**INTRODUCTION**

The use of antibiotics as a means for treating and preventing illness in livestock has impacted animal health and performance (Dunlop et al., 1998). However, current trends in consumer preference and government regulation through pending directives (i.e., the Veterinary Feed Directive) have sparked interest in potential antibiotic alternatives, such as pro- and para-probiotics. Probiotics, as defined by The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), are “live organisms which when administered in adequate amounts confer a health benefit on the host” (FAO/WHO, 2002). Common probiotics recognized by the FAO and WHO include *Lactobacillus* sp., *Bacillus* sp., *Enterococcus* sp., *Saccharomyces* sp., and *Aspergillus* sp. (Chaucheyras-Durand and Fonty, 2002; Reid et al., 2003). Of these, the yeast *Saccharomyces boulardii* and *S. cerevisiae* have been the most commonly used among livestock (Martins et al., 2005; Duarte et al., 2012). Yeast probiotics that have been dried/fragmented into probiotic components have also been shown to confer a health benefit to a host (Middelbos et al., 2007). These products are referred to as “paraprobiotics” (Taverniti and Guglielmetti, 2011). These products are primarily composed of cell wall fragments and contain β-(1,3)-D-glucans, β-(1,6)-D-glucans.
Yeast based products have been used in dairy and beef cattle (Thrune et al., 2009; Sanchez et al., 2014), swine (Braude et al., 1944; van der Peet-Schwering et al., 2007), lambs (Tripathi and Karim, 2011), and poultry (Dawson, 2001) to enhance growth performance and animal health. Additionally, their usage has increased due to the fact that use of live microorganisms poses a potential risk to an immunocompromised host.

Yeasts probiotics have multiple mechanisms of action by which they confer a health benefit to the host, including direct binding to toxins produced by pathogens and also stimulation of the host immune system. Additionally, probiotics have the potential to prevent colonization of bacteria to the mucosal surface of the intestine through either direct antagonism or through competitive inhibition (Shoaf-Sweeney and Hutkins, 2009). This inhibition is hypothesized to be due to the ability of certain pathogenic bacteria with mannose-binding fimbriae to bind mannoproteins within yeast cell walls (Ofek et al., 1977). Direct adhesion to the bacteria could facilitate removal from the digestive tract as well as limit adhesion to the intestinal epithelial cells (Gedek, 1999). Despite previous research on the binding effects of pathogenic bacteria to yeast, it is not known whether probiotics and paraprobiotics bind equally to bacteria (Korhonen et al., 1997; Taverniti and Guglielmetti, 2011). Therefore, the objective of this study was to characterize the binding relationship of multiple *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* probiotic and paraprobiotic products with Gram-positive and Gram-negative pathogenic bacteria.

### Microbial Strains and Growth Conditions

The bacterial strains used in this study are listed in Table 1. *Escherichia coli*, *L. monocytogenes*, and *Salmonella* were grown in tryptic soy agar or broth (TSA/TSB) at 37°C. *Clostridium* were grown in Clostridial Reinforced Medium (CRM; BD 218081) anaerobically at 37°C. *Bacteroides fragilis* and *Peptostreptococcus assacharolyticus* were grown on Brucella broth with Vitamin K and hemin (BRU-BROTH; Anaerobe Systems AS-105) anaerobically at 37°C. *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and *Arcanobacterium pyogenes* were grown in Chopped Meat Glucose broth (CMG; Anaerobe Systems AS-813) anaerobically at 37°C. The 2 live *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* yeast samples used in this study were products commercially available, but produced by 2 different facilities. The 3 yeast cell-wall paraprobiotics analyzed in this study were processed from 3 different facilities. All of the yeast products were reconstituted in Yeast Peptone Dextrose (YPD) media at 37°C for 4 h at a concentration of 0.1 g/mL (~2 × 10^8 CFU/mL). The concentrations of paraprobiotics were based on initial populations of the live yeast probiotics and weighed out similarly. Viability of the probiotics was verified by plating aliquots on YPD agar. Where required, anaerobic conditions were achieved by using a Coy anaerobic chamber with a gas mix of 5% H₂ and 95% N₂.

### Scanning Electron Microscopy Adhesion Assay

Overnight cultures of the pathogenic bacteria and the yeast products were cultured at 37°C with constant agitation. A cover slip (Nunc Thermonox) was placed in each well of a 6-well culture plate. Overnight cultures of the yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics (2 mL, ~4×10^8 CFU/ml) were added to cover slips and incubated at 37°C for 16 h; cover slips were then washed three times with 1X phosphate buffered saline (PBS). Overnight bacterial cultures (5 mL) were pelleted for 5 min at 13,000 x g and resuspended in TSB at a concentration of 2 × 10^10 CFU/mL, at which point 1 mL of bacteria was added to the yeast cover slips. The coculture of yeast and bacteria was incubated for 4 h at 37°C, after which each cover slip was washed with 1X PBS 3 times. After these washings, 2 mL of 2.5% glutaraldehyde in PO₄ fixative was added to each well. Each cover slip was rinsed with distilled water, post-

### Table 1. Bacterial strains used in study

| Bacteria                        | Strain/Source | Growth condition |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| *Arcanobacterium pyogenes*      | 19411/ATCC CMG, anaerobic |
| *Bacteroides fragilis*          | 25285/ATCC BRU-BROTH, anaerobic |
| *Clostridium difficile*         | NR-32882/ATCC CRM, anaerobic |
| *Clostridium perfringens*       | 13124/ATCC CRM, anaerobic |
| *Escherichia coli O157:H7*      | 43895/ATCC TSB |
| *Fusobacterium necrophorum*     | 25286/ATCC CMG, anaerobic |
| *Listeria monocytogenes*        | F2365/MSU TSB |
| *Porphyromonas asacharolyticus* | 25260/ATCC BRU-BROTH, anaerobic |
| *Salmonella enterica* Dublin    | NR-28793/ATCC TSB |
| *Salmonella enterica Enteriditis* | 13076/ATCC TSB |
| *Salmonella enterica Heidelberg* | 8326/ATCC TSB |
| *Salmonella enterica Typhi*     | 6539/ATCC TSB |
| *Salmonella enterica Typhimurium* | 13311/ATCC TSB |

1. ATCC: American Type Culture Collection; MSU: Mississippi State University.
2. CMG: Chopped meat glucose medium; BRU-Broth: Brucella Broth medium; CRM: Clostridial Reinforced medium; TSB: Tryptic Soy Broth.
fixed with 2% osmium tetroxide (OsO₄), rinsed with distilled water, and then dehydrated in a graded ethanol series (Merritt and Donaldson, 2009). Each cover slip was critical point dried, mounted on aluminum stubs with double sided carbon tape, and coated with 15nm platinum. The cover slips were then viewed under a JEOL JSM-6500F scanning electron microscope (SEM) at 5 Kv. Per cover slip, 40 yeast probiotic cells were counted, and of that count, the number of yeast cells found with bacteria bound was used in calculating the percent adherence per sample.

Membrane Filtration Adhesion Assay

Overnight bacterial and yeast cultures were prepared similarly as for SEM analysis. Yeast were cultured for 16 h at 37°C in 50 mL conical tubes, after which 0.05 mL (~1 × 10⁶ CFU/mL) was added to 4.9 mL of YPD, and co-cultured with 0.05 mL of bacteria (~1×10⁸ CFU/mL). The yeast-bacteria (YB) co-culture was vortexed and incubated for 4 h at 37°C. For controls, 0.05 mL of the bacterial culture was added to 4.95 mL of YPD and incubated for 4 h at 37°C. Following the 4 h incubation, 0.05 mL of YB co-culture or bacteria only control was added to 1.45 mL of PBS. Membrane filters (3.0μm, Millipore) were first washed with 1.5 mL of PBS, then the bacteria or YB mix was vacuum filtered, followed by a wash with 2 mL of PBS. The 3μm membrane filter was verified to contain pores small enough to trap the probiotics and paraprobiotics, but large enough to allow non-adhered bacteria to pass. The resulting filtrate (5 mL) was serially diluted in PBS and plated onto TSA. Viable bacterial colonies were counted on the plates following a 24 h incubation at 37°C. A minimum of 3 independent experiments were conducted.

Yeast Probiotic and Paraprobiotic Supernatant Effect Assay

Bacterial and yeast cultures were prepared similarly to the membrane filtration assay. Yeast products were cultivated in YPD for 16 h at 37°C and vacuum filtered using 3μm membrane filters. Resulting filtrate (0.05 mL) was added to 4.9 mL of YPD and co-cultured with 0.05 mL of bacteria (1 × 10⁸ CFU/mL). The supernatant + bacteria (SB) co-culture was then vortexed and incubated for 4 h at 37°C. For controls, 0.05 mL of the bacterial culture was added to 4.95 mL of YPD and incubated for 4 h at 37°C. Following the 4 h incubation, 0.05 mL of the SB co-culture was serially diluted in PBS and plated onto TSA. Viable bacterial colonies were counted on the plates following a 24 h incubation at 37°C. A minimum of 3 independent experiments were conducted.

Yeast Lysate Growth Analysis

All yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics were reconstituted at 0.2g into 5 mL mineral salts medium (MSM) without glucose. The medium per 1000 mL contained 9.0g Na₂HPO₄, 1.5g KH₂PO₄, 1.0g NH₄Cl, 0.2g MgSO₄·7H₂O, 0.02g CaCl₂·2H₂O, 1.2mg FeNH₄Citrate, and 2 mL Hoagland’s Solution, pH 6.9 (Donaldson et al., 2014). Yeast products were lysed on ice using a sonicator (Fisherbrand Sonic Dismembrator Model 100, setting 3) for eight 1-min intervals, with 1 min cooling on ice between intervals. Yeast lysates were collected after centrifugation for 2 min at 12,000 x g and filtered using a 0.2 μm syringe filter.

Overnight (2 mL) cultures of Salmonella were centrifuged at 13,000 x g for 2 min, washed twice with 1 mL MSM (no glucose), then resuspended in 2 mL of MSM (no glucose). For analysis of Listeria monocytogenes, overnight cultures were centrifuged, washed twice with 1 mL of glucose limited mineral media (GLMM) and resuspended in 2 mL of GLMM without glucose (Schneebeli and Egli, 2013). The yeast lysates were added to a 96-well plate in 20 μL increments to 2 μL of bacterial cells and 180 μL of MSM (no glucose); as a control for growth, bacteria were added to MSM supplemented with 3% glucose. Growth of the bacteria was monitored using a PowerWave plate reader (BioTek, Winooski, VT), with OD₆₀₀ collected every 1 h for 16 h. Growth was analyzed in a minimum of three replicates.

Statistical Analysis

The data from the SEM and the membrane filtration adherence assays were analyzed using the GLIMMIX Procedure of SAS (SAS Inst. Inc., Cary, NC). Presence/absence of binding was analyzed across replications as a proportion of bound samples to total bound samples. Quantified concentrations were log normalized prior to analysis. Fixed effects included probiotic or paraprobiotic, bacterial strain, and their interactions. LSmeans were separated using α = 0.05 using the Tukey-Kramer option.

RESULTS

Qualitative Assessment of Binding Capabilities of Probiotics and Paraprobiotics to Pathogens

To determine if variations existed in the direct interaction between pathogens and different probiotics, a qualitative assessment of the adhesion capability was determined by SEM. Figure 1 represents images from yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics that were directly bound to bacteria. Yeast probiotics (LYA and LYB) exhibited overall greater (P < 0.05) adhesion to bacteria.
Typhimurium S. enterica

Table 2. Scanning electron microscopy averages for adherence of pathogenic bacteria to yeast probiotics LYA and LYB and paraprobiotics CWA, CWB and CWC

| Bacteria          | LYA % Adhere | LYB % Adhere | CWA % Adhere | CWB % Adhere | CWC % Adhere |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A. pyogenes       | 39.05        | 17.11        | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         |
| B. fragilis       | 55.32        | 13.51        | 37.50        | 15.22        | 4.55         |
| C. difficile      | 17.24        | 20.97        | 0.00         | 5.00         | 0.00         |
| C. perfringens    | 35.61        | 37.32        | 41.23        | 30.09        | 75.00        |
| E. coli O157:H7   | 10.76        | 9.93         | 15.04        | 1.49         | 12.04        |
| F. necrophorum    | 13.51        | 55.32        | 37.50        | 15.22        | 4.55         |
| L. monocytogenes  | 8.69         | 6.25         | 1.96         | 9.37         | 5.88         |
| P. assacharolytica| 85.63        | 31.79        | 0.00         | 0.00         | 0.00         |
| S. Dublin         | 34.00        | 9.09         | 12.00        | 6.00         |              |
| S. Enteritidis    | 49.09        | 55.22        | 16.67        | 0.00         | 11.90        |
| S. Heidelberg     | 29.30        | 30.43        | 24.99        | 46.43        | 22.22        |
| S. Typhi          | 65.08        | 58.83        | 21.53        | 59.32        | 50.00        |
| S. Typhimurium    | 92.31        | 96.67        | 88.89        | 85.71        | 98.11        |

Average 41.20% 34.03% 22.87% 20.60% 22.33%

Figure 1. SEM images of pathogenic bacteria adhered to yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics. (A) E. coli O157:H7 bound to yeast paraprobiotic CWC; (B) S. enterica Typhimurium bound to yeast paraprobiotic CWA; (C) L. monocytogenes F2365 bound to yeast paraprobiotic CWA; and (D) C. perfringens bound to yeast probiotic LYB. Images are representative of a minimum of 40 yeast cells observed.

(41% and 34%) in comparison to the overall amount of adhesion by the paraprobiotics (23%, 21%, and 22%; Tables 2 and 3). Escherichia coli O157:H7 and L. monocytogenes exhibited the least binding potential to probiotics or paraprobiotics when compared to other bacteria (P < 0.05; Tables 2 and 3). Differences were observed between the 2 species of Salmonella analyzed in this study. Clostridium perfringens adhered to all products tested, while C. difficile adhered best to probiotics in comparison to paraprobiotics. Porphyromonas asa-

charolyticus and Arcanobacterium pyogenes only adhered to the live yeast probiotics.

Variations were also observed in the binding efficiencies between subspecies of Salmonella enterica. While S. Typhimurium and S. Heidelberg did not exhibit any difference in adherence between the products tested (P > 0.05), S. Enteritidis and S. Dublin exhibited greater binding to the live yeast probiotics (Tables 2 and 3). Salmonella Typhi exhibited binding to all yeast products, with the least amount of binding to yeast paraprobiotic CWA (Table 2).

Quantitative Assessment of the Binding Efficiency of Probiotics and Paraprobiotics

The membrane filtration adhesion assay was used to quantify the binding potential of the yeast probiotics and
paraprobiotics to bacteria. To quantitate the pathogenic bacteria that remained unadhered to the yeast probiotics, filtrates from the co-incubations were analyzed by viable plate counts and compared to bacteria that were membrane filtered in the absence of yeast (Fig. 2). A decrease in the amount of *E. coli* O157:H7 in the filtrate was evident when co-cultured with the live yeast probiotics (LYA and LYB), indicating that this bacterium bound to both probiotics. A decrease of viable *L. monocytogenes* F2365 was observed in the filtrates following co-incubation with all yeast samples (*P* < 0.05) when compared to bacterial controls, indicating that *L. monocytogenes* bound to all products tested. *Salmonella* Typhimurium adhered to all yeast samples except for the paraprobiotic CWB.

To confirm that the decrease in bacterial concentration observed following the membrane filtration adhesion assay was due to bacterial binding to the yeast samples and not due to extracellular components of the yeast impeding the viability of the bacteria, the supernatants of the yeast products were co-incubated with the bacteria and viability was assessed after 4 h. None of the supernatants exhibited an effect on bacterial growth, indicating that the decrease in viable counts observed from the co-incubation was due to adherence to the yeast (data not shown).

**Utilization of Yeast Probiotic Lysate as a Carbon Source for Bacterial Growth**

From the filtrate analysis, co-incubation of *Salmonella* Typhimurium with the paraprobiotic CWB resulted in a slight increase in viable bacteria. This was unexpected considering the bacteria were in a buffer that

![Figure 2](image)

**Figure 2.** Adhesion between bacteria and yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics based on filtration analyses. Probiotics (LYA and LYB) and paraprobiotics (CWA, CWB, CWC) were co-incubated with *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, or *L. monocytogenes* and filtered using a 3µm membrane filter. Resulting filtrates were diluted and plated. Values represent the average filtrates from three independent experiments. Error bars represent standard error. * * * * * P < 0.001; ** ** P < 0.05.

![Figure 3](image)

**Figure 3.** Utilization of cell-free yeast probiotic extracts as a carbon source by *Salmonella*. Each *Salmonella* strain was cultured in mineral salts media (MSM) supplemented with a cell-free lysate of each yeast probiotic (LYA and LYB). A control of each *Salmonella* strain was cultured in MSM (-Glucose). (A) Values represent the average OD$_{600}$ from three independent replications. Error bars represent the standard error. (B) Statistical analysis of bacterial growth in lysate supplemented media in comparison to growth in MSM. Bold numbers indicate *P* < 0.05.
was devoid of nutrients. Therefore, to determine whether this increase was due to *Salmonella* utilizing components of the yeast product as a carbon source, nonviable forms of the yeast products were supplemented to media devoid of carbon and growth of *Salmonella* was assessed over a 16 h growth period (Fig. 3). All 4 subspecies of *Salmonella* tested were able to grow in the presence of LYB lysates (Fig. 3). Growth in the presence of lysates prepared from the probiotic LYA only occurred with *S. Heidelberg* and *S. Enteriditis* (Fig. 3B).

To determine whether variations existed in the use of paraprobiotics as the carbon source, growth of *Salmonella Typhi*, *S. Typhimurium*, *S. Heidelberg*, and *S. Enteriditis* was analyzed in carbon-free media supplemented with lysates from three different yeast paraprobiotics CWA, CWB, and CWC. All 4 strains of *Salmonella* exhibited an increase in viability over the 16 h growth period analyzed, though growth rates were different for CWA and CWC supplemented media. Ironically, *S. Typhi* was not able to utilize lysate CWB, whereas all other strains analyzed had an increase in growth in comparison to *S. Typhi* (*P* < 0.05; Fig. 4).

To determine whether the impact that yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics had on growth was limited to *Salmonella*, growth of *L. monocytogenes* was also analyzed in carbon-free media supplemented with these products’ lysates (Fig. 5). Yeast probiotic LYA and paraprobiotic CWA were selected due to their efficiency in binding in the membrane filtration adhesion assay. *Listeria monocytogenes* F2365 exhibited an increase in growth with the probiotic LYA lysate (*P* < 0.05), but was not able to sustain growth in the presence of the paraprobiotic CWA lysate (Fig. 5).

**DISCUSSION**

To characterize the relationship between pathogenic bacteria and probiotics/paraprobiotics, qualita-
tive and quantitative assays were used to assess the binding potential of various pathogens to probiotics and paraprobiotics. *Salmonella* Typhimurium and *Escherichia coli* have both been found to express mannose-specific adhesins that allow for direct interaction with yeast cell walls (Sharon, 1987). Previous studies have suggested a correlation between the administration of probiotics and the decrease in prevalence of *E. coli* O157:H7 in mature ruminants and in vitro in sheep fecal suspensions (Chaucheyras-Durand et al., 2005). *Escherichia coli* has also been reported to attach to the surface of *S. boulardii* via fimbriae interacting with mannose on the yeast cell’s surface (Gedek, 1999). Variations have also been reported in the binding potential of *S. boulardii* and *S. cerevisiae* to *E. coli* and *Salmonella*. In this previous study, variations were observed in the binding potential between Gram-negative bacteria to yeast and that preference was given to *S. boulardii* due to the greater amount of mannose on this yeast’s cell wall (Tiago et al., 2012). These previous studies provided evidence in support of the mechanism that yeast probiotics bind to pathogens, which facilitates clearance from the host and reduces binding to the intestine. However, these studies indicate that there is variation in the binding capability of pathogens to yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics. In vivo binding of these pathogens in the gastrointestinal tract may provide a plethora of benefits with regards to not only animal health, but also growth performance. Additionally, some of these pathogens are foodborne pathogens and the removal of some of these pathogens may lead to reduced carcass contamination from gastrointestinal content.

Scanning electron microscopy was used to qualitatively observe the adherence of the bacteria to the yeast products. The method utilized in this current study was unique from other studies that have measured adherence between yeast and bacteria in that the binding between the 2 microorganisms was conducted on cover slips. Cover slips were extensively washed to remove non-adhered bacteria and yeast, ensuring that the only interactions observed were due to direct adherence between the yeast and the bacteria and not potential artifacts due to processing. The live yeast probiotics exhibited the greatest amount of binding to all bacteria when compared to the control. *Salmonella* Typhimurium bound well to all yeast samples ( > 86%; Table 2). Therefore, components of the yeast parapro-
Probiotics binding potential

To analyze the impact that CWB had on the viability of S. Typhimurium, 4 different strains of Salmonella were cultivated in MSM media with cell free lysates of yeast provided as the only potential carbon source. Salmonella Heidelberg and S. Enteritidis exhibited an increase in growth with lysates from both probiotics (P < 0.05), while S. Typhimurium only exhibited growth with the LYB lysates (P < 0.05) and S. Typhi had no differential growth with either probiotic lysate. The yeast paraprobiotics were also subjected to the same lysis procedure even though some may have already been fractionated due to processing. When cultivated in the MSM supplemented with paraprobiotic lysates, all Salmonella strains displayed a similar increase in growth with most of the yeast paraprobiotics. When Listeria monocytogenes was also used in this assay, the yeast probiotic LYA yielded an increase in growth, while the yeast paraprobiotic CWA could not sustain growth. These results support the hypothesis that the cellular components of these yeasts improve the viability of certain bacteria by providing a source of nutrients, but the amount of growth differs between bacteria. Further research is needed to determine how various strains of yeast affect the growth of bacteria.

Conclusion

Infectious diseases caused by pathogenic bacteria are treated by administration of antibiotics. However, with the increase in prevalence of antibiotic resistant pathogens and pending government regulation, alternative therapeutic strategies are being heavily explored. Yeast probiotics and paraprobiotics offer much promise as therapies and preventative feed additives against infectious agents, though little is known in regards to the interaction between these products and pathogens. This study analyzed the adherence between probiotics and paraprobiotics against a variety of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria that are responsible for animal diseases. Although adhesion was observed with all bacterial strains, the binding potentials were strain-specific and yeast sample type-specific. Further research is warranted to conclude the best strategies for designing probiotic therapies against infectious diseases.

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