Supplementary methods 3

Enterococcus qPCR

The Enterococcus qPCR was carried out using QuantiTect SYBR-green Mastermix. The reaction mixture consisted of 12.5µL QuantiText 2x mastermix, 0.4µM FP (5' CGT CGC AAG MMC AAA GAG 3'), 0.4µM RP (5' TTA CCG CGG CTG CTG GCA C 3'), 2µL DNA extract and nuclease-free water to reach a final reaction volume of 25µL. Mouse GI tract samples that were positive for Enterococcus served as positive controls and a no-template control consisting of nuclease-free water as negative controls. DNA extraction controls were also included. Reactions were cycled on a thermocycler with the following cycling conditions: initial heat activation at 95^{o}C for 15 minutes, 45 cycles of denaturation at 94^{o}C for 15 seconds, annealing at 58^{o}C for 30 seconds and extension at 72^{o}C for 30 seconds, followed by a melt curve. Results were analysed using the CFX Manager Software (BioRad).