disease partially or completely. The term "treat" must also be understood as encompassing the reduction of number of relapses and/or the reduction of intensity of the relapses and/or the increase of the time separating two relapses of a disease according to the present disclosure, in particular of an inflammatory bowel disease.

The present disclosure is based on the discovery, by the present inventors, that when mesalamine, or a derivative thereof, is used in association with the *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* strain CNCM I-4573, this leads to an improvement of its anti-inflammatory properties.

In particular, the present inventors discovered that when mesalamine, or a derivative thereof, is used in a low ineffective quantity when alone, its administration to an individual in association with the *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* strain CNCM I-4573, also in an inefficient quantity when used alone, is unexpectedly able to provide anti-inflammatory properties.

According to the experimental results of the inventors, the association of mesalamine, or a derivative thereof, with a specific strain of *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* (*F. prausnitzii*), deposited with the CNCM under accession number CNCM I-4573 on January 31, 2012, has the unexpected capacity to synergistically reduce a gastrointestinal inflammation, in particular a bowel inflammation, in an individual.

According to a first subject, the present disclosure accordingly relates to an association of a bacterial strain of the species *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* deposited with the CNCM under accession number CNCM I-4573 with mesalamine or a derivative thereof. In one aspect, the present disclosure refers to an association of a bacterial strain of the species *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* deposited with the CNCM under accession number CNCM I-4573 with mesalamine or a derivative thereof, said mesalamine derivative being selected from the group consisting of Mesalazine, Olsalazine, 4-ASA (4-Aminosalicylic acid) and Sulfasalazine.

Derivatives of mesalamine can for example be selected from the group consisting of Mesalazine, Olsalazine, 4-ASA (4-Aminosalicylic acid) and Sulfasalazine.

Another object of the present disclosure is a pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium, an association of the disclosure.

The disclosure further relates to an association according to the disclosure for use in the treatment and/or prevention of an inflammatory gastrointestinal disease in an individual. In another aspect, the present disclosure refers to a use of an association as disclosed herein in the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing an inflammatory gastrointestinal disease in an individual.

An individual according to the disclosure is preferably a mammal, including a non-human mammal, and is, in particular, a human being.

The inflammatory gastrointestinal disease is, in particular, an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), more particularly a colonic inflammatory bowel disease.

CLAIMS

1. Association of a bacterial strain of the species *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* deposited with the CNCM under accession number CNCM I-4573 with mesalamine or a derivative thereof, said mesalamine derivative being selected from the group consisting of Mesalazine, Olsalazine, 4-ASA (4-Aminosalicylic acid) and Sulfasalazine.

2. Pharmaceutical composition comprising, in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium, an association as defined in claim 1.

3. Use of an association as defined in claim 1, in the manufacture of a medicament for treating and/or preventing an inflammatory gastrointestinal disease in an individual.

4. The use according to claim 3, wherein the individual is a mammal.

5. The use according to claim 3 or 4, wherein the individual is a human being.

6. The use according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the inflammatory gastrointestinal disease is an inflammatory bowel disease.

7. The use according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein the inflammatory gastrointestinal disease is a colonic inflammatory bowel disease.

8. The use according to claim 7, wherein the colonic inflammatory bowel disease is chosen from the group consisting of Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis and pouchitis.

9. The use according to claim 7 or 8, wherein the colonic inflammatory bowel disease is chosen from the group consisting of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

10. The use according to any one of claims 3 to 9, wherein the association is in a pharmaceutically acceptable medium of a pharmaceutical composition.

11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the composition is to be administered in a daily dose of the bacterial strain of the species *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii* deposited with the CNCM under accession number CNCM I-4573 representing from 10^3 bacteria to 10^{12} bacteria, in particular a daily dose representing from 10^4 bacteria to 10^{12} bacteria, more particularly a daily dose representing from 10^6 to 10^{12} bacteria, preferably in the form of a daily dose equivalent to 10^{10} bacteria.

12. The use according to claim 10 or 11, wherein the composition is for oral administration, and is in particular chosen from the group consisting of a food product, a beverage, a pharmaceutical product, a nutraceutical, a food additive, a food supplement and a milk product.

13. The use according to claim 12, characterized in that the composition is a pharmaceutical product.