

# Supplementary Information

## Effect of dietary ω-3 fatty acids, ascorbic acid, and polyphenolic antioxidant flavonoid supplements on gene expression, organ failure and mortality in endotoxemic-induced septic rats.

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### SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIAL AND METHODS

#### Protein expression determination of RMEC by flow cytometry

Flow cytometry analysis was performed to determine protein expression changes of VE-Cad, α-SMA, Col III, TNF-α, and NF-κB using corresponding monoclonal antibodies (all from R&D Systems, Inc), coupled to suitable secondary antibodies conjugated to fluorophores (all from ThermoFisher). The labeled cells were then analyzed immediately by flow cytometry (BD FACS Fortessa, BD Biosciences, San José, CA). Color compensation matrices were calculated for each staining combination within each experiment using single-stained antibody. In all analyses, doublets and clusters were eliminated. A minimum of 10,000 events were analyzed.

#### Statistical analyses

The relationships between variables were assessed by means of correlation analysis using Spearman's correlation coefficients and linear regression. The data were analyzed with GraphPad Prism version 9.4 (GraphPad Software, LLC). Samples used in the study were defined to identify the mean magnitude effect of  $\geq 2$ -fold change with standard deviations of 10%. Accordingly, a sample size of 12 rats per groups, would provide 90% statistical power using a two-sided 0.05 significance level.

### SUPPLEMENTARY TABLE LEGENDS

**Supplementary Table S1. Correlation analyses between mRNA expression of EndMT genes and increased permeability in the mesentery, in endotoxemic condition.**  $r^2$ : correlation coefficient and  $p$ : p-value.

**Supplementary Table S2. Correlation analyses between mRNA expression of EndMT genes and increased permeability in the liver, in endotoxemic condition.**  $r^2$ : correlation coefficient and  $p$ : p-value.

**Supplementary Table S3. Correlation analyses between mRNA expression of EndMT genes and increased permeability in the kidney, in endotoxemic condition.**  $r^2$ : correlation coefficient and  $p$ : p-value.

**Supplementary Table S4. Summary of actions of dietary ω-3 fatty acids, ascorbic acid, and polyphenolic antioxidant flavonoid supplements on gene expression, organ failure and mortality in endotoxemic-induced septic rats.**

**SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURE LEGENDS**

**Supplementary Figure S1. Impact on EndMT protein expression through dietary supplementation based on ω-3 FA, ascorbic acid or polyphenolic antioxidant flavonoids in endotoxemic rats. (A-D)** The mRNA expression of EndMT markers (endothelial marker VE-Cadherin (red bars) and fibrotic and ECM markers α-SMA and Coll III (green bars)), EndMT inducer TNF-α (green bars) and EndMT signaling transcription factor NF-κB (blue bars) were detected in rats subjected to endotoxemia and supplemented with ω-3 fatty acid (ω-3 FA, **A** and **B**), ascorbic acid (AsA, **C** and **D**) or polyphenolic antioxidant flavonoids (Flav, **E** and **F**) through a therapeutic (**A**, **C** and **E**) and a prophylactic (**B**, **D** and **F**) protocol. **(G-L)** Survival percentage was determined 7 days after endotoxemia induction in rats subjected to endotoxemia and supplemented with ω-3 fatty acid (ω-3 FA, **G** and **H**), ascorbic acid (AsA, **I** and **J**) or polyphenolic antioxidant flavonoids (Flav, **K** and **L**) through a therapeutic (**G**, **I** and **K**) and a prophylactic (**H**, **J** and **L**) protocol. Statistical differences were assessed by a one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) (Kruskal-Wallis) followed by Dunn's *post hoc* test. \**p* < 0.05, \*\**p* < 0.01, \*\*\**p* < 0.001 compared with the saline-treated condition. Determination of protein expression was normalized relative to β-tubulin expression and are expressed relative to sham-supplemented condition. Values are expressed as the mean ± SD. (*N* = 12).

# Supplementary Table S1

**Mesentery permeability in endotoxemic rats**  
(Evans Blue dye (ng/mg))

		sham ↓ sham		sham ↓ $\omega$ -3FA		$\omega$ -3FA ↓ $\omega$ -3FA		sham ↓ AsA		AsA ↓ AsA		sham ↓ Flav		Flav ↓ Flav	
		<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>
mRNA expression (Log2 (fold change))	EndMT markers	VE-Cad	<b>0.843   0.002</b>		<b>0.820   0.005</b>		<b>0.812   0.006</b>		<b>0.801   0.012</b>		<b>0.823   0.008</b>		<b>0.804   0.002</b>		<b>0.823   0.004</b>
		PECAM	0.623   0.034		0.763   0.010		0.723   0.009		<b>0.833   0.011</b>		0.775   0.009		0.635   0.012		0.735   0.009
		vWF	0.645   0.023		0.623   0.012		0.734   0.011		0.764   0.026		<b>0.801   0.007</b>		0.624   0.027		<b>0.812   0.008</b>
		Col IV	0.753   0.026		<b>0.827   0.002</b>		0.745   0.030		0.524   0.045		0.597   0.042		0.634   0.021		<b>0.824   0.011</b>
	Fibrotic and ECM proteins	$\alpha$ -SMA	<b>0.853   0.005</b>		<b>0.864   0.006</b>		<b>0.867   0.006</b>		<b>0.832   0.005</b>		<b>0.826   0.007</b>		<b>0.821   0.006</b>		<b>0.888   0.004</b>
		SM22 $\alpha$	0.684   0.023		0.734   0.023		0.742   0.022		0.753   0.014		0.763   0.003		0.724   0.021		0.423   0.108
		FSP-1	<b>0.824   0.003</b>		0.724   0.064		<b>0.832   0.023</b>		0.628   0.023		<b>0.812   0.012</b>		0.535   0.086		0.684   0.044
		Col I	0.712   0.032		0.702   0.021		<b>0.821   0.007</b>		0.636   0.033		<b>0.831   0.025</b>		0.603   0.034		0.762   0.048
	EndMT inducers	Col III	<b>0.821   0.003</b>		<b>0.808   0.004</b>		<b>0.814   0.006</b>		<b>0.834   0.007</b>		<b>0.845   0.008</b>		<b>0.863   0.008</b>		<b>0.835   0.004</b>
		FN	0.734   0.036		0.745   0.021		0.636   0.022		0.574   0.052		0.652   0.015		0.425   0.104		7.352   0.018
		IL-1 $\beta$	0.634   0.021		0.693   0.032		0.685   0.034		0.625   0.023		0.734   0.015		0.636   0.034		0.424   0.121
		IL-6	0.735   0.023		0.753   0.022		0.734   0.045		0.536   0.055		0.634   0.010		0.735   0.021		0.635   0.037
	Receptors	TNF- $\alpha$	<b>0.825   0.034</b>		<b>0.814   0.006</b>		<b>0.842   0.010</b>		<b>0.824   0.009</b>		<b>0.864   0.005</b>		<b>0.853   0.010</b>		<b>0.912   0.002</b>
		TGF- $\beta$ 1	0.636   0.045		0.746   0.024		0.536   0.052		0.536   0.034		0.536   0.580		0.523   0.041		0.724   0.027
		TGF- $\beta$ 2	0.536   0.051		0.723   0.015		0.743   0.023		0.423   0.127		0.585   0.056		0.423   0.098		<b>0.845   0.043</b>
		IL1R	<b>0.842   0.004</b>		0.734   0.011		<b>0.826   0.003</b>		0.734   0.021		<b>0.842   0.003</b>		0.653   0.037		0.724   0.023
	Transcription factors	IL6R	0.765   0.022		0.786   0.032		0.783   0.032		0.535   0.057		0.712   0.018		0.646   0.043		0.635   0.043
		TNFR	0.698   0.023		0.647   0.042		0.742   0.004		0.634   0.010		0.685   0.021		0.647   0.034		<b>0.824   0.005</b>
		T $\beta$ R1	0.774   0.021		0.542   0.053		0.636   0.032		0.425   0.245		0.535   0.075		0.636   0.045		0.746   0.026
		T $\beta$ RII	0.686   0.043		0.577   0.046		0.684   0.031		0.486   0.174		0.596   0.067		0.643   0.041		0.735   0.021
	ROS enzymes	NF- $\kappa$ B	<b>0.824   0.007</b>		<b>0.802   0.007</b>		<b>0.875   0.002</b>		<b>0.823   0.005</b>		<b>0.821   0.003</b>		<b>0.834   0.008</b>		<b>0.874   0.009</b>
		Smad4	<b>0.802   0.010</b>		0.746   0.009		<b>0.807   0.008</b>		0.654   0.047		0.533   0.026		0.745   0.012		0.635   0.026
		Slug	<b>0.806   0.005</b>		0.775   0.021		0.735   0.008		0.685   0.026		0.643   0.021		0.723   0.008		<b>0.801   0.005</b>
		Twist	0.753   0.008		0.720   0.014		0.723   0.005		0.698   0.021		0.585   0.044		0.742   0.011		0.702   0.008
		Snail	0.798   0.004		0.635   0.047		0.646   0.035		0.497   0.102		0.573   0.048		0.634   0.019		0.612   0.034
		Zeb-1	<b>0.832   0.007</b>		0.684   0.044		0.635   0.034		0.553   0.086		0.578   0.047		0.647   0.021		0.621   0.041

## Supplementary Table S2

**Liver permeability in endotoxemic rats**  
(Evans Blue dye (ng/mg))

		sham ↓ sham		sham ↓ ω-3FA		ω-3FA ↓ ω-3FA		sham ↓ AsA		AsA ↓ AsA		sham ↓ Flav		Flav ↓ Flav	
		<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>												
<b>mRNA expression (Log2 (fold change))</b>	<b>EndMT markers</b>	VE-Cad	<b>0.853   0.007</b>		<b>0.804   0.004</b>		<b>0.864   0.003</b>		<b>0.853   0.004</b>		<b>0.864   0.004</b>		<b>0.843   0.003</b>		<b>0.812   0.008</b>
		PECAM	0.745   0.017		0.722   0.041		<b>0.846   0.004</b>		<b>0.821   0.002</b>		<b>0.853   0.004</b>		<b>0.664   0.014</b>		<b>0.801   0.008</b>
		vWF	0.698   0.032		0.698   0.049		0.744   0.022		<b>0.802   0.007</b>		0.746   0.004		0.675   0.018		0.753   0.012
		Col IV	0.724   0.021		0.753   0.036		0.646   0.048		0.643   0.046		0.636   0.041		0.646   0.031		0.732   0.023
	<b>Fibrotic and ECM proteins</b>	α-SMA	<b>0.842   0.004</b>		<b>0.864   0.007</b>		<b>0.864   0.006</b>		<b>0.853   0.005</b>		<b>0.825   0.005</b>		<b>0.806   0.002</b>		<b>0.824   0.005</b>
		SM22α	<b>0.842   0.006</b>		0.721   0.032		<b>0.857   0.003</b>		<b>0.845   0.005</b>		0.637   0.024		0.773   0.043		0.735   0.108
		FSP-1	<b>0.817   0.005</b>		0.774   0.048		<b>0.835   0.006</b>		0.646   0.510		0.753   0.023		0.685   0.045		0.634   0.034
		Col I	0.634   0.045		<b>0.808   0.004</b>		<b>0.854   0.003</b>		0.735   0.511		<b>0.864   0.034</b>		0.745   0.019		0.628   0.046
	<b>EndMT inducers</b>	Col III	<b>0.864   0.008</b>		<b>0.853   0.005</b>		<b>0.847   0.007</b>		<b>0.863   0.006</b>		<b>0.852   0.009</b>		<b>0.808   0.004</b>		<b>0.823   0.002</b>
		FN	0.674   0.043		0.747   0.17		<b>0.864   0.003</b>		0.657   0.271		0.736   0.028		0.545   0.164		<b>0.865   0.003</b>
	<b>Receptors</b>	IL-1β	0.654   0.031		0.743   0.025		<b>0.831   0.025</b>		0.746   0.31		0.732   0.043		0.745   0.017		0.545   0.041
		IL-6	0.636   0.041		0.635   0.032		0.675   0.034		0.675   0.042		0.753   0.021		0.712   0.014		0.546   0.045
		TNF-α	<b>0.845   0.006</b>		<b>0.821   0.004</b>		<b>0.802   0.007</b>		<b>0.827   0.004</b>		<b>0.857   0.003</b>		<b>0.835   0.003</b>		<b>0.845   0.003</b>
		TGF-β1	0.674   0.036		0.690   0.032		0.547   0.185		0.623   0.042		0.636   0.032		0.635   0.047		0.646   0.076
		TGF-β2	0.612   0.042		0.775   0.009		0.528   0.123		0.546   0.164		0.585   0.041		0.546   0.232		0.536   0.051
	<b>Transcription factors</b>	IL1R	<b>0.832   0.006</b>		0.743   0.023		0.747   0.024		0.652   0.164		<b>0.825   0.023</b>		0.753   0.024		0.735   0.034
		IL6R	0.698   0.016		0.734   0.018		<b>0.863   0.008</b>		0.754   0.076		0.753   0.015		0.710   0.019		0.743   0.043
		TNFR	0.735   0.025		0.763   0.037		<b>0.844   0.002</b>		0.523   0.274		0.735   0.024		0.764   0.024		0.724   0.024
		TβRI	0.586   0.052		0.634   0.034		0.735   0.085		0.525   0.253		0.628   0.023		0.724   0.023		<b>0.846   0.003</b>
		TβRII	0.596   0.580		0.624   0.032		0.636   0.143		0.567   0.324		0.535   0.045		0.647   0.042		<b>0.854   0.004</b>
		NF-κB	<b>0.842   0.004</b>		<b>0.832   0.005</b>		<b>0.864   0.001</b>		<b>0.853   0.003</b>		<b>0.815   0.004</b>		<b>0.834   0.003</b>		<b>0.843   0.005</b>
	<b>ROS enzymes</b>	Smad4	<b>0.864   0.003</b>		0.724   0.013		<b>0.807   0.003</b>		0.763   0.042		<b>0.811   0.023</b>		0.723   0.032		0.685   0.034
		Slug	0.753   0.078		0.746   0.035		<b>0.802   0.005</b>		<b>0.835   0.002</b>		0.843   0.004		0.754   0.042		<b>0.832   0.006</b>
		Twist	<b>0.824   0.006</b>		<b>0.823   0.003</b>		0.642   0.632		0.735   0.033		0.734   0.032		0.742   0.034		0.708   0.003
		Snail	<b>0.835   0.008</b>		0.735   0.414		0.753   0.032		0.585   0.153		0.698   0.038		0.635   0.051		0.536   0.046
		Zeb-1	<b>0.835   0.009</b>		0.692   0.053		0.732   0.043		0.532   0.065		0.654   0.042		0.546   0.075		0.586   0.042

## Supplementary Table S3

## **kidney permeability in endotoxemic rats**

(Evans Blue dye (ng/mg))

	prophylactic ↓ therapeutic	sham ↓ sham	sham ↓ ω-3FA	ω-3FA ↓ ω-3FA	sham ↓ AsA	AsA ↓ AsA	sham ↓ Flav	Flav ↓ Flav	
		<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>	<b>r<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>p</b>
EndMT markers	VE-Cad	<b>0.813</b>	<b>0.009</b>	<b>0.853</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.842</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.813</b>	<b>0.006</b>
	PECAM	0.735	0.14	0.754	0.025	0.814	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.804</b>	<b>0.008</b>
	vWF	0.743	0.16	0.536	0.043	0.834	<b>0.031</b>	0.735	0.023
	Col IV	0.757	0.15	0.647	0.023	0.753	0.023	0.712	0.056
Fibrotic and ECM proteins	α-SMA	<b>0.843</b>	<b>0.005</b>	<b>0.821</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.853</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.813</b>	<b>0.003</b>
	SM22α	<b>0.814</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.842</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.876</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.821</b>	<b>0.002</b>
	FSP-1	<b>0.822</b>	<b>0.003</b>	0.742	0.017	<b>0.824</b>	<b>0.006</b>	0.623	0.232
	Col I	0.753	0.034	0.764	0.023	0.753	0.006	0.653	0.423
	Col III	<b>0.842</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.824</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.846</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.823</b>	<b>0.005</b>
EndMT inducers	FN	0.721	0.034	0.815	<b>0.004</b>	0.823	<b>0.003</b>	0.694	0.150
	IL-1β	0.665	0.031	0.713	0.012	<b>0.853</b>	<b>0.003</b>	0.702	0.037
	IL-6	0.745	0.024	0.743	0.010	0.742	0.031	0.643	0.039
	TNF-α	<b>0.864</b>	<b>0.008</b>	<b>0.813</b>	<b>0.006</b>	<b>0.843</b>	<b>0.004</b>	<b>0.823</b>	<b>0.002</b>
	TGF-β1	0.756	0.024	0.535	0.143	0.634	0.243	0.732	0.021
Receptors	TGF-β2	0.626	0.45	0.723	0.087	0.646	0.353	0.624	0.244
	IL1R	<b>0.846</b>	<b>0.005</b>	0.735	0.032	0.742	0.018	0.732	0.032
	IL6R	0.753	0.021	0.712	0.039	0.635	0.021	<b>0.842</b>	<b>0.003</b>
	TNFR	0.646	0.032	0.756	0.041	0.754	0.026	0.643	0.046
	TβRI	0.635	0.028	0.748	0.043	0.642	0.038	0.597	0.142
Transcription factors	TβRII	0.685	0.034	0.623	0.053	0.746	0.033	0.643	0.243
	NF-κB	<b>0.853</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.825</b>	<b>0.007</b>	<b>0.824</b>	<b>0.003</b>	<b>0.832</b>	<b>0.002</b>
	Smad4	<b>0.854</b>	<b>0.002</b>	0.765	0.010	0.745	0.034	0.734	0.023
	Slug	<b>0.824</b>	<b>0.003</b>	0.643	0.042	<b>0.844</b>	<b>0.004</b>	0.753	0.021
	Twist	<b>0.864</b>	<b>0.002</b>	0.647	0.044	<b>0.864</b>	<b>0.002</b>	0.744	0.026
ROS enzymes	Snail	0.753	0.015	0.753	0.021	0.647	0.040	0.634	0.046
	Zeb-1	<b>0.832</b>	<b>0.006</b>	0.785	0.015	0.624	0.048	0.647	0.048
	NOX-1	0.524	0.285	0.435	0.453	0.536	0.364	0.435	0.321
	NOX-2	<b>0.853</b>	<b>0.007</b>	0.745	0.032	<b>0.834</b>	<b>0.002</b>	<b>0.735</b>	<b>0.023</b>
mRNA expression (Log <sub>2</sub> (fold change))	NOX-4	0.684	0.087	0.536	0.078	0.446	0.007	0.495	0.335

## Supplementary Table S4

**Supplementary Table S4.** Summary of actions of dietary ω-3 fatty acids, ascorbic acid, and polyphenolic antioxidant flavonoid supplements on gene expression, organ failure and mortality in endotoxemic-induced septic rats.

Supplementation:		Sham	ω-3 Fatty acid		Ascorbic Acid		Flavonoid	
		Protocol:	Therapeutic	Prophylactic	Therapeutic	Prophylactic	Therapeutic	Prophylactic
Gene expression	EndMT markers	VE-Cad	**	*	NS	**	*	*
		PECAM	**	NS	NS	**	*	*
		vWF	**	NS	NS	**	*	*
		Col IV	***	*	*	**	*	*
		α-SMA	***	*	NS	***	*	**
		SM22α	***	*	*	***	*	*
		FSP-1	***	NS	NS	*	*	*
		Col I	***	NS	NS	*	*	**
		Col III	***	NS	NS	***	**	***
		FN	***	NS	NS	***	**	***
	EndMT inducers	IL-1β	***	NS	NS	***	**	***
		IL-6	**	NS	NS	*	*	*
		TNF-α	***	*	*	**	*	*
		TGF-β1	***	NS	NS	**	*	**
		TGF-β2	**	NS	NS	*	*	*
	EndMT signaling	IL1R	***	*	NS	**	***	***
		IL6R	***	*	NS	**	***	***
		TNFR	***	**	*	***	***	***
		TβRI	*	*	NS	NS	NS	NS
		TβRII	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS	NS
		NF-κB	***	**	NS	***	***	**
		Smad4	***	**	NS	***	***	**
		Slug	***	**	NS	***	***	**
		Twist	***	*	NS	**	***	**
		Snail	***	*	NS	***	***	**
		Zeb-1	***	**	NS	**	*	**
Vascular permeability	Mesentery	***	**	*	***	**	**	**
	Liver	***	**	*	***	**	***	**
	Kidney	***	**	NS	***	***	***	**
Non-survivor Vascular permeability	Mesentery	*	*	*	NS	NS	NS	*
	Liver	*	*	*	NS	NS	NS	*
	Kidney	*	*	*	NS	NS	NS	*
Systolic pressure		***	***	*	***	***	***	**
Heart rate		***	**	NS	***	***	***	**
MODS	ALT	***	**	NS	***	***	***	**
	AST	***	**	*	***	***	***	**
	TBIL	***	**	*	***	***	***	***
	GGT	***	**	NS	***	***	**	*
	Lac	***	**	*	***	***	***	***
	CRE	***	**	*	**	**	**	*
	BUN	***	**	*	**	**	**	**
	BUN/CRE	***	***	NS	***	***	***	***
	eGFR	**	**	NS	**	**	**	**
	Gly	**	*	NS	**	**	**	**
Mortality at 7 days		75 %	50 %	17 %	75 %	67 %	67 %	50 %
Risk of death		†††	NS	NS	†††	†‡	†‡	NS

\*: p-value < 0.05; \*\*: p-value < 0.01; \*\*\*: p-value < 0.001; †: p-value < 0.05; ‡: p-value < 0.01; NS: non-significant change. All compared with saline-treated rats.

# Supplementary Figure S1

