

AN AFFILIATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND MARLENE AND STEWART GREENEBAUM COMPREHENSIVE CANCER CENTER

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The role of the commensal microbiota in carcinogenesis and cancer therapy





National Institutes of Health

> NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Center for Cancer Research



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1683: First observation of commensal microbes (the microbiota)



On September 17, 1683 Antonie van Leeuwenhoek wrote to the Royal Society in London about observations on the plaque between his own teeth with his homemade microscope:

"I then most always saw, with great wonder, that in the said matter there were many very little living animalcules, very prettily a-moving".



Humans have co-evolved with microbial partners



Human microbiome project

BioBE Center Cameron Slayden Animator

- We are a composite of species: bacteria, archea, protozoa, fungi, viruses, bacteriophages
- Commensal microorganisms
 - inhabit all barrier surfaces of our organism
 - are at least as numerous as human cells
 - their DNA (the microbiome) contains 100 times more genes than our 'own' human genome



Humans are metaorganisms composed of the large host (human) cells and commensal microbial cells

The commensal microbiota is indispensable for the survival of the metaorganism and the crosstalk between the host and its microbiota regulates many physiological functions.



Changes in our microbiota...





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Transkingdom Networks: A Systems Biology Approach to Identify Causal Members of Host-Microbiota Interactions

Modified from: Ji B, Nielsen J. From next-generation sequencing to systematic modeling of the gut microbiome. Front Genet. 2015 HOST



Cancer as a disease of the human metaorganism



Cancer, Inflammation & the Microbiota



Rous Sarcoma Virus



Rous Sarcoma Virus induces tumors in adult birds at the site of injection or injury but not in sterile embryos even if the cells in the embryo express the Src viral oncogene and show a transformed phenotype when cultured *in vitro*.

> Bissell MJ, Hines WC (2011) Why don't we get more cancer? A proposed role of the microenvironment in restraining cancer progression. Nat Med 17: 320-9

> Dolberg DS, Bissell MJ (1984) Inability of Rous sarcoma virus to cause sarcomas in the avian embryo. Nature 309: 552-6

Dolberg DS, Hollingsworth R, Hertle M, Bissell MJ (1985) Wounding and its role in RSV-mediated tumor formation. Science 230: 676-8

Local and distant effects of the microbiota on cancer



The microbiota affects cancer cell genetic stability and proliferative pathways as well as inflammation and immunity in the tumor microenvironment



Fusobacterium nucleatum is present at higher frequency in the colon of CRC patients and particularly in the tumor area where it may form microfilms.

- > activation of E-cadherin– β -catenin signalling via the adhesion protein FadA
- > establishment of a pro-tumorigenic inflammatory microenvironment
- inhibition of antitumour immunity via the Fap2–TIGIT (T-cell immunoreceptor with Ig and ITIM domains)
- > upregulation of microRNA-21 to enhance cancer cell proliferation and invasion
- stimulation of cancer cell aut



Bullman, S. *et al.* Analysis of Fusobacterium persistence and antibiotic response in colorectal cancer. *Science* 35 1443–1448 (2017)

Nature Reviews | Gastroenterology & Hepatology

Colorectal carcinoma are enriched for biofilms harboring symbionts with capacity for tumorigenesis



Drewes JL, White JR, Dejea CM, Fathi P, Iyadorai T, Vadivelu J, Roslani AC, Wick EC, Mongodin EF, Loke MF, Thulasi K, Gan HM, Goh KL, Chong HY, Kumar S, Wanyiri JW, Sears CL. 2017. High-resolution bacterial 16S rRNA gene profile meta-analysis and biofilm status reveal common colorectal cancer consortia. *NPJ Biofilms Microbiomes 3: 34*

Colorectal carcinoma are enriched for biofilms harboring symbionts with capacity for tumorigenesis



Biofilm-positive samples were stained with DAPI (blue) and probes against four bacterial membership groups: Fusobacterium (yellow), Bacteroidetes (green), Lachnospiraceae (red), and Proteobacteria (magenta).

Drewes JL, White JR, Dejea CM, Fathi P, Iyadorai T, Vadivelu J, Roslani AC, Wick EC, Mongodin EF, Loke MF, Thulasi K, Gan HM, Goh KL, Chong HY, Kumar S, Wanyiri JW, Sears CL. 2017. High-resolution bacterial 16S rRNA gene profile meta-analysis and biofilm status reveal common colorectal cancer consortia. *NPJ Biofilms Microbiomes 3: 34*

Intratumoral bacteria: Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDA)

Intratumor bacteria, primarily Gammaproteobacteria, inactivate the chemotherapeutic drug gemcitabine by expressing the enzyme cytidine deaminase.



Geller, L. T., ... R. Straussman. 2017. Potential role of intratumor bacteria in mediating tumor resistance to the chemotherapeutic drug gemcitabine. Science 357: 1156-1160.



- PDAC long-term survivors display high tumor microbial diversity and immunoactivation
- A PDAC tumoral microbiome signature predicts PDAC long-term survival
- The gut microbiome modulates the PDAC tumor microbiome landscape
- Fecal microbial transplants can modulate tumors immunosuppression and growth

Riquelme, ... F. McAllister. 2019. Tumor Microbiome Diversity and Composition Influence Pancreatic Cancer Outcomes. *Cell 178: 795-806.e712.*

Pushalkar, S., M. G. Miller. 2018. The Pancreatic Cancer Microbiome Promotes Oncogenesis by Induction of Innate and Adaptive Immune Suppression. Cancer discovery 8: 403-416.

- Intratumor microbiome drives suppressive monocytic cellular differentiation in pancreatic cancer via selective Toll-like receptor ligation leading to T-cell anergy
- Targeting the microbiome protects against oncogenesis, reverses intratumoral immune tolerance, and enables efficacy for checkpoint-based immunotherapy

Intratumoral bacteria: Lung Microbiota and Cancer

Shannon index — [3.35,3.81) = = [3.81,4.13) · · [4.13,5.20]



- Higher microbiome α-diversity in normal lung tissue (but not tumor tissue) of NSCLC patients was associated with reduce disease-free survival
- The presence of Koribacteraceae was associated with increased survival, whereas greater abundance of families Bacteroidaceae, Lachnospiraceae, and Ruminococcaceae were associated with reduced survival

Peters, B. A., ... J. Ahn. 2019. The Microbiome in Lung Cancer Tissue and Recurrence-Free Survival. Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev 28: 731-740.

- Homeostasis Alveolar macrophage Vestrophil OBT Vestrophil Ve
- Depletion of commensal microbiota suppresses lung adenocarcinoma development induced in mice by Kras mutation and p53 loss
- Lung cancer development is associated with local dysbiosis and inflammation
- Microbiota drive proliferation and activation of Vy6+V δ 1+ T cells in lung cancer
- $\gamma\delta$ T cells promote neutrophil infiltration and tumor cell proliferation

Jin, C., ...T. Jacks. 2019. Commensal Microbiota Promote Lung Cancer Development via gammadelta T Cells. Cell 176: 998-1013.e1016.

- This study of 142 lung cancer patients and 33 healthy control showed both microbiome-gene and microbiome-exposure interactions in lung cancer tissue.
- Specifically, squamous cell carcinoma harboring TP53 mutations, which can impair epithelial function, have a unique bacterial consortium that in smokingassociated tumors shows higher relative abundance of certain species such as *Acidovorax*.

Greathouse, K. L., ...C. C. Harris. 2018. Interaction between the microbiome and TP53 in human lung cancer. Genome biology 19: 123. Microbiota-host interaction in colon carcinogenesis



Lack of IL-18R signaling in CD11b⁺ myeloid cells induces a transmissible dysbiosis that affects both tumor initiation and promotion



Host genetics may affect the mouse phenotype by modifying the composition of the microbiota



Phenotype

(e.g. spontaneous colitis, susceptibility to inducer of colitis and carcinogenesis, tumor growth, response to anticancer therapy, response to vaccination)

Bacterial Dysbiosis

Virus infection (e.g. norovirus)

Reactivation of endogenous retroviruses (ERVs) (lymphomas, mouse) or Pro-inflammatory ERV transcript (humans)

Mycosis → Oral and esophageal carcinogenesis (humans and mouse)

> Protozoan parasites (e.g. *Trichomonas muris*) Protozoan viruses

Wild type mice (co-housed, fecal transplant, fostering)



No phenotype Partial phenotype Full phenotype

Is the response to cancer therapy regulated by the commensal bacteria?



Is the response to cancer therapy regulated by commensal bacteria?



Science, 2013; 342:967-70

Antibiotics (ABX) suppress the anti-tumor effect of immune and chemo therapy



lida N, Dzutsev A, Stewart CA,Belkaid Y, Trinchieri G, Goldszmid RS. 2013. Commensal bacteria control cancer response to therapy by modulating the tumor microenvironment. Science 342: 967-70

MC38 subcutaneous tumor

EL4 subcutaneous tumor

Antibiotics (ABX) suppress TNF-mediated early necrosis of the tumor and decrease inflammatory cytokine production following anti-IL-10R/CpG



ABX decrease TNF and IL-12 production by tumorinfiltrating myeloid cells following alL-10R/CpG



ABX impair oxaliplatin therapy by preventing production of ROS from NOX2 + myeloid cells that is required for DNA damage after formation of platinum DNA adducts



L-012 Bioluminescence (ROS)

- EL4 tumors-bearing B6 mice were treated with 10mg/kg oxaliplatin
- ROS-induced bioluminescence using the L-012 probe was analyzed 24 hours after oxaliplatin injection



Melanoma

immunotherapy in melanoma patients

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Faecalibacterium prausnitzii

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Ruminococcaceae

Clostridiales

Science

Cite as: V. Gopalakristinan et al.,

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Akkermansia muciniphila Alistipes spp

CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

The commensal microbiome is associated with anti-PD-1 efficacy in metastatic melanoma patients

Vyara Matson,1+ Jessica Fessler,1+ Riyue Bao,2,3+ Tara Chongsuwat,4 Yuanyuan Zha,4

Bifidobacterium longum Collinsella aerofaciens Enterococcus faecium.

Anti-PD1 treated melanoma patients Massane Zarour, Diwakar Davar and John Kirkwood Melanoma and Skin Cancer program, U. Pittsburgh

p=0.007 Bacteroides nordii |L2FC= -2.7

- p=0.012 Prevotella ihumii |L2FC= -2.6
- p=0.026 Alistipes senegalensis |L2FC= -2.1
- p=0.021 Collinsella_intestinalis |L2FC= -3.5
- p=0.033 Alistipes Unclassified |L2FC= -2.6
 - p=0.039 Johnsonella ignava |L2FC= -2.7
- p=0.049 c Gammaproteobacteria |L2FC= -2.2





Maria-Luisa Alegre, 4 Jason J. Luke, 4 Thomas F. Gajewski1,4+

Melanoma

Chicago Pittsburgh Paris Houston 0.026 Rec Alistipes senegalensis **St**l punq mi 0.007 ns Log2 relative Bacteriodes nordii NR R NR R NR NR

REPORTS

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Melanoma

CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY

The commensal microbiome is associated with anti-PD-1 efficacy in metastatic melanoma patients

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Grocery s natural dis vegan foo



doi:10.1038/nature25973



Environment dominates over host genetics in shaping human gut microbiota

Daphna Rothschild^{1,2*}, Omer Weissbrod^{1,2*}, Elad Barkan^{1,2*}, Alexander Kurilshikov³, Tal Korem^{1,2}, David Zeevi^{1,2}, Paul I. Costea^{1,2}, Anastasia Godneva^{1,2}, Iris N. Kalka^{1,2}, Noam Bar^{1,2}, Smadar Shilo^{1,2}, Dar Lador^{1,2}, Arnau Vich Vila^{3,4}, Niv Zmora^{5,6,7}, Meirav Pevsner–Fischer⁵, David Israeli⁸, Noa Kosower^{1,2}, Gal Malka^{1,2}, Bat Chen Wolf^{1,2}, Tali Avnit–Sagi^{1,2}, Maya Lotan–Pompan^{1,2}, Adina Weinberger^{1,2}, Zamir Halpern^{7,9}, Shai Carmi¹⁰, Jingyuan Fu^{3,11}, Cisca Wijmenga^{3,12}, Alexandra Zhernakova³, Eran Elinav⁵§ & Eran Segal^{1,2}§



Microbiota taxonomic identification in cancer patients may be affected by geography, disease and sequencing technology



Melanoma patients have different microbiota composition than healthy donors and both alpha and beta diversity change with disease progression



Submitted

Christine Spencer Marie Vetizou

Jennifer McQuade Carrie Daniel Jennifer Wargo



Mouse and, in part, clinical studies have established an important modulating role of the gut microbiome composition on the immune-checkpoint inhibition cancer therapy



Marie Vetizou

Microbiota analysis



Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, 1683: First observation of commensal microbes



B MICROBIOME TO IMPROVE THERAPY RESPONSE?

- Diet
- > Antibiotics
- Probiotics
- Prebiotics
- Fecal transplant
- > Oral formulation of bacteria or their spores

'LE FERMENT' APPARATUS BY METCHNIKOFF, C1910





Le Professeur METCHNIK

Lung and renal cancer

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Gut microbiome modulates response to anti-PD-1 immunotherapy in melanoma patients

Science

FMT

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Ruminococcaceae **Clostridiales** Faecalibacterium prausnitzii

Bacteria consortium in a pill

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Science

Melanoma



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Bifidobacterium longum Collinsella aerofaciens Enterococcus faecium

Selected *Bifidobacterium spp* probiotics

NCT03817125: Melanoma Checkpoint and Gut Microbiome	Alteration With Microbiome
Intervention (MCGRAW). Parker Institute for Cancer Immun Inc. Administration (SER-401 [®] consortium of live bacteria (spores	NCT03775850 A Study of EDP1503 in Patients With Colorectal Cancer, Breast Cancer, and Checkpoint Inhibitor Relapsed Tumors. Evelo Biosciences, Inc.
without preconditioning with vancomycin) in Combination W Melanoma Patients	NCT03595683 Pembrolizumab and EDP1503 in Advanced Melanoma. University of Chicago and Evelo Biosciences, Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb and Vedanta Biosciences to treat adva with anti-PD1 and VE800 VE800 is a lyophilized preparation (pills) of 8 bacterial strains in experimental animals based on Kenya Honda work	Monoclonal microbial EDP1503 is an orally available preparation derived from a single clone of <i>Bifidobacterium</i> spp. with potential immunomodulatory and antineoplastic activities based on Tom Gajewski work
P 0 0	

Associations of OTC probiotic use with features of the gut microbiome and response to melanoma therapy





Spencer, C., McQuade, J.L., Vetizou, M. McCulloch, J. Trinchieri, G., Daniel-McDouglas C., Wargo, J. **Submitted**

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Science

CANCER IMMUNOTHERAPY Cite as. B. Routy et al., Science 10.1126/science.min3706 (2017)

Gut microbiome influences efficacy of PD-1-based immunotherapy against epithelial tumors

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Akkermansia muciniphila

Alistipes spp

The commensal microbiome is associated with anti-PD-1 efficacy in metastatic melanoma patients

Melanoma

Vyara Matson,1+ Jessica Fessler,1+ Riyue Bao,2,3+ Tara Chongsuwat,4 Yuanyuan Zha,4 Maria-Luisa Alegre,4 Jason J. Luke,4 Thomas F. Gajewski1,4

Bifidobacterium longum

Collinsella aerofaciens Enterococcus faecium

Fecal microbiome transplant (FMT)



Science

NCT03341143: Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) in Melanoma Patients. University of Pittsburgh

12 anti-PD1 refractory patients have been transplanted with the fecal microbiome from responsive patients and treated again with pembrolizumab[®]:

Enrolled: 12; Evaluable: 8 Best Response: 1 PR, 1 CR, 5 SD, 1 PD Current Response: 1 PR, 1 CR, 2 SD, 4 PD We are working with the University of Pittsburgh by characterizing the changes in microbiota composition in the transplanted patients by metagenomic analysis and testing the transplanted microbiomes in gnotobiotic mice in conventional conditions or following diet alterations.

NCT03353402: Fecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT) in Metastatic Melanoma Patients Who Failed Immunotherapy. Sheba Medical Center Tel HaShomer, Israel

NCT03341143: Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) in Melanoma Patients. University of Pittsburgh

NCT03772899: Fecal Microbial Transplantation in Combination With Immunotherapy in Melanoma Patients (MIMic). Lawson Health Research Institute, London, CA

AACR April 2019 General Meeting

Patient 1: PR (7 months) Patient 2: PD Patient 3: PR (2 months), PD

Gal Markel and Ben Boursi

Sheba Medical Center in Ramat Gan, Israel



Fecal transplants could help patients on cancer immunotherapy drugs

By Jocelyn Kaiser | Apr. 5, 2019 , 1:45 PM



NCT03341143: Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) in Melanoma Patients. University of Pittsburgh







NCT03341143: Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT)

in anti-PD1 refractory Melanoma Patients. University of Pittsburgh



Enrolled: 12; Evaluable: 8 Best Response: 1 PR, 1 CR, 5 SD, 1 PD Current Response: 1 PR, 1 CR, 2 SD, 4 PD

NCT03341143: Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) in Melanoma Patients. Metagenomic analysis of microbiome in donors and recipients

FMT: PT180005toPT180007 Response: Partial Response



FMT: PT180002 to PT180018 Response: Progressive Disease







John McCulloch Marie Vetizou

NCT03341143: Fecal Microbiota Transplant (FMT) in Melanoma Patients. Testing FMT donors in gnotobiotic mice



Responder patients as FMT donors

Humanized gnotobiotic mice





Marie Vetizou

Effect of dietary fiber intake on anti-PD1 Response

100%-

Effect of high/low fiber diet on anti-PD1 response in melanoma patients



(McQuade, SMR 2018)

p=0.05

Spencer, C. McQuade, J.L. Vetizou, M.

•••••

McCulloch, J.

•••••

Trinchieri, G. Daniel-McDouglas C. Wargo, J. Submitted



p= 0.007

R





OR: 1.02-26.25

Effect of dietary fiber intake on anti-PD1 Response



Marie Vetizou



Spencer, C. McQuade, J.L. Vetizou, M. McCulloch, J.

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Trinchieri, G. Daniel-McDouglas C. Wargo, J. Submitted



Mouse and, in part, clinical studies have established an important modulating role of the gut microbiome composition on the immune-checkpoint inhibition cancer therapy



Scene from Federico Fellini's "E la nave va" (1983)



IT IS LIKE WATCHING A FELLINI'S MOVIE: SOMETHING CLEARLY IMPORTANT IS HAPPENING BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT IT IS

John McCulloch

PAST

PROGRESS/GOALS



Mouse and, in part, clinical studies have established an important modulating role of the gut microbiome composition on the immune-checkpoint inhibition cancer therapy

- ✓ Discovery of reliable microbiome-related biomarkers for prediction of response and stratification of patients
- ✓ Identification of favorable microbiomes for fecal transfer from responder patients or healthy donors
- ✓ Identification of consortia of commensal bacteria that favor a clinical response
- ✓ Identification of perturbations (diet, prebiotics, etc.) able to induce or maintain a favorable microbiome composition
- ✓ Identification and therapeutic use of bacterial metabolites enhancing anti-tumor immunity
- ✓ Targeting molecular pathways by which the hostmicrobiome cross-talk enhance the anti-cancer response

Cancer therapy

Dysbiosis & mouse genetics

Prepartum ABX

Chemotherapy toxicity & cachexia

Colon carcinogenesis

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> **Amiran Dzutsev Ton Sales Indira Rao**

Stephanie Prescott

Soumen Roy Rodrigo Das Neves Carolyne Smith Raquel Costa Bathai Edwards

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