

1 **Protection of the human gut microbiome from antibiotics**

2 Jean de Gunzburg^{1*}, Amine Ghozlane^{2*}, Annie Ducher^{1*}, Emmanuelle Le Chatelier^{2*}, Xavier
3 Duval^{3, 4}, Etienne Ruppé^{2†}, Laurence Armand-Lefevre^{3,4}, Frédérique Sablier-Gallis¹, Charles
4 Burdet⁴, Loubna Alavoine³, Elisabeth Chachaty⁵, Violaine Augustin¹, Marina Varastet¹,
5 Florence Levenez², Sean Kennedy^{2†}, Nicolas Pons², France Mentré^{4**} and Antoine
6 Andremont^{3,4**}

7

8 (1) Da Volterra, 75011 Paris, France, (2) Metagenopolis, INRA, 78532 Jouy-en-Josas, France,
9 (3) Bichat Claude Bernard Hospital, University Paris Diderot, Sorbonne Paris Cité, 75018
10 Paris, France, (4) INSERM, IAME, UMR 1137, Paris, France; University Paris Diderot,
11 Sorbonne Paris Cité, 75018 Paris, France, (5) Institut Gustave-Roussy, 94805 Villejuif, France.

12 * These authors contributed equally to this work

13 ** These authors contributed equally to this work

14 **Correspondence:** Jean de Gunzburg, Da Volterra, 75011 Paris, France. Tel +33 1 58 39 32 20,
15 fax +33 1 58 39 32 21, Email gunzburg@davolterra.com

16 Abstract 199 words, text 3493 words

17 Running head: Microbiome protection from antibiotics

18

1 **Footnotes**

2 **Potential conflicts of interest:** AD, FSG, VA and MV are employees of Da Volterra. JG, ER,
3 CB, EC, FM and AA are consultants for Da Volterra. JG, AD, FSG and VA are shareholders
4 of Da Volterra. All authors have submitted the ICMJE Form for Disclosure of Potential
5 Conflicts of Interest.

6

7 **Financial support:** The randomised clinical trial was sponsored by Da Volterra (Paris) and
8 funded in part by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-HEALTH-2011-
9 single-stage) under grant agreement n° 282004, EvoTAR. Additional funding was from the
10 Metagenopolis grant ANR-11-DPBS-0001, and from BPIFrance under the NOSOBIO
11 collaborative programme.

12

13 **Presented in part** at ID week, October 2015, San Diego, CA, USA (abstract 760)

14

15 **Correspondence:** Jean de Gunzburg, Da Volterra, 75011 Paris, France. Tel : +33 1 58 39 32
16 20, Fax : +33 1 58 39 32 21, email : gunzburg@davolterra.com

17

18 †Present address: ER, Geneva University Hospitals, 1205 Geneva, Switzerland; SK and AG,
19 Institut Pasteur, 75015 Paris, France.

20

21

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 **Background.** Antibiotics are life-saving drugs but severely affect the gut microbiome with
3 short term consequences including diarrhoea, *Clostridium difficile* infections and selection of
4 antibiotic-resistant bacteria. Long-term links to allergy and obesity are also suggested. We
5 devised a product, DAV132, and previously showed its ability to deliver a powerful adsorbent,
6 activated charcoal, in the late ileum of human volunteers.

7 **Methods.** We performed a randomized controlled trial (ClinicalTrials.gov NCT02176005) in 28
8 human volunteers treated with a 5-day clinical regimen of the fluoroquinolone antibiotic
9 moxifloxacin in two parallel groups, with or without DAV132 co-administration. Two control
10 groups of 8 volunteers each receiving DAV132 alone, or a non-active substitute, were added.

11 **Results.** The co-administration of DAV132 decreased free moxifloxacin fecal concentrations
12 by 99%, while plasmatic levels were unaffected. Shotgun quantitative metagenomics showed
13 that the richness and composition of the intestinal microbiota were largely preserved in subjects
14 co-treated with DAV132 in addition to moxifloxacin. No adverse effect was observed. In
15 addition, DAV132 efficiently adsorbed a wide range of clinically relevant antibiotics *ex-vivo*.

16 **Conclusions.** DAV132 was highly effective to protect the gut microbiome of moxifloxacin -
17 treated healthy volunteers and may constitute a clinical breakthrough by preventing adverse
18 health consequences of a wide range of antibiotic treatments.

19 **Key Words:** microbiome, antibiotics, fluoroquinolones, *Clostridium difficile*

1 INTRODUCTION

2 Antibiotics constitute one of the most medically important and effective class of drugs.
3 However, during systemic antibiotic treatments, the non-absorbed part of orally administered
4 drugs, as well as the possible fraction excreted into the upper intestine via bile for both oral and
5 parenteral antibiotics, reaches the cecum and colon where it can exert devastating effects on the
6 gut microbiome, with short and long term consequences [1–5]. Short-term effects include
7 diarrhoea, *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) and selection of antibiotic-resistant micro-
8 organisms [6–8]. CDI currently constitutes a major clinical challenge, and antibiotic treatments
9 are the key factor for their occurrence in hospitalized and community patients [9–11]. Long-
10 term links to allergy [4] and obesity [5] have also been suggested. Indeed, burgeoning
11 research in recent years has shown that the intestinal microbiome plays an important role in
12 many aspects of human physiology and health [12]. In particular it is involved in the production
13 of metabolites that may affect insulin sensitivity [13] and diet-related obesity [14]; this state has
14 been shown to correlate with a gut microbiome of lower bacterial richness than in healthy
15 individuals [15].

16 Strategies that would preserve the intestinal microbiome from deleterious consequences of
17 dysbiosis during antibiotic treatments, would be highly welcome for immediate protection of
18 patients from CDI, and also for long term public health consequences such as dissemination of
19 resistant bacteria and the occurrence of metabolic disorders. Oral administration of a β -
20 lactamase [16–20] prevented the impact of parenteral β -lactams on the microbiome, which is
21 promising but limited to this class of antibiotics. Delivering a non-specific adsorbent to the
22 colon partially decreased fecal concentrations of orally-administered ciprofloxacin without
23 significantly affecting its plasma pharmacokinetics in rats [21]. We devised a product,
24 DAV132, which delivers a powerful non-specific adsorbent, a carefully chosen activated
25 charcoal, to the late ileum in humans, and have shown in healthy volunteers that its

1 administration did not affect the plasma pharmako-kinetics of amoxicillin, given as a single
2 dose [22]. Here, we performed a randomized clinical trial in volunteers receiving a full oral
3 clinical course of the fluoroquinolone antibiotic moxifloxacin (MXF), and assessed DAV132
4 safety, as well as its resulting effects on MXF plasma concentrations, MXF free fecal
5 concentrations, and intestinal dysbiosis. We also evaluated *ex-vivo* the capacity of DAV132 to
6 adsorb a wide range of clinically relevant antibiotics.

7

1 **METHODS**

2 **Investigational products**

3 DAV132 was manufactured according to Da Volterra's specifications [22] under Good
4 Manufacturing Practice conditions at NextPharma (Bielefeld, Germany). The dosage form,
5 consisting of 7.5 g DAV132, contained 5.11 g activated charcoal as active adsorbing
6 ingredient. To facilitate oral intake, DAV132 pellets were suspended in an extemporaneously
7 prepared gel suspension (Batch number: C1311007). A negative control (CTL) was made of a
8 product similar to DAV132, in which the adsorbent was replaced by microcrystalline cellulose
9 (Batch number: C1311006). MXF was from Bayer (Avalox 400 mg Filmltabletten, batch
10 number: BXGFBN1).

11 **Subjects and clinical trial design**

12 Male and female healthy volunteers over 18 years old having given written informed consent
13 were included (body mass index $< 30 \text{ kg/m}^2$, normal digestive transit and healthy (by medical
14 history, physical examination, vital signs, electrocardiogram and blood laboratory results) at a
15 screening visit 8-21 days prior to treatment beginning defined as Day 1 (D1)). Subjects
16 carrying *C. difficile* at screening or with a history of hospitalization or antibiotic exposure (both
17 past 3 months), or vaccination (past 28 days) were not included.

18 Volunteers were included as outpatients (March-October 2014) in a prospective, randomized,
19 controlled, repeated doses, open-label trial, blinded to analytical and microbiological
20 evaluations, at the Clinical Investigation Centre of the Bichat Hospital, Paris (France) in respect
21 with Good Clinical Practice and the Declaration of Helsinki as last amended. Volunteers were
22 randomised (Supplementary Material) to receive either MXF alone (n=14), MXF+DAV132
23 (n=14), DAV132 alone (n=8), or negative control (CTL) (n=8) (Figure 1). The study was
24 carried out after authorisations from French Health Authorities and the Independent Ethics
25 Committee ("Comité de Protection des Personnes Ile-de-France IV", Paris, France) had been

1 obtained (January and February 2014, respectively). It was declared in ClinicalTrials.gov
2 (identifier NCT02176005) and the French (ID-RCB number 2013-A01504-41) registers of
3 clinical trials. A study-specific Scientific Committee (A.A., V.A., A. Duc., A.Duf., X.D., C.F.,
4 J.G., F.M., and M.V.) was set up to ensure scientific integrity.

5 **Treatments**

6 MXF 400 mg was administered orally, once a day (od, after breakfast) from D1 to D5 under
7 direct observed therapy. DAV132 7.5 g (or CTL) was administered orally, thrice a day (tid,
8 before meals) from D1 to D7; on D1, the first DAV132 dose was given two hours before MXF.
9 Morning administrations of DAV132 and of CTL were performed under direct observed
10 therapy, while noon and evening intake were reported by the subjects. Compliance was
11 assessed by counting empty bottles each following day. Follow-up was until D37. See
12 Supplementary Material for Collection and storage of fecal and plasma samples.

13 **MXF assay in plasma and fecal samples**

14 MXF assays were performed by Amatsi Group (Fontenilles, France) using specifically
15 developed and validated bioanalytical methods. MXF concentrations were determined by
16 reversed phase HPLC coupled with fluorescence detection for plasma levels, and tandem mass
17 spectrometry detection for free fecal concentrations (Supplemental Material).

18 **Statistical methods**

19 The primary objective was to evaluate the influence of DAV132 on free fecal MXF
20 concentrations between D1 and D16 by comparing individuals in the MXF and MXF+DAV132
21 treated groups. The primary endpoint was the AUC_{D1-D16} of free fecal MXF concentrations.

22 The study sample size was calculated at the time of study design. Assuming an AUC_{D1-D16}
23 variability similar to that of the AUC_{D1-D14} previously measured from individual data [23], a
24 sample size of 11 subjects in each MXF treated group (MXF and MXF+DAV132) would allow

1 to detect a 2-fold change between these groups (90% power, two-sided test, type I error 0.05).
2 For security, we included 14 subjects in each of these groups. Additionally, we randomized two
3 groups of 8 volunteers without MXF, but with DAV132 or CTL to study secondary objectives
4 (DAV132 safety and intestinal microbiota composition).

5 As preplanned for the primary objective, comparison of $\log(\text{AUC}_{\text{D1-D16}})$ of free MXF fecal
6 concentrations, in groups treated with MXF+DAV132 and MXF alone, was performed using a
7 general linear model. $\text{AUC}_{\text{D1-D16}}$ were calculated by the trapezoidal method using the actual
8 time of stool emission and the results were expressed as geometric means of $\text{AUC}_{\text{D1-D16}}$ and
9 coefficient of variation. For MXF plasma concentrations, comparisons of $\log(\text{AUC}_{0-24\text{h}})$ and
10 $\log(\text{C}_{\text{max}})$, in groups treated with MXF+DAV132 and MXF alone, were performed using a
11 general linear model. $\text{AUC}_{0-24\text{h}}$ was calculated by the trapezoidal method. Statistical analysis of
12 clinical and pharmacokinetic data were performed using the SAS 9.4 software (SAS Institute,
13 Cary, NC, USA).

14 **Metagenomic methods and analysis**

15 Analysis of metagenomic data was exploratory and not prespecified. Essentially, total fecal
16 DNA was extracted as described [24,25] and sequenced using SOLiD 5500 Wildfire (Life
17 Technologies) resulting in $67.2 \pm 19.8\text{M}$ (mean \pm SD) sequences of 35-base-long single-end
18 reads. High-quality reads were generated with quality score cut-off >20 . Reads with a positive
19 match with human, plant, cow or SOLiD adapter sequences were removed. Filtered high-
20 quality reads were mapped to the MetaHIT 3.9M gene catalog [26] using METEOR software
21 [27]. The read alignments were performed in colorspace with Bowtie software (version 1.1.0)
22 [28] with options: -v 3 (maximum number of mismatch) and -k 10000 (maximum number of
23 alignment per reads). The raw SOLiD read data were deposited in the EBI European
24 Nucleotide Archive under accession number PRJEB12391. Details of read mapping, data
25 treatment and statistical methods to analyse microbiome data are in Supplementary Material.

1 **Adsorption of antibiotics by activated charcoal *ex vivo*.**

2 To mimic at best the adsorption of antibiotics onto activated charcoal in the gut we used cecal
3 medium that had been obtained from extemporaneously euthanised pigs, and stored at -80°C
4 since. Antibiotics (400 µg/mL), and activated charcoal (4 mg/mL) obtained from DAV132
5 deformed by incubation for 30min at 37°C in 50 mM sodium phosphate buffer pH 7.5
6 containing 80 nM NaCl, were independently pre-incubated with cecal medium (1:1 v:v) for 2h
7 at 37°C. Then, the two pre-incubation reactions were mixed and further incubated for 3h at
8 37°C with gentle agitation. When the tested antibiotic was sensitive to β-lactamases,
9 endogenous enzymes were inactivated by heating at 70°C for 1h. Samples were centrifuged
10 3minX19,890 g, and the concentrations of non-adsorbed antibiotics in the supernatant were
11 quantified in triplicate using a microbiological assay [29].

12

13

14

1 **RESULTS**

2 **Subjects**

3 Overall, 71 subjects were included in the DAV132-CL-1002 study between March 20, 2014
4 and September 01, 2014. 21 subjects did not meet the inclusion/exclusion criteria and 5
5 subjects withdrew consent before randomization. Of 45 subjects randomized, one refused to
6 take treatment and withdrew from the study; 44 were treated and completed the study: n=14
7 in groups MXF and MXF+DAV132, n=8 in groups DAV132 and CTL. All subjects meeting
8 the inclusion/exclusion criteria, having taken at least 20 doses of DAV132 (95% of expected
9 doses) and 5 doses of moxifloxacin (100% of expected doses) were evaluable and included in
10 the per protocol population. There were no deviations from protocol during the treatment and
11 follow-up periods. Therefore, the 44 subjects were included in both per protocol and safety
12 analysis sets. The number of subjects analyzed in groups MFX and MFX+DAV132 ensured a
13 study statistical power over 90%; the characteristics of volunteers were similar in both groups
14 (Supplementary Table 2).

15 **MXF pharmacokinetics in feces and plasma**

16 In volunteers with MXF alone, average fecal concentrations of free MXF peaked at 136.2 $\mu\text{g/g}$
17 (with 39% intersubject coefficient of variation, CV) at day 6 (D6) and returned to undetectable
18 levels by D16 (Figure 2a); they were markedly reduced in volunteers that received MXF
19 together with DAV132, with free fecal MXF concentrations ranging from 1 to 14 $\mu\text{g/g}$ faeces
20 between D1 and D6. Indeed, co-administration of DAV132 reduced the $\text{AUC}_{\text{D1-D16}}$ of fecal free
21 MXF by more than 99%, with geometric means of 699.2 $\mu\text{g/g}\cdot\text{day}$ (CV 41%) in the MXF group
22 vs. 6.4 $\mu\text{g/g}\cdot\text{day}$ (CV 69%) in the MXF+DAV132 group ($p=3.10^{-18}$). Despite the low
23 concentrations of free fecal MXF in volunteers that were co-administered DAV132, no
24 selection for resistance in coliforms was seen; some quinolone- and fluoroquinolone-resistant
25 strains emerged, but no difference was observed between the treatment groups (Supplementary

1 Table 1). When adjusting for each main individual characteristic of the volunteers
2 (Supplementary Table 2) in a multivariate analysis, the effect of DAV132 on reducing
3 $\log AUC_{D1-D16}$ of free fecal MXF concentration remained significant (analysis not shown).

4 By contrast, plasma concentrations of MXF at D1 and D5 were not significantly different in
5 volunteers that received DAV132 or not, in addition to MXF, as shown by analysis of the
6 geometric means of the AUC_{0-24} and C_{max} (Figure 2b, c and Table 1).

7 The safety analysis showed that repeated oral administration of DAV132 during 7 days was
8 safe and well tolerated. Only one adverse effect, a per-treatment vulvovaginal mycotic
9 infection, possibly related to MXF, was considered as related to a study product by the
10 investigator. No adverse effect considered as related to DAV132 was reported. No clinically
11 relevant abnormality in vital signs, 12-lead ECG parameters and laboratory results occurred in
12 any subject during the study.

13 **Prevention of intestinal dysbiosis by DAV132**

14 The global effect of DAV132 administration on the gut microbiome was explored in two ways,
15 by assessing microbiome bacterial gene richness and overall composition. Richness was
16 strongly decreased to 54.6% of baseline value at D6 in volunteers who received MXF alone,
17 and failed to return to the initial value even at D37 (Figure 3a); this decrease was greatly
18 attenuated by co-administration of DAV132 (97.8% of baseline value at D6, close to what was
19 observed for the CTL group). We also assessed the impact of treatments on bacterial gene
20 richness over the length of the trial by computing the AUC, between D0 and D16, of its relative
21 change from D0 for each individual (Figure 4a). This interval was chosen because most of
22 richness evolution took place within it, and no residual antibiotic was present at D16 (Figure
23 2a). The AUC_{D0-D16} of gene richness change was significantly different among the four groups
24 of volunteers ($p=4.10^{-6}$) (Figure 4a). It was significantly lower in volunteers receiving MXF
25 alone than in those in the CTL group ($q=1.10^{-5}$); it was significantly higher in those treated with

1 MXF+DAV132 than in those receiving MXF alone ($q=4.10^{-7}$), and not significantly different
2 from those in the CTL group ($q=0.8$), thereby showing the protective effect of DAV132 (Figure
3 4a). Finally, the AUC_{D0-D16} of gene richness change was highly correlated with the AUC_{D1-D16}
4 of free MXF fecal concentrations (Figure 4b), further illustrating the impact of MXF on
5 richness.

6 Overall changes of microbiome composition with time were assessed by computing, for each
7 individual, the Spearman's rank correlation coefficient of the relative abundance of bacterial
8 genes between each time point and the screening pre-treatment day (Figure 3b). Microbiome
9 composition changed little over time in the CTL and DAV132 groups of volunteers that did not
10 receive MXF (Figure 3b). By contrast, exposure to MXF resulted in marked microbiome
11 changes, detected from D3, maximal at D6, and still partially present 30 days after the
12 treatment ended; these changes were greatly attenuated by DAV132 (Figure 3b). The
13 comparison of Spearman's rank correlation coefficient values at D6 across the four groups was
14 significant ($p=2.10^{-6}$). Those values were significantly lower in the MXF-treated group (median
15 [min ; max] 0.44 [0.34 ; 0.59]) than in the CTL group (0.65 [0.60 ; 0.70], $q=2.10^{-4}$) and in the
16 MXF+DAV132 group (0.62 [0.53 ; 0.66], $q=1.10^{-5}$). DAV132 exerted an important, but not
17 total protection of the microbiome from the effect of MXF, as the median in the
18 MXF+DAV132 group was slightly lower than in the CTL group ($q=0.03$).

19 **Intestinal microbiota analysis at the species level**

20 629/741 (85%) metagenomic species (MGS, see Supplementary Materials) found in the
21 MetaHit gut microbial catalogue of 3.9 M genes were present in at least one sample. The mode
22 of their AUC_{D0-D16} distribution was 0 in the CTL group as well as in volunteers treated with
23 DAV132 alone, indicating that the abundance of most MGS did not change (Figure 3c). The
24 distribution of AUC values for the MXF group was strikingly different, with a broad shoulder
25 toward negative values, indicating a decrease in the abundance of numerous MGS. This

1 shoulder was largely absent in the MXF+DAV132 group, suggesting that many MGS were
2 protected by DAV132.

3 A detailed analysis of the MGS that differed significantly between treatment groups (
4 Supplementary Material) showed that of the 252 MGS present at baseline in at least 4
5 volunteers per group, 99 were differentially abundant. Only 3 were affected by DAV132 given
6 alone, whereas 86 were affected by the MXF treatment; among them, 81% were fully
7 protected, and a further 12% partially protected from the effect of MXF by co-administration of
8 DAV132.

9 **Taxonomical analysis**

10 Taxonomical characterisation at the genus level (Figure 5) showed that *Alistipes*, *Bilophila*,
11 *Butyriromonas*, *Coprobacillus*, *Fecalibacterium*, *Odoribacter*, *Oscillibacter*, *Parasutterella*,
12 *Roseburia*, and *Sutterella* genera were decreased in MXF-treated volunteers, and partially
13 (*Bilophila*) or fully (all others) protected by DAV132. In contrast, *Bacteroides*, *Paraprevotella*
14 and *Lachnoclostridium* were unaffected by MXF as well as MXF+DAV132 treatments.

15 We used a set of 34 MGS characteristic of the high richness microbiome of healthy individuals
16 present among the 252 examined above (Supplementary Table 4) to assess whether MXF may
17 induce not only an overall loss of gut microbiome richness but also a shift to a composition
18 expected in low richness microbiomes. The AUC_{D0-D16} of \log_{10} of relative abundance change
19 from D0 of these 34 MGS was significantly different among the 4 groups of volunteers ($p < 10^{-4}$;
20 Supplementary Figure 2), being significantly lower under MXF treatment alone than under
21 CTL ($q = 1.10^{-4}$) or MXF+DAV132 ($q = 1.10^{-4}$); just as for overall gene richness, this measure
22 also showed no significant difference between MXF+DAV132 and CTL groups ($q = 0.6$),
23 further attesting of the protective effect of DAV132.

1 ***Ex-vivo* adsoption of other antibiotics**

2 To assess whether DAV132 could also protect against antibiotics other than MXF routinely
3 used in the clinic, we examined the capacity of the activated charcoal released from DAV132 to
4 adsorb them under *ex vivo* conditions, i.e. in pig cecal medium (Table 2). Among the 14
5 antibiotics routinely used in clinic tested, 13 were adsorbed to an extent of at least 95% by the
6 charcoal after 3-5h of contact with deformedulated DAV132. Only amoxillin was a little less
7 adsorbed, to the extent of 92%.

8

1 **DISCUSSION**

2 Our most important result was that in human volunteers treated with a clinical five-day course
3 of oral MXF, DAV132 spared the intestinal microbiome from exposure to free MXF by over
4 99%, without affecting the plasma pharmacokinetics of the antibiotic or causing any serious
5 adverse effects. This is a major advance over what we showed in the first DAV132 phase 1 trial
6 that was limited to a small number of volunteers treated with DAV132 for 24h and receiving
7 only a single dose of amoxicillin [22]. Here DAV132 was associated with a full 5 day clinical
8 course of a widely used fluoroquinolone antibiotic. The facts that all randomized volunteers
9 completed the study, and only small amount of data were missing ensure the validity of the
10 results. We conclude that the co-administration of DAV132 with MXF is safe, and should not
11 affect the systemic therapeutic effects of oral, as well as parenteral antibiotic treatments. The
12 fact that DAV132 is able to markedly reduce fecal MXF concentrations without significantly
13 affecting systemic exposure to the antibiotic, contrarily to the use of non-formulated activated
14 charcoal [30], is due to the targeted delivery of the adsorbent component to the ileo-cecal
15 region [22].

16 Our second most important result was that co-administration of DAV132 largely protected
17 richness and composition of the intestinal microbiota of MXF-treated volunteers. The changes
18 observed with MXF alone that were maximal after 6 days of antibiotic, and persisted a month
19 after the treatment ended were reminiscent of those previously observed with ciprofloxacin [2].
20 Under co-administration of DAV132 with MXF, they were largely reduced and return to
21 baseline was observed 11 days after treatment ended suggesting that long term consequences of
22 antibiotics might be spared. Indeed, a third of the 252 MGS identified in the gut microbiota of
23 the volunteers were affected by MXF, but the co-administration of DAV132 fully protected
24 81% of the affected MGS, and a further 12% partially. Of particular interest in that respect was

1 that the 34 MGS that had previously been shown to be associated with the high richness
2 microbiome in healthy individuals [15] were well protected.

3 A third important result from the study was that the adsorbent released from DAV132 could
4 efficiently adsorb under *ex vivo* conditions mimicking the cecum, antibiotics from several
5 distinct and therapeutically important classes such as β -lactams of all categories (penicillins,
6 cephalosporins and carbapenems), fluoroquinolones and lincosamides. This indeed suggests
7 that the co-administration of DAV132 could protect the human gut microbiome against the
8 deleterious effects of many antibiotics, including those administered orally, without affecting
9 their plasma pharmacokinetics, as we previously showed with the β -lactam amoxicillin [22],
10 and here with the fluoroquinolone MXF. The non-specific nature of the adsorbent used in
11 DAV132 might indeed be advantageous over the use of the recently proposed β -lactamase for
12 prevention of intestinal dysbiosis and *Clostridium difficile* infections which is limited to
13 association with parenteral treatments by penicillins and cephalosporins [20].

14 Another set of results in this trial was strongly favorable for the possibility to further use
15 DAV132 in the clinic. First concerning safety, in spite of the relatively important dose of
16 charcoal that was given (7.5g tid), the treatment was associated with no significant side effects,
17 in particular intestinal ones but for the black darkening of feces. DAV132 had no impact on
18 blood electrolytes or coagulation parameters, suggesting that it did not interfere with
19 electrolytes exchanges or vitamin K production, which take place in the colon. Compliance to
20 treatment was not an issue for the volunteers. Second, we did not observe any remarkable
21 differential modification in the emergence of quinolone/fluoroquinolone resistant coliforms
22 between the groups of volunteers, even when the free fecal antibiotic concentrations were low
23 as in those that received MXF+DAV132. Notwithstanding the small number of subjects
24 involved in this study, this is reassuring because some have suggested that low concentrations
25 of fluoroquinolones might be prone to increase the selection of resistant bacteria [31].

1 In spite of these positive results, our work has limitations. First, in this phase 1 trial we did not
2 address directly the efficacy of DAV132 to protect patients against immediate consequences of
3 antibiotic treatments such as *C. difficile* colitis. However, we recently published pre-clinical
4 results in hamsters that suggest that such might well be the case [31]. Second we did not
5 address the possibility that DAV132 might interfere with other drugs that could be taken
6 concomitantly for therapeutic purposes by patients treated with antibiotics. This was far beyond
7 the purpose of the current study but will have to be determined before testing the product in
8 actual patients.

9 Whatever these limitations, the results of this phase 1 trial appear promising: DAV132 may
10 constitute a breakthrough product to prevent short- and long-term detrimental effects of
11 antibiotic treatments. Further studies are under way to validate the potential of DAV132 in a
12 clinical set-up.

13

1 **Funding:** The randomised clinical trial was sponsored by Da Volterra (Paris) and funded in
2 part by the European Union Seventh Framework Programme (FP7-HEALTH-2011-single-
3 stage) under grant agreement n° 282004, EvoTAR. Additional funding was from the
4 Metagenopolis grant ANR-11-DPBS-0001, and from BPIFrance under the NOSOBIO
5 collaborative programme.

6 **Acknowledgements.** We thank M. Ghidi and M.N. Bouverne (Da Volterra), as well as C.
7 Féger (Emibiothech) for coordination and management of the clinical study, E. Arcaraz, E.
8 Desmartin, A. Toutin, T. Mezzasalma and C. Toutin (Amatsi Group) for the development and
9 validation of bioanalytical methods, and for performing the fecal and plasma pharmacokinetic
10 analyses, I. Wieder and C. Bourseau for performing the phenotypic microbiological analyses,
11 Pr A. Dufour for biopharmacological analysis, P. Clerson (Orgamétrie) for statistical analysis
12 of the clinical data, N. Galleron and B. Quinquis (Metagenopolis) for generating sequencing
13 data and P. Leonard (Metagenopolis) for informatics support.

14

1 **REFERENCES**

- 2 1. Jernberg C, Löfmark S, Edlund C, Jansson JK. Long-term impacts of antibiotic exposure
3 on the human intestinal microbiota. *Microbiology*. **2010**; 156:3216–3223.
- 4 2. Dethlefsen L, Relman DA. Incomplete recovery and individualized responses of the
5 human distal gut microbiota to repeated antibiotic perturbation. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U A*.
6 **2011**; 108 Suppl 1:4554–4561.
- 7 3. Pérez-Cobas AE, Gosalbes MJ, Friedrichs A, et al. Gut microbiota disturbance during
8 antibiotic therapy: a multi-omic approach. *Gut*. **2013**; 62:1591–1601.
- 9 4. Belkaid Y, Hand TW. Role of the microbiota in immunity and inflammation. *Cell*. **2014**;
10 157:121–141.
- 11 5. Cox LM, Blaser MJ. Antibiotics in early life and obesity. *Nat Rev Endocrinol*. **2015**;
12 11:182–190.
- 13 6. de Lastours V, Fantin B. Resistance to fluoroquinolones in 2010: What are the
14 consequences for prescriptions in intensive care units. *Réanimation*. **2010**; 19:347–353.
- 15 7. Johanesen PA, Mackin KE, Hutton ML, et al. Disruption of the Gut Microbiome:
16 *Clostridium difficile* Infection and the Threat of Antibiotic Resistance. *Genes*. **2015**;
17 6(4):1347–1360.
- 18 8. Leffler DA, Lamont JT. *Clostridium difficile* infection. *N Engl J Med*. **2015**;
19 372(16):1539–1548.
- 20 9. Brown KA, Khanafer N, Daneman N, Fisman DN. Meta-analysis of antibiotics and the
21 risk of community-associated *Clostridium difficile* infection. *Antimicrob Agents*
22 *Chemother*. **2013**; 57(5):2326–2332.

- 1 10. Deshpande A, Pasupuleti V, Thota P, et al. Community-associated *Clostridium difficile*
2 infection and antibiotics: a meta-analysis. *J Antimicrob Chemother.* **2013**; 68(9):1951–
3 1961.
- 4 11. Slimings C, Riley TV. Antibiotics and hospital-acquired *Clostridium difficile* infection:
5 update of systematic review and meta-analysis. *J Antimicrob Chemother.* **2014**;
6 69(4):881–891.
- 7 12. Lynch SV, Pedersen O. The Human Intestinal Microbiome in Health and Disease. *N*
8 *Engl J Med.* **2016**; 375(24):2369–2379.
- 9 13. Pedersen HK, Gudmundsdottir V, Nielsen HB, et al. Human gut microbes impact host
10 serum metabolome and insulin sensitivity. *Nature.* **2016**; 535(7612):376–381.
- 11 14. Cox LM, Yamanishi S, Sohn J, et al. Altering the Intestinal Microbiota during a Critical
12 Developmental Window Has Lasting Metabolic Consequences. *Cell.* **2014**; 158(4):705–
13 721.
- 14 15. Le Chatelier E, Nielsen T, Qin J, et al. Richness of human gut microbiome correlates
15 with metabolic markers. *Nature.* **2013**; 500(7464):541–546.
- 16 16. Leonard F, Andremont A, Leclercq B, Labia R, Tancrede C. Use of beta-lactamase-
17 producing anaerobes to prevent ceftriaxone from degrading intestinal resistance to
18 colonization. *J Infect Dis.* **1989**; 160(2):274–280.
- 19 17. Stiefel U, Pultz NJ, Harmoinen J, et al. Oral administration of beta-lactamase preserves
20 colonization resistance of piperacillin-treated mice. *J Infect Dis.* **2003**; 188(10):1605–
21 1609.

- 1 18. Stiefel U, Nerandzic MM, Koski P, Donskey CJ. Orally administered beta-lactamase
2 enzymes represent a novel strategy to prevent colonization by *Clostridium difficile*. *J*
3 *Antimicrob Chemother.* **2008**; 62(5):1105–1108.
- 4 19. Pitout JDD. IPSAT P1A, a class A beta-lactamase therapy for the prevention of
5 penicillin-induced disruption to the intestinal microflora. *Curr Opin Investig Drugs Lond*
6 *Engl* 2000. **2009**; 10(8):838–844.
- 7 20. Connelly S, Bristol JA, Hubert S, et al. SYN-004 (ribaxamase), an Oral Beta-Lactamase,
8 Mitigates Antibiotic-Mediated Dysbiosis in a Porcine Gut Microbiome Model. *J Appl*
9 *Microbiol [Internet].* **2017**; . Available from: <http://www.pubmed.org/28245091>
- 10 21. Khoder M, Tsapis N, Domergue-Dupont V, Gueutin C, Fattal E. Removal of residual
11 colonic ciprofloxacin in the rat by activated charcoal entrapped within zinc-pectinate
12 beads. *Eur J Pharm Sci Off J Eur Fed Pharm Sci.* **2010**; 41(2):281–288.
- 13 22. de Gunzburg J, Ducher A, Modess C, et al. Targeted adsorption of molecules in the
14 colon with the novel adsorbent-based medicinal product, DAV132: A proof of concept
15 study in healthy subjects. *J Clin Pharmacol.* **2015**; 55(1):10–16.
- 16 23. Edlund C, Beyer G, Hiemer-Bau M, Ziege S, Lode H, Nord CE. Comparative effects of
17 moxifloxacin and clarithromycin on the normal intestinal microflora. *Scand J Infect Dis.*
18 **2000**; 32:81–85.
- 19 24. Godon JJ, Zumstein E, Dabert P, Habouzit F, Moletta R. Molecular microbial diversity
20 of an anaerobic digester as determined by small-subunit rDNA sequence analysis. *Appl*
21 *Env Microbiol.* **1997**; 63:2802–2813.

- 1 25. Suau A, Bonnet R, Sutren M, et al. Direct analysis of genes encoding 16S rRNA from
2 complex communities reveals many novel molecular species within the human gut. Appl
3 Env Microbiol. **1999**; 65:4799–4807.
- 4 26. Nielsen HB, Almeida M, Juncker AS, et al. Identification and assembly of genomes and
5 genetic elements in complex metagenomic samples without using reference genomes.
6 Nat Biotechnol. **2014**; 32:822–828.
- 7 27. Cotillard A, Kennedy SP, Kong LC, et al. Dietary intervention impact on gut microbial
8 gene richness. Nature. **2013**; 500(7464):585–588.
- 9 28. Langmead B. Aligning short sequencing reads with Bowtie. Curr Protoc Bioinforma.
10 **2010**; Unit 11.7.
- 11 29. Kitzis MD. Antibiotic Assay. Antibiogram. P. Courvalin, R. Leclerc, L.B. Rice. ASM
12 Press; 2010.
- 13 30. Stass H, Kubitza D, Möller J-G, Delesen H. Influence of activated charcoal on the
14 pharmacokinetics of moxifloxacin following intravenous and oral administration of a
15 400 mg single dose to healthy males. Br J Clin Pharmacol. **2005**; 59(5):536–541.
- 16 31. Burdet C, Sayah-Jeanne S, Nguyen TT, et al. Protection of hamsters from mortality by
17 reducing fecal moxifloxacin concentration with DAV131A in a model of moxifloxacin-
18 induced *Clostridium difficile* colitis. Antimicrob Agents Chemother. **2017**;
19 :AAC.00543–17.

1 **FIGURE LEGENDS**

2 **Figure 1: Study design.** The various periods of the study (screening, treatment, follow-up) are
3 shown in boxes at the top. The times of blood and feces sampling for MXF pharmacokinetics
4 and metagenomics analysis are shown by horizontal bars in the bottom section of the graph.

5
6 **Figure 2. Effect of DAV132 on MXF concentrations in feces and plasma of human**
7 **volunteers. (a)** Free fecal MXF concentrations between D1 and D16 ($p=10^{-17}$ for the
8 comparison of $\log\text{AUC}_{\text{D1-D16}}$). Inset: magnified scale for HVs treated with MXF+DAV132. **(b)**
9 Plasma MXF concentrations on D1 ($p=0.8$ for the comparison of $\log\text{AUC}_{0-24\text{h}}$) and **(c)** D5
10 ($p=0.1$ for the comparison of $\log\text{AUC}_{0-24\text{h}}$). HVs, 14 in each of these groups, were administered
11 orally MXF 400 mg od from D1 to D5 (MXF), or MXF 400 mg od plus DAV132 7.5 g tid from
12 D1 to D5 and then DAV132 alone on D6-D7 (MXF+DAV132). Mean values \pm standard
13 deviation (SD) are shown.

14
15 **Figure 3: Effect of DAV132 on MXF-induced alterations of the human gut microbiome of**
16 **human volunteers. (a)** Gene richness: bacterial gene counts for each study group are
17 displayed. **(b)** Microbiome composition. Spearman's rank correlation coefficients (ρ) computed
18 from the abundance of all genes of the 3.9 M gene catalog carried by each individual between
19 $D_{\text{screening}}$ and the indicated days are shown for each study group. **(c)** Metagenomic species.
20 Distribution of AUC values computed between D0 and D16 using \log_{10} of abundance change
21 from D0 of each MGS present in each individual is shown. The group sizes were: MXF $n=14$;
22 MXF+DAV132 $n=13$; DAV132 $n=8$; CTL $n=8$. The number of available individual measures
23 over all MGS for each group is indicated in the inset. Red, blue, green and black correspond to
24 MXF, MXF+DAV132 (MDV), DAV132 (DAV) and CTL groups, respectively.

1 **Figure 4: Impact of MXF and DAV132 on gene richness.**

2 (a) AUC_{D0-D16} of gene richness change from D0; see methods for details. Medians [min ;
3 max] were 11.63 [9.50 ; 13.24] for MFX, 15.34 [14.10 ; 16.62] for MXF+DAV132, 15.66
4 [14.91 ; 17.28] for DAV132 and 15.59 [14.88 ; 18.25] for CTL. Of note, in absence of any
5 change from D0 the value of AUC_{D0-D16} would be 16. Median values, quartiles, and 1.5
6 interquartile range are shown. The distribution of the AUC_{D0-D16} of gene richness was
7 significantly different between the 4 groups (Kruskal-Wallis test $p=4.10^{-6}$). In the pairwise
8 comparisons, it was significantly lower in HVs receiving MXF alone than in those receiving
9 MXF+DAV132 ($q=4.10^{-7}$) or negative control ($q=1.10^{-5}$), whereas the difference between
10 HVs receiving MXF+DAV132 and negative control was not significant ($q=0.8$) as assessed
11 by the Wilcoxon rank sum test with Benjamini-Hochberg correction for the four pairwise
12 comparisons. No difference was observed between the group receiving DAV132 alone and
13 CTL ($q=0.8$). The number of individuals in different groups was MXF $n=14$; MXF+DAV132
14 $n=13$; DAV $n=8$; CTL $n=8$.

15 (b) Relationship between AUC_{D0-D16} of gene richness change from D0 and AUC_{D1-D16} MXF
16 fecal concentration ($R^2=0.71$, $p=4.10^{-8}$). Red and blue dots correspond to groups exposed to
17 MXF or MXF+DAV132, respectively.

18

19 **Figure 5: Heatmap depicting the changes induced by the various treatments at the genus**

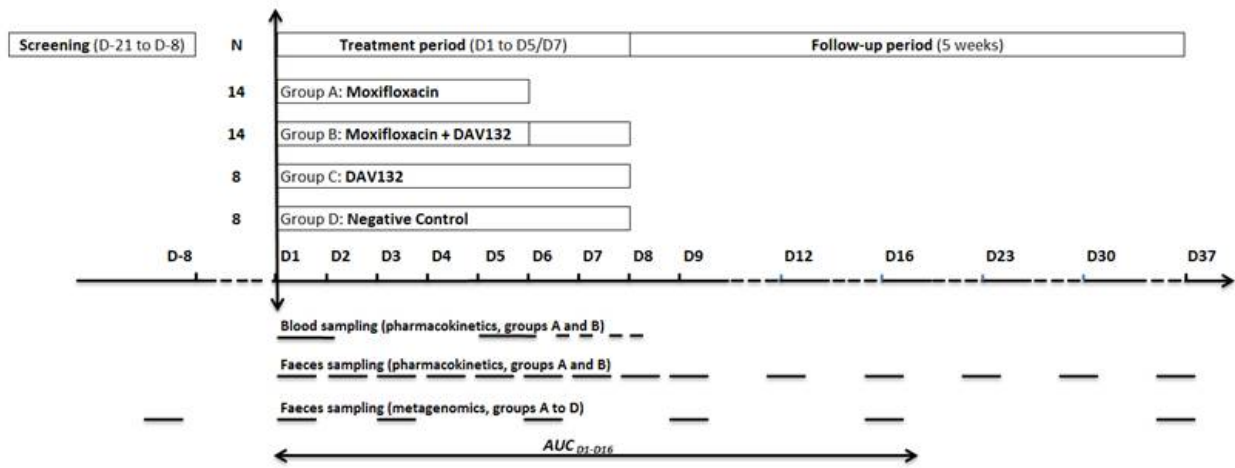
20 **level.** The heatmap represents, for each treatment group and for each bacterial genus, the
21 median AUC of log10 change from D0 of the MGS that constitute this genus. Green and red
22 colours respectively indicate genus that are decreased or increased (the intensity of the
23 colour represents the extent of the change), while white indicates very limited changes.

24

1 **FIGURES**

2

3 **Figure 1**



4

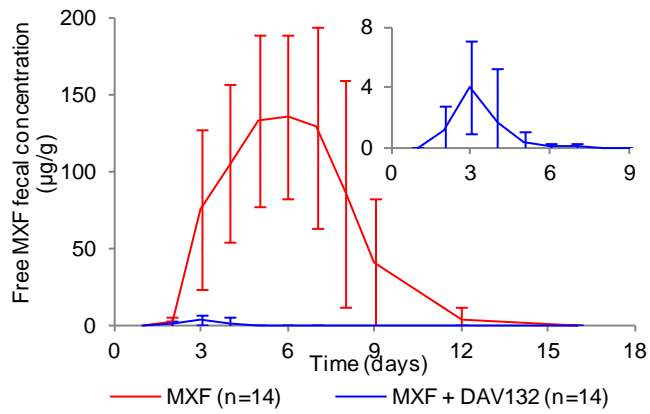
5

6

1 **Figure 2**

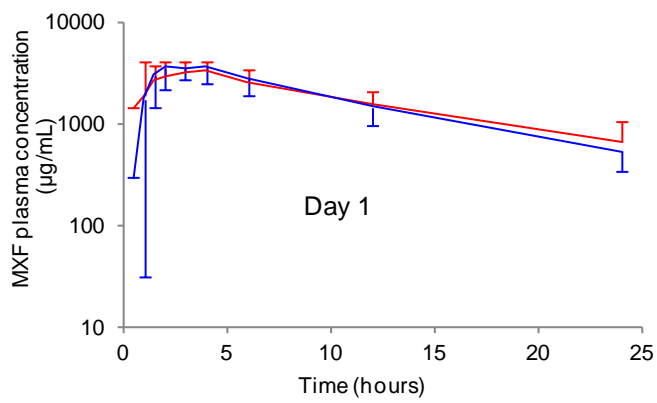
2

3 **a**



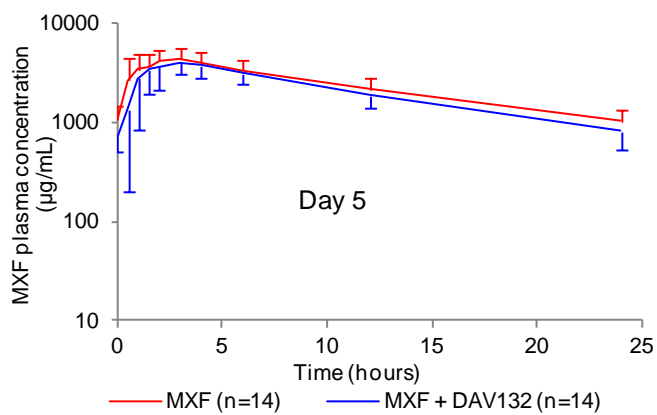
4

5 **b**



6

7 **c**



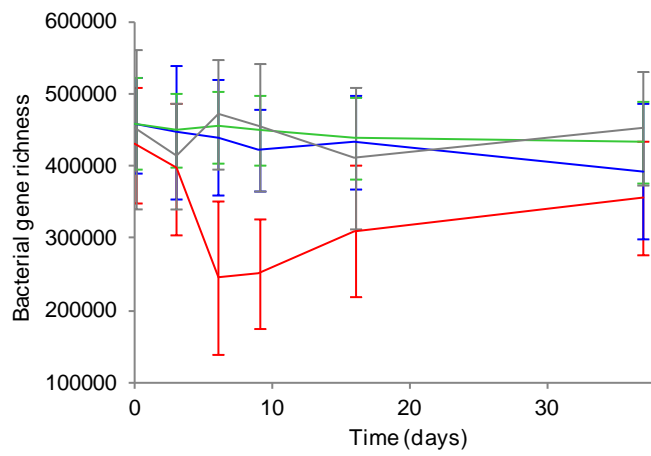
8

9

10

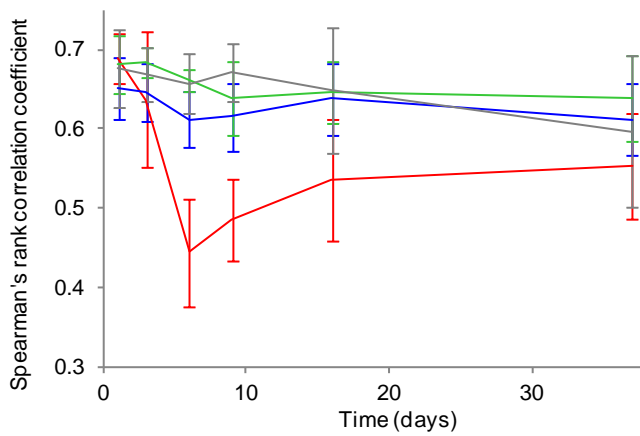
1 **Figure 3**

2 **a**



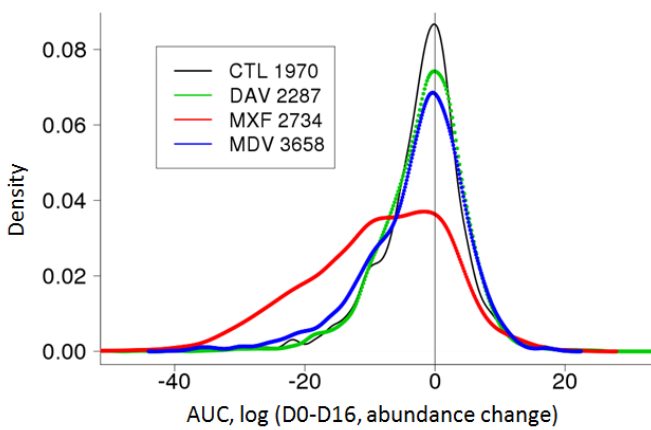
3

4 **b**



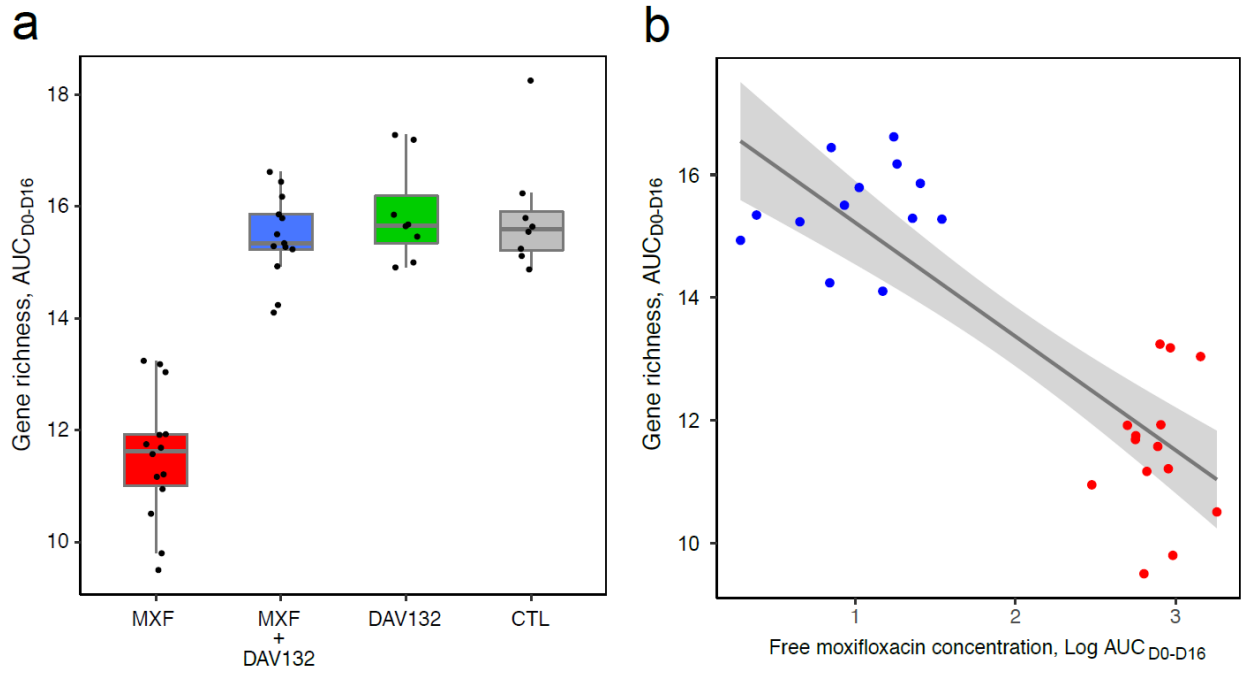
5

6 **c**



7

1 **Figure 4**



2

3

4

5

6

7

8

1 **Figure 5**

2



3

4

5

1 **Table 1. Plasma pharmacokinetic parameters of MXF in HVs receiving or not DAV132**

2

	MXF	MXF + DAV132	p
D1			
AUC _{0-24h} (µg/mL.h)	42.1 (17%)	41.9 (23%)	0.81
C _{max} (µg/mL)	4.02 (33%)	4.63 (21%)	0.10
D5			
AUC _{0-24h} (µg/mL.h)	57.6 (24%)	50.5 (22%)	0.14
C _{max} (µg/mL)	4.89 (25%)	4.60 (27%)	0.52

Geometric means (CV%) are shown. Statistical comparison of groups was performed on log values.

3

4

1 **Table 2. Adsorption of antibiotics by deformed DAV132 *ex vivo***

2
3

Antibiotic class	Antibiotic	Adsorption by deformed DAV132 at 3 hours and 100:1 DAV132:antibiotic ratio (%)
Penicillins	Amoxicillin	92.4*
	Piperacillin	95.4*
Cephalosporins, 1 st generation	Cefalexine	97.6
Cephalosporins, 3 rd generation	Cefotaxime	96.2*
	Ceftriaxone	99.4
Carbapenems	Ertapenem	98.0
	Imipenem	99.7
	Meropenem	98.1**
Fluoroquinolones	Ciprofloxacin	>99.9
	Levofloxacin	>99.9
	Lomefloxacin	>99.4
	Marbofloxacin	>99.9
	Moxifloxacin	>99.7
Lincosamides	Clindamycin	>99.4

4 * Adsorption at 5 hours

5 **Adsorption at 2 hours

6
7
8