These and other objects, which will be clear from the detailed description that follows, are attained by the compositions and the mixtures of the present invention due to the technical characteristics reported in the description and claimed in the attached claims.

## SUMMARY

In one aspect, provided herein is use of a composition in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of a viral infection of the respiratory system and symptoms or disorders deriving from or relating to said viral infection, wherein said viral infection is caused by a virus of the family *Coronaviridae*, subfamily *Coronavirinae*, genus *Betacoronavirus*, species severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV), wherein said composition comprises (i) a mixture M; and, optionally, (ii) at least one acceptable pharmaceutical grade additive and/or excipient; wherein said mixture M comprises or, alternatively, consists of lactoferrin, or an acceptable pharmaceutical grade derivative thereof and at least one bacterial strain belonging to the species *Lactobacillus paracasei*; and wherein said composition is for oral use.

## DESCRIPTION of the FIGURES

Figures 1A-C schematically represent the drawings of *in vitro* studies of evaluation of antiviral responses in Caco2 intestinal epithelial cells following: (A) absence of treatment with a composition according to the present invention, (B) a pre-treatment with a composition according to the present invention, and (C) a co-treatment with a composition according to the present invention, each with respect to treatment with SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Figures 2A-C represent the effect of a composition according to the present invention on a panel of cytokines/chemokines and molecules having antiviral action or involved in the antiviral responses produced by the Caco-2 intestinal epithelial cells, compared with the effect of the strain *L. rhamnosus* GG ATCC 53103.

Figures 3A-B represent the effect of a composition according to the present invention on a panel of cytokines/chemokines and molecules with antiviral action or involved in antiviral responses produced by Caco-2 intestinal epithelial cells following a pre-treatment with said composition with respect to a treatment with SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Figures 4A-C represent the level of expression of virus-specific genes that encode RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) and gene E (CoVE), the cytokine expression profile (pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory) of SARS-CoV-2 in vitro infected Caco-2 cells pre-treated or not-treated with a composition according to the present invention, and compared with the effect of a composition comprising lactoferrin and the strain *L. rhamnosus* GG ATCC 53103.

Figures 5A-B represent the level of expression of virus-specific genes that encode RNA-dependent RNA polymerase (RdRp) and gene E (CoVE), and the inflammatory cytokine expression profile of SARS-CoV-2 in vitro infected Caco-2 cells co-treated or not treated with a composition according to the present invention, and compared with the effect of a composition comprising lactoferrin and the strain *L. rhamnosus* GG ATCC 53103.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

Forming an object of the present invention is a composition for oral use and (in short, composition of the invention) for use as an antiviral agent, preferably for use in a method for the preventive and/or curative treatment of viral infections of the respiratory system (upper respiratory tract and/or lower respiratory tract) and of symptoms or disorders deriving from or relating to said viral infection in subjects in need, wherein said composition comprises: