CLAIMS

1. Use of a composition comprising a bacterial strain of the genus *Blautia* in the manufacture of a medicament for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity.

2. The use according to claim 1, wherein the visceral hypersensitivity is associated with IBS, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, functional dyspepsia or infantile colic.

3. The use according to claim 2, wherein the visceral hypersensitivity is associated with IBS, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or functional dyspepsia.

4. The use according to claim 1, wherein the medicament is for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity in a subject diagnosed with IBS, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, functional dyspepsia or infantile colic.

5. The use according to claim 4, wherein the medicament is for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity in a subject diagnosed with IBS, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis or functional dyspepsia.

6. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament is for reducing colonisation of the gastrointestinal tract by sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB) in the treatment or prevention of visceral hypersensitivity.

7. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament is for lowering H_2S levels or preventing elevated H_2S levels in the gastrointestinal tract in the treatment or prevention of visceral hypersensitivity.

8. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament is for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity in a patient suffering from painful distension of the gastrointestinal tract, in particular in the colon or rectum.

9. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the bacterial strain is any one of *Blautia hydrogenotrophica*, *Blautia stercoris*, or *Blautia wexlerae*.

10. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the bacterial strain has a 16s rRNA sequence that is at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5% or 99.9% identical to the 16s rRNA sequence of a bacterial strain of *Blautia hydrogenotrophica*.

11. The use according to claim 10, wherein the bacterial strain has a 16s rRNA sequence that is at least 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5% or 99.9% identical to SEQ ID NO:5 or which has the 16s rRNA sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

12. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the bacterial strain has a 16s rRNA sequence that is at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5% or 99.9% identical to the 16s rRNA sequence of a bacterial strain of *Blautia stercoris*.

13. The use according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the bacterial strain has a 16s rRNA sequence that is at least 95%, 96%, 97%, 98%, 99%, 99.5% or 99.9% identical to the 16s rRNA sequence of a bacterial strain of *Blautia wexlerae*.

14. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a bacterial strain of the species *Blautia hydrogenotrophica*, wherein the medicament is for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity in a subject diagnosed with IBS.

15. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a bacterial strain of the species *Blautia hydrogenotrophica*, wherein the medicament is for reducing colonisation of the gastrointestinal tract by sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB),

lowering H_2S levels or preventing elevated H_2S levels in the gastrointestinal tract in the treatment or prevention of visceral hypersensitivity.

16. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a bacterial strain of the species *Blautia stercoris*, wherein the medicament is for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity in a subject diagnosed with IBS.

17. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a bacterial strain of the species *Blautia stercoris*, wherein the medicament is for reducing colonisation of the gastrointestinal tract by sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB), lowering H_2S levels or preventing elevated H_2S levels in the gastrointestinal tract in the treatment or prevention of visceral hypersensitivity.

18. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a bacterial strain of the species *Blautia wexlerae*, wherein the medicament is for treating or preventing visceral hypersensitivity in a subject diagnosed with IBS.

19. The use according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises a bacterial strain of the species *Blautia wexlerae*, wherein the medicament is for reducing colonisation of the gastrointestinal tract by sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB), lowering H_2S levels or preventing elevated H_2S levels in the gastrointestinal tract in the treatment or prevention of visceral hypersensitivity.

20. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament is to be administered orally.

21. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients or carriers.

22. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the bacterial strain is lyophilised and/or viable.

23. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises a single strain of the genus *Blautia*.

24. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the composition comprises the *Blautia* bacterial strain as part of a microbial consortium.

25. The use according to any preceding claim, wherein the medicament is in the form of a food product and/or a vaccine composition.