CLAIMS

1. 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.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein said virus of the species severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV) is selected from the strains: severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV), severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-2 (SARS-CoV-2 or 2019-nCoV) responsible for COVID-19 disease, and severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus-like (SARS-CoV-like or SL-CoV); more preferably SARS-CoV-2.

3. The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said at least one bacterial strain belonging to the species *Lactobacillus paracasei* is selected from the group comprising, or alternatively, consisting of:

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Lactobacillus paracasei* identified as *Lactobacillus paracasei* DG® and deposited at the National Collection of Cultures of Microorganisms of the Pasteur Institute in Paris under the accession number CNCM I-1572 (deposited on 5 May 1995 by Sofar S.p.A as *Lactobacillus casei ssp. casei* CNCM I-1572),

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Lactobacillus paracasei* identified as *Lactobacillus paracasei* LPC-S01 and deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) under the accession number DSM 26760 (deposited on 11 January 2013 by Sofar S.p.A and on 15 May 2017 requested the conversion of the deposit into a deposit according to the Budapest Treaty),

and a mixture thereof.

4. The use according to any one of the preceding claims wherein said mixture M further comprises at least one further bacterial strain selected from the group comprising or, alternatively, consisting of:

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Bifidobacterium breve* identified as *Bifidobacterium breve* BbIBS01 and deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) under deposit number DSM 33231 (deposited on 31 July 2019 by Sofar S.p.A.),

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Bifidobacterium breve* identified as *Bifidobacterium breve* BbIBS02 and deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) under deposit number DSM 33232 (deposited on 31 July 2019 by Sofar S.p.A.),

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Bifidobacterium animalis* identified as *Bifidobacterium animalis subsp. lactis* BlIBS01 and deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) under deposit number DSM 33233 (deposited on 31 July 2019 by Sofar S.p.A.),

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Lactobacillus plantarum* identified as *Lactobacillus plantarum* LpIBS01 and deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) under deposit number DSM 33234 (deposited on 31 July 2019 by Sofar S.p.A.),

- a bacterial strain belonging to the species *Bifidobacterium bifidum* identified as *Bifidobacterium bifidum* MIMBb23sg or BbfIBS01, or a derivative thereof, wherein said bacterial strain was deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH (DSMZ) under deposit number DSM 32708 on 04 December 2017 by Sofar S.p.A and

- a mixture thereof.

5. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said mixture M comprises or, alternatively, consists of lactoferrin, or a derivative thereof and a strain of *Lactobacillus paracasei* DG® CNCM I-1572.

6. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said at least one strain of bacteria is a probiotic or a paraprobiotic or a postbiotic viable bacterial strain.

7. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mixture M further comprises N-acetylcysteine or an acceptable pharmaceutical grade salt thereof.

8. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the mixture M further comprises hyaluronic acid or an acceptable pharmaceutical grade salt thereof.

9. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein lactoferrin is in a liposomal form; preferably in a phospholipid-based liposomal form.

10. The use according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said symptoms and/or disorders deriving from or relating to said viral infection of the respiratory system are selected from: severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), respiratory complications, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), bronchitis, emphysema, cystic fibrosis, cough, pertussis, pneumonia, pleuritis, bronchiolitis, cold, sinusitis, rhinitis, tracheitis, pharyngitis, laryngitis, acute laryngotracheobronchitis, epiglottitis, bronchiectasis, difficulty breathing, dyspnoea, breathlessness, shortness of breath, fever, fatigue, muscle aches, muscle pain, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat, gastrointestinal symptoms, nausea, diarrhoea, renal insufficiency, loss of appetite, general feeling of malaise.