CLAIMS

[Claim 1]

Use of *Lactobacillus helveticus* for producing an agent for immune stimulation, wherein the *Lactobacillus helveticus* has three functions: dendritic cell-like cell activation, IgA production induction, and IL-12 production induction.

[Claim 2]

The use according to claim 1, wherein the *Lactobacillus helveticus* is *Lactobacillus helveticus* GCL1815 or *Lactobacillus helveticus* GCJ5-4B.

[Claim 3]

The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the *Lactobacillus helveticus* satisfies at least one requirement selected from the group consisting of the following (1) to (3):

(1) when the *Lactobacillus helveticus* is added at 1×10^7 cells/well to a well seeded with 250 μL of human-derived peripheral-blood mononuclear cell fluid at a concentration of 8×10^5 cells/mL, 100 ng/mL or more of IgA is produced;

(2) when the *Lactobacillus helveticus* is added at 4×10^6 cells/well to a well seeded with 200 μL of human-derived dendritic cell-like cells at a concentration of 1.25×10^5 cells/mL, CD86 expression intensity becomes at least 1.5 times higher than that of a control without any lactic acid bacteria; and

(3) when the *Lactobacillus helveticus* is added at 4×10^6 cells/well to a well seeded with 200 μL of human-derived dendritic cell-like cells at a concentration of 1.25×10^5 cells/mL, 300 pg/mL or more of IL-12 is produced.

[Claim 4]

The use according to claim 3, wherein the *Lactobacillus helveticus* satisfies the three requirements (1) to (3).

[Claim 5]

The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein at least one immunostimulatory function among the three immunostimulatory functions, the dendritic cell-like cell activation, the IgA production induction, and the IL-12 production induction possessed by the *Lactobacillus helveticus*, is higher than that of *Lactococcus lactis* JCM 5805 strain.

[Claim 6]

The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the three immunostimulatory functions, the dendritic cell-like cell activation, the IgA production induction, and the IL-12 production induction, possessed by the *Lactobacillus helveticus*, are higher than those of *Lactococcus lactis* JCM 5805 strain.

[Claim 7]

The use according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the immune stimulation is maintenance of immune function in a healthy individual.

[Claim 8]

Use of *Lactobacillus helveticus* for producing an oral composition for immune stimulation, comprising the agent for immune stimulation comprising the Lactobacillus helveticus, wherein the Lactobacillus helveticus has three functions: dendritic cell-like cell activation, IgA production induction, and IL-12 production induction.

[Claim 9]

The use according to claim 8, which is a composition for food or drink.

[Claim 10]

Use of *Lactobacillus helveticus* for producing a prophylactic or therapeutic agent for viral infection, comprising

the agent for immune stimulation comprising the Lactobacillus helveticus, wherein the Lactobacillus helveticus has three functions: dendritic cell-like cell activation, IgA production induction, and IL-12 production induction.

[Claim 11]

A lactic acid bacterium that belongs to the genus *Lactobacillus*, with accession number NITE BP-03804 at the NITE Patent Microorganism Depository (NPMD) of the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE).

[Claim 12]

A lactic acid bacterium that belongs to the genus *Lactobacillus*, with accession number NITE BP-03805 at the NITE Patent Microorganism Depository (NPMD) of the National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE).