Structure & biogeography of the gut microbiome, function, & basic disease associations

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe gut microbe and microbial processes
- Delineate properties and studies of the gut microbiome
- Identify health and disease associations related to the gut microbiota



#### Outline

- Introduction
- Structure & biogeography of the gut microbiota
- Function of the gut microbiota
- Basic Disease Associations



Our Gut Microbiota has Relatively Few Divisions but Tremendous Diversity at the Strain and Subspecies Level



Human gut: 9 divisions, 800 species, 7000 strains)

#### **The Human Gut Contains 9 Bacterial Divisions**



Bacteroidetes and Firmicutes dominate the distal gut

From J.I. Gordon 2008 (image generated by Ruth Ley)

## THE BIG PICTURE

Gut microbiota provide a beneficial symbiotic relationship with most human hosts.

- Perform key functions in metabolism
  - Provide 10% of our daily calories via generation of short chain fatty acids
  - Vitamin production-- folate, Vitamin K
- Influence drug response
- Guide immune system development
- Protect from pathogenic microbes
- Far-ranging impact on health and quality of life.



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#### There are Many Ways to Consider Gut Microbiota Structure Peri- and Post-HMP and MetaHIT (population-scale initiatives)

- THE AMERICAN GUT PROJECT, 'crowd-sourced'
- BIOM-Mass and The Harvard Chan Center for the Microbiome in Public Health
- CAS-CMI (Chinese Academy of Sciences Initiative of Microbiome)
- Eldermet
- International Human Microbiome Consortium



#### There are Many Gut Microbiota Structures to Consider (healthy global populations and populations across lifespan)



#### Gut Microbiota Structure: Who Is There...



#### **An Enterotype Classifier Model:** a goal to simplify microbiome structure and then some controversy



0.3

0.2

0.1

- Caveats in 'over-fitting' and 'over-simplifying' what we are all mindful of
- Dangers in losing control of how your data are communicated—what we all fear

Popular Press Version: "You've likely heard of **blood types** and may even know your own. Someday, you may also know your gut type or enterotype. ENTEROTYPE = BLOOD TYPE"



Enterotype assignment

Visual inspection

(Do data overlap with

reference set

in distance projection?

Are samples within "Enterotype" space"

Abundance

data

(2)

Enterotype discovery

Visual inspection

(Are there visually

apparent clusters in the composition landscape?

Is there

support for structure? (1)

consider alternativ

models



Nature. 2011 May 12; 473(7346): 174–180.

# What are some of the factors that influence gut microbiota structure?

Factor	Evidence from	Selected References
Mode of fetus delivery	Humans	Dominguez-Bello et al. (2010), Palmer et al. (2007)
Geographic origin	Humans	De Filippo et al. (2010)
Host genotype	Humans	Spor et al. (2011) and references therein; Li et al. (2012)
	Mice	Kovacs et al. (2011), Ley et al. (2005), Benson et al. (2010)
Diet	Humans	Walker et al. (2011), Wu et al. (2011)
	Animals	Turnbaugh et al. (2008), Hildebrandt et al. (2009), Turnbaugh et al. (2009)
Antibiotics	Humans	Willing et al. (2011a), Jernberg et al. (2007), Dethlefsen and Relman (2011)
	Mice	Yap et al. (2008), Cani et al. (2008)
Probiotics	Humans	Rauch and Lynch (2012) and references therein
	Animals	Garcia-Mazcorro et al. (2011)
Age	Humans	Tiihonen et al. (2010), Biagi et al. (2010)
Stress	Humans	Konturek et al. (2011) and references therein

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2012.10.012

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#### The GI tract offers distinct microhabitats for the microbiota



Microbes Environ. 2017 Dec; 32(4): 300–313.

## Biogeography of the lumenal and mucosal gut microbiome from a non-human primate



http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.chom.2015.01.015

#### Biogeography of the mouse gut microbiota



Model systems such as mice are providing opportunities to innovate and refine biogeography and functional studies



Real-time community dynamics Host status Cancer/biofilms Reporter expression

Epithelial turnover Short-timescale dynamics Real-time measurements Motion in and out of crypts

3D segmentation Trans Selective probe design Replic Spatial localization Cell n Species-level resolution Live/d Anaer

Transcript probes Replication rates Cell morphology Live/dead staining Anaerobic fluorescent reporters

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## Gut microbiota function metabolic

Function = metabolic activities and end products that result from microbial activity



## Gut microbiota function meting out health and disease



https://www.bmj.com/content/361/bmj.k2179

#### Gut microbiota and the Immune system





### The Gut Brain Axis



The microbiota, interacts not only locally with intestinal cells and the enteric nervous system, but also directly with CNS through neuroendocrine and metabolic pathways.

From gut microbiota to brain:

Production, expression and turnover of neurotrasmitters (i.e. serotonin, GABA) and neurotrophic factor (BDNF) Protection of intestinal barrier and tight junction integrity Modulation of enteric sensory afferents Bacterial metabolites Mucosal immune regulation

From brain to gut microbiota:

Alteration in mucus and biofilm production Alteration in motility Alteration of intestinal permeability Alteration in immune function

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#### The Microbiome in Health & Disease



"Understanding the microbiome will transform our understanding of how healthy bodies become diseased, how aging leads to infirmity, and especially how we might alter our internal ecosystems to prevent and treat a vast range of conditions."

## Causality theory from miasma to the microbiome



#### From Koch's four postulates to a framework



#### wikipedia

### Overnutrition(obesity) & the gut microbiota



- Obesity is an abnormal or excessive fat accumulation that presents a risk to health.
- A crude population measure of obesity is the body mass index (BMI), a person's weight (in kilograms) divided by the square of his or her height (in meters). A person with a BMI of 30 or more is generally considered obese.
- A person with a BMI equal to or more than 25 is considered overweight.
- Overweight and obesity are major risk factors for a number of chronic diseases, including diabetes, cardiovascular diseases and cancer.
- Once considered a problem only in high income countries, overweight and obesity are now dramatically on the rise in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in urban settings.

-World Health Organization

#### Since the Gut Microbiota is a Metabolic Organ, Can it Affect the Risk for Obesity?



https://envlit.educ.msu.edu/publicsite/files/.../KBS\_Human %20Microbiome.ppt

Epidemiology

Immunological Response

**Experimental Disease Reproduction** 

**Biological Plausibility** 

Elimination or modification or addition of agent

# Different gut microbial community structure in obese mice







Ley et al., PNAS 102: 11070-5 (2006)

### Effects of dieting



Ley et al. Nature 444: 1022 (2006)

#### Microbiota fecal transplantation



Turnbaugh et al., Nature 444: 1027-1031

Mice that receive a fecal transplant from obese donors not only become obese, but do so while eating less food...



Conventionalized mice (CONV-D) are formerly germ-free (GF) recipients of a gut microbiota transplant from conventionally-raised (CONV-R) donors



https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fimmu.2014.00379/full

#### What is malnutrition?

World Health Organization definition:

The term is used to refer to a number of diseases, each with a specific cause related to one or more nutrients (for example, protein, iodine or iron) and each characterized by cellular imbalance between the supply of nutrients and energy on the one hand, and the body's demand for them to ensure growth, maintenance, and specific functions, on the other.

#### **Countries at risk of malnutrition**



COUNTRIES WITH POPULATIONS AT RISK OF INADEQUATE NUTRITION



Lia Fernald

## So how does the microbiome fit in?

#### Kwashiorkor



### Kwashiorkor (low protein)

- **Decreased muscle mass** (failure to gain weight and of linear growth)
- Swollen belly (edema and lipid build-up around the liver)
- Changes in skin pigment may lose pigment where the skin has peeled away (desquamated) and the skin may darken where it has been irritated or traumatized
- Hair lightens and thins, or becomes reddish and brittle.
- Increased infections and increased severity of normally mild infection, diarrhea
- Apathy, lethargy, irritability

Death does not occur from actual starvation but from infection

#### Marasmus (low calories)



#### Marasmus

- Deficit in calories "marasmus" comes from Greek origin of word "to waste"
- Gross weight loss
- Hyper-alert and ravenously hungry
- Children have no subcutaneous fat or muscle

→ eventually starve to death (immediate cause often is pneumonia)

#### Marasmus – mechanism

- Energy intake is insufficient for body's requirements body must draw on own stores
- Liver glycogen exhausted in a few hours skeletal muscle protein used via gluconeogenesis to maintain adequate plasma glucose
- When near starvation is prolonged, fatty acids are incompletely oxidized to ketone bodies, which can be used by brain and other organs for energy
- High cortisol and growth hormone levels

#### **Severe Malnutrition: Consequences**

Mental development

Lower IQ levels

Poorer school performance

Behaviors of recovered severely malnourished children

- shy, isolated, withdrawn
- decreased attention span
- immature, emotionally unstable
- fewer peer relationships/reduced social skills
- played less/stayed nearer to mothers

#### **Summary: Severe malnutrition**

- Severe malnutrition is defined as > 3 s.d. away from median reference standards
- 66M children under the age of 5 are severely malnourished (64M of these in developing countries)
- Key types of severe malnutrition are kwashiorkor (low protein) and marasmus (low calories);
- Severe malnutrition results in severe deficits for children

#### RUTF



Plumpy'Nut, a ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) Nutritional value per 92 g Energy 2,100 kJ (500 kcal)

> Ingredients: peanut paste, vegetable oil, powdered milk, powdered sugar, vitamins, minerals

#### **Culturally Sensitive and Sustainable Nutritional Rescue**

#### **Kichuri Ingredients**



prepared from rice, lentils (dal), green leafy vegetables, and soybean oil

#### Halwa Ingredients



prepared from wheat-flour, lentils, molasses, and soybean oil.

#### Ampicillin, Gentamicin, Amoxicillin



Bottom Line: Abx disrupt colon gut microbial ecology

#### Ampicillin, Gentamicin, Amoxicillin



Bottom Line: Abx disrupt colon gut microbial ecology

#### Z-score WHZ, WAZ, HAZ, **M**AZ

- Statistical measurement of a **score's** relationship to the mean in a group of **scores**.
- A **Z**-score of 0 means the score is the same as the mean.
- A **Z**-score can also be positive or negative, indicating whether it is above or below the mean and by how many standard deviations.

#### SAM and MAM

- SAM: WHZ <= -3
- MAM:WHZ <-2 but > -3



#### Spearman's Rho

A non-parametric test used to measure the strength of association between two variables, where the value r = 1 means a perfect positive correlation and the value r = -1 means a perfect negative correlation.

#### Random Forests machine learning algorithm



Microbiota maturity indices provide a microbial measure of human postnatal development, a way of classifying malnourished states, and a parameter for judging therapeutic efficacy

Subramanian et al. *Nature 2014* <u>https://www.nature.com/articles/nature13421</u>

#### Gut Microbiota in Children with Kwashiorkor



Garrett WS. N Engl J Med 2013;368:1746-1747.

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#### Microbial Ecology of Malnutrition: an ideal system for study & intervention?

What would YOU do?

- As a data scientist?
- As a pediatrician trained in public health or MPH-trained implementation scientist?
- As a basic, wet bench scientist?



#### PERMISSION SLIPS FOR GNOTOBIOTICS FIELD TRIP