



Fig. S7. Cytotoxicity of propionic acid (PA) in the presence of the *P. acnes 6609* strain. Washed human erythrocytes were treated with PA and/or a high dose of the *P. acnes 6609* strain (multiplicity of infection (MOI) 300) and the amount of free haemoglobin was measured in a spectrophotometric assay. The greatest absorbance, indicative of membrane damage and subsequent cytotoxicity, were observed for the double-treated cells. (Mean of 3 parallel experiments). Statistical analysis: analysis of variance (ANOVA), *post hoc* Dunnett test, statistical significance established at $p < 0.05$. Marks represent comparisons with untreated control (*) or *P. acnes 6609* MOI 300 (#) treated samples.