Title: Antimicrobial overproduction sustains intestinal inflammation by inhibiting *Enterococcus* colonization

Kyung Ku Jang[1], Thomas Heaney[1], Mariya London[1], Yi Ding[2], Frank Yeung[1], Defne Ercelen[1], Ying-Han Chen[1], Jordan Axelrad[3], Sakteesh Gurunathan[3], A. Marijke Keestra-Gounder[4], Matthew E. Griffin[5#], Howard C. Hang[5,6], and Ken Cadwell[7,8,9*]

[1]Department of Microbiology, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY 10016, USA

[2]Department of Laboratory Medicine, Geisinger Health, Danville, PA 17822, USA

[3]Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, New York University Grossman School of Medicine, New York, NY 10016, USA

[4]Department of Immunology and Microbiology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO 80045, USA

[5]Department of Immunology and Microbiology and Department of Chemistry, Scripps Research, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA

[6]Department of Chemistry, Scripps Research, 10550 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037, USA

[7]Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

[8]Department of Systems Pharmacology and Translational Therapeutics, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

[9]Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

#Present address: Department of Chemistry, University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA 92617, USA

*Correspondence:

Ken Cadwell

Professor

Email: Ken.Cadwell@Pennmedicine.upenn.edu

Office: 212-263-8891

SUMMARY

Loss of antimicrobial proteins such as REG3 family members compromises the integrity of the

intestinal barrier. Here, we demonstrate that overproduction of REG3 proteins can also be

detrimental by reducing a protective species in the microbiota. Patients with inflammatory bowel

disease (IBD) experiencing flares displayed heightened levels of secreted REG3 proteins that

mediated depletion of *Enterococcus faecium* (*Efm*) from the gut microbiota. *Efm* inoculation of

mice ameliorated intestinal inflammation through activation of the innate immune receptor

NOD2, which was associated with the bacterial DL-endopeptidase SagA. Microbiota sensing

by NOD2 in myeloid cells mediated IL-1β secretion and increased the proportion of IL-22-

producing CD4$^+$ T helper cells and innate lymphoid cells. Finally, *Efm* was unable to protect

mice carrying a *NOD2* gene variant commonly found in IBD patients. Our findings demonstrate

that inflammation self-perpetuates by causing aberrant antimicrobial activity that disrupts

symbiotic relationships with gut microbes.

Keywords: Enterococci, antimicrobial proteins, REG3, NOD2, and inflammatory bowel disease

INTRODUCTION

Secretion of antimicrobial proteins (AMPs) at barrier surfaces represents a ubiquitous and evolutionarily ancient defense strategy. AMPs such as defensins, cathelicidins, lysozyme, and C-type lectins are abundant in the mammalian gastrointestinal tract where they limit the overgrowth or invasion of microbes, typically by disrupting membrane integrity of their targets[1-3]. Although certain AMPs recognize structures associated with invasive microbes such as flagellin[4], many display broad-spectrum activity, reflecting the diversity of pathogenic and non-pathogenic infectious agents in the gut. Regenerating family member 3 (REG3) C-type lectins REG3A and REG3G bind to the peptidoglycan cell wall of Gram-positive (+) bacteria and are essential for maintaining a balanced relationship with the gut microbiota[5,6]. *Reg3γ* expression in mice is induced by toll-like receptor (TLR) signaling in the intestinal epithelium to achieve spatial segregation between the host and the microbiota[7-9]. REG3A (also known as HIP/PAP) is the main paralog that has been characterized in humans and may have a similar role as murine REG3G because transgenic expression of the human gene in mice alters microbiota composition[10]. In addition to inducing lysis of microbes, REG3 proteins contribute to intestinal homeostasis by regulating crypt regeneration and scavenging reactive oxygen species[10,11]

Dysregulated AMP production exacerbates intestinal injury in animal models and is associated with human inflammatory bowel disease (IBD)[12-17], a chronic immune-mediated disorder of the gut involving complex interactions between genetic and environmental factors. IBD affects more than 6 million worldwide, and although immunomodulatory medications can offer substantial relief to patients, maintaining disease remission remains a major clinical challenge. Consistent with the link between AMPs and intestinal inflammation, an altered microbiota composition is a common feature of IBD[18-20]. Also, population genetic studies have implicated genes associated with host-microbe interactions[21,22]. Coding region variants of the intracellular microbial sensor nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain-containing protein 2 (NOD2) are among the strongest genetic risk factors for IBD[23,24]. In the presence of peptidoglycan byproducts, NOD2 mediates production of AMPs and cytokines downstream of NFκB activation[23]. Accordingly, *Nod2*-deficient mice are susceptible to enteric bacterial infections and display an altered microbiota composition depending on the animal facility[25-34], and IBD patients harboring *NOD2* variants display impaired production of AMPs, especially defensins[35-37]. However, *NOD2* variants are found in only a subset of IBD patients, indicating that additional mechanisms may be involved. Also, IBD is associated with increased *REG3* expression[38,39], suggesting a different role for this family of AMPs in disease pathogenesis.

The *Enterococcus* genus includes Gram+ bacterial members of the gut microbiota that activate
and are controlled by NOD2[40-42], and are highly sensitive to killing by REG3A and REG3G[6,9].
However, the relationship between enterococci and IBD is obfuscated by contradictory
observations. *Enterococcus* species are opportunistic pathogens in hospital settings that cause
life-threatening bloodstream infections[43] and induce intestinal inflammation in *Il10* deficient
mice[44,45]. Yet, enterococci are consumed as probiotics for treatment of diarrheal diseases[46,47].
Recent studies have provided a mechanistic basis for their probiotic properties by identifying a
DL-endopeptidase, SagA, secreted by certain enterococci including *Enterococcus faecium*
(*Efm*)[48-50]. Processing of peptidoglycan by SagA generates muropeptides, which potently activate
NOD2 to induce an antimicrobial and inflammatory gene expression program that enhances
colonization resistance towards enteric pathogens and antitumor immunity[41,50,51]. Interventions
that promote antitumor immunity typically exacerbate intestinal inflammation[52]. Therefore, it is
unclear whether NOD2 activation by enterococci would worsen or improve IBD.
In this study, we found IBD patients displayed uncontrolled production of REG3 proteins that
deplete enterococci from the gut microbiota. Inoculation with *Efm* or a *Lactococcus* strain
engineered to express *SagA* protected mice from intestinal injury. Protection was dependent on
NOD2 activity in myeloid cells, which mediated an increase in lymphoid cells producing the
regenerative cytokine IL-22. This beneficial effect of *Efm* colonization was abrogated in mice
harboring the R702W variant of NOD2 associated with IBD. Our findings uncover a mechanism
of perpetuating intestinal inflammation initiated by a harmful feedback loop involving excess AMP
production and depletion of protective enterococci, which renders the host functionally NOD2-
deficient.
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RESULTS

REG3 proteins overproduced by IBD patients inhibit enterococci

Although *REG3A* mRNA was shown to be increased in inflamed intestinal tissues from IBD patients[38,39], only a small number of samples were analyzed in these prior studies, and it is unclear whether gene expression is associated with REG3 protein secretion and activity. Thus, the functional consequence has not been investigated. To measure antimicrobial activity in the gut, we collected stool from 56 IBD patients experiencing disease flares (Supplemental table 1). An equal number of non-IBD patients (NIBD) experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms, such as diarrhea, were used as a control cohort (Supplemental table 2). Stool extracts were prepared by 2-step filtrations (see METHOD DETAILS) and subjected to Western blot analysis of the two human REG3 family members, REG3A and REG3G (Figure 1A). We also examined two additional paralogs: REG1A, which is a pancreatic growth factor and should not be co-regulated with REG3 proteins[53], and REG4, a potential AMP that is less characterized[54,55]. As we expected, pancreatic growth factor REG1A is equally present in NIBD and IBD (Figure 1B and C). In contrast, REG3A was detected in a higher proportion of IBD patients compared with NIBD patients, and REG3G and REG4 were exclusively present in IBD samples (Figure 1B and C). An ELISA assay confirmed higher REG3A concentration in stool extracts from IBD compared with those of NIBD (Figure 1D). These results indicate that the presence of REG3 proteins is more prevalent and enriched in IBD patients.

Next, we examined the antimicrobial activity of the IBD and NIBD-derived stool extracts against *Enterococcus faecalis* (*Efl*) and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (*S*Tm) as representative Gram+ and – enteric bacteria, respectively. The number of *Efl* colonies recovered after culturing in IBD stool extracts was significantly lower compared with NIBD stool extracts, whereas *S*Tm numbers were similar in both groups. (Figure 1E). We confirmed this antimicrobial activity of IBD stool extracts with another *Enterococcus* species, *Efm* (Figure 1E). Consistent with Gram+ bacterial targeting, REG3A concentration negatively correlated with *Efl* and *Efm* colony forming units (CFUs) following treatment with NIBD and IBD stool extracts, but not with *S*Tm CFUs (Figure 1F). To determine whether the antimicrobial activity in stool samples was dependent on REG3 proteins, we added anti-REG3A or -REG3G antibodies, individually or together, to *Efm* cultured in the stool extracts. Less *Efm* was recovered when grown in IBD stool extracts compared with PBS control, and this antimicrobial activity was inhibited by antibodies against REG3A or REG3G, but not REG1A control antibodies (Figure 1G). Unlike IBD samples, an increased number of *Efm* was recovered when cultured in NIBD stool extracts compared with PBS control, and adding anti-

REG3A and REG3G antibodies together (but not individually) enhanced growth, suggesting low
levels of antimicrobial activity was present in these samples (Figure 1G). Thus, *Efm* growth
impairment in human stool extracts is attributed to REG3A and REG3G.

We next segregated the data based on sex, disease type and severity, and age. IBD stool
extracts from both males and females displayed higher amounts of REG3A compared with NIBD
samples (Supplemental figure 1A). IBD consists of two major forms, Crohn's disease (CD) and
ulcerative colitis (UC); REG3A concentrations were similar in stool from CD and UC patients
(Supplemental figure 1B). REG3A concentration did not differ among age groups in NIBD patients,
however, displayed a modest but significant inverse relationship with age among IBD patients
(Supplemental figure 1C). When controlling for age, we found that IBD patients younger than age
60 displayed increased levels of REG3A compared with matched NIBD controls, and this
difference was lost in the older age group (Supplemental figure 1D). Disease severity
measurements of CD (Crohn's disease activity index, CDAI) and UC (total Mayo) displayed a
positive correlation with REG3A concentrations (Figure 1H). Thus, the combined results suggest
that the increase in REG3 in stool from IBD patients, proportional to disease severity, inhibits
Enterococcus species.

Enterococcus and Efm are lost from the gut microbiota in IBD patients

The above results raise the possibility that *Enterococcus* is depleted in the gut microbiota of
IBD patients. Analysis of stool by 16S rRNA sequencing indicated that the overall microbiota
composition of NIBD and IBD were indistinguishable according to multiple metrics of alpha and
beta diversities (Figure 2A and B). These results further confirm that our NIBD cohort is an
appropriate control for IBD patients. However, >80% of the sequencing reads aligned to
Enterococcus in one of the NIBD samples, indicating that this individual had an overabundance
of *Enterococcus* and thus, we excluded this patient from subsequent analyses. Consistent with
our *in vitro* findings (Figure 1), the relative abundance of *Enterococcus* in IBD patients was lower
than that in NIBD patients (Figure 2C).

To confirm our 16S sequencing result, we plated NIBD and IBD stool on media that allows
enumeration of enterococci or that is selective for *Efm*. The burden and detection rate of total
Enterococcus and *Efm* in IBD stools were lower than in NIBD stools (Figure 2D and Supplemental
figure 1E). *Efm* accounted for less than 20% of the total enterococci present in IBD stool compared
with 49% in NIBD stool, indicating that *Efm* was particularly vulnerable to depletion in IBD patients.
(Supplemental figure 1F). REG3A concentration displayed a negative correlation with total
Enterococcus and *Efm* burden in IBD patient-derived stool (Figure 2E) as well as with CDAI and

total Mayo score (Figure 2F). These results, combined with *in vitro* bacterial culturing data,

indicate that levels of enterococci including *Efm* are reduced by the increased REG3 proteins in

IBD patients.

Enterococci protect against intestinal injury in mice

We next wanted to examine the relationship between *Enterococcus* dynamics and intestinal

inflammation. While performing experiments to determine the appropriate conditions for

administering dextran sulfate sodium (DSS) in drinking water, a widely used model of intestinal

chemical injury, we observed extreme differences in susceptibility between wild-type (WT)

C57BL/6J (B6) mice bred in two rooms within the same institutional vivarium. Mice bred in room

6 receiving 5% DSS displayed higher lethality, weight loss, and disease score compared with

mice raised in room 13 (Figure 3A-C). Lipocalin-2 (LCN2), a marker of inflammation[56], was also

more abundant in stool from DSS-treated room 6 mice compared with room 13 mice (Figure 3D).

Susceptibility to DSS can diverge between B6 mice, even those bred in the same animal facility,

due to differences in microbiota composition that arise from separate parental lineages[57,58].

Because we were performing these experiments with the goal of investigating enterococci, we

plated stool specimens to examine their presence in the microbiota and observed a 2-log higher

burden of endogenous enterococci in room 13 mice than room 6 mice (Figure 3E). Similar to the

inverse relationship with inflammation observed in human samples, *Enterococcus* levels

decreased following DSS-induced intestinal inflammation in mice (Figure 3F). In all subsequent

experiments, we used mice from room 6.

To determine whether *Enterococcus* colonization protects against intestinal injury, we

inoculated mice by administering *Efm* in the drinking water (10^9 CFU/ml) for 2 weeks[59] and then

switched to water containing 5% DSS for an additional 6 days. Body weight and fecal LCN2

concentration were unchanged in mice inoculated with *Efm* in the absence of DSS treatment

(Supplemental figure 2A and B), confirming that *Efm* colonization does not induce inflammation.

In mice receiving DSS, both total *Enterococcus* and *Efm* levels decreased during the treatment

and partially recovered after cessation (Supplemental figure 2C and D). *Efm*-colonized WT B6

mice treated with DSS displayed less body weight reduction, disease score, and fecal LCN2

compared with DSS-treated mice that were not inoculated with *Efm* (Figure 3G and H and

Supplemental figure 2E and F). Mice were sacrificed on day 23 to determine whether

improvement of these disease features reflected reduced intestinal inflammation. *Efm*-colonized

mice displayed less shortening of the colon (a marker of intestinal inflammation) and

histopathologic changes compared with uncolonized WT mice (Figure 3I-K and Supplemental

table 3). Inoculating mice with *Efm* after DSS treatment also mitigated these signs of disease
(Supplemental figure 3A-G and Supplemental table 3). Therefore, *Efm* colonization confers
protection against DSS-induced inflammation.

Given that *Efm* protects against enteric pathogens in a NOD2-dependent manner[41], we asked
whether *Efm* would lose its beneficial properties when administered to *Nod2*-deficient mice during
intestinal injury. The colonization patterns of *Efm* in $Nod2^{+/-}$ and $Nod2^{-/-}$ mice were consistent with
those in WT mice (Supplemental figure 2G). In contrast to $Nod2^{+/-}$ mice in which we reproduced
the protective effect of the bacterium, *Efm* administration to $Nod2^{-/-}$ mice did not improve weight
loss, disease score, fecal LCN2 concentration, colon shortening, and intestinal histopathology
(Figure 3L-P, Supplemental figure 2H and I, and Supplemental table 3). These findings indicate
that the anti-inflammatory effect of *Efm* is dependent on *Nod2*.

SagA mediates NOD2-dependent protection against intestinal injury
Efm encodes a secreted DL-endopeptidase SagA that processes peptidoglycan to generate
NOD2-stimulating muropeptides[41,50]. Because SagA is essential for growth of Efm^{60}, we tested
the role of SagA by orally inoculating mice with *Lactococcus lactis* (*Lls*) strains expressing wild-
type SagA ($Lls\text{-}SagA^{WT}$) or catalytically inactive (C443A) SagA ($Lls\text{-}SagA^{C443A}$), then treating with
3% DSS (Supplemental figure 4A). A lower concentration of DSS was used because mice were
pre-treated with antibiotics (abx) to facilitate *Lls* colonization, and abx increases susceptibility to
DSS [61,62]. We included conditions in which mice were inoculated with PBS or the parental
unmodified *Lls* strain to control for effects of abx treatment and *Lls* colonization, respectively. *Lls*
strains displayed a similar degree of colonization (Supplemental figure 4B and D). Mice given *Lls-*
$SagA^{WT}$ displayed enhanced survival compared with all the other conditions, and other disease
parameters were generally improved (Figure 4A-D and Supplemental figure 4C). $Lls\text{-}SagA^{WT}$
ameliorated disease in $Nod2^{+/-}$ mice but not $Nod2^{-/-}$ mice (Figure 4E-H and Supplemental figure
4E). If protection is mediated through peptidoglycan processing by secreted SagA, bacterial
colonization would potentially be dispensable. To test this possibility, we administered filtered
culture supernatants from *Lls* strains to mice without abx treatment for a week and then switched
to water containing 5% DSS (Supplemental figure 4F). In contrast to supernatant collected from
the parental *Lls* and $Lls\text{-}SagA^{C443A}$ cultures, or sterile broth, supernatant from $Lls\text{-}SagA^{WT}$ was
sufficient for increasing survival, lessening body weight reduction, and decreasing disease score
and fecal LCN2 concentration of DSS-treated mice (Figure 4I and J and Supplemental figure 4G
and H). These protective effects of $Lls\text{-}SagA^{WT}$ culture supernatant were all NOD2-dependent

(Figure 4K and L and Supplemental figure 4I and J). Taken together, our findings indicate that

activating NOD2 downstream of SagA protects against intestinal injury.

NOD2 in myeloid cells is indispensable for *Efm*-mediated protection

Myeloid and intestinal epithelial cells are among the cell types in which NOD2 function has been

most extensively investigated[63-65]. Therefore, we developed *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$;*LysM-Cre* and *Villin-Cre* mice

that are *Nod2*-deficient in myeloid and intestinal epithelial cells, respectively, and confirmed the

presence of *Efm* in stool samples following inoculation in all groups (Supplemental figure 5A and

C). Unlike *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$ controls in which signs of disease were ameliorated, *Efm* colonization of

Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;*LysM-Cre*$^+$ mice did not improve lethality, body weight reduction, disease score, and

LCN2 present in stool samples (Figure 5A-D and Supplemental figure 5B). In contrast, *Efm*

colonization reduced mortality, body weight reduction, disease score, and fecal LCN2

concentration in *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$;*Villin-Cre*$^+$ mice to a similar extent as *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$ controls (Figure 5E-H and

Supplemental figure 5D). These findings indicate that NOD2 is required in myeloid cells and

dispensable in the intestinal epithelium for *Efm*-mediated protection.

***Efm* induces IL-22 production by lymphoid cells downstream of myeloid NOD2 to protect**

against intestinal injury

Activation of NOD2 in myeloid cells is frequently associated with pro-inflammatory cytokine

production[63-65], which is counterintuitive when considering the anti-inflammatory function

observed in the above experiments. One way to reconcile these observations would be if myeloid

cells, following NOD2 activation, act on other cell types in the gut to produce factors involved in

tissue repair. For example, IL-22 is a major tissue regenerative cytokine and is protective in

models of DSS-induced intestinal inflammation similar to the one used here[66,67]. We observed

increased IL-22 production in colon explants harvested from WT mice on day 14 following *Efm*

administration in the drinking water (prior to DSS) and day 20 (with DSS) compared with mice

that did not receive *Efm* (Figure 6A and B). IL-22 secretion was not enhanced by *Efm* colonization

in *Nod2*$^{-/-}$ and *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$;*LysM-Cre*$^+$ mice on days 14 and 20 (Figure 6A and B), indicating that *Efm*-

mediated induction of IL-22 is dependent on myeloid *Nod2* expression.

IL-22 in the gut is typically produced by group 3 innate lymphoid cells (ILC3s) and CD4$^+$ T cells.

To identify the subset of immune cells that induce IL-22 secretion responding to *Efm* colonization,

we isolated colonic lamina propria of WT mice inoculated with *Efm* on day 14 to analyze the

immune cell compartment by flow cytometry. Bacterial colonization increased the proportion of

both IL-22$^+$ ILCs and CD4$^+$ T cells in WT mice, and not *Nod2*$^{-/-}$ and *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$;*LysM-Cre*$^+$ mice (Figure

6C-F). NOD2 in antigen-presenting cells can induce IL-10 production from regulatory T cells
(Tregs)[68]. However, *Efm* did not alter the proportion of IL10$^+$ CD4$^+$ T cells, CD4$^+$ T helper 1 (Tbet$^+$)
and 2 (GATA3$^+$) cells, and Tregs (Supplemental figure 6C-F). Also, consistent with ILC3s being a
source of IL-22, *Efm* colonization increased the proportion of ILC3s and not ILC1s and ILC2s in
a NOD2-dependent manner (Figure 6G and H and Supplemental figure 6G and H). Therefore,
Efm induces expansion of IL-22-producing CD4$^+$ T cells and ILCs in a myeloid NOD2-dependent
manner.

Secretion of IL-1β from intestinal myeloid cells induces IL-22 production from ILC3s[69,70]. Also,
myeloid cell-derived IL-1β secretion in the gut in response to the microbiota depends on NOD2[71].
The secretion of IL-1β, but not the related cytokine IL-18, was induced in *Efm*-colonized WT,
Nod2$^{+/-}$, and *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$*;LysM-Cre*$^-$ mice on days 14 and 20 (Figure 6I and J and Supplemental figure
6I and J). This *Efm*-mediated IL-1β induction did not occur in *Nod2*$^{-/-}$ and *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$*;LysM-Cre*$^+$ mice,
indicating that *Nod2*-dependent sensing of *Efm* in myeloid cells is required for the upregulated IL-
1β secretion (Figure 6I and J and Supplemental figure 6I and J). Therefore, NOD2 in myeloid cells
mediates IL-1β secretion in response to *Efm* colonization.

To confirm whether IL-22 is required for *Efm*-mediated protection, we developed *Il22ra1*$^{fl/fl}$*;Villin-*
Cre mice in which *Il22ra1* encoding IL-22 receptor subunit α is deficient in intestinal epithelial cells
and confirmed the *Efm* shedding in stool samples following inoculation in all groups
(Supplemental figure 6K). *Il22ra1*$^{fl/fl}$*;Villin-Cre*$^+$ mice displayed exacerbated signs of intestinal
injury compared with *Il22ra1*$^{fl/fl}$*;Villin-Cre*$^-$ mice regardless of *Efm* colonization (Figure 6K and L
and Supplemental figure 6L). In contrast, *Efm* colonization improves mortality, body weight
reduction, and disease score in *Il22ra1*$^{fl/fl}$*;Villin-Cre*$^-$ mice (Figure 6K and L and Supplemental
figure 6L). Therefore, epithelial response to IL-22 is necessary for *Efm*-mediated protection.

The NOD2 R702W equivalent impairs *Efm*-mediated protection in mice

The three major NOD2 variants linked to IBD – R702W, G908R, and a frameshift deletion
mutation at L1007 (L1007fs) – result in the loss of muropeptide recognition and NF-κB signaling
in vitro[72,73]. L1007fs has received the bulk of attention, and mice harboring a similar frameshift
mutation display a compromised cytokine response during bloodstream infection by *Efl*[42],
confirming that it results in loss-of-function. The R702W variant, despite being the most common
and detected in up to 5% of individuals of European descent (Supplemental figure 7A), has not
been studied using an *in vivo* model (Figure 7A). Thus, we introduced a knock-in mutation to
generate mice harboring the equivalent of the human R702W variant (Q675W, Supplemental
figure 7B). We confirmed the absence of other mutations in *Nod2,* and that NOD2 Q675W protein

was produced (Supplemental figure 7C and D). After backcrossing with WT B6 mice, we used

heterozygous mice ($Nod2^{Q675W/+}$) as littermate controls. Like other mice, Efm was detected in stool

collected from $Nod2^{Q675W/+}$ and $Nod2^{Q675W/Q675W}$ following administration in drinking water

(Supplemental figure 7E). In the absence of Efm, $Nod2^{Q675W/+}$ and $Nod2^{Q675W/Q675W}$ mice displayed

modest mortality, weight loss, or disease score following DSS treatment (Figure 7B-D), likely due

to the high levels of endogenous $Enterococcus$ colonization at the outset of the experiment

compared with the other mice raised in the same room (Supplemental figure 7G). Nevertheless,

we were able to detect significant differences between $Nod2^{Q675W/+}$ and $Nod2^{Q675W/Q675W}$ mice. Efm

colonization did not improve survival, body weight reduction, disease score, fecal LCN2

concentration, colon shortening, and intestinal histopathology in $Nod2^{Q675W/Q675W}$ mice, and as

such, Efm colonized mice were more susceptible to DSS than similarly treated $Nod2^{Q675W/+}$ mice

(Figure 7B-H, Supplemental figure 7F, and Supplemental table 3). These results indicate that the

NOD2 R702W equivalent in mice impairs Efm-mediated protection.

DISCUSSION

In patients with IBD, previous small studies demonstrated excessive *REG3* gene expression despite that AMP secretion is generally associated with an improved mucosal barrier[39]. Here, we revisited this unresolved counterintuitive observation. Functional assays showed increased REG3 antimicrobial activity in IBD patients compared with controls matched for gastrointestinal symptoms, indicating that REG3 overproduction is not a general byproduct of diarrheal disease and more likely IBD itself. Based on prior studies demonstrating that enterococci are among the most sensitive bacteria to REG3-mediated killing[6,9], we focused our analysis on this group and showed their reduced presence in IBD patients. Recent findings indicating that *Enterococcus* species activate the IBD susceptibility gene NOD2 led us to hypothesize that these bacteria have anti-inflammatory properties, which we tested in an animal model of intestinal injury. The results from these experiments support a model in which SagA-secreting enterococci such as *Efm* activate NOD2 in myeloid cells to induce IL-1β, leading to an increase in lymphoid cell types that produce the protective cytokine IL-22. Once the inflammation has been resolved, this enhanced IL-22 may maintain optimal REG3 expressions through STAT3 activation[74], perpetuating gut homeostasis. In IBD, either depletion of enterococci due to REG3 overproduction or genetic deficiency in NOD2 function disrupts this anti-inflammatory circuit (Supplemental figure 7H). This model helps explain how IBD patients with intact NOD2 can develop disease presentations similar to those observed in individuals with NOD2 variants once inflammation is established.

Excess REG3 likely acts in concert with other mechanisms to disrupt the microbiota of IBD patients. Altered availability of oxygen and nitrate in the inflamed gut favors colonization by facultative anaerobic Enterobacteriaceae species over the strictly anaerobic *Firmicutes*, the phylum that includes enterococci[75,76]. A recent study identified additional *Firmicutes* that encode NOD2-activating DL-endopeptidases such as *Streptococcus cristatus*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, and *Bacteroides caccae*, which are reduced in IBD patients[40]. It is possible that AMP dysregulation exacerbates the depletion of NOD2-activating species that are already vulnerable due to imbalanced redox status of the inflamed environment. Notably, antimicrobial activity was greater in the IBD cohort compared with individuals experiencing gastrointestinal symptoms without IBD. REG3 overproduction may explain why individuals who experience transient gastroenteritis recover while individuals with IBD remain susceptible to disease flare.

Our findings have relevance to other disease settings such as cancer. Probiotics engineered to secrete SagA were shown to improve the efficacy of immune checkpoint blockade therapy in reducing tumors in mice[50]. Although adverse events such as colitis have been a major concern for strategies that improve antitumor therapies, our results predict that inducing NOD2 through

SagA would promote checkpoint inhibitor efficacy while also reducing intestinal inflammation.
However, our findings with the *Nod2 Q675W* knock-in mice suggest that this approach will fail in
individuals homozygous for analogous loss-of-function variants of NOD2. Genetic information
may be useful in determining eligibility of patients for microbiota-targeting therapies. Additionally,
in treating various diseases, administration of live bacteria is associated with substantial safety
concerns. In this context, it is notable that we achieved a similar degree of protection against
intestinal injury by administering sterile supernatant collected from SagA-producing bacterial
cultures. Postbiotic strategies using bacterial products may be a safe alternate to beneficially
trigger NOD2.
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Limitations of the study
The consequence of *Enterococcus* depletion on intestinal inflammation and the immune
mechanism was investigated in an animal model. A long-term goal would be to determine whether
NOD2 activation by enterococci leads to similar immune responses in humans and ultimately
tests the efficacy of therapies designed based on such findings. However, there are significant
safety concerns when considering interventions that target these pathways. For instance, IL-1β
production promotes intestinal inflammation in the IL-10-deficient setting[77]. Also, our proposed
immune circuit induced by NOD2 in myeloid cells is not mutually exclusive with the multitude of
other ways in which NOD2 has been shown to protect the intestinal barrier.
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Figure legend

Figure 1. Increased REG3A and REG3G in IBD patient stool inhibit *Enterococcus*. A) Schematic of stool extract preparation and analysis. **B)** Western blots of REG1A, REG3A, REG3G, and REG4 in stool extracts from representative 3 non-IBD (NIBD) and 5 IBD patients. **C)** Proportion of stool specimens from individual NIBD (n = 23) and IBD (n = 26) patients in which REG1A, REG3A, REG3G, or REG4 were detectable by western blot. **D)** Quantification of REG3A in NIBD and IBD patients-derived stool extracts by ELISA. **E)** Fold changes in colony forming units (CFU) of *Enterococcus faecalis* (*Efl*) and *Salmonella* Typhimurium (*S*Tm) following 24 hrs of culture in stool extracts from NIBD (n = 56) and IBD (n = 56) patients. Results obtained with *Efl* were confirmed with *E. faecium* (*Efm*) (n = 18 for NIBD and n = 19 for IBD). **F)** Correlation between REG3A concentration and CFU fold changes of *Efl* (upper), *S*Tm (middle), and *Efm* (lower) cultured in stool extract from NIBD and IBD patients. **G)** Fold change in *Efm* CFU at 24 hr-post culture in NIBD (left) and IBD (right) patient-derived stool extract or PBS in the presence of anti-REG1A, REG3A, and REG3G antibodies. N = 13 for NIBD and IBD. **H)** Correlation between REG3A concentration and Crohn's disease activity index (CDAI) for CD patients (n = 31, left) or total Mayo score for ulcerative colitis (UC) patients (n = 24, right). Data points in D-H represent individual patients. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least three independent experiments were performed. NIBD, non-IBD; *Efl*, *E. faecalis*; *S*Tm, *S.* Typhimurium; *Efm*, *E. faecium*; CDAI, Crohn's disease activity index; UC, ulcerative colitis; r, Pearson correlation coefficient. Indicated *p* values by Fisher's exact test in C, unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in D, E, and G, and simple linear regression analysis in F and H.

Figure 2. *Enterococcus* and *Efm* are depleted in gut microbiota from IBD patients. A and B) 16S rRNA sequencing of stool from NIBD and IBD patients from Figure 1. Alpha diversity values calculated as Shannon (right), Faith's phylogenetic diversity (PD) (middle), and Pielou-evenness (right) indices (A). Principle coordinate analyses of beta diversity determined by Bay-Curtis, Jaccard, and Unweighted and Weighted unifrac methods (B). **C)** Proportion of sequencing reads representing *Enterococcus* in NIBD and IBD patient stool. One NIBD sample contained >80% *Enterococcus* indicative of an overabundance, which is shown as a reference on the graph but excluded from statistical analysis and downstream assays. **D)** Total *Enterococcus* (left) and *Efm* (right) CFUs in stool from NIBD (n = 39) and IBD (n = 43) patients. **E)** Correlation between REG3A concentration and the burden of total *Enterococcus* and *Efm* in IBD stool. **F)** Correlation between the burden of total *Enterococcus* and CDAI of CD patients (n = 24, left) and total Mayo

score of UC patients (n = 18, right). Data points represent individual patients. Bars represent

mean ± SEM and at least three independent experiments were performed. r, Pearson correlation

coefficient. Indicated *p* values by Kruskal-Wallis test in A, unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in C and D,

and simple linear regression analysis in E and F.

Figure 3. *Enterococcus* protects against intestinal injury in a NOD2-dependent manner. A-

F) Dextran sulfate sodium (DSS)-induced intestinal injury of wild-type (WT) B6 mice bred in room

6 or 13 in the NYU animal facility. The mice were examined for survival (A), changes in body

weight (B) and disease score (C), and lipocalin-2 (LCN2) in stool samples at the indicated time

points (D). Endogenous *Enterococcus* burden was measured on day 0 (E) and changes in the

Enterococcus burden on day 3 (F). **G-I)** DSS-treatment of WT mice from room 6 following

administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice were examined for changes in disease

score (G), LCN2 in stool at the indicated time points (H), and colon length (I) on day 23. **J and K)**

Representative images of hematoxylin and eosin (H&E)-stained sections of the colon (J) and

quantification of the proportion of colon affected (K). In the left panel of J, black arrow indicates

destroyed colonic epithelium replaced with a diffuse ulcer and pus, and red arrow indicates acute

inflammation with primary neutrophils, lymphocytes, plasma cells, and debris of dead cells. A

breakdown of histological signs of inflammation by individual mice is listed in Supplemental table

3 for this and other figures. **L-N)** DSS-treatment of *Nod2*$^{+/-}$ and *Nod2*$^{-/-}$ mice from room 6 following

administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control were examined for changes in disease score (L),

LCN2 in stool at the indicated time points (M), and colon length on day 23 (N). **O and P)**

Representative images of H&E-stained sections of the colon (O) and quantification of the

proportion of colon affected (P). Bars, 200 μm. Data points in D-F, H, I, K, M, N, and P represent

individual mice. Data points in B, C, G, and L represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ±

SEM and at least three independent experiments were performed. DSS, dextran sulfate sodium;

Rm 6, room 6; Rm 13, room 13; WT, wild type. Indicated *p* values by log-rank Mantel-Cox test in

A, two-way ANOVA test in B, C, G, and L, unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in D, E, H, I, K, M, N, and P,

and paired *t* test, two-tailed in F.

Figure 4. SagA mediates NOD2-dependent protection against intestinal injury. A-D)

Antibiotics (ampicillin + streptomycin, abx)-treated WT mice orally inoculated with PBS,

Lactococcus lactis (*Lls*), *Lls-SagA*^{WT}, or *Lls-SagA*^{C443A} and then given DSS were examined for

survival (A), changes in body weight (B) and disease score (C), and LCN2 presence in stool

samples at the indicated time points (D). **E-H)** Abx-treated *Nod2*$^{+/-}$ and *Nod2*$^{-/-}$ mice inoculated

with *Lls* or *Lls-SagA^{WT}* and then given DSS were examined for survival (E), changes in body

weight (F) and disease score (G), and fecal LCN2 at the indicated time points (H). **I and J)** DSS-

treated WT mice receiving broth or culture supernatants of *Lls* (S-*Lls*), *Lls-SagA^{WT}* (S-*Lls-SagA^{WT}*),

or *Lls-SagA^{C443A}* (S-*Lls-SagA^{C443A}*) as drinking water were examined for survival (I) and changes

in body weight (J). **K and L)** DSS-treated *Nod2^{+/-}* and *Nod2^{-/-}* mice receiving S-*Lls* or S-*Lls-SagA^{WT}*

as drinking water were examined for survival (K) and changes in disease score (L). All mice were

bred in room 6. Data points in D and H represent individual mice. Lines in B, C, and J represent

mean. Data points in F, G, and L represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at

least two independent experiments were performed. *Lls*, *L. lactis*; S, supernatant. Indicated *p*

values by log-rank Mantel-Cox test in A, E, I, and K, two-way ANOVA test in B, C, F, G, J, and L,

and unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in D and H.

Figure 5. NOD2 in myeloid cells is required for *Efm*-mediated protection. A-H) DSS-

treatment of *Nod2^{fl/fl};LysM-Cre^-* and *Cre^+* mice (A-D) or *Nod2^{fl/fl};Villin-Cre^-* and *Cre^+* mice (E-H)

from room 6 following administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice were examined

for survival (A and E), changes in body weight (B and F) and disease score (C and G), and LCN2

presence in stool samples at the indicated time points (D and H). Data points in H represent

Individual mice. Data points in B-D, F, and G represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ±

SEM and at least three independent experiments were performed. Indicated *p* values by log-rank

Mantel-Cox test in A and E, two-way ANOVA test in B, C, F, and G, and unpaired *t* test, two-tailed

in D and H.

Figure 6. *Efm* induces IL-1β and increases the proportion of IL-22-producing lymphoid

cells to prevent intestinal injury. A and B) Quantification of IL-22 on days 14 (A) and 20 (B)

in the supernatants of gut explants from WT, *Nod2^{+/-}*, *Nod2^{-/-}*, and *Nod2^{fl/fl};LysM-Cre^-* and *Cre^+*

mice with and without *Efm* inoculation. **C-F)** Representative flow cytometry plots and

quantification of proportion of IL-22^+ innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) (C and D) and CD4^+ T helper

cells (E and F) of WT, *Nod2^{+/-}*, *Nod2^{-/-}*, and *Nod2^{fl/fl};LysM-Cre^-* and *Cre^+* mice with and without

Efm inoculation. **G and H)** Representative flow cytometry plots and quantification of group 3

ILCs (ILC3s) from mice in C-F. **I and J)** Quantification of IL-18 (I) and IL-1β (J) in the

supernatants of gut explants from A. **K and L)** DSS treatment of *Il22ra1^{fl/fl};Villin-Cre^-* and *Cre^+*

mice from room 6 following 2-week administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice

were examined for survival (K) and changes in disease score (L). Data points in A, B, D, F, H,

I, and J represent individual mice. For A, I, and J, n = 8 (WT), 8 (WT *Efm*), 9 (*Nod2^{+/-}*), 10

(*Nod2*^{+/-} *Efm*), 10 (*Nod2*^{-/-}), 10 (*Nod2*^{-/-} *Efm*), 4 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻), 3 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻ *Efm*),

4 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺), and 3 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺ *Efm*). For B, n = 8 (WT), 8 (WT *Efm*), 6 (*Nod2*^{+/-}

), 8 (*Nod2*^{+/-} *Efm*), 8 (*Nod2*^{-/-}), 7 (*Nod2*^{-/-} *Efm*), 8 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻), 8 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻ *Efm*),

9 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺), and 8 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺ *Efm*). For D and F, n =13 (WT), 12 (WT *Efm*),

7 (*Nod2*^{+/-}), 11 (*Nod2*^{+/-} *Efm*), 10 (*Nod2*^{-/-}), 9 (*Nod2*^{-/-} *Efm*), 7 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻), 7

(*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻ *Efm*), 8 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺), and 9 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺ *Efm*). For H, n = 8

(WT), 7 (WT *Efm*), 5 (*Nod2*^{+/-}), 7 (*Nod2*^{+/-} *Efm*), 8 (*Nod2*^{-/-}), 6 (*Nod2*^{-/-} *Efm*), 7 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻

), 7 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁻ *Efm*), 8 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺), and 9 (*Nod2*^{fl/fl}*;LysM-Cre*⁺ *Efm*). Data

points in L represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least two independent

experiments were performed. Indicated *p* values by unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in A, B, D, F, H,

and J, log-rank Mantel-Cox test in K, and two-way ANOVA test in L.

Figure 7. NOD2 Q675W impairs *Efm*-mediated protection. A) NOD2 protein region targeted

by mutagenesis. Arginine at position 702 in human NOD2 and the corresponding glutamine at

position 675 in mouse NOD2 are indicated in the red box. Numbers refer to human amino acid

positions. **B-F)** DSS-treated *Nod2*^{Q675W/+} and *Nod2*^{Q675W/Q675W} mice with and without *Efm*

inoculation were examined for survival (B), changes in body weight (C) and disease score (D),

and LCN2 presence in stool samples at the indicated time points (E), and colon length (F) on day

23. **G and H)** Representative images of H&E-stained sections of the colon (G) and quantification

of the proportion of colon affected (H). Bars, 200 µM. Data points in E, F, and H represent

individual mice. Data points in C and D represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ± SEM and

at least two independent experiments were performed. CARD, caspase recruitment domain; NBD,

nucleotide-binding domain; LRR, leucine-rich repeat domain; Het, heterozygotes; Homo,

homozygotes. Indicated *p* values by log-rank Mantel-Cox test in B, two-way ANOVA test in C and

D, and unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in E, F, and H.

Supplemental figure 1. Contribution of patient demographics to REG3A levels and antimicrobial activity. A) REG3A concentration in stool extracts from NIBD and IBD patients from Figure 1 separated by sex. **B)** REG3A concentration in stool extracts from Crohn's disease (CD) or ulcerative colitis (UC) patients. **C)** Correlation between age of NIBD and IBD patients and REG3A concentration. **D)** REG3A concentration in stool extracts segregated into indicated age groups. **E)** Proportion of patients in which *Enterococcus* and *E. faecium* (*Efm*) were detected in stool. **F)** Proportion of *Enterococcus* that are *Efm* in NIBD and IBD stools. Data points in A-D and F represent individual patients. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least two independent experiments were performed. r, Pearson correlation coefficient. Indicated *p* values by unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in A, D, and F, simple linear regression analysis in C, and Fisher's exact test in E.

Supplemental figure 2. *Efm* colonization levels and disease parameters in wild-type and *Nod2*-deficient mice. A and B) Changes in body weight (A) and lipocalin-2 (LCN2) concentration in stool samples at the indicated time points (B) in wild-type (WT) B6 mice following administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. **C-F)** Dextran sulfate sodium (DSS)-induced intestinal injury of WT mice from room 6 following administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice were examined for the burden of total *Enterococcus* (C) and *Efm* (D) in the stool, changes in body weight (E), and fecal LCN2 concentration (F) at the indicated time points. **G-I)** DSS-treatment of $Nod2^{+/-}$ and $Nod2^{-/-}$ mice from room 6 following administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice were examined for the burden of *Efm* (G) in the stools, changes in body weight (H), and fecal LCN2 concentration (I) at the indicated time points. Data points in B, F, and I and lines in D and G represent individual mice. Data points in A, C, E, and H represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least three independent experiments were performed. Indicated *p* values by two-way ANOVA test in E and H and unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in F and I.

Supplemental figure 3. *Efm* inoculation after DSS administration ameliorates intestinal injury. A-E) WT B6 mice from room 6 received *Efm* in drinking water or control following DSS treatment. The mice were examined for survival (A), changes in body weight (B) and disease score (C), and LCN2 concentration (D) in stool samples at the indicated time points, colon length on days 10 and 20 (E). **F and G)** Representative images of hematoxylin and eosin (H&E)-stained sections of the colon (F) and quantification of the proportion of colon affected (G) on day 10 from mice in A-E. Bars, 200 μM. Data points in D, E, and G represent individual mice from mice in A-C. Data points in B and C represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least three

independent experiments were performed. Indicated p values by log-rank Mantel-Cox test in A,
two-way ANOVA test in C, unpaired t test, two-tailed in D, E, and G.

Supplemental figure 4. *L. lactis* expressing SagA promotes NOD2-dependent protection
against intestinal injury. A) Schematic of experimental procedure for mice inoculation with *L.*
lactis (*Lls*) strains. Mice received antibiotics (ampicillin + streptomycin, abx) in drinking water for
7 days, and were orally gavaged with PBS or *Lls* strains twice on days 8 and 14 to coincide with
the initiation and cessation of DSS administration. **B and C)** Abx-treated WT mice given PBS,
parental *Lls*, *Lls* expressing catalytic mutant SagA (*Lls-SagA^{C443A}*), or *Lls* expressing WT SagA
(*Lls-SagA^{WT}*) were treated with DSS as in A and examined for the burden of *Lls* strains (B) and
LCN2 concentration in stool samples at the indicated time points (C). **D and E)** Abx-treated
Nod2^{+/-} and *Nod2^{-/-}* mice given parental *Lls* or *Lls-SagA^{WT}* were treated with DSS and examined
for the burden of *Lls* strains (D) and LCN2 concentration in stool samples at the indicated time
points (E). **F)** Schematic of experimental procedure for DSS treatment of mice that received broth
or culture supernatants of *Lls* strains as drinking water. **G and H)** DSS-treatment of WT mice
inoculated with broth or culture supernatants of *Lls* (S-*Lls*), *Lls-SagA^{C443A}* (S-*Lls-SagA^{C443A}*), or
Lls-SagA^{WT} (S-*Lls-SagA^{WT}*) were examined for changes in body weight (G) and LCN2 presence
in stool samples at the indicated time points (H). **I and J)** DSS-treatment of *Nod2^{+/-}* and *Nod2^{-/-}*
mice inoculated with S-*Lls* or S- *Lls-SagA^{WT}*. The mice were examined for changes in body weight
(I) and LCN2 presence in stool samples on day 13 (J). All mice were bred in room 6. Data points
in C, E, H, and J represent individual mice. Data points in B, D, and I represent mean ± SEM.
Lines in G represent mean. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least two independent
experiments were performed. Indicated p values by unpaired t test, two-tailed in C, H, and J and
two-way ANOVA test in G and I.

Supplemental figure 5. *Efm*-mediated protection is dependent on myeloid and not
intestinal epithelial *Nod2* expression. A-D) DSS-treatment of *Nod2^{fl/fl};LysM-Cre^-* and *Cre^+* mice
(A and B) or *Nod2^{fl/fl};Villin-Cre^-* and *Cre^+* mice (C and D) from room 6 following administration of
Efm in drinking water or control. The mice were examined for *Efm* burden in stool samples (A and
C) and fecal LCN2 concentration at the indicated time points (B and D). Lines in A and C and data
points in B and D represent individual mice. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least three
independent experiments were performed. Indicated p values by unpaired t test, two-tailed in B
and D.

Supplemental figure 6. Immune cell and cytokine analysis of colons from *Efm*-colonized mice and analysis of *Efm*-colonized *Il22ra1$^{fl/fl}$;Villin-Cre* mice. A and B) Flow cytometry gating strategies for T cells and innate lymphoid cells (ILCs) (A, transcription factors), and cytokine production (B). **C-F)** Flow cytometry graph depicting the proportion of IL10$^+$ (C), Tbet$^+$ (D), and GATA3$^+$ (E) CD4$^+$ T cells and regulatory T cells (Treg, F) in WT, *Nod2$^{+/-}$*, *Nod2$^{-/-}$*, and *Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$* and *Cre$^+$* mice following 2-week administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. **G and H)** Flow cytometry graph depicting the proportion of group 1 (ILC1, G) and group 2 (ILC2, H) ILCs in WT, *Nod2$^{+/-}$*, *Nod2$^{-/-}$*, and *Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$* and *Cre$^+$* mice following 2-week administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. **I and J)** Quantification of secreted IL-18 (I) and IL-1β (J) in the supernatants of gut explants from *Efm*-colonized WT, *Nod2$^{+/-}$*, *Nod2$^{-/-}$*, and *Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$* and *Cre$^+$* mice on day 20. **K and L)** DSS treatment of *Il22ra1$^{fl/fl}$;Villin-Cre$^-$* and *Cre$^+$* mice from room 6 following 2-week administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice were examined for the burden of *Efm* (K) and changes in body weight (L). Data points in C-J and lines in K represent individual mice. For C, n = 13 (WT), 12 (WT *Efm*), 7 (*Nod2$^{+/-}$*), 11 (*Nod2$^{+/-}$ Efm*), 10 (*Nod2$^{-/-}$*), 9 (*Nod2$^{-/-}$ Efm*), 7 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$*), 7 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$ Efm*), 8 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^+$*), and 9 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^+$ Efm*). For D-H, n = 8 (WT), 7 (WT *Efm*), 5 (*Nod2$^{+/-}$*), 7 (*Nod2$^{+/-}$ Efm*), 8 (*Nod2$^{-/-}$*), 6 (*Nod2$^{-/-}$ Efm*), 7 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$*), 7 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$ Efm*), 8 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^+$*), and 9 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^+$ Efm*). For I and J, n = 8 (WT), 8 (WT *Efm*), 6 (*Nod2$^{+/-}$*), 8 (*Nod2$^{+/-}$ Efm*), 8 (*Nod2$^{-/-}$*), 7 (*Nod2$^{-/-}$ Efm*), 8 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$*), 8 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^-$ Efm*), 9 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^+$*), and 8 (*Nod2$^{fl/fl}$;LysM-Cre$^+$ Efm*). Data points in L represent mean ± SEM. Bars represent mean ± SEM and at least two independent experiments were performed. Indicated *p* values by unpaired *t* test, two-tailed in C-J and two-way ANOVA test in L.

Supplemental figure 7. Characterization of mice carrying a *Nod2* knock-in mutation equivalent to the human R702W. A) *NOD2 R702W* allele frequency according to ethnic groups. The frequencies were retrieved from 1000 Genomes Project and Allele Frequency Aggregator. **B)** Schematic of genotyping PCR product (left) and representative genotyping gel image (right) for *Nod2 Q675W* knock-in mouse. **C)** Sequencing of the *Nod2* locus from the above mice confirmed successful gene targeting. Figure shows exon 4 DNA and amino acid sequences from *Nod2 Q675W* knock-in mouse sequencing results aligned to the WT sequences. Red boxes indicate the mutated region. **D)** Western blot image of NOD2 and β-actin (ACTB) in colonic tissue lysates from *Nod2$^{-/-}$*, *Nod2$^{Q675W/+}$*, and *Nod2$^{Q675W/Q675W}$* mice. **E and F)** DSS treatment of *Nod2$^{Q675W/+}$ and Nod2$^{Q675W/Q675W}$* mice from room 6 following 2-week administration of *Efm* in drinking water or control. The mice were examined for the burden of *Efm* (E) and LCN2 concentration (F) in the

stool samples at the indicated time points. **G)** Endogenous *Enterococcus* burden among mice

with different genotypes on day 0 (upper). The *p*-values relative to *Nod2*$^{Q675W/+}$ or *Nod2*$^{Q675W/Q675W}$

mice were indicated in lower table. **H)** Schematic of the mechanism by which *Efm* activates NOD2

to suppress inflammation, and how this process is disrupted when either REG3A is overproduced

or NOD2 is genetically inactivated. Lines in E and data points in F and G represent individual

mice. Bars in F and G represent mean ± SEM and at least three independent experiments were

performed. Het, heterozygotes; Homo, homozygotes. Indicated *p* values by unpaired *t* test, two-

tailed in F and G.

STAR METHODS

Detailed methods are provided in the online version of this paper and include the following:

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• EXPERIMENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

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• METHOD DETAILS

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o Western blotting

o DNA extraction and 16S rRNA sequencing analysis

o Enumeration of total *Enterococcus* and *Efm* in human stool samples

o Bacterial inoculation and DSS treatment of mice

o Quantification of bacterial burden and lipcalin-2 (LCN2) in murine stool samples

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o Colon explant culture and cytokine detection

o Isolation of lamina propria (LP) cells

o Flow cytometry

o *Nod2* sequencing

o Statistical analyses

KEY RESOURCES TABLE

REAGENT or RESOURCE	SOURCE	IDENTIFIER
Antibodies		
Rat anti-Human Reg1A antibody	R&D Systems	Cat#: MAB4937; RRID: AB_2102139; Clone: 431202
Mouse anti-Human Reg3A antibody	R&D Systems	Cat#: 62257S; RRID: AB_1964697; Clone: 512124
Rabbit anti-REG3G antibody	Abcam	Cat#: ab233480
Rabbit anti-REG4 antibody	Abcam	Cat#: ab255820; Clone: EPR22810-327
Mouse anti-NOD2 antibody	Invitrogen	Cat#: MA1-16611; RRID: AB_568643; Clone: 2D9
Mouse anti-β-Actin antibody	Sigma	Cat#: A5441; RRID: AB_476744; Clone: AC-15
IRDye 680RD Goat anti-Rabbit IgG Secondary Antibody	LI-COR	Cat# 925-68071; RRID: AB_2721181;
IRDye 800CW Goat anti-Mouse IgG Secondary Antibody	LI-COR	Cat#: 925-32210; RRID: AB_2687825;
IRDye 800CW Goat anti-Rat IgG Secondary Antibody	LI-COR	Cat#: 925-32219; RRID: AB_2721932;
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse/human CD11b Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 101228; RRID: AB_893232; Clone: M1/70
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse CD11c Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 117328; RRID: AB_2129641; Clone: N418
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse Ly-6G/Ly-6C (Gr-1) Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 108428; RRID: AB_893558; Clone: RB6-8C5
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse TER-119/Erythroid Cells Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 116228; RRID: AB_893636; Clone: TER-119
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse NK-1.1 Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 108728; RRID: AB_2132705; Clone: PK136
PE anti-T-bet Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 644810; RRID: AB_2200542; Clone: 4B10
PE- Cyanine7 anti-mouse/human CD44 antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 103030; RRID: AB_830787; Clone: IM7
APC/Cyanine7 anti-mouse CD4 Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 100414; RRID: AB_312699; Clone: GK1.5
Brilliant Violet 570 anti-mouse CD62L Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 104433; RRID: AB_10900262; Clone: MEL-14

Brilliant Violet 605 anti-mouse CD127 (IL-7Ra) Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 135041; RRID: AB_2572047; Clone: A7R34
Brilliant Violet 650 anti-mouse NK-1.1 Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 108736; RRID: AB_2563159; Clone: PK136
Alexa Fluor 700 anti-mouse CD8a Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 100730; RRID: AB_493703; Clone: 53-6.7
Brilliant Violet 711 anti-mouse TCR β chain Antibody	Biolegend	Cat#: 109243; RRID: AB_2629564; Clone: H57-597
PerCP/Cyanine5.5 anti-mouse CD19	eBioscience	Cat#: 45-0193-82; RRID: AB_1106999; Clone: 1D3
PE anti-mouse IL-22 Antibody	eBioscience	Cat#: 12-7221-82; RRID: AB_10597428; Clone: 1H8PWSR
APC anti-mouse FOXP3 Antibody	eBioscience	Cat#: 17-5773-82; RRID: AB_469457; Clone: FJK-16s
PE-CF594 anti-mouse γδ T-Cell Receptor Antibody	BD Bioscience	Cat#: 563532; RRID: AB_2661844; Clone: GL3
BUV395 anti-mouse CD45 Antibody	BD Bioscience	Cat#: 564279; RRID: AB_2651134; Clone: 30-F11
BV421 anti-mouse RORgt Antibody	BD Bioscience	Cat#: 562894; RRID: AB_2687545; Clone: Q31-378
BV421 anti-mouse IL-10 Antibody	BD Bioscience	Cat#: 566295; RRID: AB_2739668; Clone: JES5-16E3
Alexa Fluor 488 anti-mouse GATA3 Antibody	BD Bioscience	Cat#: 560163; RRID: AB_1645302; Clone: L50-823
Bacterial strains		
Enterococcus faecalis OG1RF	Dr. Hang (Scripps Research Institutes), originally acquired from ATCC 47077.	
Enterococcus faecium Com15	Dr. Hang (Scripps Research Institutes), originally acquired Dr. Gilmore (Harvard Medical School).	
Salmonella Typhimurium SL1344	Gift from Dr. Littman (NYU)	
Lactococcus lactis thyA auxotroph	Dr. Hang (Scripps Research Institutes)[50], generated in collaboration with Rise Therapeutics	

Lactococcus lactis thyA expressing wild-type SagA	Dr. Hang (Scripps Research Institutes)[50], generated in collaboration with Rise Therapeutics	
Lactococcus lactis thyA expressing catalytic mutant SagA	Dr. Hang (Scripps Research Institutes)[50], generated in collaboration with Rise Therapeutics	
Chemicals, Peptides, and Recombinant Proteins		
Bacto Brain Heart Infusion	BD	Cat#: 237500
M17 Broth	BD	Cat#: 218561
M17 Agar	BD	Cat#: 218571
Bile esculin azide agar	Millipore	Cat#: 06105
HiCrome Enterococcus faecium Agar Base	HIMEDIA	Cat#: M1580
Enterococcus faecium Selective Supplement	HIMEDIA	Cat#: FD226
Lactose	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#: 17814
Thymidine	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#: T9250
Phosphate-buffer saline	Corning	Cat#: 21040CV
Triton X-100	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#: T8787
Glycerol	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#: G5516
Halt Protease and Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail	Thermo Fisher	Cat#: 78440
Bolt 4-12% Bis-Tris Plus Gels	Invitrogen	Cat#: NW04120BOX
Intercept (TBS) Blocking Buffer	LI-COR	Cat#: 927-60003
Dextran sulfate sodium	TdB Consultancy	Cat#: DB001
Ampicillin	Amercian Bioanalytical	Cat#: 69-52-3
Streptomycin	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#: S6501
Low melting point agar	Promega	Cat#: V2111
10% Formalin	Thermo Fisher	Cat#: SF99-4
RPMI 1640 Medium	Gibco	Cat#: 61870127
L-glutamine	Corning	Cat#: 25-005-CI
Penicillin-Streptomycin Solution	Corning	Cat#: 30-002-CI
HEPES	Corning	Cat#: 25-060-CI
MEM Nonessential Amino Acids	Corning	Cat#: 25-025-CI
Sodium pyruvate	Corning	Cat#: 25-000-CI
β-mercaptoethanol	Gibco	Cat#: 21985023
HBSS	Gibco	Cat#: 14175103
DL-dithiothreitol	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: D0632
Collagenase	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: C2139
Deoxyribonuclease I	Sigma Aldrich	Cat#: DN25
Percoll	Sigma-Aldrich	Cat#: P1644
Fetal bovine serum	Peak Serum	Cat#: PS-FB2
Cell Stimulation Cocktail (plus protein transport inhibitors)	eBioscience	Cat#: 00-4975-93
Bovine Serum Albumin	Thermo Fisher	Cat#: BP1600-100
Fixation Buffer	Biolegend	Cat#: 420801
Intracellular Staining Permeabilization Wash Buffer	Biolegend	Cat#: 421002
Foxp3 / Transcription Factor Staining Buffer Set	Thermo Fisher	Cat#: 00-5523-00
Zombie UV Fixable Viability Kit	Biolegend	Cat#: 423108

Critical commercial assays		
10 ml syringe	BD	Cat#: 302995
Gauze pad	4MD Medical	Cat#: PROP157025
Millex-GS Syringe Filter Unit, 0.22 µm	Millipore	Cat#: SLGL0250S
Nalgene Rapid-Flow Sterile Disposable Filter Units with PES Membranes	Thermo Fisher	Cat#: 567-0020
Human Reg3A DuoSet ELISA	R&D systems	Cat#: DY5940-05
Mouse Lipocalin-2/NGAL DuoSet ELISA	R&D systems	Cat#: DY1857-05
Mouse IL-22 DuoSet ELISA	R&D systems	Cat#: DY582-05
Mouse IL-18 DuoSet ELISA	R&D systems	Cat#: DY7625-05
Mouse IL-1 beta/IL-1 F2 DuoSet ELISA	R&D systems	Cat#: DY401-05
DNeasy PowerSoil Pro Kit	Qiagen	Cat#: 47016
RNeasy Mini Kit	Qiagen	Cat#: 74106
RNase-Free DNase Set	Qiagen	Cat#: 79256
70 µm nylon mesh	ELKO Filtering	Cat#: 03-70/33
High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit	Thermo Fisher	Cat#: 4368814
TOPO TA Cloning Kit	Invitrogen	Cat#: 450002
Experimental Models: Organisms/Strains		
Mouse: $Nod2^{-/-}$	Jackson Laboratory	Cat#: 005763
Mouse $Nod2^{fl/fl}$	Dr. Keestra-Gounder (University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus)	N/A
Mouse: $Il22ra1^{fl/fl}$	Dr. Sergei Koralov (New York University Grossman school of medicine), originally acquired from Jackson Laboratory (Cat#: 031003)	
Mouse: $LysM$-Cre	Jackson Laboratory	Cat#: 004781
Mouse: $Villin$-Cre	Jackson Laboratory	Cat#: 004586
Mouse: $Nod2^{Q675W/Q675W}$	This study	N/A
Software and Algorithms		
Prism 9	GraphPad Software	https://www.graphpad.com/scientific-software/prism/
FlowJo	BD	https://www.flowjo.com
NCBI Gene and Protein Data Base	NCBI	http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov
Nucleotide blast	NCBI	https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi
Blastx	NCBI	https://blast.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Blast.cgi

RESOURCE AVAILABILITY

Lead contact

Further information and requests for resources and reagents should be directed to and will be

fulfilled by the Lead Contact, Ken Cadwell (Ken.Cadwell@nyulangone.org).

Materials availability

The materials in the current study are available from the Lead Contact with a completed

Materials Transfer Agreement.

Data and code availability

The 16S sequencing data are deposited in the NCBI Sequence Read Archive under BioProject

accession number PRJNA915760.

EXPERIENTAL MODEL AND SUBJECT DETAILS

Mice

Age- and gender-matched 7 to 10-week-old mice on the C57BL/6J (B6) background were used.

All mice were bred on-site. Mice harboring gene deletions were compared to their respective

littermate control mice indicated in the results section. *Nod2*[-/-], *LysM-Cre*, and *Villin-Cre* mice were

purchased from The Jackson Laboratory. *Il22ra1*$^{fl/fl}$ and *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$ mice were obtained from Sergei

Koralov (New York University Grossman School of Medicine) and A. Marijke Keestra-Gounder

(University of Colorado Anschutz School of Medicine)[78], respectively. To generate cell type-

specific knock-out mice, *Nod2*$^{fl/fl}$ mice were bred with *LysM-Cre* and *Villlin-Cre* mice and *Il22ra1*$^{fl/fl}$

mice were bred with *Villin-Cre* mice. Mice were assigned numbers to facilitate blind data collection

and distributed randomly to treatment groups. All animal studies were performed according to

approved protocols by the NYU Grossman School of Medicine Animal Care and Use Committee

(IACUCs).

Generation of *Nod2 Q675W* knock-in mice

CRISPR–Cas9 gene-targeting mixture containing sgRNA (5'-AGCGGGCACGTGCCTGACGC-

3') targeting exon 4 of B6 *Nod2* and template (5'-

TCACAGCAGCCTTCCTAGCAGGTCTGTTGTCCCAGCAGCATCGGGACCTGTTGGCTGCAT

GCCAGGTCTCCGAGAGGGTACTTCTATGGCGTCAGGCACGTGCCCGCTCGTGTCTGGCC

CACAGCCT-3') (synthesized at Integrated DNA Technologies) and Cas9 mRNA were injected

into the cytoplasm of zygotes generated from B6 females impregnated by B6 males, and then the

microinjected embryos were incubated in potassium-supplemented simplex optimized medium

(KSOM) at 37°C for one day and subsequently transferred into pseudopregnant CD-1 female

mice at the two-cell stage by the Rodent Genetic Engineering Laboratory at NYU Grossman

School of Medicine. The resulting F0 chimeras were screened through genotyping PCR.

Amplicons were generated using a pair of primers (Fwd 5'-CTTTTCAGCTGTGGCCGGCT-3' and

Rev 5'-TTTGCCACAGGCCCAATCGG-3') flanking the targeting sites from tail DNA from

chimeras and wild-type mice and cut by BsaHI (NEB) (Supplemental figure 7A). A 3042-bp region

containing the *Nod2* coding region was sequenced to verify correct gene targeting (Supplemental

figure 7C). All mice used in experiments were backcrossed with B6 mice at least 3 generations.

Human stool samples and data collection

Stool samples were collected with consent from hospitalized adult non-IBD (NIBD) and IBD

patients with gastrointestinal symptoms (Supplemental tables 1 and 2) with consent. The protocol

has been approved by the New York University School of Medicine Institutional Review Board

(Mucosal Immune Profiling in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease; S12-01137). The clinical

data of NIBD and IBD patients were collected using EPIC EHR and REDCap 9.3.6 software. At

the time of sample acquisition and processing, investigators were blinded to the patient clinical

status.

METHOD DETAILS

Bacterial species

Enterococcus faecalis OG1RF (*Efl*)*, E. faecium* Com15 (*Efm*), and *Lactococcus lactis thyA*

auxotroph (*Lls*) expressing wild-type SagA (*Lls-SagA^{WT}*) and catalytic mutant SagA (*Lls-SagA^{C443A}*)

were previously described[50]. *Salmonella* Typhimurium SL1344 (*S*Tm) was provided by Dan

Littman (NYU). *Efl* and *Efm* were grown at 37°C under ambient atmosphere in autoclaved

antibiotics-free Bacto Brain Heart Infusion (BHI) broth (BD). *Lls* strains and *S*Tm were cultured at

the above condition in M17 broth (BD) supplemented with 2% (v/v) lactose (Sigma-Aldrich) and

20 μg/ml of thymidine (Sigma-Aldrich) (LM17 broth) and Luria Bertani (LB) broth (NYU Reagent

Preparation Core), respectively. Colony forming unit (CFU) of *Efl*, *Efm*, *Lls* strains, and *S*Tm was

enumerated on bile esculin azide (BEA) agar (Millipore), HiCrome *Enterococcus faecium* Agar

with Selective Supplement (HIMEDIA), M17 agar (BD) supplemented with 2% (v/v) lactose and

20 μg/ml of thymidine (LM17 agar), and LB agar (NYU Reagent Preparation Core), respectively.

Preparation of human stool extract, antimicrobial activity assay, and REG3A measurement

1 g of human stools from NIBD and IBD patients were homogenized in 5 ml of phosphate-
buffered saline (PBS, Corning) using TissueRuptor (Qiagen). 0.5-1 ml of human stool slurries
were taken for quantification of bacterial burden. The remaining stool slurries were filtered using
a 10 ml syringe (BD) with gauze (4MD Medical). Human stool extracts were collected by
centrifugation at 15,000 x g for 20 min at 4°C and filter-sterilized using a 10 ml syringe with Millex-
GS Syringe Filter Unit, 0.22 µm (Millipore).

For quantifying the antimicrobial activity of the human stool extracts, overnight cultures of *Efl*,
Efm, and *S*Tm were harvested, resuspended in 50 µl of PBS, and mixed with one volume of
human stool extracts or PBS. The mixture of bacteria and human stool extract was incubated in
a 37°C static incubator for 24 h and then plated in serial dilution on selective agars as mentioned
above for enumerating *Efl*, *Efm*, and *S*Tm.

Quantification of REG3A in human stool extracts was performed using Human Reg3A DuoSet
ELISA (R&D systems) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Western blotting

Mouse colonic tissues were processed for immunoblotting as previously described[79,80]. Briefly,
proximal colonic tissues (2 mm) were cut open and washed with PBS, then suspended in lysis
buffer (20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.4, NYU Reagent Preparation Core), 150 mM NaCl (NYU Reagent
Preparation Core), 1% Triton X-100 (Sigma-Aldrich), 10% glycerol (Sigma-Aldrich), and 2x Halt
Protease and Phosphatase Inhibitor Cocktail (Thermo Fisher)) and homogenized using FastPrep-
24 Classic bead beating grinder and lysis system (MP Biomedicals). Tissue homogenate was
then pelleted twice at 10,000 x g for 10 min at 4°C to collect the lysates. human stool extracts and
mouse colonic tissue lysates were resolved on Bolt 4-12% Bis-Tris Plus Gels (Invitrogen),
transferred onto polyvinylidene difluoride membranes, and blocked using Intercept (TBS) blocking
buffer (LI-COR). Membranes were probed with primary antibody overnight at 4°C. The following
primary antibodies were used for western blotting studies: anti-REG1A (R&D systems, MAB4937),
REG3A (R&D systems, MAB5965), REG3G (Abcam, ab233480), REG4 (Abcam, ab255820),
NOD2 (Invitrogen, MA1-16611), and β-actin (Sigma-Aldrich, A5441). After incubation with the
primary antibody, the membrane was washed and probed with the secondary antibody for 1 h at
room temperature (RT). As for secondary antibodies, IRDye 680RD Goat anti-Rabbit (925-68071),
IRDye 800CW Goat anti-Mouse (925-32210), and IRDye 800CW Goat anti-Rat (925-32219) were
purchased from LI-COR. After additional washing, the protein was then detected with Image
Studio for Oddyseey CLx (LI-COR).

DNA extraction and 16S rRNA sequencing analysis

DNA from human stool samples was extracted with DNeasy PowerSoil Pro kit (Qiagen) according to the manufacturer's instruction. Bacterial 16S rRNA gene was amplified at the V4 region using primer pairs and paired-end amplicon sequencing was performed on the Illumina MiSeq system at NYU Genome Technology Core. Sequencing reads were processed using the DADA2 pipeline in the QIIME2 software package. Taxonomic assignment was performed against the Greengenes 13_8 99% OTUs full-length sequences database[81]. Alpha diversity analysis was done using observed OTUs[82]. Beta diversity was calculated using Bay-Curtis, Jaccard, unweighted UniFrac, and weighted UniFrac distance and visualized with EMPeror[83].

Enumeration of total *Enterococcus* and *Efm* in human stool samples

The human stool slurries (200 mg/ml) were plated in serial dilution on selective agars mentioned above for enumerating CFU of total *Enterococcus* and *Efm*, respectively.

Bacterial inoculation and DSS treatment of mice

Efm drinking water was prepared as described previously[59]. Briefly, overnight culture of *Efm* was harvested and resuspended in filter-sterilized drinking water to 10^9 CFU/ml, herein referred as *Efm* water, and administered to mice for 14 days. This drinking water was then replaced with one containing 5% dextran sulfate sodium (DSS, TdB Consultancy) for 6 days and then switched to regular drinking water for the remainder of the experiment when examining intestinal injury following *Efm* colonization. For experiments in which *Efm* was administered after the initiation of intestinal injury, mice were treated with 5% DSS for 6 days and received *Efm* water or control water for the remainder of the experiment. Drinking water was exchanged with freshly prepared ones every 2-3 days for all types of treatment.

Overnight cultures of *Lls* strains were harvested and resuspended in PBS to 10^9 CFU/100 µl. Water containing ampicillin (1 mg/ml, American Bioanalytical) and streptomycin (0.5 mg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich) was filter-sterilized using Nalgene Rapid-Flow Sterile Disposable Filter Units with PES Membranes (Thermo Fisher) for the antibiotic (abx) treatment. The mice treated with abx-containing water for 7 days were given 3% DSS for 6 days. On days 8 and 14, the mice were orally administered 100 µl inoculum of *Lls* strains (approximately 10^9 CFU).

For treatment of *Lls* culture supernatant, overnight cultures of *Lls* strains were centrifuged at 6,000 x *g* for 15 min at 4°C to collect the culture supernatant. The supernatants and LM17 broth control were filter-sterilized using Nalgene Rapid-Flow Sterile Disposable Filter Units with PES

795 Membranes to avoid bacterial contamination. The mice receiving the filter-sterilized supernatants
796 of *Lls* strains or LM17 broth as drinking water for 7 days were given 5% DSS for 6 days.
797   The mice were monitored daily for survival and weight loss. Disease score was quantified based
798 on five parameters in which eight was the maximum score: diarrhea (0-2), bloody stool (0-1),
799 hunched posture (0-2), mobility (0-2), and fur ruffling (0-1).
800

Quantification of bacterial burden and lipocalin-2 (LCN2) in murine stool samples
Stool pellets from individual mice were weighed, homogenized in PBS, and plated in serial
dilution on selective agars as mentioned above for enumerating CFU of total *Enterococcus*, *Efm*,
and *Lls* strains, respectively. The remaining stool homogenates were centrifuged at 15,000 x *g*
for 5 min to collect clear supernatants. LCN2 in the clear supernatants was quantified using Mouse
Lipocalin-2/NGAL DuoSet ELISA (R&D systems) according to the manufacturer's instructions.
807

Histology
Quantification of colon histology data was performed blind. Colonic tissues were cut open along
the length, pinned on black wax, and fixed in 10% formalin (Thermo Fisher). Tissues were
embedded in 3% low melting point agar (Promega). Formalin embedding, cutting, and
hematoxylin and eosin (H&E) staining were performed by the NYU Histopathology core. Sections
were imaged on a Nikon Eclipse Ci microscope. Pathologic changes in colonic mucosa evaluated
by Y.D. included colonic epithelium, lamina propria, muscularis mucosa, and submucosa. It was
based on the state of the changes (acute or chronic) and the degree of involvement. Acute
changes primarily included neutrophils in the crypt lumen, erosions, ulcers, pus, and the formation
of polyps. Features of chronic changes included the following: crypt distortion (sideways crypts,
branching, tortuous), crypt loss, crypt atrophy, basal plasmacytosis, and lymphoid aggregates.
The involvement pattern included focal distal involvement, patchy involvement with skipping areas,
diffuse involvement, and pancolonic (no skip areas) involvement. The percentage of involvement
was calculated as 100 x (Length of disease involved colon / Total length of the colon).
822

Colon explant culture and cytokine detection
Colon explant culture was performed as previously described[66]. The proximal colon tissue (1
cm) was opened longitudinally, washed with PBS and cultured for 48 h in 1ml of complete Roswell
Park Memorial Institute (RPMI) 1640 (Gibco) containing 2 mM L-glutamine (Corning),
penicillin/streptomycin solution (Corning), 20 mM N-2-hydroxyethylpiperazine-N'-2-ethane
sulfonic acid (HEPES, Corning), Minimum Essential Medium (MEM) non-essential amino acids

(Corning), 1 mM sodium pyruvate (Corning), and β-mercaptoethanol (Gibco). Cytokines in

supernatants were measured using the Mouse IL-22, IL-18, and IL-1 beta/IL-1 F2 DuoSet ELISA

(R&D systems) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Isolation of lamina propria (LP) cells

LP cells were harvested as before[84]. Briefly, colonic tissue including caecum was cut open and

washed with PBS, and fat was removed. The tissues were incubated first with 20 ml of Hank's

Balanced Salt Solution (HBSS, Gibco) with 2% HEPES, 1% sodium pyruvate, 5 mM

Ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA, NYU Reagent Preparation Core), and 1mM DL-

dithiothreitol (Sigma-Aldrich) for 15 min at 37°C with 220 rpm and then with new 20 mL of HBSS

with 2% HEPES, 1% sodium pyruvate, 5mM EDTA for 10 min at 37°C with 210 rpm. The tissue

bits were washed with HBSS, minced, and then enzymatically digested with collagenase (0.5

mg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich) and Deoxyribonuclease I (0.01 mg/ml, Sigma-Aldrich) for 30 min at 37°C

with 200 rpm. Digested solutions were passed through 70 µm nylon mesh (ELKO Filtering) and

isolated cells were resuspended in 40% Percoll (Sigma-Aldrich), layered onto 80% Percoll, and

centrifuged at RT at 2,200 rpm for 22 min. Cells were recovered from the interphase and washed

with RPMI containing 10% fetal bovine serum (FBS, Peak Serum) (cRPMI). For the analysis of

the cytokine production, LPLs were plated in cRPMI and stimulated with 1X Cell Stimulation

Cocktail (plus transport inhibitors) (eBiosciecne) for 4 h at 37°C.

Flow cytometry

Surface and intracellular cytokine staining was performed per manufacturer's instruction in PBS

with 0.5% bovine serum albumin (BSA, Thermo Fisher) (BSA/PBS) for 20 min on ice. Two staining

panels were prepared as described previously[84]. The following antibodies were used for the first

panel: CD11b (101228, 1:200), CD11c (117328, 1:200), CD127 (135041, 1:33), CD4 (100414,

1:150), CD44 (103030, 1:100), CD62L (104433, 1:100), CD8 (100730, 1:100), GR1 (108428,

1:300), NK1.1 (108736, 1:150), Tbet (644810, 1:50), TCRβ (109243, 1:100), TER119 (116228,

1:200) from Biolegend, CD19 (45-0193-82, 1:100) and FOXP3 (17-5773-82, 1:100) from

eBioscience, and CD45 (564279, 1:200), GATA3 (560163, 1:40), RORγt (562894, 1:100), TCRγδ

(563532, 1:100) from BD Bioscience. The following antibodies were used for the second panel:

CD11b (101228, 1:200), CD11c (117328, 1:200), CD127 (135041, 1:33), CD4 (100414, 1:150),

CD8 (100730, 1:100), GR1 (108428, 1:300), NK1.1 (108728, 1:200), TCRβ (109243, 1:100),

TER119 (116228, 1:200) from Biolegend, IL-22 (12-7221-82, 1:100) from eBioscience, and

CD45 (564279, 1:200), IL-10 (566295, 1:100) and TCRγδ (563532, 1:100) from BD Bioscience.

Samples were fixed with either Fixation Buffer (Biolegend) or Foxp3/Transcription Factor Staining

Buffer Set (Thermo Fisher). For intracellular staining of the transcription factor, cells were

permeabilized with the Foxp3/Transcription Factor Staining Buffer Set at RT for 45 min in the

presence of antibodies. For intracellular staining of cytokines, cells were permeabilized with

Intracellular Staining Permeabilization Wash Buffer (Biolegend) at RT for 20 min in the presence

of antibodies. Zombie UV Fixable Viability Kit (Biolegend) was used to exclude dead cells.

Samples were acquired on a BD LSR II (BD Biosciences) and analyzed using FlowJo software

(BD).

***Nod2* sequencing**

Nod2 mRNA was sequenced as previously described [85]. Briefly, total RNA was extracted from

proximal colonic tissues (2 mm) using RNeasy Mini Kit with DNase treatment (QIAGEN), and

synthesis of cDNA was conducted with High-Capacity cDNA Reverse Transcription Kit (Thermo

Fisher) according to the manufacturer's protocol. A 3042-bp region containing the *Nod2* coding

region was amplified from cDNA by PCR using a pair of primers (Fwd 5'-

ATGTGCTCACAGGAAGAGTTC C-3' and Rev 5'-TCACAACAAGAGTCTGGCGTCCC-3').

Amplicons were cloned into pCR2.1-TOPO (Invitrogen). The plasmids were sequenced by Oxford

Nanopore from SNPsaurus.

Statistical analyses

Statistical differences were determined as described in the figure legend using GraphPad Prism

9 software. $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant for all assays, and individual p values

are indicated in the figure panels.

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COMPETING INTERESTS

K.C. has received research support from Pfizer, Takeda, Pacific Biosciences, Genentech, and

Abbvie. K.C. has consulted for or received an honoraria from Puretech Health, Genentech, and

Abbvie. K.C. is an inventor on U.S. patent 10,722,600 and provisional patent 62/935,035 and

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Biosciences. U.S. patents PCT/US16/28836 (H.C.H.) and PCT/US2020/019038 (H.C.H. and

M.E.G.) were obtained for the commercial use of SagA-engineered bacteria. Rise Therapeutics

has licensed these patents to develop SagA-probiotics as therapeutics. J.A. reports consultancy

fees, honoraria, or advisory board fees from Abbvie, Adiso, Bristol Myers Squibb, Janssen, Pfizer,

Fresnius, and BioFire Diagnostics.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

K.K.J. and K.C. conceived the study and designed the experiments. K.K.J. contributed to all the

experiments and data analysis. T.H., M.L., and Y.C. helped perform mouse experiments. Y.D.

performed histopathology analysis. F.Y. generated *Nod2 Q675W* mice. D.E. performed 16S rRNA

sequencing analysis. J.A. and S.G. assisted with the design, analysis, and interpretation of clinical

data. M.E.G. and H.C.H. provided *Lls* and *Efm* strains and associated technical assistance.

A.M.K-G. provided *NOD2^{fl/fl}* mice. K.C. oversaw the analysis and interpretation of all experiments.

K.K.J., Y. D., and K.C. wrote the manuscript, and all authors commented on the manuscript, data,

and conclusion.

Table S1

Name	Sex	Age	Disease	CDAI	Total Mayo
IBD1	F	24	CD	250	
IBD2	F	28	CD	192	
IBD3	M	49	CD	234	
IBD4	M	33	CD	258	
IBD5	F	49	CD	180	
IBD6	M	26	CD	265	
IBD7	F	43	CD	260	
IBD8	F	60	CD	176	
IBD9	F	36	CD	310	
IBD10	F	56	CD	323	
IBD11	M	36	CD	268	
IBD12	M	21	CD	397	
IBD13	M	19	CD	261	
IBD14	M	36	CD	251	
IBD15	F	35	CD	187	
IBD16	F	78	CD	235	
IBD17	F	36	CD	275	
IBD18	F	62	CD	313	
IBD19	F	20	CD	104	
IBD20	M	28	CD	298	
IBD21	F	58	CD	275	
IBD22	F	33	CD	300	
IBD23	F	51	CD	372	
IBD24	M	25	CD	292	
IBD25	M	42	CD	236	
IBD26	M	36	CD	301	
IBD27	F	56	CD	358	
IBD28	M	30	CD	87	
IBD29	F	58	CD	264	
IBD30	M	28	CD	337	
IBD31	M	69	CD	341	
IBD32	M	30	UC		10
IBD33	M	41	UC		7
IBD34	F	58	UC		8

IBD35	M	40	UC		10
IBD36	M	42	UC		9
IBD37	M	30	UC		10
IBD38	M	65	UC		10
IBD39	M	34	UC		10
IBD40	M	28	UC		7
IBD41	M	34	UC		10
IBD42	M	78	UC		11
IBD43	M	33	UC		10
IBD44	F	28	UC		11
IBD45	F	26	UC		9
IBD46	F	35	UC		11
IBD47	M	62	UC		4
IBD48	F	27	UC		11
IBD49	F	28	UC		10
IBD50	F	36	UC		10
IBD51	F	58	UC		3
IBD52	F	35	UC		11
IBD53	M	41	UC		9
IBD54	F	48	UC		9
IBD55	F	18	UC		7
IBD56	M	66	UC		N/A

923 **Supplemental Table 1. Information for IBD patients.** M; male, F; female; CD; Crohn's disease;

924 UC; ulcerative colitis; CDAI, Crohn's disease activity index; N/A, not available.

926 **Table S2**

Name	Sex	Age	GI-related medical history	GI symptoms
NIBD1	F	83		Diarrhea for 7 days
NIBD2	M	61	*Clostridia difficile* infection	Intermittent diarrhea for 3 months.
NIBD3	M	37	Irritable bowel syndrome	Intermittent diarrhea with urgency, bloating and chest discomfort every 2 weeks
NIBD4	F	50	Hirschsprung's disease, type 2 diabetes mellitus	Vomiting and watery diarrhea and for 4 days
NIBD5	F	40		Nausea, Vomiting, and diarrhea for 5 days
NIBD6	M	86	Whipple procedure	Diarrhea and abdominal pain for 3 days
NIBD7	M	56		Diarrhea and abdominal pain
NIBD8	F	42		Bloody diarrhea and abdominal pain
NIBD9	M	9		Diarrhea
NIBD10	M	35		Right Lower Quadrant pain, Nausea, Vomiting, and diarrhea for 1 day
NIBD11	F	29		Abdominal pain
NIBD12	F	58		Vomiting and abdominal tenderness
NIBD13	F	44		Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea for 4 days
NIBD14	M	23		Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea with fever for 2 days
NIBD15	M	75		Diarrhea for 2 weeks
NIBD16	M	51		Diarrhea for 10 days
NIBD17	M	70		Diarrhea
NIBD18	F	49		Diarrhea for 5 days
NIBD19	F	53		Abdominal pain
NIBD20	F	54		Constipation and rectal pain
NIBD21	M	79		Bloody stool
NIBD22	F	69		Diarrhea
NIBD23	M	71		Diarrhea

NIBD24	F	65	*C. difficile* infection	Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea for 4 days
NIBD25	F	53		Nausea and diarrhea for 4 days
NIBD26	F	49		Diarrhea for 2 weeks
NIBD27	F	23	Recurrent *C. difficile* infection	Diarrhea and abdominal pain for 1 week
NIBD28	M	86		Diarrhea and abdominal pain
NIBD29	F	74		Diarrhea and abdominal pain with fever for 2 days
NIBD30	F	63		Vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, neutropenic fever
NIBD31	M	52	Pancreatic cancer	Unclear
NIBD32	F	36		Abdominal pain
NIBD33	F	73		Abdominal pain and bloating
NIBD34	F	55		Antibiotic associated diarrhea
NIBD35	F	33		Vomiting and watery diarrhea
NIBD36	M	29		Rectal bleeding and bloating
NIBD37	M	55		Diarrhea for 3 days
NIBD38	F	72		Constipation with rectal bleeding
NIBD39	F	38		Nausea, diarrhea, and bloating
NIBD40	F	76		Diarrhea and abdominal pain
NIBD41	F	82		Diarrhea
NIBD42	F	69		Nausea, vomiting, and Diarrhea for 5 days
NIBD43	F	74	Microscopic colitis	Diarrhea
NIBD44	F	29		Rectal bleeding and abdominal pain
NIBD45	F	55		Diarrhea
NIBD46	M	37		Loose stools
NIBD47	M	39		Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea for 4 days
NIBD48	M	54		Nausea and watery diarrhea for 6 days
NIBD49	F	45		Diarrhea
NIBD50	F	91	Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease	Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea for 1 day

NIBD51	M	91		Nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea for 3 days
NIBD52	M	38	Chronic norovirus infection	Diarrhea and abdominal pain for 1 week
NIBD53	F	0		Diarrhea with fever
NIBD54	F	58		Diarrhea and hematuria for 2 days
NIBD55	F	75	*C. difficile* infection and diverticulitis	Nausea and diarrhea for 1 day
NIBD56	F	51		Abdominal pain

928 **Supplemental Table 2. Information for non-IBD (NIBD) patients.**

 Table S3

Genotype	*Efm*	Histological findings	% of colon affected
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells and mixed acute and chronic inflammatory cells throughout the sample with heterogenous epithelial regrowth and mucosal edema; Focal lymphoid hyperplasia.	70%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with subepithelial lymphoid aggregate, mixed inflammatory reaction in a skipping pattern; Focal low-grade dysplasia.	40%
WT	-	Small focal epithelial erosion.	5%
WT	-	Small focal epithelial erosion.	10%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion, abscess formation and focal submucosal lymphoid aggregate	50%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern	25%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells and mixed acute and chronic inflammatory cells throughout the sample with heterogenous epithelial regrowth and mucosal edema; Low grade dysplasia noted in the epithelium adjacent to lesion	40%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern, focal abscess formation	25%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	10%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern	25%
WT	-	Small focal epithelial erosion	5%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells throughout the sample with heterogenous epithelial regrowth, mucosal edema, and submucosal lymphoid aggregates	65%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells throughout the sample with heterogenous epithelial regrowth, focal mucosal hyperplasia, and dysplasia and submucosal lymphoid aggregates	80%
WT	-	Very small focal epithelial erosion at the distal end of colon/rectum, otherwise within normal limit	10%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern with heterogenous epithelial regeneration	50%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	80%
WT	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	60%
WT	-	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of similar change	40%
WT	-	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of similar change	35%
WT	-	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of similar change	30%
WT	-	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change; A few lymphoid aggregates noted	30%
WT	-	within normal limit	0%
WT	-	Distal end with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands	10%
WT	-	Distal portion with significant decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands without associated lymphoid aggregates; Mid and proximal portions with epithelial erosion and goblet cell depletion in a skipping pattern	45%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells and mixed acute and chronic inflammatory cells at distal end; Multiple foci of epithelial lymphoid aggregates. Mucosal edema. No overt dysplasia	50%
WT	+	Small foci of epithelial erosion in a skipping pattern, majority of colonic mucosa unaffected	10%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells, repairment and mixed acute and chronic inflammatory cells at distal end and mid portion; Multiple foci of epithelial lymphoid aggregates. Mucosal edema. No overt dysplasia	67%

WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion; Focal submucosal lymphoid aggregate. Majority of colonic mucosa unaffected	20%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates	25%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion at distal end only	15%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion	30%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion at distal end only	15%
WT	+	Focal epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion. Multifocal lymphoid aggregates	5%
WT	+	Focal epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion	5%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates	15%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates	55%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates	50%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates with a skipping pattern; Moderate dysplasia present	30%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion	22%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration, and low-grade dysplasia	37%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern with heterogenous epithelial regeneration	10%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration, and low-grade dysplasia	33%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	25%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	18%
WT	+	Focal epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion with a skipping pattern through the entire colon	5%
WT	+	Focal epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion with a skipping pattern through the entire colon	25%
WT	+	Focal epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion with a skipping pattern through the entire colon	15%
WT	+	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation. Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change; A few lymphoid aggregates noted	30%
WT	+	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands. Focal similar changes in proximal end	5%
WT	+	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands	10%
WT	+	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands. Multiple lymphoid aggregates noted	10%
WT	+	Very mild change	5%
WT	+	Very mild change in distal end	1%
WT	+	Distal portion with significant decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands without associated lymphoid aggregates; Mid and proximal portions with epithelial erosion and goblet cell depletion in a skipping pattern; Epithelial repair and regeneration	50%
WT	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern, epithelial regeneration and dysplastic changes noted	25%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	50%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	12%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration, and low-grade dysplasia	40%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with heterogenous epithelial regeneration	70%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	50%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	20%

WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	30%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	10%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	55%
WT (post)	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	75%
WT (post)	+	a small portion of epithelial is affected however the tissue is partially lost	5%
WT (post)	+	Skipping lesion of epithelial damage with regrowth and loss of goblet cells	5%
WT (post)	+	Within normal limit; Two small lymphoid aggregate	0%
WT (post)	+	Very small focal epithelial erosion at the distal end of colon/rectum, otherwise within normal limit	1%
WT (post)	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates	35%
WT (post)	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion	7%
WT (post)	+	Within normal limit	0%
WT (post)	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	30%
WT (post)	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	10%
WT (post)	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion	5%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells from the distal end with mucosal edema, associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	40%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells from the distal end with mucosal edema, associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	67%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration, and low-grade dysplasia	40%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	27%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of similar change	40%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates with a skipping pattern	20%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates with a skipping pattern; Repair and regeneration associated colonic adenoma	30%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	55%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	60%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	60%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	50%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	35%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	42%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and epithelial regeneration	25%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of similar change	20%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Distal portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands; Mid and proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change. A few lymphoid aggregates noted	35%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Two focal area with colonic adenomatous changes	10%
Nod2$^{+/-}$	+	Small foci of epithelial erosion with chronic inflammatory cell infiltration	5%

Nod2+/-	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration and dysplastic changes note	10%
Nod2+/-	+	Distal and proximal portions with significant decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands without associated lymphoid aggregates; Mid portion is generally within normal limit	40%
Nod2+/-	+	Distal portion with significant decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands without associated lymphoid aggregates; Mid portion with epithelial erosion and goblet cell depletion in a skipping pattern	40%
Nod2+/-	+	Within normal range	0%
Nod2+/-	+	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	35%
Nod2-/-	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping pattern with heterogenous epithelial regeneration	50%
Nod2-/-	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern; associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	67%
Nod2-/-	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion from the distal end with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern, abscess, submucosal lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	67%
Nod2-/-	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	40%
Nod2-/-	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	35%
Nod2-/-	-	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	25%
Nod2-/-	-	Distal and mid portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation. Proximal end with skipping pattern of above change; Mild dysplastic changes in remaining colonic epithelium	40%
Nod2-/-	-	Distal and mid portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation; Skipping pattern getting to proximal end; Single lymphoid aggregate noted	50%
Nod2-/-	-	Distal and mid portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation. Skipping pattern getting to proximal end; No thickening of colonic wall. Single lymphoid aggregate noted	60%
Nod2-/-	+	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells from the distal end with mucosal edema, associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	65%
Nod2-/-	+	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells from the distal end with mucosal edema, associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	50%
Nod2-/-	+	Epithelial erosion with depletion of goblet cells from the distal end with mucosal edema, associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	63%
Nod2-/-	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates and heterogenous epithelial regeneration	25%
Nod2-/-	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	60%
Nod2-/-	+	Epithelial erosion with skipping(proximal) and continuous (distal) pattern with associated lymphoid aggregates	57%
Nod2-/-	+	Distal and mid portion with significant decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands without evidence of inflammation. No thickening of colonic wall	70%
Nod2-/-	+	Distal and mid portion with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation. Proximal end with skipping pattern of above change	55%
Q675W/+	-	Epithelial defect with goblet cell depletion	15%
Q675W/+	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration and dysplastic changes noted	20%
Q675W/+	-	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern, epithelial regeneration and dysplastic changes noted	25%
Q675W/+	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	40%
Q675W/+	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	30%
Q675W/+	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	40%

Q675W/+	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	50%
Q675W/+	+	Small foci of epithelial erosion with chronic inflammatory cell infiltration	5%
Q675W/+	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration and dysplastic changes noted	15%
Q675W/+	+	Tiny focal epithelial erosion with repairment. No acute or chronic inflammation	2%
Q675W/+	+	Within normal range	0%
Q675W/+	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern	10%
Q675W/+	+	Epithelial erosion with goblet cell depletion and associated lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern	20%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation in a skipping pattern	15%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation in a skipping pattern	15%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and occasional lymphoid aggregate in a skipping pattern	20%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	50%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern	30%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern	40%
Q675W/Q675W	-	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates in a skipping pattern	40%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Extensive decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates	60%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	50%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Distal and mid portions with decrease to depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation and lymphoid aggregates; Proximal portion with skipping pattern of above change	60%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Extensive epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands; No evidence of associated acute or chronic inflammation	80%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Extensive epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands and associated lymphoid aggregates, epithelial regeneration and dysplastic changes noted	90%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation in a skipping pattern	25%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation in a skipping pattern	15%
Q675W/Q675W	+	Epithelial defects with depletion of epithelial colonic glands with mild chronic inflammation in a skipping pattern	20%

932 **Supplemental Table 3. Histological findings of colonic sections from mice receiving DSS.**

933 WT, wild type; *Q675W/+*, *Nod2$^{Q675W/+}$*; *Q675W/Q675W*, *Nod2$^{Q675W/Q675W}$*. WT (post) indicated mice

934 receiving *Efm* after DSS treatment.

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Figure 1

Figure 3

Figure 4

Figure 6

Figure 7

Supplemental Figure 6