

CIMI PARIS Centre d'immunologie et des Maladies Infectieuses

5V569 - Atelier de allergie

Microbiota and Allergy

Martin LARSEN

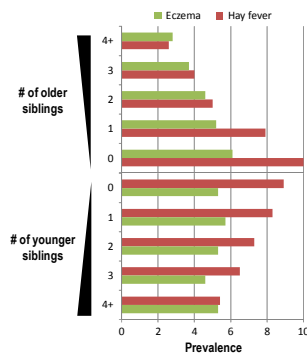
INSERM U1135, CHU Pitié-Salpêtrière, Paris, France

Outline

1. Hygiene theory
2. Epidemics of allergy – environmental factors
3. The gut microbiota and our digestive system
4. Gut microbiota and host immunity
5. Antibody responses
6. Model of allergy mechanisms
7. Gut microbiota and its role in disease
8. Gut microbiota in early life
9. Self-non-self versus the danger model.
10. Gut microbiota and allergy
11. Solutions

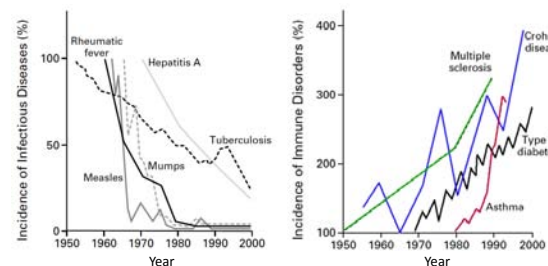
Birth of the hygiene theory - by Pr. David P Strachan

- Prevalence of hay fever and eczema depends on position in household.
- **Older siblings** are protective of allergy
- **Younger siblings** have small effect on hay fever and no effect on eczema.
- **Hypothesis:** Exposure to infectious events through unhygienic contact with siblings protect from allergy.



Strachan et al. BMJ 1989

Hygiene theory and chronic inflammatory diseases

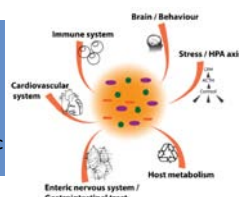
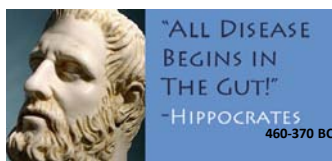


Disappearance of prototypic infectious diseases inversely correlate with occurrence of chronic inflammatory diseases.

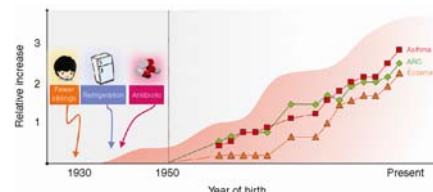
Rach et al. NEJM 2002

Hygiene theory and allergic diseases

- Massive increase in prevalence of allergic diseases in Westernized countries (>20% over 10 year period)
- Allergic disease is attributed to both genetic predisposition and environmental factors
- Genetic drift over such a short period of time cannot explain increased incidence of disease
- Westernized life-style has introduced several environmental risk factors that disturb the homeostatic balance of gut microbiota



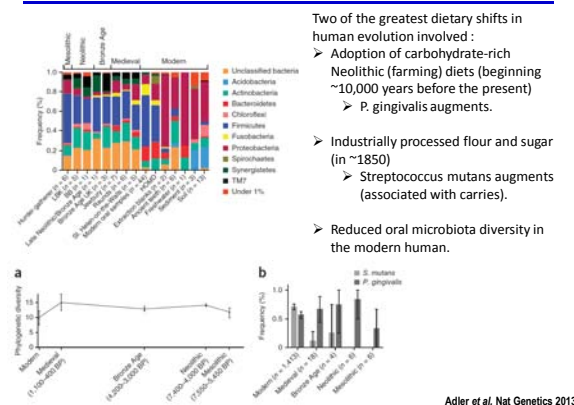
Lifestyle changes affecting Gut Microbiota



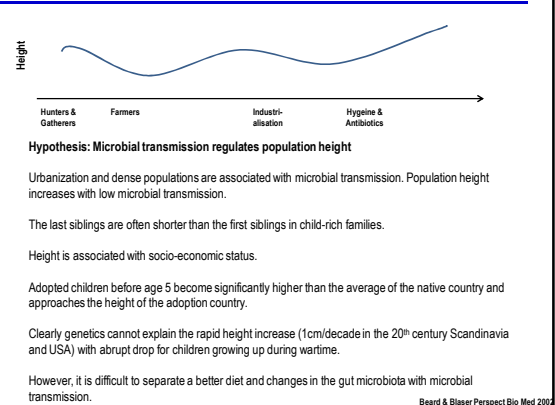
- Westernized life-style has introduced several environmental risk factors that disturb the homeostatic balance of gut microbiota
- Excessive antibiotic use, especially during early life (or even during pregnancy)
- Shift towards more formula-fed babies
- Shift towards greater numbers of babies born by Caesarean section
- Western diet

Abrahamsson et al. JACI 2015

Oral microbiota shifts through history of mankind



Microbial transmission and population height



Dysbiosis - cause or consequence - and so what?

"Le malade imaginaire"
Molière, 1673

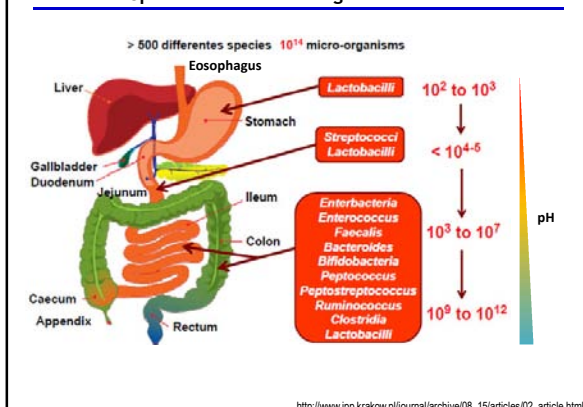
Prescription of "lavement" for:
Digestion, intestinal secretion and bad mood.

Dates back at least to 100 B.C.

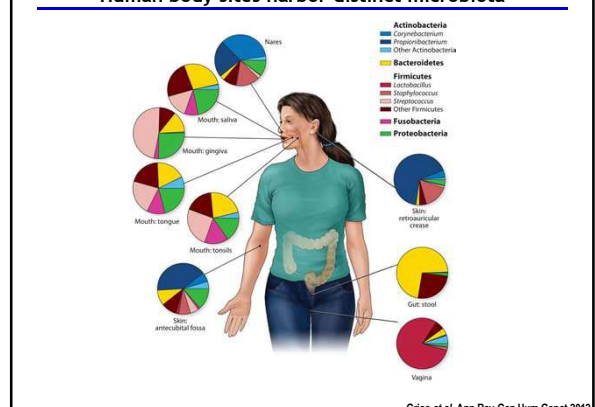
The human Gut and its inhabitants in numbers

- > 30 tons of food and 50,000 L during a lifetime
- Huge mucosal surface: 150-200 m²
- > 50 billions of new bacteria every day
- 70-80% of all immune cells are located in the Gut.
- 1-2g secretory IgA per day
- 100 millions of neurons (as many as in the spinal cord).
- 10¹⁴ bacteria: x10 number of cells in the entire body, i.e. 1-2 kg.
- 100 times more bacterial genes than human genes.

Spatial distribution of gut microbiota



Human body sites harbor distinct microbiota

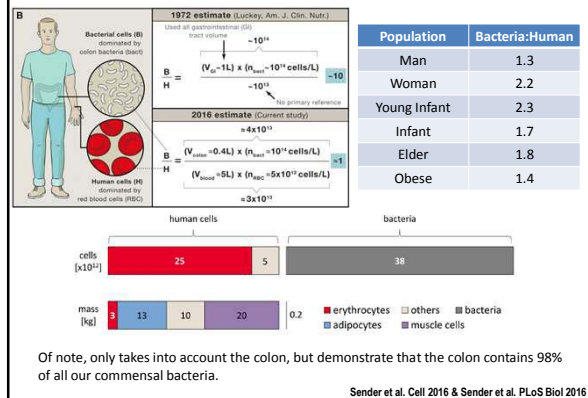


The digestive system - A trip through the GI tract

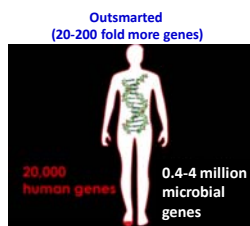


- Mouth (cheewing + saliva containing enzymes)
- Esophagus
- Stomach (very acidic, proteases, few microbes)
- Small intestine (somewhat acidic, microbes (degrade otherwise none-degradable plant fibers).
- Large intestine (Final digestion and return of water to host)
- You all know what happens then.....**COLLECTION TIME!**

We are outnumbered and outsmarted



We are outnumbered and outsmarted

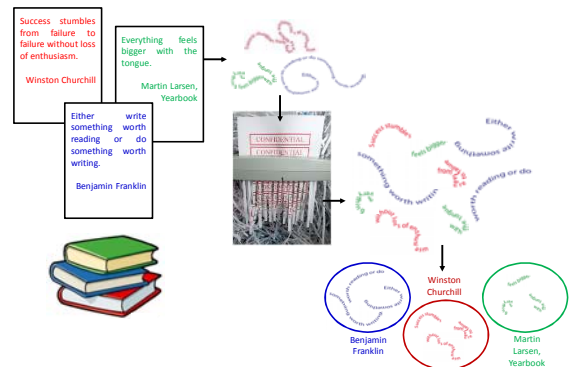


Each bacterial species has its own genomic DNA (all human cells have identical genomic DNA).

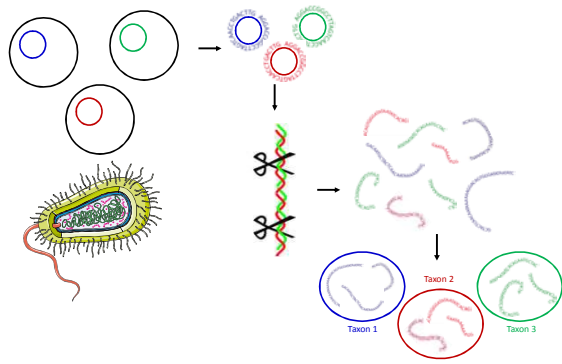
Bacterial genome (2-10x10⁶ bps) versus human genome (3x10⁹ bps)

Bacterial DNA is much more compact than human DNA in terms of gene content.

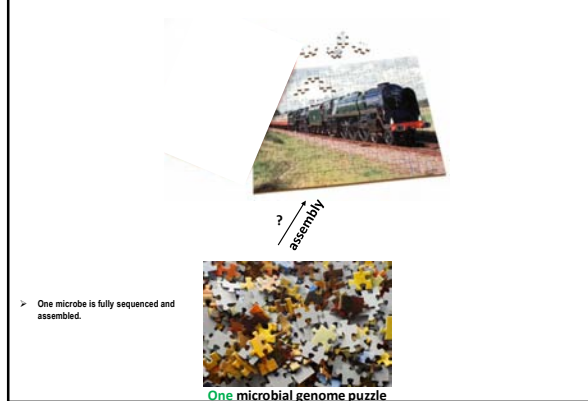
Next Generation Sequencing - like reading a threaded book



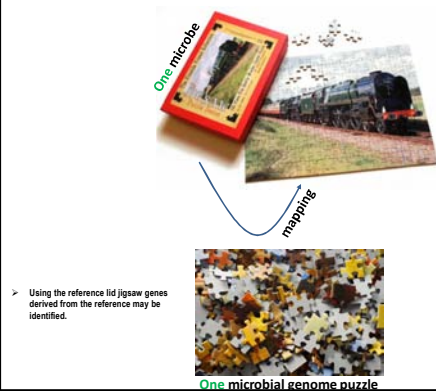
Next Generation Sequencing - like reading a threaded book



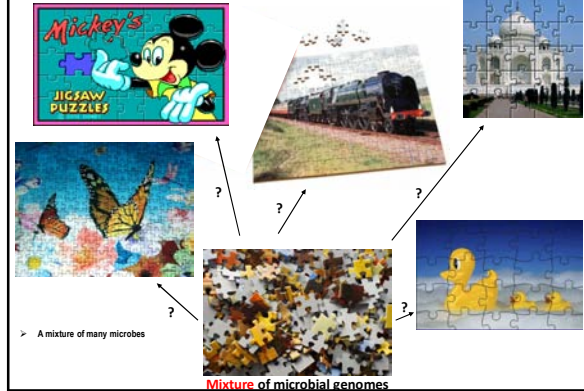
Microbial whole genome sequencing



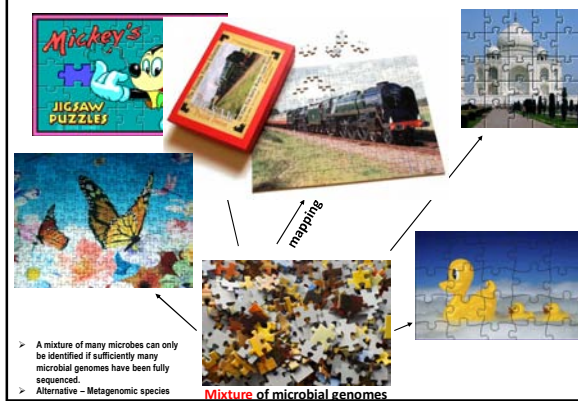
Microbial whole genome sequencing



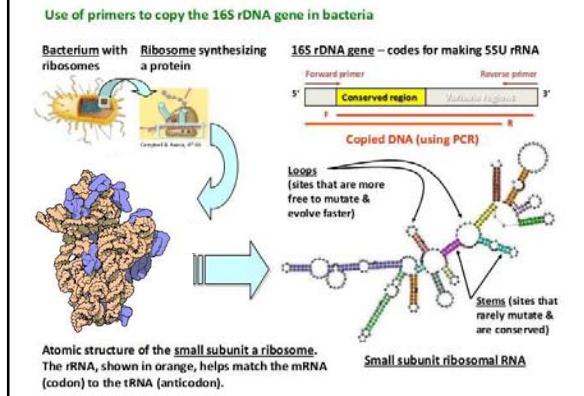
Metagenomic sequencing



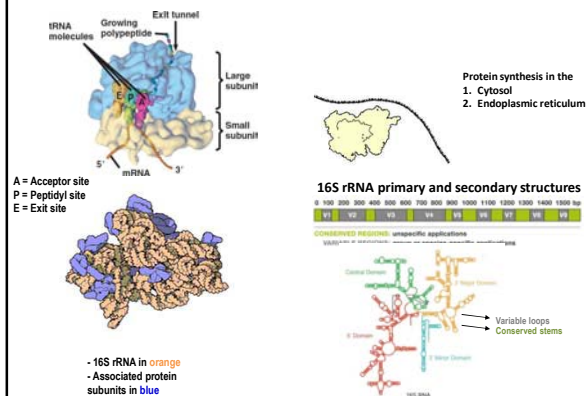
Metagenomic sequencing



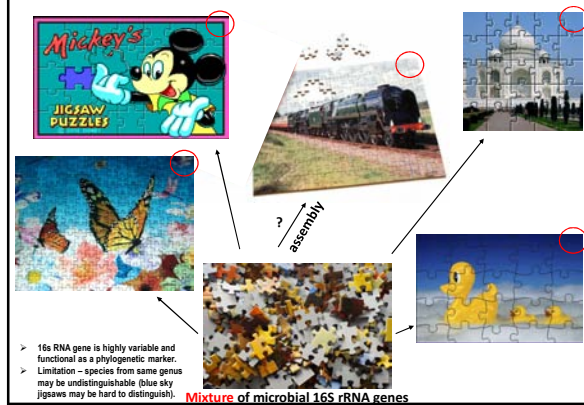
16S rRNA sequencing

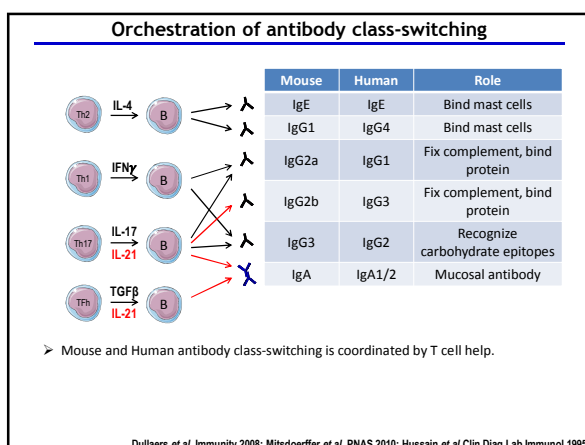
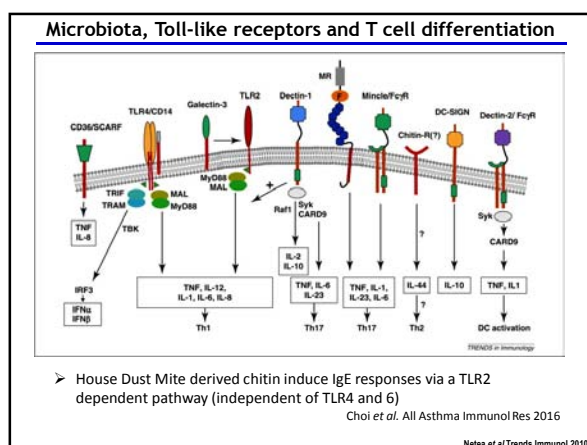
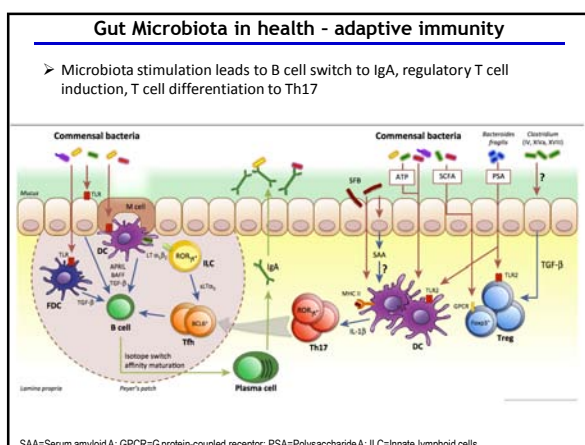
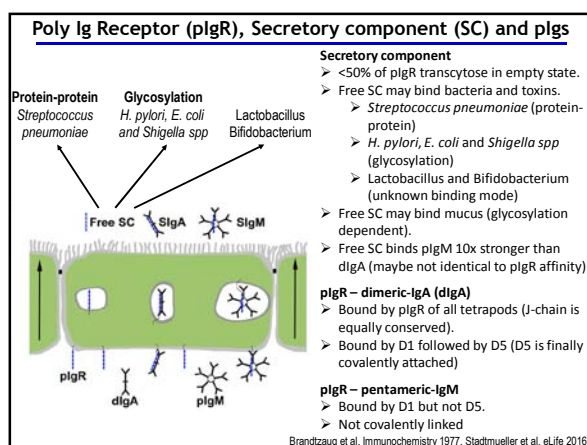
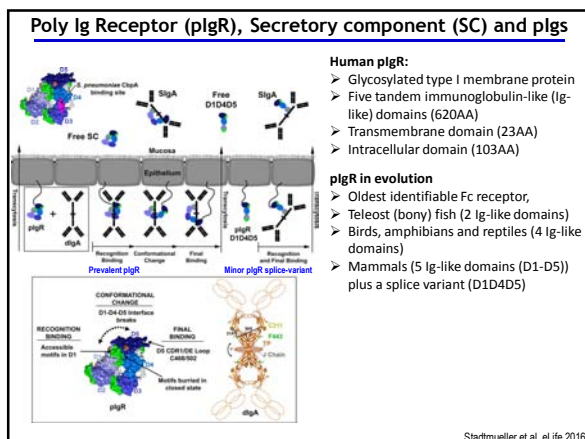
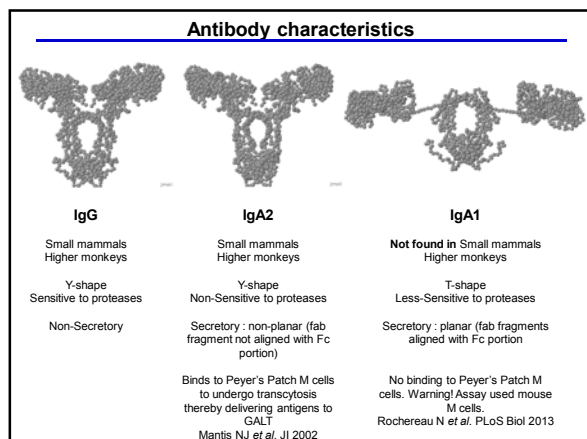


16S rRNA sequencing

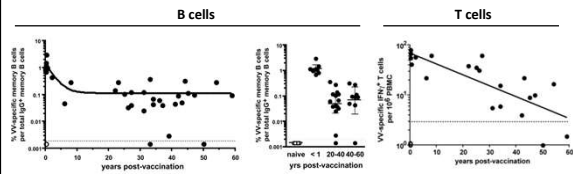


16S rRNA sequencing





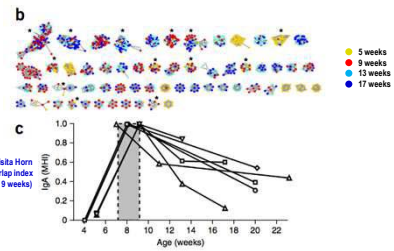
Temporal changes of antibody immunity



- B cell retraction phase is followed by long-term (+50 years) stable maintenance of B cell memory.
- T cells continue to retract, but remain detectable for more than 50 years.

Crotty et al. JI 2003

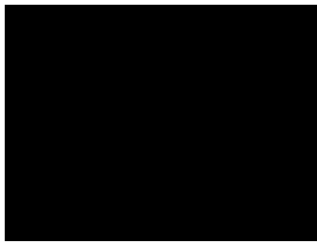
Temporal changes of antibody immunity



- 5 weeks CDR3 sequences cluster apart from the rest (yellow clusters), but from 9 weeks forward mice tend to have persisting CDR3 sequences in their IgA B cell repertoire (multi-color mixed clusters).
- The Morisita-Horn Overlap Index (MHI) equally shows more overlap between 9 weeks and later time points compared with earlier time points.

Lindner et al. Nat Immunol 2015

Allergy - Mechanism recall



- Simplified mechanism:
 - 1st exposure: **A.** Allergen presenting APCs prime T cells. **B.** B cells bind allergens, class switch (IgE) and affinity mature with the help of T cells. **C.** B cells secrete IgE which is bound by mast cells.
 - 2nd exposure: **A.** Allergen cross-link IgE on Mast cells provoking degranulation and thus release of histamine and prostaglandins. **B.** Vasodilation and mucus secretion.

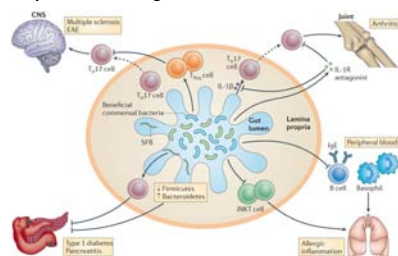
Mechanism in action - Asthma



- Simplified mechanism:
 - 1st exposure: **A.** Allergen presenting APCs prime T cells. **B.** B cells bind allergens, class switch (IgE) and affinity mature with the help of T cells. **C.** B cells secrete IgE which is bound by mast cells.
 - 2nd exposure: **A.** Allergen cross-link IgE on Mast cells provoking degranulation and thus release of histamine and prostaglandins. **B.** Vasodilation and mucus secretion.

Gut microbiota and autoimmunity

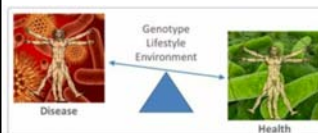
Autoimmunity associated with gut microbiota



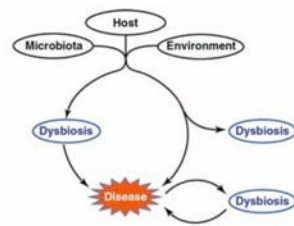
- IBD (Arumugam et al. Nature 2011, Juste et al. Gut 2014, Palm et al. Cell 2014)
- Type-1 Diabetes (Qin et al. Nature 2012, Markle et al. Science 2013)
- Arthritis (Scher et al. Nat Rev Rheumatol 2011, Scher et al. eLife 2013)
- Allergy (Russell et al. EMBO Rep 2012)
- EAE / Multiple sclerosis (Berer et al. Nature 2011, Miyake et al. PLoS One 2015)

Kamada et al. Nat Immunol Rev 2013

Dysbiosis - cause or consequence of disease?



- Genetic or environmental factors may lead to dysbiosis
- Dysbiosis may lead to disease
- Genetic or environmental factors may lead to disease irrespective of dysbiosis.
- Disease may lead to dysbiosis



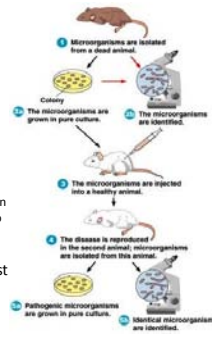
Koch's postulate and why it doesn't always apply

Koch's Postulates

(Robert Koch and Friedrich Loeffler in 1884)

Evidence required to establish etiologic relationship between microorganism and disease:

- Microorganism must be observed in every case of the disease
Criticism: Healthy carriers exist (Cholera, Typhoid, but also viruses like Zoster and HIV)
- It must be isolated and grown in pure culture
Criticism: Not all microbes can be cultivated and viruses only in presence of their host. Effective vaccines eradicating e.g. polio is considered a good proof of the causality of polio virus.
- The pure culture, when inoculated in animals, must reproduce the disease
- Microorganism must be recovered from the diseased animal.



Bradford Hill criteria - epidemiological alternative to Koch

Bradford Hill Criteria

(Epidemiologist Sir Austin Bradford Hill in 1965)

- **Strength (effect size):** A small association does not mean that there is not a causal effect, though the larger the association, the more likely that it is causal.
- **Consistency (reproducibility):** Consistent findings observed by different persons in different places with different samples strengthens the likelihood of an effect.
- **Specificity:** Causation is likely if there is a very specific population at a specific site and disease with no other likely explanation. The more specific an association between a factor and an effect is, the bigger the probability of a causal relationship.
- **Temporality:** The effect has to occur after the cause (and if there is an expected delay between the cause and expected effect, then the effect must occur after that delay).
- **Biological gradient:** Greater exposure should generally lead to greater incidence of the effect. However, in some cases, the mere presence of the factor can trigger the effect. In other cases, an inverse proportion is observed: greater exposure leads to lower incidence.
- **Plausibility:** A plausible mechanism between cause and effect is helpful (but Hill noted that knowledge of the mechanism is limited by current knowledge).
- **Coherence:** Coherence between epidemiological and laboratory findings increases the likelihood of an effect. However, Hill noted that "... lack of such [laboratory] evidence cannot nullify the epidemiological effect on associations".
- **Experiment:** "Occasionally it is possible to appeal to experimental evidence".
- **Analogy:** The effect of similar factors may be considered.

Dysbiosis - cause or consequence - and so what?

"Le malade imaginaire"
Molière, 1673



- Prescription of "lavement" for:
➤ Digestion, intestinal secretion and bad mood.
- Dates back at least to 100 B.C.



- The bi-directional interactions between gut microbiota, metabolic and endocrine functions of the organism suggest that impacting one will impact the other.
- If the gut microbiota is not the cause:
 - Treatment targeting the microbiota will not be curative,
 - but may temporarily cure symptoms.
 - Many treatments actively used are non-curative (e.g. HIV therapy)
- If the gut microbiota is the cause:
 - Treatment targeting the microbiota is curative (*Clostridium difficile* infections),

Study design defines the ability to determine causality

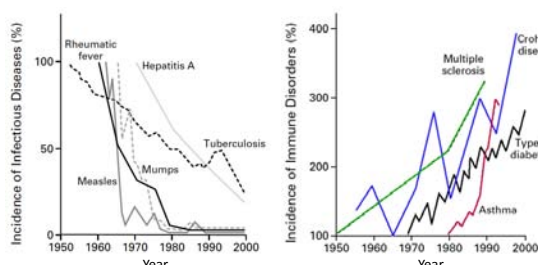
Evidence for causality ↑

Interventional studies
Modulating microbiota composition alters health status.

Prognostic cohort studies
Discriminating microbiota patterns precede clinical outcome.

Cross-sectional case-control studies
Discriminating microbiota patterns associated with disease

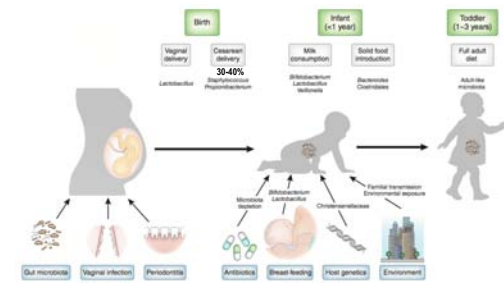
Hygiene theory and autoimmunity



Disappearance of prototypic infectious diseases inversely correlate with occurrence of autoimmune disease.

Bach et al. NEJM 2002

Early-life factors affecting infant gut microbiota



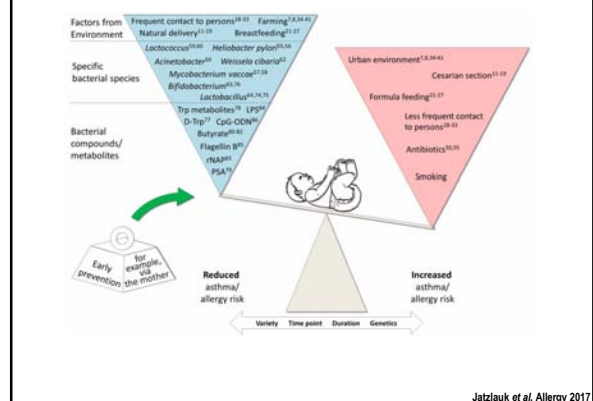
- Both maternal and environmental factors influence early-life gut microbiota colonization.

Tamburini et al. Nat Med 2016

C-section and allergy



C-section and allergy



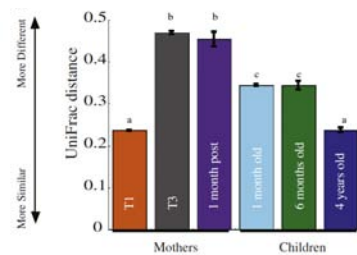
Jatzlauk et al. Allergy 2017

C-section and allergy

- **Obesity:** Caesarean born babies are at double the risk of becoming obese.
- **Allergy:** Associated with elective/planned C-section (odds ratio=1.49 [1.13-1.97]). Not significant for emergency C-sections (n>60.000).
 - An intact amniotic sac (more frequent in elective C-section) is associated with allergy. Breaking the amniotic sac may result in the first bacterial exposure. Sevelsted et al. J Pediatr 2016; Rusconi et al. Am J Epidemiol 2017
- **Asthma:** Elective C-section (OR = 1.58 [1.17-2.13], n=1400).
 - Exclusive Breastfeeding for 6 months (OR = 1.39 [0.92-2.10]).
 - Non-exclusive breastfeeding or bottle feeding (OR = 1.91 [1.22-2.99]). Chu et al. PLoS One 2017
- **Gut colonization at 1 week:**
 - C-section: Citrobacter freundii, Clostridium species, Enterobacter cloacae, Enterococcus faecalis, Klebsiella oxytoca, Klebsiella pneumoniae, and Staphylococcus aureus
 - Vaginal: Escherichia coli
 - Differences disappear before Age 1.
 - Initial airway microbiota was unaffected by birth method.

Stockholm et al. JACI 2016

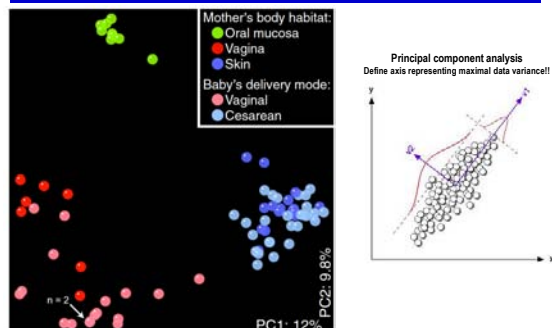
Microbiota alterations during pregnancy and early life



- Maternal microbiota changes between 1st and 3rd trimester and remains altered until at least 1 month post birth.
- Infant microbiota is different from initial T1 maternal gut microbiota.
- Children approaches the maternal microbiota at 4 years of age.

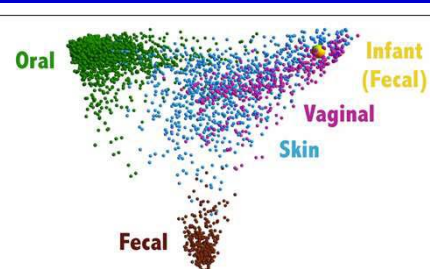
Koren et al. Cell 2012

Delivery mode shape early life gut microbiote colonization



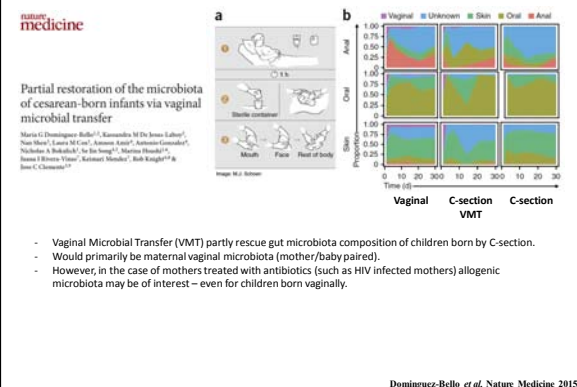
Dominguez-Bello et al PNAS 2010

Gut microbiota maturation during first 2 years of life

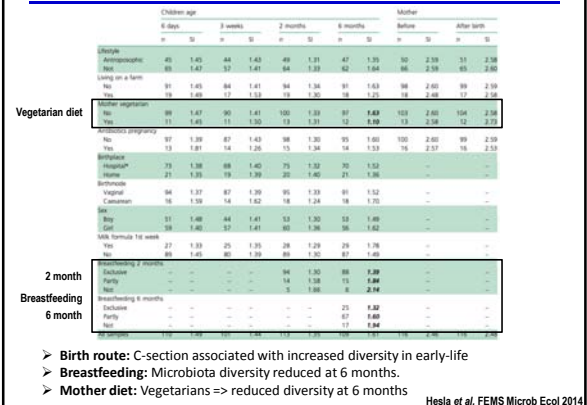


Dr. Rob Knight

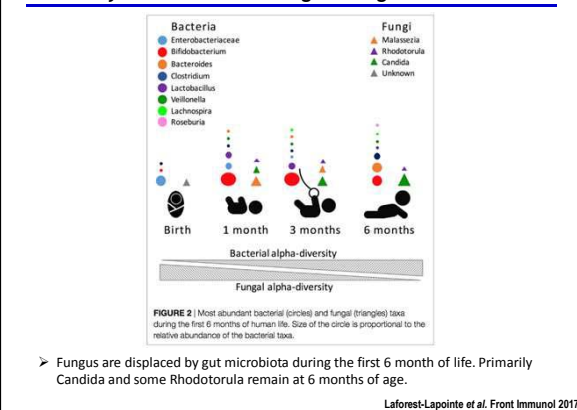
Vaginal Microbial Transfer (VMT) rescue microbiota post c-section.



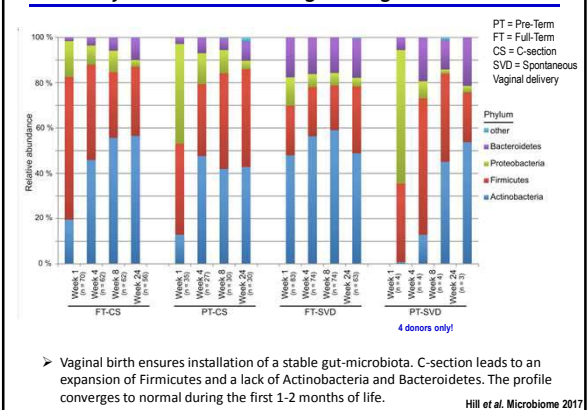
Early-life factors affecting infant gut microbiota



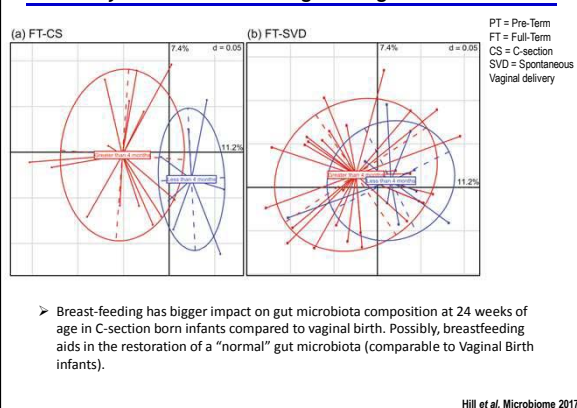
Early-life factors affecting infant gut microbiota



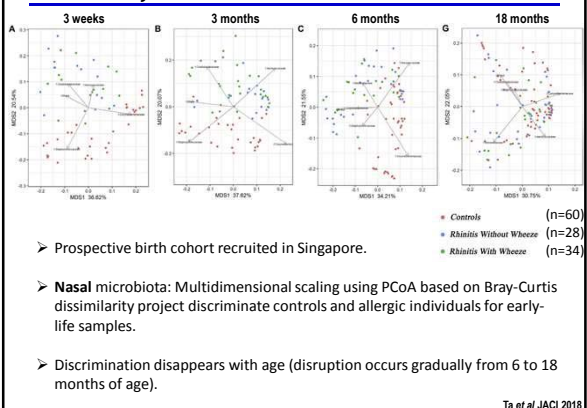
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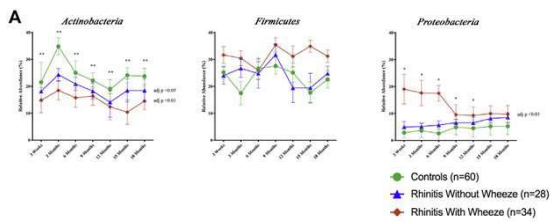
Early-life factors affecting infant gut microbiota



Bacterial dysbiosis and Rhinitis with or without wheeze



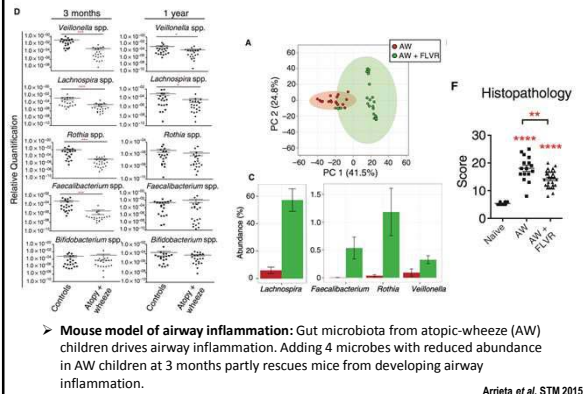
Bacterial dysbiosis and Rhinitis with or without wheeze



- Despite that discrimination based on overall nasal microbiota composition disappears with age (>6 months of age) individual abundance differences of Actinobacteria (e.g. Bifidobacterium) continue to discriminate even at late time points.
- In the intestine Actinobacteria are abundant at early time points and retract at later time points (less than 5% of healthy adult gut microbiota). Nasal content of these bacteria is less well characterized.

Ta et al. JACI 2018

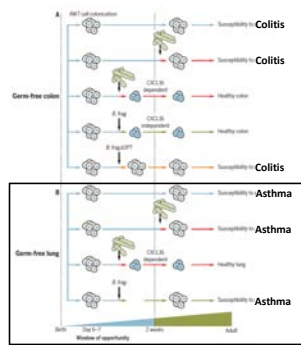
Early-life factors affecting infant gut microbiota



- **Mouse model of airway inflammation:** Gut microbiota from atopic-wheeze (AW) children drives airway inflammation. Adding 4 microbes with reduced abundance in AW children at 3 months partly rescues mice from developing airway inflammation.

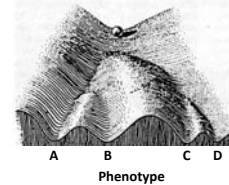
Arrieta et al. STM 2015

Primo-colonization - window of opportunity



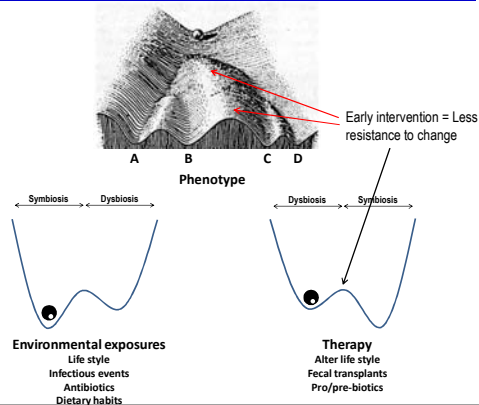
Gensollen et al. Science 2016

Waddington's landscape & intervention

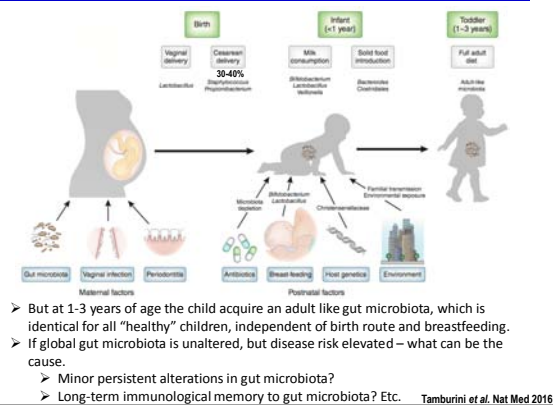


Phenotype

Waddington's landscape & intervention



Early-life factors affect infant gut microbiota temporarily



- But at 1-3 years of age the child acquire an adult like gut microbiota, which is identical for all "healthy" children, independent of birth route and breastfeeding.
- If global gut microbiota is unaltered, but disease risk elevated – what can be the cause.
 - Minor persistent alterations in gut microbiota?
 - Long-term immunological memory to gut microbiota? Etc.

Tamburini et al. Nat Med 2016

What happens to immunity?

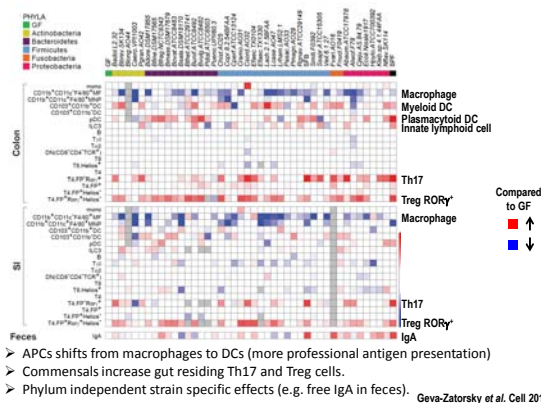
Microbes stimulate T cell immunity



- Monocolonization of GF mice with 53 bacterial strains.
- Extensive immune phenotyping

Geva-Zatorsky et al. Cell 2017

Microbes stimulate T cell immunity



Temporal changes of antibody immunity

TABLE 12-12 · LEVELS OF IMMUNOGLOBULINS IN SERA OF NORMAL SUBJECTS BY AGE*

Age	IgG		IgM		IgA		Total Immunoglobulin	
	mg/dl	% of Adult	mg/dl	% of Adult	mg/dl	% of Adult	mg/dl	% of Adult
Newborn	1031 ± 200†	89 ± 17	11 ± 5	1.1 ± 0.5	2 ± 3	1 ± 2	1044 ± 201	87 ± 13
1-3 mo	430 ± 119	37 ± 10	30 ± 11	3.0 ± 1.1	21 ± 13	11 ± 7	481 ± 127	31 ± 9
4-6 mo	427 ± 186	37 ± 16	43 ± 17	4.3 ± 1.7	28 ± 18	14 ± 9	498 ± 206	32 ± 13
7-12 mo	661 ± 219	58 ± 19	54 ± 23	5.5 ± 2.3	37 ± 18	19 ± 9	732 ± 242	48 ± 15
13-24 mo	762 ± 209	66 ± 18	58 ± 23	5.9 ± 2.3	50 ± 24	25 ± 12	870 ± 238	56 ± 16
25-36 mo	892 ± 183	77 ± 16	61 ± 19	6.2 ± 1.9	71 ± 37	36 ± 19	1024 ± 205	65 ± 14
3-5 yr	929 ± 228	80 ± 20	56 ± 18	5.7 ± 1.8	93 ± 27	47 ± 14	1078 ± 245	69 ± 17
6-8 yr	923 ± 256	20 ± 22	65 ± 25	6.6 ± 2.5	124 ± 45	62 ± 23	1112 ± 293	71 ± 20
9-11 yr	1124 ± 215	97 ± 20	79 ± 33	8.0 ± 3.3	131 ± 60	66 ± 30	1314 ± 254	85 ± 17
12-16 yr	946 ± 124	82 ± 11	59 ± 20	6.0 ± 2.0	148 ± 63	74 ± 32	1153 ± 169	74 ± 12
Adults	1158 ± 305	100 ± 26	59 ± 27	100 ± 27	200 ± 61	100 ± 31	1457 ± 353	100 ± 24

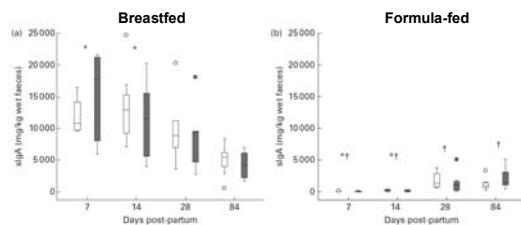
*The values were divided from measurements made in 296 healthy children and 30 adults. Levels were determined by the radial diffusion technique using specific rabbit antisera to human immunoglobulins.

†One standard deviation.

From Scrima ER, Fudenberg HH. Serum levels of immune globulins in health and disease. A survey. Pediatrics 37:715, 1966.

- We are born with maternal IgG antibodies circulating our blood stream.
- IgM and IgA serum antibodies are virtually absent at birth and slowly increases during childhood.
- Intestinal antibodies are provided through breastfeeding.

IgA- Microbiota interactions



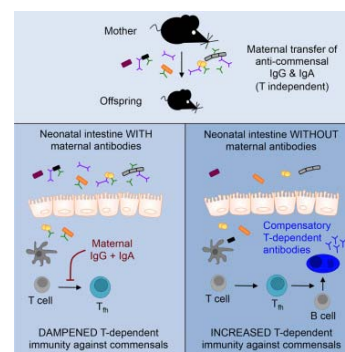
slgA is high in breastfed infant feces and decreases over-time, likely depicting the fact that the milk becomes less rich in slgA (colostrum (1st milk) versus breastmilk).

Formula-fed infants has initially no slgA in their feces, but at one month post partum small amounts of autologous slgA appears in their feces.

Women on Salmon diet (black bars) versus normal diet (white bars). Diet has no impact.

Ulwin et al. BJ Nutrition 2014

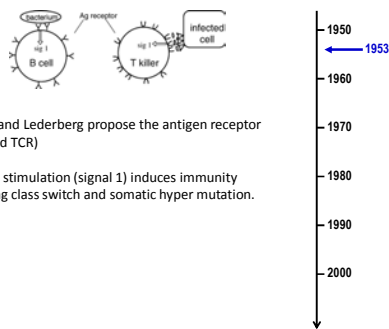
Maternal antibodies dampen offspring immunity



- T-independent (no class-switch) IgG specific for mucosal bacteria.
- Gut microbes elicit anti-commensal IgG antibodies via TLR signalling on B cells
- Maternal transmission of IgG coordinates with IgA to limit mucosal T cell responses
- Absence of maternal antibodies triggers a compensatory T-dependent immune response in the offspring.

Koch et al. Cell 2016

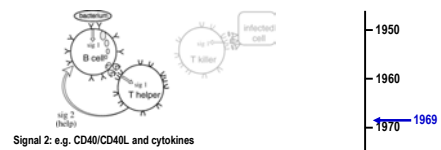
Self/non-self versus Danger model in a historical perspective



- Burnet and Lederberg propose the antigen receptor (BCR and TCR)
- Antigen stimulation (signal 1) induces immunity including class switch and somatic hyper mutation.

Matzinger et al. Scan J Immunol 2003

Self/non-self versus Danger model in a historical perspective

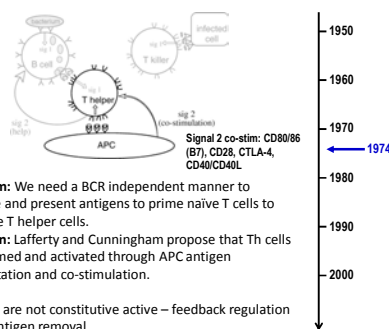


Signal 2: e.g. CD40/CD40L and cytokines

- **Problem:** BCR hypermutation may lead to autoreactive BCRs.
- **Solution:** Cohn add another cell: The T helper cell (only formally proven much later).
- B cells internalize pathogen and present antigens to interact with specific Th cells, which validate that target is non-self.
- Signal 1 alone leads to clonal deletion (both self and non-self reactivity leads to signal 1).
- Signal 1 + 2 lead to activation (non-self rescued by T cells, with TCR which does not hyper mutate).

Matzinger et al. Scan J Immunol 2003

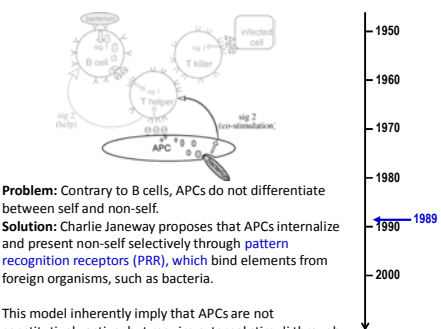
Self/non-self versus Danger model in a historical perspective



- **Problem:** We need a BCR independent manner to capture and present antigens to prime naïve T cells to become T helper cells.
- **Solution:** Lafferty and Cunningham propose that Th cells are primed and activated through APC antigen presentation and co-stimulation.
- Th cells are not constitutive active – feedback regulation upon antigen removal.
- Heavily criticized because APCs do not explain how the immune system distinguish between self and non/self (which BCR dependent antigen selection provided).

Matzinger et al. Scan J Immunol 2003

Self/non-self versus Danger model in a historical perspective



- **Problem:** Contrary to B cells, APCs do not differentiate between self and non-self.
- **Solution:** Charlie Janeway proposes that APCs internalize and present non-self selectively through **pattern recognition receptors (PRR)**, which bind elements from foreign organisms, such as bacteria.
- This model inherently imply that APCs are not constitutively active, but require external stimuli through the PRR signalling pathway.
- Propose explanation why vaccines need an adjuvant.

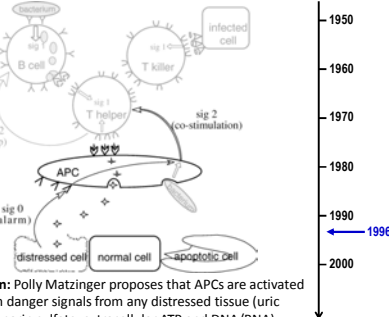
Matzinger et al. Scan J Immunol 2003

Self/non-self versus Danger model in a historical perspective

Problem

How to explain:

- Autoimmunity
- Non-reject of tumour with tumour antigen
- DNA therapy versus DNA vaccine
- Why mothers don't reject the fetus.
- Why temporal gene-expression changes doesn't evoke immunity (e.g. breast milk).
- Why can we host tons of microbes?

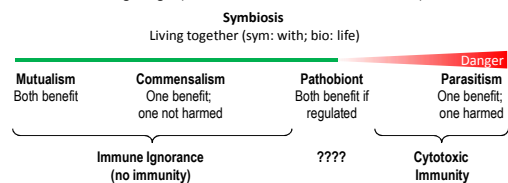


- **Solution:** Polly Matzinger proposes that APCs are activated through danger signals from any distressed tissue (uric acid, heparin sulfate, extracellular ATP and DNA/RNA).
- Advocate that we are a friendly host as long as our visitors are friendly too. Don't push the button first policy.

Matzinger et al. Scan J Immunol 2003

Danger model and gut microbiota symbiosis

- The danger model would suggest that we do not respond to non-harmful bacteria colonizing our gut (Mutualism and Commensalism allowed).

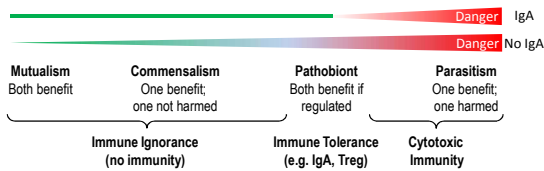


Danger model and IgA responses

- The danger model would suggest that we do not respond to non-harmful bacteria colonizing our gut (Mutualism and Commensalism allowed).

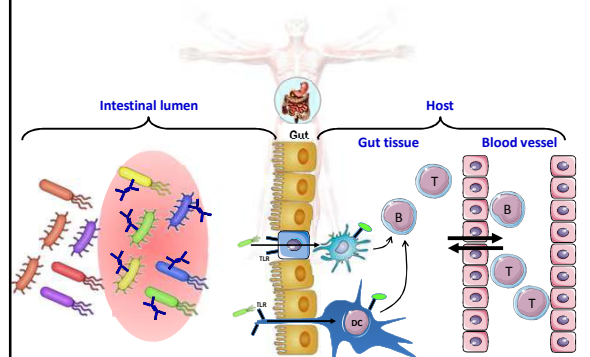
Symbiosis

Symbiosis
Living together (sym: with; bio: life)

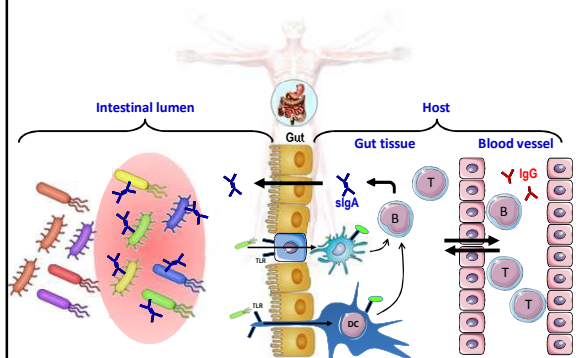


- In reality microbes cannot be categorized discretely, but rather represents a continuum from Mutualism to parasitism.
- How to retain tolerance to commensals, while pathogens are attacked?
- The range of host-microbe interactions evokes ignorance to non-harmful microbes, tolerogenic immunity to beneficial microbes (harmful if not regulated) and cytotoxic immunity to harmful microbes.

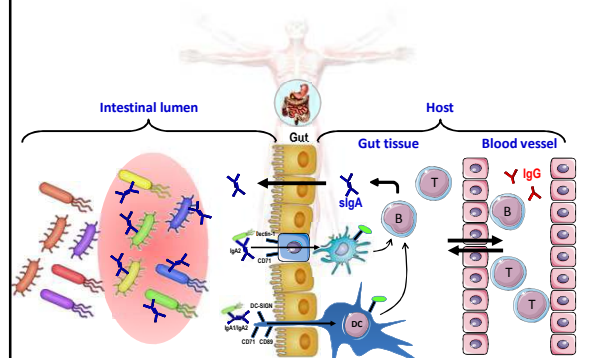
Interactions between host and gut microbiota



Interactions between host and gut microbiota

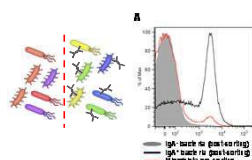


Interactions between host and gut microbiota



Gut microbiota specificity of gut Ig immunity

Gut microbiota sorting (IgA⁺ / IgA⁻)

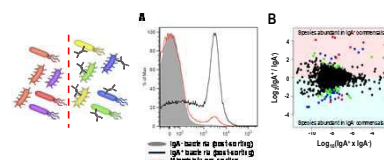


Moor ... Larsen. Nature Prot 2016

Gut microbiota specificity of gut Ig immunity

Gut microbiota sorting (IgA⁺ / IgA⁻)

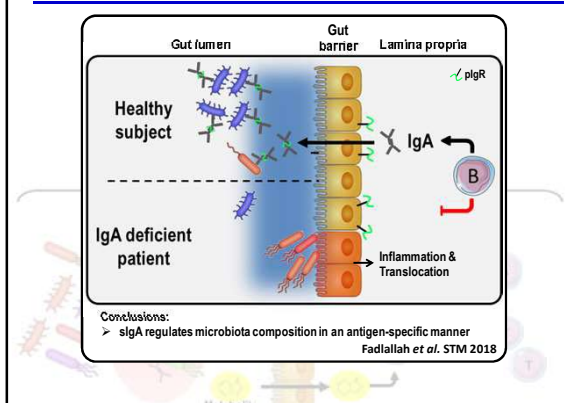
Paired metagenomic analysis



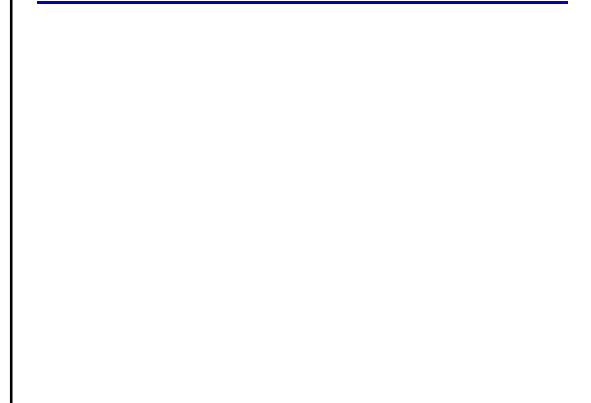
Metagenomics

Fadlallah, El-Kafsi, Larsen, STM 2018

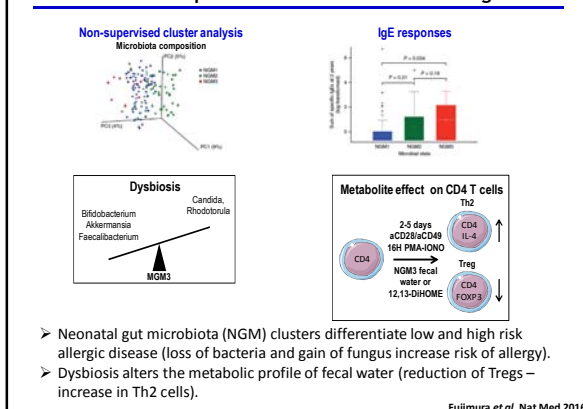
Interactions between host and gut microbiota



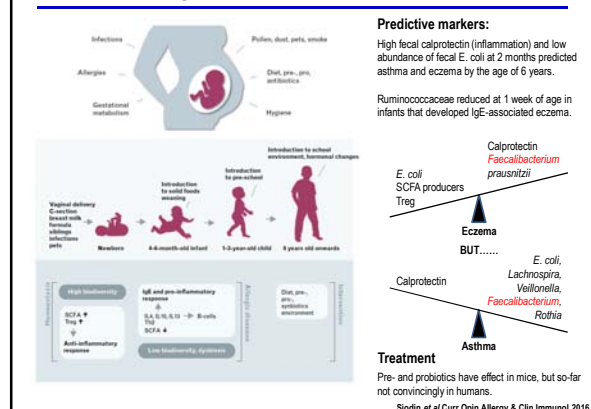
Examples of gut microbiota associations with allergy



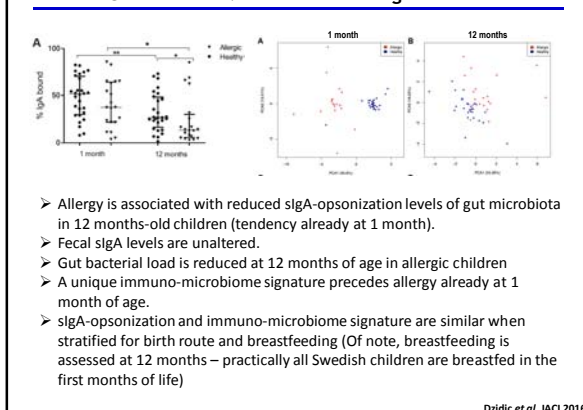
Gut Microbiota composition is associated with allergic disease



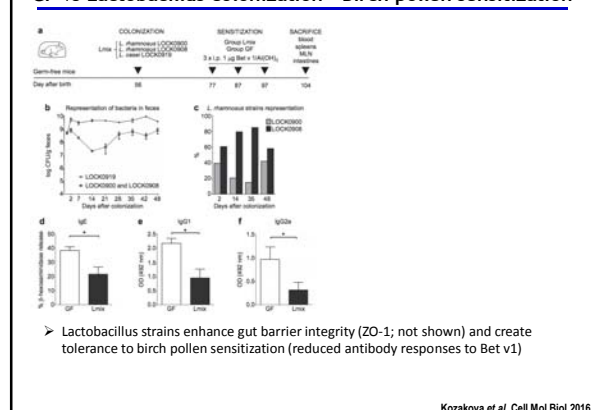
Gut microbiota and eczema



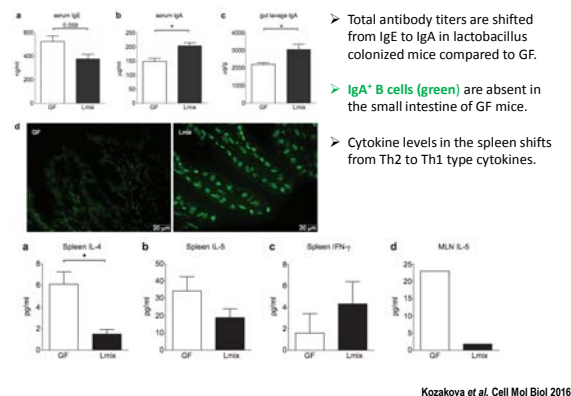
Gut Immuno-Microbiome - allergic disease



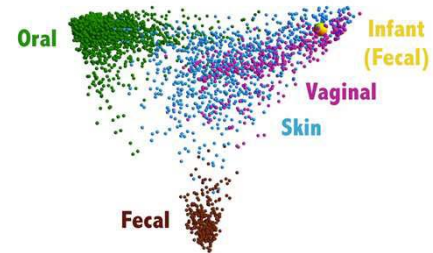
GF vs Lactobacillus colonization - Birch pollen sensitization



GF vs Lactobacillus colonization - Birch pollen sensitization



Gut microbiota maturation during first 2 years of life



Dr. Rob Knight

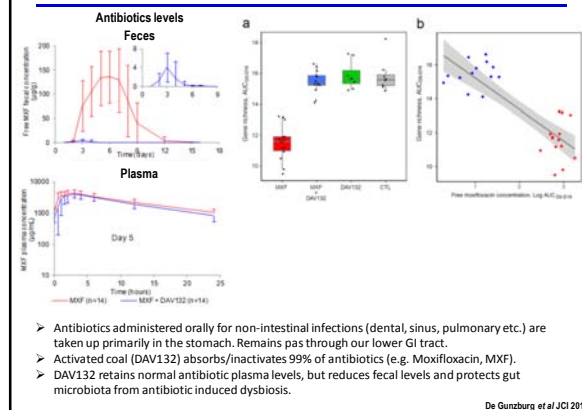
Avoid intestinal effect of antibiotics



WARNING – ADVERTISEMENT!

De Guntzburg et al JCI 2017

Avoid intestinal effect of antibiotics



Take home message

- Gut microbiota influence host immunity (may skew immunity towards Th2 and IgE – to be confirmed?)
- Gut microbiota is regulated by host immunity (innate and adaptive (e.g. IgA))
- **Altered lifestyle** influence our gut microbiota composition and is temporally (but maybe not causally) associated with a rapid increase in chronic inflammatory diseases, including allergy (since 1950 forward).
- **Hygiene theory:** Reduced exposure to microbes result in a skewed host immunity, which has not been sufficiently schooled to regulate inflammatory responses.
- **Save our microbiota:** Vaginal microbiota transplantation (C-section birth), reduce antibiotics use (or use of new treatments, such as DAV132 co-therapy).
- **Save our immunity:** Probiotics (do not colonize), helminths (worms), immune therapy (allergy), promote breast feeding.