# Viability of cells in commercial and home-made probiotic

Sandra M. Buerger, PhD October 29, 2018

6th Microbiome R&D & Business Collaboration Forum 3rd Probiotics Congress: USA Background: Cell Viability and the Use of Plate Counts to Establish Cell Viability

Great Plate Count Anomaly: Majority of microscopically visible cells fail to grow



If majority of cells are in non-growing state only those that are waking up at time of plating will exhibit growth

## Background: Stress and CFU counts





# Part 1: Baseline CFU counts for Probiotics



# Data: Comparison Expected and Recovered via CFU counts



## Diversity of CFUs on Homemade Probiotic Plates

- Compared to commercial probiotics- large diversity of colony types were detected on:
  - Homemade Kombucha
  - Apple Cider Vinegar
  - Miso Soup



## Part 2: Exposure to Gastric Conditions

#### **Gastric Conditions**

### **Stomach Acid (composition):**

Hydrochloric acid, potassium chloride, sodium chloride

#### **Physical Movement:**

Slow speed on shaker

Time of digestion:

2.5 hours

2.5 hours in the stomach acid

Slow shaking

Sequestered in membrane (.2 pore size)



#### Commercial Probiotic 1: CFU Counts Before and After Exposure to Gastric 3E+06 Conditions



#### Commercial Probiotic 2: CFU Counts Before and After Exposure to Gastric Conditions



**Post Gastric Conditions** 

## Conclusions: Reduction in CFU counts

- CFU counts before and after exposure to gastric conditions show reduction in CFU counts
  - Both commercial probiotics and homemade probiotics show similar reductions in cells per ml
  - Reduction in cells per ml were greater for homemade probiotics

# Conclusions: Diversity Reduction in Homemade Probiotics

- Homemade probiotics showed greater diversity in terms of colony type and morphology in pre gastric tests
- Post gastric exposure showed significant reduction in diversity
  - Reduction in diversity was greatest for kombucha samples
  - Reduction in diversity was consistent for all homemade probiotic samples

## Further Steps: Homemade Probiotics

- Expand kombucha analysis: pre and post gastric conditions
  - Diversity counts pre and post gastric conditions
  - Further analysis of diversity profile for kombucha
    - Genetic Analysis for greater clarity on diversity pre and post gastric conditions

### Lab Members





Alexander Smith