Claims

1. A bacterial strain that increases migrating motor complex (MMC) frequency, MMC velocity, and decreases mesenteric afferent nerve firing, wherein the bacterial strain is Lactobacillus reuteri having been deposited under DSMZ Accession No. DSM 17938.

2. The bacterial strain of claim 1, wherein the bacterial strain decreases pain signaling when administered to a subject.

3. The bacterial strain of claim 1, wherein the bacterial strain increases gastrointestinal motility when administered to a subject, thereby decreasing the transit time of material through the intestine of said subject.

4. The bacterial strain of claim 3, wherein decreasing the transit time of material through the intestine of said subject treats or reduces the risk of developing constipation or colic in said subject.

5. A composition comprising the bacterial strain of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient.

6. A composition comprising the bacterial strain of claim 1 and a foodstuff or food supplement.

7. A composition comprising the bacterial strain Lactobacillus reuteri having been deposited under DSMZ Accession No. DSM 17938 and a further therapeutic or nutritional agent.

8. The composition of claim 5 for treating constipation or colic or reducing the risk of developing constipation or colic.

9. The composition of claim 6 for treating constipation or colic or reducing the risk of developing constipation or colic.

10. The composition of claim 7 for treating constipation or colic or reducing the risk of developing constipation or colic.