

GUT MICROBIOTA, MUCOSAL IMMUNITY AND THEIR IMPACT ON BRAIN PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

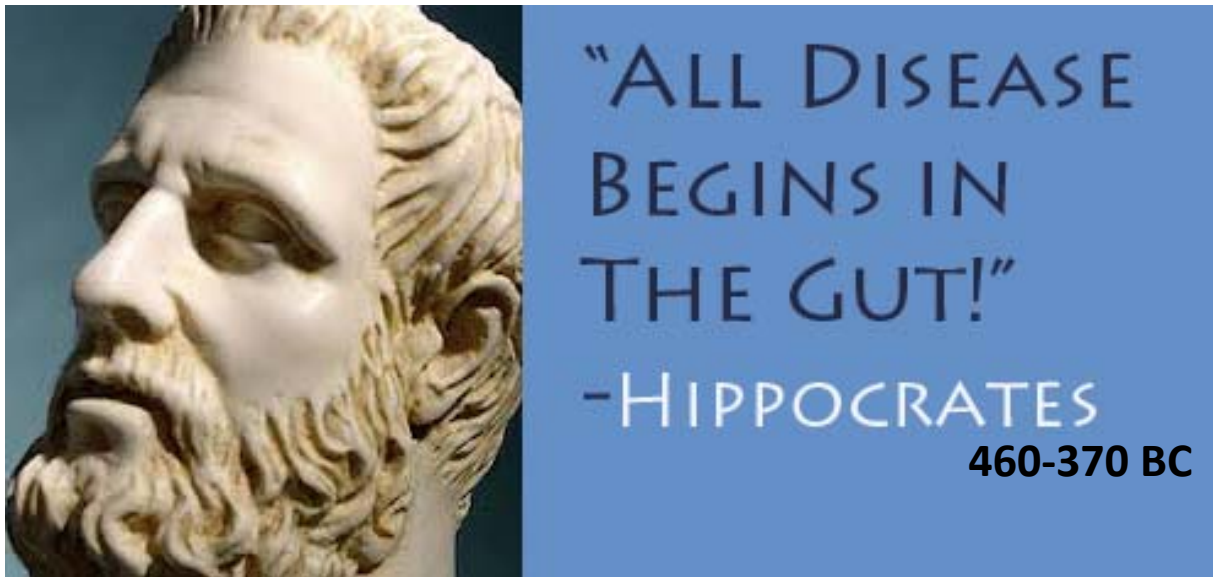
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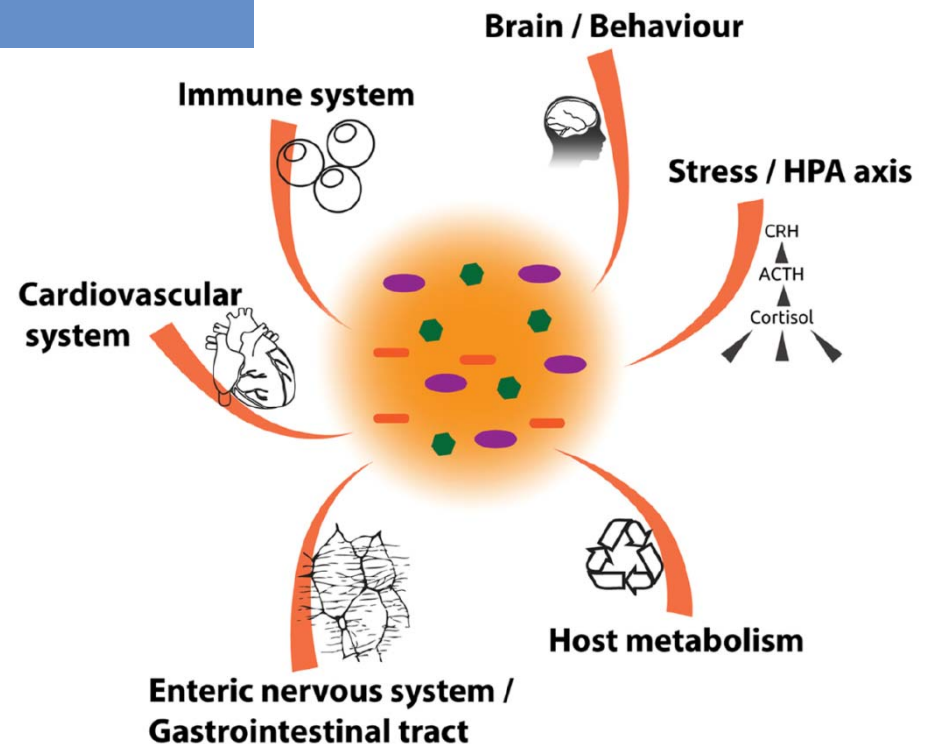
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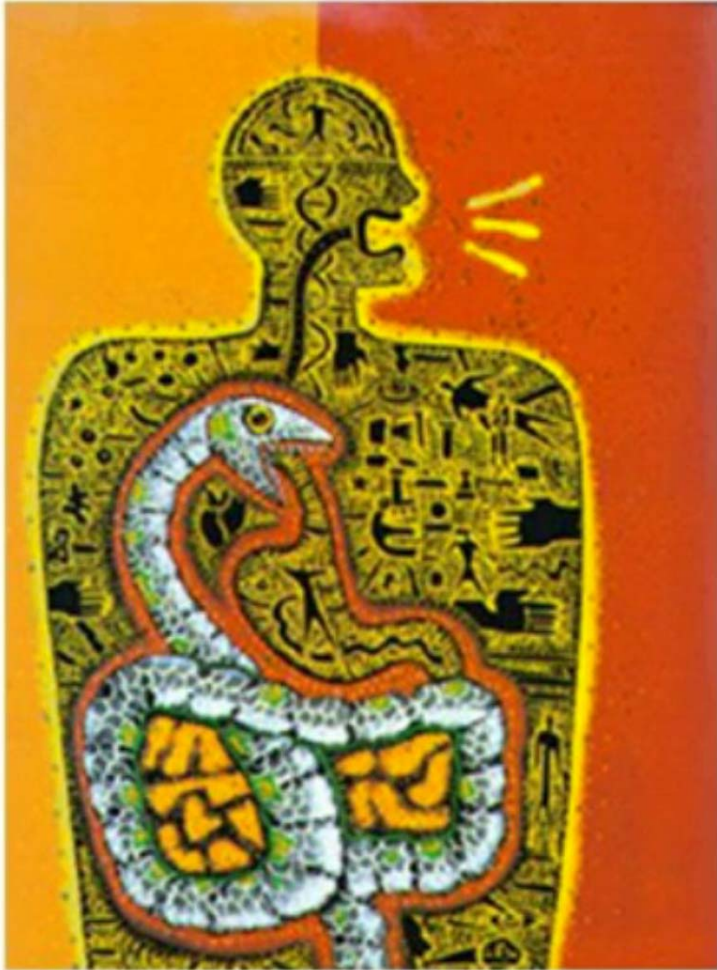
All disease begins in the gut



- First to be recognized for systematically using diet and exercise to treat life-style diseases.



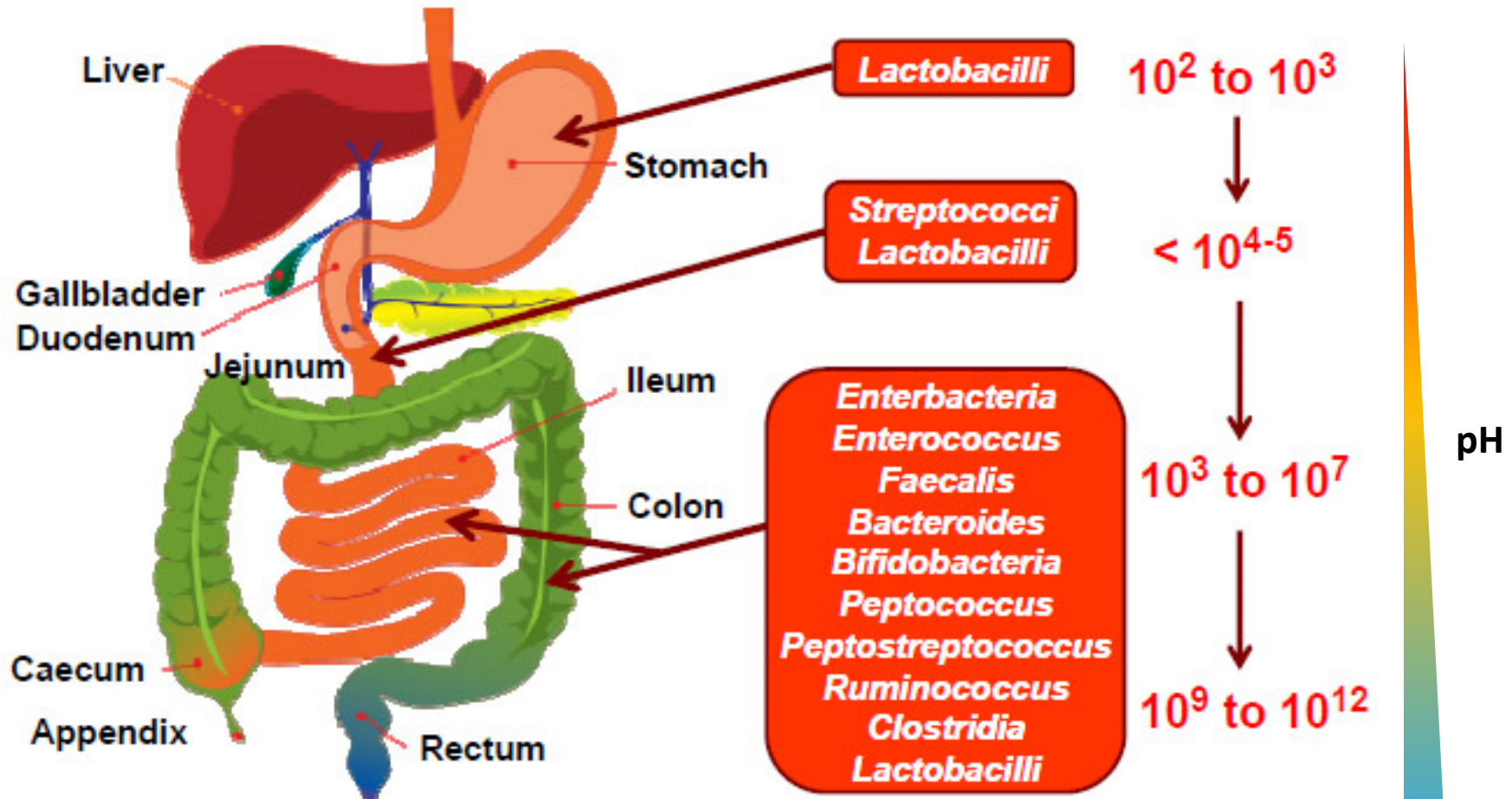
The human Gut and its inhabitants in numbers



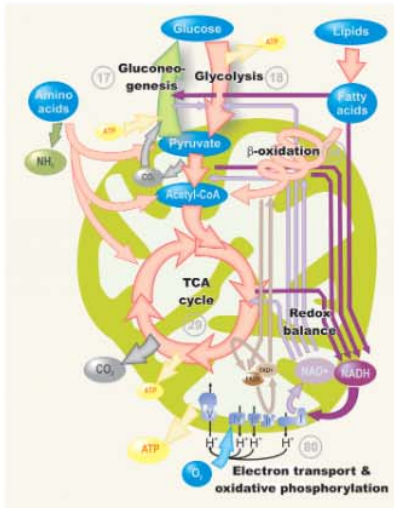
- 30 tons of food and 50.000 L during a lifetime
- Huge mucosal surface:150-200 m²
- >50 billions of new bacteria every day
- 70-80% of all immune cells are located in the Gut.
- 1-2g secretory IgA per day
- 100 millions of neurons (as many as in the spinal cord).
- 10¹⁴ bacteria: x10 number of cells in the entire body, i.e. 1-2 kg.
- 10-100 times more bacterial genes than human genes.

Spatial distribution of gut microbiota

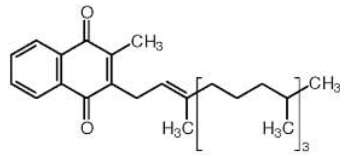
> 500 differentes species 10^{14} micro-organisms



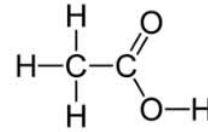
Gut Microbiota in health



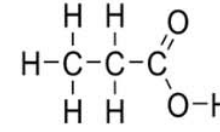
- Increases the metabolic capacity of the host.
 - Digestion of otherwise unused food components.



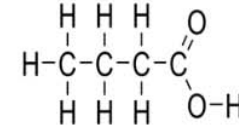
Vitamin synthesis
(eg Vitamin K)



Acetic acid (acetate)



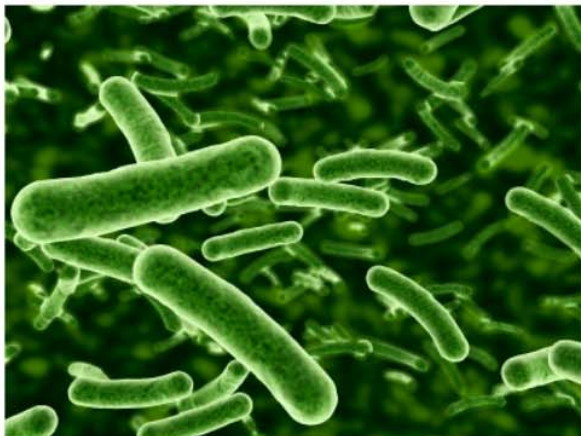
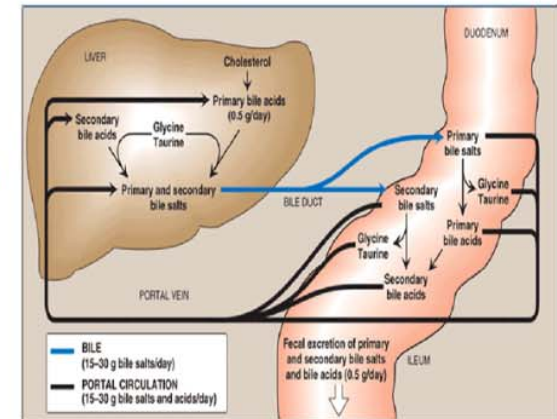
Propionic acid (propionate)



Butyric acid (butyrate)

Production of short chain fatty acids

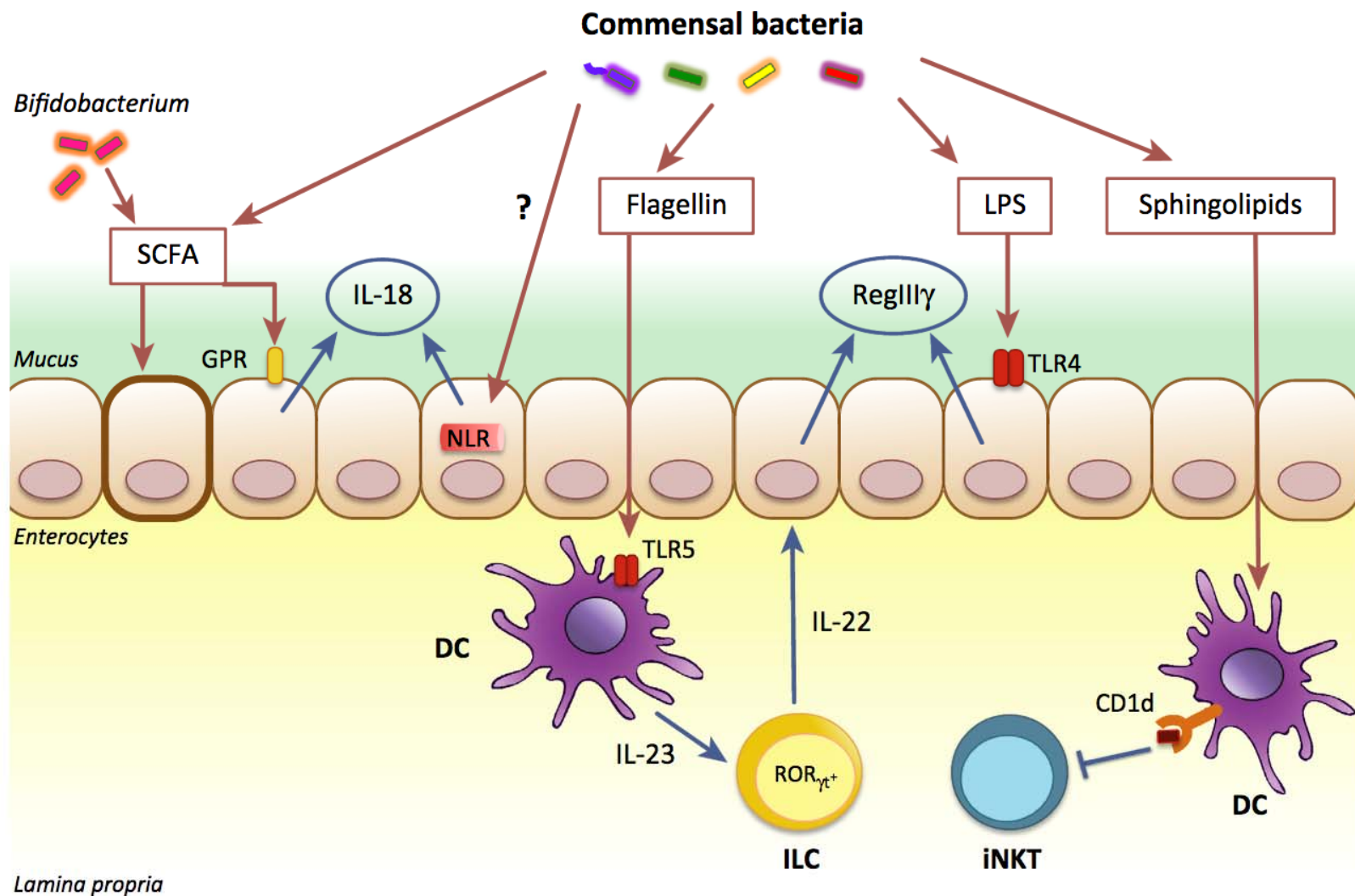
Completion of the bile-salt cycle



Protect the host from colonization with pathogenic bacteria (Colonization resistance)

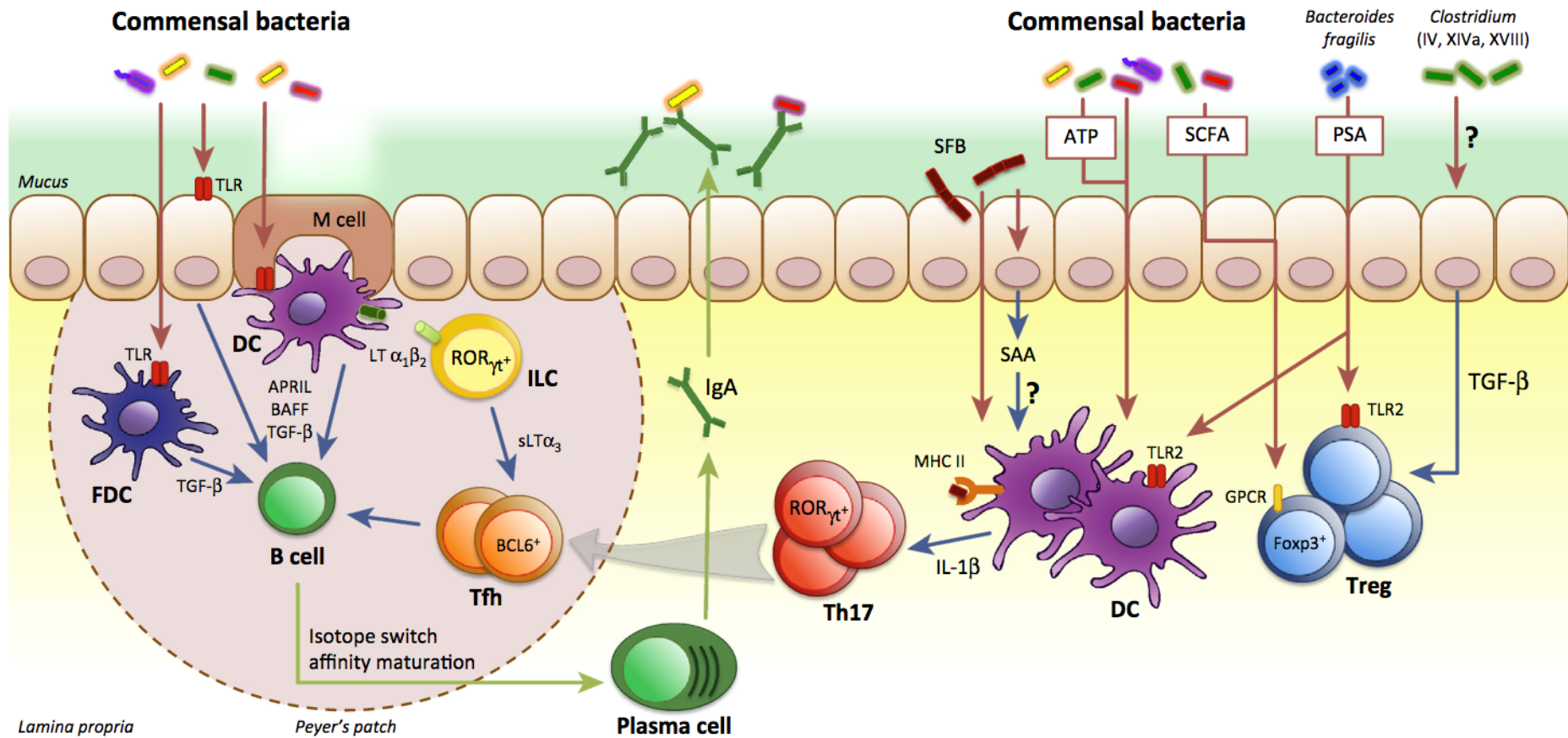
Gut Microbiota in health - Innate immunity

- Microbiota regulates intestinal immune responses primarily through the production of pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) and metabolic by-products

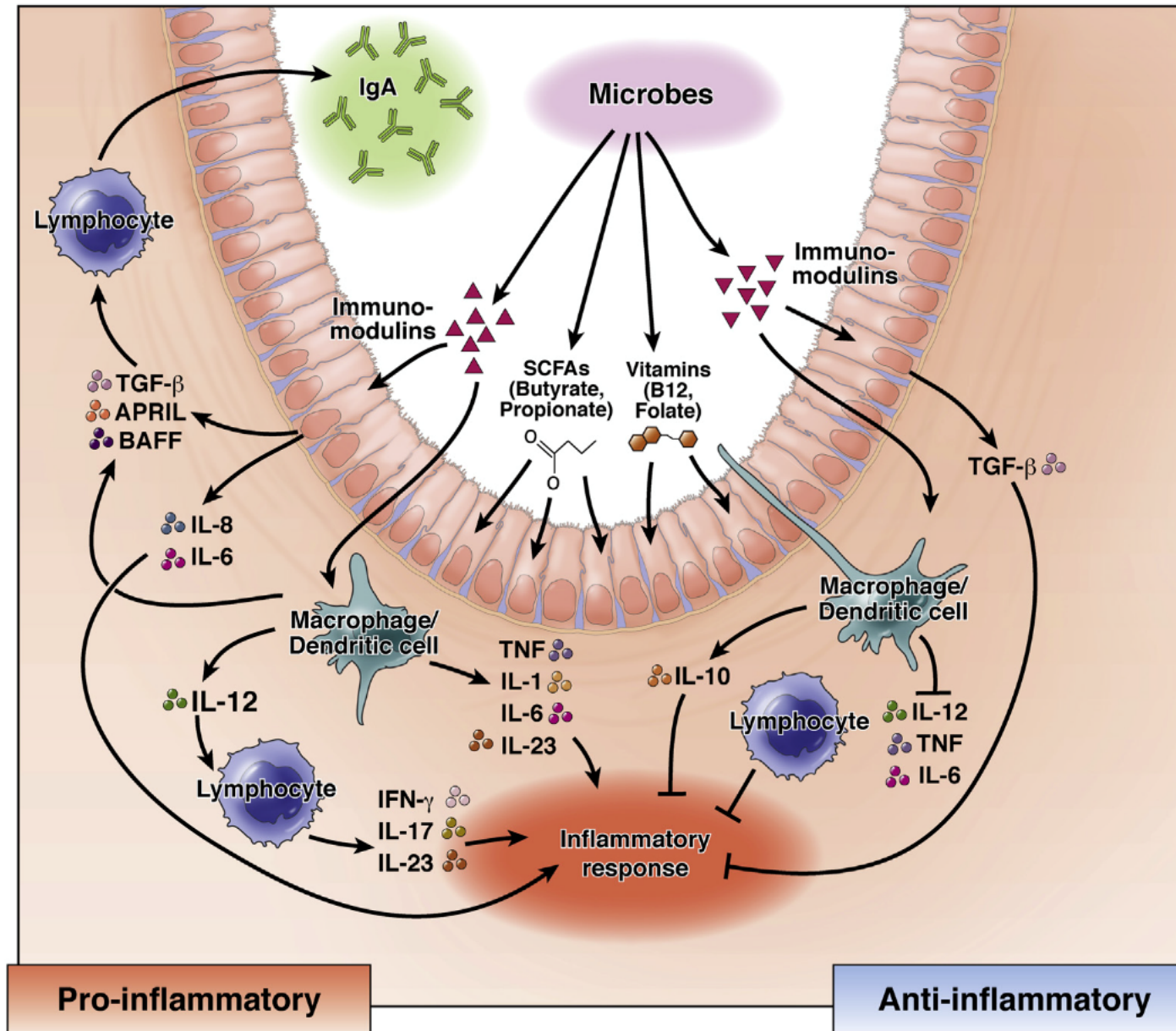


Gut Microbiota in health - adaptive immunity

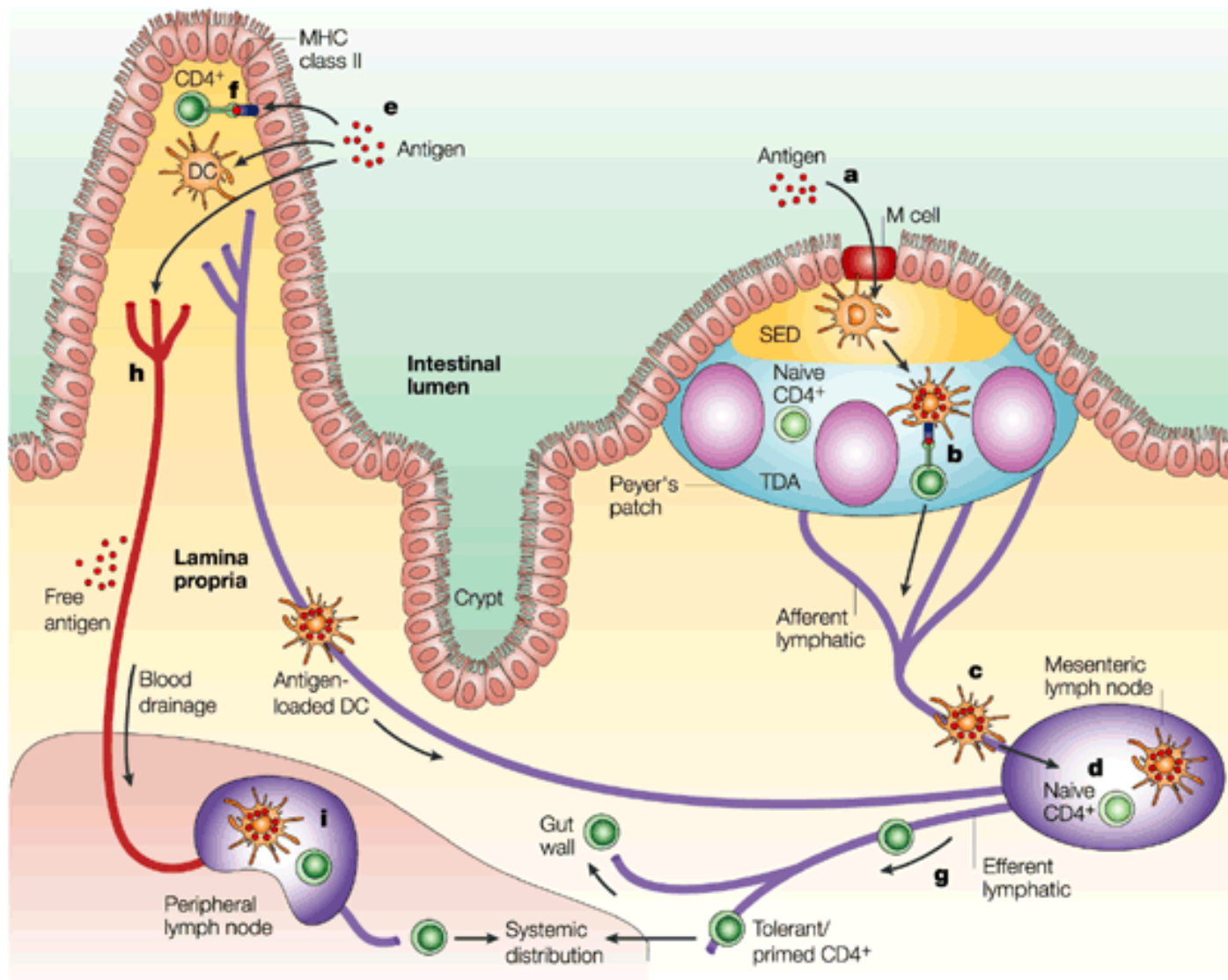
- Microbiota stimulation leads to B cell switch to IgA, regulatory T cell induction, T cell differentiation to Th17



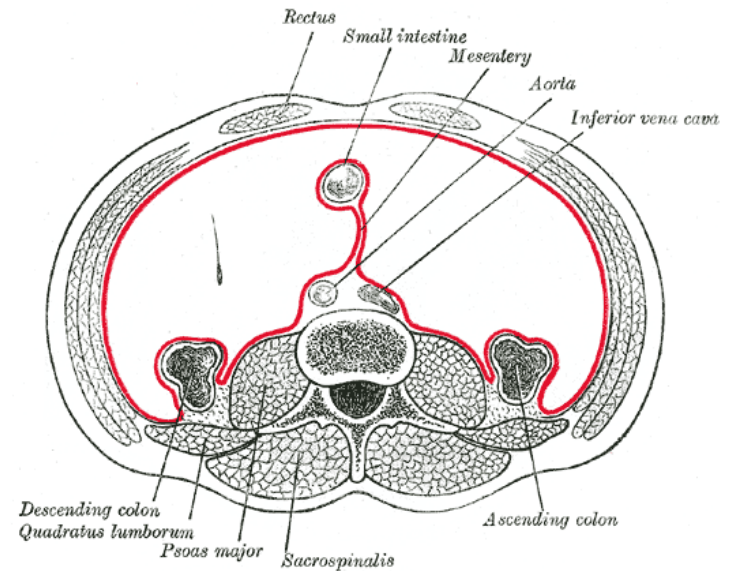
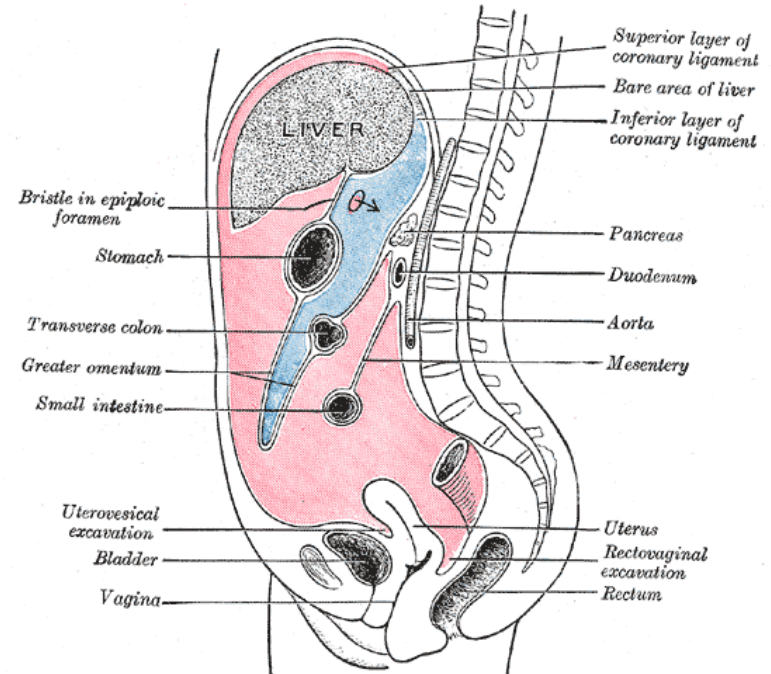
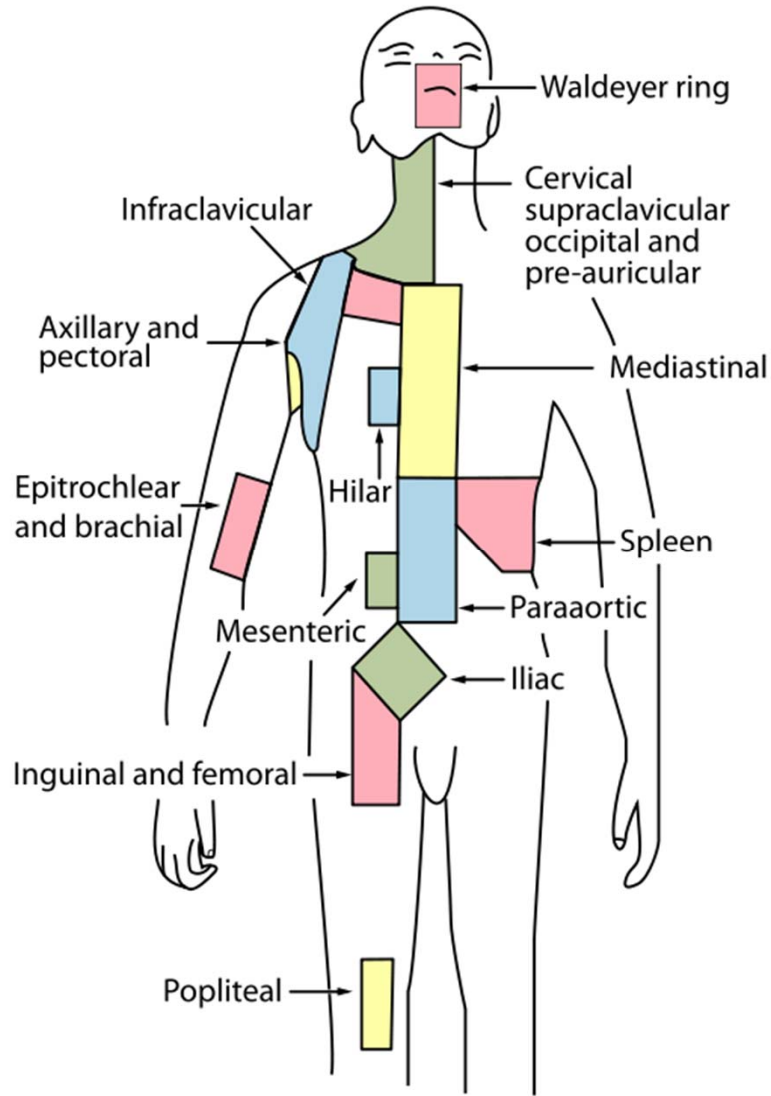
Bacterial-derived Metabolites are key components of cross-talk



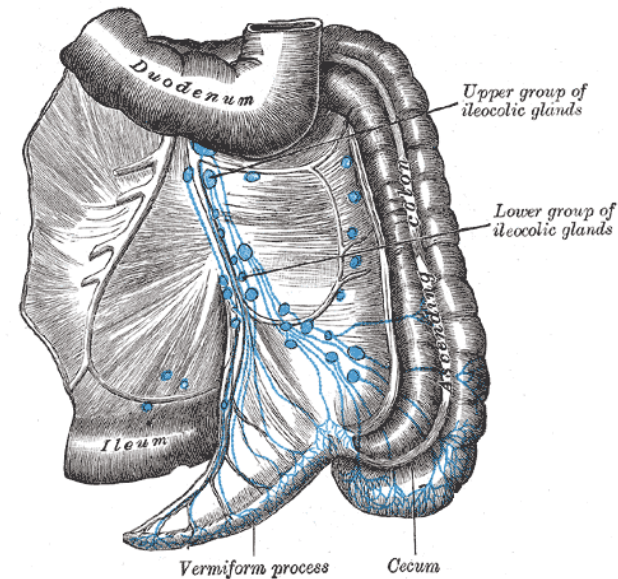
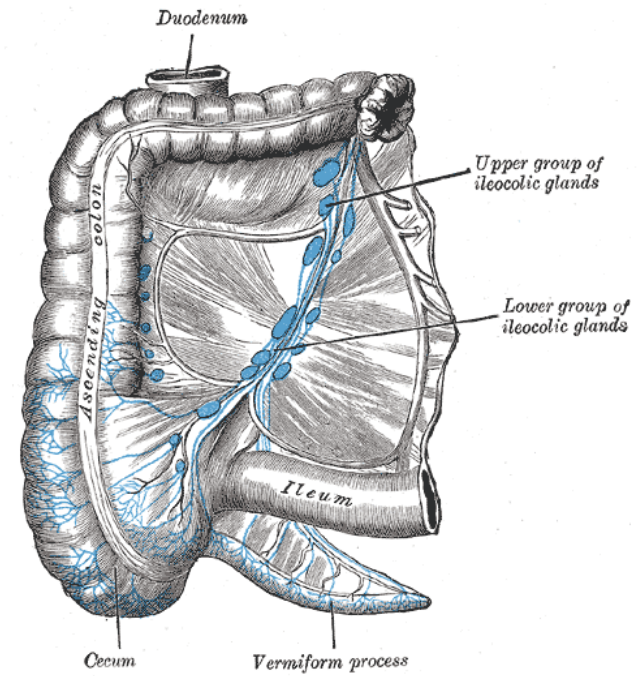
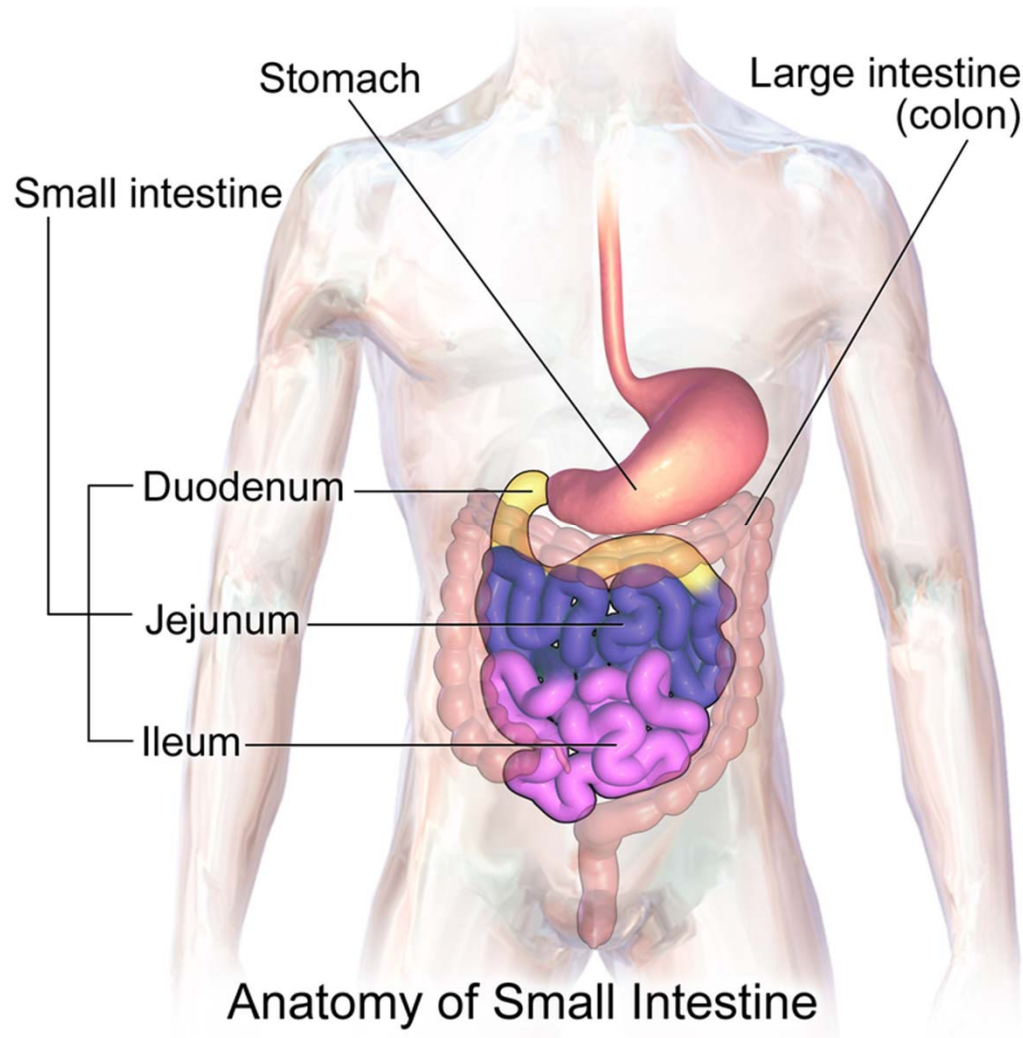
Antibody characteristics



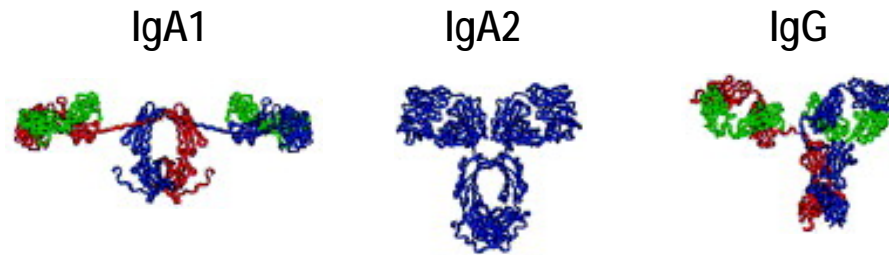
Mesenteric lymph nodes



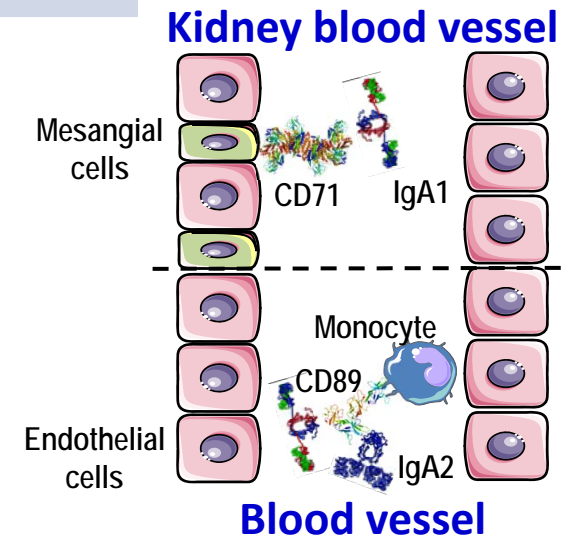
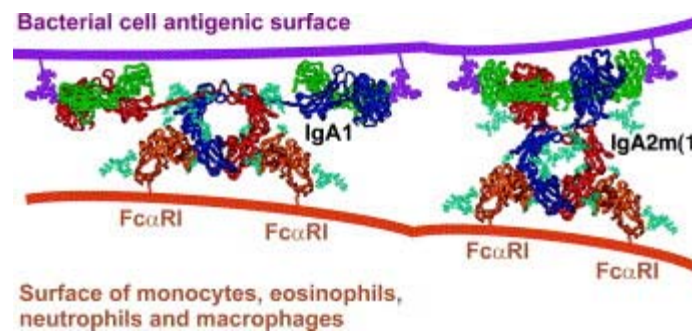
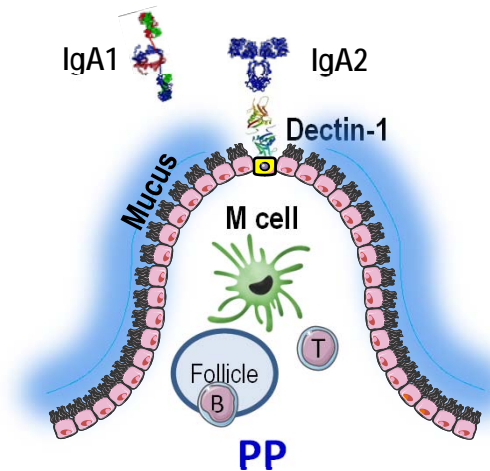
Mesenteric lymph nodes



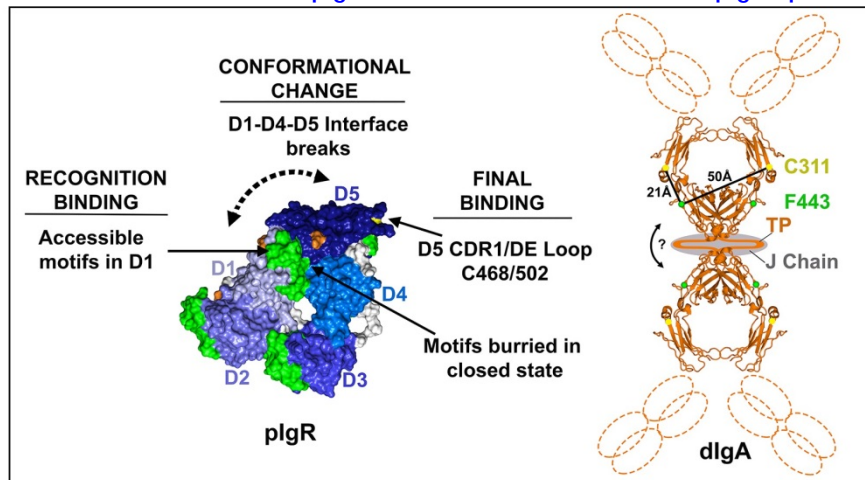
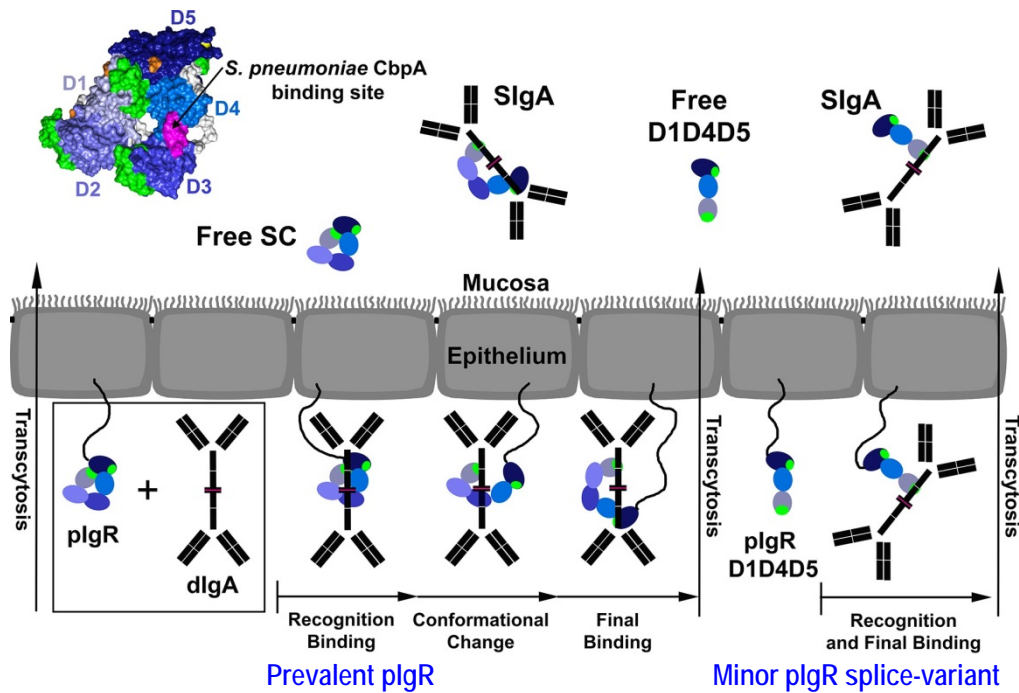
Antibody characteristics



| | IgA1 | IgA2 | IgG |
|---------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| Serum | 90% | 10% | 10mg/ml |
| Mucosa | 50% | 50% | 0 mg/ml (non-path) |
| Receptor | pIgR FcαRI (CD89) ASGP-R (liver) CD71 (Mesangial cells, lymphoid cells) | pIgR FcαRI (CD89) ASGP-R (liver) Dectin-1 / Siglec-5 (M cells) | |
| Protease resistance | Medium | High | Low |



Poly Ig Receptor (pIgR), Secretory component (SC) and plgs



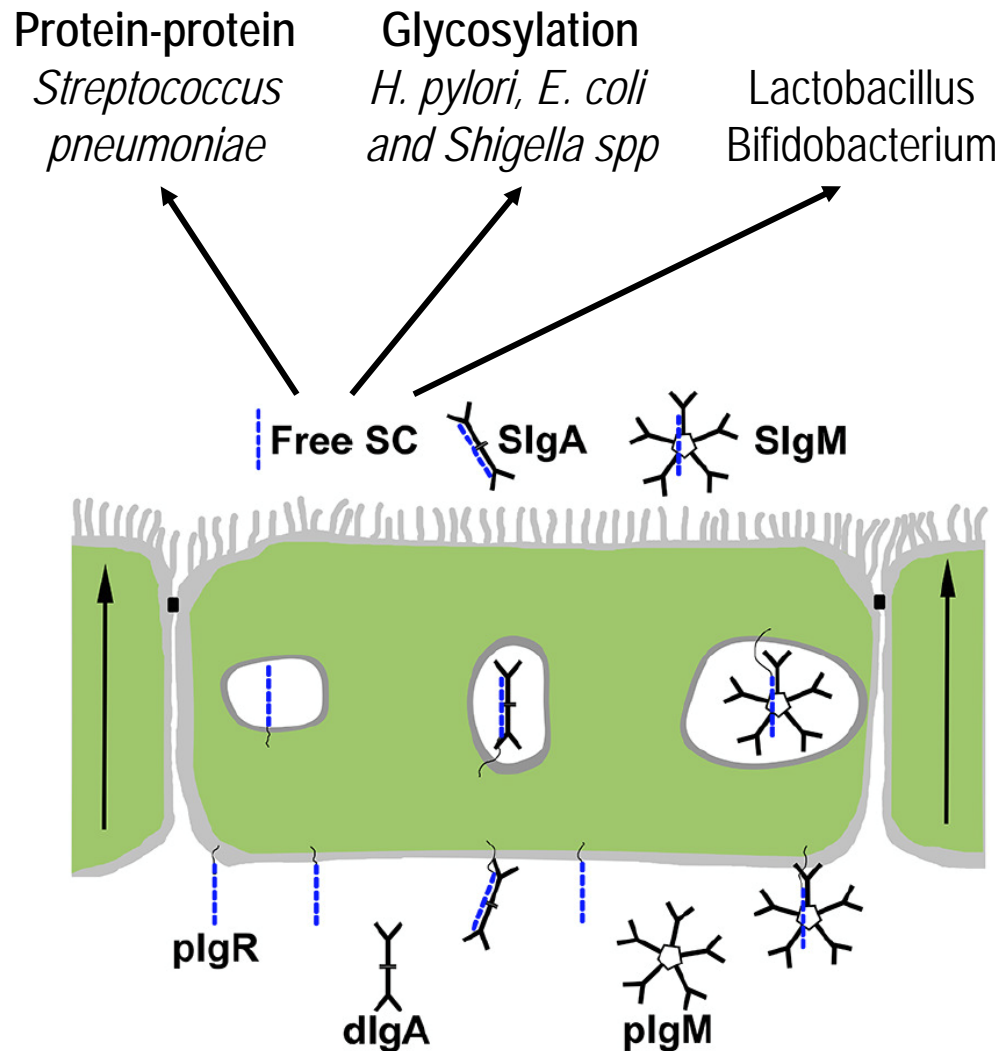
Human pIgR:

- Glycosylated type I membrane protein
- Five tandem immunoglobulin-like (Ig-like) domains (620AA)
- Transmembrane domain (23AA)
- Intracellular domain (103AA)

pIgR in evolution

- Oldest identifiable Fc receptor,
- Teleost (bony) fish (2 Ig-like domains)
- Birds, amphibians and reptiles (4 Ig-like domains)
- Mammals (5 Ig-like domains (D1-D5)) plus a splice variant (D1D4D5)

Poly Ig Receptor (pIgR), Secretory component (SC) and plgs



Secretory component

- <50% of pIgR transcytose in empty state.
- Free SC may bind bacteria and toxins.
 - *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (protein-protein)
 - *H. pylori*, *E. coli* and *Shigella spp* (glycosylation)
 - Lactobacillus and Bifidobacterium (unknown binding mode)
- Free SC may bind mucus (glycosylation dependent).
- Free SC binds pIgM 10x stronger than dIgA (maybe not identical to pIgR affinity)

pIgR – dimeric-IgA (dIgA)

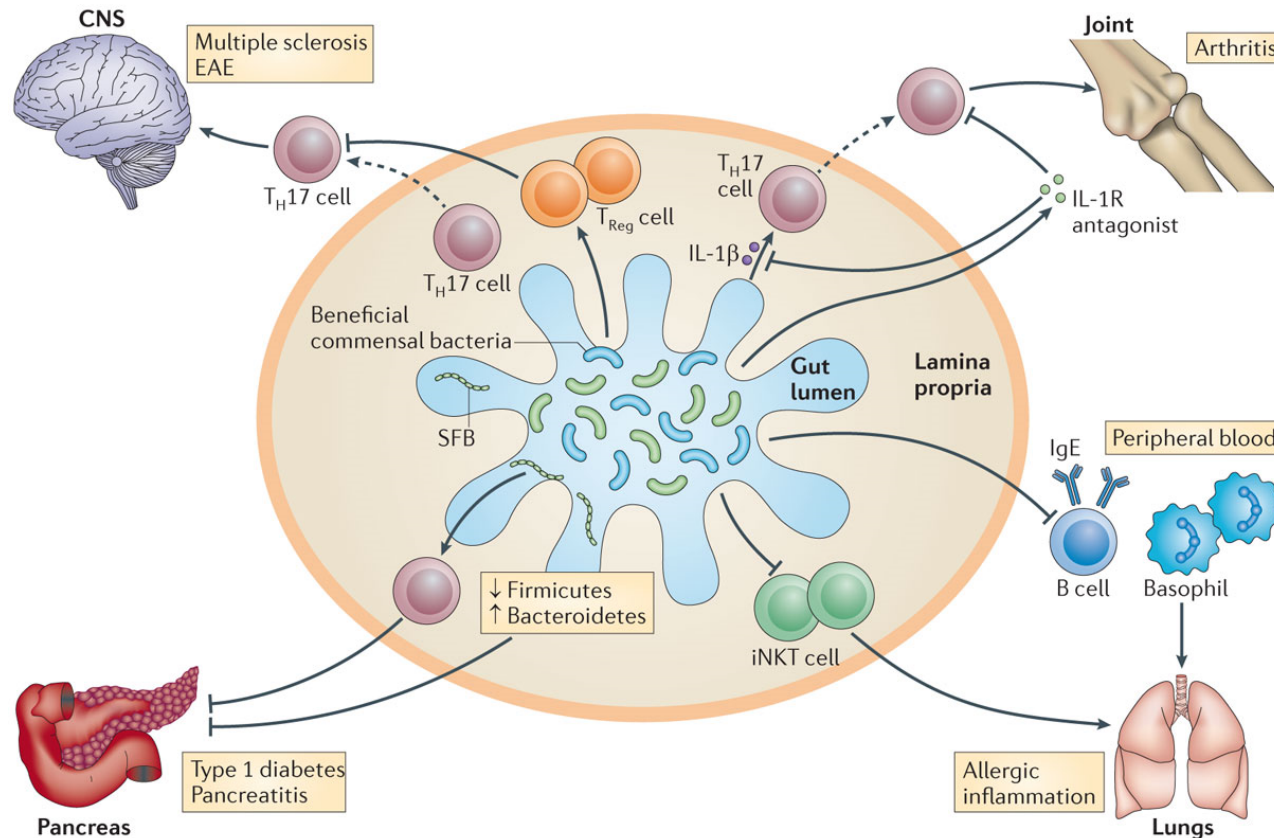
- Bound by pIgR of all tetrapods (J-chain is equally conserved).
- Bound by D1 followed by D5 (D5 is finally covalently attached)

pIgR – pentameric-IgM

- Bound by D1 but not D5.
- Not covalently linked

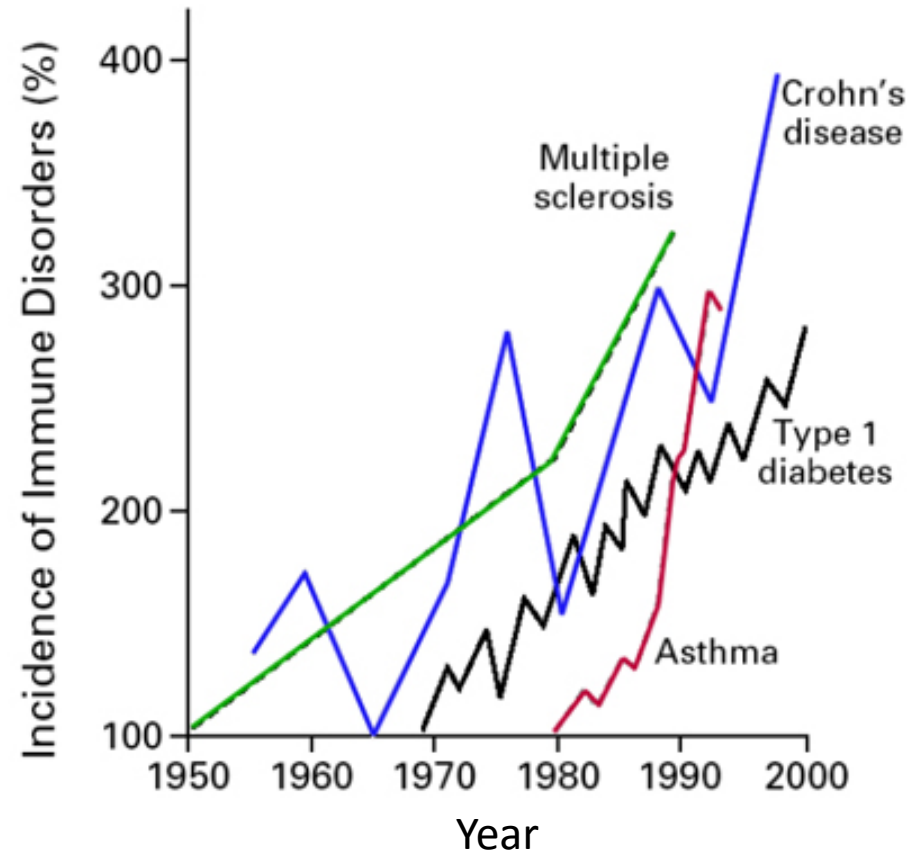
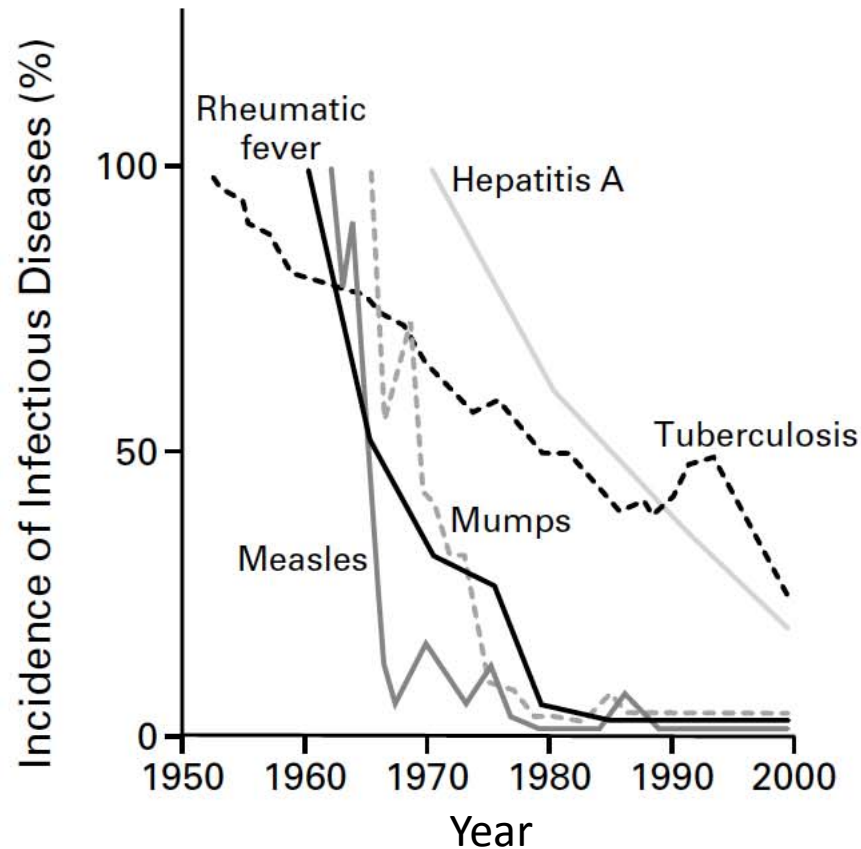
Gut microbiota and autoimmunity

Autoimmunity associated with gut microbiota



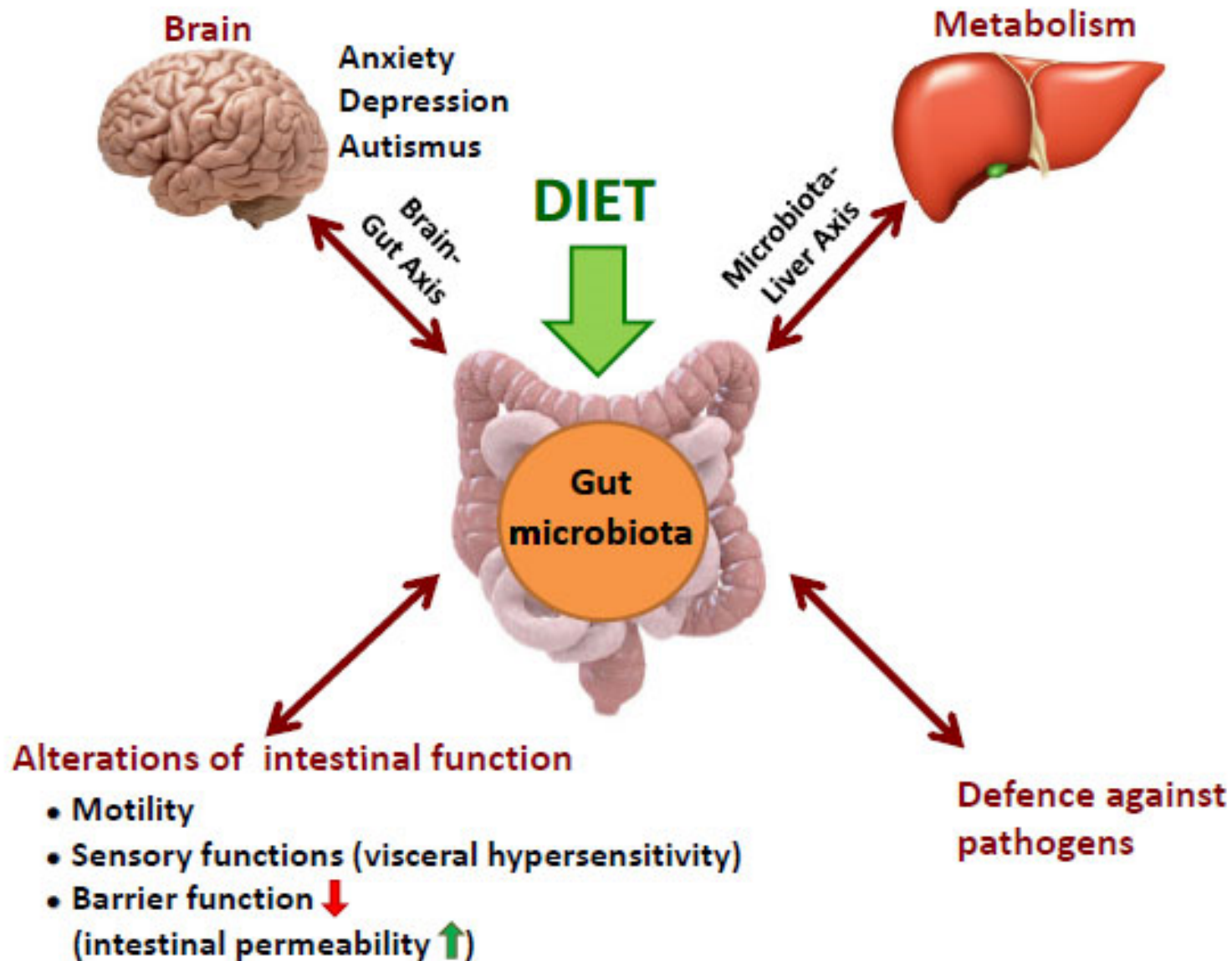
- IBD ([Arumugam et al. Nature 2011](#), [Juste et al. Gut 2014](#), [Palm et al. Cell 2014](#))
- Type-1 Diabetes ([Qin et al. Nature 2012](#), [Markle et al. Science 2013](#))
- Arthritis ([Scher et al. Nat Rev Rheumatol 2011](#), [Scher et al. eLife 2013](#))
- Allergy ([Russell et al. EMBO Rep 2012](#))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

Hygiene theory and autoimmunity

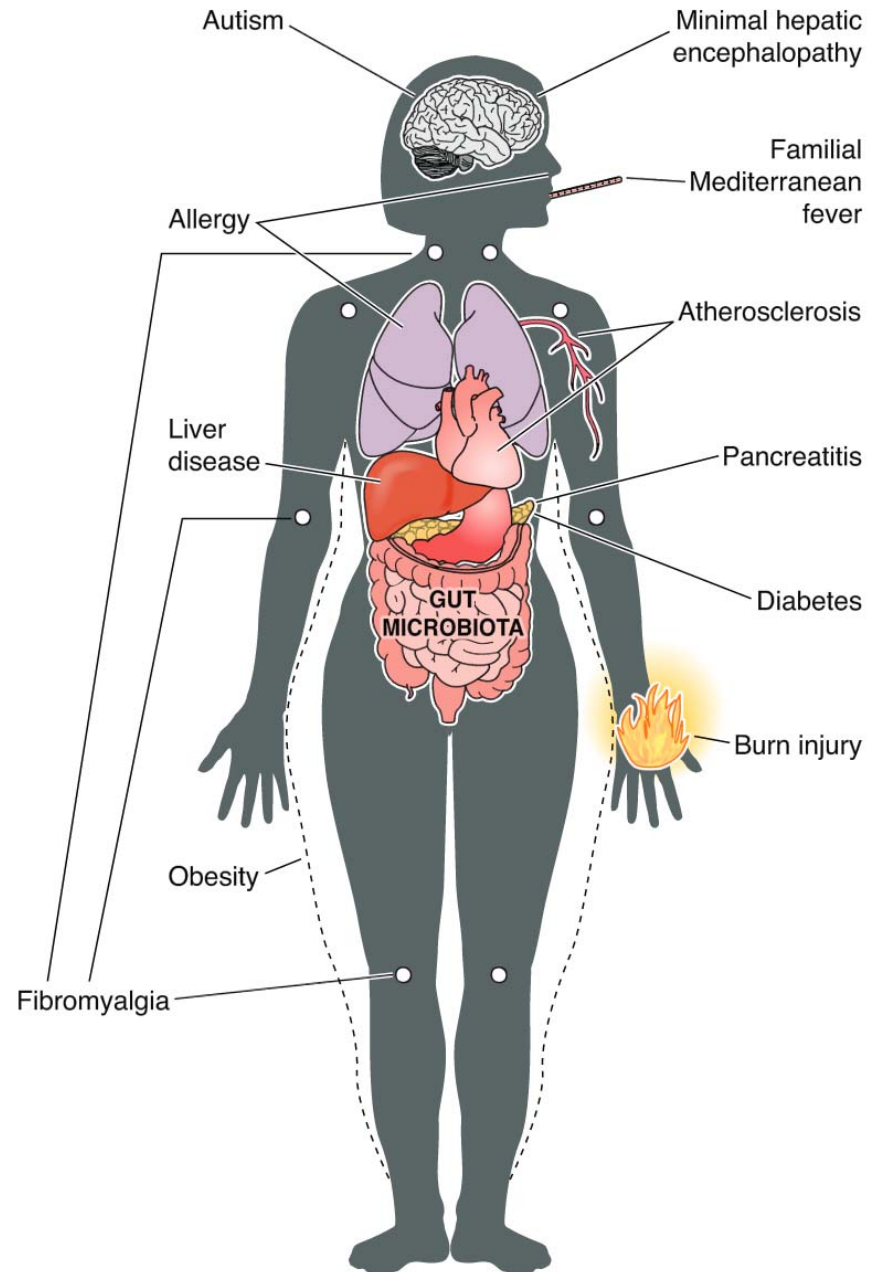


Disappearance of prototypic infectious diseases inversely correlate with occurrence of autoimmune disease.

Gut microbiota - local and distant effects

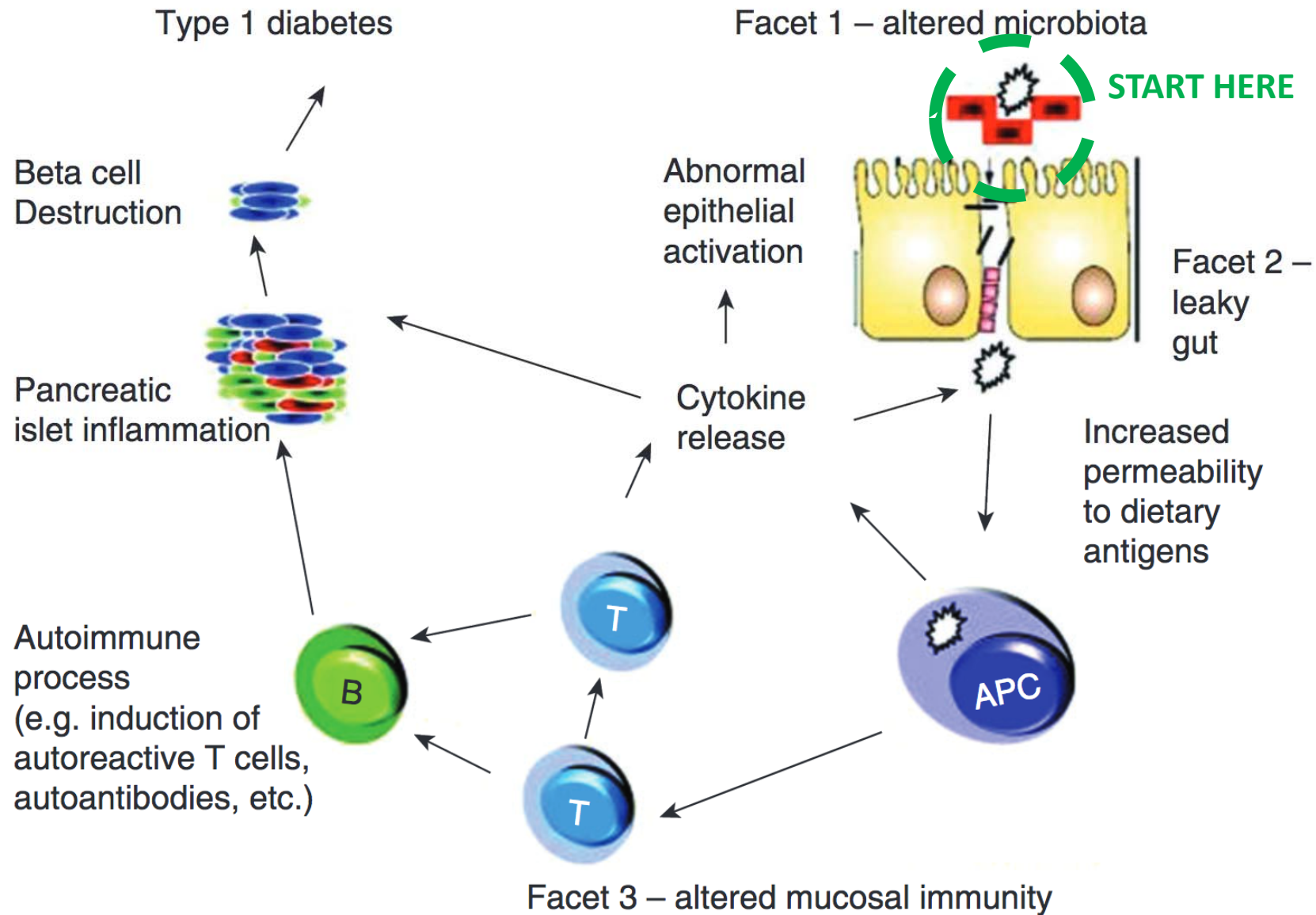


Gut Microbiota in disease - beyond the gut



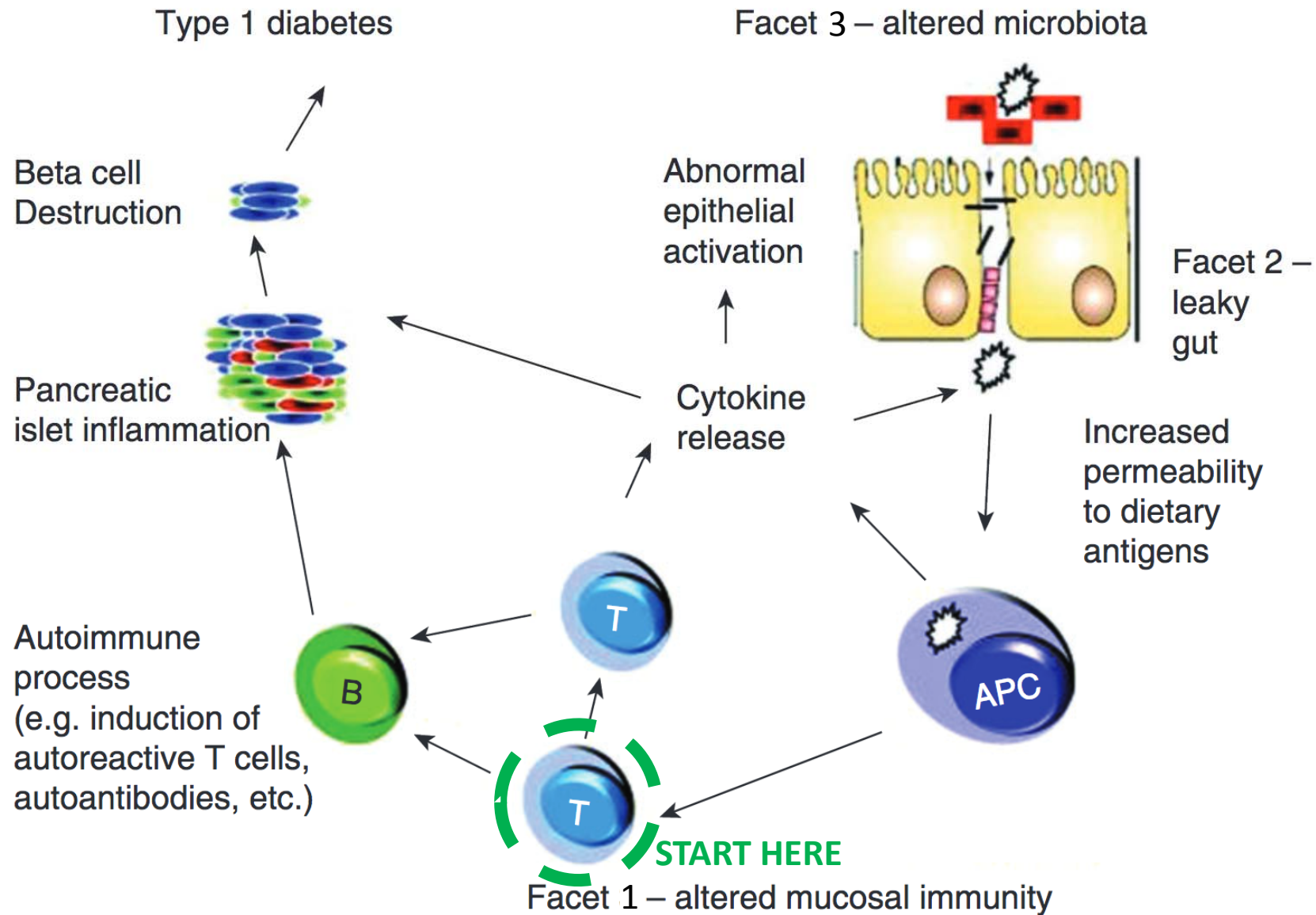
Gut Microbiota - Type-1 diabetes

➤ Gut leakage - **cause**



Gut Microbiota - Type-1 diabetes

➤ Gut leakage - **consequence**



Gut Microbiota - Type-2 diabetes

➤ Insulin-resistance (preceeding T2D) is associated with branched-chain amino acids.

➤ *Prevotella copri* can induce insulin-resistance in mice.

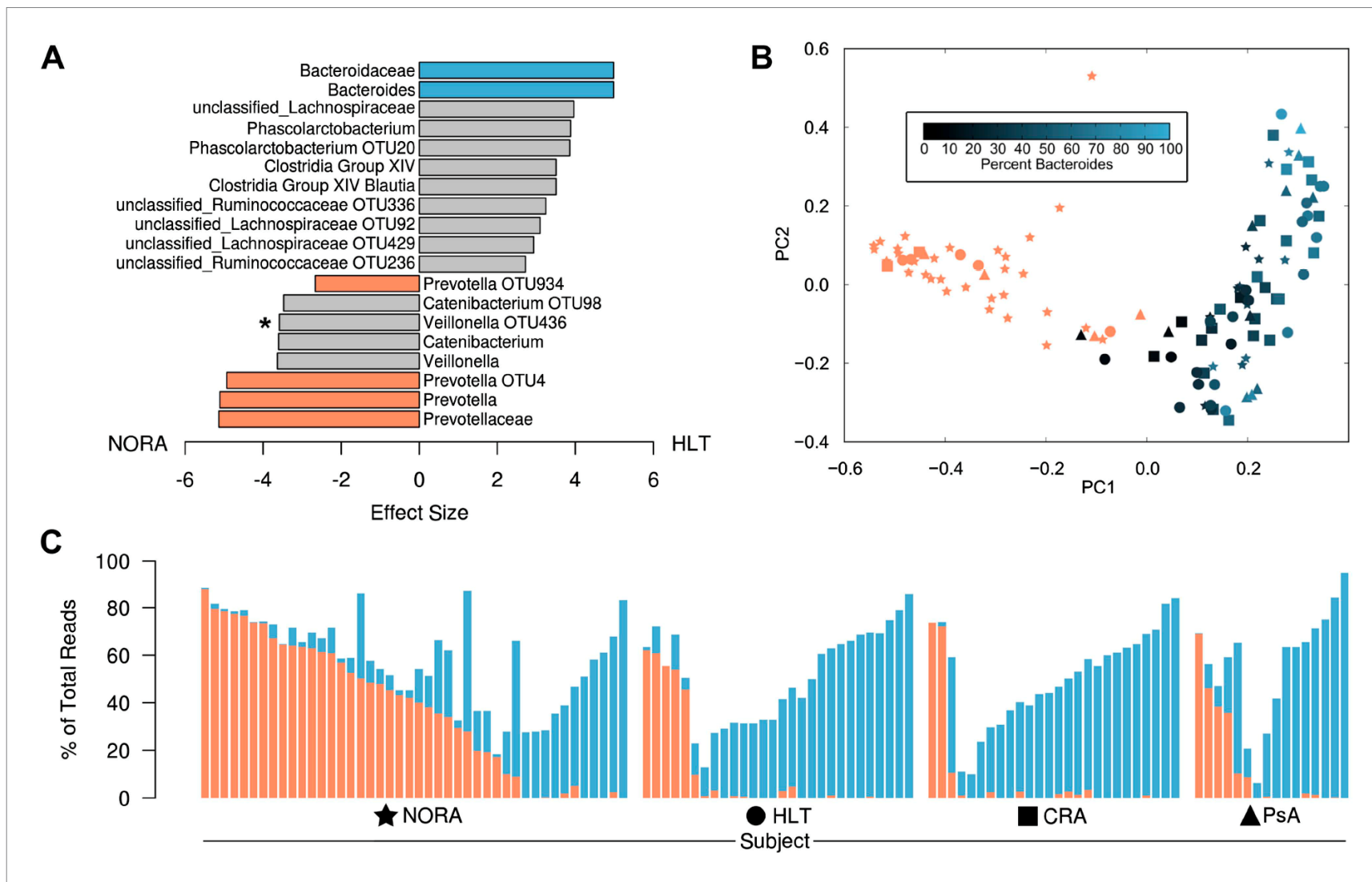
Pedersen et al. Nature 2016

➤ *E. coli* is increased (treatment bias) and butyrate producers reduced (after controlling for metformin treatment).

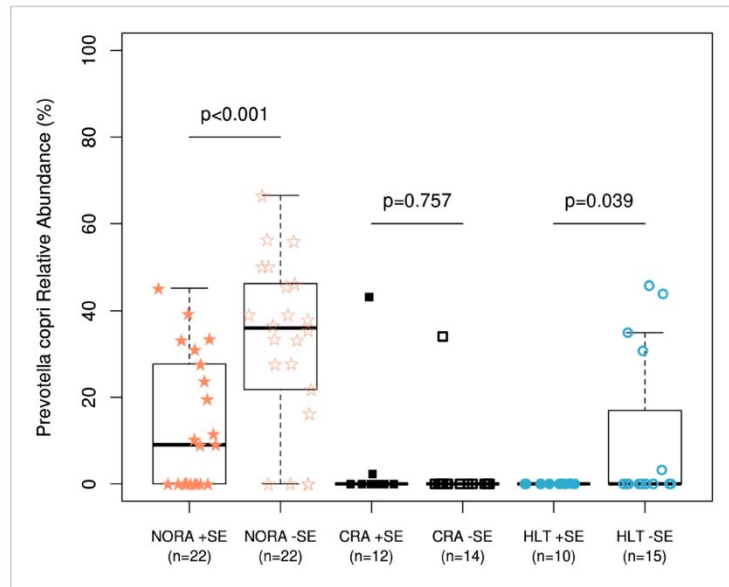
➤ Qin et al. Nature 2012, Forslund et al. Nature 2015

New-Onset Rheumatoid Arthritis - Microbiota

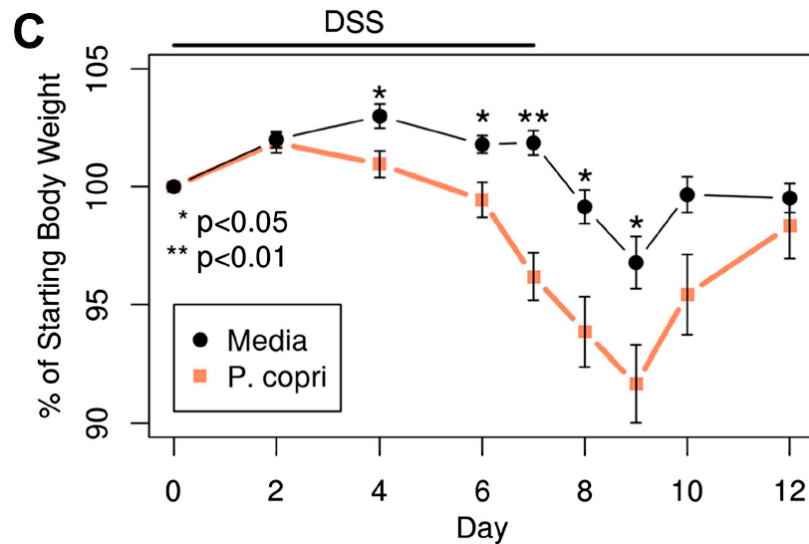
Prevotella Copri is associated with New-Onset Rheumatoid Arthritis (NORA) but not with chronic RA (CRA) as compared with healthy subjects (HLT).



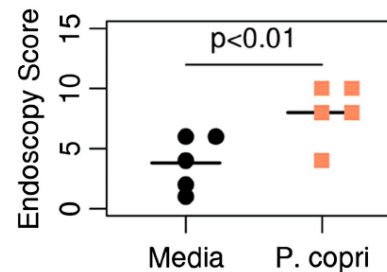
New-Onset Rheumatoid Arthritis - Microbiota



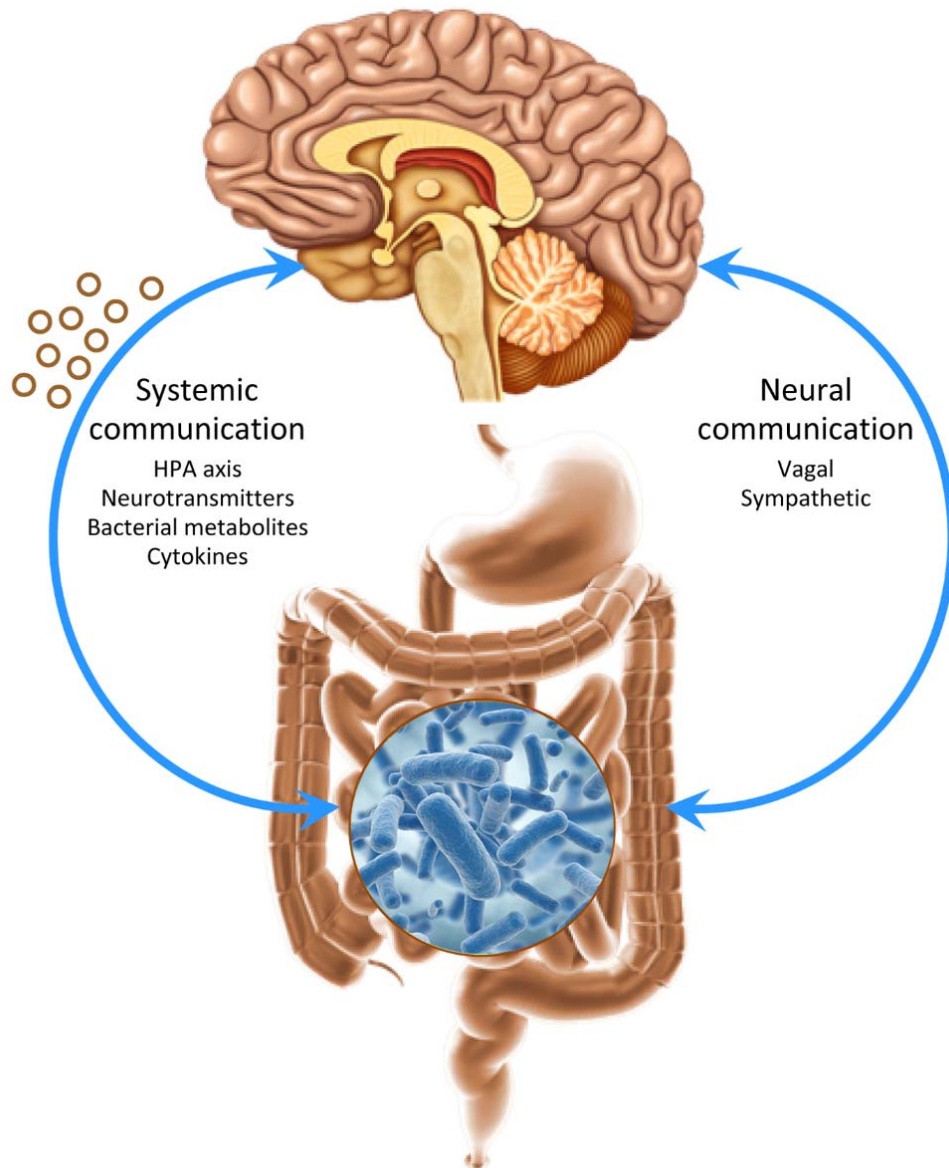
Prevotella Copri is a separate and independent environmental trigger of RA as compared to genetic susceptibility (Shared-epitope risk allele (SE)).



Prevotella copri induce disease in RA mouse model.

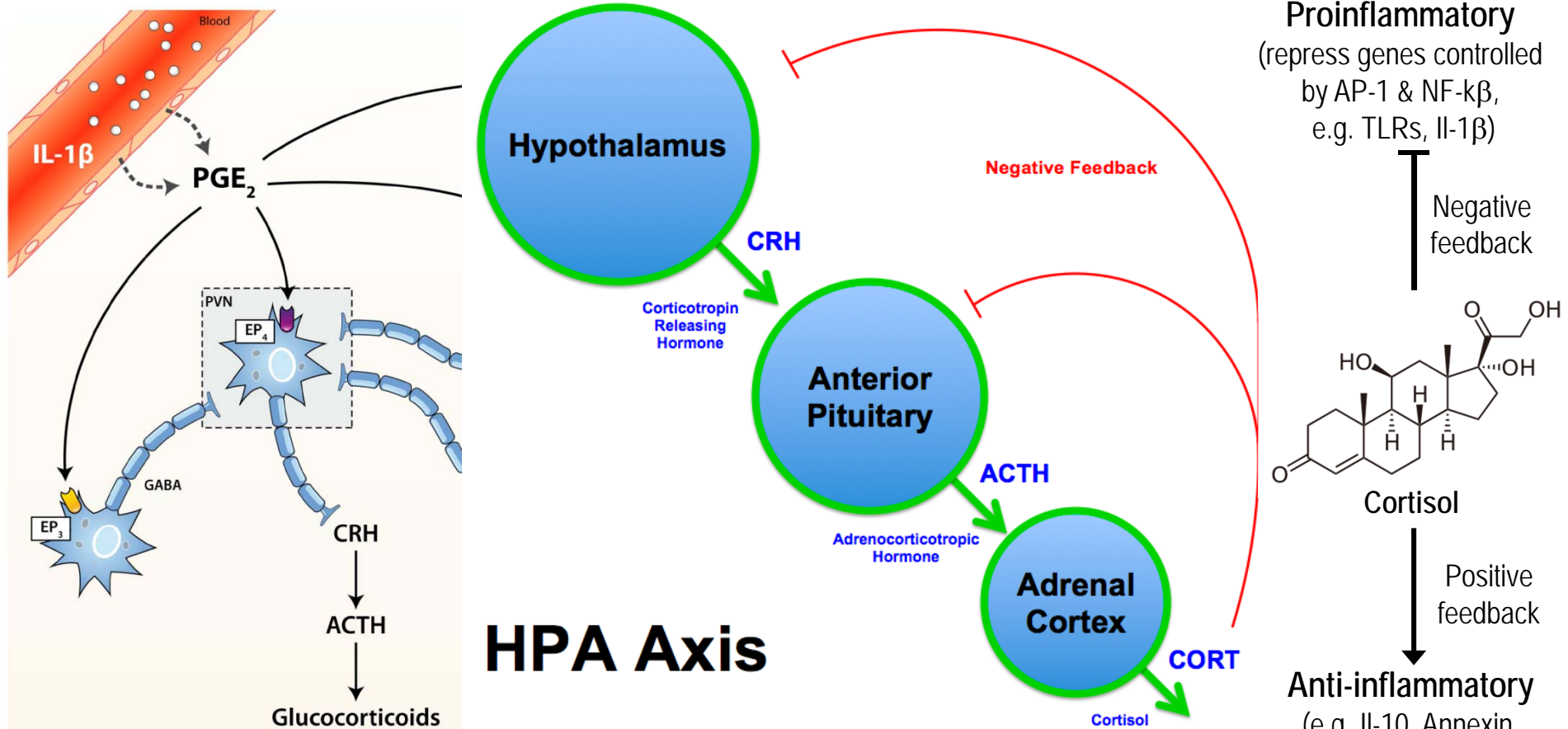


Gut-Brain axis



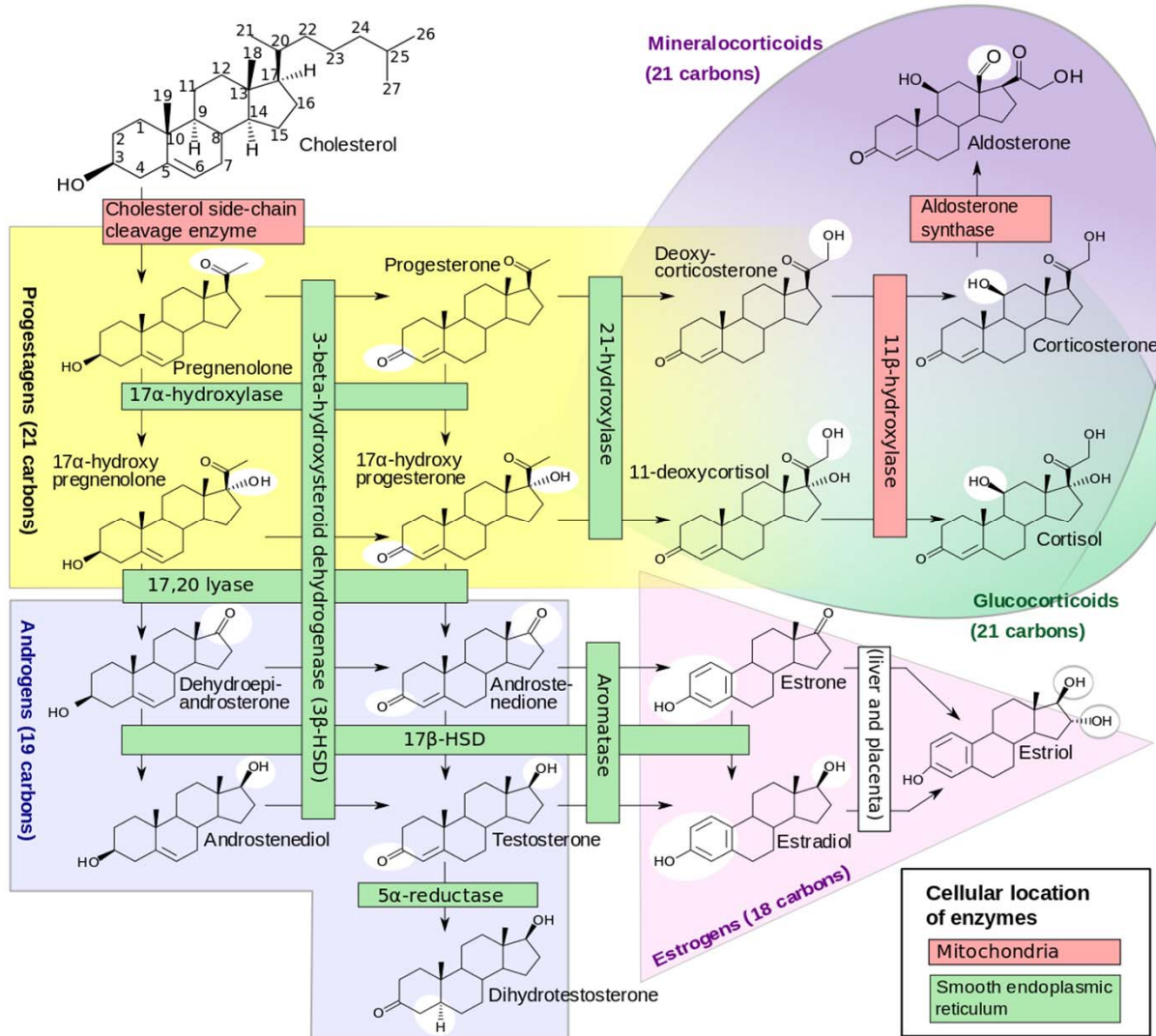
- Bi-directional communication between gut microbiome, gut, and brain
- Endocrine, neurocrine, and inflammation-related signals from Microbiome and gut can affect brain
- Microbiome may influence stress, anxiety, cognition

Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis



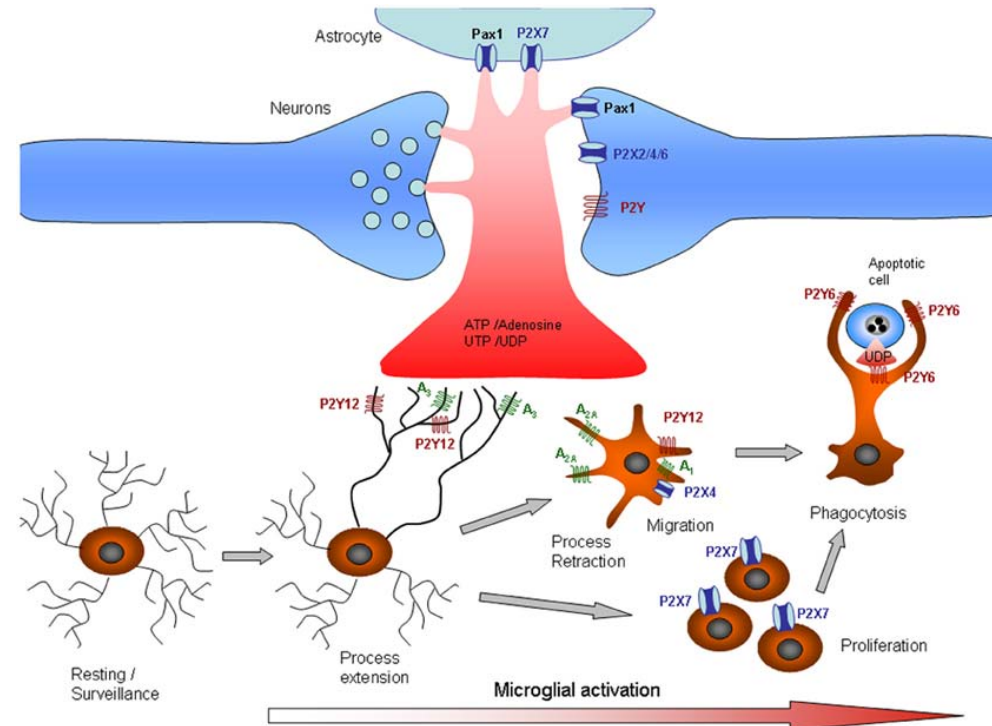
- Found in all vertebrates (paralleling the evolution of adaptive immunity)
- Cortisol is released in response to immune responses ($IL-1\beta$), low blood sugar and stress. Negative feedback of cortisol aims to balance immunity, blood sugar and stress.
- Upregulation of blood sugar is accomplished in part by blocking the high-energy consuming immune system.

Steroidogenesis - Cholesterol -> Cortisol



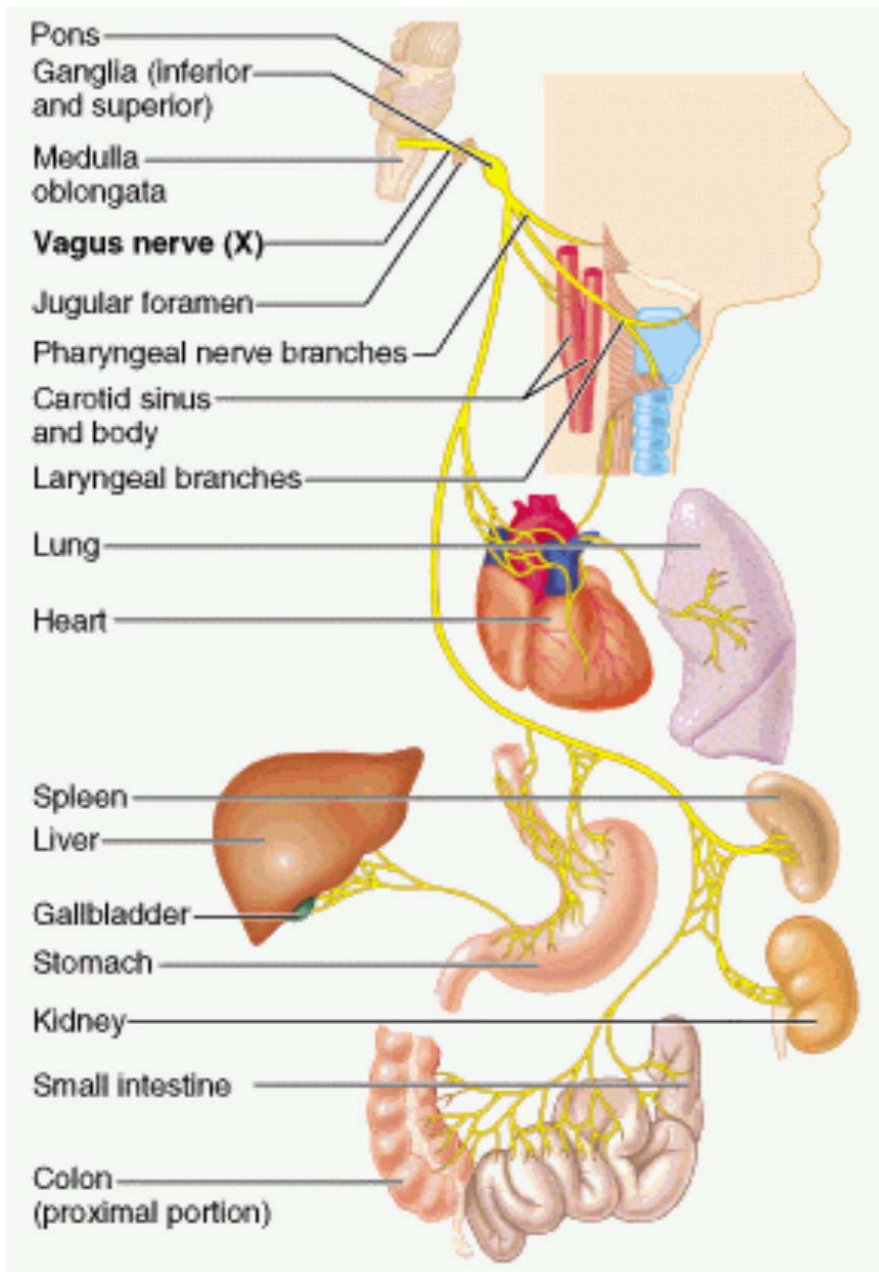
- Steroidogenesis: :
Glucocorticoids (glucose+cortex+steroid) are synthesized in the cortex from Cholesterol.
- E.g. cortisol (=hydrocortisol)
- Cortisol
 - Increase glucose-level (\uparrow gluconeogenesis)
 - Inhibit immune cells
 - Increase metabolism of fat, protein and carbohydrates.
 - Decrease bone formation

Microglia cells - “brain macrophages”



- Microglia cells are derived from hematopoietic stem cells of the bone marrow and resembles (somewhat) monocyte-derived macrophages. Removes “waste”.
- Microglia compose 5-12% of brain cells, has long turn-over (compared to macrophages) and is only recruited from beyond the brain after acute damage to the brain (BBB is transiently rendered permeable to accommodate microglia cells).
- Microglia may be activated by glucocorticoids (GC) through high level of glucocorticoid receptor (GR) expression. These may be derived from the **HPA-axis**.

The vagus nerve

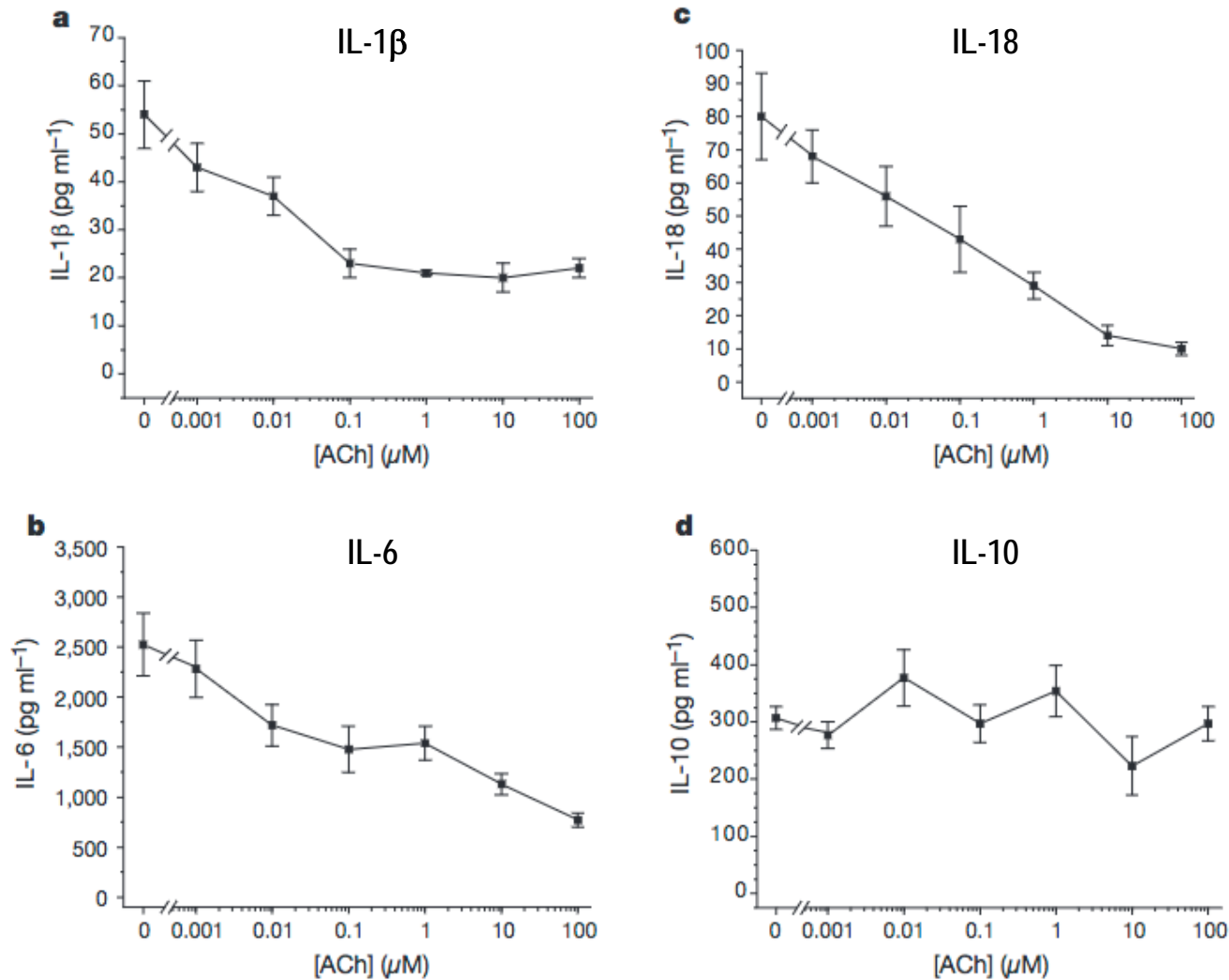


- Brain -> Organ : Vagal efferent
- Organ -> Brain : Vagal afferent
- Acetylcholine is the principle vagal neurotransmitter
 - Reduces cytokine release (TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL6 and IL-18) in LPS-stimulated human macrophages.

Borovikova et al. Nature 2000

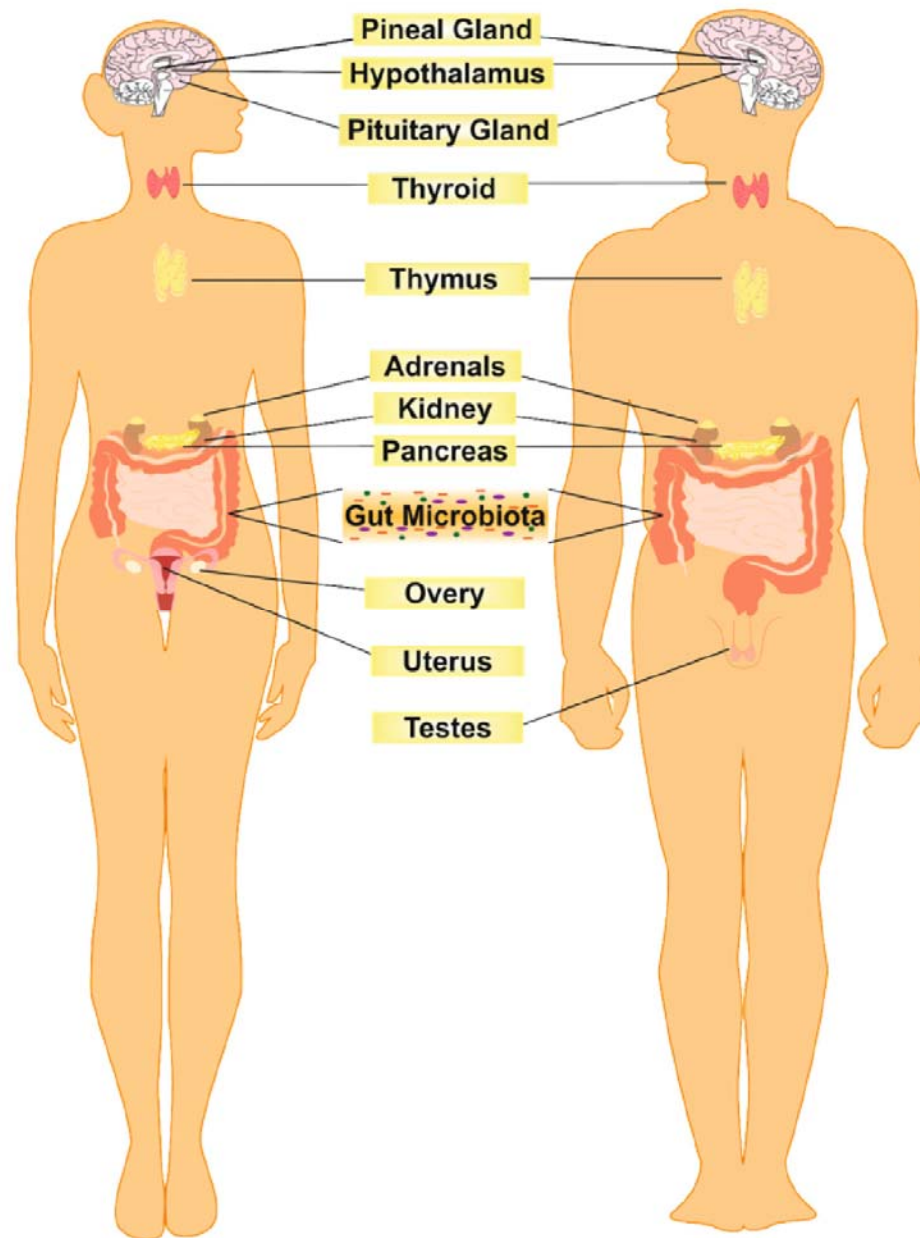
- Insulin indirectly activates vagus nerve, which leads to decreased glucose production by the liver.
- Neuropeptide Y (NPY) partially blocks vagus nerve (anti-anxiety hormone, which stimulate appetite)
- Vagus nerve regulates release of hormones, e.g. oxytocin.
 - Oxytocin release following positive social behaviour.

The vagus nerve



- Acetylcholine inhibit LPS-stimulated macrophage secretion of TNF- α , IL-1 β , IL-6, IL-18, **BUT NOT** IL-10 (*in vitro*).

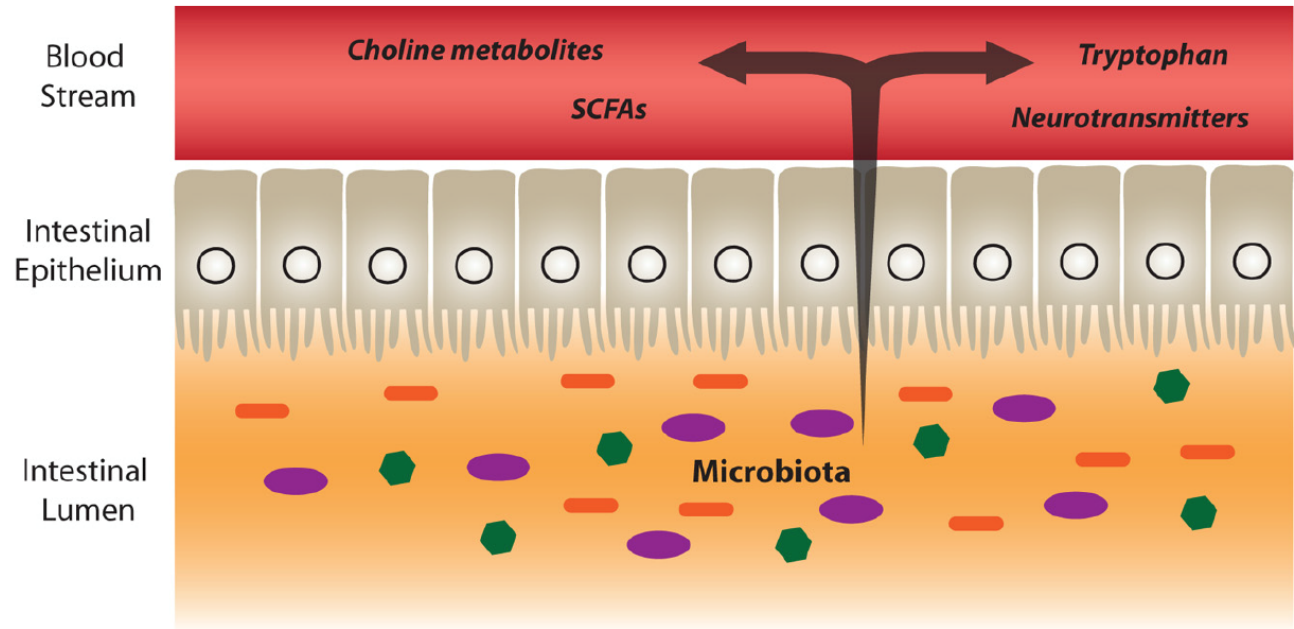
Gut microbiota has endocrine function



Gut microbiota has endocrine function

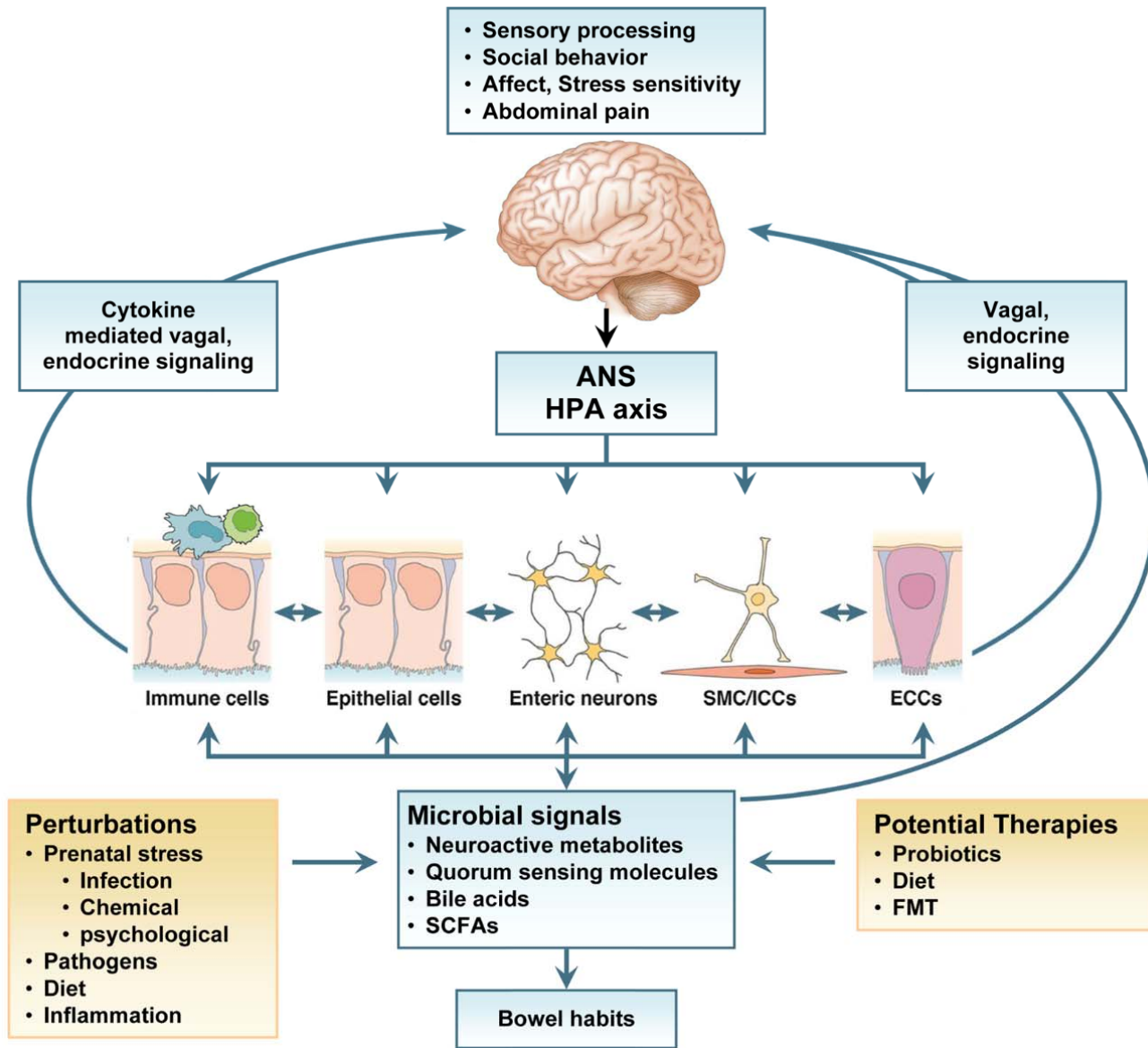
Table 2. Examples of Neurotransmitter-Producing or -Releasing Bacterial Strains

| Neurotransmitter | Bacterial Strain | Reference |
|----------------------|--|---------------------|
| Serotonin | <i>Lactococcus lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> (MG 1363) | 201 |
| | <i>L. lactis</i> subsp. <i>lactis</i> (IL1403) | 201 |
| | <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> (F18595) | 201 |
| | <i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i> (NCFB2392) | 201 |
| | <i>Escherichia coli</i> K-12 | 156 |
| | <i>Morganella morganii</i> (NCIMB, 10466) | 202 |
| | <i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> (NCIMB, 673) | 202 |
| Dopamine | <i>Hafnia alvei</i> (NCIMB, 11999) | 202 |
| | <i>Bacillus cereus</i> | 33 |
| | <i>B. mycooides</i> | 33 |
| | <i>B. subtilis</i> | 33 |
| | <i>Proteus vulgaris</i> | 33 |
| | <i>Serratia marcescens</i> | 33 |
| | <i>S. aureus</i> | 33 |
| | <i>E. coli</i> | 33 |
| | <i>E. coli</i> K-12 | 156 |
| | <i>M. morganii</i> (NCIMB, 10466) | 202 |
| | <i>K. pneumoniae</i> (NCIMB, 673) | 202 |
| | <i>H. alvei</i> (NCIMB, 11999) | 202 |
| | Noradrenaline | <i>B. mycooides</i> |
| <i>B. subtilis</i> | | 33 |
| <i>P. vulgaris</i> | | 33 |
| <i>S. marcescens</i> | | 33 |
| <i>E. coli</i> K-12 | | 156 |
| GABA | <i>L. brevis</i> DPC6108 | 10 |
| | <i>B. adolescentis</i> DPC6044 | 10 |
| | <i>B. dentium</i> DPC6333 | 10 |
| | <i>B. dentium</i> NFBC2243 | 10 |
| | <i>B. infantis</i> UCC35624 | 10 |
| | <i>L. rhamnosus</i> YS9 | 71 |
| Acetylcholine | <i>L. plantarum</i> | 122 |
| | <i>L. lactis</i> subsp. <i>cremoris</i> (MG 1363) | 201 |
| Histamine | <i>L. lactis</i> subsp. <i>lactis</i> (IL1403) | 201 |
| | <i>L. plantarum</i> (F18595) | 201 |
| | <i>S. thermophilus</i> (NCFB2392) | 201 |
| | <i>M. morganii</i> (NCIMB, 10466) | 202 |
| | <i>K. pneumoniae</i> (NCIMB, 673) | 202 |
| | <i>H. alvei</i> (NCIMB, 11999) | 202 |



- Some gut commensals produce or release neurotransmitters.
- Metabolites may pass from the gut lumen to the blood stream and impact sites distant from the gut.

Gut-Brain axis - autism



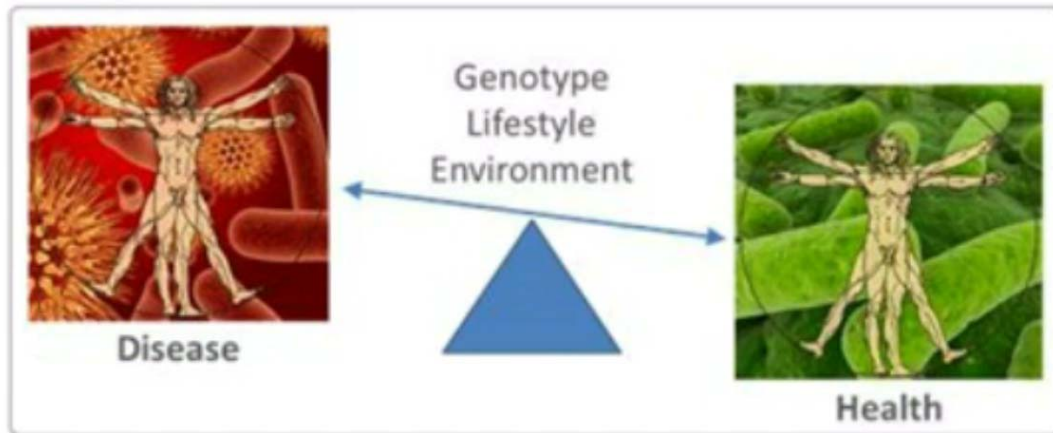
➤ GI symptoms are a common comorbidity in ASD patients

➤ Some clinical evidence of dysbiosis in ASD patients

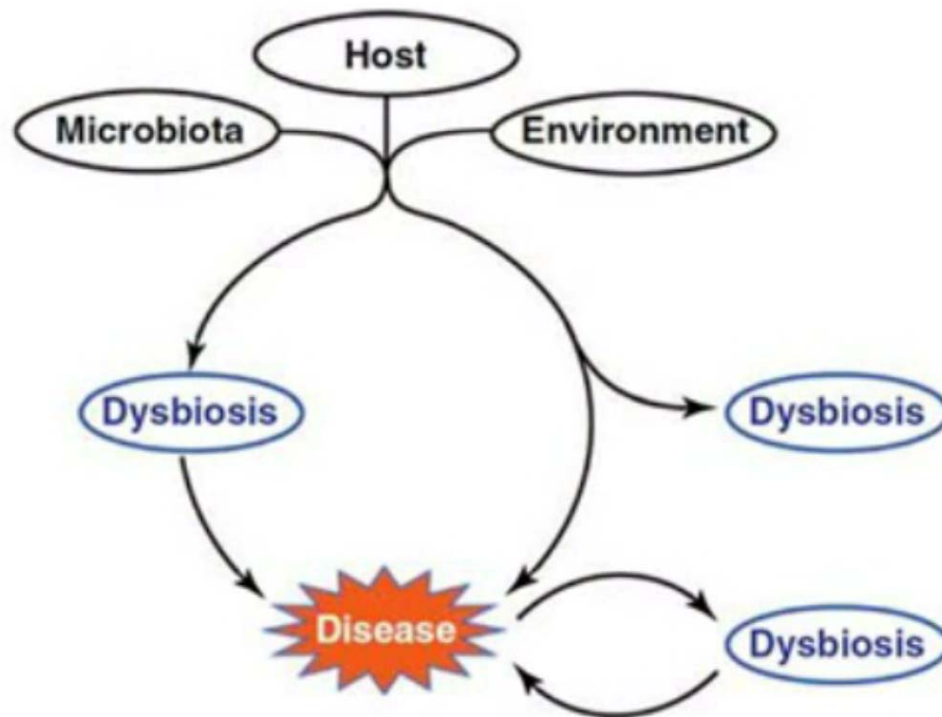
➤ To be determined whether such changes reflect altered neural control of gut function (motility, secretion) or if changes are primary and affect brain development and function

➤ Cause versus consequence?

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



Dysbiosis - cause or consequence - and so what?

“Le malade imaginaire”

Molière, 1673

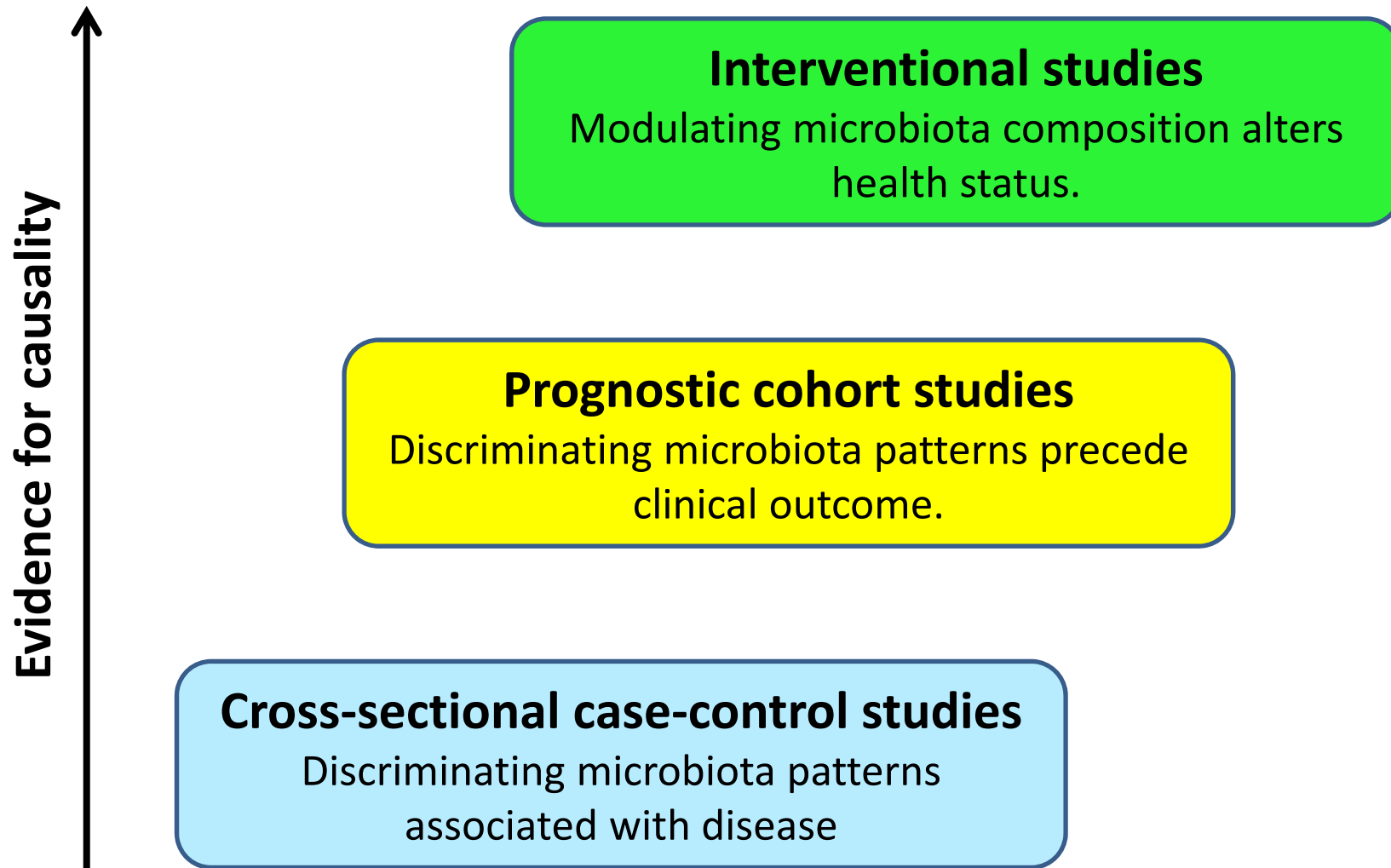


- Prescription of “lavement” for:
 - Digestion, intestinal secretion and bad mood.
- Dates back at least to 100 B.C.



- 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



Take home message

- Gut – Brain – Metabolism should be considered in an integral rather than an individual manner
- Gut microbiota and derived metabolites influence host immunity, nervous system and metabolism.
- Host immunity generates a tolerogenic state between host and gut commensals enabling the host to profit from the vast metabolic potential of gut microbiota.
- Dysregulation of host immunity and dysbiosis may lead to diseases within and beyond the gut.
- Identification of causality between gut dysbiosis and pathology requires:
 - Interventional studies
 - Of note, the bi-directional link between gut, brain and host metabolism makes it likely that an intervention targeting one of them will modify the others at short term. Causality therefore requires long-term resolution of symptoms (**CURE**).