Special Issue

The Role of Microbiota in Upper and Lower Gastrointestinal Functional Disorders

Message from the Guest Editors

Functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGIDs) are a highly prevalent group of disorders diagnosed solely by symptomatology as there is a lack of understanding of the underlying structural or chemical abnormalities. Common FGIDs include gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), functional dysphagia, functional dyspepsia, gastroparesis, irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), functional constipation, diarrhea, and fecal Incontinence. Different mechanisms have been understood to play a role in pathogenesis including disturbance in motility, altered mucosal and immune function, visceral hypersensitivity, disturbance in gut microbiota, and altered processing of visceral signals in the central nervous system (CNS), in the "so called" gut-brain axis. Recently, studies have shown that one of the main inputs to the gut-brain axis comes from microbiota, leading to the coining of the term ‘microbiome-gut-brain axis’.

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