Probiotics and Disease: A Comprehensive Summary—Part 1, Mental and Neurological Health

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Abstract

This article series provides a literature review of the disease-specific probiotic strains studied in published clinical trials in humans and animals. The goal of the series is to provide clinically useful tools. The table designs allow for quick access to supportive data related to disease states and will be helpful as a guide for both researchers and clinicians. This first article (part 1) focuses on mental health and neurological conditions. Future articles in this series will review conditions related to cardiometabolic and fatigue syndromes; ear, nose, throat, respiratory, and infectious diseases; immune and dermatological conditions; cancer, gastrointestinal and

genitourinary; followed by an article focused on food-based probiotic strains and nutritional supplements. This literature review is specific to condition, probiotic, and strain and also lists currently available products and foods in which these probiotics can be found. In part 1, we explore the role of probiotics in balancing mental health and neurological issues. Conditions in mental health include anxiety, depression, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and autism. Neurological conditions include age-related cognitive decline, hepatic encephalopathy, cerebral ischemia and reperfusion, traumatic brain injury, and multiple sclerosis.

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here is considerable research on the gut microbiome and role of probiotics; however, this research has not been clearly connected with clinical practice. Clinicians recommend probiotics to their patients. Our group undertook a review of current literature to explore which specific probiotics and probiotic strains have been used in clinical studies in humans and animals. To make this clinically valuable, product names of probiotics and fermented foods have been included. Finished products vary between manufacturers and listing brands provide transparency and a useful guide to clinicians when choosing specific probiotic and fermented food products. Exclusions of products meeting our criteria do not mean that these products are not effective—we simply were not aware of them.

Methodology

This literature review originated from a group class project that was part of the requirements for a course in the doctoral program in functional and clinical nutrition at the Maryland University of Integrative Health (Laurel, MD, USA), and the researchers researched as much as they could in the time allotted. The authors discussed the format, a template was created, and work began. Each author researched and wrote sections reviewing probiotics in relation to various health conditions with literature searches conducted in PubMed, Biomed Central, EBSCO Research Premier, PloS One, Cochrane reviews, and topic-specific open-source journals.

The review of specific probiotic products in the professional marketplace and specific probiotics products was done using Internet searches, primarily Shop Google, in addition to topic specific databases to search for specific probiotic species including the strains listed in the research. Novel strains were cross-referenced to determine whether the strain was available only for research purposes. If a probiotic combination was used in the research, formulas that closely matched the combination were included. Formulas that contain all or most of the specific probiotics and strains were also included.

The food survey focused on probiotic strains and species in food lists foods that are commercially produced and commonly available in the refrigerated sections of grocery stores in the United States. Information was

gleaned from commercial Web sites and by visiting grocery stores (primarily in California).

Research Overview: Mental Health/ Neurotransmitters/Stress

Probiotics are live bacteria that provide many benefits, including alteration of the enteric nervous system, housed in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract. The brain and the GI system are connected via the vagus nerve and the gut sends far more information to the brain than the brain sends to the gut. Problems in the gut may directly lead to issues such as anxiety, depression, and autism. Whereas probiotics nourish the gut, prebiotics are the carbohydrates that nourish these bacteria, making them equally as important. A variety of research studies provide efficacy for the use of various probiotic strains to combat mood and neurotransmitter disorders.

Ingestion of "psychobiotics" produces psychotropic effects on behavior, the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, and neurochemicals in the brain. A study by Liu et al¹ found that mice subjected to early life stress treated with *Lactobacillus plantarum* strain PS128 responded with less anxiety-like behaviors than the control mice while also reducing inflammatory levels. Other studies elucidate the efficacy of *Lactobacillus helveticus* and *Bifidobacterium longum* by decreasing GI discomfort produced by stress.² In infants, researchers found that *Lactobacillus rhamnosus* GG reduces the risk of neuropsychiatric disorder development later in childhood. They further extrapolated that the mechanisms may not be limited to gut microbiota composition. Anxiety, depression, autism spectrum

disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), and memory abilities were improved in several studies where Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus were used. When healthy women were provided with fermented milk for 4 weeks, brain regions that control the central processing of emotion and sensation were affected.4 Because these areas play a role in processing emotion and interoceptive information, this study shows that manipulations of the gut microbiota can result in measurable changes in emotional processing in the healthy brain. Addressing more directly the neuroendocrine imbalances in chronic fatigue syndrome are 2 studies that show that supplementation with certain Lactobacillus species can reduce symptoms of anxiety as well as increase Bifidobacterium levels.5,6 Galland7 showed supplementation with Bacteroides fragilis also decreased anxiety levels while improving excessive gut permeability.

Several studies have evaluated the effect of probiotics in children with autism. In a study conducted by Russo et al, researchers found that probiotic supplementation reduced myeloperoxidase levels in individuals with autism. Probiotic therapy was also associated with lower copper levels in these patients. In another study, researchers evaluated the fecal microbiota of children with autism. The children with autism showed a decrease of the *Bacteroidetes/Firmicutes* ratio and elevation of *Lactobacillus* species. When probiotic therapy was introduced, the microbiome ratios were balanced. It is becoming more evident that the modulation of the gut microbiota offers a novel approach for the treatment and prevention of mood and anxiety disorders.

Table 1. Mental Health Overview

Mental Health/	Strains	Overview	Professional		Foods
Neurotransmitters/Stress			and Commercial Products		
Anxiety Galland ⁷ (2014)	B fragilis	Associated with decreased anxiety in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome; "Corrects excessive gut permeability, alters gut microbial composition, and ameliorates deficits in communication and stereotypic, anxiety-like, and sensorimotor behaviors in the maternal immune activation model."	Not available	B fragilis:	None
Messaoudi et al² (2011)	B longum R0175, L helveticus R0052	Daily administration of <i>L helveticus</i> R0052 and <i>B longum</i> R0175 reduced psychological distress, anger hostility. <i>L helveticus</i> R0052 and <i>B longum</i> R0175 taken in combination display anxiolytic-like activity in rats and beneficial psychological effects.	B longum R0175, L helveticus R0052: Dr Formulated Probiotics Mood+ (Garden of Life) L helveticus, B longum R0175: Xymogen Probio Defence L helveticus, B longum:	B longum R0175 L helveticus R0052	None
Rao et al ⁵ (2009)	L casei strain	Resulted in a significant rise in both	Pure Encapsulations (Probiomood) B longum: FLORASSIST Mood (Life Extension) Not available	L casei strain Shirota:	Yakult USA ¹⁷
(2007)	Shirota ¹⁷	Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium as well as a significant decrease in anxiety symptoms $(P=.01)$ in patients with chronic fatigue syndrome.			
Rao et al ⁵ (2009)	L plantarum 299 V	Resulted in significant rise in fecal Bifdobacterium levels. "Bifdobacteria can boost plasma tryptophan levels and alter serotonin and dopamine turnover in areas of the brain associated with depression and anxiety."	L plantarum V299: Digestive Health Probiotic (Nature Made) Heart Healthy Probiotic Solutions (Dr Sinatra) Arrow Formulas Ideal Bowel Support, 10 Billion Organisms V-Capsules Probiata Digestion Support and Critical Care (Kyolic) Plantadophilus (3 billion CFU) Transformation Enzymes Probiotic Balance (Sundown Naturals) Probiotic GX (Nature's Bounty) Probiotic Supplement (GoodBelly) UltraFlora Intensive Care (Metagenics)	L plantarum 299V	All GoodBelly products (NextFoods ¹⁸)

Table 1. (continued)

Mental Health/ Neurotransmitters/Stress	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
Neurotransmitters/Stress Wang et al ¹⁰ (2016); Akkasheh et al ¹¹ (2016); Liu et al ¹² (2016); Liu et al ¹² (2016); Mohammadi et al ¹³ (2015)	B longum, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis L helveticus, L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L casei, L plantarum strain PS128	Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus showed efficacy in improving psychiatric disorder related behaviors including anxiety, depression, autism spectrum disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and memory abilities including spatial and nonspatial memory. Probiotic administration with L casei, L acidophilus, and Bifidobacterium for 8 wk had beneficial effects in Beck Depression Inventory, insulin, homeostasis, high-	B longum, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis, L helveticus, L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L casei, L plantarum: Dr Formulated Probiotics Mood+ (Garden of Life) Primadophilus Optima (Nature's Way) L helveticus, L rhamnosus, B longum: Xymogen Probio Defense L helveticus, B longum: Pure Encapsulations Probiomood L acidophilus, L rhamnosus; B bifidum/ lactis, B longum: FLORASSIST Mood	B longum B bifidum	None Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt ¹⁹) Green Valley Organics Lactose-free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's ²²)
		sensitivity C-reactive protein concentrations, and glutathione concentrations. Chronic ingestion of PS128 could ameliorate anxiety and depression-like behaviors and modulate neurochemicals related to affective disorders. PS128 shows psychotropic properties and has great potential for improving stress-related symptoms. Daily intake of L plantarum strain PS128 could improve anxiety-like behaviors and may be helpful in ameliorating neuropsychiatric disorders. The consumption of probiotic yogurt or multispecies probiotic capsule had beneficial effects on mental health parameters.	(Life Extension) L helveticus, L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L casei, L plantarum strain PS128 (plantarum not strain specific): Jarro-Dophilus EPS 5 & 25 Billion (Jarrow Formulas) RAW Probiotics Ultimate Care (Garden of Life) Primadophilus Optima (Nature's Way) PrepTonic Detox (Professional Botanicals) B longum, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis: Ther-Biotic for Infants, Children's Chewable, Senior, LactoPrime Plus SCD Compliant (Klaire Labs) iFlora Multi Probiotic (Sedona Labs Pro) Broad Spectrum Probiotic (Progressive Labs) Kyo-Dophilus (Wakunaga) Dr Formulated Once Daily Women/Men, Organic Kids, Mood, Once Daily Ultra, Fitibiotic, Urinary Tract, Prostate+ (Garden of Life) Primadophilus for Children & Optima (Nature's Way) Multi Probiotic 40 Billion (Douglas Labs) Proflora (BioBotanical Research) Gastro Complete (NewMark)	B breve B infantis L helveticus L rhamnosus L acidophilus	None None Used in the production of various cheeses (Fox et al²³ [2016]) Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²²) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt's) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics") Ke'ita Kombucha Cleansing Probiotic Drink, Masterbrew, and Sparkling Probiotic Drink (KeVita²³) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery²³) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery") Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's") Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²¹) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt's) Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms far (Green Valley Organic Cultured Coconut Milk (Coconut Grove Yogurt's) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics") Kite Hill Almond Milk Yogurt (Kite Hill³¹) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery²²) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²²) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurt (Springfield Creamery²²) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²²) Stonyfield Organic Orsoy Soy Yogurt (Stonyfield Organic Orsoy Soy Yogurt (Wallaby Yogurt

Table 1. (continued)

Mental Health/ Neurotransmitters/Stress	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
				L plantarum strain PS128	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream*4) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt*3) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious*30) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics*30) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery*3) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery*31) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery*7) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfar Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery*3) Zukay Live Foods Fruit Kvass (Zukay Live Foods Veggie Kvass (Zukay Live Foods*5)
Attention-deficit/Hyperact	tivity Disorder			PS128	
Partty et al ³ (2015)	L rhamnosus GG	Probiotic supplementation (<i>L rhamnosus</i> GG) early in life may reduce risk of neuropsychiatric disorder development later in childhood.	L rhamnosus GG: Culturelle Solgar, Advanced 40+ Acidophilus Walgreens Probiotic Advanced Multi-Billion Dophilus (Solgar) Digestive Health Probiotic, Kids Chewables & Packets (Culturelle) UltraFlora Baby (Metagenics)	L rhamnosus GG	None
Autism	T	T		I	T
Wang et al ¹⁴ (2016); Parracho ¹⁵ (2010);	B longum, B breve,	B longum, B breve, B infantis, L helveticus, and L rhamnosus showed efficacy in	B longum, B breve, B infantis, L helveticus, L rhamnosus:	B longum	None
Russo ⁸ (2015);	B infantis,	improving psychiatric disorder-related	Dr Formulated Mood+ (Garden of Life)	B breve B infantis	None None
Iomova et al.' (2015); Critchfield et al. ¹⁶ (2011); Critchfield et al. ¹⁶ (2011)	by a et al 16 (2015); B bifidum, behaviors including anxiety, depression, and autism spectrum disorder.	L plantarum 299v: Digestive Health Probiotic (Nature Made, 10 billion CFU) Heart Healthy Probiotic Solutions (Dr Sinatra) Ideal Bowel Support (Jarrow Formulas 10 Billion Organisms V-Capsules) Probiata Digestion Support and Critical	B bifidum	Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurti*) Green Valley Organics Lactose-free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹)	
	L salivarius, L paracasei,	benefits including decreased plasma myeloperoxidase upon ingestion and serve	Care (Kyolic) Probiotic Supplement (GoodBelly)		Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk
	S thermophiles, Lactobacillus spp,	to normalize gut flora populations. Probiotic supplementation normalized the	Plantadophilus (Transformation Enzyme Corp, 3 billion CFU)	B breve	(Trader Joe's ²²) None
	Bifidobacterium spp	Sacteroidetes/Firmicutes ratio, Desulfovibrio spp, and the amount of Bifidobacterium spp in feces of children with autism. B infantis showed effects on immune, neuroendocrine, and central monoaminergic activity. A probiotic drink containing L casei has also revealed positive effects on mood and cognition.	Probiotic GX (Nature's Bounty) Sthermophillus, Biflaobacterium spp, Lactobacilli spp: Widely available in commercial products L plantarum, B longum: Probiotic Balance (Sundown Naturals) Multi-Flora Adult Ultra (UAS Life Sciences) L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L plantarum, L salivarius, L casei, B bifldum, B infantis, B longum, B breve: Dr Formulated Formulas (Garden of Life) Gastro Complete (NewMark) iFlora Multi-Probiotic Capsule 60 ct (Sedona Labs Pro) Multi-Probiotic 40 Billion (Douglas Labs) Prothera LactoPrime Plus L rhamnosus, L casei, L salivarius, B infantis, B bifldum, B longum, B breve: Dr Formulated Formulas (Garden of Life) Gastro Complete (NewMark) iiFlora Multi-Probiotic Capsule 60 ct (Sedona Labs Pro) Multi-Probiotic 40 Billion (Douglas Labs) Ther-biotic Children's Chewable L rhamnosus, B bifldum, L acidophilus, L casei, B longum, B breve: Dr Formulated Formulas (Garden of Life) Green SuperFood Raw Green SuperFood Raw Reserve Berry 8.5 oz (Amazing Grass) iFlora Multi-Probiotic Capsule 60 ct (Sedona Labs Pro) ImmuProbio One-a-Day (Health Aid America) Multi-Probiotic 40 Billion (Douglas Labs) Primal Defense Ultra (Garden of Life)	L acidophilus	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²4) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt¹9) Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms") Coconut Grove Organic Cultured Coconut Milk (Coconut Grove Yogurt²9) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious S'9) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics²9) Kite Hill Almond Milk Yogurt (Kite Hill²1) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery²8) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Yogurt (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery³9) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery²1) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²2) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery) Stonyfield Organic O'Soy Soy Yogurt (Stonyfield Farm³1) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's Milk Plain Yogurt (Wallaby Yogurt Company³4)

Table 1. (continued)

Mental Health/ Neurotransmitters/Stress	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
			Probiophage DF & Probiotic Supreme DF (Designs for Health)	L helveticus	Used in the production of various cheeses (Fox et al ²³ [2016])
			ProtoDophilus 50 Billion (Protocol For Life	L rhamnosus	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt
			Balance) Ther-biotic Complete Prothera		(Dream ²⁴) Amande Cultured Almond Milk
					(Amande Yogurt.com ¹⁹) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley
					Organics ²⁰) KeVita Kombucha Cleansing Probioti
					Drink (KeVita ²⁵) KeVita Kombucha Masterbrew (KeVita ²⁵)
					KeVita Kombucha Sparkling Probiotic Drink (KeVita ²⁵) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir
					(Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ²⁶) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organi
					Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹)
					Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organi Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery ²⁷) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk
				I alautamin	(Trader Joe's ²²) Farmhouse Culture Sauerkraut
				L plantarum	(Farmhouse Culture Sauerkraut (Farmhouse Culture ³⁷) Green Olives (various brands; not refrigerated) (Abriouel ³⁸ [2012];
					Doulgeraki et al ³⁹ [2013]) KeVita Kombucha Cleansing Probioti Drink (KeVita ²⁵)
					KeVita Kombucha Sparkling Probioti Drink (KeVita ²⁵) King's Kimchi (King's Asian
					Gourmet ⁴⁰) PureLiving Pickled Beets and Sauerkraut (Shiloh Farms ⁴¹)
					Seoul Kimchi (Lucky Foods ⁴²) Wildbrine Kimchi, Kimchi Live Shots Pickled Ginger, Salsa, and Sauerkraut (Wildbrine ⁴³)
				L brevis	Farmhouse Culture Sauerkraut (Farmhouse Culture ³⁷) King's Kimchi (King's Asian
					Gourmet ⁴⁰) PureLiving Pickled Beets and Sauerkraut (Shiloh Farms ⁴¹)
					Seoul Kimchi (Lucky Foods ⁴²) Wildbrine Kimchi, Kimchi Live Shots Pickled Ginger, Salsa, and
				L casei	Sauerkraut (Wildbrine ⁴³) Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt
					(Dream ²⁴) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt ¹⁹)
					Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious ³⁰) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free
					Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰)
					Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ²⁶)
					Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organi Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹)
					Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organi Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery ²⁷)
					Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organi Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery ³²)
					Zukay Live Foods Fruit Kvass (Zukay Lives Foods ³⁵) Zukay Live Foods Veggie Kvass (Zuka
				L salivarius	Live Foods ³⁶) None
				L paracasei	KeVita Kombucha Cleansing Probiotic Drink and Sparkling Probiotic Drink (KeVita ²⁵)
					Wallaby Yogurt Company Organic Greek Whole Milk Plain Yogurt (Wallaby Yogurt Company ³⁴)

Table 1. (continued)

Mental Health/ Neurotransmitters/Stress	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
				S thermophiles Lactobacillus spp Bifidobacterium spp	All yogurt containing "Live and Active Cultures" (National Yogurt Association*1) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious*3) Dannon Activia Products and DanActive (Dannon*5.*6) Green Valley Organics Cow's Milk Lactose Free Kefir (Green Valley Organics*20) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery*8) A variety of fermented dairy and nondairy foods Bubbies Kosher Dill Pickles (Bubbies of San Francisco*) Real Pickles Organic Dill Pickles (Real Pickles Organic Dill Pickles (Real Pickles)
Depression					cultured dairy alternatives
Wang ¹⁰ (2016);	B longum,	Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus showed	B longum, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis,	B longum	None
Mang (2016); Liu et al ¹ (2016); Liu et al ² (2016); Liu et al ² (2016); Mohammadi et al ¹³ (2015)	Biorgam, B breve, B infantis L helveticus, L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L casei, L plantarum strain PS128	efficacy in improving psychiatric disorder- related behaviors including anxiety, depression, autism spectrum disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, and memory abilities including spatial and nonspatial memory. Probiotic administration with <i>L casei</i> , <i>L acidophilus</i> , and <i>Bifidobacterium</i> for 8 wk had beneficial effects in Beck Depression Inventory, insulin, homeostasis, high-	L helveticus, L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L casei, L plantarum: Dr Formulated Probiotics Mood+ (Garden of Life) B lactis (infantis), B longum, L acidophilus: Probiotic Synergy powder (Designs for Health) B bifidum, B breve, B longum, L rhamnosis, L casei, L acidophilus,	B bifidum	Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt ¹⁹) Green Valley Organics Lactose-free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's ²²)
		sensitivity C-reactive protein concentrations,	S thermophiles:	B breve	None
		and glutathione concentrations. Chronic ingestion of PS128 could ameliorate	Probiophage DF (Designs for Health) L acidophilus, B lactis, B longum,	B infantis	None
		anxiety and depression-like behaviors and modulate neurochemicals related to affective	L plantarum, B bifidum, B infantis, L casei, L salivarius, S thermophiles:	L helveticus	Used in the production of various cheeses (Fox et al ²³ [2016])
		disorders. PS128 shows psychotropic	Integrative Therapeutics, Spectra Probiotic	L rhamnosus	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt
		improving stress-related symptoms. Daily intake of L plantarum strain PS128 could improve anxiety-like behaviors and may be helpful in ameliorating neuropsychiatric disorders. The consumption of probiotic yogurt or multispecies probiotic capsule had beneficial effects on mental health parameters.	L acidophilus, B bifidum, B infantis, Enterococcus faecium: Integrative Therapeutics, Enterogenic Concentrate L helveticus, L rhamnosus, B longum: Probio Defense (Xymogen) NutriVitamin Enzyme Comp w/o Iron (Integrative Therapeutics) Jarro-Dophilus EPS 5 Billion & 25 Billion (Jarrow Formulas) RAW Probiotics Ultimate & Colon Care (Garden of Life) Primadophilus Optima (Nature's Way) L helveticus, B longum: FLORASSIST Mood (Life Extension) Pure Encapsulations Probiomood L acidophilus, L rhamnosus; B bifidum/lactis, B longum: Ther-biotic Complete & Senior (Klaire Labs) Multi-Probiotic 40 Billion (Douglas Labs) iiFlora Multi-Probiotic Capsule 60 ct (Sedona Labs Pro) Primal Defense Ultra (Garden of Life) Dr Formulated Formulas (Garden of Life) RAW Probiotics Wom 50 & Wiser (Garden of Life) Ultimate FloraMax Total Woman (Advanced Naturals) FloraBoost (OrthoMolecular) Bifido Digest (Protocol for Life Balance) FlorAssist Probiotic (Life Extension)	L acidophilus	Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt'') Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics-20) KeVita Kombucha Cleansing Probiotic Drink, Masterbrew, and Sparkling Probiotic Drink (KeVita'') Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery-2") Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery-2") Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Pogurt'9) Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious-30) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics-30) Kite Hill Almond Milk Yogurt (Kite Hill'1) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Yogurt (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery-30) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery-31) Springfield Creamery Yoncy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery-32)

Table 1.	(continued)
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Mental Health/ Neurotransmitters/Stress	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
ivelioti disimiteis/stress			and Commercial Products	L casei	Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery*2*) Stonyfield Organic O'Soy Soy Yogurt (Stonyfield Farm*3*) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's*2*) Wallaby Yogurt Company Organic Greek Whole Milk Plain Yogurt (Wallaby) Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream*4*) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt*9*) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics*3*) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery*2*) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery*1) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield
				L plantarum strain PS128	Creamery ²⁷) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery ³²) Zukay Live Foods Fruit Kvass (Zukay Lives Foods ³⁶) Zukay Live Foods Veggie Kvass (Zuka Live Foods ³⁶) None
				S thermophiles	All yogurt containing "Live and Active Cultures" (National Yogurt Association") Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious") Dannon Activia Products and DanActive (Dannon ^{45,46}) Green Valley Organics Cow's Milk Lactose Free Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ²⁶)
				Lactobacillus spp	A variety of fermented dairy and nondairy foods Bubbies Kosher Dill Pickles (Bubbies of San Francisco ⁶⁷) Real Pickles Organic Dill Pickles (Real Pickles ⁶⁸)
				Bifidobacterium spp	A variety of cultured dairy foods and cultured dairy alternatives

Neurological Health

Research Overview: Neurological

Research on probiotic supplementation for neurological health is in its early stages. Although some promising studies are cited in the scientific literature, the amount of evidence in support of these interventions is scant. Most of the relationships explored do not have sufficient details to draw broader conclusions about the primary mechanisms and the diversity of probiotic strains and actions suggest that we are only beginning to consider the possible applications. In the case of age-related cognitive decline, Distrutti et al⁴⁹ examined the effect of the combination of Streptococcus thermophilus, Bifidobacterium breve, B longum, Bifidobacterium infantis, Lactobacillus acidophilus, L plantarum, Lactobacillus paracasei, and Lactobacillus delbrueckii sbsp bulgaricus in a dose of 12.86

billion bacteria/kg/day upon the rat cerebral cortex. There was evidence to suggest that through an unknown mechanism, these probiotic strains influenced brain genetic expression and modulated neurotransmitters to counter age-related reduction in cognitive function. It is premature to extend these findings to human cognitive function; however, it may be a valuable study for clinicians considering whether they would consider probiotic supplementation as part of their care for supporting cognitive health.

Probiotic use for hepatic encephalopathy has been evaluated by several researchers and Sharma et al⁵⁰ conducted a randomized controlled trial to compare L-ornithine-L-aspartate (18 g/day), rifaximin (1200 mg/day), and the Velmut probiotic combination *L acidophilus*, *L rhamnosus*, *L plantarum*, *L casei*, *B longum*, *B infantis*, *B breve*,

Table 2. Neurological Health Overview

Neurological	Strains	Overview	Professional and		Foods
Age-related Cognitive I	Decline		Commercial Products		
Distrutti et al ^{so} (2014) (animal model)	Combination of: S thermophilus DSM24731, B breve DSM24732, B longum DSM24736, B infantis DSM24737, L acidophilus DSM24735, L plantarum DSM24730, L paracasei DSM24733, L delbrueckii subsp bulgaricus DSM24734	Treatment group showed modulated age-related shifts in inflammation-linked genes PLA2G3, Nid2, and Alox15; reduces impairments in long-term potentiation.	B longum, B infantis, B breve, L acidophilus, L casei, L delbrueckii subsp, bulgaricus, L plantarum, S salivarius subsp thermophiles: VSL#3 (Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals) S boulardii, S thermophilus, L fermentum, L acidophilus, L brevis, L bulgaricus, L casei, L helveticus, L paracasei, L plantarum, L rhamnosus, L salivarius, L lactis, Bacillus coagulans, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis, B lactis, B longum, P acidilacti: Nexabiotic (Bioprosper Labs) S boulardii DDS-1, L acidophilus, Bacilus coagulans: Strengtia (Apex Energetics)	None	
Hepatic Encephalopath	i				
Sharma et al ⁵⁰ (2014) (randomized, controlled trial)	Combination of: L acidophilus, L hamnosus, L plantarum, L casei, B longum, B infantis, B breve, S boulardii, S thermophilus	Reduced blood ammonia.	Combination of: Lacidophilus, L rhamnosus, L plantarum, L casei, B longum, B infantis, B breve, S thermophiles (missing S boulardii): iflora Multi Probiotic (Sedona Labs Pro) Multi Probiotic 40 Billion Pwdr (Douglas Labs) Gastro Complete (NewMark) S boulardii, DDS-1, L acidophilus, B coagulans: Strengtia (Apex Energetics) L casei, B breve, L plantarum: Sibiotica (Apex Energetics)	L rhamnosus	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²¹) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt'¹) Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms²¹) Coconut Grove Organic Cultured Coconut Milk (Coconut Grove Yogurt²¹) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious²⁰) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics²⁰) Kite Hill Almond Milk Yogurt (Kite Hill²¹) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery²³⁰) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Yogurt (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery²³⁰) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurt (Springfield Creamery²¹) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery?¹) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Kefir (Springfield Creamery²¹) Stonyfield Organic O'Soy Soy Yogurt (Stonyfield Farm³³) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's²²) Wallaby Yogurt Company Organic Greek Whole Milk Plain Yogurt (Wallaby Yogurt Company³⁴) Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²⁴) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt²°) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics²°)
				L plantarum	KeVita Kombucha Cleansing Probiotic Drink, Masterbrew, and Sparkling Probiotic Drink (KeVita ²⁵) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ²⁶) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery ²⁷) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's ²¹) Farmhouse Culture Sauerkraut (Farmhouse Culture ²⁷) Green Olives (various brands; not refrigerated)
					(Abriouel ^{3s} [2012]; Doulgeraki et al ^{3s} [2013]) KeVita Kombucha Cleansing Probiotic Drink (KeVita ^{2s}) KeVita Kombucha Sparkling Probiotic Drink (KeVita ^{2s}) King's Kimchi (King's Asian Gourmet ⁶⁰) PureLiving Pickled Beets and Sauerkraut (Shiloh Farms ⁴¹) Seoul Kimchi (Lucky Foods ⁴²) Wildbrine Kimchi, Kimchi Live Shots, Pickled Ginger, Salsa, and Sauerkraut (Wildbrine ⁴³)

Table 2. (continued)

Neurological	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
				L casei	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream ²⁴) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt ¹⁹) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious ¹⁰) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ²⁰) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²¹) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultures Soy (Springfield Creamery ²²) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery ²¹) Zukay Live Foods Fruit Kvass (Zukay Lives Foods ²⁵) Zukay Live Foods Veggie Kvass (Zukay Live Foods ²⁶) None
				B infantis	None
				B breve	None
				S boulardii	GT's Kombucha Classic Kombucha, Classic Synergy, Enlightened Kombucha, Enlightene Synergy (Millennium Products ⁵⁸)
				S thermophiles	All yogurt containing "Live and Active Cultures (National Yogurt Association ⁴⁴) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious ³⁰) Dannon Activia Products and DanActive (Dannon ^{45,66}) Green Valley Organics Cow's Milk Lactose Free Kefir (Green Valley Organics ³⁰) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ³⁶)
Luo et al ⁵¹ (2014) (animal model) Cerebral Ischemia/Repo	L helveticus NS8	Reduced inflammation and improved cognitive function.	Not available	L helveticus NS8	None
Sun et al ⁵² (2016) (animal model)	C butyricum	Pretreatment reduced neurological impairment, perhaps through reducing reactive oxygen species, decreasing butyrate in the brain, and/or inhibiting apoptosis.	C butyricum: AOR Probiotic-3 Miyarisan MIYARISAN 630 Tablets	C butyricum	None
Traumatic Brain Injury		T-		Γ	Tab
Tan et al ⁵³ (2011) (randomized, controlled trial)	Combination of: B longum, L bulgaricus, S thermophilus	Balanced T _h 1/T _h 2, decreased rate of infection, antibiotic use, and length of stay in intensive care unit.	Combination of: B longum, L bulgaricus, S thermophiles: Nexabiotic (Bioprosper Labs) Propolis Plus (Essential Formulas)	B longum	None
			Mega Flora Plus (Mega Food) Adult Probiotic (Probacla) Ther-Biotic Complete (Klaire Labs) Multi Probiotic 40 Billion (Douglas Labs) Flora 50-14 Clinical Strength, 200-14: 7-day Intensive, 5-14 Complete Care (Innate Response)	L bulgaricus	All yogurt containing "Live and Active Cultures (National Yogurt Association ⁴⁴) Dannon Activia Products and DanActive (Dannon ^{45,46}) Green Valley Organics Cow's Milk Lactose Free Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰)
			Dr Ohhira's Probiotics Prof/Plus (Essential Formulas) ProGreens Powder (Nutricology) iFlora Multi-Probiotic Powder 60 ct (Sedona Labs Pro) B longum, B infantis, B breve, L acidophilus, L casei, L delbrueckii sbsp bulgaricus, L plantarum, S salivarius subsp thermophiles: VSL#3 (Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals) L acidophilus HA-122, L rhamnosus HA-111, L rhamnosus HA-114, L plantarum HA-119, B bifidum HA-132, L casei HA-108, B longum HA-135, L salivarius HA-118L: Super 8 Hi-Potency (Udo's Choice) B lactis HN019, L acidophilus La-14, L plantarum Lp-115, B longum B1-05: Probiomax DF (Xymogen; 250 DF)	S thermophiles	All yogurt containing "Live and Active Culture: (National Yogurt Associations") Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious") Dannon Activia Products and DanActive (Dannons: 8:0) Green Valley Organics Cow's Milk Lactose Free Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery ²⁰)
Falcão de Arruda & de Aguilar- Nascimento ⁵⁴ (2004) (randomized, controlled trial)	L johnsonii	Combined with 30 g of glutamine was associated with reduced infection and shorter time in intensive care unit.	<i>L johnsonii</i> : Not available	L johnsonii	None

Table 2. (continued)

Neurological	Strains	Overview	Professional and Commercial Products		Foods
Multiple Sclerosis			Commercial Products		
Kwon et al ⁵⁵ (2013) (animal model)	Combination of: L casei, L acidophilus, L reuteri, B bifidum, S thermophilus	Significantly reduced incidence of developing experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis with pretreatment (for 3 wk) and decreased clinical symptoms.	Combination of: <i>L, L acidophilus</i> , <i>L reuteri, B bifidum, S thermophiles</i> : Flora 50-14 Clinical Strength, 200-14: 7-day Intensive, 5-14 Complete Care (Innate Response) IRT5 probiotic powder Mega Flora Plus, Mega Food Probiotic Synergy & Supreme (Designs for Health) RAW Probiotics Women & Wom 50 & Wiser (Garden of Life) NDF, NDF-Plus, & Cytoflora (BioRay)	L casei	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²4) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt¹9) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious³9) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics²0) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery²5) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery²1) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²7) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Lowfat Plain Cow's Milk Kefir (Springfield Creamery³4) Zukay Live Foods Fruit Kvass (Zukay Lives Foods³9) Zukay Live Foods Veggie Kvass (Zukay Live Foods¹9)
				L acidophilus	Almond Dream Non-dairy Yogurt (Dream²¹) Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt¹³) Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms Sheep's Milk Yogurt (Bellwether Farms²³) Coconut Grove Organic Cultured Coconut Milk (Coconut Grove Yogurt²²) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious³⁰) Green Valley Organics Lactose-Free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics²¹) Kite Hill Almond Milk Yogurt (Kite Hill³¹) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Yogurt (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamery³⁵) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery²¹) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²²) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²²) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cultured Soy (Springfield Creamery²²) Stonyfield Organic O'Soy Soy Yogurt (Stonyfield Organic O'Soy Soy Yogurt (Stonyfield Farm³³) Trader Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's²²) Wallaby Yogurt Company Organic Greek Whole Milk Plain Yogurt (Wallaby Yogurt
				L reuteri	Company ³⁴) No specific brands or products identified. Traditionally used in sourdough bread, and fermented milk production (De Vuyst & Neysens ³⁰ (2005); Tamime ⁶⁰ (2002))
				B bifidum	Amande Cultured Almond Milk (Amande Yogurt' ⁹) Green Valley Organics Lactose-free Cow's Milk Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁹) Springfield Creamery Nancy's Organic Cow's Milk Yogurts (Springfield Creamery ²⁷) Tradet Joe's Cultured Coconut Milk (Trader Joe's ²³)
				S thermophiles	All yogurt containing "Live and Active Cultures" (National Yogurt Association ⁴⁴) Dahlicious Cow's Milk Lassi (Dahlicious ⁵⁰) Dannon Activia Products and DanActive (Dannon ^{45,46}) Green Valley Organics Cow's Milk Lactose Free Kefir (Green Valley Organics ²⁰) Redwood Hill Farm Goat Milk Kefir (Redwood Hill Farm and Creamert ²⁶)
Rosche et al ⁵⁶ (2013)	T suis ova	Pilot study: Administration in the course of 6 mo, every 2 wk, was associated with decrease in brainderived neurotrophic factor.	Produced for research purpose (not commercially available)	None	

Table 3. Summary of Brands of Nutritional Supplements by Health Concern

Health Concern	Professional and Commercial Products	Strains		
Attention-deficit/ hyperactivity disorder	Advanced Multi-Billion Dophilus (Solgar); Advanced 40+ Acidophilus (Culturelle); Lactobacillus GG (Walgreens); Probiotic <i>Lactobacillus GG</i>	L rhamnosus GG		
Age-related cognitive decline	Nexabiotic (Bioprosper Labs)	S boulardii, S thermophilus, L fermentum, L acidophilus, L brevis, L bulgaricus, L casei, L helveticus, L paracasei, L pantarum, L rhamnosus, L salivarius, L lact B coagulans, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis, B lactis, B longum, P acidilacti		
Age-related cognitive decline	VSL#3 (Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals)	B longum, B infantis, B breve, L acidophilus, L casei, L delbrueckii subsp bulgaricus, L plantarum, S salivarius subsp thermophiles		
Autism	Digestive Health Probiotic (Nature Made); Heart Healthy Probiotic Solutions (Dr Sinatra); Jarrow Formulas Ideal Bowel Support (10 billion CFU per capsule); Plantadophilus (Transformation Enzymes, 3 billion CFU per capsule); Probiata Digestion Support and Critical Care (Kyolic); and many more	L plantarum		
Autism	Probiotic Balance (Sundown Naturals)	L plantarum, B longum		
Autism	Prothera LactoPrime Plus	L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L plantarum, L salivarius, L casei, B bifidum, B infant B longum, B breve		
Autism	Ther-biotic Children's Chewable	L rhamnosus, L casei, L salivarius, B infantis, B bifidum, B longum, B breve		
Autism	Ther-biotic Complete (Prothera)	L rhamnosus, B bifidum, L acidophilus, L casei, B longum, B breve		
Autism	Widely available	L acidophilus		
Cerebral ischemia/ reperfusion	AOR Probiotic-3	C butyricum		
Cerebral ischemia/ reperfusion	Miyarisan MIYARISAN 630 Tablets	C butyricum		
	Dr Formulated Probiotics Mood+ (Garden of Life)	B longum, B bifidum, B breve, B infantis, L helveticus, L rhamnosus, L acidophilus, L casei, L plantarum + ashwaganda and food extracts		
Depression	FLORASSIST Mood (Life Extension)	L acidophilus, L rhamnosus, B bifidum/lactis, B longum		
	Pure Encapsulations (Probiomood)	L helveticus, B longum		
	Xymogen Probio Defense	L helveticus Roselle-52, L rhamnosus Roselle-11, B longum Roselle-175		
Multiple sclerosis	Flora 50-14 and Flora 20-14 (Innate Response)	L casei, L acidophilus, L reuteri, B bifidum, S thermophiles combined		
Multiple sclerosis	IRT5 probiotic powder Mega Flora Plus (Mega Food)	L casei, L acidophilus, L reuteri, B bifidum, S thermophiles combined		
Adult Probiotic (Probaclac) Traumatic brain injury Mega Flora Plus (Mega Food) Nexabiotic (Bioprosper Labs)		B longum, L bulgaricus, S thermophiles combined		
Traumatic brain injury	Not available	L johnsonii		
Traumatic brain injury	Propolis Plus (Essential Formulas) Super 8 Hi-Potency VSL#3 (Sigma Tau Pharmaceuticals)	B longum, L bulgaricus, S thermophiles combined		

Saccharomyces boulardii, and Streptococcus thermophiles (10 billion CFU/day) for the treatment of minimal hepatic encephalopathy. They found that those in the probiotic group showed improved function on the neurophysiologic assessment and it was significantly better than placebo. L helveticus was the strain used by Luo et al⁵¹ in their animal model of hepatic encephalopathy and they found decreased inflammation and improved cognitive function.

For cerebral ischemia/perfusion, Sun et al⁵² used an animal model to explore protective effects of *Clostridium butyricum* (1 billion CFU/day). Those animals that were pretreated with *C butyricum* had significantly less injury than the untreated controls. The authors hypothesized that reduced reactive oxygen species in the brain and inhibited apoptosis were contributing to their improved outcomes. Further research on the effects of *C butyricum*

in vivo would provide valuable data on its clinical usefulness.

With traumatic brain injuries (TBIs), probiotics have been evaluated in a couple of controlled trials giving greater support for their efficacy. Tan et al⁵³ focused on patients in an intensive care unit (ICU) who had both TBI and were at increased risk for ventilator-associated pneumonia. They used a combination of *B longum*, *L bulgaricus*, and *S thermophiles* (1 billion CFU/day) and found a significant reduction in the length of stay in the ICU. Tan et al⁵³ also postulated that probiotic use could result in reduced risk of infection. Each of these outcomes was supported by earlier research from Falcão de Arruda and de Aguilar-Nascimento,⁵⁴ who researched *Lactobacillus johnsonii* with 30 g of glutamine patients with TBIs in the ICU.

Probiotic therapies for multiple sclerosis (MS) consist of 2 primary research paths. One is what may be considered traditional probiotic therapy using a combination of L casei, L acidophilus, L reuteri, B bifidum, and S thermophiles $(5 \times 10^8 \text{ CFU})$ in an animal model of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE).55 The authors⁵⁵ found that pretreatment with the probiotic blend for 3 weeks significantly decreased the development of EAE and reduced the clinical symptoms in those subjects that did develop it. Another research strategy involves helminth therapy for the reduction of MS symptoms, specifically *Trichuris suis* ova. 56,57 Fleming et al⁵⁷ established that 2500 ova every 2 weeks did not result in an increase in clinical presentation in MS, whereas Rosche et al⁵⁵ found that placing their patients on the same protocol in the course of 6 months was associated with a significant reduction in brain-derived neurotrophic factor. As with the other uses of probiotic therapy for neurological health, there are not enough data to formulate clear protocols for predictable outcomes. One consistent finding across these diverse applications is very few reports of adverse effects other than occasional GI distress.

Nutritional Supplements Overview

Professional and commercial dietary supplements containing probiotics are widely available.⁶¹ In 2002, it was estimated that more than 100 companies in the United States market probiotic supplements and nearly 2 million adults use them.⁶² Using probiotics for general health versus targeting a specific health concern is more complex, as the properties of probiotic species are strain specific.⁶³ Unfortunately, there is a lack of consistency naming therapeutic strains in research and strains are often not listed on supplement labels. This makes it difficult to know whether the product matches the product used in the research and is a limitation of these tables.

The Joint Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations/World Health Organization Expert Consultation on Evaluation of Health and Nutritional Properties of Probiotics developed guidelines for evaluating probiotics in food.⁶⁴ A combination of phenotypic and genotypic tests must be performed to determine the strain; however, regulations on species identification are not in place and supplement companies are not required to list this information on labels. During this review, it was identified that 30 species were specifically isolated for research purposes and were unavailable and another 56 strains were not commercially available. Because of the wide variety of formulations on the market, lack of knowledge, and poor labeling, it is difficult to for practitioners and consumers to determine which brand contains specific strains researched to address a particular health concern.

Table 3 is designed to be a resource to see what is available at-a-glance. The brands were chosen by searching the probiotic strain and/strain-species in Google, a number of supplement companies, Probiotics Advisor, 65 and the

Clinical Guide to Probiotic Products.⁶⁶ Based on the results and to determine what was commercially available, the search was refined using Google Shopping. In some instances, the supplement company was called to determine whether the formula contained a particular species.

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