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# Propionibacterium acnes extract improves cellular response against *Candida albicans* and *Escherichia coli* in *in vitro* models of vulvovaginal infections

FRANCESCO RICCHI<sup>1</sup>, ANDREA ARDIZZONI<sup>2</sup>, FRANCESCO DE SETA<sup>3</sup>, EVA PERICOLINI<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clinical and Experimental Medicine Ph.D. Program, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy;

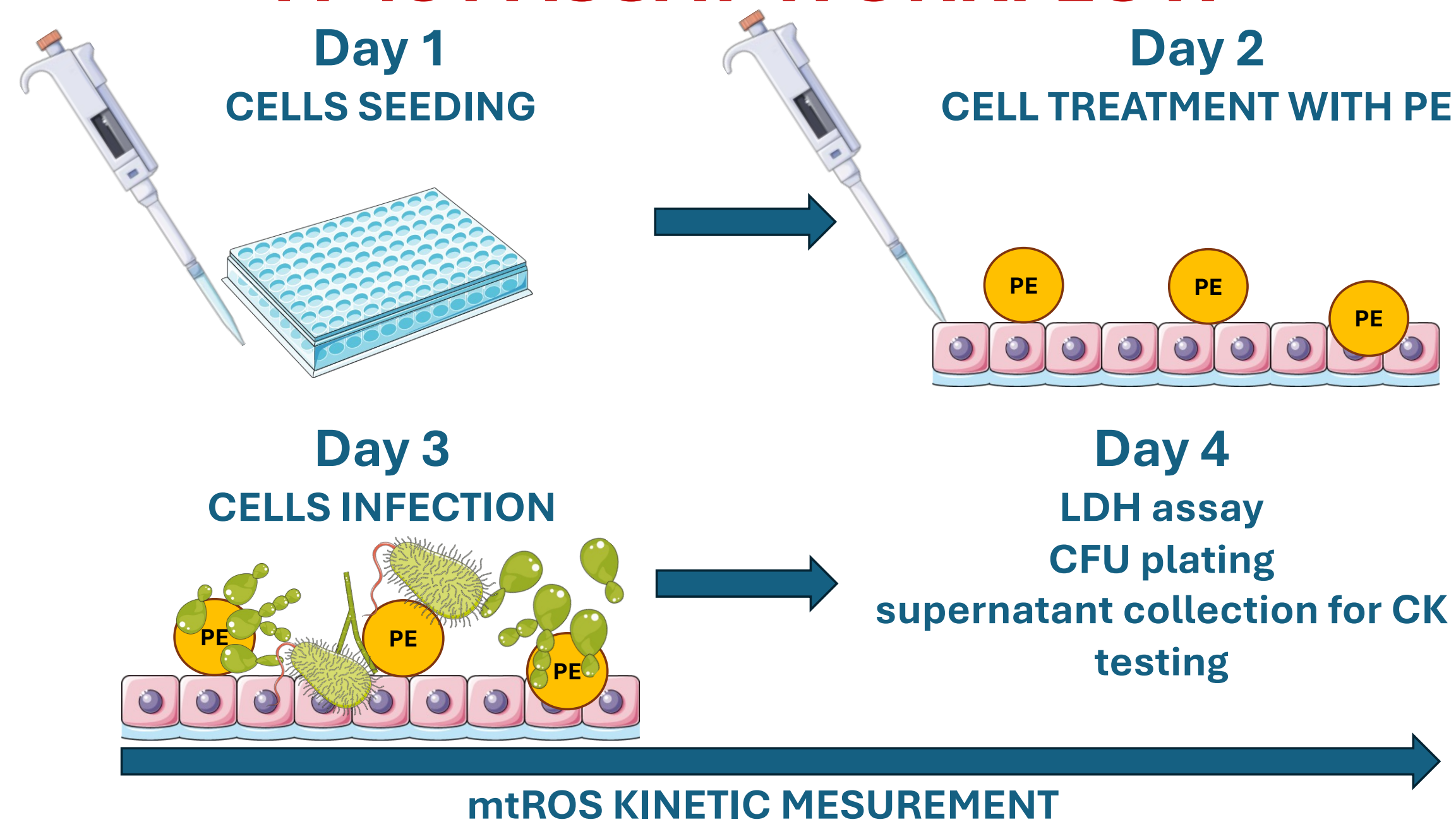
<sup>2</sup>Department of Surgical, Medical, Dental and Morphological Sciences with interest in Transplant, Oncological and Regenerative Medicine, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Modena, Italy;

<sup>3</sup> Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, IRCCS San Raffaele Scientific Institute, University Vita and Salute, 20132 Milan, Italy

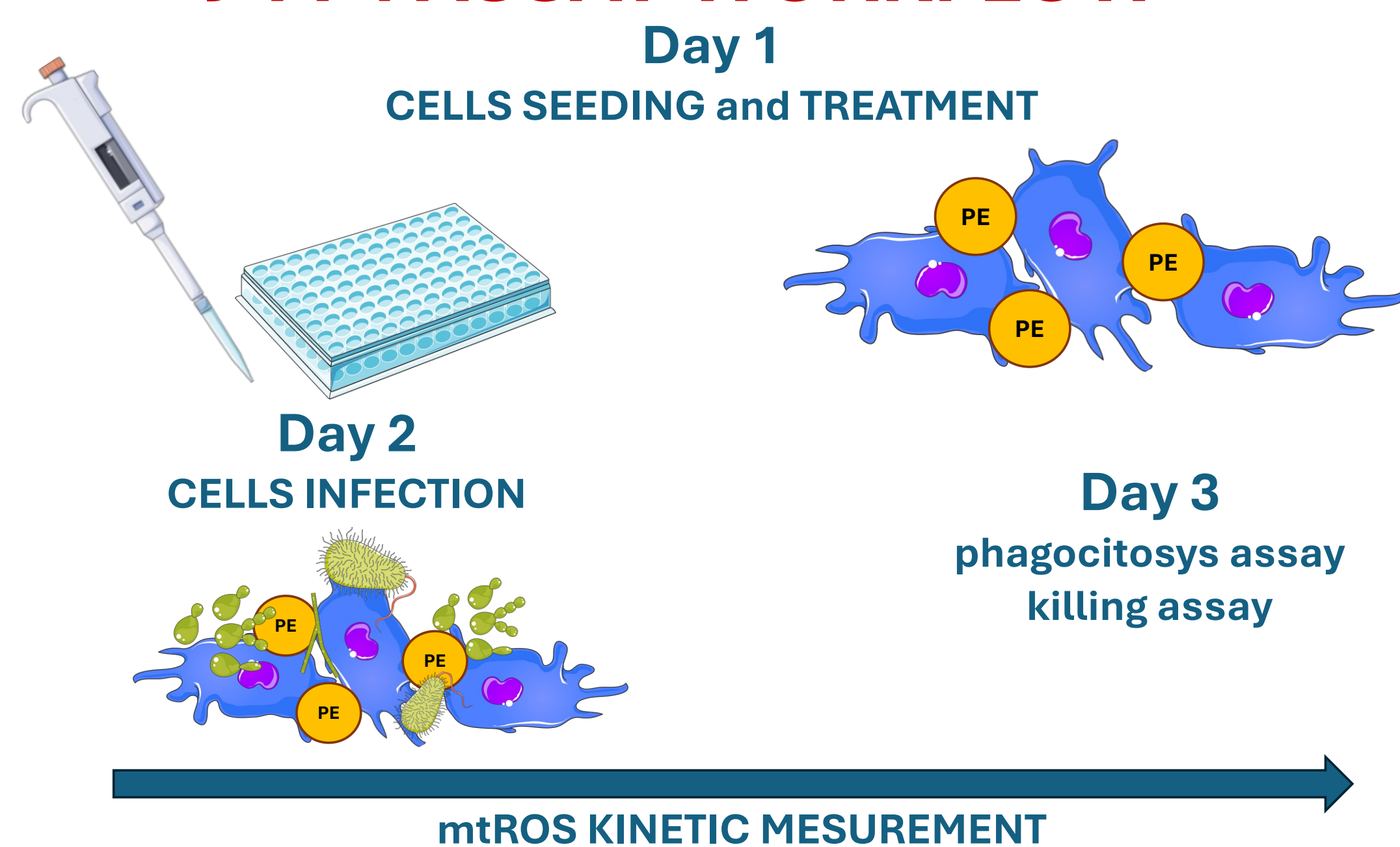
## INTRODUCTION

The *Propionibacterium acnes* extract (PE) is a **bacterial lysate** included as an active compound in a gel formulation used to treat the **symptoms of vaginitis**. It is produced and commercialized by **DEPOFARMA S.p.a.**. Here, we analysed its effect in *in vitro* model of vaginal epithelial cells (A-431) and murine macrophages (J-774) infected by *Candida albicans* (*C. albicans*) and *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*).

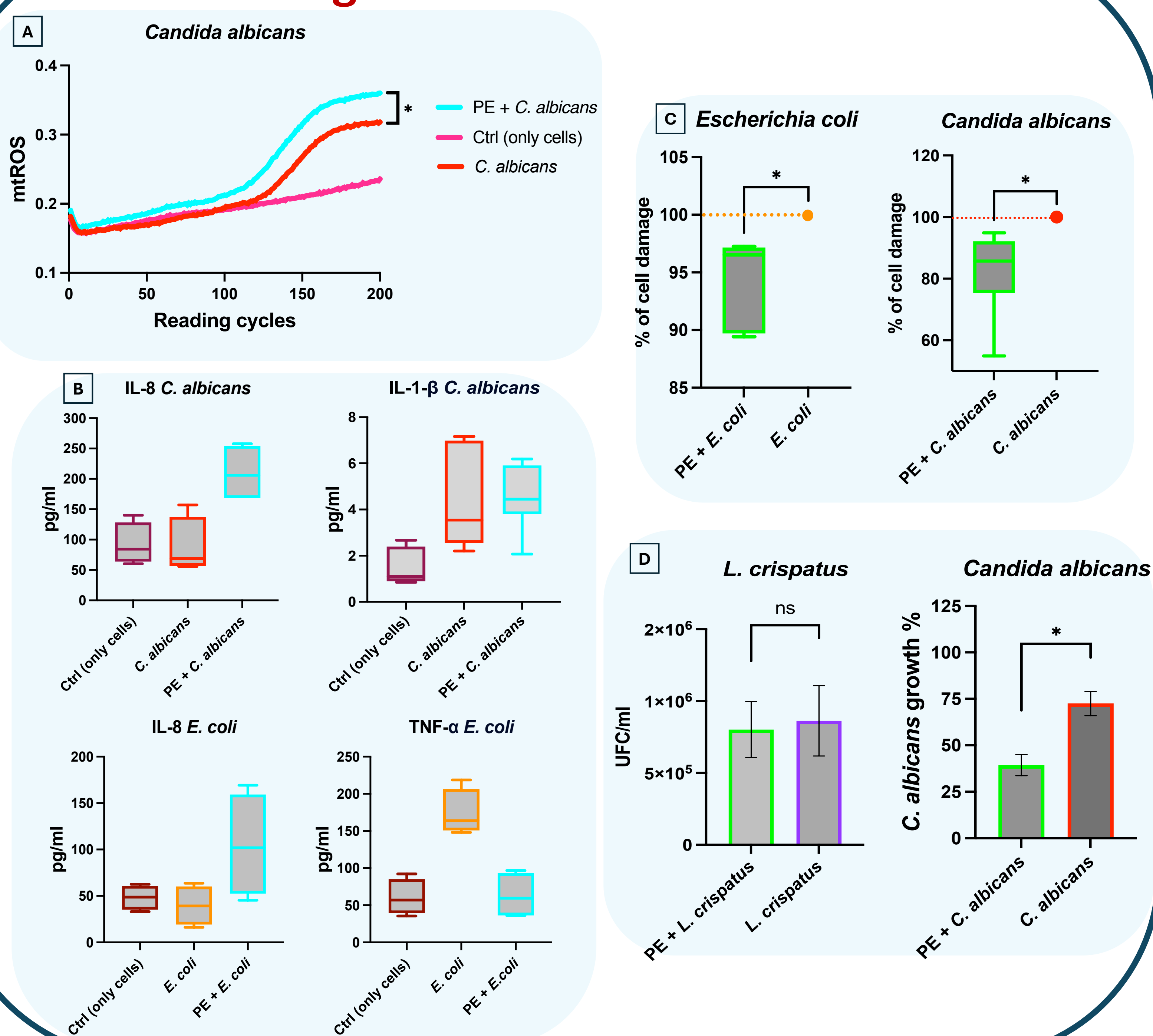
### A-431 ASSAY WORKFLOW



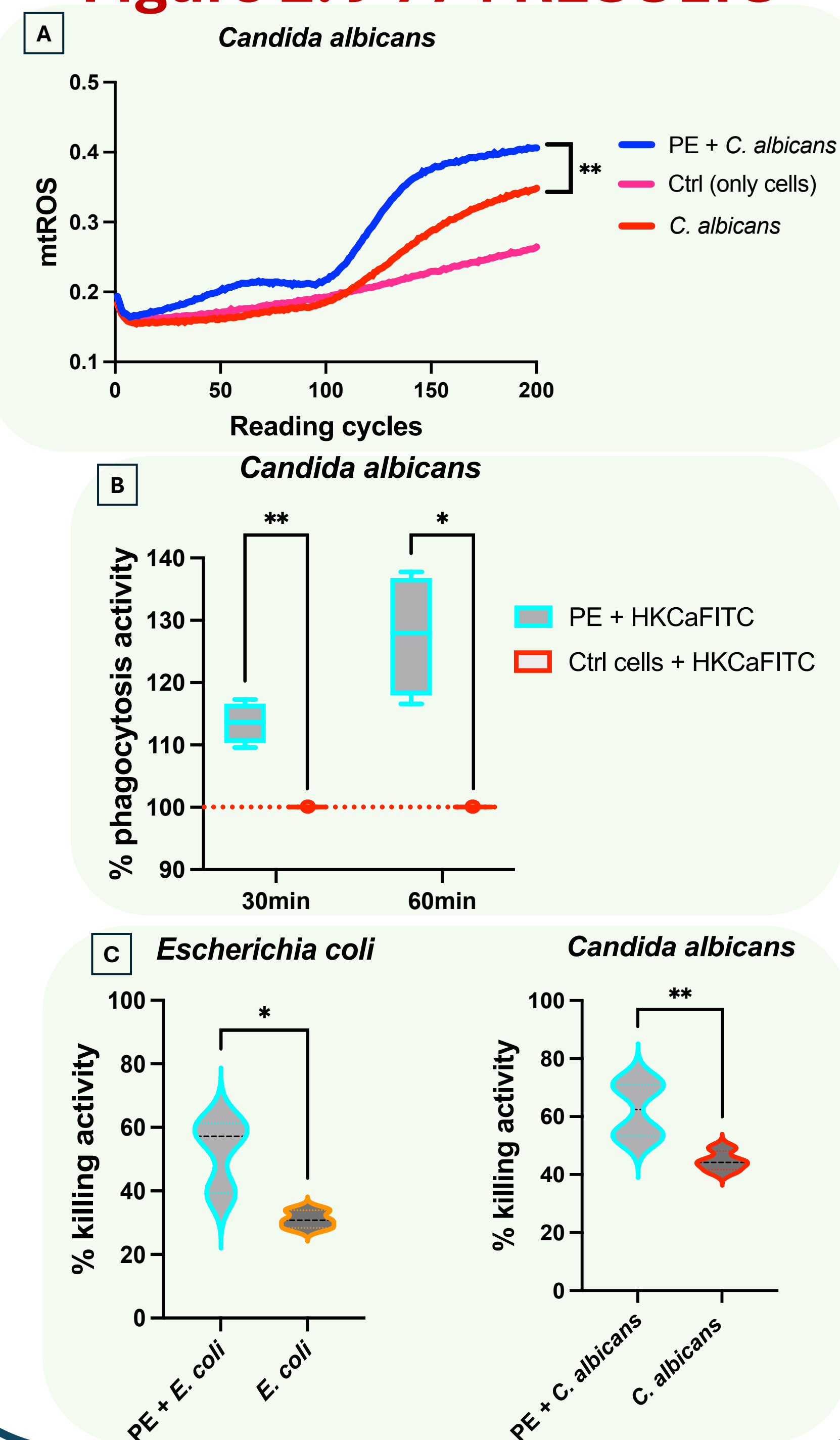
### J-774 ASSAY WORKFLOW



## Figure 1: A-431 RESULTS



## Figure 2: J-774 RESULTS



## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Our results show that PE i) **increases mitochondrial activity** of vaginal epithelial cells and macrophages in response to *C. albicans* infection (Fig. 1-A, Fig. 2-A); ii) **protects the cells against pathogens-induced damage** (Fig. 1-C); iii) during cells infections, **reduces *C. albicans* growth but not that of *L. crispatus*** (Fig 1-D); iv) **increases effectiveness of phagocytosis** (Fig. 2-B) and **killing activity** (Fig. 2-C) by macrophage. Moreover, PE **increases IL-8 release** during the infection of both pathogens and **decreases TNF-alpha** throughout *E. coli* infection and **IL-1-β** during *C. albicans* infection (Fig. 1-B).

**Taken together, our results suggest that LB may improve cellular response therefore helping to improve the response against pathogens.**