



Towards the development of bioactive packaging

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem



Research goal

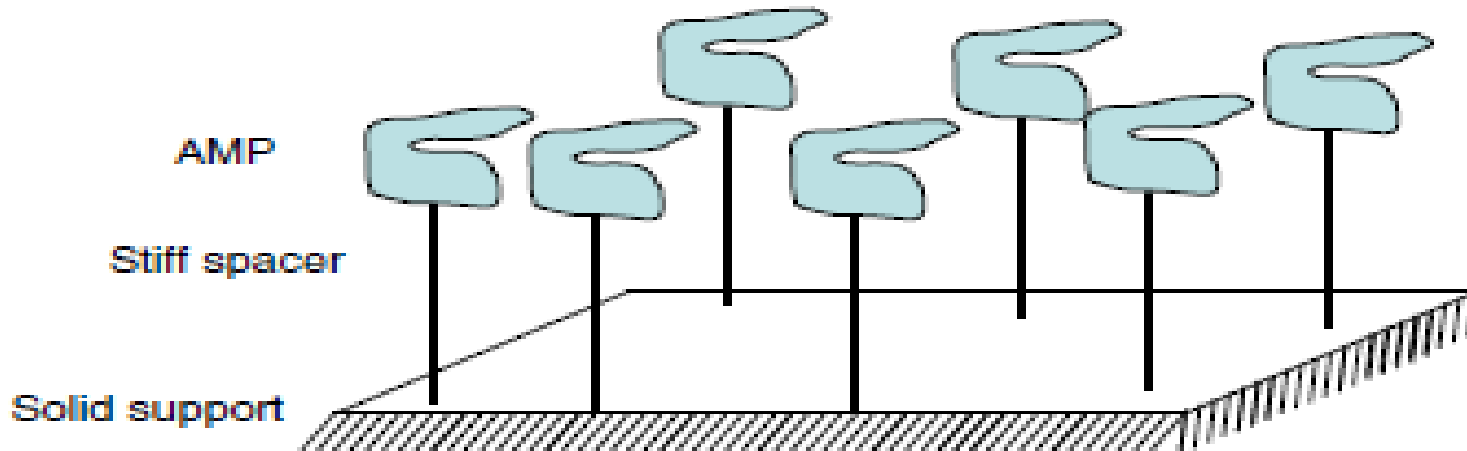
Design smart bioactive packaging

Interesting bioactive packaging..



Bioactive packaging

- Slow release of active agents.
- Active agents are immobilized onto the surface materials via covalent linkages to prevent migration to the food.



Designing novel active agents

Antimicrobial agents

- Pathogenic infections represent a persistent threat to human health
- Antibiotic therapy is under severe pressure due to increased antibiotic resistance
- Discovery of new classes of antibiotics is warranted
- One potentially useful classes of antibiotics are the antimicrobial peptides

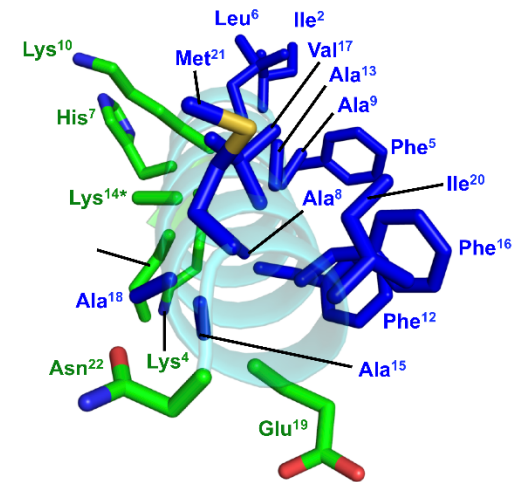
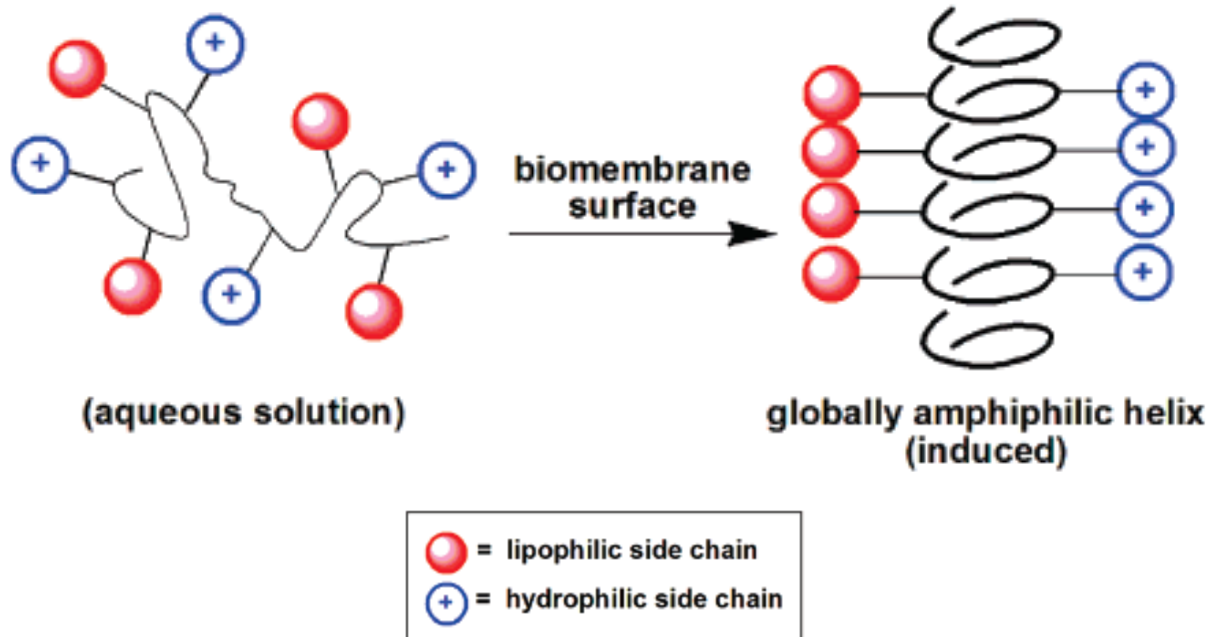
Antimicrobial peptides (AMPs)

- Produced by eukaryotes as part of the innate immune in response to bacterial infection
- Length of 12 to 50 amino acids
- Most AMP have net positive charge >2 due to excess Arginine or Lysine residues
- Contain $\sim 50\%$ hydrophobic amino acids

AMPs as Inspiration for Development of Novel Antimicrobial Polymers

Antibacterial Activity of AMP

Natural host defense peptides (for eg. Magainin 2, Cecropin A)

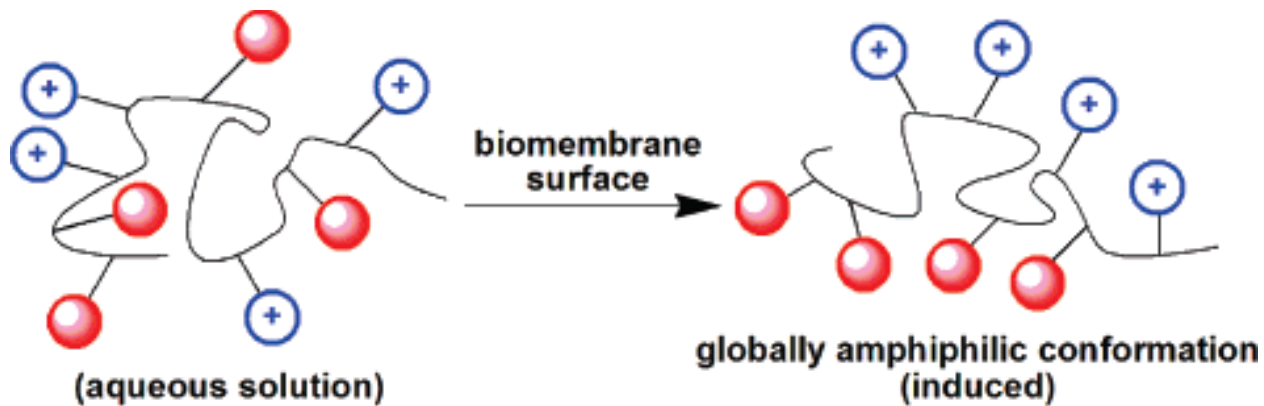


**Ala^{8,13,18}-magainin 2
crystal structure**

**Do we need defined
sequence?**

Random cationic Copolymers: Mimics of Host-Defense Peptides

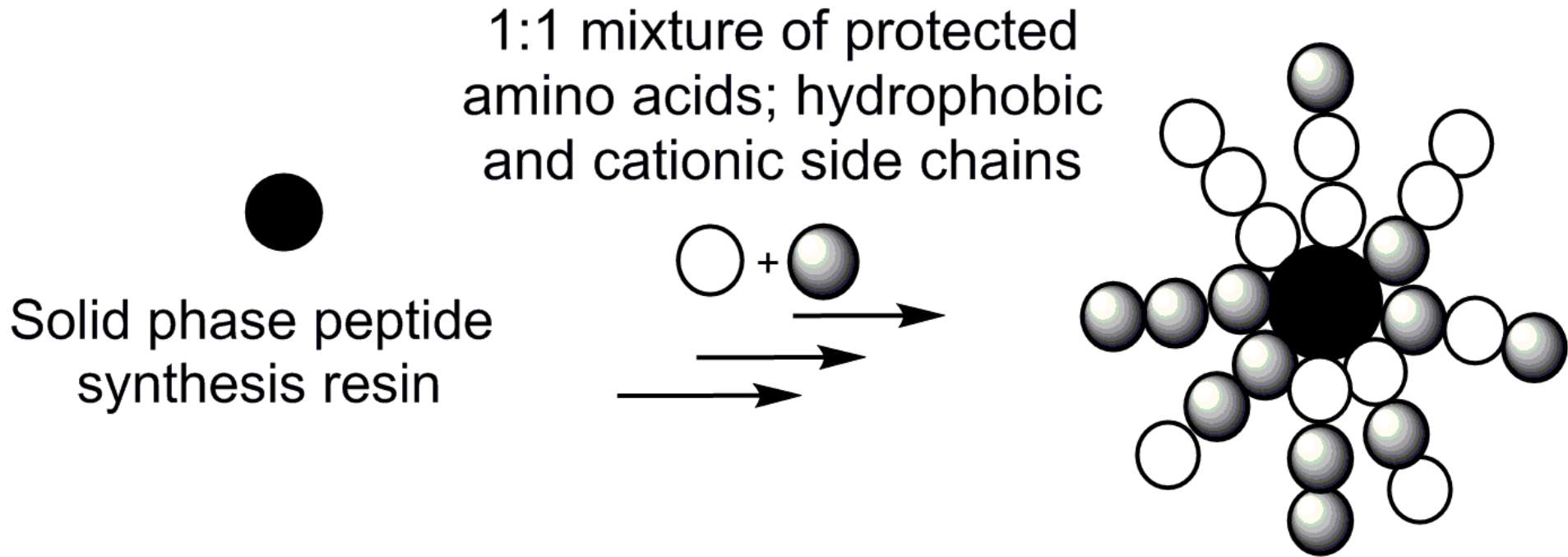
New Hypothesis (Flexible Oligomers):



If global amphiphilicity does not require a regular conformation, then sequence control is not necessary.

New approach for the synthesis of cationic polymers

The “mixture” approach: Synthesis of sequence-random peptide mixtures

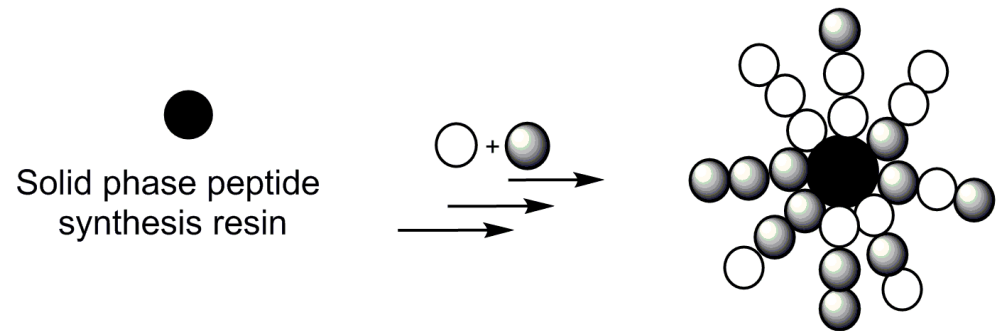


Multiple sequences on each bead

The mixture approach

Studying the effects of:

- Composition
- Length
- Molar ratio
- Stereochemistry



On the antimicrobial and hemolytic activity

The mixture approach

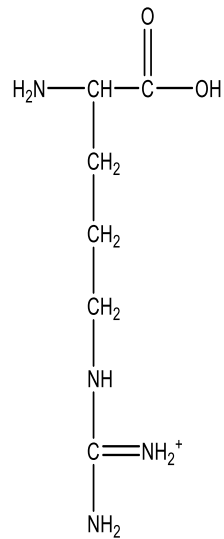
Studying the effect of:

- **Composition**
- Length
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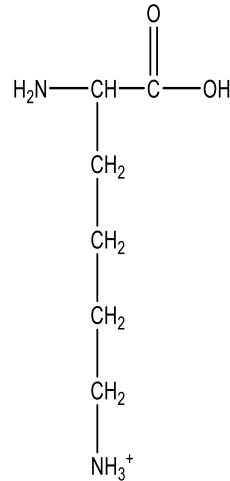
On the antimicrobial and hemolytic activity

Composition activity study

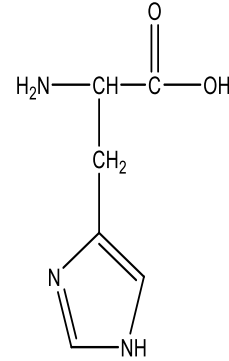
R
Arginine



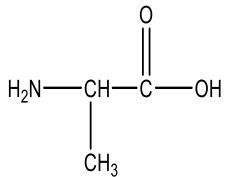
K
Lysine



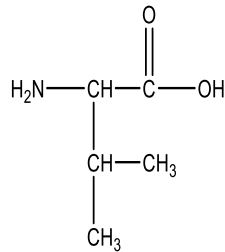
H
Histidine



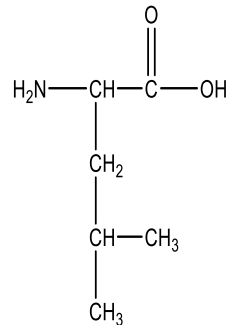
A
Alanine



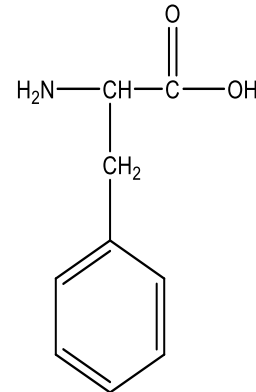
V
Valine



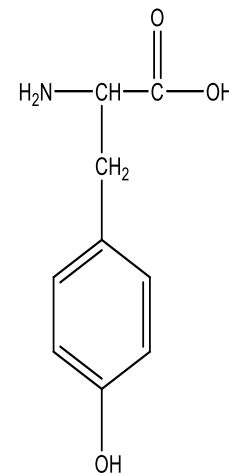
L
Leucine



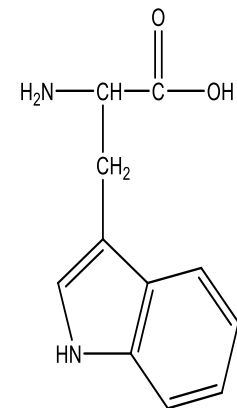
F
Phenylalanine



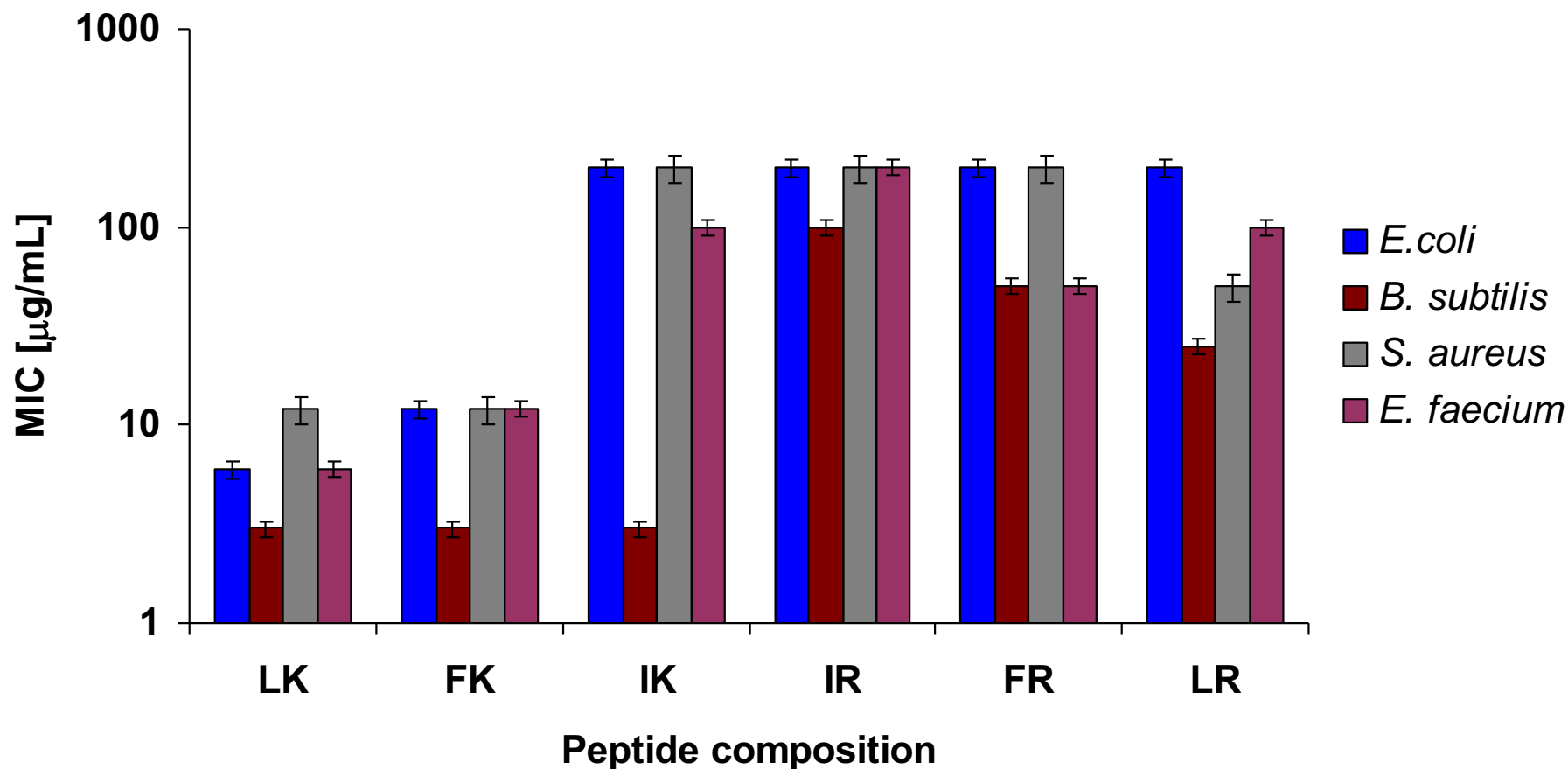
Y
Tyrosine



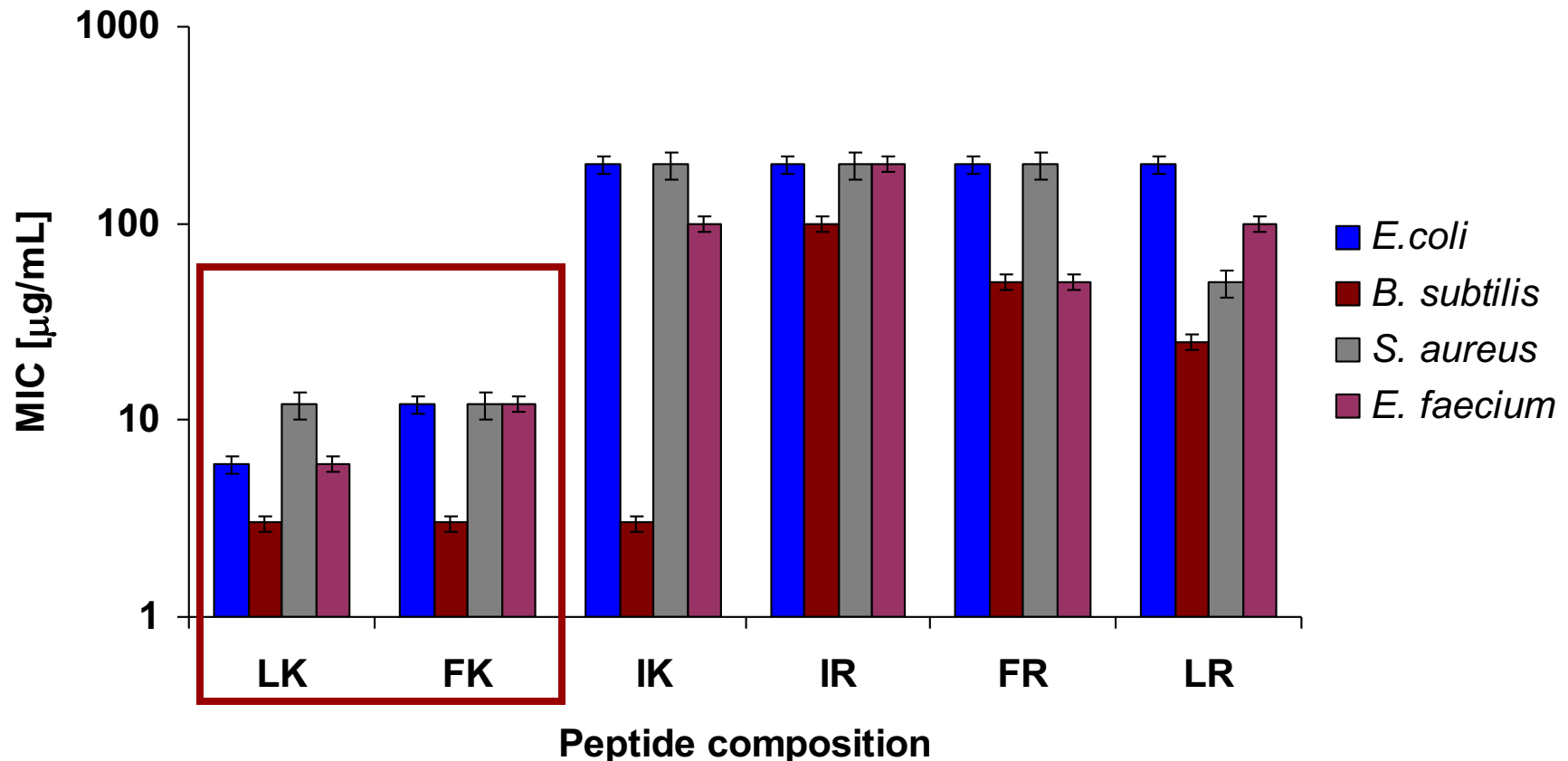
W
Tryptophan



1:1 Leu-Lys or Phe-Lys 20-mer pools display good antimicrobial activity

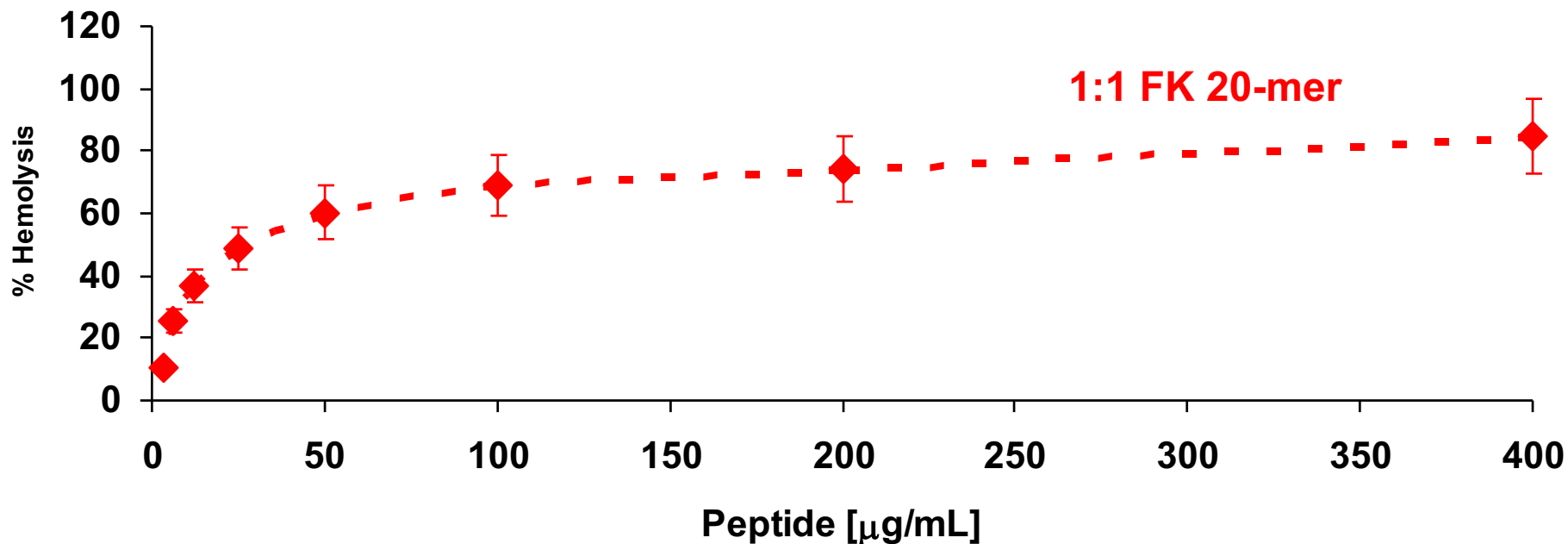


1:1 Leu-Lys or Phe-Lys 20-mer pools display good antimicrobial activity



The composition of the random peptide has an important role on the activity
Phe-Lys random pools were selected for further study

1:1 Phe-Lys 20-mer pools were the most active but also very hemolytic

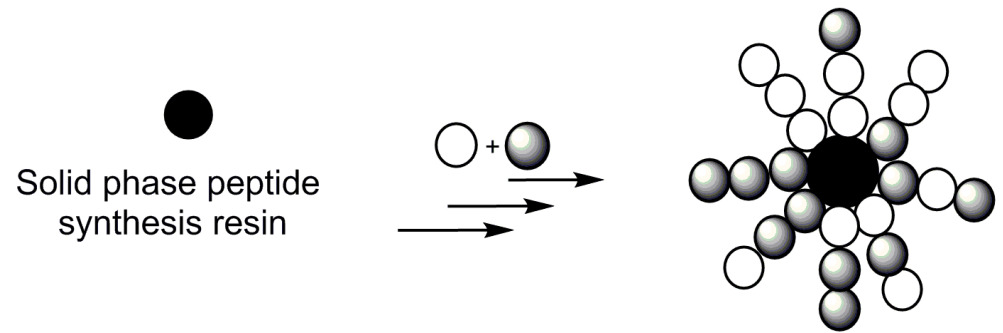


1:1 Phe-Lys 20-mer pool displayed low selectivity

The mixture approach

Studying the effect of:

- Composition
- Length
- Molar ratio
- Stereochemistry



On the antimicrobial and hemolytic activity

1:1 Phe-Lys 20-mer pools displayed potent antimicrobial activity

The mixture approach

Studying the effect of:

- Composition
- Length
- Molar ratio
- **Stereochemistry**

On the antimicrobial and hemolytic activity

Studying the effect of stereochemistry on the random pools activity

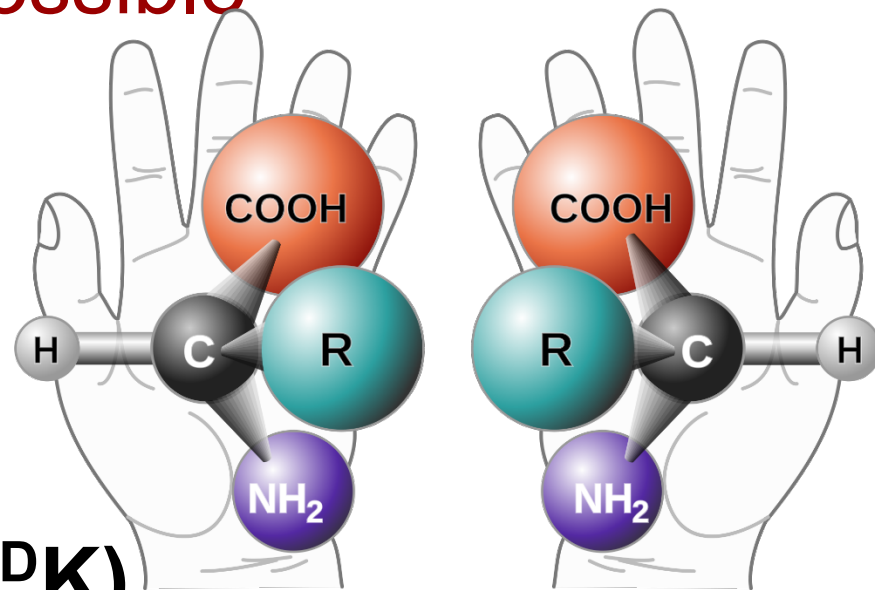
- We synthesized all the possible stereoisomers pools:

L-Homochiral (**FK**)

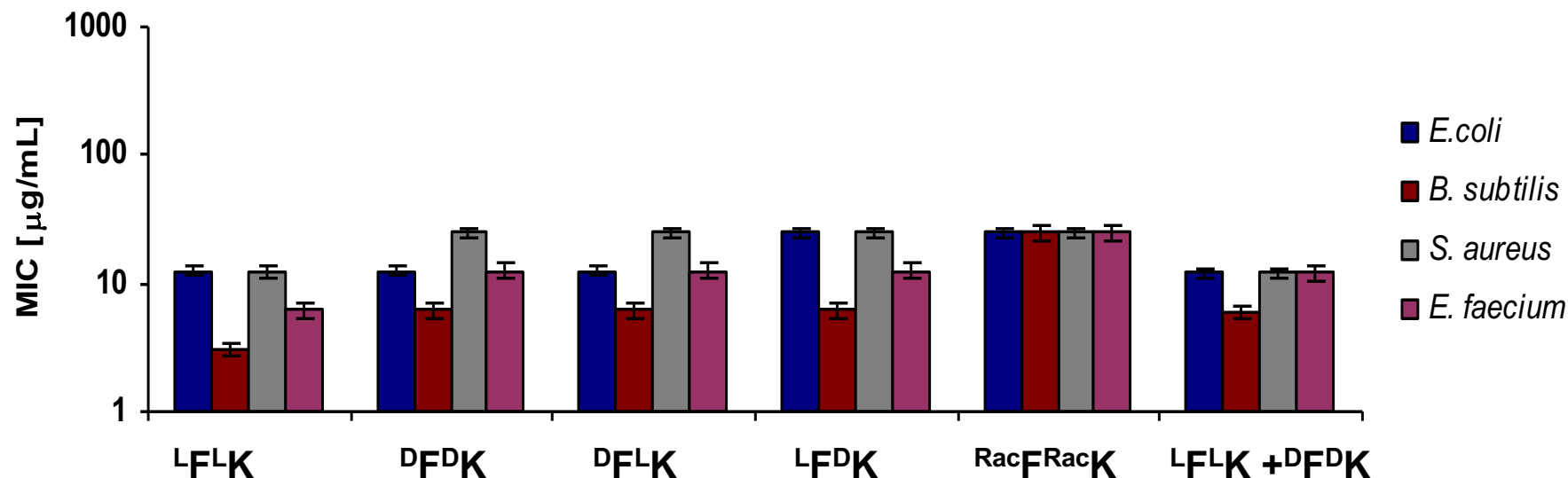
D-Homochiral (**^DFK^DK**)

Heterochiral (**^DFK** and **F^DK**)

Random stereoisomers (**FK Rac**)

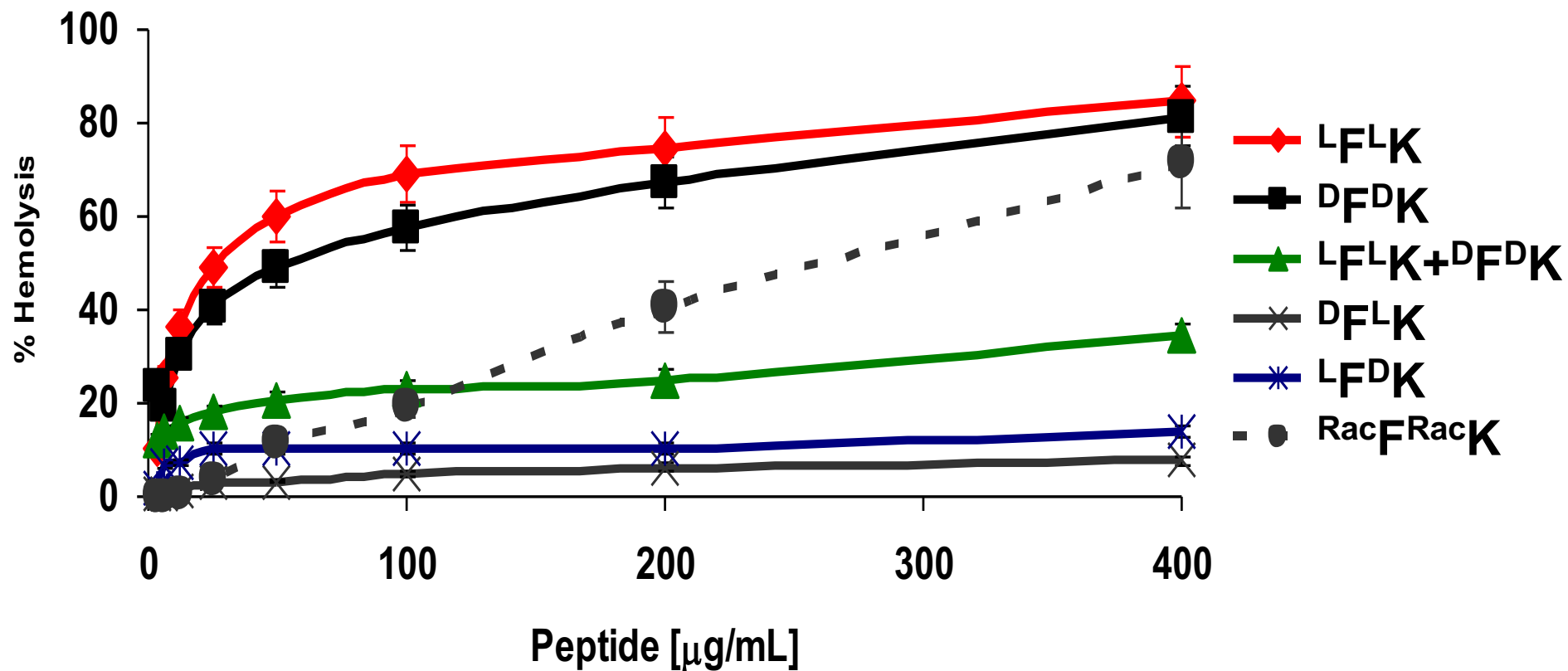


Stereochemistry has minor effect on the antimicrobial activity



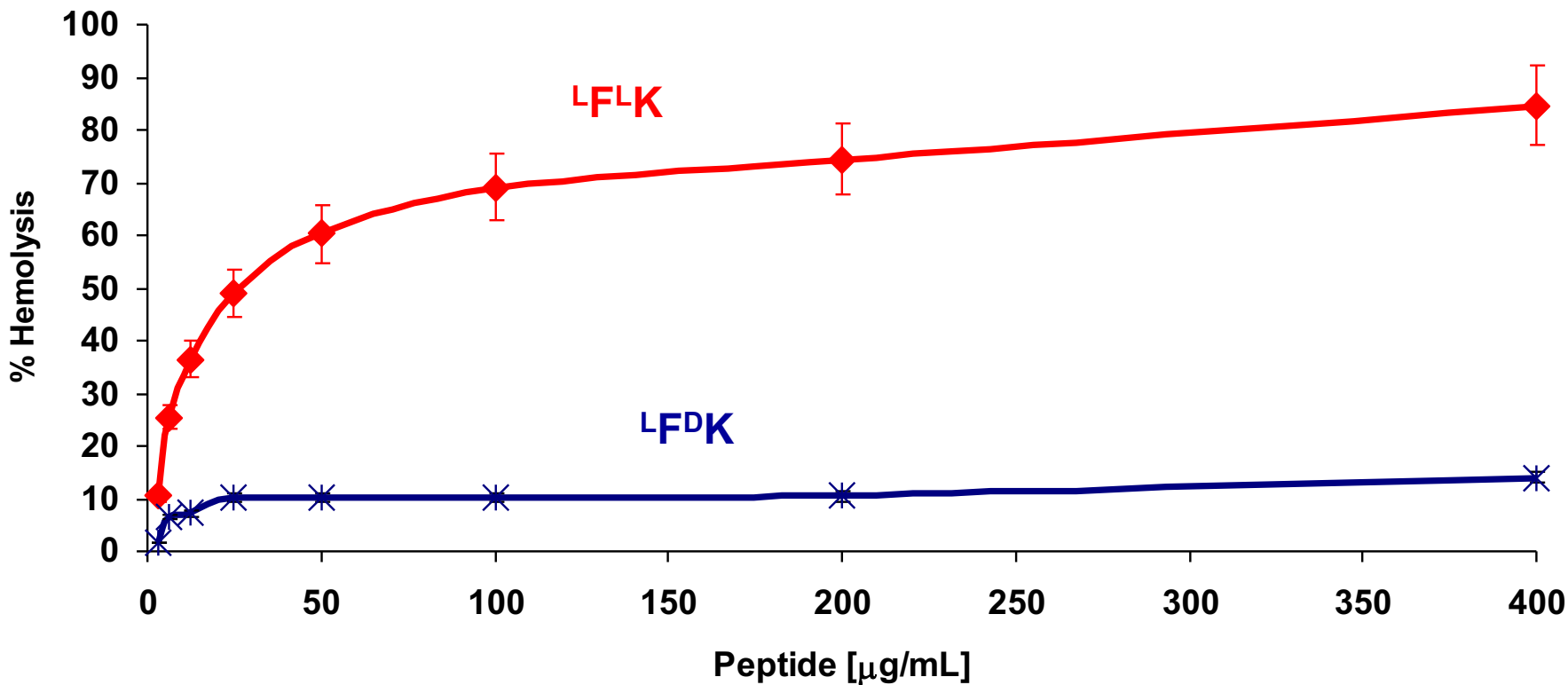
The stereochemistry of the random peptide pools did not effect on the antimicrobial activity

Heterochiral peptide pools display lower hemolytic activity



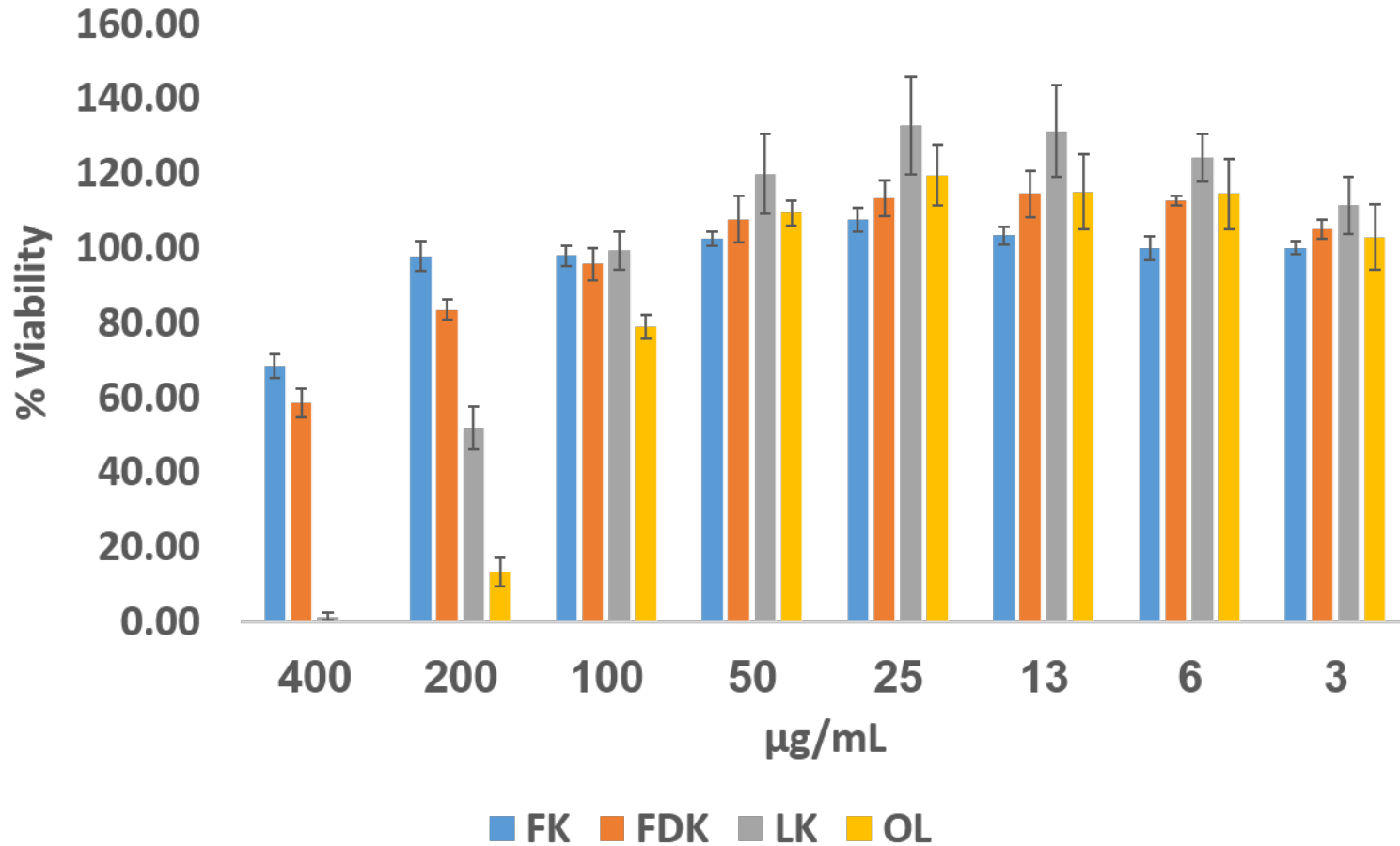
The heterochiral random pools are selective and active compounds

The heterochiral mixture is very selective



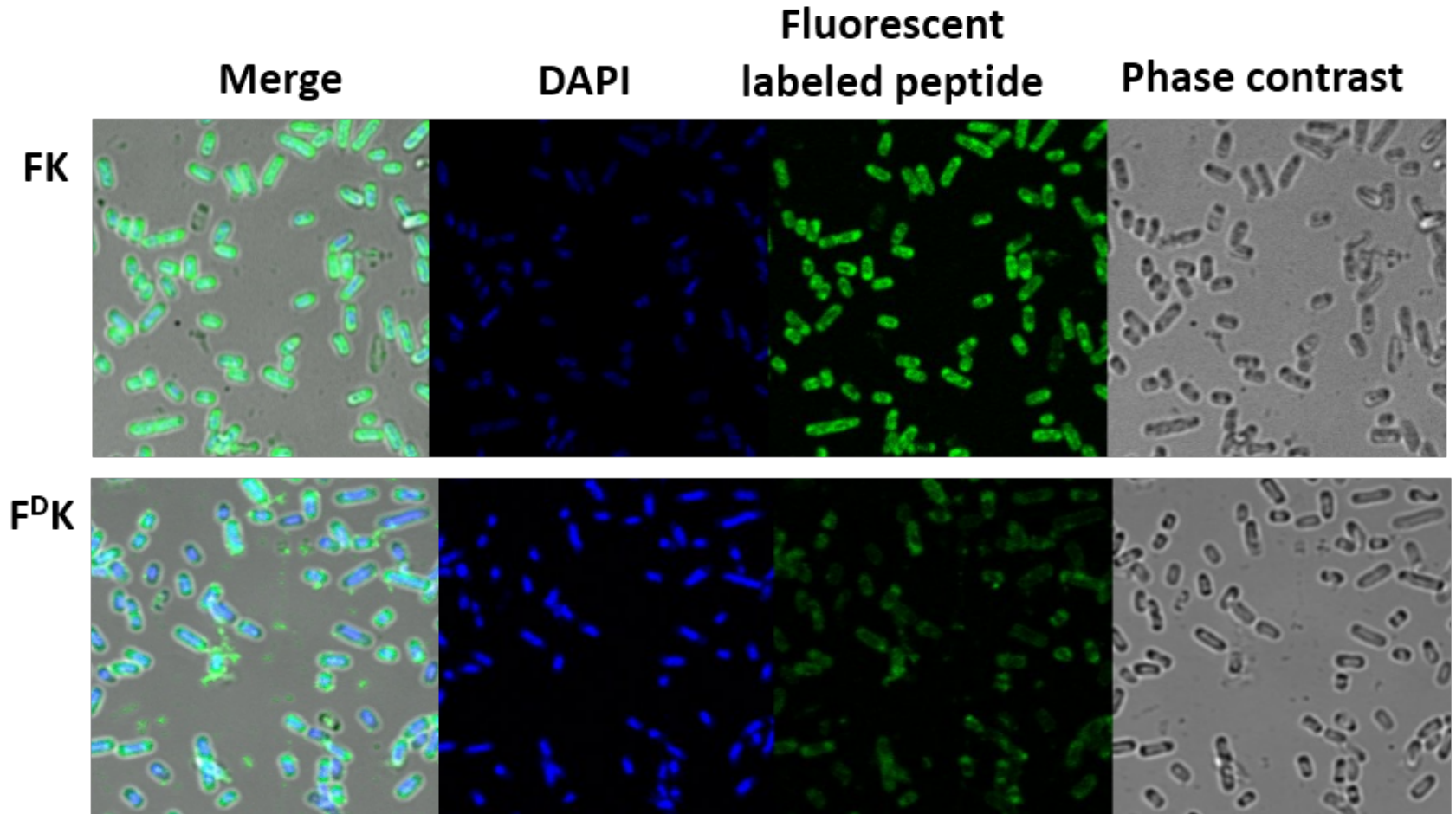
Indicating on differences in the mechanism of action

Cytotoxicity of random peptide mixtures



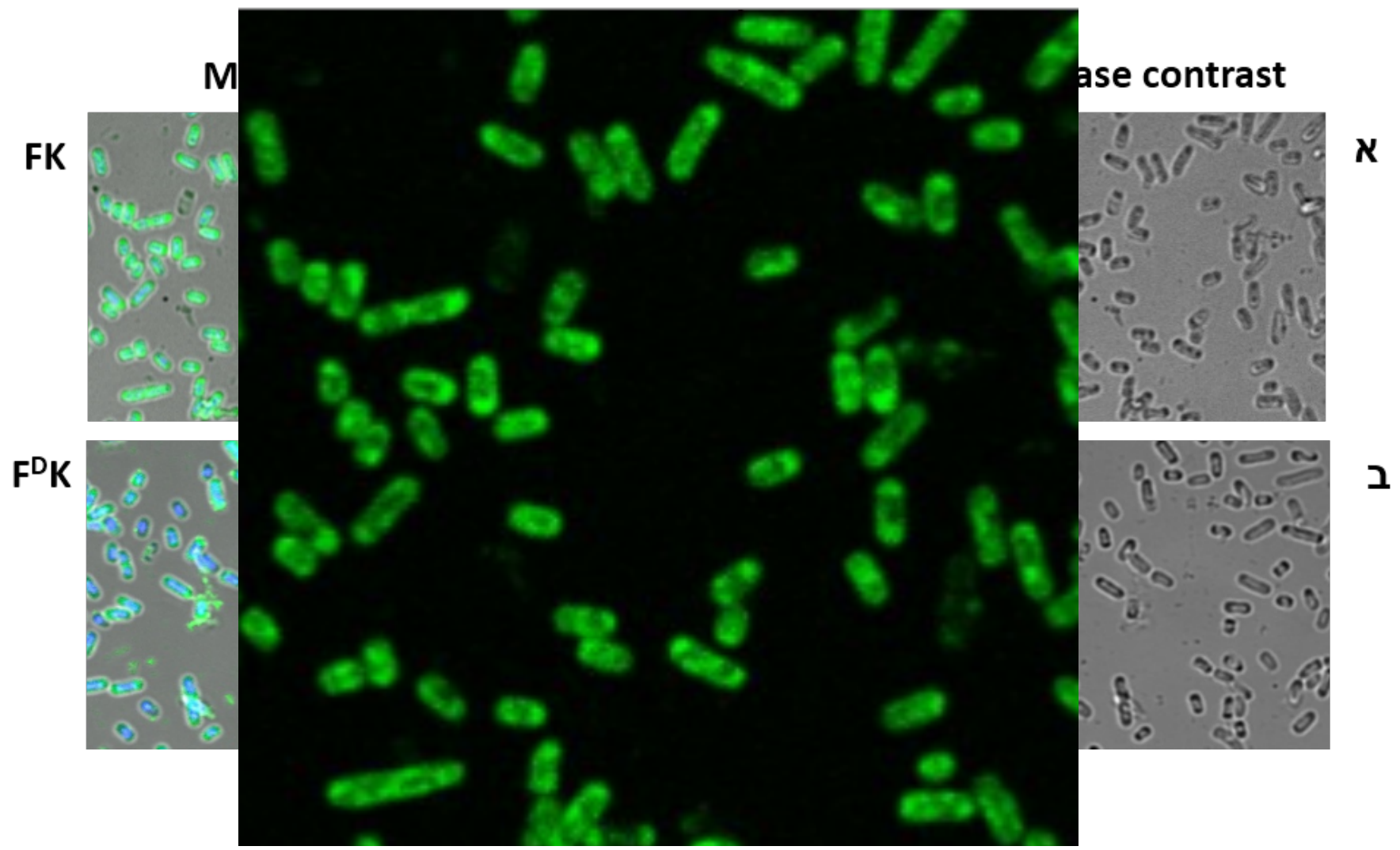
Random peptides mixtures are not toxic to Caco-2 cells

Random peptide mixtures penetrate bacterial cells



45 min. incubation,
50 $\mu\text{g}/\text{mL}$

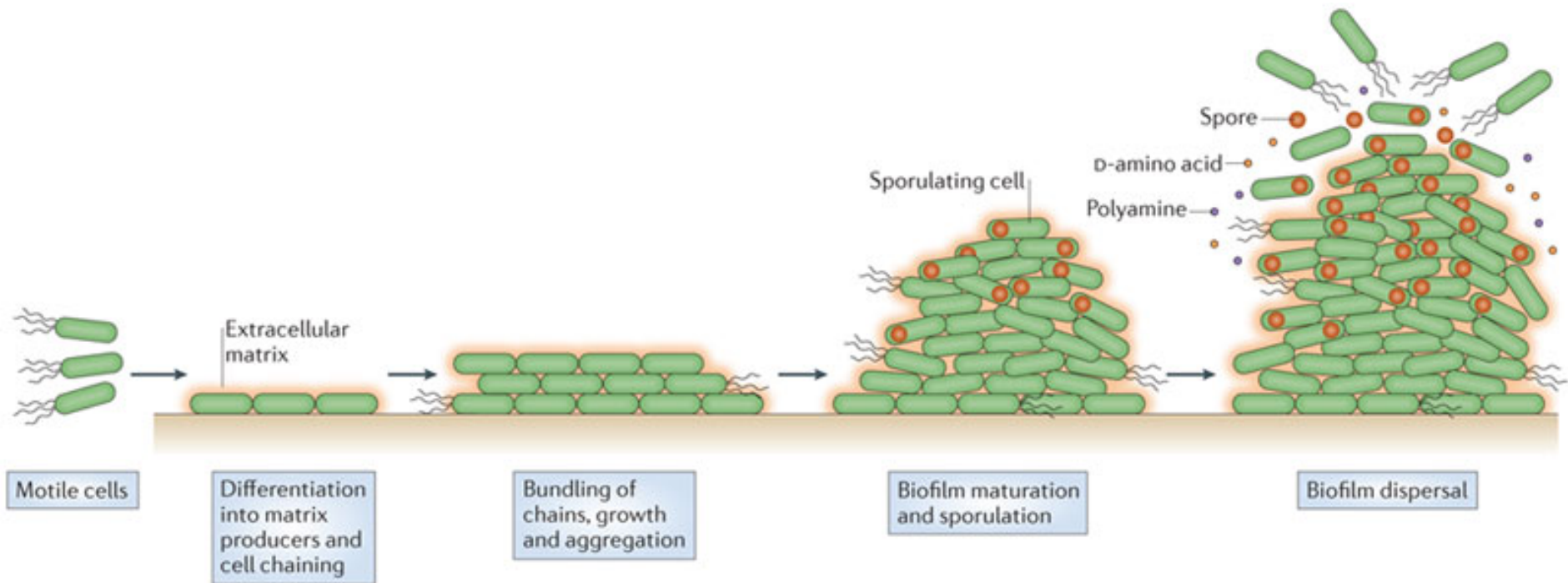
Random peptide mixtures penetrate bacterial cells



Do our compounds inhibit biofilm formation or eradicate mature biofilm?

Biofilm formation

Structured aggregation of surface-attached microorganisms encased in an extracellular matrix

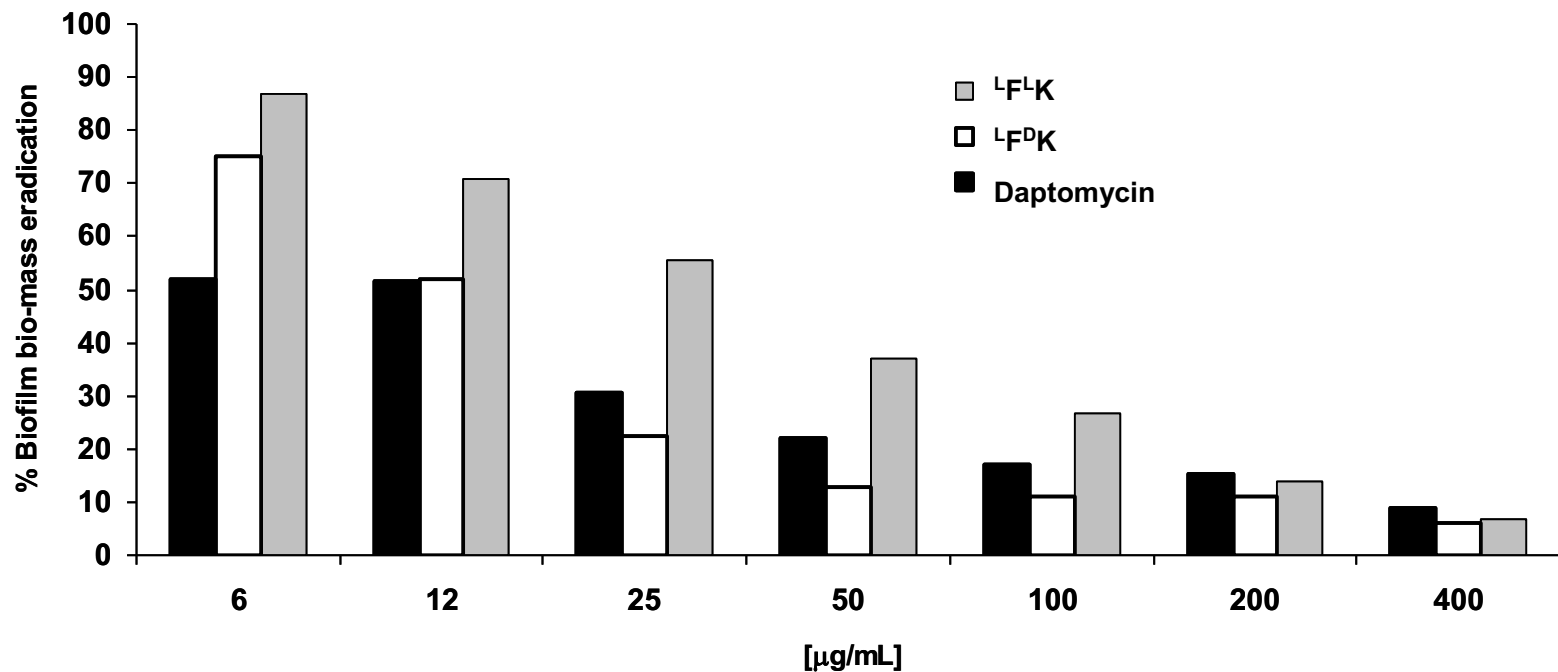


The dynamic process of biofilm formation

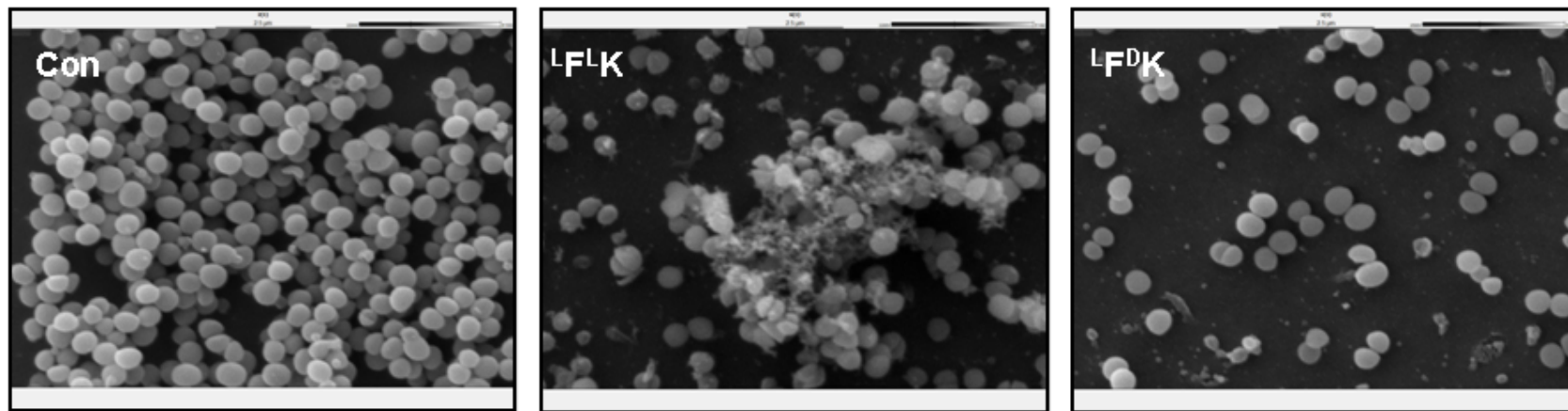
Biofilm formation

- Bacterial cells within biofilms are less susceptible to conventional antibiotics
- Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) is one of the most serious biofilm-forming pathogens that cause complications ranging from minor to life threatening infections

FK random mixture eradicates mature biofilm complex



SEM of FK activity towards MRSA biofilm



Scan electron microscopy representative images of MRSA biofilm formation on glass surfaces treated with or without 100 μ g/mL LFLK or LFDK from triplicate. Images shown were taken at magnification 10,000x. The selected images were chosen as the best representatives of the amount of biofilm on the glass surfaces.

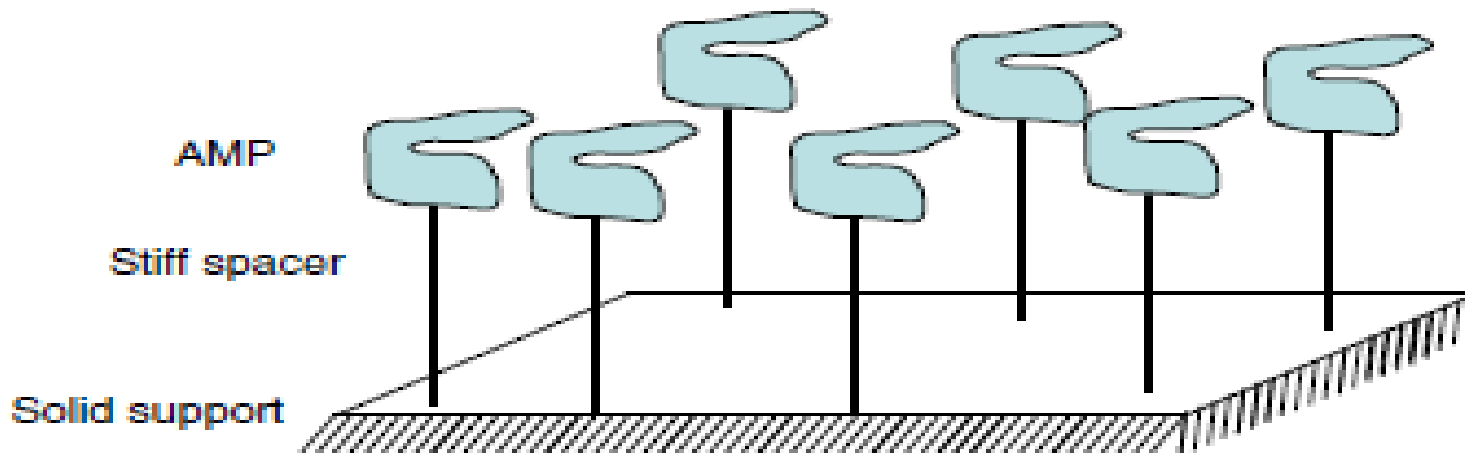
Conclusions

- New method to synthesize random peptide pools
- Random peptides showed good antimicrobial and antibiofilm activity, with MIC in the low $\mu\text{g/mL}$ range
- Heterochiral peptide pools display broad antimicrobial activity and high selectivity
- Impossible to develop resistance towards mixture of peptides

Design smart bioactive packaging

Bioactive packaging

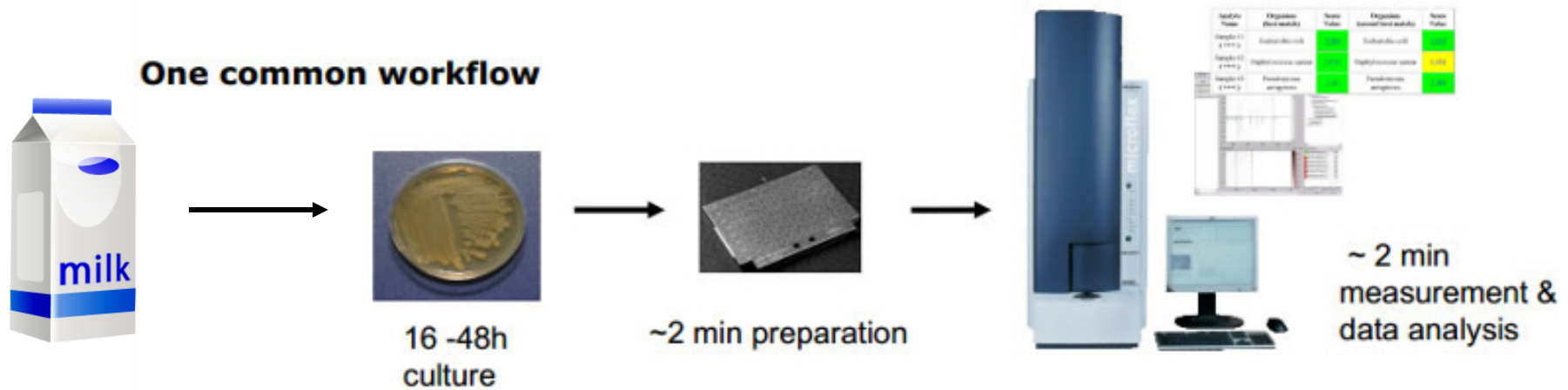
- Most of them are based on slow release of antimicrobial agents.
- Active agents are immobilized onto the surface materials via covalent linkages to prevent migration to the food.



Defining the causes of food spoilage

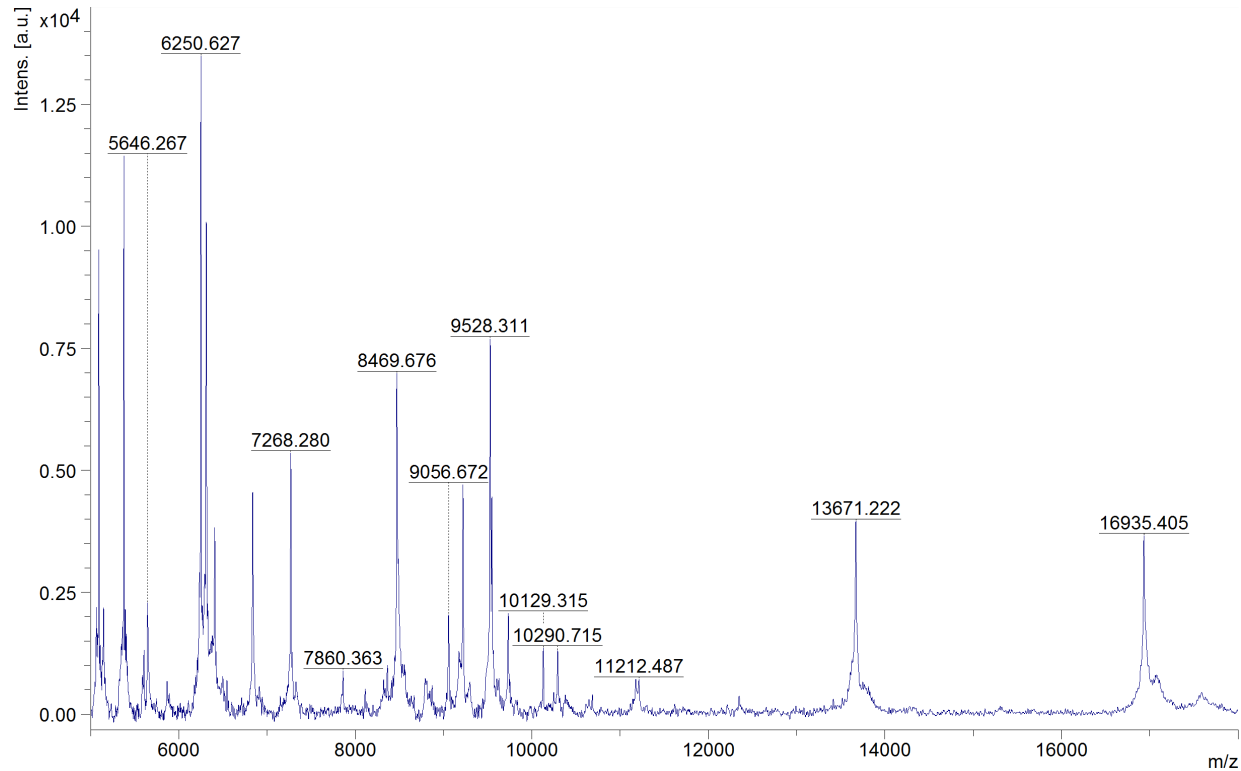


Identifying microorganisms using MALDI TOF



- MALDI TOF (Bruker) Biotyper measures highly abundant proteins that are found in all microorganisms
- The characteristic patterns are used to reliably and accurately identify a particular microorganism down to the species level.

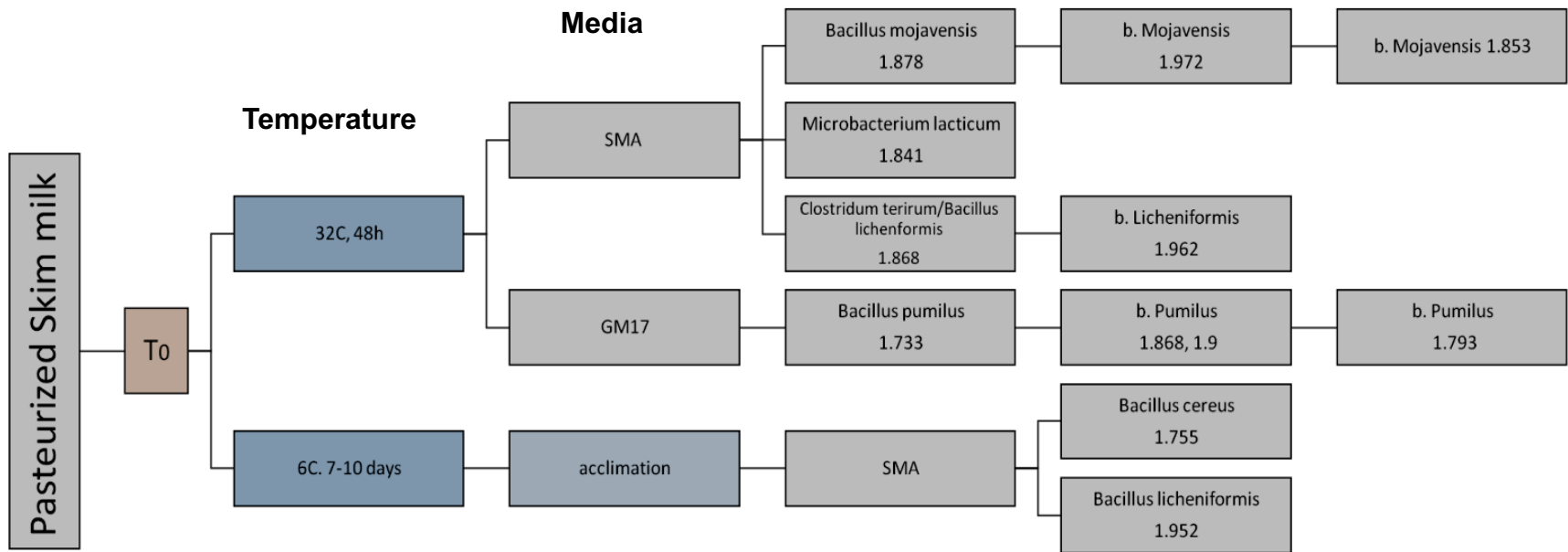
Identifying microorganisms using MALDI TOF



| Rank (Quality) | Matched Pattern | Score Value | NCBI Identifier |
|-------------------|---|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 (++) | Escherichia coli MB11464_1 CHB | 2.204 | 562 |
| 2 (++) | Escherichia coli DSM 682 DSM | 2.144 | 562 |
| 3 (++) | Escherichia coli DH5alpha BRL | 2.074 | 562 |
| 4 (++) | Escherichia coli ATCC 35218 CHB | 2.063 | 562 |

Characterizing milk spoilage bacteria

We used milk that was kept in room temperature and in 4°C for few days and identify the bacteria using the Biotyper.

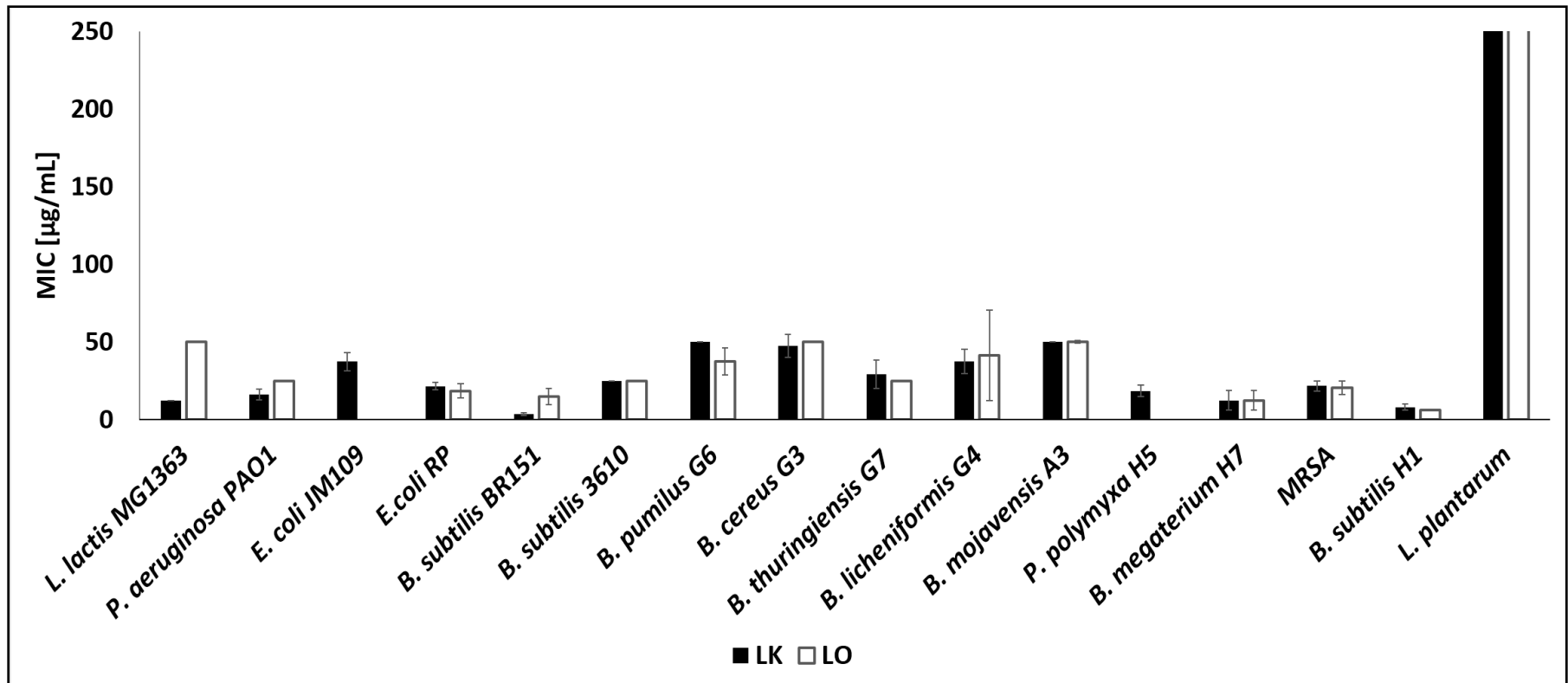


Isolated and identified bacteria

| Room temperature storage | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|-------------------------------|-------|
| Mesophilic bacteria | | Psychrotrophic bacteria | |
| <i>Bacillus cereus</i> | 2.366 | <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> | 2.242 |
| <i>Bacillus licheniformis</i> | 1.904 | <i>Bacillus massiliensis</i> | 1.986 |
| <i>Paenibacillus polymyxa/poriare</i> | 2.148 | <i>Bacillus cereus</i> | 2.22 |
| <i>Micrococcus luteus</i> | 2.336 | <i>Paenibacillus polymyxa</i> | 1.94 |
| <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> | 2.144 | <i>Bacillus thuringiensis</i> | 2.162 |
| <i>Microbacterium lactium</i> | 1.903 | <i>Pseudomonass rhodesiae</i> | 2.183 |

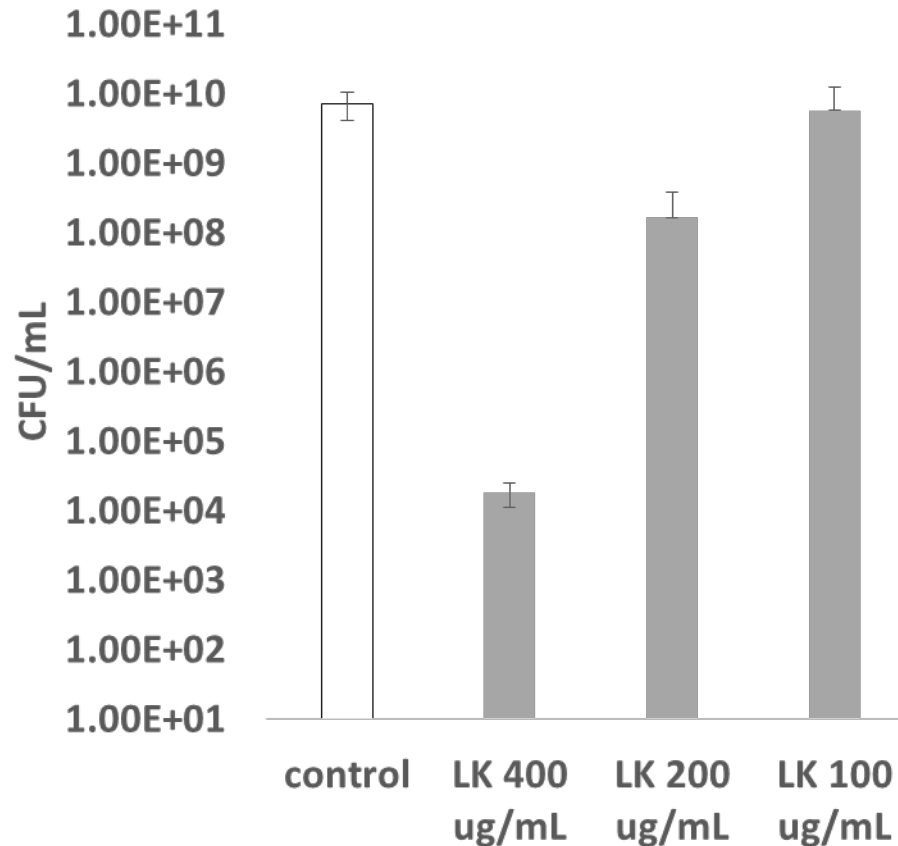
16S rRNA sequencing showed similar results

Antimicrobial activity of our active agents towards isolated milk bacteria



Our random peptide mixture is able to inhibit most of the isolated bacteria from milk very efficiently

Characterizing the antimicrobial activity of our compounds in UHT milk

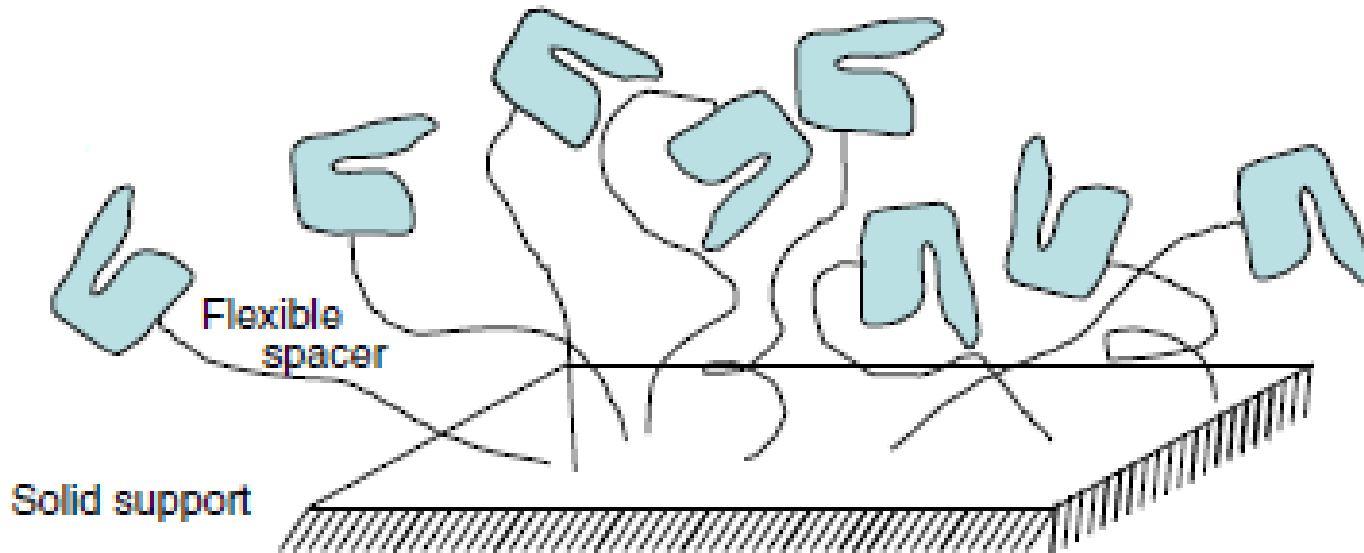


Our random peptide mixture showed 6 log reduction of *B. subtilis* in UHT milk

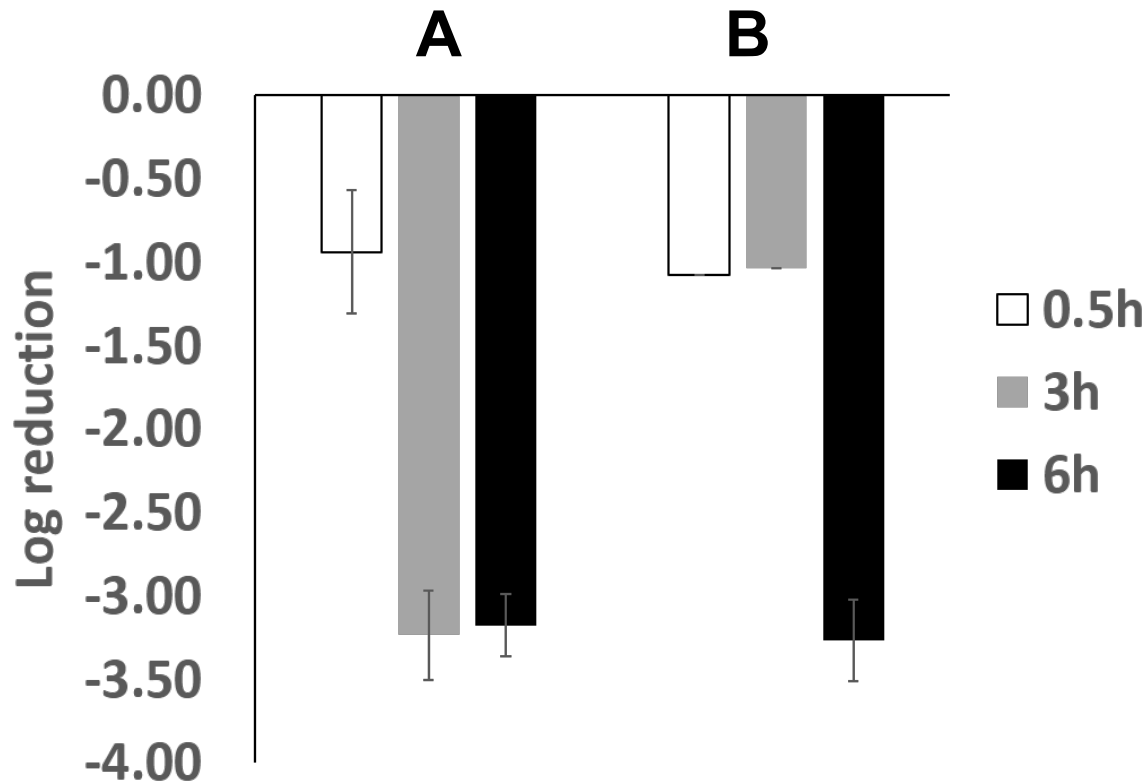
Immobilization of the active agents

Immobilization the active agents

We are currently designing new chemical approaches to immobilize our active agents on several surfaces.



Preliminary results of our bioactive surfaces



Our bioactive surfaces are active towards gram negative and positive bacteria

Other projects

- Food preservations
- Edible coating
- Water treatment
- Crop protection
- Foodborne bacterial Quorum sensing inhibitors
- Inhibiting vital protein-protein interaction in bacterial cells

Acknowledgment

The group:

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Eyal Krieger
Yael Palman
Shani Kornhauser



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Thank you for your attention!

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Thank you for your attention!