Author’s response to reviews

Title: Oral treatment with Lactobacillus Rhamnosus attenuates behavioral deficits and immune changes in chronic social stress

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We thank the reviewers for their assessment of our revised manuscript and for their positive response. We have made further changes to the manuscript, with a number of paragraphs added to the discussion section to address the issues raised by reviewer 2.

Specifically, we added discussion of:

1) The limited neural correlates assessed and the need for more in depth investigation of brain circuitry (page 20-21)

2) The need to investigate additional immune cell lineages (page 22)

3) The potential importance of the plasma metabolome (page 24)

4) The need for future studies of the role of the vagus nerve in the observed effects (page 25)

5) A comment that while we did not delineate mechanism of action the study does provide valuable insights into gut brain signalling in response to microbes. (Page 26)