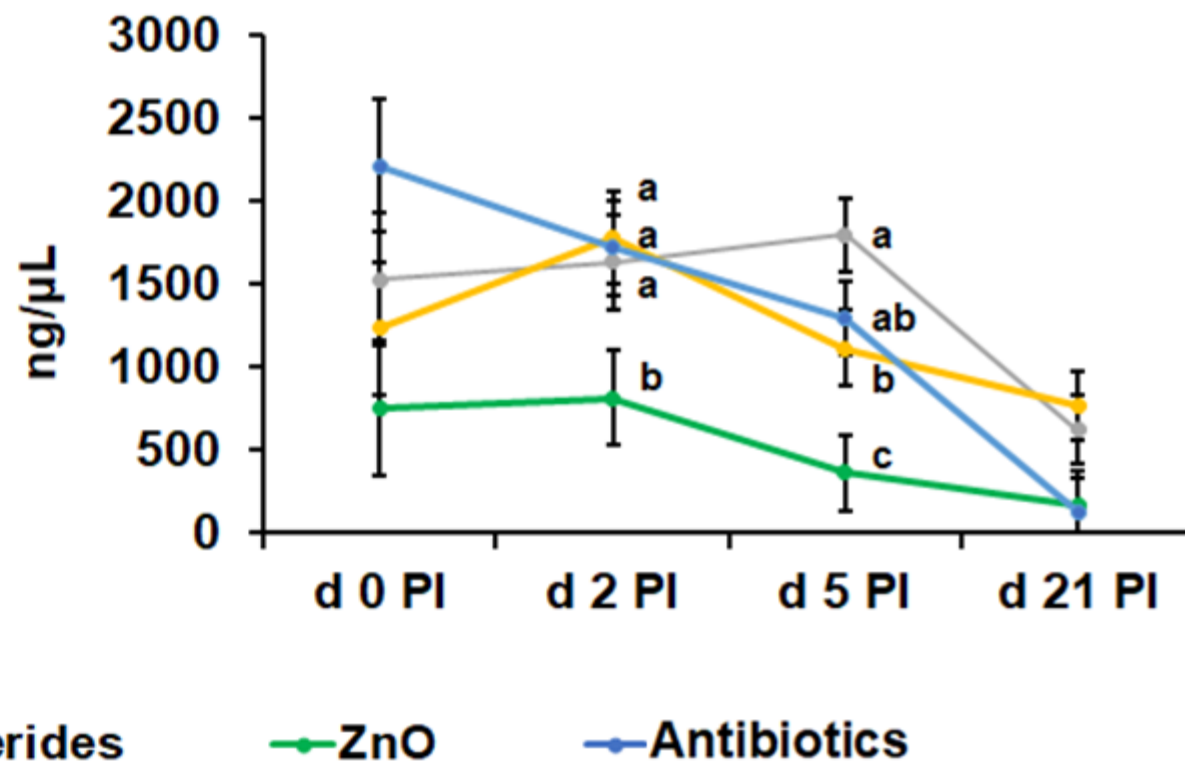


# Acute phase proteins (serum)

## C-reactive protein

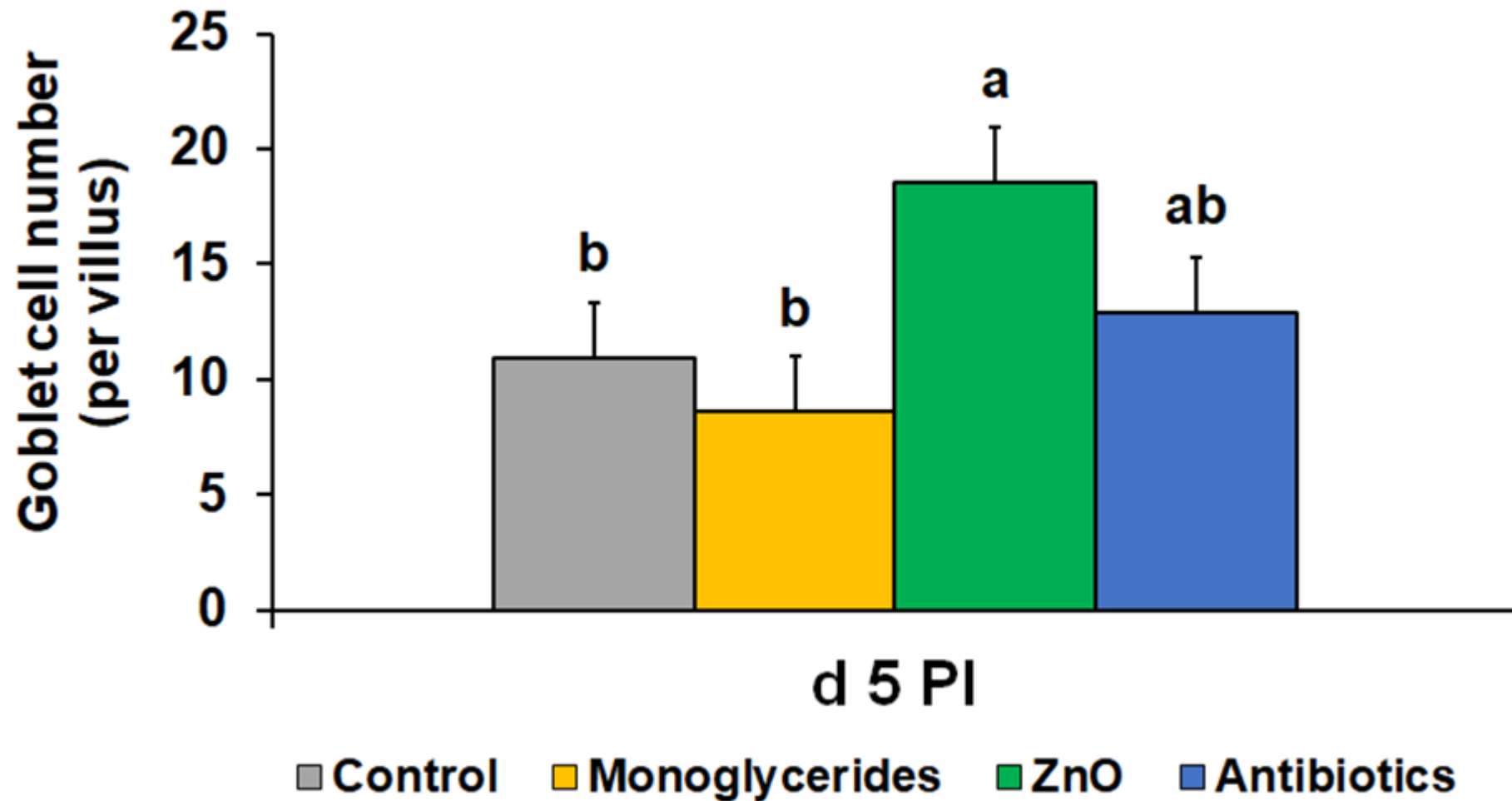


## Haptoglobin





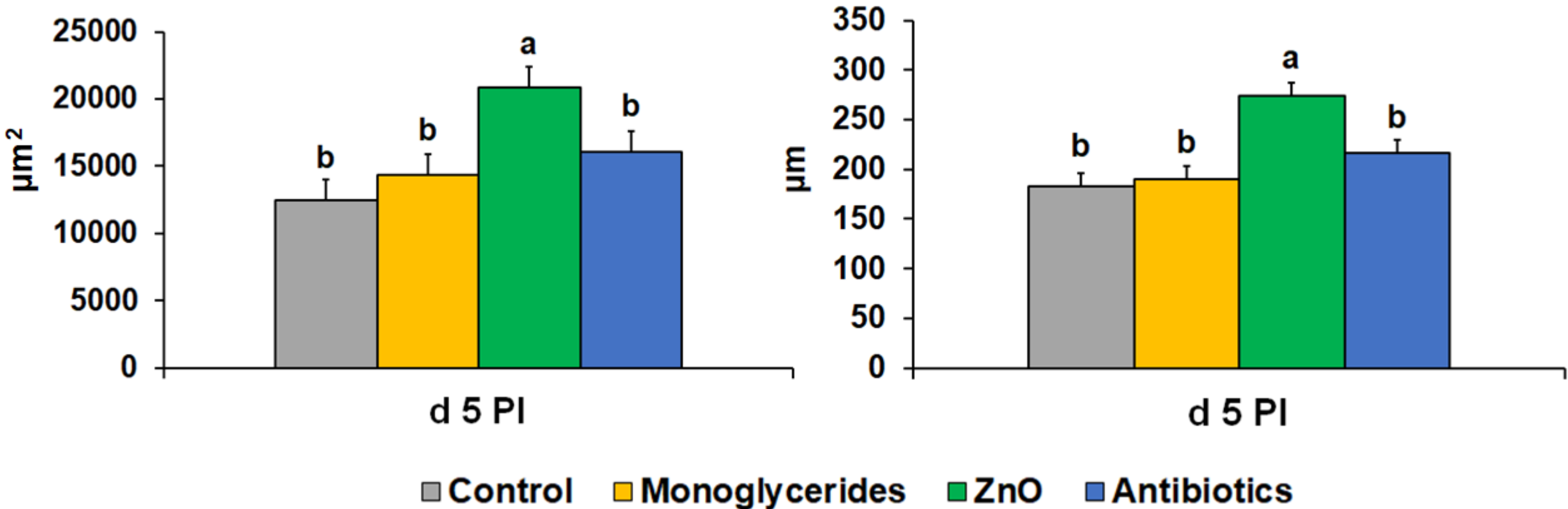
# Duodenum goblet cell number



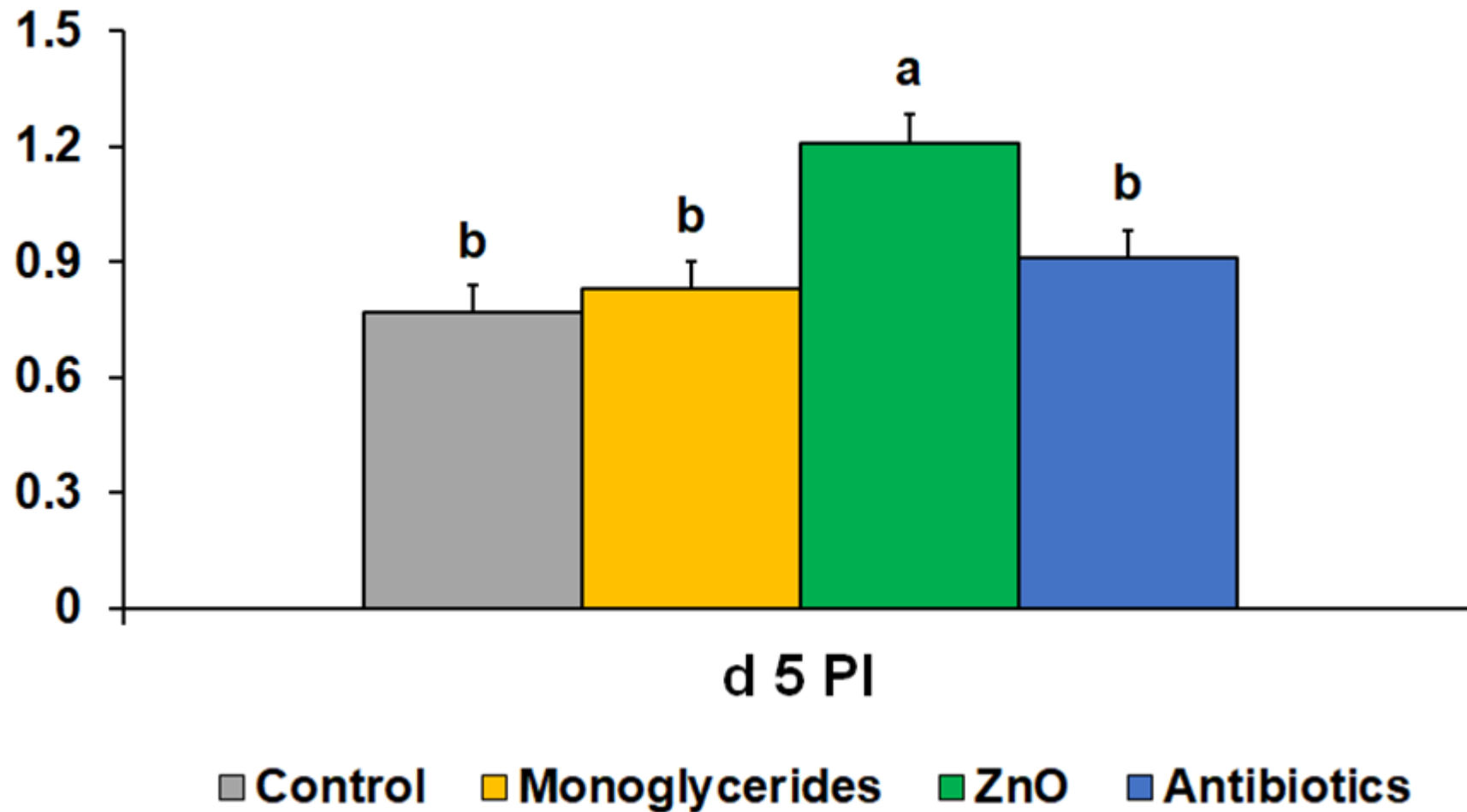
# Duodenum villi area and height

Villi area

Villi height



# Duodenum VH:CD

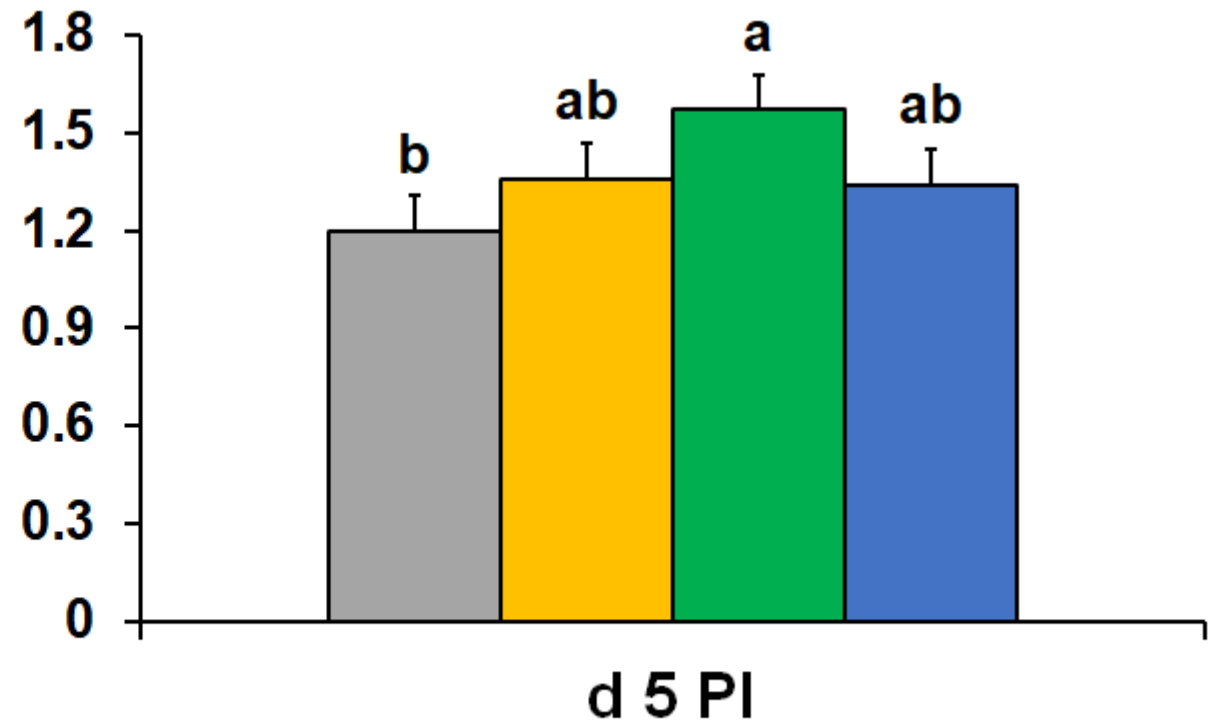
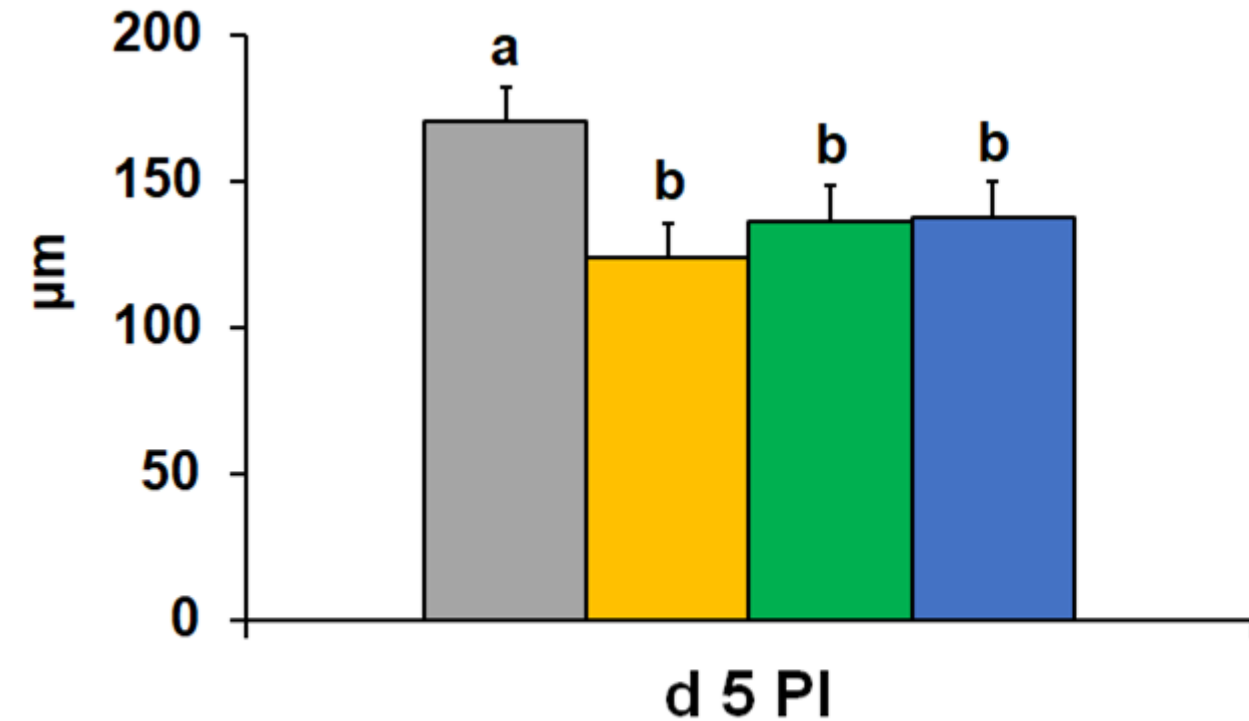


# Ileum CD & VH:CD

**Crypt depth**

**VH:CD**

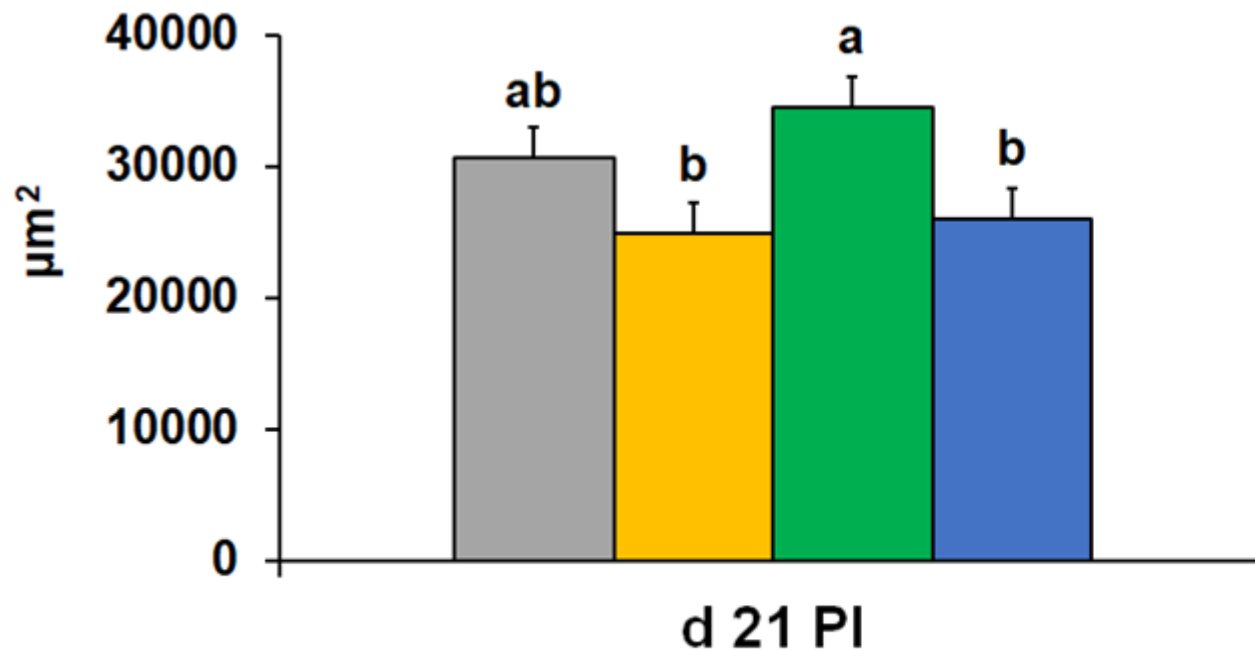
*P* = 0.064



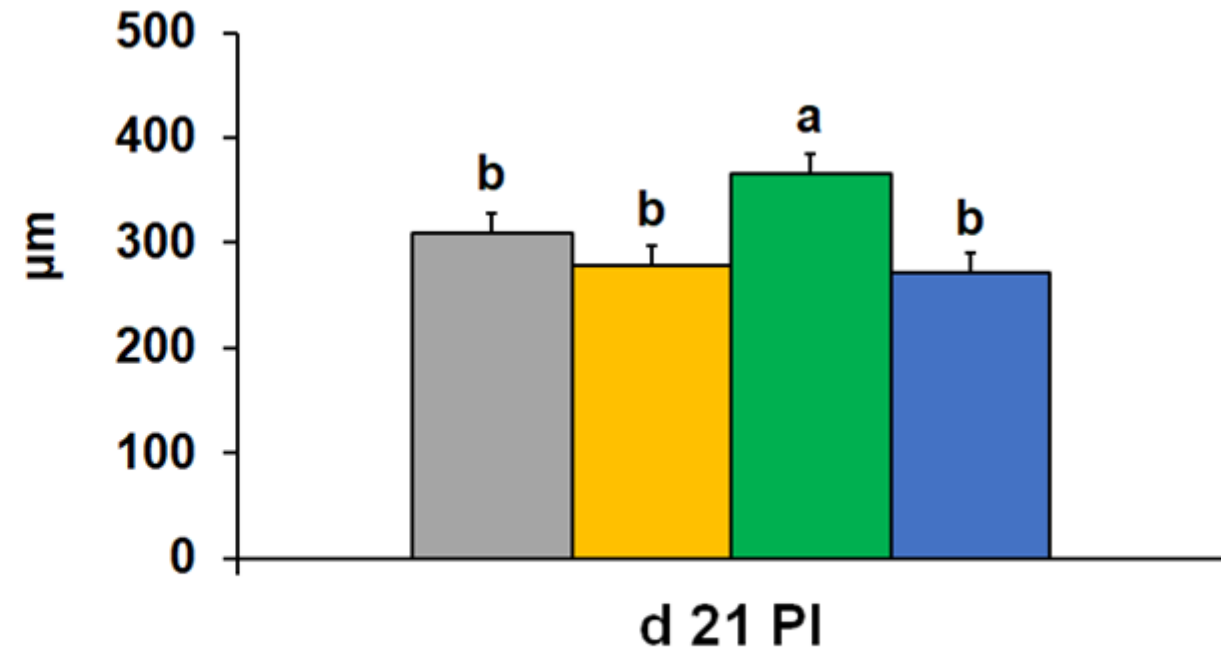
■ Control   ■ Monoglycerides   ■ ZnO   ■ Antibiotics

# Duodenum villi area and height (d 21 PI)

**Villi area**

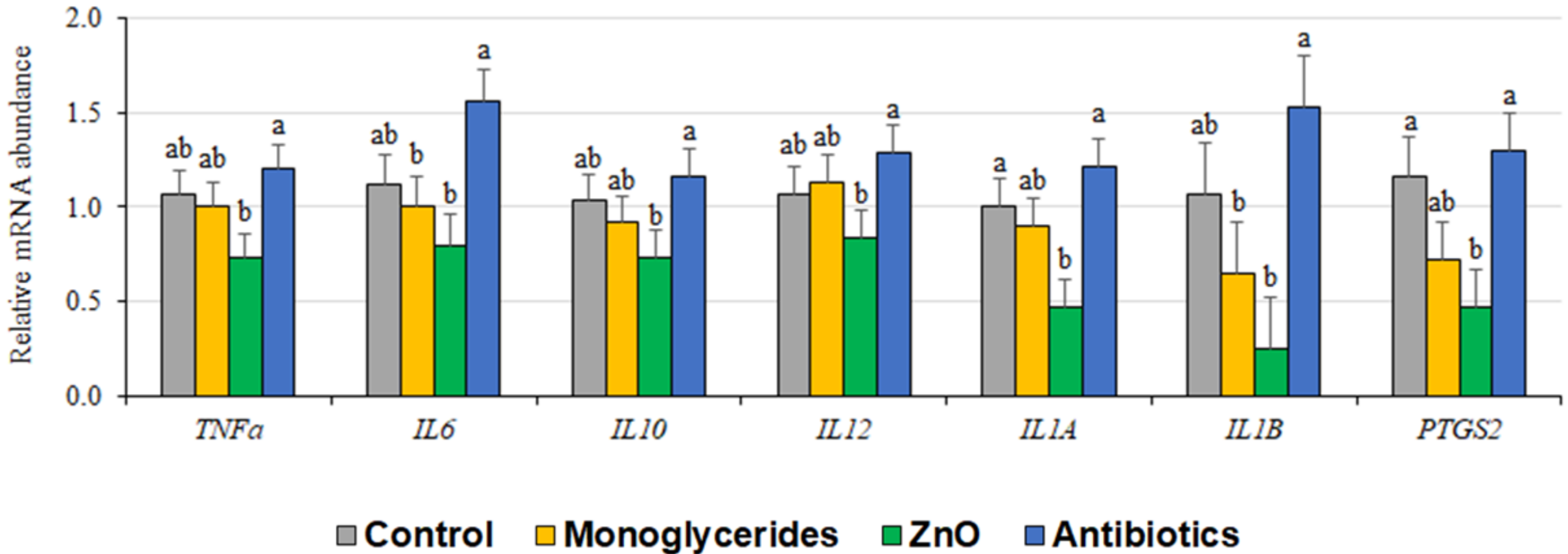


**Villi height**

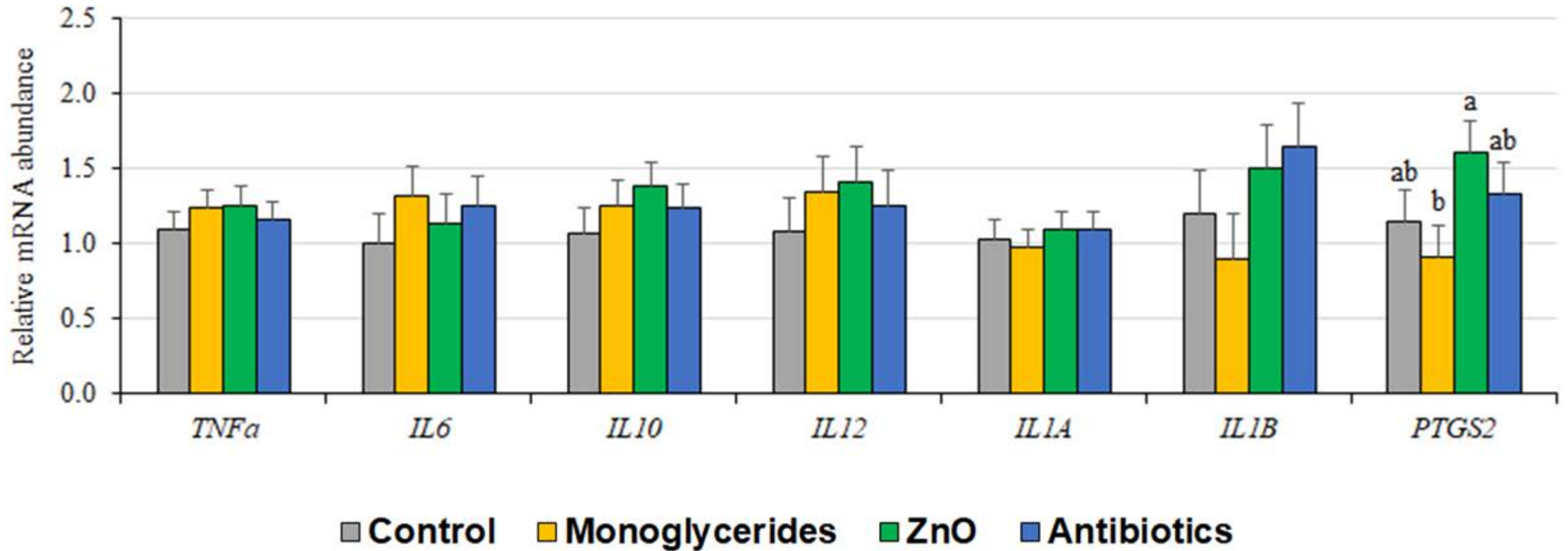


Control Monoglycerides ZnO Antibiotics

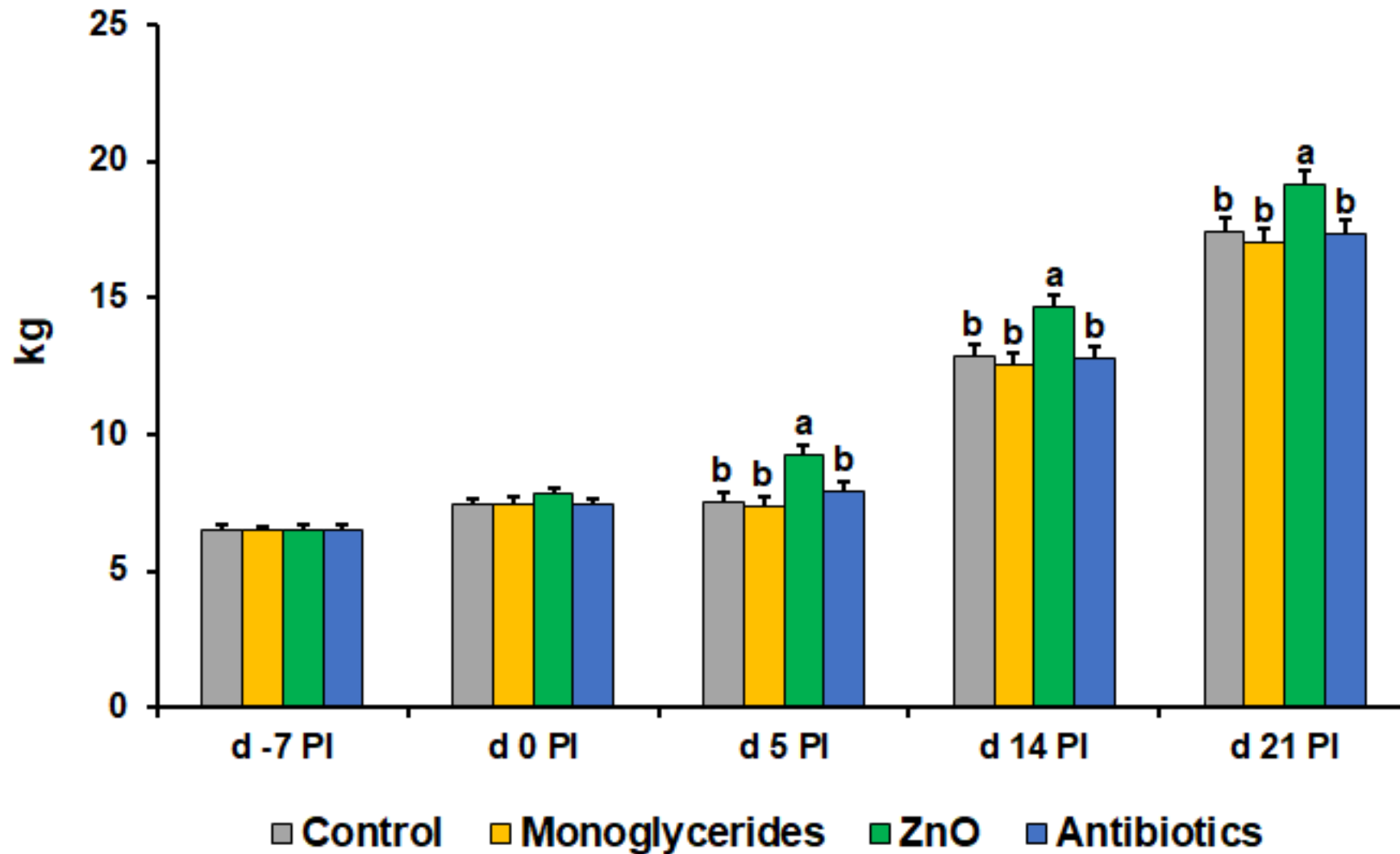
# Ileum mucosa gene expression (d 5 PI)



# Ileum mucosa gene expression (d 21 PI)



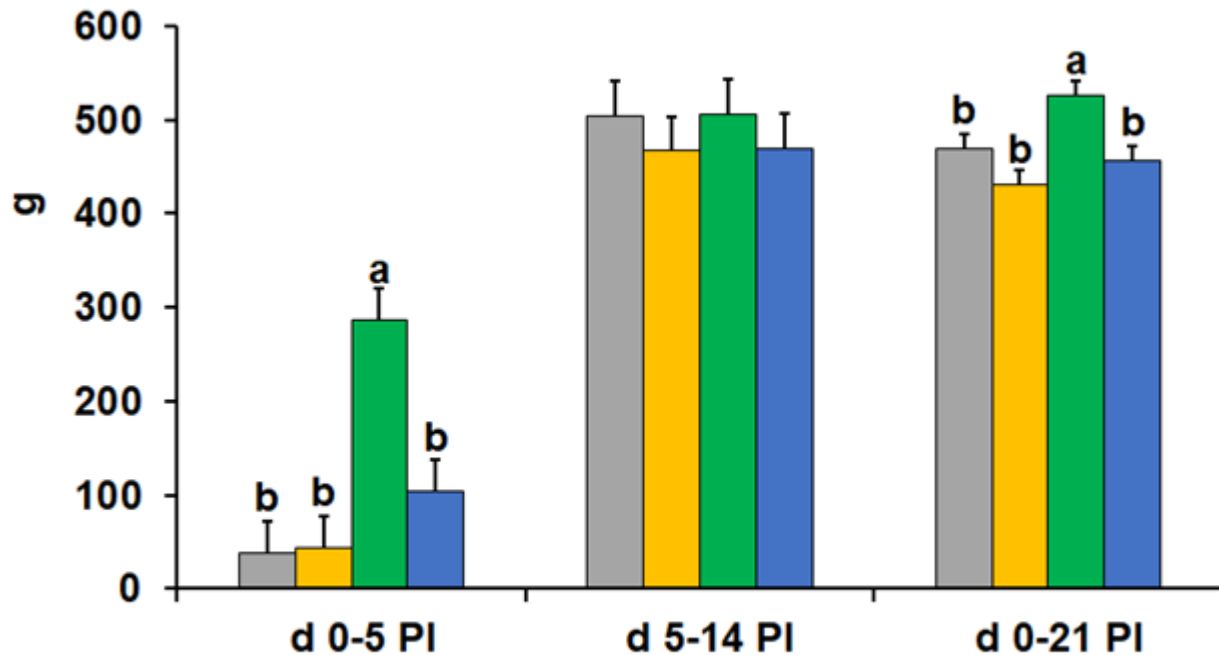
# Body weight



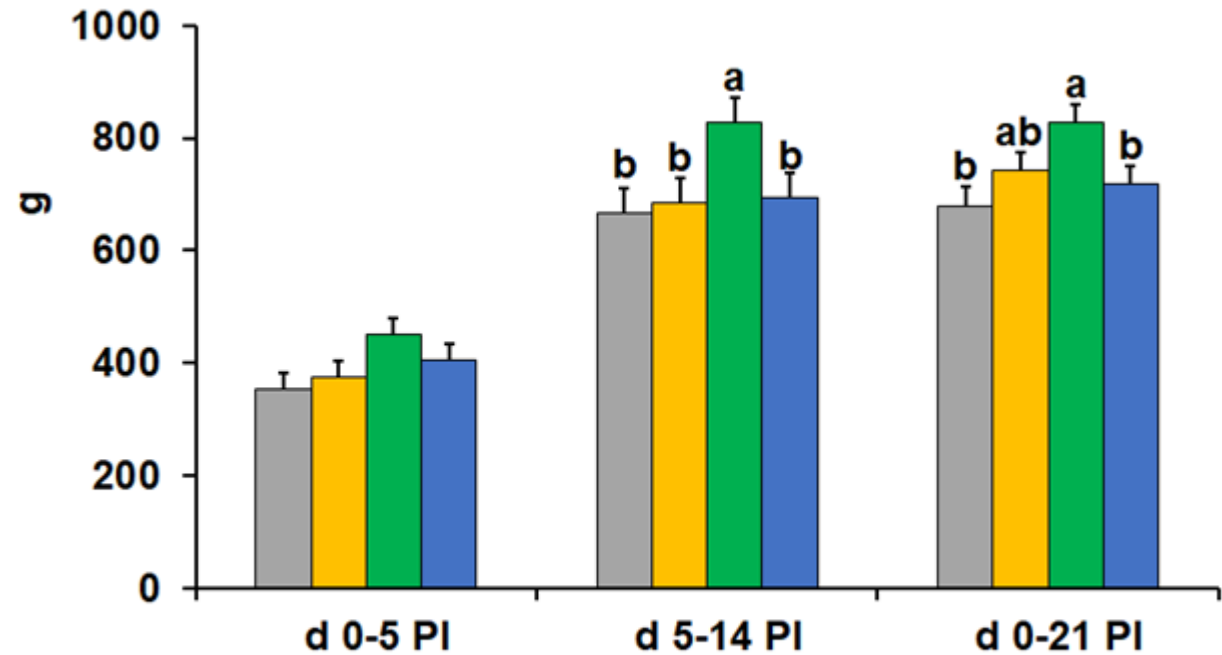


# Growth performance

Average daily gain



Average daily feed intake



Control Monoglycerides ZnO Antibiotics

# Conclusions

## ❖ **Monoglycerides** supplementation

- Reduce the diarrhea severity
- Have a positive effect on the intestinal morphology
- Modify the intestinal and systemic inflammation

of weaned pigs infected with ETEC F18

# Acknowledgements

- ❖ **Comparative Animal Nutrition & Physiology Laboratory**
- ❖ **BASF Corporation**



<https://animalnutr-ansci.faculty.ucdavis.edu/>



**Greatly appreciate your attention!**

