WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A composition comprising a cell or biologically pure culture of the *Intestinicoccus colisanans* strain deposited under accession number V21/015887 or V21/015888, or a derivative thereof.

2. A composition comprising a bacterial strain with a 16S rRNA sequence that is at least about 99%, 99.1%, 99.2%, 99.3%, 99.4%, 99.5%, 99.6%, 99.7%, 99.8%, or 99.9%, identical to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2 or 7-10, or which has a 16S rRNA gene sequence represented by any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1, 2 or 7-10.

3. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a bacterial strain that is a phylogenetic descendant of the MRCA of *I. colisanans* and *I. sp002305575*, together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent, or excipient.

4. The composition of any one of claims 1 to 3, further comprising:
(a) a prebiotic; and/or
one or more additional bacterial strains.

5. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the bacterial strain produces an agent that attenuates or impairs signal transducer and activator of transcription 3 (STAT3) signalling in a cell.

6. The composition according to claim 5, wherein the agent binds specifically to any one of STAT3, JAK2, TYK, or IL-23.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the bacterial strain produces one or more metabolites selected from cyclo(-Phe-Pro), indole-3-lactic acid, allopurinol, propionylcarnitine, pyrogallol, 3-(2-hydroxyethyl)indole, *N*-acetyl-cysteine, tryptophol, indole-3 propionic acid, ornithine, acetate and/or a combination thereof.

8. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the bacterial strain is of the species *I. colisanans.*

9. The use of the composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a medicament for restoring or improving gut barrier function in a subject.

10. The use of the medicament according to claim 9, wherein restoring or improving gut barrier function is characterised by at least one of: (i) an increase in the quality and/or quantity of mucin; (ii) improvement in integrity of tight junction proteins; (iii) reduction in translocation of luminal contents into systemic circulation; or (iv) a reduction of intestinal ulcers and/or intestinal wounds.

11. The use of the medicament according to claim 10, wherein the luminal contents includes lipopolysaccharide (LPS).

12. The use of the medicament according to claim 9 to 11, wherein the restoration or improvement in gut barrier dysfunction results in a reduction in systemic inflammation in the subject.

13. The use of the medicament according to claim 12, wherein systemic inflammation is identified in the subject when the level of an inflammatory cytokine (e.g., IL-1β, IL-8, IL-6, and TNF) in a sample from the subject is above a predetermined threshold.

14. The use of the composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a medicament for inducing or enhancing mucosal healing in a subject.

15. The use of the medicament according to claim 14, wherein mucosal healing is measured using one or more fecal or serum markers

optionally wherein one or more fecal markers are selected from the group comprising calprotectin, lactoferrin, metalloproteinase (MMP)-9, and lipocalin-2

and/or wherein mucosal healing is measured using endoscopic score.

16. The use of the composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a medicament for reducing inflammation in a subject.

17. The use of the medicament according to claim 16, wherein the inflammation is local to the gut environment, or systemic inflammation.

18. The use of the medicament according to claim 16 or claim 17, wherein the bacterial strain attenuates the NFκB pathway (e.g., by reducing or inhibiting NFκB).

19. The use of the composition of any one of claims 1 to 8 for the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing an inflammatory or autoimmune disorder in a subject.

20. The use of the medicament according to claim 19, wherein the inflammatory or autoimmune disorder is selected from the group comprising an inflammatory bowel disease (such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis); asthma (such as allergic asthma or neutrophilic asthma); fatty liver disease (such as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease (NAFLD)); ankylosing spondylitis; systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE); scleroderma; Sjogren's syndrome; and vasculitis.