

Bifidobacteria: A Pivotal Microbial Group of the Human Gut Microbiota at all Stages of Life

Guest Editors:



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Special Issue Introduction:

In the last years, the exploration of the human gut microbiota since the first stages of life has attracted growing interest from the scientific community. Bifidobacteria are among the early microbial colonizers of the human gut, originating by a proven vertical transmission route from mother to newborn. Subsequently, colonization and establishment of bifidobacteria in the human large intestine are regulated by specific human milk ingredients following an intriguing process of microbe-host co-evolution. In this regard, it has been demonstrated that bifidobacteria are genetically adapted to survive and efficiently colonize the human gut due to their remarkable saccharolytic features as well as the production of many extracellular structures. Moreover, a rising number of investigations have shown the complex relationships of bifidobacteria with the human host, as well as with other microbes constituting the human gut microbiota. In this framework, the occurrence of members of the genus *Bifidobacterium* in the gut microbiota has been largely associated with positive health effects on the host across all stages of life. Remarkably, the ecological contribution of bifidobacteria as members of the human gut microbiota has been dissected in terms of shaping the gut microbiota and re-establishment the microbiota homeostasis through cross-feeding activities.

This special issue of *Microbiome Research Reports* will address relevant and recent information on this topic, so to generate a comprehensive and compiled overview of the biology of the genus *Bifidobacterium* and their interaction with the human gut microbiota.

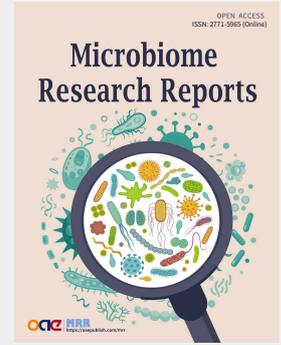
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Journal Introduction:

Microbiome Research Reports (MRR) is an international peer-reviewed, open access journal. The overall aim of *MRR* is to publish high quality researches from scientists with a common interest in microbiome/microbiota research in all its multidisciplinary aspects. The journal is founded by OAE Publishing Inc., under the guidance of our Editor-in-Chief Professor Marco Ventura (University of Parma, Italy). *MRR* was officially launched on July 26 2021. Looking forward to your attention and cooperation! Welcome to contact the editorial office for details, editorialoffice@mrrjournal.net.



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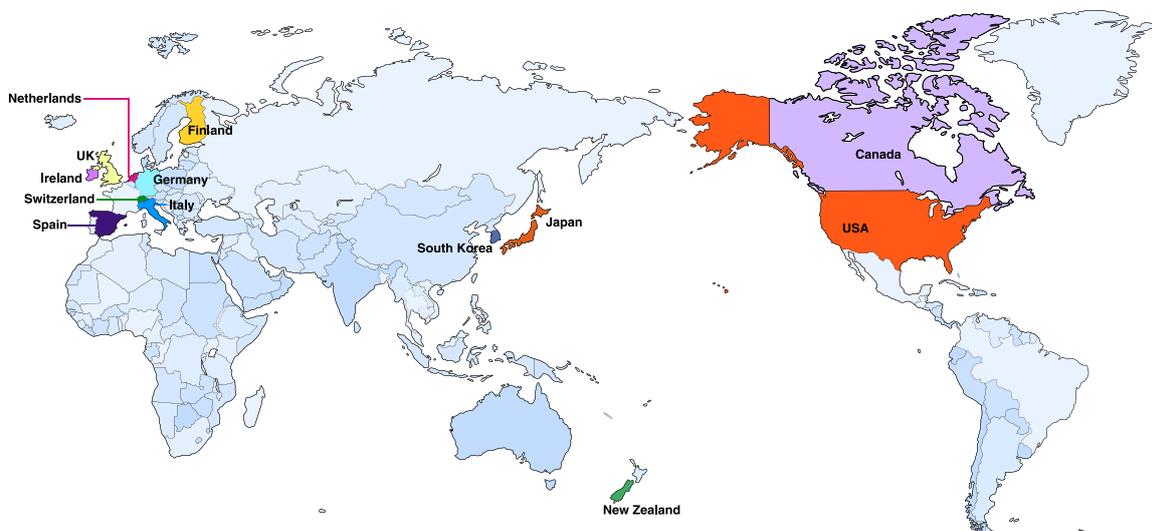
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