CLAIMS

1. A method of selecting a lactic acid bacterial strain capable of utilizing ethanolamine, said method comprising the steps of:
   i) providing bacteria of a lactic acid bacterial strain in a culture medium and growing a culture of said bacteria,
   ii) determining if said bacteria are capable of utilizing ethanolamine; and
   iii) selecting said lactic acid bacterial strain if said bacteria are capable of utilizing ethanolamine,

   wherein said culture medium comprises an amount or concentration of ethanolamine and/or an amount or concentration of ethanolamine is added to the culture of step i) at a point in time before step ii).
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said method further comprises adding to the culture of step i) a further amount or concentration of ethanolamine at a second point in time and growing said culture before performing steps ii) and iii) of said method.
3. The method of any one of claims 1 to 2, wherein step i) is preceded by performing an initial screening of said lactic acid bacteria for the presence of one or more gene(s) encoding bacterial homologues of one or more of the genes encoding any of the proteins selected from the group consisting of: ethanolamine ammonia lyase large subunit EutB, microcompartment structural protein EutL and Ethanolamine utilization protein EutH in said lactic acid bacteria optionally wherein said method further comprises performing a screening to determine the presence of a bacterial homologue of the gene encoding NADPH-dependent FMN reductase belonging to the pfam03358 protein family and/or a gene encoding Protein-tyrosine-phosphatase belonging to the pfam 13350protein family.
4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the amount or concentration of ethanolamine in or added to said culture medium of step i) is 0.1 mM to 50 mM, or 1 to 30 mM, and/or wherein the further amount or concentration of ethanolamine added to said culture is 1mM to 1M, or 30 mM to 1M.
5. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein said lactic acid bacteria are bacteria of the genus *Lactobacillus*, optionally wherein said lactic acid bacteria are bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus reuteri*.

6. Lactic acid bacteria selected by the method of any one of the preceding claims.
7. A method of producing lactic acid bacteria induced to utilize ethanolamine, said method comprising the steps of:
    i) providing lactic acid bacteria capable of utilizing ethanolamine in a culture medium,
    ii) adding to the culture medium of step i) a first amount or concentration of ethanolamine at a first point in time and growing said culture,
    iii) optionally adding to the culture of step ii) a second amount or concentration of ethanolamine at a second point in time and growing said culture, and thereafter;
    iv) retrieving the lactic acid bacteria from said culture medium.
8. The method of claim 7, wherein the first amount or concentration of ethanolamine added to said culture in step ii) of is 0.1mM to 50 mM, or 1 mM to 30 mM, and/or wherein the second amount or concentration of ethanolamine added to said culture in step iii) is 1mM to 1 M, or 30 mM to 1M.
9. The method of any one of claims 7 to 8, wherein said lactic acid bacteria are bacteria of the genus *Lactobacillus*, optionally wherein said lactic acid bacteria are bacteria of the species *Lactobacillus reuteri*.
10. Lactic acid bacteria produced by a method of any one of claims 7 to 9, for use in inhibiting the growth of pathogenic bacteria in an individual by competing with said pathogenic bacteria for ethanolamine as a substrate.
11. Lactic acid bacteria of claim 6 or 10for use in inhibiting the growth of pathogenic bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract of an individual.
12. Lactic acid bacteria of claim 6 or 10, for use as a medicament.
13. Lactic acid bacteria of claim 12, for use in the treatment of a condition or disorder caused by or related to an ethanolamine-utilizing pathogen,optionally wherein said ethanolamine-using pathogen is selected from the group consisting of *Clostridium difficile*, *Escherichia coli*, Enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella typhimurium. Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium, Shigella sonnei, Shigella dysenteriae, Klebsiella pneumonia, Citrobacter koseri, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Clostridium perfringens, Clostridium difficile, Clostridium tetani, Listeria monocytogenes,*

Fusobacterium nucleatum Enterococcus faecalis, Acinetobacter baumannii, Burkholderia mallei, and *Burkholderia cepacia.*

14. A composition comprising ethanolamine-utilizing lactic acid bacteria induced by ethanolamine during growth of a culture comprising said lactic acid bacteria,.
15. A culture of *Lactobacillus reuteri* DSM 27131 or *Lactobacillus reuteri* DSM 32465, optionally wherein said culture is frozen or lyophilized.
16. The *Lactobacillus reuteri* strains of claim 15, or the composition of claim 14, for use in the treatment of a condition or disorder caused by or related to an ethanolamine-utilizing pathogen.
17. The *Lactobacillus reuteri* strains of claim 15, or the composition of claim 14, for use in inhibiting the growth of one or more pathogenic bacteria in an individual by competing with said pathogenic bacteria for ethanolamine as a substrate, optionally for inhibiting growth of pathogenic bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract of an individual.
18. Ethanolamine-utilizing lactic acid bacteria for use in the treatment of a condition or disorder caused by or related to an ethanolamine-utilizing pathogen by aggravating and/or decreasing the virulent effect of said pathogen.