



# **RETHINKING PRESERVATION:** Novel Antimicrobial Peptides as Natural Alternatives for Upholding Product Integrity

Presented By: Tia Alkazaz





# Necessity of Product Preservation

## Background

- Cosmetics and personal care products can unintentionally serve as an ideal medium for microbial growth
  - Bacteria, fungi, and mold can cause contamination
- Formulators must develop products that are resistant to microbial contamination for safety and regulatory compliance
- Preservative systems are added to personal care products at relatively low levels to ensure products remain safe and perform as intended over their lifetime





## Product Preservation is Key

### Market Shift Towards Natural Solutions

- Preservative systems work as an **essential component** of any cosmetic formulation to provide **resistance against microbial contamination**
- The **palette of allowed preservatives**, as listed in Annex V of the EU Cosmetics Directive, **is rapidly diminishing**
  - Due to safety concerns, increased exposure, sensitization
- Cosmetics and Personal Care Industry is on the hunt for new preservative systems to **build consumer confidence**





## Product Preservation is Key

### Market Shift Towards Natural Solutions

- Options for formulators to explore have included alcohols, organic acids and salts, multifunctional additives, or natural flavors and fragrance
- These options may have limitations – poor cost performance, potential for irritation, etc.
- Ideal alternative preservation systems should provide broad spectrum activity
- **What if preservation was a secondary benefit from a material's primary activity?**



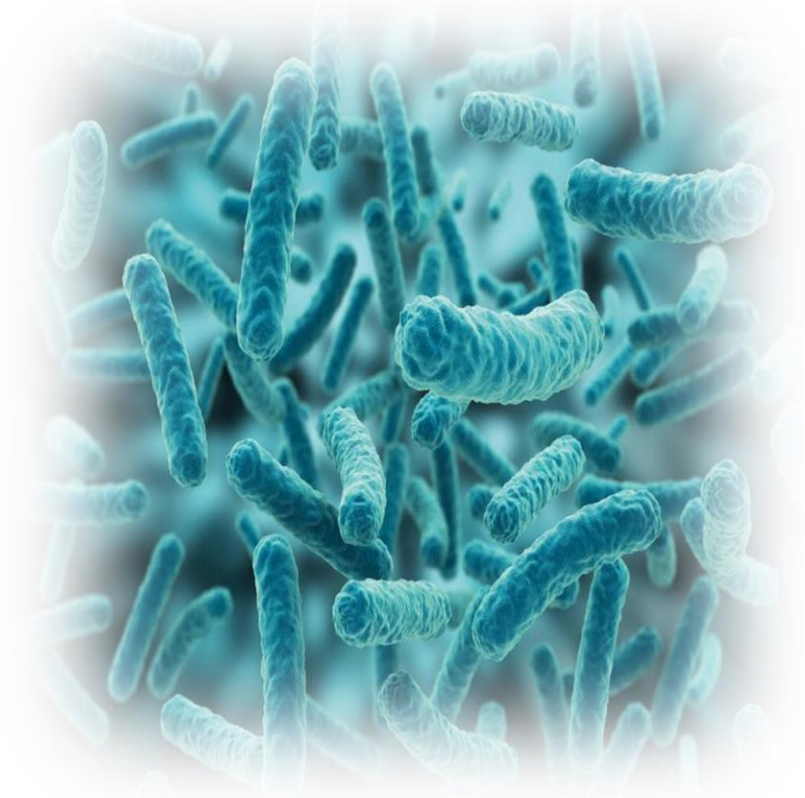




# Natural Product Chemistry

## Antimicrobial Peptides Produced through Bacterial Fermentation

- The fermentation of lactic acid bacteria to encourage the production of antimicrobial peptides serves as a solution for alternative preservation
- Peptides function ubiquitously as cellular messengers
- Antimicrobial peptides are relatively short, protein-like compounds that are typically 30 to 60 amino acids in length
- Antimicrobial peptides derived from bacteria, they are typically produced as defense mechanisms to gain a competitive advantage against other microorganisms within their environment

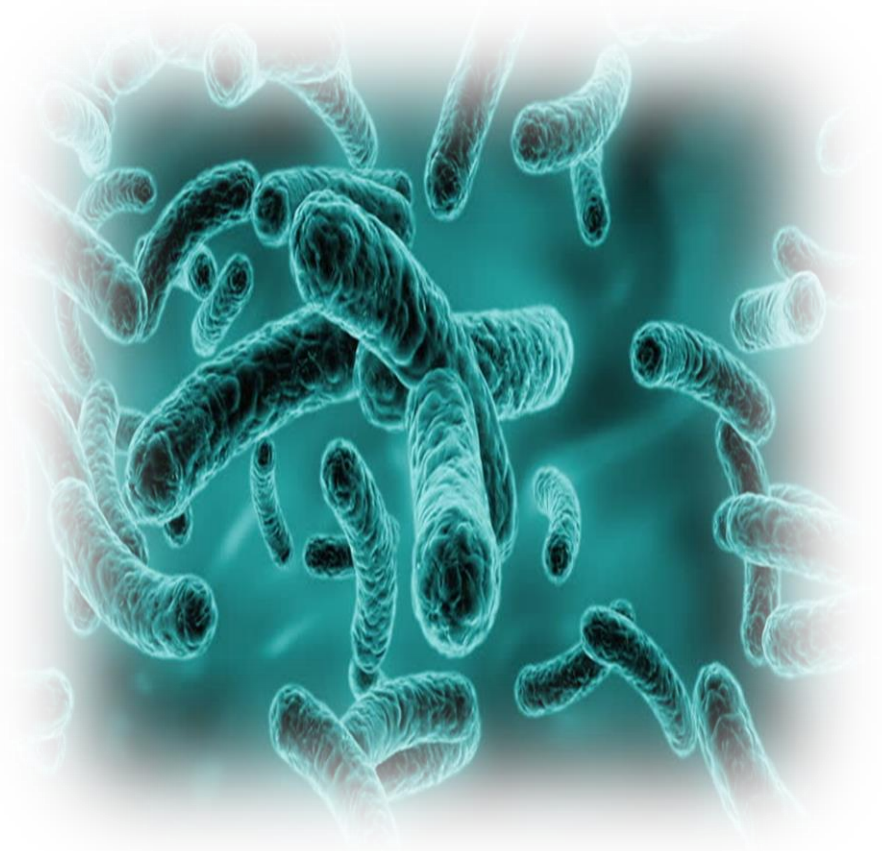




# Antimicrobial Peptides

## A Long History of Use

- Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) group, which includes microorganisms such as *Lactobacillus* sp., *Enterococcus* sp., and *Leuconostoc* sp., produces a variety of antimicrobial peptides
- Nisin produced from *L. lactis*
  - Commercialized in 1953
  - Considered GRAS for some applications
- Antimicrobial peptides are commonly used in the preservation of fermented food products





# Antimicrobial Peptides

## Use in Fermentation

- Fermented foods represent some of our earliest culinary endeavors
- Represented in every culture
- Is the ability of fermentation to preserve foods more than an issue of pH?
- Microorganisms used for fermentation release active antimicrobial peptides





# Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome

## Interest in Antimicrobial Peptide Technology

- Starting in early 2003 SARS began in East Asia and spread to over 2 dozen countries
  - Notably the Korean peninsula was not affected
  - Why?
- Kimchi
  - fermented food that mix salted cabbage with seasonings such as chilly powder, garlic, ginger, spring onion, and radish etc. and generate lactic acid at low temperature in a container.
  - Predominately fermented with *Lactobacillus sp.* and *Leuconostoc sp.*







# Transforming The Face Of Preservation

## Peptide Technology In The Personal Care Industry

- Focusing on natural product chemistry, the fermentation of lactic acid bacteria to encourage the production of antimicrobial peptides serves as a solution for alternative preservation
- **Mechanism of Action**
  - Lactic Acid Bacteria (LAB) family – *Leuconostoc kimchii* produces lactic acid
  - Restricts the growth of microorganisms by acidifying their environment
  - Fermentation of *Leuconostoc* creates bacteriocins (antimicrobial peptides)
- Bacteriocins provide broad spectrum activity and proven conditioning benefits
- **Modulated Activity**
  - Specific lytic agents added to the ferment filtrate to facilitate controlled cell lysis
  - Ensures the release of the bacteriocins for maximized activity





# Antimicrobial Peptide (Lactobacillus Ferment)

## Peptide Technology In The Personal Care Industry

- Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC)

Organism	MIC (%)
<i>E. coli</i>	0.5
<i>S. aureus</i>	0.5
<i>P. aeruginosa</i>	0.5
<i>C. albicans</i>	0.5
<i>A. Brasiliensis</i>	0.5

Figure 1: MIC Results for Lactobacillus Ferment.

- 4.0% **Lactobacillus Ferment** in Generic Cream  
Base Challenge Test – pH 5

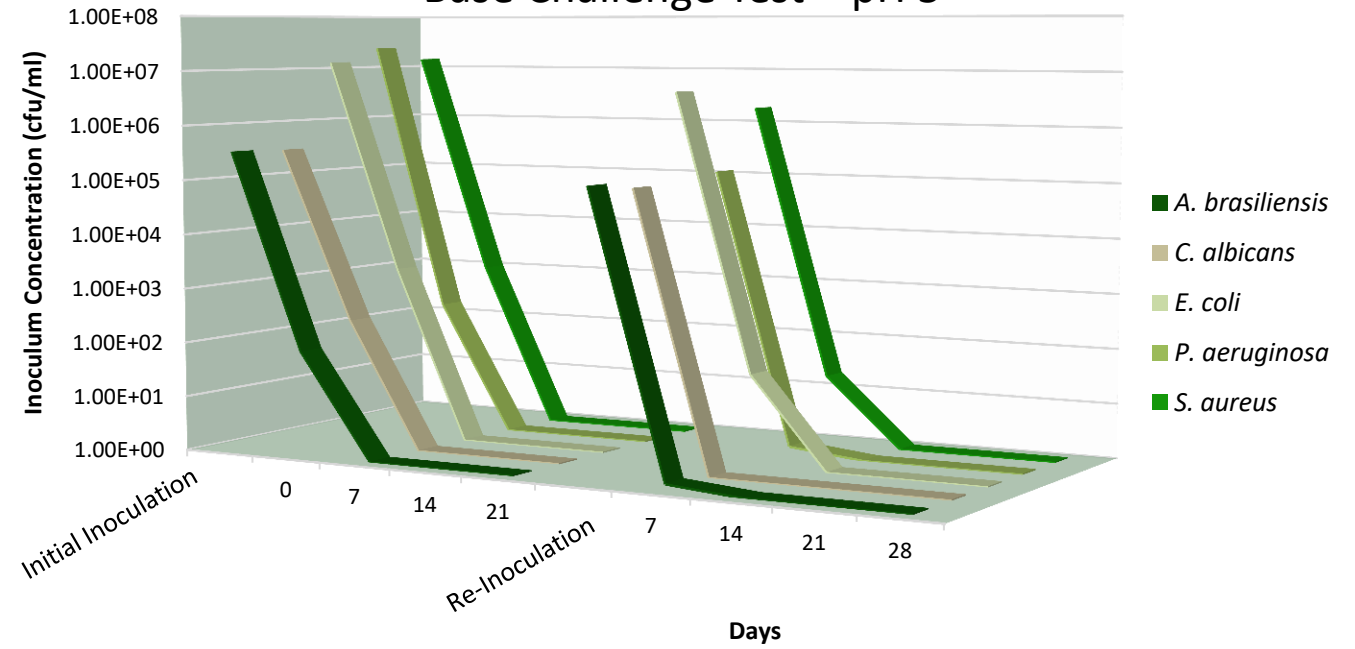


Figure 2: Challenge Test Results for Lactobacillus Ferment.



# Antimicrobial Peptide (Lactobacillus Ferment)

## Peptide Technology In The Personal Care Industry

- 4.0% **Lactobacillus Ferment** in Generic Cream  
Base Challenge Test – pH 3

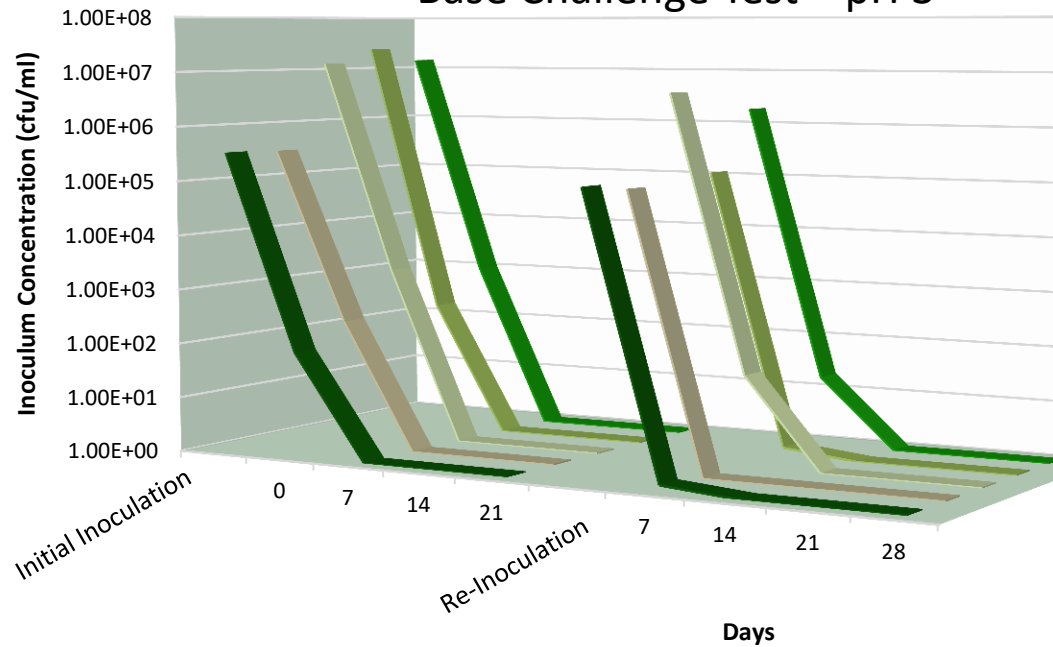


Figure 3: Challenge Test Results for Lactobacillus Ferment.

- 4.0% **Lactobacillus Ferment** in Generic Cream  
Base Challenge Test – pH 7

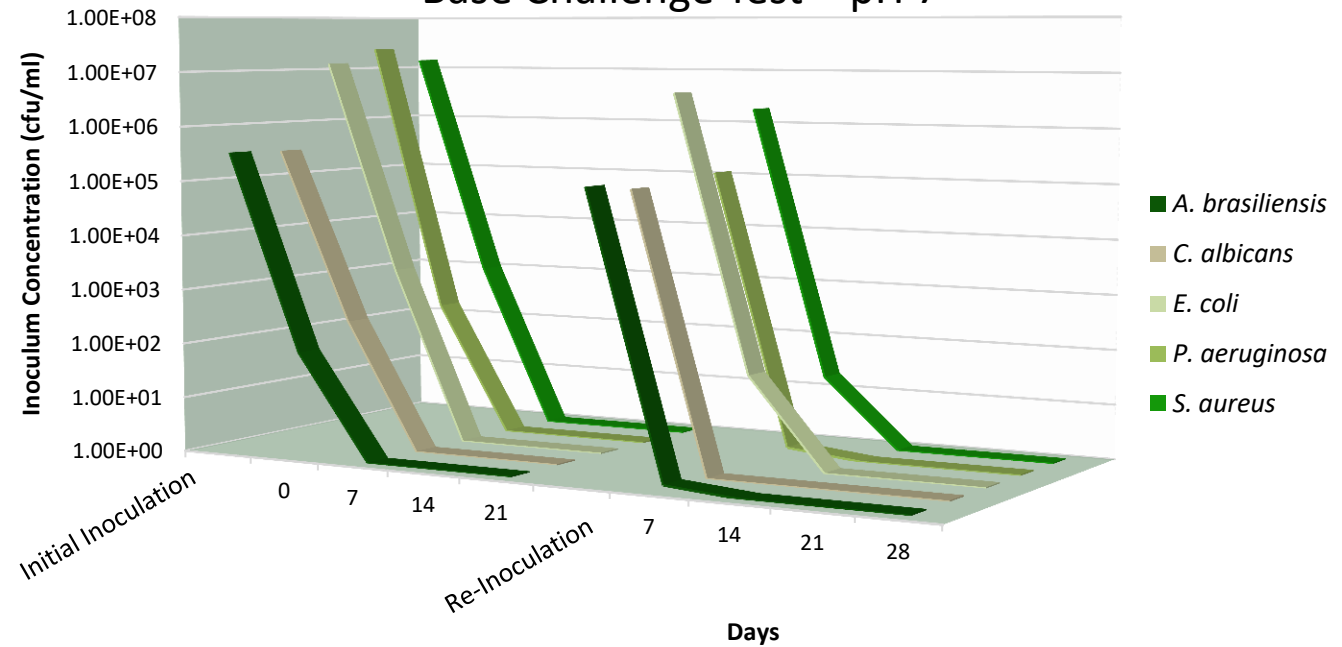


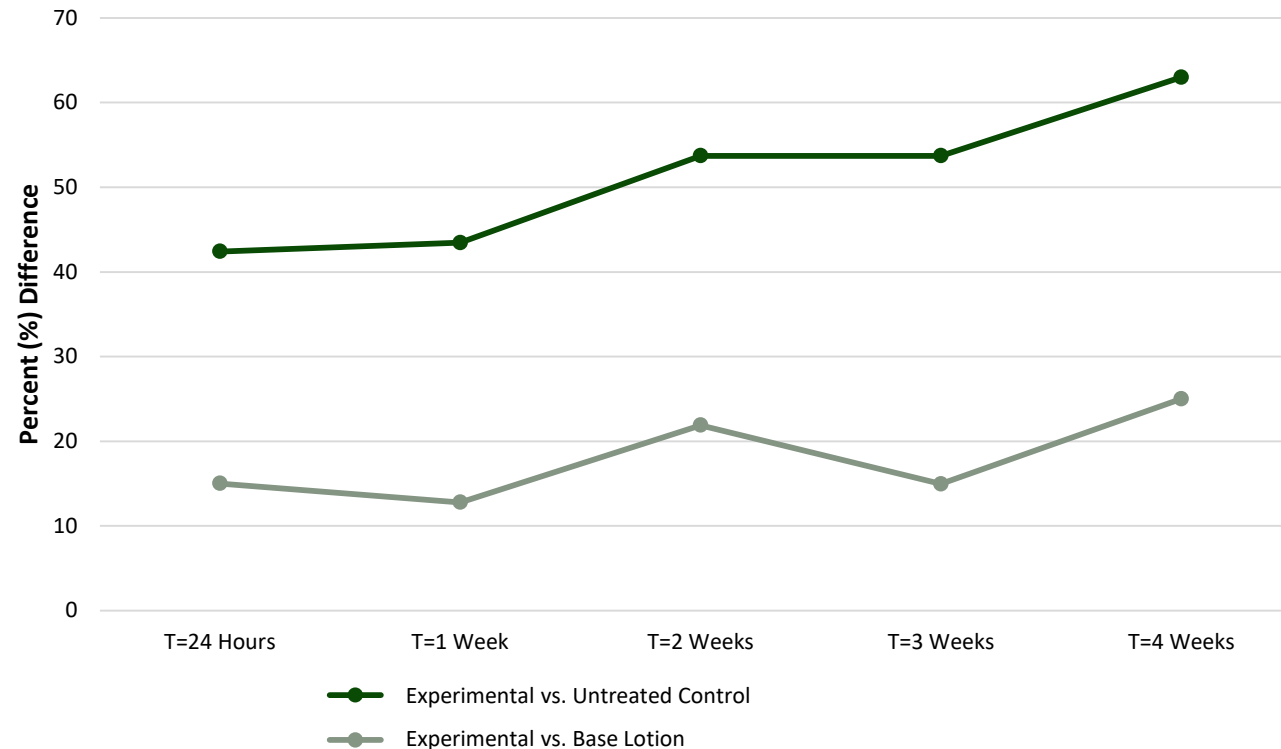
Figure 4: Challenge Test Results for Lactobacillus Ferment.



# Antimicrobial Peptide (Lactobacillus Ferment)

## Peptide Technology In The Personal Care Industry

### Comparative Moisturization



#### Protocol

- **Equipment:** DermaLab Combo
- **Principle of measurement:** Conductance, single frequency
- **Subjects:** 10 (m/f)
- **Test area:** Volar forearms
- **Concentration of active used:** 2.0%
- **Frequency of application:** Twice Daily

**Figure 3:** Moisturization Results for Lactobacillus Ferment.

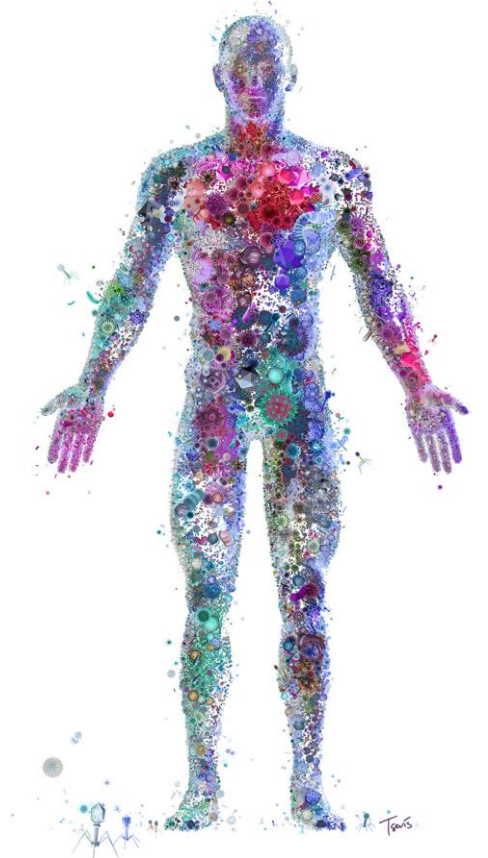




# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Peptide Technology In The Personal Care Industry

- Product preservation is crucial to prevent microbial contamination in a product during its foreseeable life in use by the end consumer
- The different microorganisms which have been found to grow in cosmetics are also resident commensal microorganisms found on our skin
  - Traditional preservatives may destroy pathogenic & commensal bacteria
- Protective microbiome should be considered
  - Could unintentionally alter the skin's natural defenses
- This principle can help guide appropriate use of potential topical probiotics
  - **Promote the delicate balance of the microflora!**

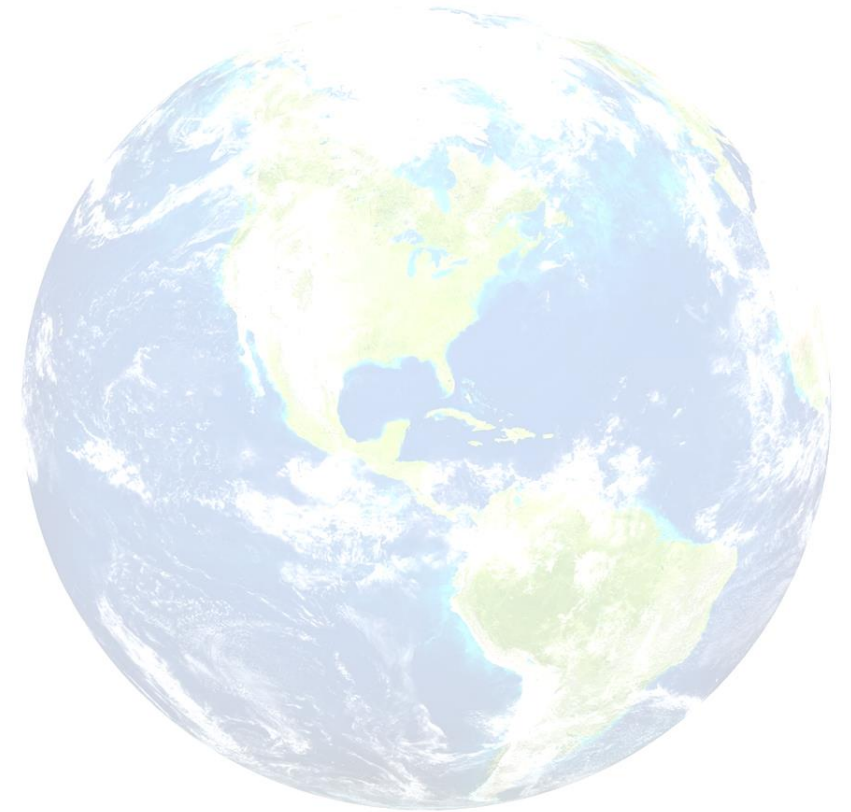




## **Preservation and the Skin Microbiome**

### **In an Ideal World...**

- **Cosmetics preservatives and biocides would prevent microbial growth within personal care products without affecting the skin's natural microbiome**
- How can we evaluate the effect of an antimicrobial on the microbiome?

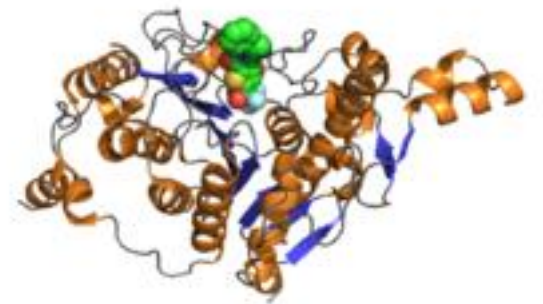




# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## HDAC: Marker of Microflora Balance

- The selective activity of natural antimicrobials and traditional preservatives has been evaluated through the analysis of Histone Deacetylases (HDAC)
- HDAC are a class of enzymes expressed in skin cells
  - HDAC maintains healthy skin by removing acetyl groups from histones, allowing histones to condense and organize DNA for easy replication
- **HDAC serves as an innovative marker for microflora balance**
  - When the enzymes function properly, the microbial population of healthy skin remains intact
  - Preserving skin's integrity and natural barrier function





# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## HDAC: Marker of Microflora Balance

- HDAC3 is most prominently expressed in N-TERT human keratinocyte cells
- HDAC3 expression is essential to maintain healthy skin
  - Regulates the relationship between commensal bacteria and cell function
- HDAC expression within multiple tissue systems such as the digestive tract and the skin is an essential factor in maintaining organ health and function
- **When HDAC is altered or reduced, the skin's commensal bacteria is no longer as effective against unwanted microbes**
  - Leads to compromised immune system and reduced skin health
- HDAC is extremely sensitive to environmental and intrinsic factors such as preservatives and biocides

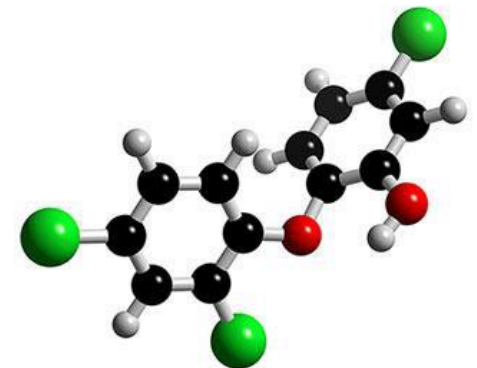




# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Triclosan

- Triclosan is a bactericidal broad-spectrum agent developed over 40 years ago and first introduced as a surgical scrub
- Primarily used as a topical biocide more so than a cosmetic preservative
- Both biocides and preservatives affect the skin microbiome
- Over the last 20 years its use has **grown rapidly in personal care products** including soap, hand sanitizer, cosmetics, toothpaste, as well as household products such as odor fighting socks and germ resistant sponges, kitchenware, and bedding

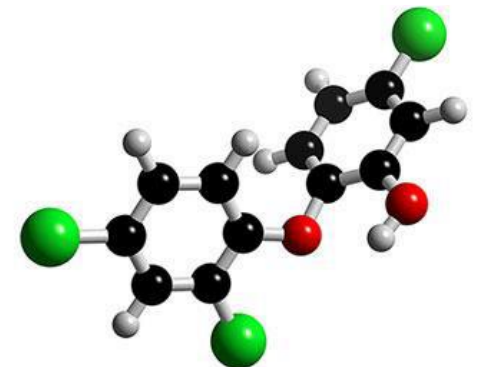




# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Triclosan

- Causes disruption of bacterial cell walls in nonspecific targets
- Results in disturbance of skin's microflora balance
  - **Pathogenic and commensal bacteria are killed**
  - **Skin left defenseless against new destructive microorganisms**
- Can also cause dangerous antimicrobial resistance to vital medicines
  - Growing threat to overall healthcare
- **Decreases HDAC expression in skin keratinocytes**
  - Leads us to consider natural, effective alternatives

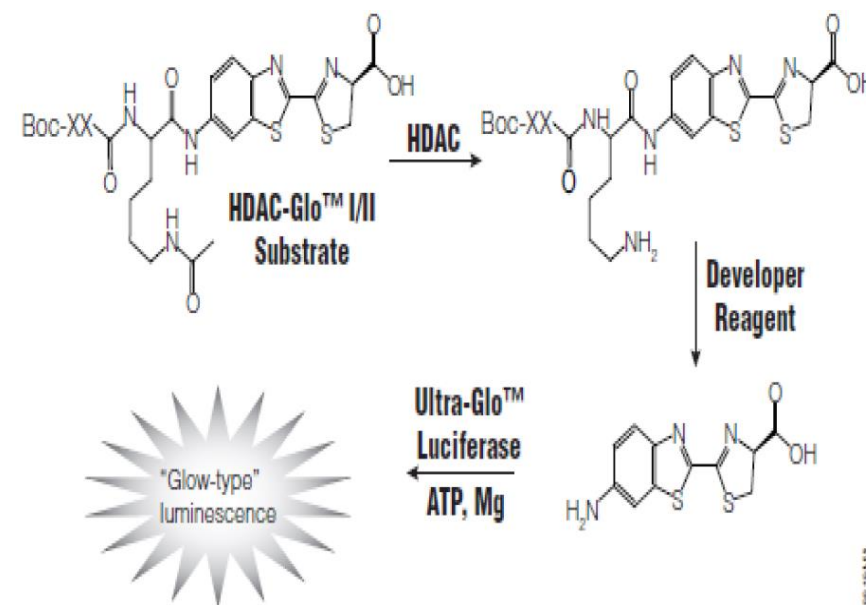




## Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

### HDAC Assay

- Screen each product for its effect on HDAC activity and microflora balance
- Used to determine histone deacetylase activity in cell-based or biochemical formats, providing accurate and efficient inhibitor profiling
- Bioluminescence-based detection so the light output or luminescence correlates to the amount of HDAC activity
- **Less HDAC inhibition = higher light output**





# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## HDAC Assay

- More HDAC inhibition yields a lower luminescence value
  - Denotes the most damaging antimicrobial

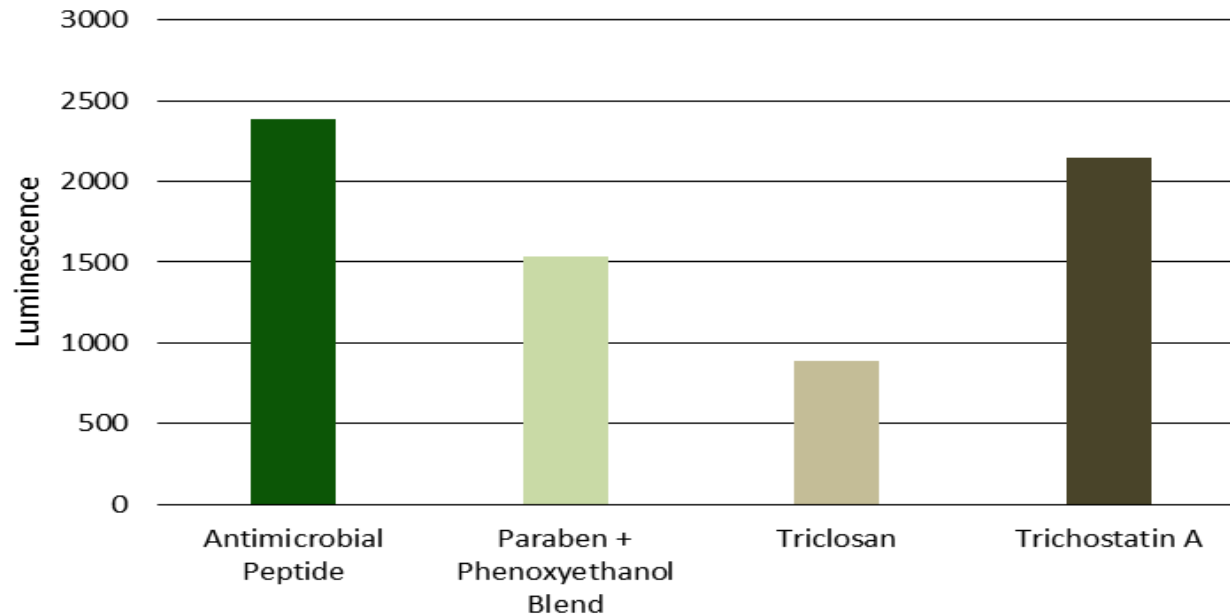


Figure 4. HDAC Assay Results

Product	Conc/Dilution	Luminescence
Peptide	32	2388
Paraben + Phenoxyethanol Blend	32	1539
Triclosan	32	889.35
Trichostatin A	1.56	2132

Figure 5. HDAC Assay Results





# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Antimicrobial Peptides and the Microbial Population of the Microbiome

- HDAC assay has concluded that some naturally derived antimicrobials are able to destroy pathogenic bacteria while maintaining commensal microflora on the skin
  - Supporting the balance of the microbiome and promoting overall skin health
- While this research suggested HDAC is channel of communication between microflora and the skin, the effects on the population of **species** of the microbiome was not analyzed
- 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) analysis has been used to investigate variations in the population of microbial species after the application of antimicrobial peptides



# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Metagenomics Analysis

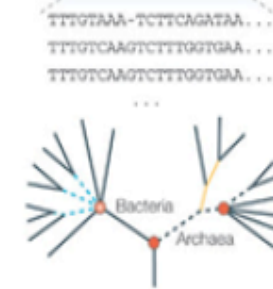
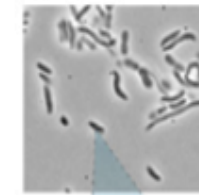
- In this study, a more conventional approach was taken to analyze the effects of the population of species in the skin microbiome
- The effect of the microbial population present on the skin with the application of an antimicrobial peptide was compared to water (negative control) and Triclosan (positive control)
- Microbiome population was determined by DNA extraction, 16S ribosomal RNA (rRNA) polymerase chain reaction (PCR) amplification and sequencing
- Every person has their own unique microbiome
  - Examining the nasolabial folds of each subject isolates the geographic location
  - Person-to-person variation is uncontrollable
  - Patterns in microbial change were evaluated individually



## Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

### Metagenomics Analysis

- 16S rRNA sequencing is a common amplicon sequencing method used to identify and compare bacteria present within complex microbiomes and environments
- The analysis of rRNA genes begins with isolating a sample of bacteria, followed by the extraction of bacterial DNA
- The bacterial DNA undergoes PCR amplification using primers that specifically code for the 16S rRNA gene fragment. Amplification produces a population of rRNA gene fragments of equal size, determined by the specific primers used. The population of rRNA gene fragments is considered to be representative of the natural microbial population.



Isolation of the bacteria

Bacterial DNA Extraction

PCR Amplification of DNA using primers that code for rRNA gene

Amplification of the 16S rRNA gene

Sequence a portion of the 16S rRNA gene

Compare the sequenced gene with genetic sequence database to obtain match



# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Metagenomics Analysis

- Participants separated into blind treatment groups with each group having one of the following applied to the lateral nasal folds
  - 4.0% Antimicrobial Peptide
  - 1.0% Triclosan
  - Water
- Treatments were applied twice a day for a period of 2 weeks and new samples were taken from each participant to analyze population differences after product applications
- Samples were submitted to the Genomics Laboratory at the David H. Murdoch Research Institute (DHMRI) for DNA extraction, 16S rRNA PCR amplification and sequencing analysis





# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Metagenomics Analysis

- DNA extracted from the samples shows a diversity population of
  - Staphylococcus* sp.,
  - Corynebacterium* sp.,
  - Propionibacterium* sp.,
  - Streptococcus* sp.,
  - Aerobacillus* sp.
- As well a different populations known as transient and/or opportunistic invaders, such as
  - Escherichia* sp, *Pseudomonas* sp., *Vibrio* sp., *Clostridium* sp., *Neisseria* sp.

Name	Taxonomy
HM267149.1.1374	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Bacillales, D_4_Staphylococcaceae, D_5_Staphylococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IF144078.1.1370	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Bacillales, D_4_Staphylococcaceae, D_5_Staphylococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
DQ870740.1.1288	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Bacillales, D_4_Staphylococcaceae, D_5_Staphylococcus, D_6_Staphylococcus epidermidis
EF509212.1.1332	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Streptococcaceae, D_5_Streptococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IF172400.1.1363	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Pasteurellales, D_4_Pasteurellaceae, D_5_Haemophilus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
FN908168.1.1419	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Streptococcaceae, D_5_Streptococcus, D_6_Streptococcus sp. 183-08
IF239161.1.1368	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Streptococcaceae, D_5_Streptococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
AJ276512.1.1499	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Aerococcaceae, D_5_Aerococcus, D_6_Aerococcus sanguinicola
IQ450584.1.1399	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Streptococcaceae, D_5_Streptococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
DQ805513.1.1407	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Erysipelotrichia, D_3_Erysipelotrichales, D_4_Erysipelotrichaceae, D_5_Incertae Sedis, D_6_uncultured bacterium
EF653422.1.1493	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Lactobacillaceae, D_5_Lactobacillus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
FM996743.1.1462	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Actinomycetales, D_4_Actinomycetaceae, D_5_Actinomyces, D_6_uncultured bacterium
FJ557743.1.1389	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Clostridia, D_3_Clostridiales, D_4_Lachnospiraceae, D_5_Stomatobaculum, D_6_uncultured bacterium
FJ558013.1.1408	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Bacteroidetes, D_2_Bacteroidia, D_3_Bacteroidales, D_4_Prevotellaceae, D_5_Prevotella, D_6_uncultured bacterium
SU940721.1.1398	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Actinomycetales, D_4_Actinomycetaceae, D_5_Actinomyces, D_6_uncultured bacterium
FJ557924.1.1338	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Corynebacteriales, D_4_Corynebacteriaceae, D_5_Corynebacterium, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IQ855619.1.1284	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Corynebacteriales, D_4_Corynebacteriaceae, D_5_Corynebacterium, D_6_uncultured bacterium
SQ069781.1.1371	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Bacilli, D_3_Lactobacillales, D_4_Leuconostocaceae, D_5_Leuconostoc, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IF142155.1.1344	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Corynebacteriales, D_4_Corynebacteriaceae, D_5_Corynebacterium, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IQ452545.1.1417	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Corynebacteriales, D_4_Corynebacteriaceae, D_5_Corynebacterium, D_6_uncultured bacterium
AEQ001000237.30.1459	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Bacteroidetes, D_2_Bacteroidia, D_3_Bacteroidales, D_4_Prevotellaceae, D_5_Prevotella, D_6_Prevotella salivae DSM 15606
HQ804831.1.1450	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Micrococcales, D_4_Micrococcaceae, D_5_Rothia, D_6_uncultured organism
IN882102.1.1501	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Actinobacteria, D_2_Actinobacteria, D_3_Micrococcales, D_4_Microbacteriaceae, D_5_Microbacterium, D_6_uncultured bacterium
FJ470489.1.1508	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Negativicutes, D_3_Selenomonadales, D_4_Veillonellaceae, D_5_Selenomonas, D_6_uncultured bacterium
EU762705.1.1383	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Negativicutes, D_3_Selenomonadales, D_4_Veillonellaceae, D_5_Dialister, D_6_uncultured bacterium
SQ061522.1.1348	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Clostridia, D_3_Clostridiales, D_4_Family XI, D_5_Anaerococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
SQ006276.1.1348	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Firmicutes, D_2_Clostridia, D_3_Clostridiales, D_4_Family XI, D_5_Anaerococcus, D_6_uncultured bacterium
EU375190.1.1218	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Alphaproteobacteria, D_3_Sphingomonadales, D_4_Erythrobacteraceae, D_5_uncultured, D_6_uncultured Porphyrobacter sp.
AY860251.1.1438	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Betaproteobacteria, D_3_Burkholderiales, D_4_Burkholderiaceae, D_5_Cupriavidus, D_6_Cupriavidus taiwanensis
CP000507.436076.437612	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Alteromonadales, D_4_Shewanellaceae, D_5_Shewanella, D_6_Shewanella amazonensis SB28
AB845250.1.1210	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Enterobacteriales, D_4_Enterobacteriaceae, D_5_Enterobacter, D_6_Enterobacter sp. BD6
KC337225.1.1448	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Oceanospirillales, D_4_Halomonadaceae, D_5_Halomonas, D_6_uncultured Halomonas sp.
IF224063.1.1380	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Betaproteobacteria, D_3_Neisseriales, D_4_Neisseriaceae, D_5_uncultured, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IQ467996.1.1398	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Betaproteobacteria, D_3_Neisseriales, D_4_Neisseriaceae, D_5_Kingella, D_6_uncultured bacterium
HQ681963.1.1488	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Betaproteobacteria, D_3_Burkholderiales, D_4_Comamonadaceae, D_5_Comamonas, D_6_uncultured bacterium
SU272313.1.1510	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Xanthomonadales, D_4_Xanthomonadaceae, D_5_Stenotrophomonas, D_6_uncultured bacterium
DQ813307.1.1471	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Pseudomonadales, D_4_Pseudomonadaceae, D_5_Pseudomonas, D_6_Pseudomonas sp. IBUN MAR1
FM163487.1.1535	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Enterobacteriales, D_4_Enterobacteriaceae, D_5_Salmonella, D_6_Achromobacter xylosoxidans
IF830196.1.1513	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Pseudomonadales, D_4_Moraxellaceae, D_5_Acinetobacter, D_6_uncultured bacterium
DQ192213.1.1346	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Gammaproteobacteria, D_3_Pseudomonadales, D_4_Moraxellaceae, D_5_Enhydrobacter, D_6_Moraxella sp. L70
FJ375496.1.1483	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Proteobacteria, D_2_Betaproteobacteria, D_3_Burkholderiales, D_4_Oxalobacteraceae, D_5_Massilia, D_6_uncultured bacterium
IQ456596.1.1360	D_0_Bacteria, D_1_Fusobacteria, D_2_Fusobacteria, D_3_Fusobacteriales, D_4_Fusobacteriaceae, D_5_Fusobacterium, D_6_uncultured bacterium



# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Metagenomics Analysis

- The antimicrobial peptide increased the beneficial bacteria in the participants' skin area studied, while decreasing the presence of *Propionibacterium* sp.

Participant 1

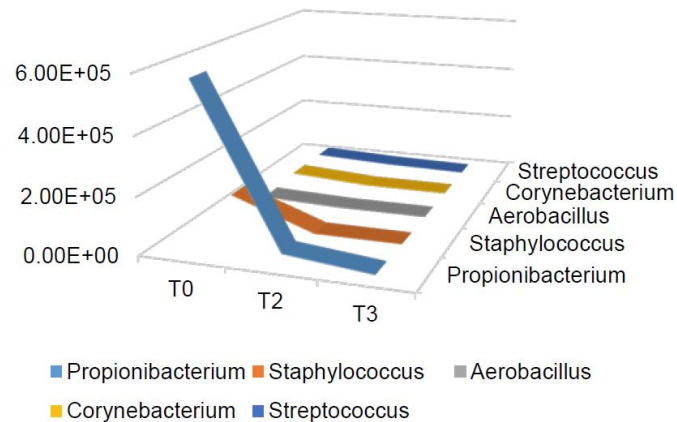


Figure 9. Antimicrobial Peptide Results

Participant 12

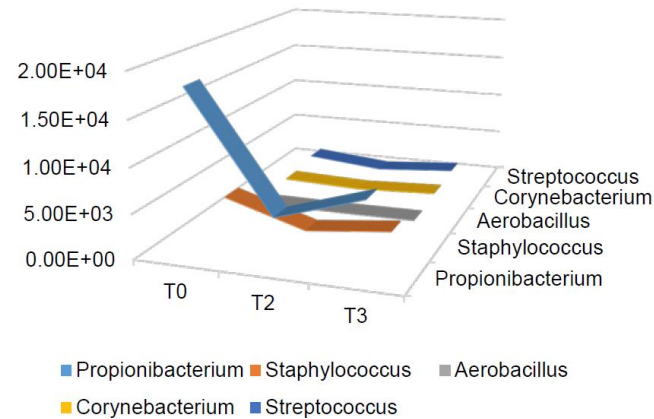


Figure 10. Triclosan Results

Participant 15

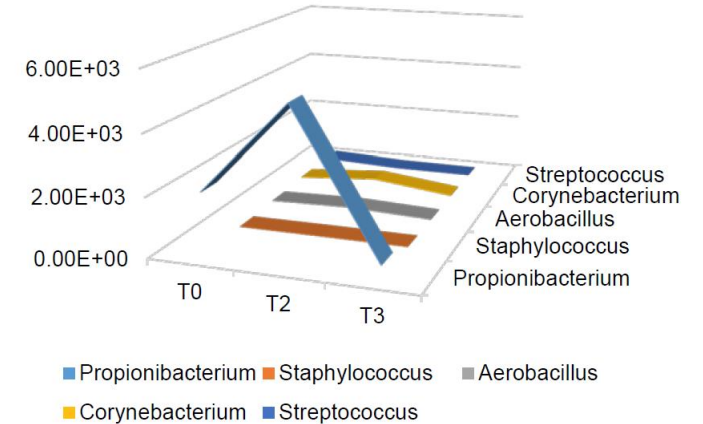


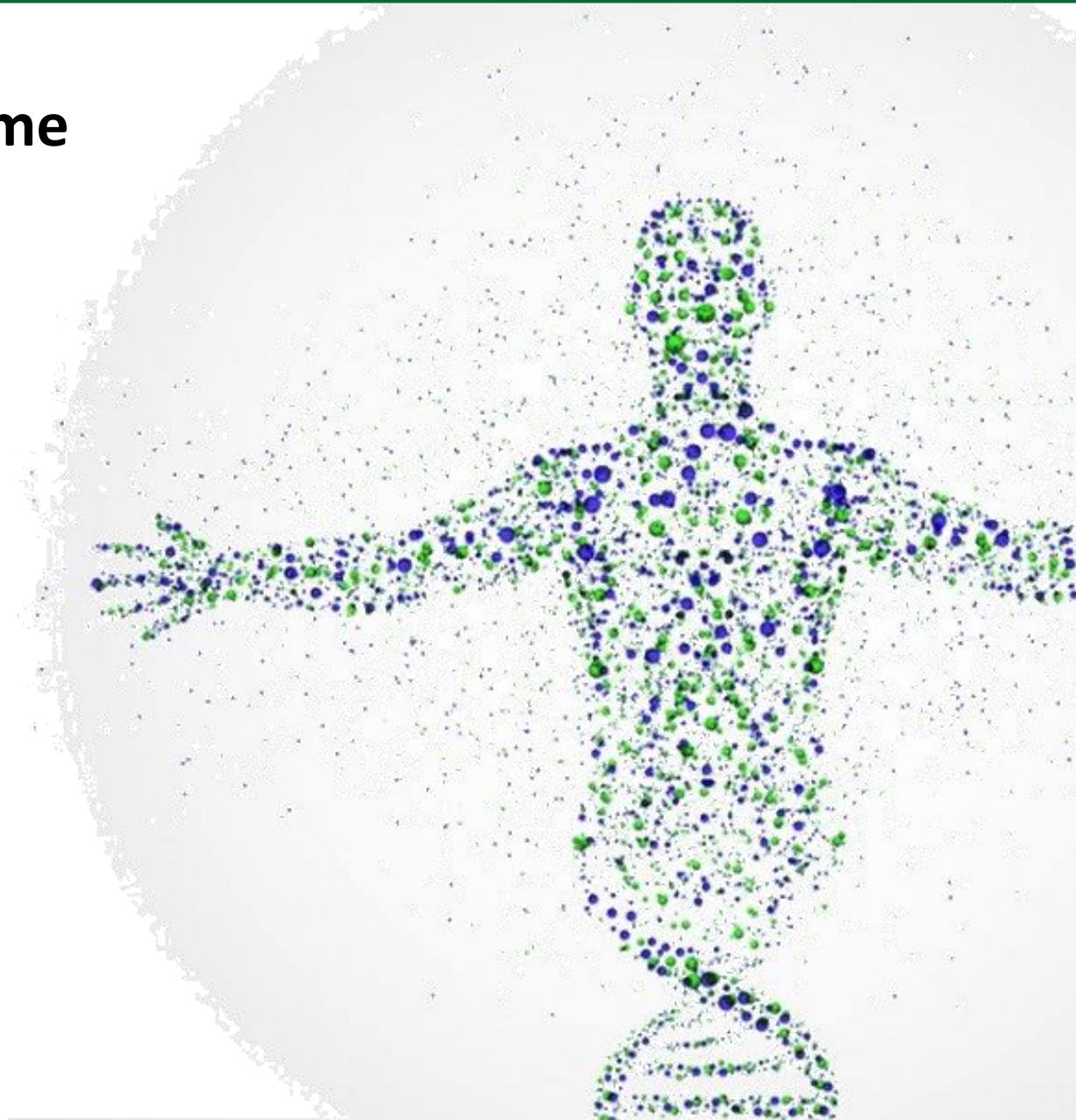
Figure 11. Water Results



# Preservation and the Skin Microbiome

## Metagenomics Analysis

- By increasing the populations of beneficial bacteria and decreasing the population of *Propionibacterium* sp. this current study demonstrates the potential of natural antimicrobial peptides to **promote a balanced skin microbiome**





# Antimicrobial Peptides

## Versatility in Formulation

- Unlike more complex proteins and enzymes, antimicrobial peptides are much less susceptible to temperature and pH extremes
- Temperatures well above 40°C are typically tolerated, as are the range of pH values commonly found in cosmetic products
- Antimicrobial peptides produced by bacterial fermentation typically impart neither color nor odor to the final formulation
- These characteristics of antimicrobial peptides provide the flexibility needed to be effective in a wide variety of cosmetic and personal care formulations







# Rethinking Preservation

## Conclusion

- Antimicrobial peptides produced through bacterial fermentation allow cosmetic chemists to approach formulating in a more holistic manner
- Instead of adding preservatives as a final thought to the formulation the entire process of formulating and production will have to be considered, choosing bases and actives specifically to help deter microbial growth
- The use of antimicrobial peptides produced by lactic acid bacteria serves as a solution for alternative preservation







# **RETHINKING PRESERVATION:** Novel Antimicrobial Peptides as Natural Alternatives for Upholding Product Integrity

Presented By: Tia Alkazaz

