Special Issue

The Human Gut Microbiota in Health and Disease

Message from the Guest Editors

The human microbiota consists of bacteria, viruses, archaea, and eukaryotes, which colonize various sites on and in the human body and interact at intra- and inter-kingdom levels. These interactions play an important role in health and disease. The structural and functional contribution of the gut microbiota to health and disease is constantly evolving in response to host factors such as diet, lifestyle, age, inherited genes, hormonal changes, pH, etc. Facultative anaerobes are mainly dominant in the gastrointestinal tract, while strict aerobes inhabit the respiratory tract, nasal cavity, and skin surface. An altered microbiome profile can lead to life-threatening diseases such as cancer, autoimmunity, obesity, bacterial infections, among others. As such, it is essential to understand the structural and functional contribution of microbial ecosystems and individual species to health and disease. In this Special Issue we will present studies on the role of the human microbiota in health and disease. Basic (e.g., microbial characterization in vitro, in vivo, ex vivo) and translational science studies (therapeutic and diagnostic potential of the microbiota) are welcome.

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"Microorganism" merges the idea of the very small with the idea of the evolving reproducing organism is a unifying principle for the discipline of microbiology. Our journal recognizes the broadly diverse yet connected nature of microorganisms and provides an advanced publishing forum for original articles from scientists involved in high-quality basic and applied research on any prokaryotic or eukaryotic microorganism, and for research on the ecology, genomics and evolution of microbial communities as well as that exploring cultured microorganisms in the laboratory.

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