

Special Issue

The Dysbiotic Vaginal Microbiome: Pathogenesis and Therapeutic Opportunities

Message from the Guest Editors

The virulence capacity of pathogens in the vaginal microbiome is recently coming to light as DNA-based methods of identification have highlighted the most likely suspects. Pathogenic bacterial taxa that inhabit the female reproductive tract can alter the local immune status, they can cause damage, and they have been associated with a host of clinical complications, including preterm birth and other negative pregnancy outcomes, human papillomavirus (HPV) infection and high-risk HPV-associated cervical dysplasia, and the transmission of human immunodeficiency virus and other sexually transmitted infections. The virulence factors expressed by these taxa and the ways in which they alter the local environment within the female reproductive tract are under mechanistic study, and the results of these studies hold the promise of unprecedented advances in the modalities of therapeutic intervention for these difficult-to-manage clinical problems. This Special Issue aims to highlight studies of the virulence attributes of vaginal bacterial taxa that contribute to gynecologic and obstetric pathologies.

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The International Journal of Molecular Sciences (*IJMS*, ISSN 1422-0067) is an open access journal, which was established in 2000. The journal aims to provide a forum for scholarly research on a range of topics, including biochemistry, molecular and cell biology, molecular biophysics, molecular medicine, and all aspects of molecular research in chemistry. *IJMS* publishes both original research and review articles, and regularly publishes special issues to highlight advances at the cutting edge of research. We invite you to read recent articles published in *IJMS* and consider publishing your next paper with us.

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