

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.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Jerome F. Strauss, III

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Center for Research on Reproduction and Women's Health, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19104, USA

Dr. Kimberly K. Jefferson

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA

Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 June 2022)



International Journal of Molecular Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 4.9
CiteScore 9.0
Indexed in PubMed



mdpi.com/si/82233

*International Journal of
Molecular Sciences*
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Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. José L. Quiles
Department of Physiology, Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology
"Jose Mataix", Biomedical Research Center, University of Granada,
Avda. Conocimiento s/n, 18100 Armilla, Granada, Spain

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