CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

Use of a composition containing bacterial cells and/or a culture of a bacterium belonging to genera *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Streptococcus* or *Bifidobacterium* in the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for improving joint function.

[Claim 2]

The use of claim 1, wherein the bacterium belonging to genera *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Streptococcus* or *Bifidobacterium* is one or more selected from *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus helveticus*, *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Lactococcus lactis*, *Lactococcus laudensis*, *Streptococcus oralis*, *Bifidobacterium longum*, *Bifidobacterium pseudolongum* and *Bifidobacterium thermophilum*.

[Claim 3]

The use of claim 2, wherein the bacterium belonging to *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Lactococcus lactis* or *Bifidobacterium longum* is a bacterium belonging to *Lactobacillus salivarius* subsp. *salivarius*, *Lactococcus lactis* subsp. *lactis*, *Lactococcus lactis* subsp. *cremoris* or *Bifidobacterium longum* subsp. *infantis*.

[Claim 4]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the bacterium belonging to genera *Lactobacillus*, *Lactococcus*, *Streptococcus* or *Bifidobacterium* is one or more selected from *Lactobacillus acidophilus* strain SBT2062 (FERM BP-11075), *Lactobacillus helveticus* strain SBT2161 (NITE BP-1707) and strain SBT2171 (FERM BP-5445), *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain SBT2687 (NITE ABP-03331) and strain SBT2651 (NITE P-03330), *Lactobacillus salivarius* subsp. *salivarius* strain SBT2670 (FERM P-13247), *Lactococcus lactis* subsp. *lactis* strain SBT0625 (NITE P-03078), *Lactococcus lactis* subsp. *cremoris* strain SBT11373 (NITE P-03246), *Lactococcus laudensis* strain SBT11178 (NITE P-03333), *Streptococcus oralis* strain SBT0320 (NITE P-03332), *Bifidobacterium longum* strain SBT2928 (FERM P-10657),

Bifidobacterium longum subsp. *infantis* strain SBT2785 (NITE P-03328), *Bifidobacterium pseudolongum* strain SBT2922 (NITE P-02984) and *Bifidobacterium thermophilum* strain SBT2992 (NITE P-03329).

[Claim 5]

The use according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the composition is an agent, a food or drink, a nutritional composition, or a feed.

[Claim 6]

A novel lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain SBT2687.

[Claim 7]

A novel lactic acid bacterium, *Lactobacillus salivarius* strain SBT2651.

[Claim 8]

Lactococcus laudensis strain SBT11178.

[Claim 9]

A novel lactic acid bacterium, *Streptococcus oralis* strain SBT0320.

[Claim 10]

A novel *Bifidobacterium* strain, *Bifidobacterium longum* subsp. *infantis* strain SBT2785.

[Claim 11]

A novel *Bifidobacterium* strain, *Bifidobacterium thermophilum* strain SBT2992.