

Supplementary Materials for

**Microbiotas from extremely preterm infants with growth faltering impair postnatal growth
and metabolism in mice**

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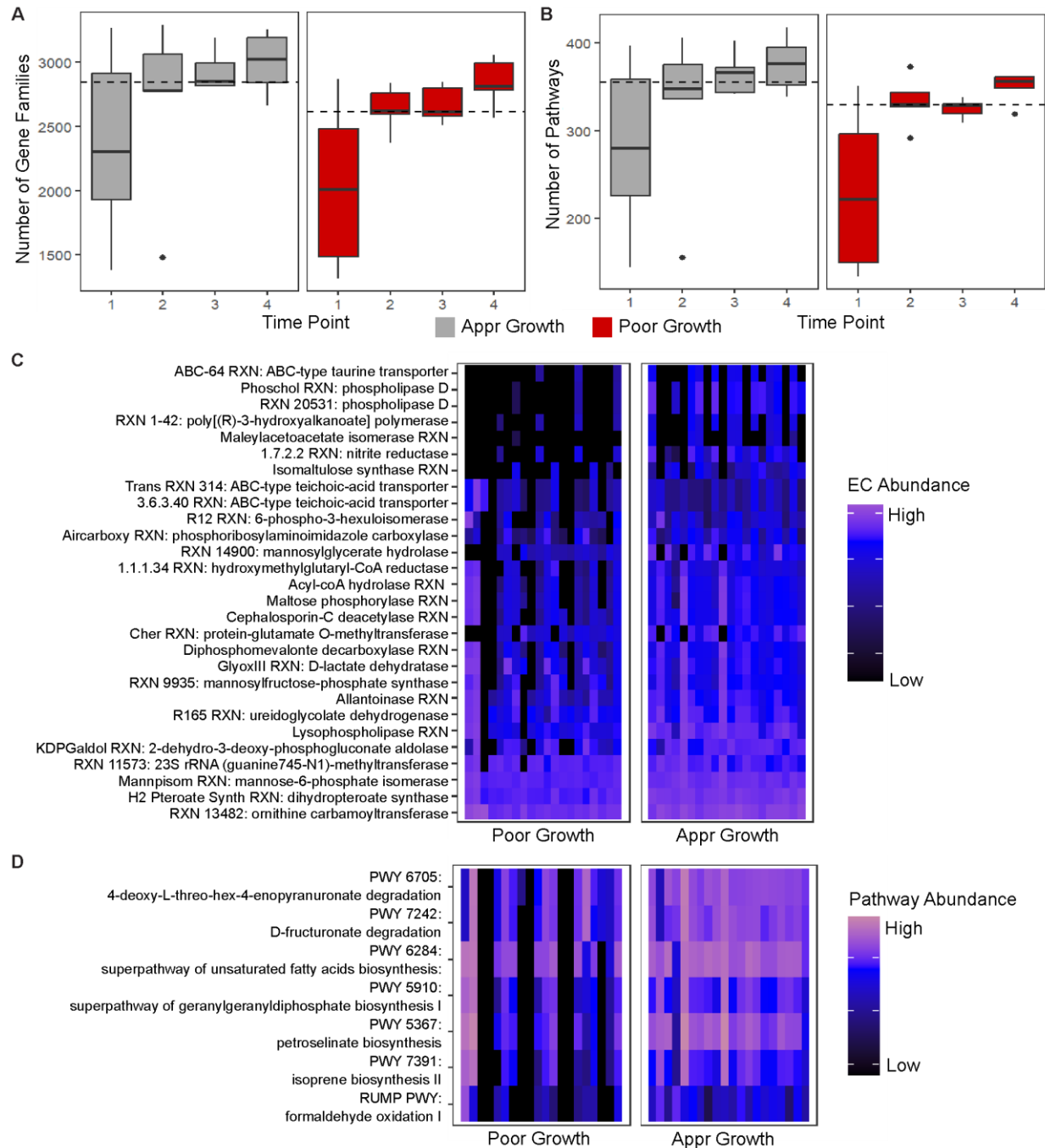


Figure S1. Functional metagenomic profiles of infant fecal microbiomes. Number of Enzyme Commission (EC, level 4) assigned gene families (**A**) and functional MetaCyc pathways present per sample by group and time point. ECs (**C**) and pathways (**D**) that differed between groups in mixed-effects models accounting for repeated measures from individual subjects.

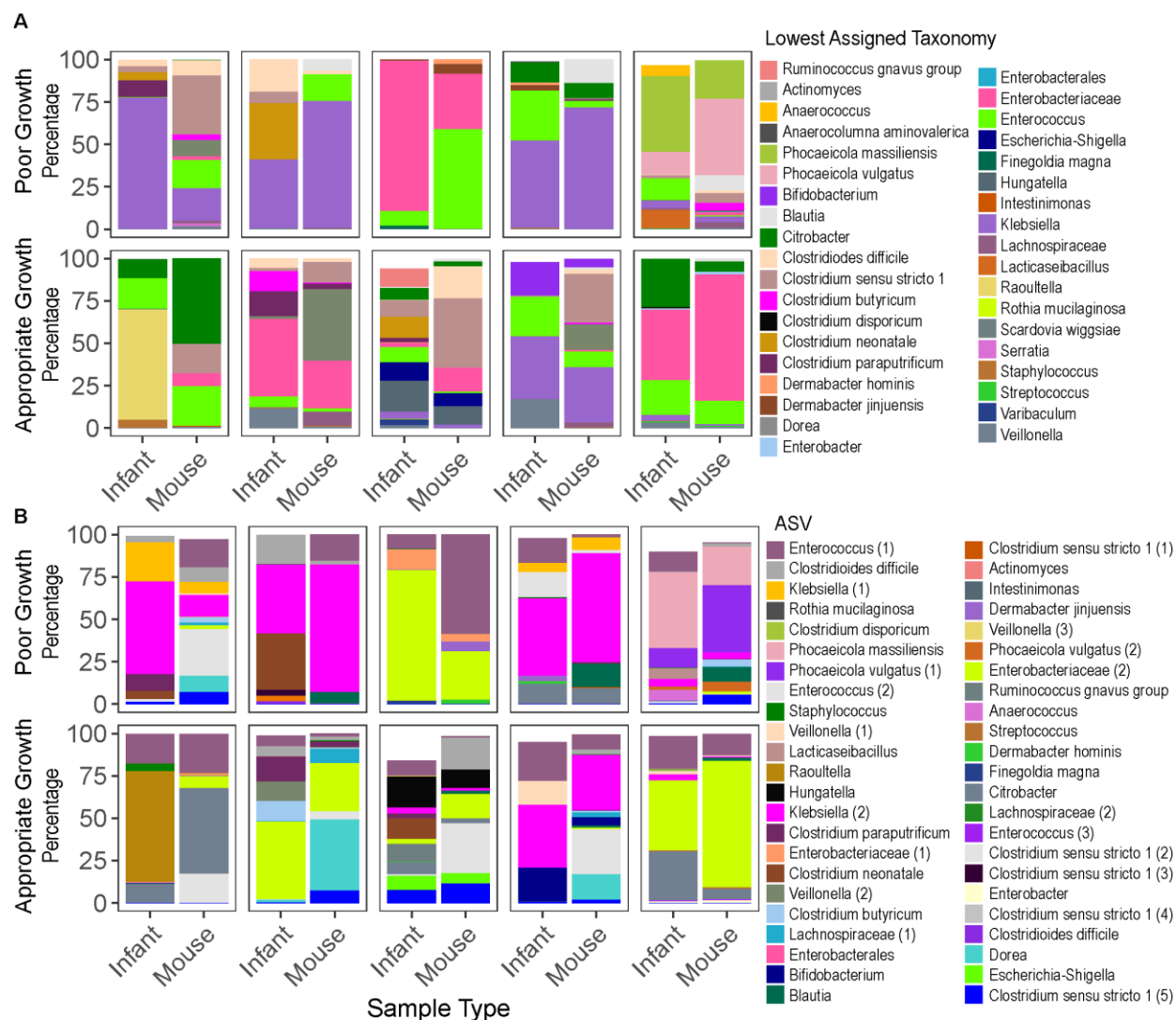
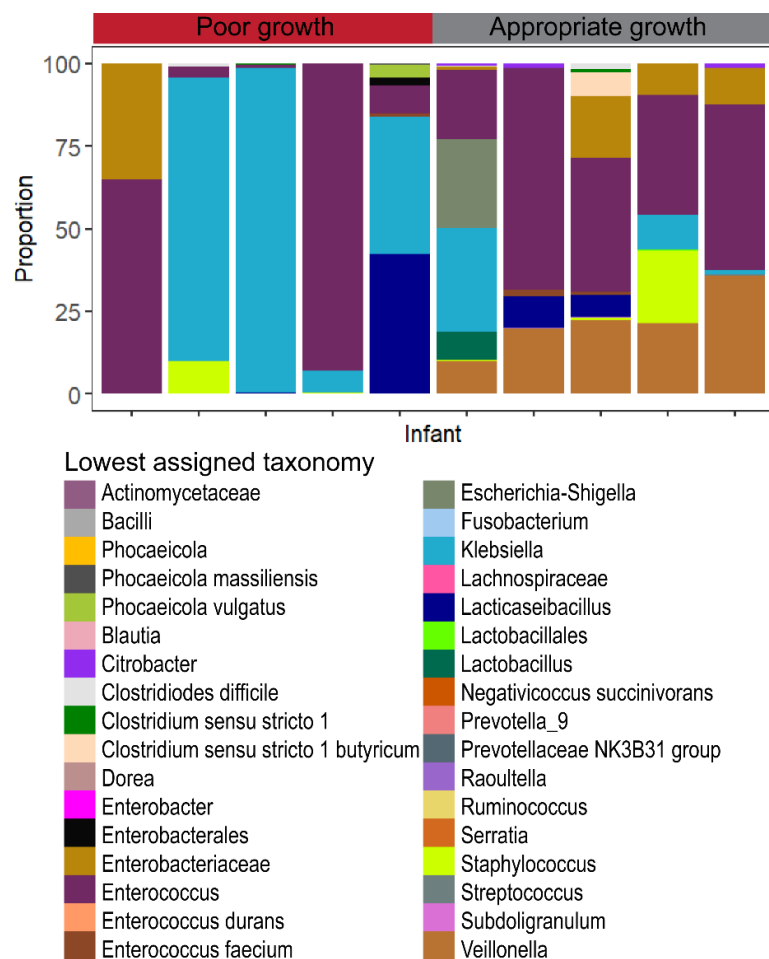


Figure S2. Fecal microbiota profiles of extremely preterm infant donors and recipient neonatal mice. A) Relative abundances of top bacterial taxa grouped at the level of the lowest taxonomic assignment. B) Relative abundances of top amplicon sequence variants (ASV). Colors in individual bars are arranged from top to bottom in the same order as shown in the legend.



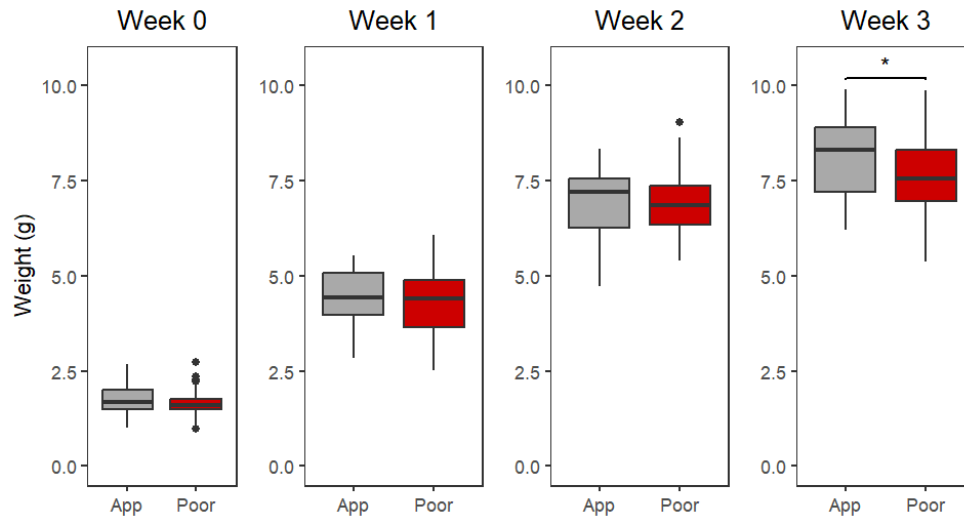


Figure S4. Neonatal mouse weights over time. Body weights (in grams) at Week 0 (postnatal day 2-3), Week 1 (postnatal day 7-8), Week 2 (postnatal day 14-15), and Week 3 (postnatal day 20) of neonatal mice colonized with microbiotas from extremely preterm infants with appropriate (App) growth (gray) or poor growth (red). *P<0.01.

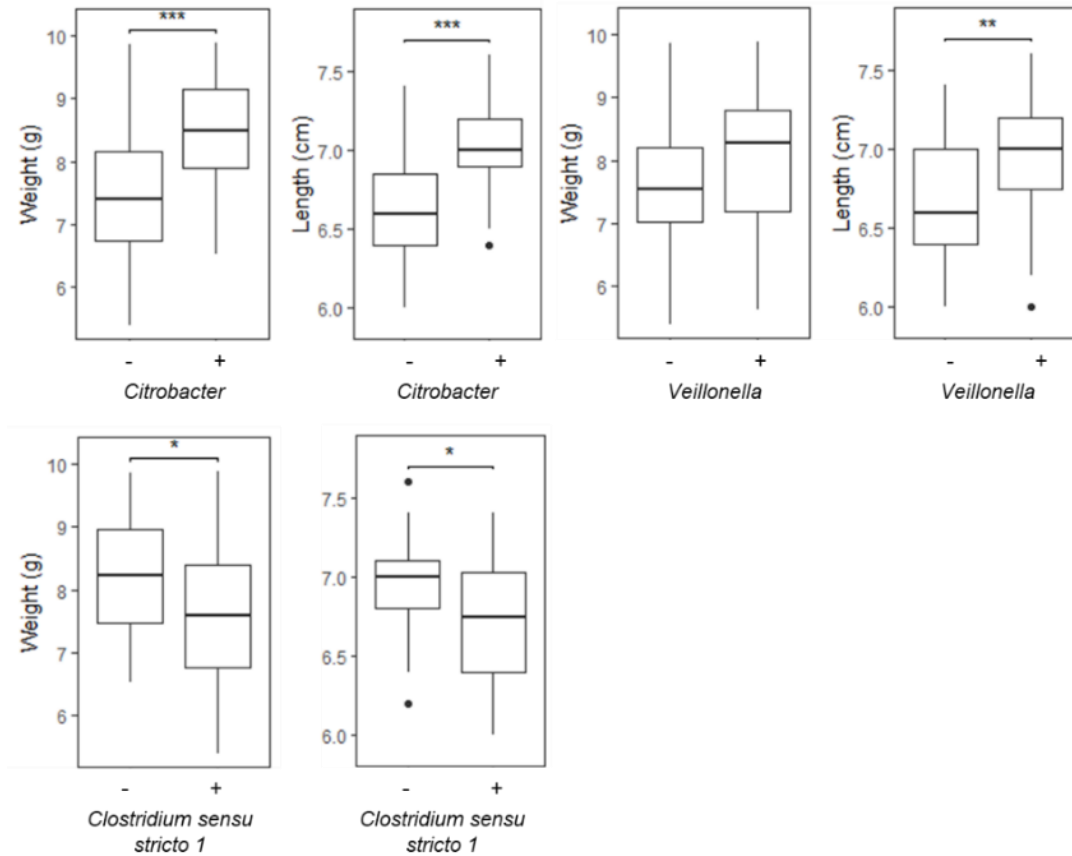


Figure S5. Preterm infant taxa associated with postnatal growth in mice. Weight and length (P20) were compared between mice based on the presence or absence of bacterial taxa in the donor preterm infant samples. Only taxa present in ≥ 2 donor infant samples were included in these comparisons. The number of litters with each taxa present were: *Citrobacter*, n=11; *Clostridium sensu stricto 1*, n=14; and *Veillonella*, n=16 of 25 total litters. * $p_{adj} < 0.05$, ** $p_{adj} < 0.01$, *** $p_{adj} < 0.001$.

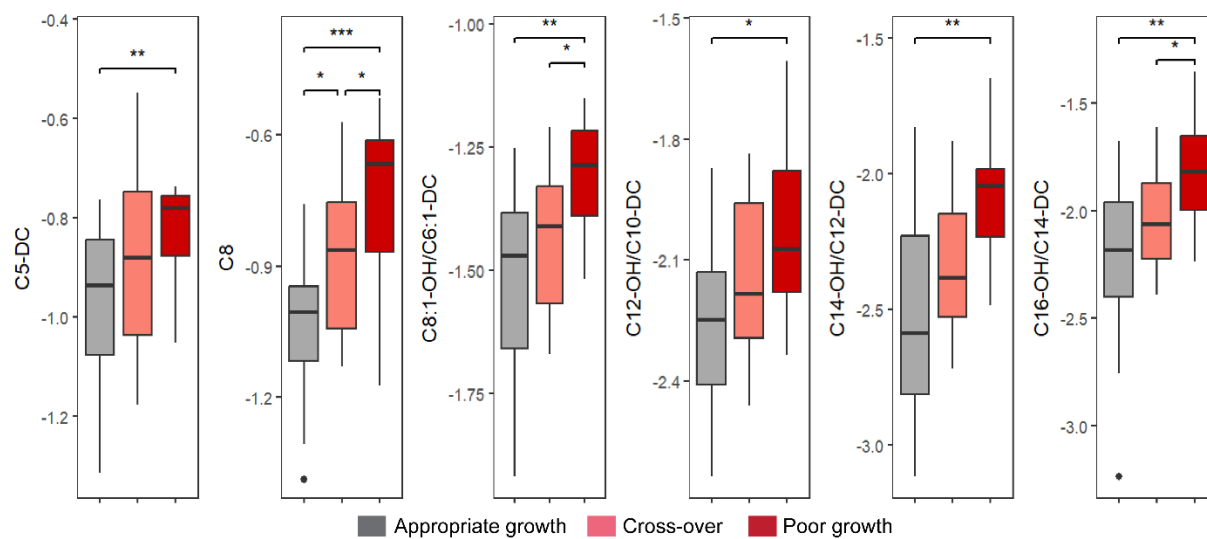


Figure S6. Comparison of select acylcarnitines in the livers of mice in the appropriate growth, cross-over and poor growth groups at P20. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$, * $p < 0.001$**

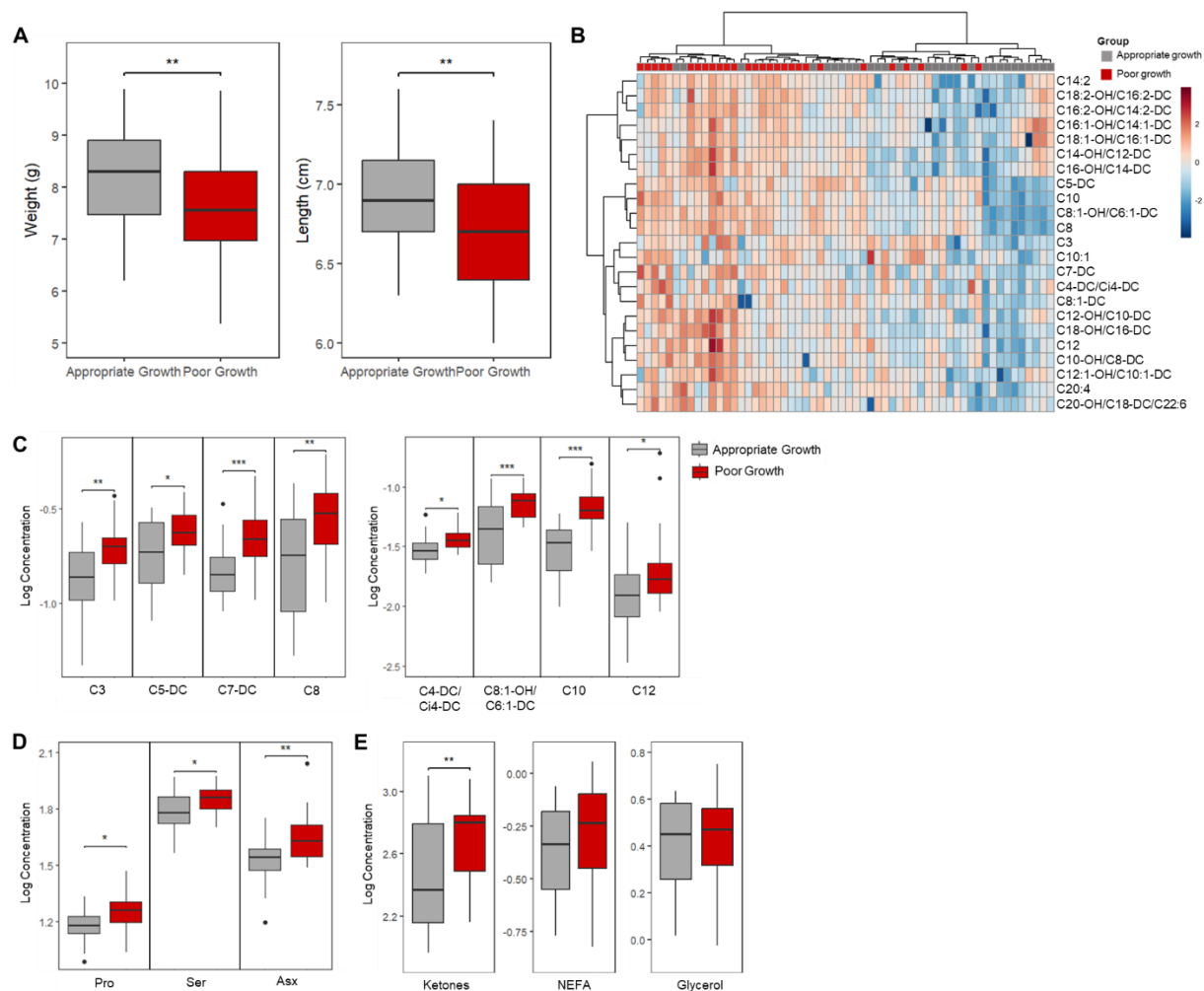


Figure S7. Effect of the extremely preterm infant microbiota on postnatal growth and metabolism excluding litters with *Blautia* in mouse fecal microbiota only. **A)** Mice colonized microbial communities of extremely preterm infants with poor growth (n=11 litters) had significantly lower weight and length at P20 than mice colonized with microbial communities of extremely preterm infants with appropriate growth (n=11 litters). **B)** Heatmap of hepatic acylcarnitine profiles in neonatal mice colonized with microbial communities of preterm infants with poor growth (red) and appropriate growth (gray). **C)** Log-transformed concentrations of select acylcarnitines that were significantly elevated in the livers of poor growth microbiota recipient mice compared to appropriate growth microbiota recipient mice. Groups were compared by linear regression, adjusted for sex. **D)** Log-transformed concentrations of select amino acids in the liver. **E)** Log-transformed serum ketones, NEFA, and glycerol concentrations in the appropriate growth and poor growth groups. Asx, aspartic acid/asparagine; NEFA, non-esterified fatty acid; Pro, proline; Ser, serine. *p<0.05, **p<0.01, ***p<0.001

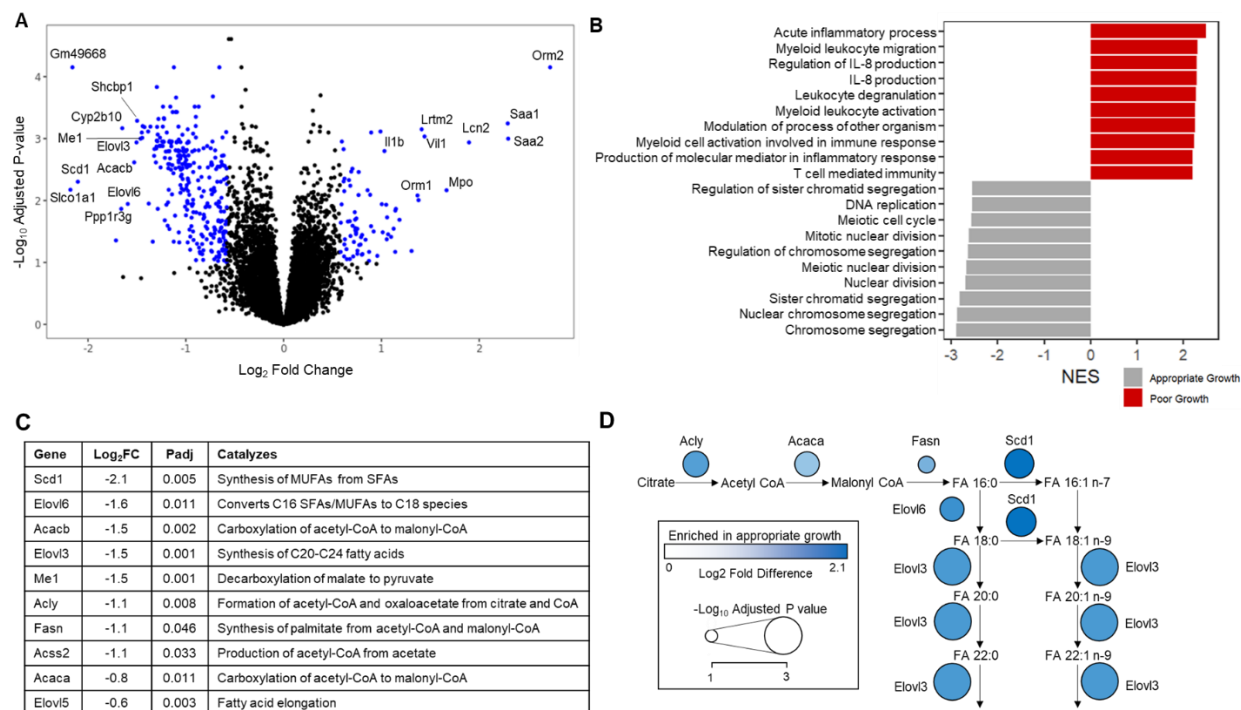


Figure S8. Effect of the extremely preterm infant microbiota on hepatic gene expression, excluding litters with *Blautia* in mouse fecal microbiota only. **A)** Volcano plot of gene expression in the livers of mice colonized with fecal microbial communities from infants with poor growth (positive Log₂ fold change values) or appropriate growth (negative Log₂ fold change values). Statistically significant differences are highlighted in blue (Log₂ fold change > 0.58 and $p_{adj} < 0.1$). **B)** Top GSEA pathways enriched in each group of significantly differentially expressed genes. **C)** Lipogenesis and fatty acid elongation genes upregulated in the livers of mice colonized with bacteria from infants with appropriate growth. **D)** Schematic of the de novo lipogenesis pathway showing all enzymes were upregulated in mice colonized with bacteria from infants with appropriate growth. NES, normalized enrichment score.

Table S1. Extremely preterm infant characteristics.

	Subject ID	Weight z-score change	Birth gestational age, weeks	Birth weight, g (z-score)	Sex	Delivery mode	Diet*	First day of enteral feeds	First day full feeds	Cumulative antibiotic days**	Antibiotics
Appropriate Growth	AG1	0.3	27	1080 (0.7)	Male	Vaginal	fMBM/DBM	2	14	11	A/G/Az/PT
	AG2	0.3	27	1135 (0.5)	Male	Vaginal	fMBM	4	13	2	A/G
	AG3	-0.2	23	580 (0.5)	Female	Vaginal	fDBM	7	36	17	A/G/PT
	AG4	-0.5	24	550 (-0.6)	Female	Vaginal	fMBM/DBM	2	21	8	A/G/V/C3
	AG5	-0.7	26	1020 (1.1)	Male	Cesarean	fMBM	1	9	9	A/G
Poor Growth	PG1	-1.0	25	790 (0.8)	Female	Vaginal	fMBM	4	20	6	A/G
	PG2	-1.4	24	680 (0.3)	Male	Vaginal	fDBM	3	19	25	A/G/C1/C4/V/PT
	PG3	-1.9	27	1075 (0.7)	Male	Cesarean	fMBM	2	16	7	A/G/V
	PG4	-2.6	27	1000 (0.3)	Male	Cesarean	fDBM	2	17	9	A/G
	PG5	-3.5	27	720 (-0.9)	Female	Cesarean	fMBM/DBM	2	48	24	A/G/V/C1/AS

*All infants received enteral feedings of fortified maternal breast milk (fMBM), fortified donor breast milk (fDBM), or a combination (fMBM/DBM) during the neonatal course. Infants were commonly transitioned to partial or full feedings of infant formula prior to discharge.

**Cumulative antibiotic days represents the total number of days the infant received antibiotics from birth to 40 weeks' postmenstrual age.

A, ampicillin; AS, ampicillin-sulbactam; Az, azithromycin; C1, first-generation cephalosporin; C3, third-generation cephalosporin; C4, fourth-generation cephalosporin; G, gentamicin; PT, piperacillin-tazobactam; V, vancomycin

Table S2. Acylcarnitine and amino acid concentrations.

Metabolite*, median (IQR)	Appropriate Growth Microbiota Recipients	Poor Growth Microbiota Recipients	P value	Adjusted P value
Liver acylcarnitines (nM)	N=36	N=28		
C3	138 (99, 180)	200 (162, 223)	0.0004	0.004
C4-DC/Ci4-DC	29 (25, 34)	36 (31, 41)	0.001	0.008
C8	179 (107, 263)	299 (205, 382)	0.0002	0.002
C5-DC	187 (133, 265)	236 (203, 293)	0.003	0.013
C8:1-OH/C6:1-DC	44 (26, 67)	76 (56, 88)	<0.0001	0.0007
C10:3	4 (3, 5)	5 (3, 7)	0.0496	0.117
C10:1	7 (6, 8)	9 (7, 11)	0.004	0.019
C10	34 (21, 44)	63 (54, 82)	<0.0001	<0.0001
C7-DC	149 (120, 184)	218 (177, 275)	<0.0001	0.0007
C12	12 (10, 17)	17 (13, 23)	0.005	0.021
C12:1-OH/C10:1-DC	3 (2, 4)	4 (3, 7)	0.025	0.068
C12-OH/C10-DC	7 (5, 8)	9 (7, 13)	0.001	0.008
C14:2	4 (1, 7)	7 (4, 9)	0.0005	0.005
C14	21 (13, 29)	26 (17, 41)	0.038	0.097
C14-OH/C12-DC	8 (4, 11)	13 (8, 16)	0.002	0.010
C16:2-OH/C14:2-DC	4 (3, 6)	9 (5, 11)	0.015	0.052
C16:1-OH/C14:1-DC	9 (6, 11)	11 (9, 18)	0.018	0.052
C16-OH/C14-DC	18 (12, 24)	24 (18, 37)	0.003	0.013
C18:2-OH/C16:2-DC	11 (9, 15)	19 (13, 22)	0.0001	0.001
C18:1-OH/C16:1-DC	15 (11, 24)	25 (19, 32)	0.002	0.010
C18-OH/C16-DC	6 (5, 10)	9 (6, 14)	0.009	0.033
C20:4	12 (6, 14)	16 (11, 20)	0.018	0.052
C20-OH/C18-DC/C22:6	2 (2, 3)	3 (2, 4)	0.045	0.111
C22	1 (0.5, 2)	0.7 (0.2, 1)	0.020	0.056
Plasma acylcarnitines (nM)	N=35	N=30		
C3	616 (491, 826)	798 (611, 1020)	0.003	0.135
C8:1-OH/C6:1-DC	11 (9, 15)	14 (10, 21)	0.046	0.891
Liver amino acids (µM)	N=36	N=28		
Proline	15 (13, 17)	18 (16, 20)	0.002	0.011
Serine	60 (54, 72)	72 (63, 79)	0.002	0.011
Asparagine/Aspartic acid	35 (29, 38)	43 (35, 52)	0.0001	0.002
Plasma amino acids	N=36	N=29		
Phenylalanine	93 (84, 101)	103 (92, 109)	0.044	0.317
Glutamine/Glutamic acid	136 (124, 167)	109 (99, 125)	0.013	0.201

*Only metabolites that differed between groups (p<0.05) are shown.

Table S3. Serum analyte values by study group and mouse sex

	Ketones (umol/L) Median (IQR)	NEFA (mmol/L) Median (IQR)	Glycerol (mg/dL) Median (IQR)
Group			
Poor growth	610 (243, 684)	0.56 (0.36, 0.78)	2.77 (1.86, 3.55)
Appropriate growth	283 (144, 522)	0.52 (0.27, 0.68)	3.08 (1.92, 3.77)
Sex			
Male littermate pair	543 (297, 590)	0.67 (0.52, 0.69)	2.52 (2.43, 3.08)
Female littermate pair	583 (264, 1070)	0.65 (0.42, 0.69)	3.3 (1.87, 3.84)
Mixed-sex littermate pair	264 (174, 635)	0.44 (0.28, 0.71)	2.77 (1.82, 3.52)

Table S4. Select lipogenesis and fatty acid elongation genes upregulated in the livers of mice colonized with microbial communities from infants with appropriate growth

Gene	Log₂FC	Padj	Catalyzes
<i>Scd1</i>	-1.9	0.005	Synthesis of MUFAs from SFAs
<i>Elovl6</i>	-1.5	0.009	Converts C16 SFAs/MUFAs to C18 species
<i>Acacb</i>	-1.4	0.002	Carboxylation of acetyl-CoA to malonyl-CoA
<i>Elovl3</i>	-1.4	<0.001	Synthesis of C20-C24 fatty acids
<i>Me1</i>	-1.4	<0.001	Decarboxylation of malate to pyruvate
<i>Fasn</i>	-1.1	0.04	Synthesis of palmitate from acetyl-CoA and malonyl-CoA
<i>Acly</i>	-1.1	0.007	Production of acetyl-CoA and oxaloacetate from citrate and CoA
<i>Acss2</i>	-1.0	0.02	Production of acetyl-CoA from acetate
<i>Acaca</i>	-0.7	0.007	Carboxylation of acetyl-CoA to malonyl-CoA

Table S5. Liver acylcarnitine and amino acid concentrations in the cross-over experiment.

Metabolite*, median (IQR)	Appropriate Growth Microbiota Recipients N=19 samples	Poor Growth Microbiota Recipients N=16 samples	Cross-Over Group N=14 samples
Liver acylcarnitines (nM)			
C3	116 (81, 170)	151 (114, 173)	205 (177, 254)**,+
C4-DC/Ci4-DC	21 (18, 24)	25 (22, 27)**	35 (27, 37)**,+
C8	100 (83, 113)	200 (121, 241)**	137 (91, 176)**,+
C5-DC	116 (80, 146)	165 (126, 175)**	132 (92, 179)
C8:1-OH/C6:1-DC	35 (21, 41)	51 (38, 60)**	39 (27, 47)**
C10	38 (25, 46)	56 (41, 60)**	38 (31, 64)
C12-OH/C10-DC	6 (4, 7)	8 (6, 13)**	7 (5, 11)
C14	33 (21, 78)	53 (36, 94)**	42 (32, 69)
C14-OH/C12-DC	3 (2, 6)	8 (5, 10)**	4 (3, 7)
C16-OH/C14-DC	8 (4, 11)	14 (10, 21)**	9 (6, 13)**
Liver amino acids (μM)			
Proline	10 (8, 12)	12 (11, 15)	17 (13, 19)**,+
Phenylalanine	4 (4, 5)	4 (4, 5)	6 (5, 6)**,+
Tyrosine	5 (4, 6)	6 (5, 7)**	6 (5, 8) ⁺
Glutamate/Glutamine	61 (48, 74)	70 (62, 80)	93 (70, 104)**,+
Arginine	1.0 (0.9, 1.1)	0.7 (0.5, 0.9)**	1.2 (0.9, 1.4)**

*Only metabolites that differed between groups ($p < 0.05$) are shown. **Cross-over vs. poor growth, $p < 0.05$. ⁺Cross-over vs. appropriate growth, $p < 0.05$. ⁺⁺Appropriate growth vs. poor growth, $p < 0.05$.