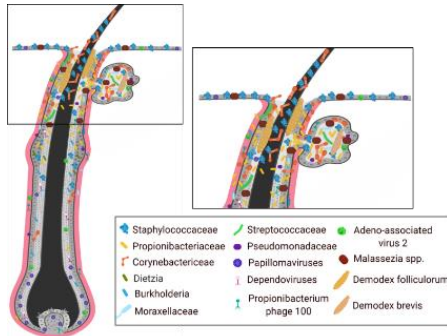


# To investigate changes in human scalp hair follicle microbiome *ex vivo*

## Claim substantiation:

- Healthy skin with a balanced microbiome
- anti-dandruff
- anti-acne



The human hair follicle is colonized by **unique and complex microbiota and serves as a microbial habitat**, providing a maximal surface area for microbe-host interactions regulating scalp health. Hair follicle microbiome dysbiosis is involved in hair follicle disorders, such as acne vulgaris, alopecia areata, androgenic alopecia, dandruff. Therefore, targeting the hair follicle microbiome leads to the development of **novel cosmetic strategy to manage hair disorders and maintaining scalp health (Lousada et al., 2021 Br J Dermatol)**.

## Our models

Amputated microdissected hair follicle



Full-length microdissected hair follicle



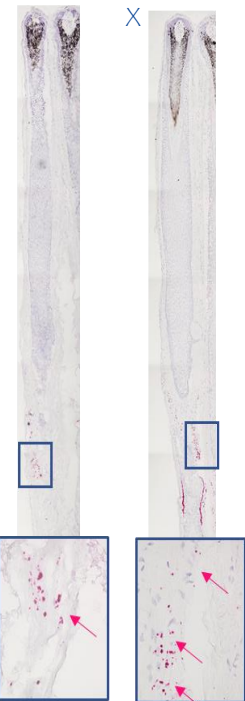
Selection of our publications on the method: Edelkamp et al., Methods Mol Biol 2020; Langan et al., Exp dermatol 2015

## Case study: Compound X restores a healthy microbiome in the hair follicle

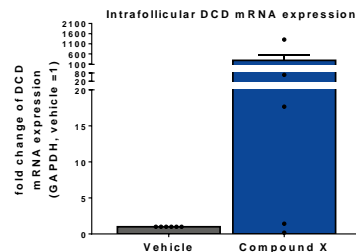
### 1. Compound X stimulates the production of DCD in the hair follicle

Healthy HF's manage and efficiently control their microbiome by production of **antimicrobial peptides (AMPs)** with different microbial specificities, and which are inducible by bacterial products/metabolites. We analyze how manipulation of the microbiome changes AMP expression and how treatment with selected compounds may help in boosting certain antimicrobial peptides.

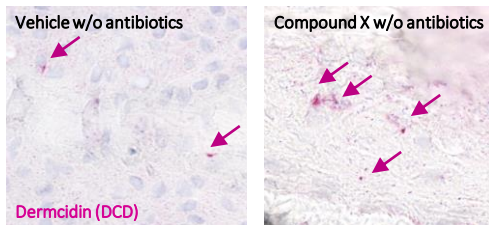
#### Vehicle Compound X



Dermcidin (DCD)



Data from n=5-6 healthy donors, analysis 6h after treatment, mean±SEM.

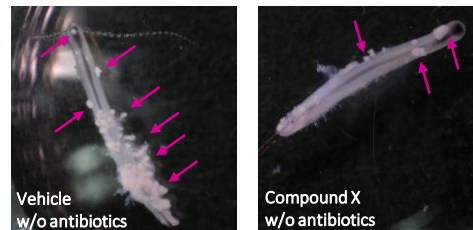


Representative images of DCD positive cells (immunostaining) in the HF epithelium.

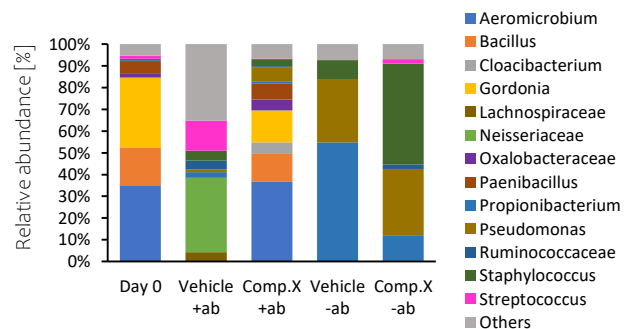
Representative images from n=6 healthy donors, qualitative observation by in situ hybridization using a DCD specific probe

### 2. Compound X prevents hair follicle contamination by bacteria and fungi

We analyze how **treatment with cosmetic compounds changes the hair follicle microbiome** and whether this treatment could be a suitable adjunct therapy in hair disorders characterized by dysbiosis, in order to have a more equilibrated microbiome.



Representative images of full length hair follicle treated with vehicle or compound X in absence of antibiotics.



16S RNA sequencing of full-length hair follicles from one donor.

Selection of publications:  
Bispo Lousada et al., 2021 Exp Dermatol; Lousada et al., 2021 Br J Dermatol

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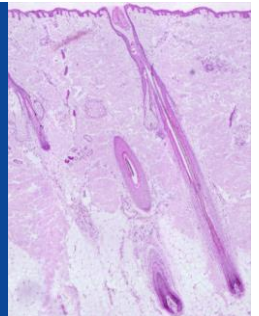
For more details see also our webpage:  
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- Claims support for cosmetic ingredients in skin or hair follicle models
- Clinical trials carried out with strategic partners for healthy skin and hair benefits
- Comprehensive project reports & manuscript drafting and submission

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