

Special Issue

Gut Microbioma in Childhood Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

The gut microbiota (GM) composition and function is a major factor involved in human health and disease. In particular, GM is a key player in the mechanisms underlying chronic multifactorial disorders, known as noncommunicable diseases, interacting with host genetics and immune system. In this interplay the intestine has a gatekeeper role, since it harbours a very heterogeneous microbial community and possesses a sophisticated immune system which is daily exposed to a multitude of food and microbial antigens. The GM is characterized by distinctive compositional and functional features in different periods of life. Emerging evidence suggests that the microbes found in the human body are essential for the development and maturation of the child's immune system; moreover, they play fundamental roles in nutrition and resistance to pathogens at all ages. The purpose of this special issue is to provide an overview of the GM role during the childhood in health and disease and the use of the microbiota-directed therapies in pediatric disorders.

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