



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA



# Role of Early Life Environment in Shaping the Gut Microbiota

**Meghan Azad, PhD**

Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba  
Department of Pediatrics & Child Health, University of Manitoba  
Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study

[meghan.azad@umanitoba.ca](mailto:meghan.azad@umanitoba.ca)

[www.azadlab.ca](http://www.azadlab.ca)

 [@MeghanAzad](https://twitter.com/MeghanAzad)



# “Developmental Origins”

- **1990s: Fetal Origins of Adult Disease (FOAD)**

Environmental exposures during [fetal life](#) influence adult health

- **2000s: Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD)**

Both the [prenatal and postnatal](#) environment shape developmental trajectories that influence health throughout the lifecourse



# Developmental Origins of...

## Allergies



**1 in 4** Canadians have seasonal allergies

**1 in 13** have food allergies

Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation & 2013 SCAALAR survey

## Asthma



**1 in 6** Canadian children have asthma

Public Health Agency of Canada (2007). Life and breath: Respiratory disease in Canada.

## Obesity



**1 in 3** Canadian children are overweight

Overweight and obesity in children and adolescents: Results from the 2009 to 2011 Canadian Health Measures Survey

# DOHaD: What are the important early-life exposures?



# The Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study

How do genes and the environment influence child health and development?



**\$30M** Invested  
**500,000** Samples:  
 Blood, Urine, **Stool**,  
 Nasal Swabs, Dust,  
**Breast Milk**  
**200,000** Questionnaires  
**3600** Families  
**40+** Researchers  
**20+** Disciplines  
**5(+)** Years Follow-Up  
**93%** Retention



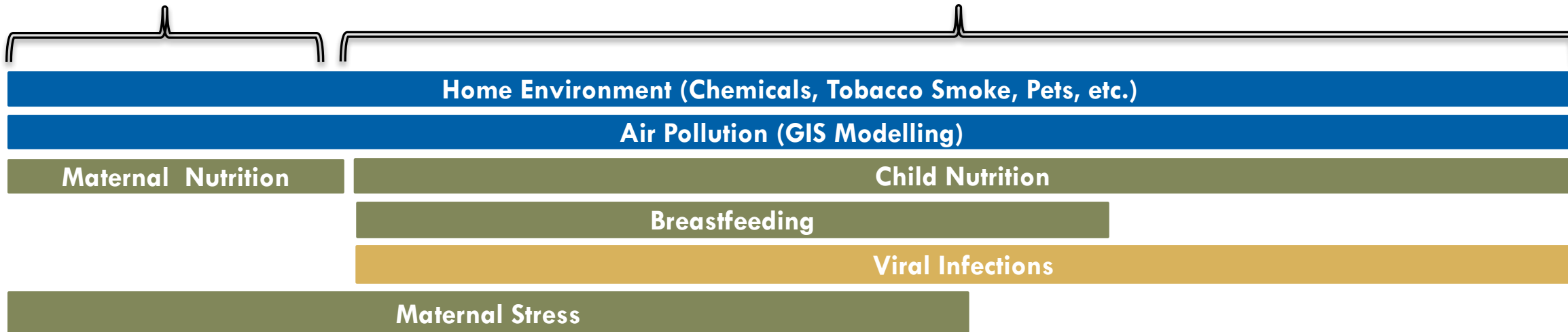


# CHILD Study

HELP CHILDREN  
GROW UP HEALTHY

## PRENATAL EXPOSURES

## POSTNATAL EXPOSURES



Clinic Visit

Hospital Data



Home Visit



Clinic Visit



Clinic Visit

Clinic Visit



# Perinatal Exposures



- **Cesarean Section** (WHO 2013)
  - Brazil 56%, USA 33%, Canada 27%, Sweden 17%
  
- **Intrapartum Antibiotics** (CDC)
  - 25% of US population (1 million women annually) exposed for GBS prophylaxis
  
- **Infant Feeding:** (CDC 2008)
  - WHO recommends: exclusive breastfeeding for 6 months, continued BF to 2 years+
  - Most US infants initiate breastfeeding, BUT
    - Within the first week, >50% are receiving formula
    - By 6 months, <50% are breastfed at all

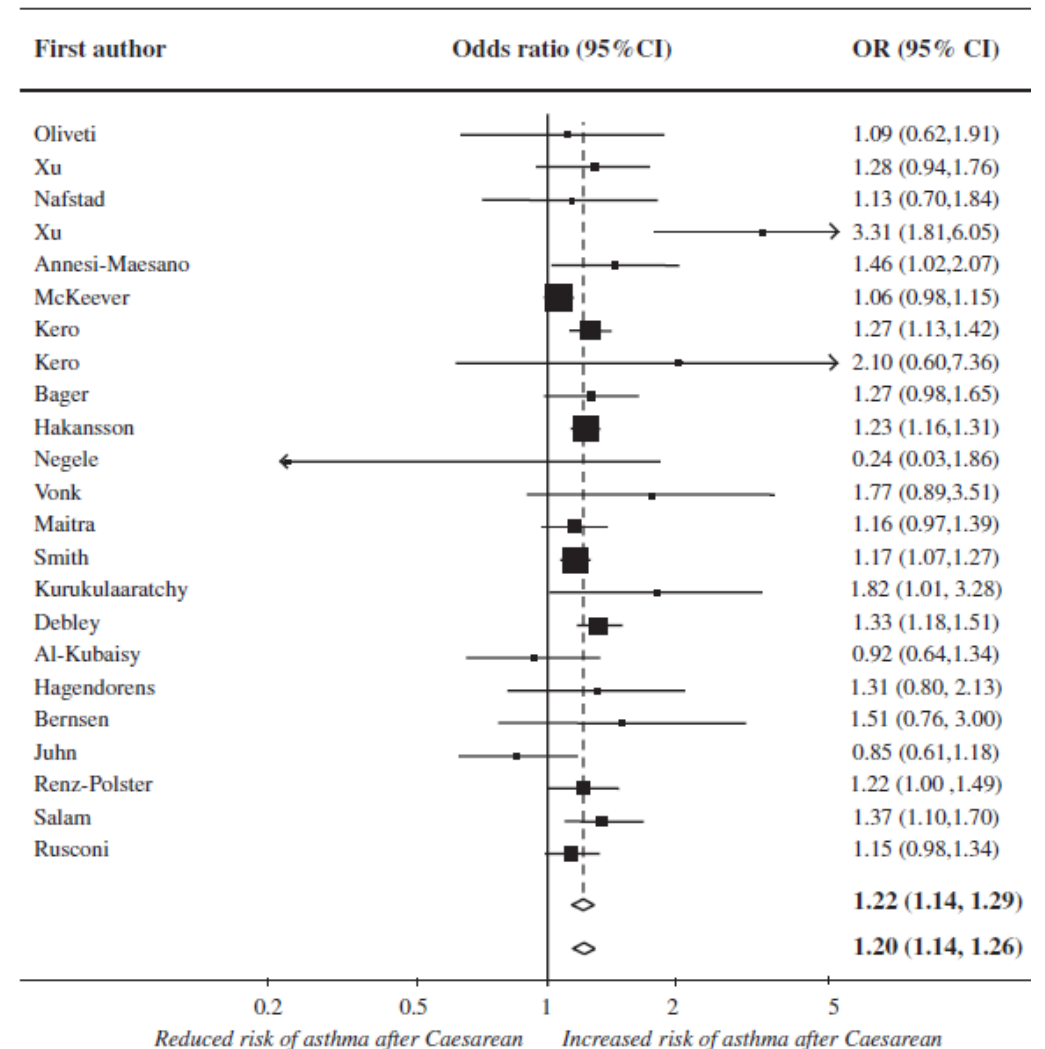
Asthma?



# Cesarean Section & Asthma

Meta-analysis of  
23 studies:  
**20% increased risk**  
in children delivered by  
Cesarean section.

(Thavagnanam et al. *Clin Exp Allergy*. 2008 38:4)



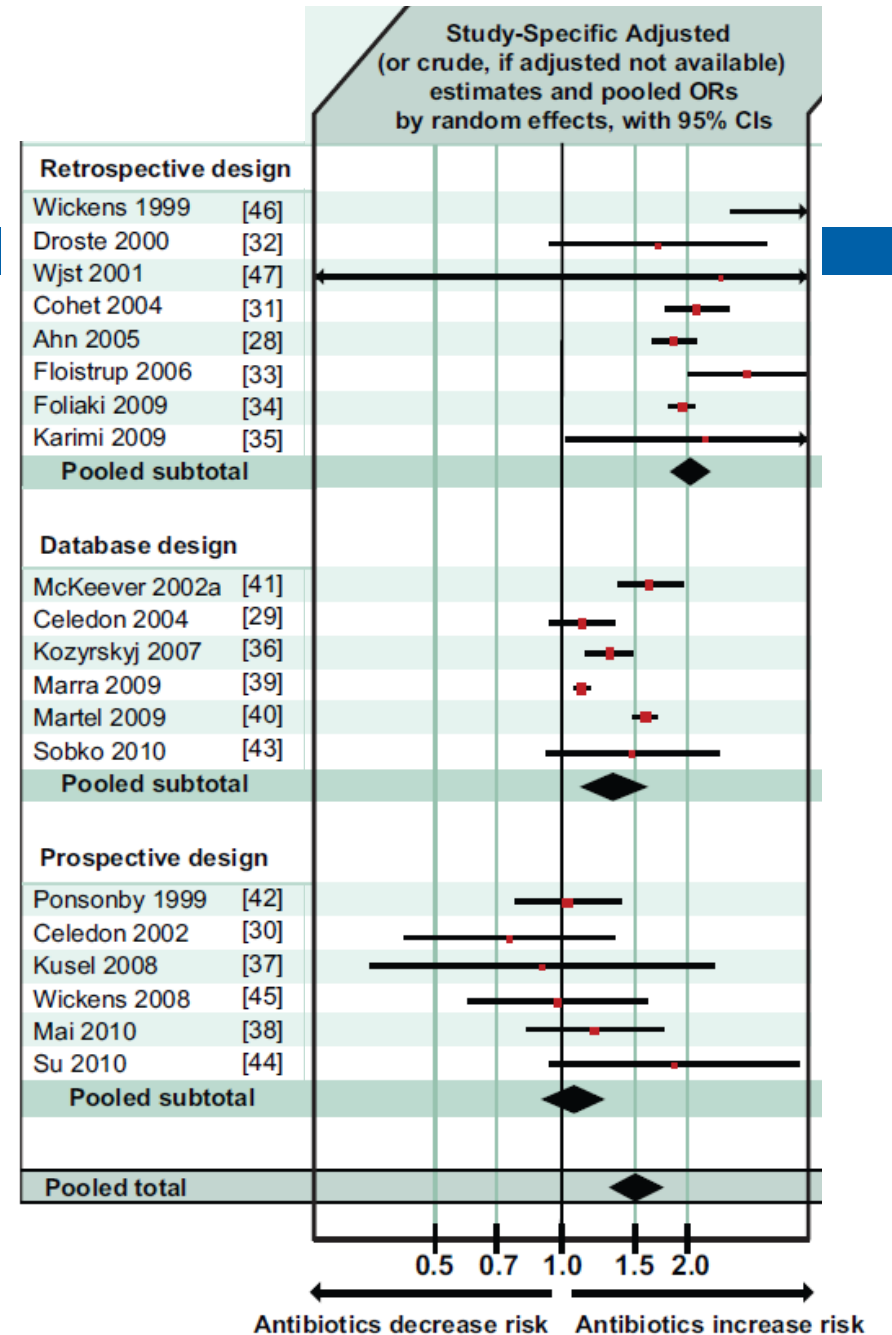
# Antibiotics & Asthma

Meta-analysis of  
20 studies:

**50% increased risk**  
following infant antibiotic\* exposure

(Murk et al. 2011)

\*Few studies on intrapartum antibiotics

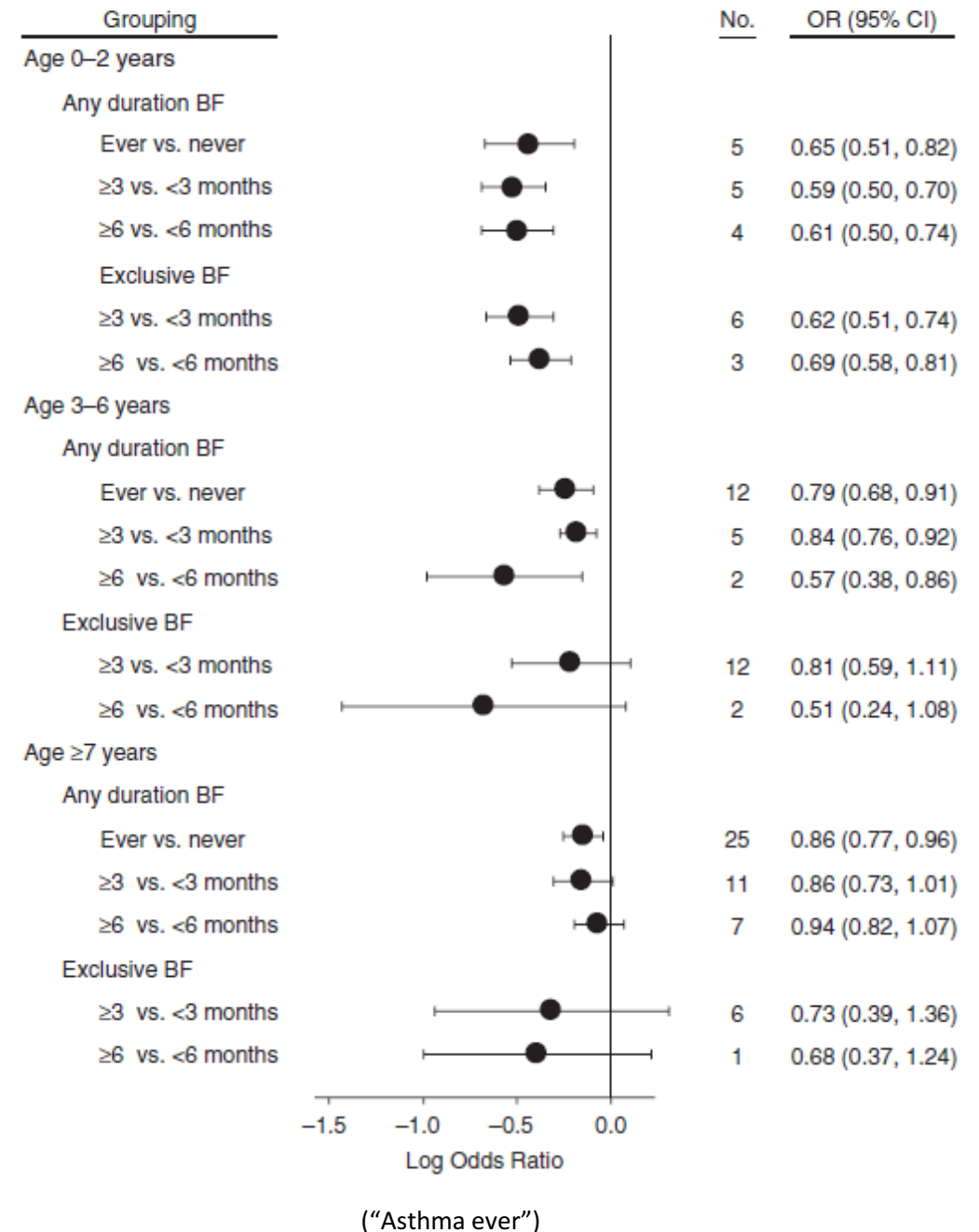


# Breastfeeding & Asthma

Meta-analysis of  
117 Studies:

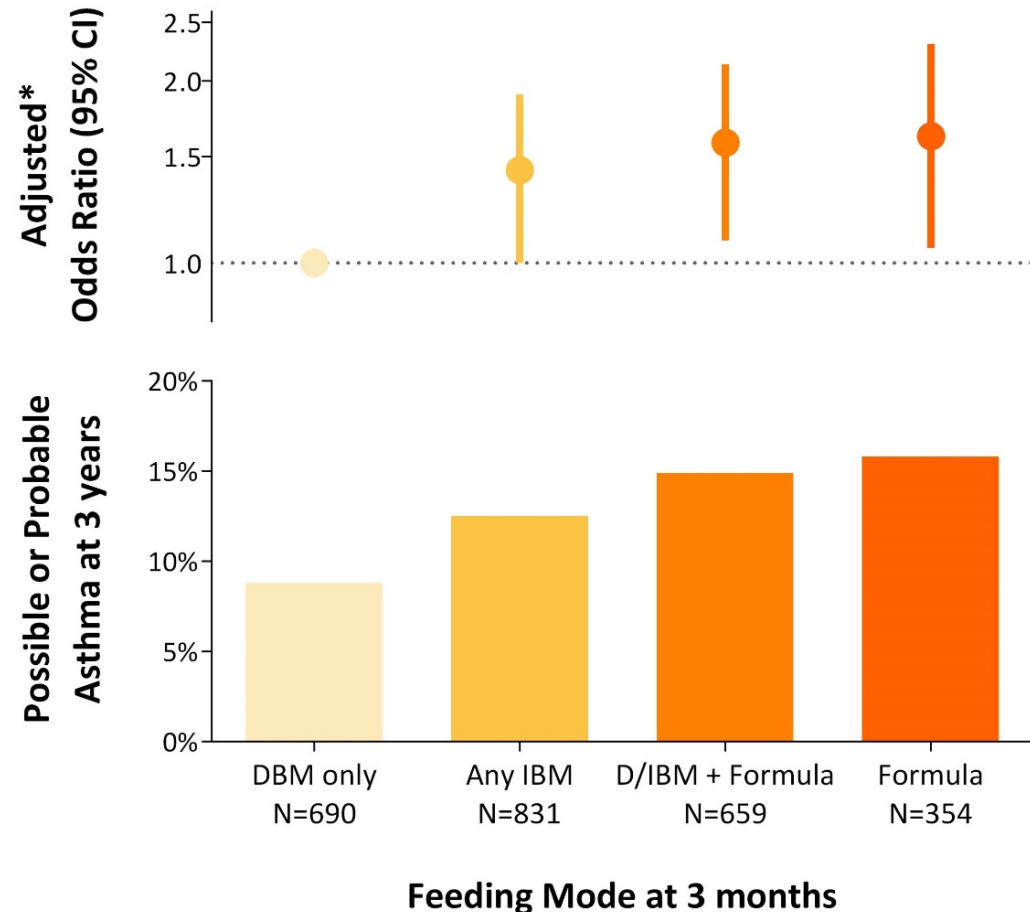
~30% reduced risk  
in breastfed infants

(Dogaru et al. *AJE* 2013)





# Breast(milk)feeding & Asthma



DBM = Direct Breast Milk

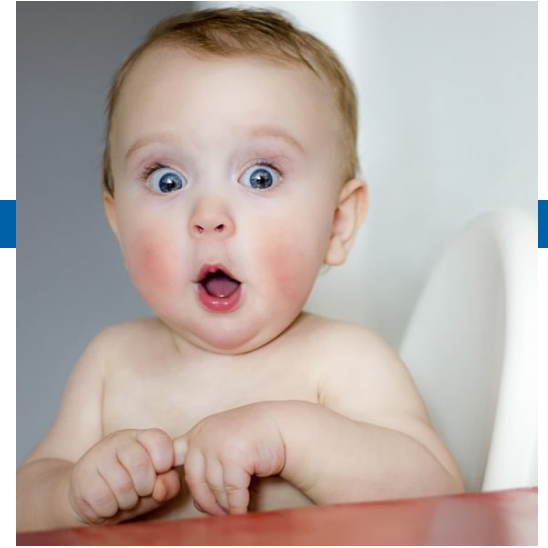
IBM = Indirect (pumped) Breast Milk

Compared to direct breastfeeding, **any other mode of infant feeding** was associated with an **increased risk** of possible or probable asthma by 3 years of age.

- Bioactivity of milk?
- **Milk/skin microbiota?**
- Physical lung exercise?
- Infant → Mother signalling?
- Toxins from bottles?

\*Adjusted for infant sex, maternal diagnosis of asthma, ethnicity, method of birth, daycare attendance, gestational age and solid food introduction; with multiple imputation of missing data.

# Early Life Exposures



- **Pets during infancy**
  - ▣ 66% ↓ risk of asthma (age 12) (Hesselmar et al. *Clin Exp Allergy* 1999)
  
- **Tobacco smoke exposure; prenatal and postnatal:**
  - ▣ 22% ↑ risk of asthma (age 6+) (Silvestri et al. *Pediatric Pulmonol* 2015)
  
- **Maternal depression / anxiety:**
  - ▣ 25% ↑ risk of asthma (age 7) (Kozyrskyj et al. *Am J Respir Crit Care Med.* 2008 177:2)

# DOHaD: Asthma, Allergies & Obesity

## □ Early risk factors:

- Cesarean section
- Antibiotics
- Tobacco smoke
- Maternal stress

## □ Early protective factors:

- (Direct) Breastfeeding
- Pets



Biological Mechanisms?

# Gut Microbiota

- **Complex “super organ” of ~ 100 trillion commensal microbes living in the gastrointestinal tract**
- Prevent colonization by pathogens
- Educate the developing immune system
- Influence nervous system: ‘gut-brain-axis’
- Contribute to host metabolism
  - ▣ Digestion of complex carbohydrates
  - ▣ Vitamin production
  - ▣ Energy harvest





# 100 TRILLION

The human microbiome is made up of more than 100 trillion bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and viruses that live on and inside the body.

# 10X



We have 10 times more microbial cells in our body than human cells and the majority live in our guts—especially the large intestine, or colon.

The bacteria in our microbiomes are essential to human health and aid in biological processes such as:

$E=mc^2$

Extracting energy from food

RETINOL  
FOLATE  
RIBOFLAVIN  
BIOTIN  
NIACIN

Producing essential vitamins



Regulating our immune system



Regulating our glucose levels and metabolism



Protecting us against disease-causing microbes

## SYMBIOTIC

The beneficial and symbiotic relationship between humans and our microbiomes has likely evolved and changed throughout human development.



Personal microbial communities shift throughout a person's life and are influenced by diet, exercise, medications such as antibiotics, pathogens, and other environmental factors.





# Microbiota & Asthma



RESEARCH ARTICLE

www.ScienceTranslationalMedicine.org 30 September 2015 Vol 7 Issue 307 307ra152

ASTHMA

## Early infancy microbial and metabolic alterations affect risk of childhood asthma

Marie-Claire Arrieta,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Leah T. Stiemsma,<sup>2,3\*</sup> Pedro A. Dimitriu,<sup>2</sup> Lisa Thorson,<sup>1</sup> Shannon Russell,<sup>1,2</sup> Sophie Yurist-Doutsch,<sup>1,2</sup> Boris Kuzeljevic,<sup>3</sup> Matthew J. Gold,<sup>4</sup> Heidi M. Britton,<sup>1</sup> Diana L. Lefebvre,<sup>5</sup> Padmaja Subbarao,<sup>6,7</sup> Piush Mandhane,<sup>8,9</sup> Allan Becker,<sup>10</sup> Kelly M. McNagny,<sup>4</sup> Malcolm R. Sears,<sup>5</sup> Tobias Kollmann,<sup>3,11</sup> the CHILD Study Investigators,<sup>†</sup> William W. Mohn,<sup>2</sup> Stuart E. Turvey,<sup>3,11‡§</sup> B. Brett Finlay<sup>1,2,12‡§</sup>



# Microbiota & Asthma

RESEARCH ARTICLE

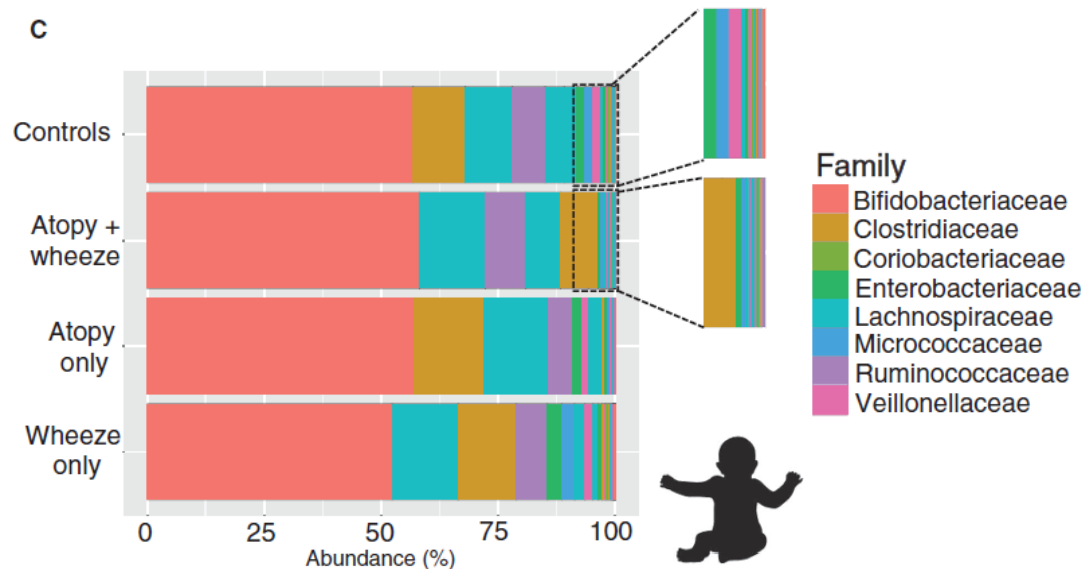
www.ScienceTranslationalMedicine.org 30 September 2015 Vol 7 Issue 307 307ra152

## ASTHMA

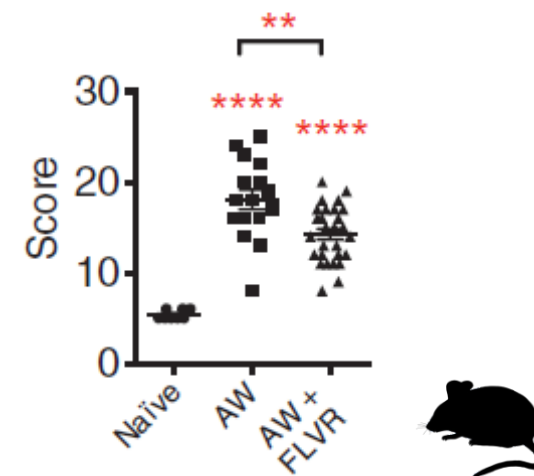
### Early infancy microbial and metabolic alterations affect risk of childhood asthma

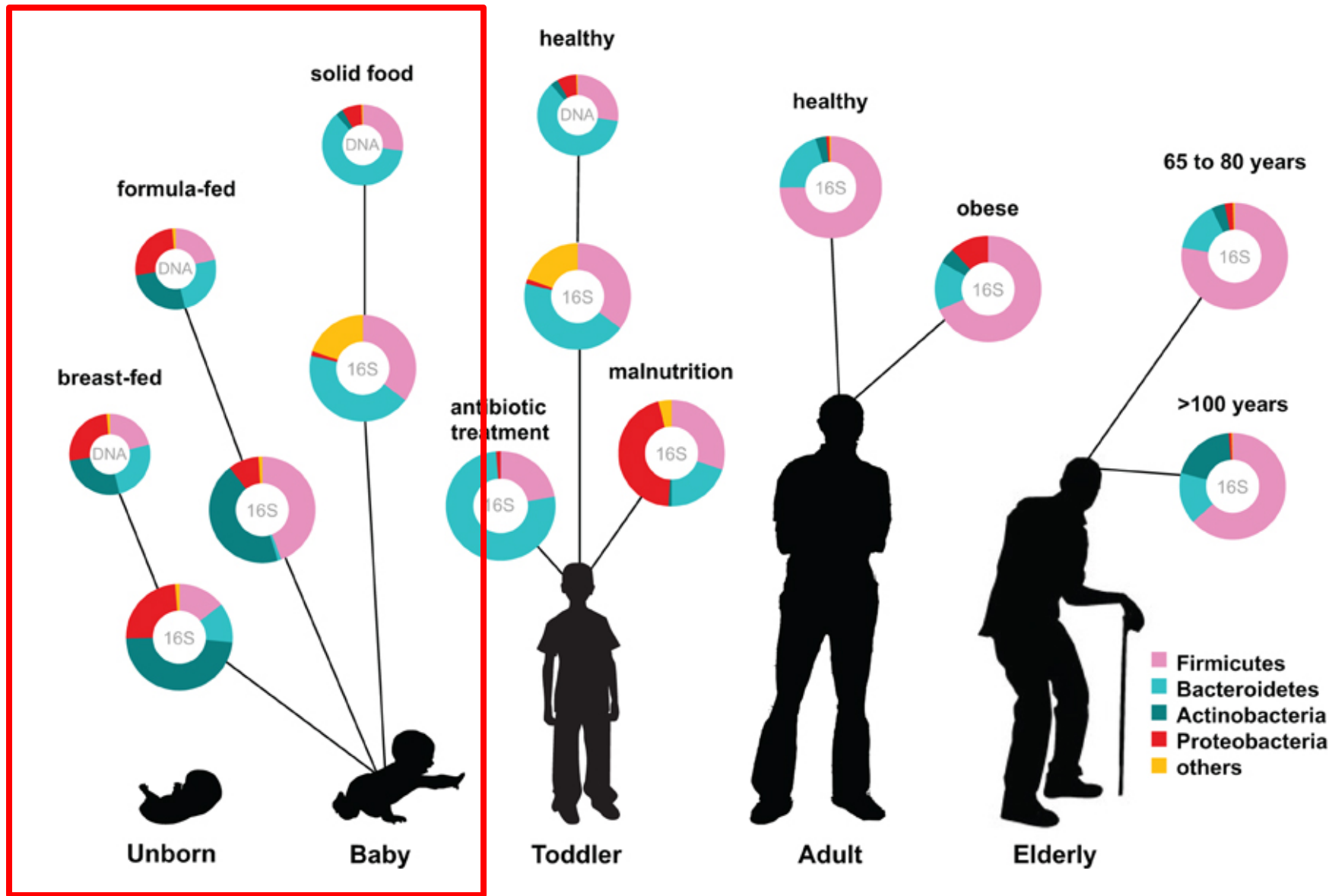
Marie-Claire Arrieta,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Leah T. Stiemsma,<sup>2,3\*</sup> Pedro A. Dimitriu,<sup>2</sup> Lisa Thorson,<sup>1</sup> Shannon Russell,<sup>1,2</sup> Sophie Yurist-Doutsch,<sup>1,2</sup> Boris Kuzeljevic,<sup>3</sup> Matthew J. Gold,<sup>4</sup> Heidi M. Britton,<sup>1</sup> Diana L. Lefebvre,<sup>5</sup> Padmaja Subbarao,<sup>6,7</sup> Piush Mandhane,<sup>8,9</sup> Allan Becker,<sup>10</sup> Kelly M. McNagny,<sup>4</sup> Malcolm R. Sears,<sup>5</sup> Tobias Kollmann,<sup>3,11</sup> the CHILD Study Investigators,<sup>†</sup> William W. Mohn,<sup>2</sup> Stuart E. Turvey,<sup>3,11\*§</sup> B. Brett Finlay<sup>1,2,12\*§</sup>

“Infants at risk of asthma exhibited transient gut microbial dysbiosis during the **first 100 days of life.**”



## **F** Histopathology

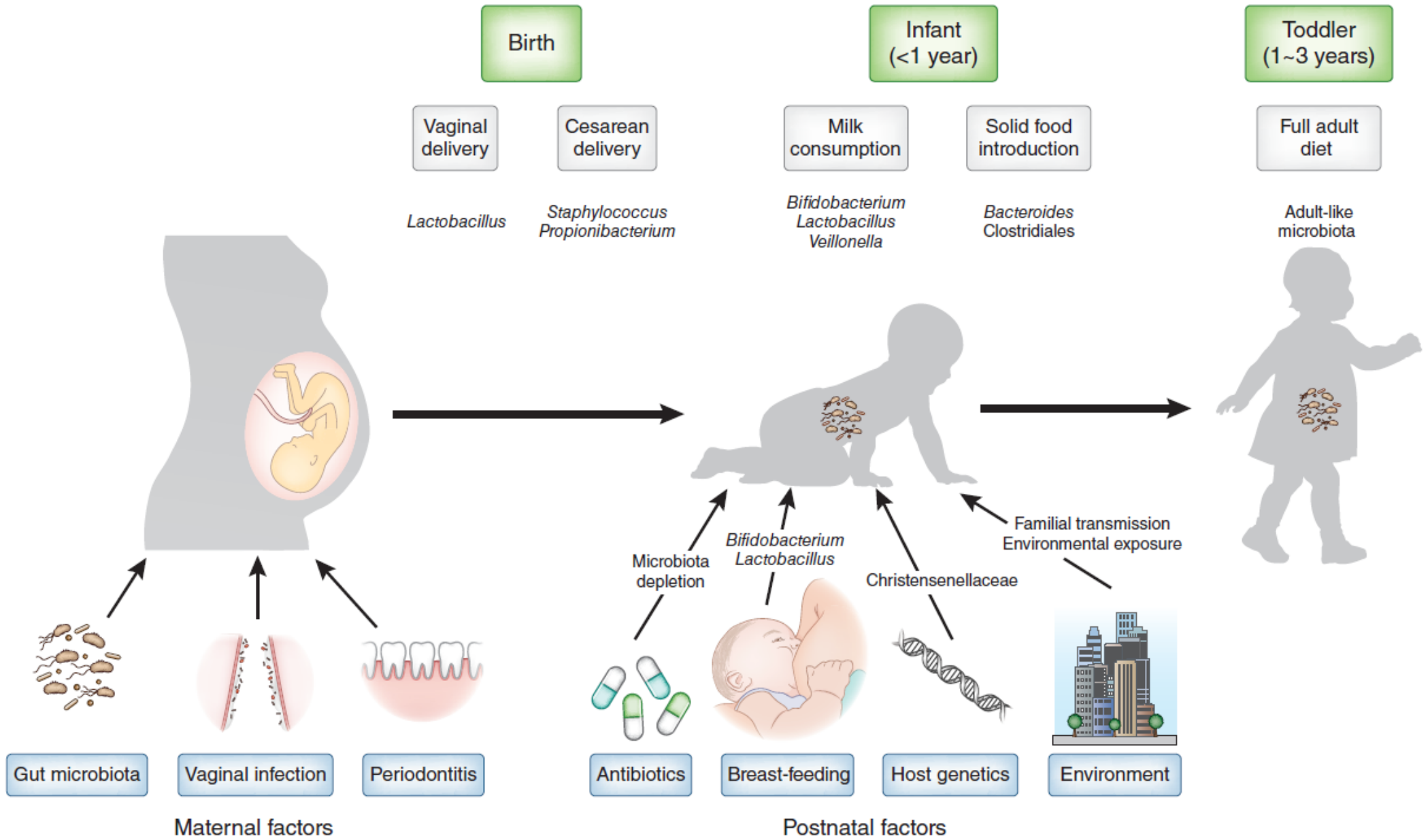




**Human microbiota: onset and shaping through life stages and perturbations.**  
(Ottman et al. *Front Cell Infect Microbiol* 2012)

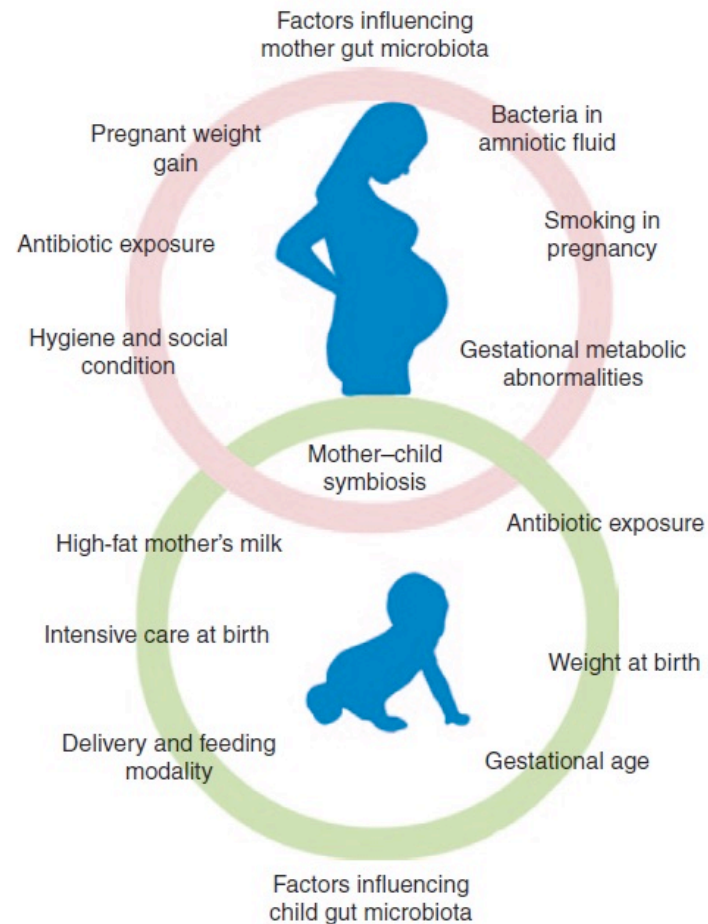
# What early life exposures shape the gut microbiome?





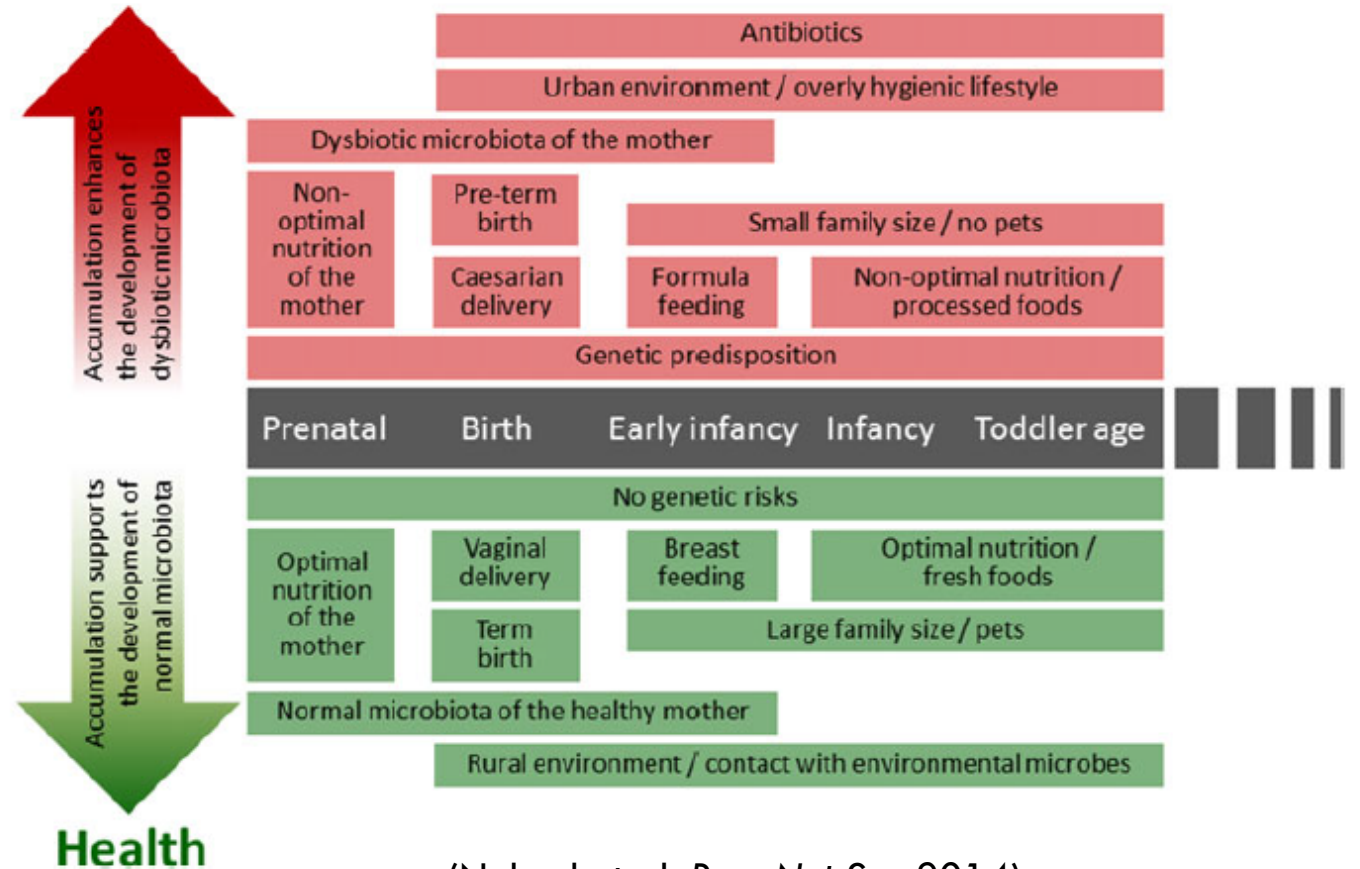
(Tamburini et al. 2017 Nat Med Rev)

# Gut Microbiota: Development & Health



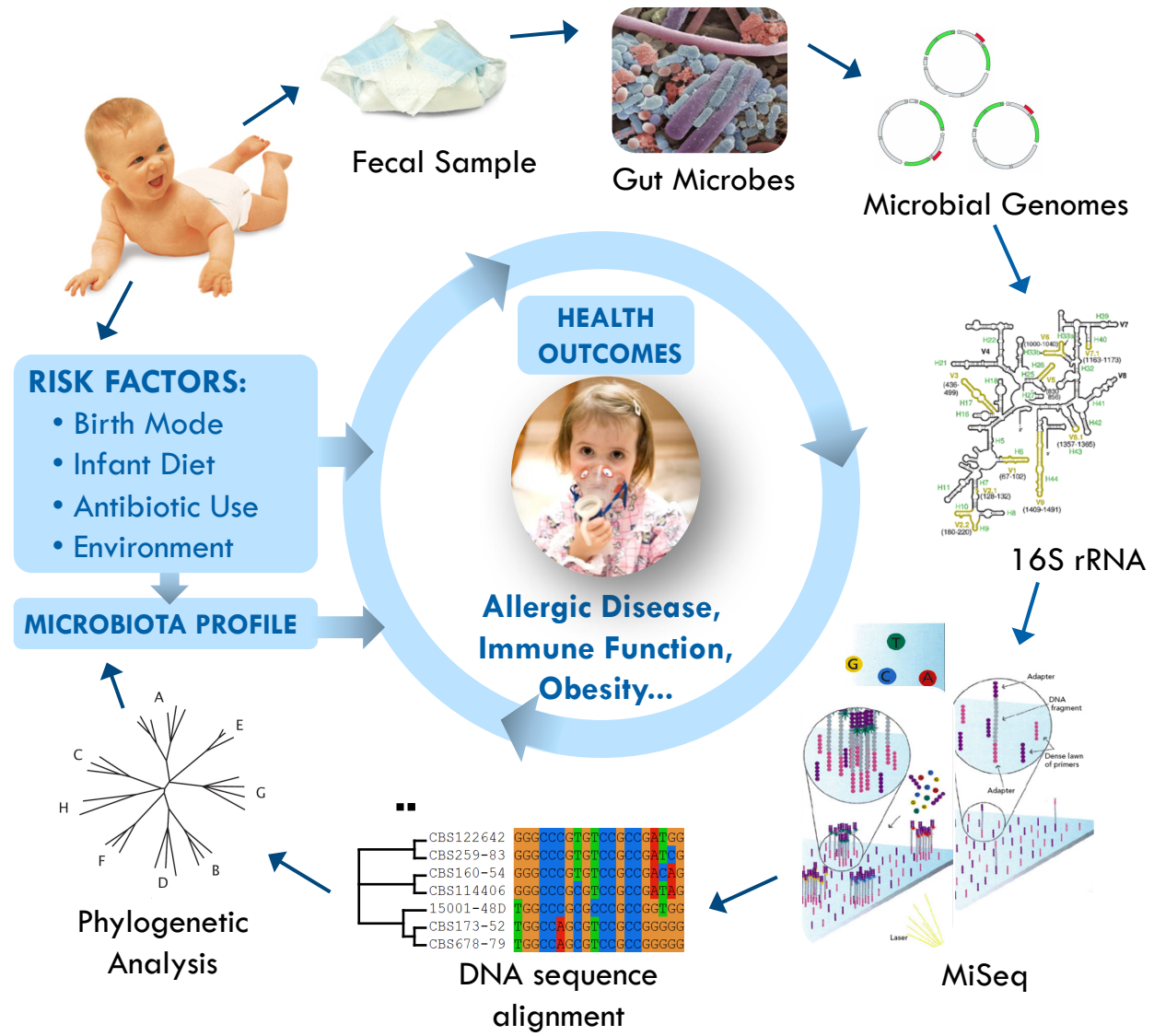
(Putignani et al. *Pediatric Research* 2014 76:1)

## Increased risk of disease



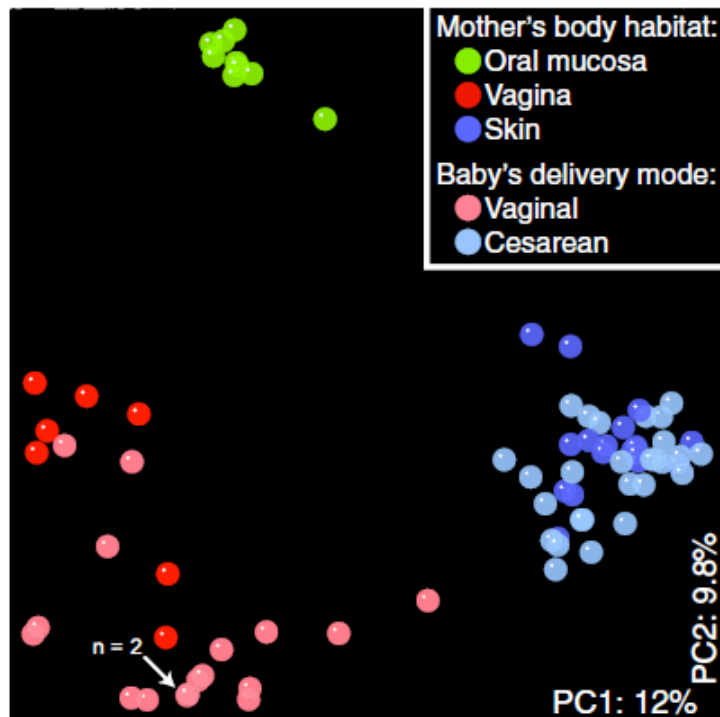
(Nylund et al. *Proc Nut Soc* 2014)

Pls James Scott (Toronto)  
Anita Kozyrskyj (Alberta)

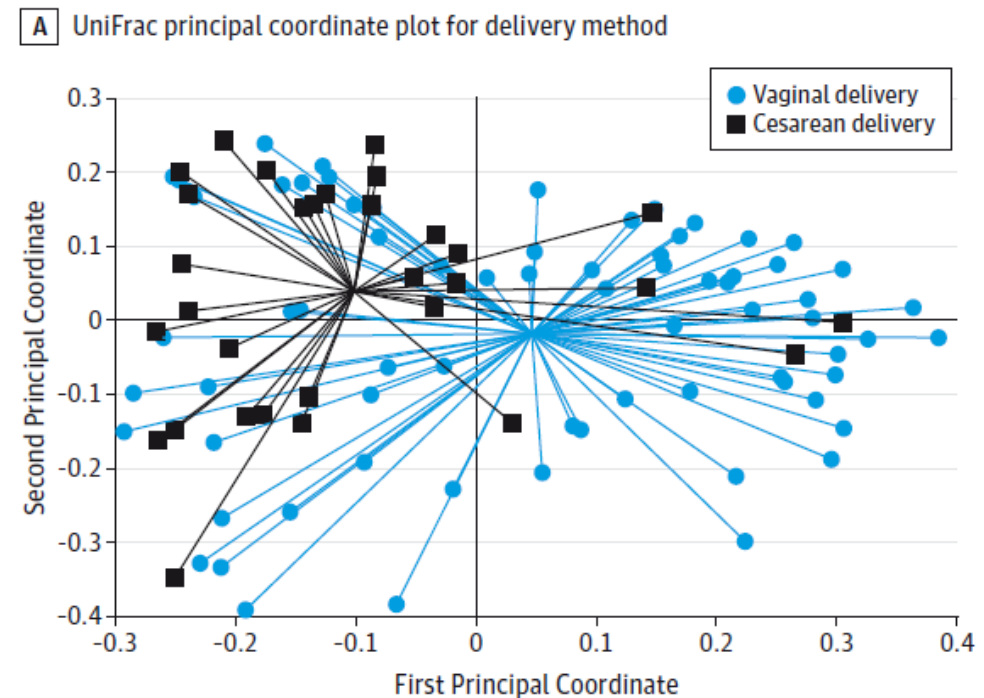


# Cesarean Section & Microbiota

**Vaginally-delivered** infants acquire gut microbiota from birth canal,  
**C-section** infants acquire microbiota from skin



(Dominguez-Bello et al. *PNAS* 2010 107:26)



(Madan et al. *JAMA Pediatrics* 2016)



# Perinatal Exposures & Gut Microbiota



CMAJ

RESEARCH

## Gut microbiota of healthy Canadian infants: profiles by mode of delivery and infant diet at 4 months

Meghan B. Azad PhD, Theodore Konya MPH, Heather Maughan PhD, David S. Guttman PhD, Catherine J. Field PhD, Radha S. Chari MD, Malcolm R. Sears MB, Allan B. Becker MD, James A. Scott PhD, Anita L. Kozyrskyj PhD, on behalf of the CHILD Study Investigators

See related commentary by Song and colleagues on page 373 and at [www.cmaj.ca/lookup/doi/10.1503/cmaj.130147](http://www.cmaj.ca/lookup/doi/10.1503/cmaj.130147)

### ABSTRACT

**Background:** The gut microbiota is essential to human health throughout life, yet the acquisition and development of this microbial community during infancy remains poorly understood. Meanwhile, there is increasing concern over rising rates of cesarean delivery and insufficient exclusive breastfeeding of infants in developed countries. In this article, we characterize the gut microbiota of healthy Canadian infants and describe the influence of cesarean delivery and formula feeding.

**Methods:** We included a subset of 24 term infants from the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) birth cohort. Mode of delivery was obtained from medical records, and mothers were asked to report on infant diet and medication use. Fecal samples were collected at 4 months of age, and we characterized the microbiota composition using high-throughput DNA sequencing.

**Results:** We observed high variability in the profiles of fecal microbiota among the infants. The profiles were generally dominated by Actinobacteria (mainly the genus *Bifidobacterium*) and Firmicutes (with diverse representation from numerous genera). Compared with breastfed infants, formula-fed infants had increased richness of species, with overrepresentation of *Clostridium difficile*. *Escherichia-Shigella* and *Bacteroides* species were underrepresented in infants born by cesarean delivery. Infants born by elective cesarean delivery had particularly low bacterial richness and diversity.

**Interpretation:** These findings advance our understanding of the gut microbiota in healthy infants. They also provide new evidence for the effects of delivery mode and infant diet as determinants of this essential microbial community in early life.

**Competing interests:** Allan Becker is an advisory board member for Merck, Novartis and AstraZeneca; his institution has received research grants from Merck and AstraZeneca. No competing interests were declared by the other authors.

This article has been peer reviewed.

Additional CHILD Study Investigators are listed at the end of the article.

**Correspondence to:** Anita Kozyrskyj, [kozyrskyj@ualberta.ca](mailto:kozyrskyj@ualberta.ca)

CMAJ 2013, DOI:10.1503/cmaj.121189

DOI: 10.1111/1471-0528.13601  
[www.bjog.org](http://www.bjog.org)



BJOG An International Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

## Impact of maternal intrapartum antibiotics, method of birth and breastfeeding on gut microbiota during the first year of life: a prospective cohort study

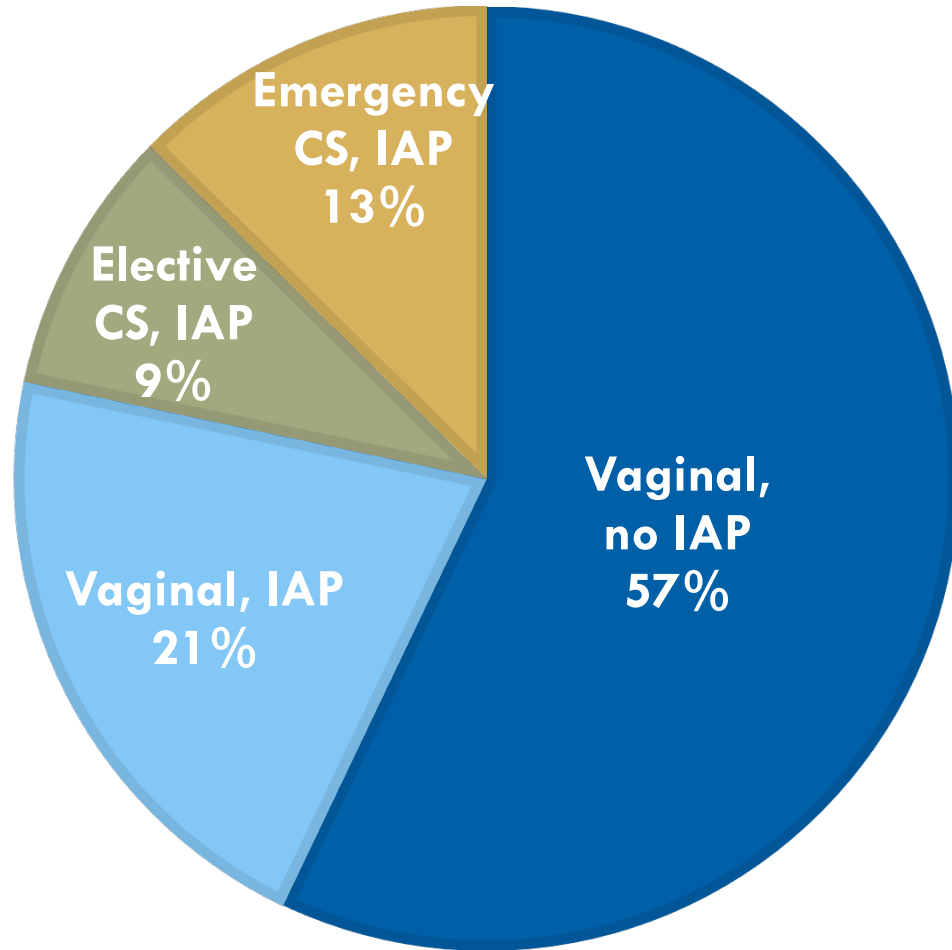
MB Azad,<sup>a,b</sup> T Konya,<sup>c</sup> RR Persaud,<sup>d</sup> DS Guttman,<sup>e</sup> RS Chari,<sup>f</sup> CJ Field,<sup>g</sup> MR Sears,<sup>h</sup> PJ Mandhane,<sup>a</sup> SE Turvey,<sup>i</sup> P Subbarao,<sup>j</sup> AB Becker,<sup>b</sup> JA Scott,<sup>c</sup> AL Kozyrskyj,<sup>a</sup> the CHILD Study Investigators<sup>†</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada <sup>b</sup> Department of Pediatrics & Child Health, Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada <sup>c</sup> Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada <sup>d</sup> College of Pharmacy, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB, Canada <sup>e</sup> Centre for the Analysis of Genome Evolution and Function, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada <sup>f</sup> Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada <sup>g</sup> Department of Agricultural, Food & Nutritional Science, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada <sup>h</sup> Department of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, Canada <sup>i</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Child & Family Research Institute, BC Children's Hospital, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC, Canada <sup>j</sup> Department of Pediatrics, Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, Canada

Correspondence: AL Kozyrskyj, PhD, Department of Pediatrics, University of Alberta, 3-527 Edmonton Clinic Health Academy, 11405 – 87th Avenue, Edmonton, AB, Canada T6G 1C9. Email [kozyrskyj@ualberta.ca](mailto:kozyrskyj@ualberta.ca)

Accepted 17 June 2015. Published Online 28 September 2015.

# C-Section, Antibiotics & Microbiota

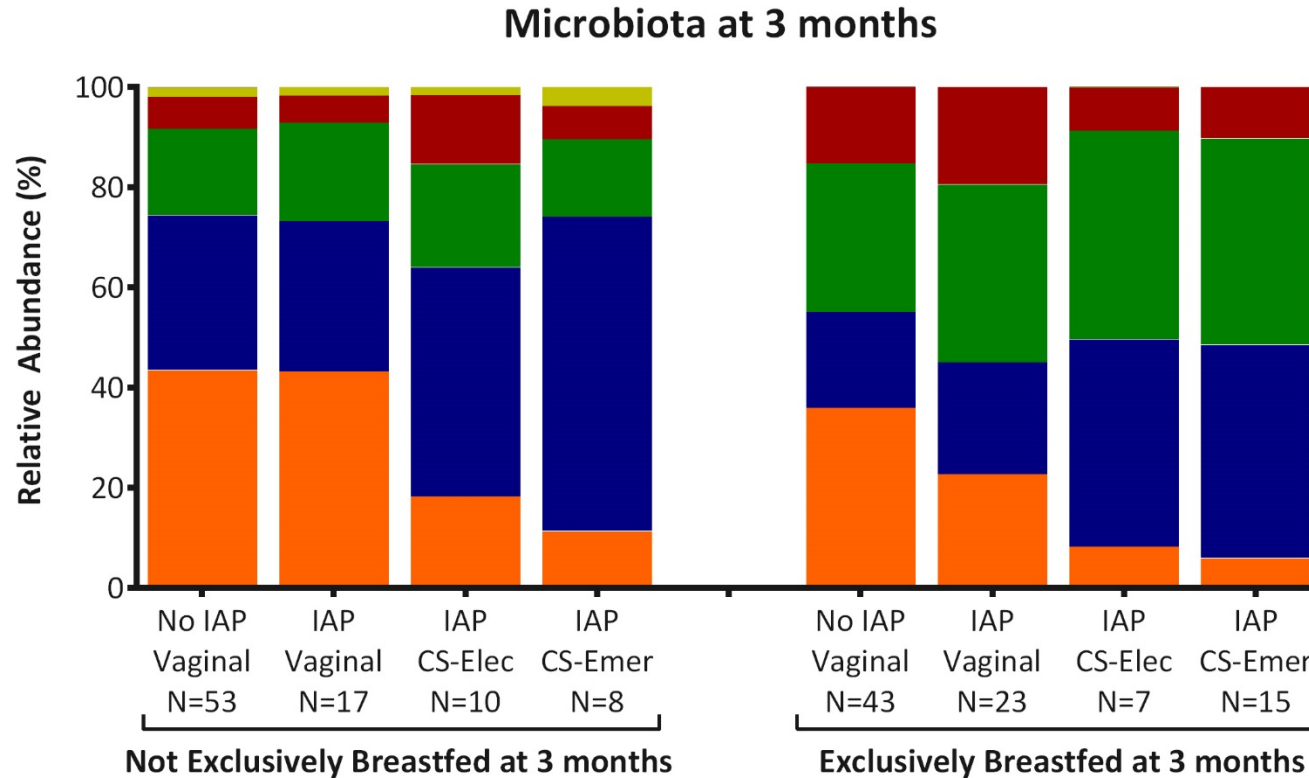


N = 198 mothers from the CHILD Study

Intrapartum Antibiotic Prophylaxis (IAP) administered for:

- ALL Cesarean (CS) deliveries
- 27% of Vaginal deliveries:
  - GBS (76%)
  - PROM (24%)

# C-Section, Antibiotics, Breastfeeding & Microbiota

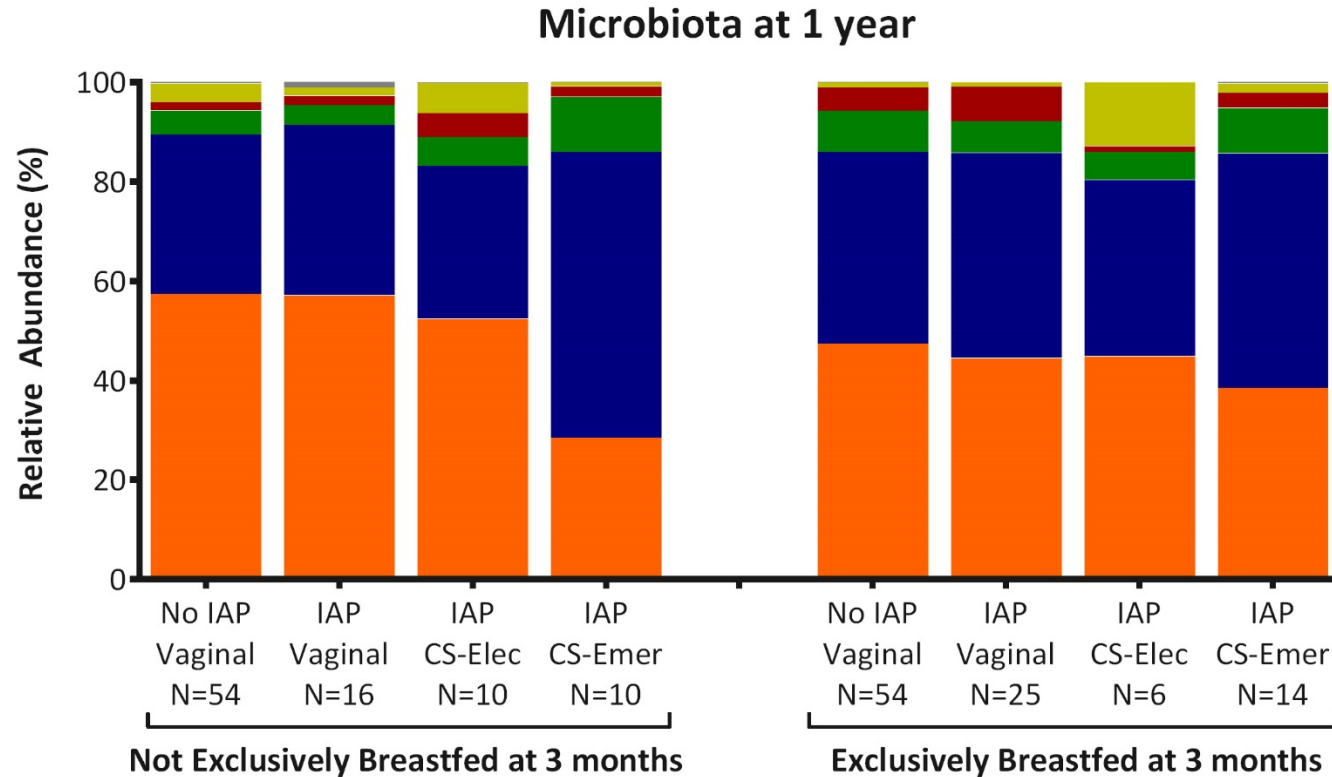


**Microbiota dysbiosis after CS, regardless of feeding**

**Phyla:**

- Bacteroidetes
- Proteobacteria
- Verrucomicrobia
- Firmicutes
- Actinobacteria
- Other

# C-Section, Antibiotics, Breastfeeding & Microbiota



**Microbiota  
"recovery"  
in breastfed  
infants**

**Phyla:**

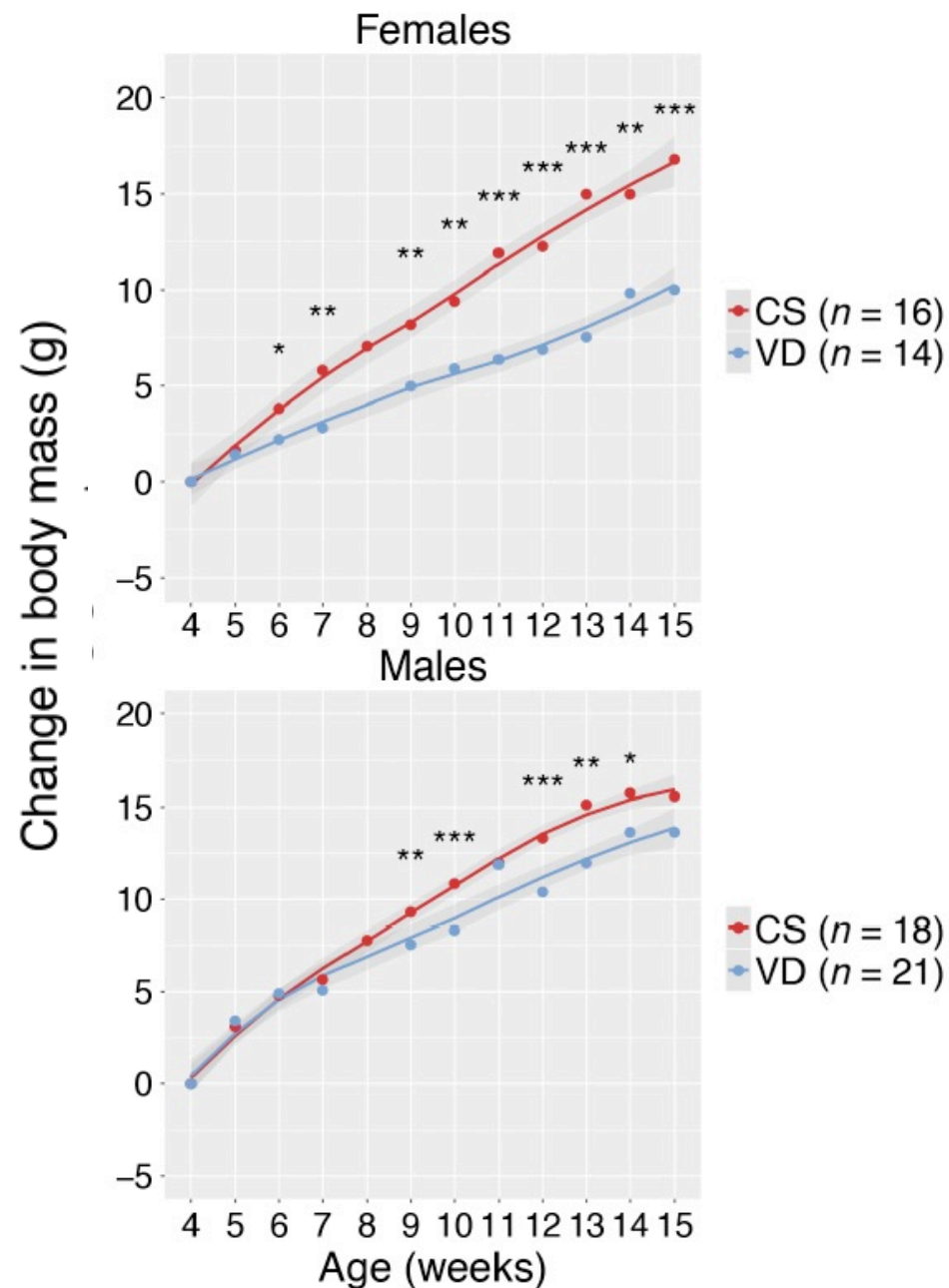
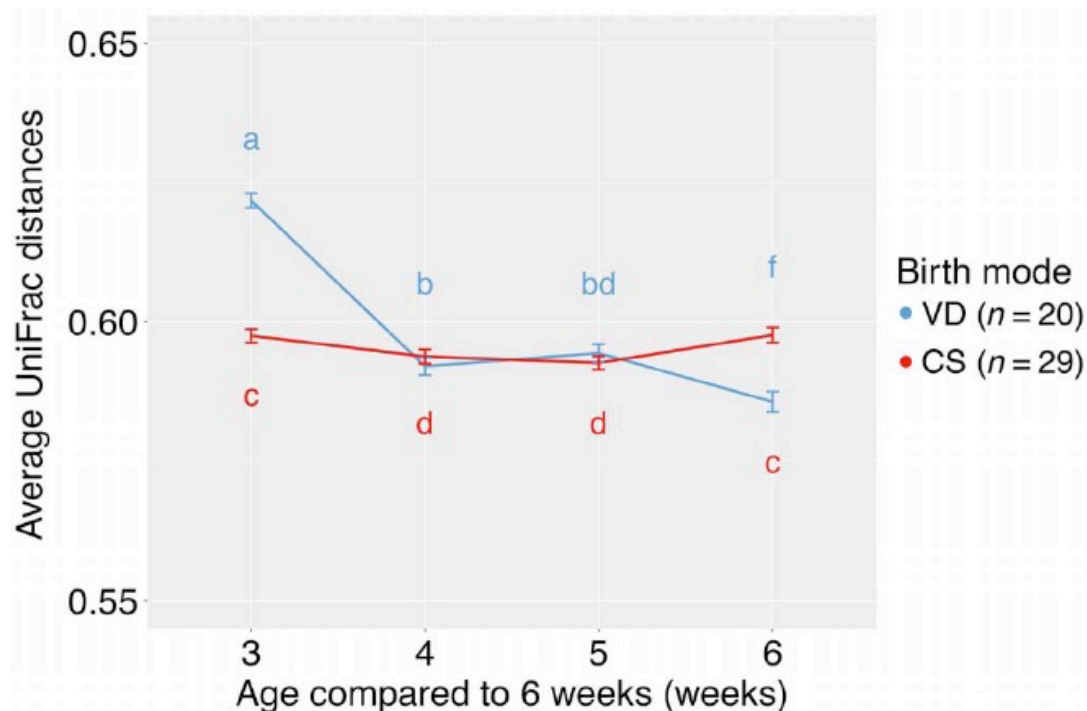
- Bacteroidetes
- Proteobacteria
- Verrucomicrobia
- Firmicutes
- Actinobacteria
- Other

## GUT MICROBIOTA

## Increased weight gain by C-section: Functional significance of the primordial microbiome

Keith A. Martinez II,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Joseph C. Devlin,<sup>1\*</sup> Corey R. Lacher,<sup>1</sup> Yue Yin,<sup>1</sup> Yi Cai,<sup>1</sup>  
Jincheng Wang,<sup>1</sup> Maria G. Dominguez-Bello<sup>1,2†</sup>

Epidemiological evidence supports a direct association between early microbiota impact—including C-section—and obesity. We performed antibiotic-free, fostered C-sections and determined the impact on the early microbiota and body weight during development. Mice in the C-section group gained more body mass after weaning, with a stronger phenotype in females. C-section-born mice lacked the dynamic developmental gut microbiota changes observed in control mice. The results demonstrate a causal relationship between C-section and increased body weight, supporting the involvement of maternal vaginal bacteria in normal metabolic development.

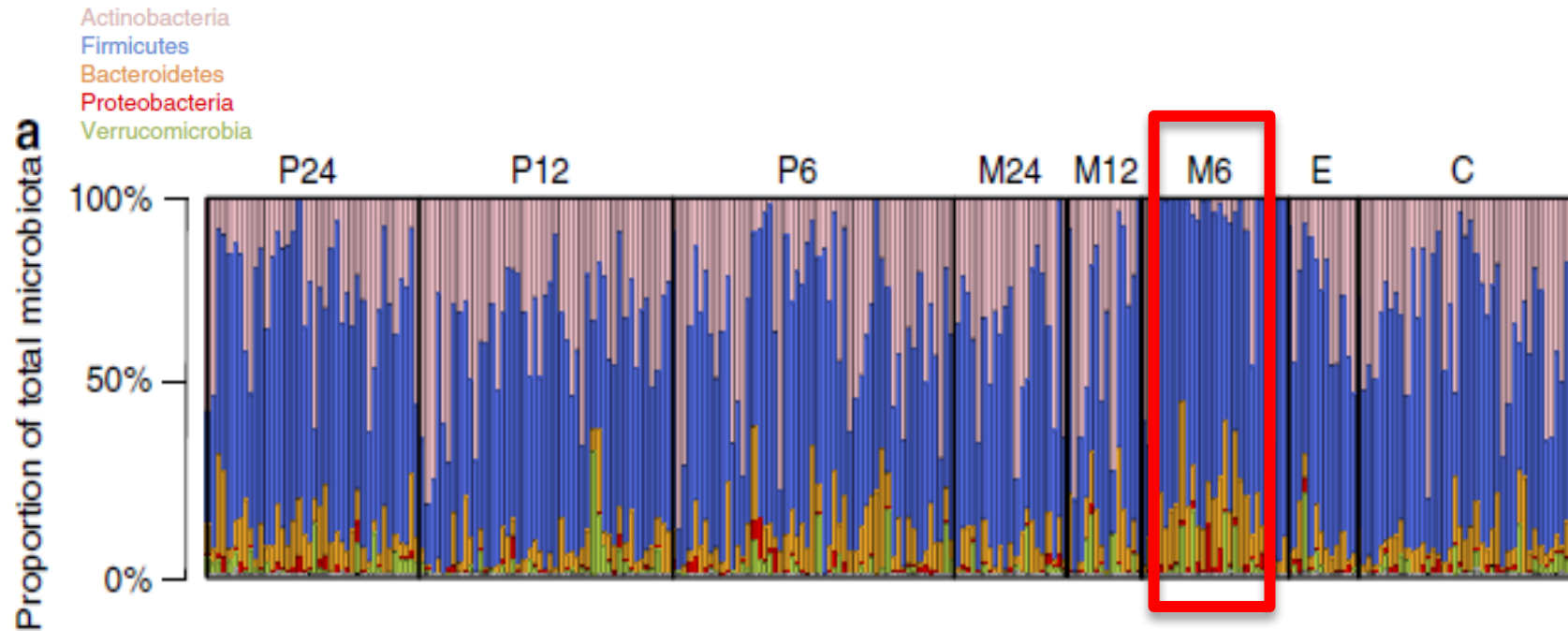


# Intestinal microbiome is related to lifetime antibiotic use in Finnish pre-school children

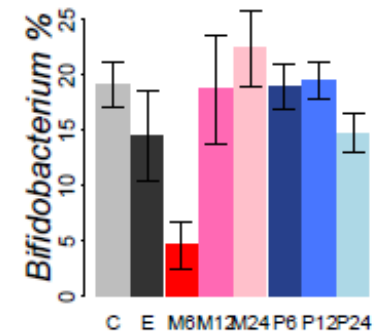
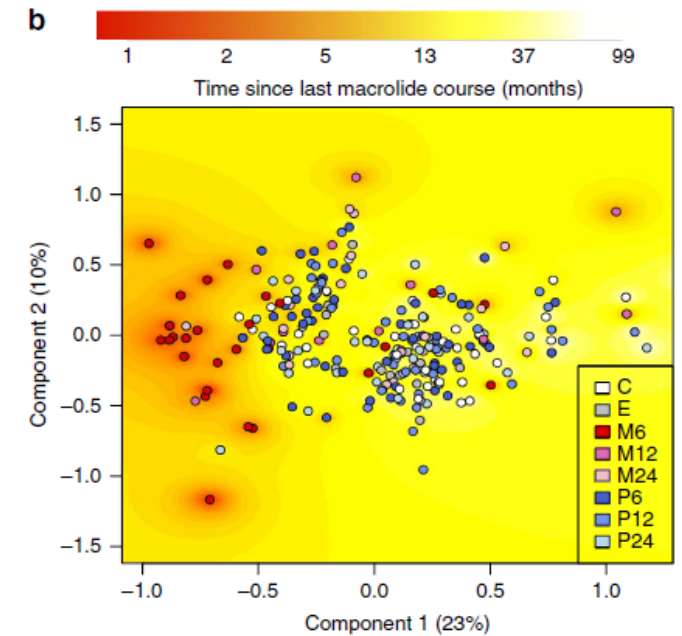
Katri Korpela<sup>1</sup>, Anne Salonen<sup>1</sup>, Lauri J. Virta<sup>2</sup>, Riina A. Kekkonen<sup>3</sup>, Kristoffer Forslund<sup>4</sup>, Peer Bork<sup>4</sup> & Willem M. de Vos<sup>1,5,6</sup>

## Macrolide (M) Antibiotics:

- ↓ Actinobacteria (*Bifidobacteria*)
  - ↑ Proteobacteria, Bacteroidetes
  - Recovery by 12 months
- (No phylum-level effect from Penicillins (P))



**Figure 1 | Microbiota composition in 257 fecal samples as arranged per group.** C denotes control group, no antibiotics for the past 2 years and in total <1 course per year of life on average. E denotes early-life exposure group, no antibiotics for the past 2 years and >1 course per year of life on average. M6 denotes macrolide course within 6 months; M12 denotes macrolide course within 6-12 months; M24 denotes macrolide course within 12-24 months. P6, P12 and P24 denote penicillin courses within 6, 6-12 and 12-24 months, respectively. (a) Phyla composition. (b) Genus-level microbiota composition according to PCoA analysis. The background colour indicates interpolated time since the last macrolide course.



# Microbiota “recovery”?



Cell 158, 705–721, August 14, 2014



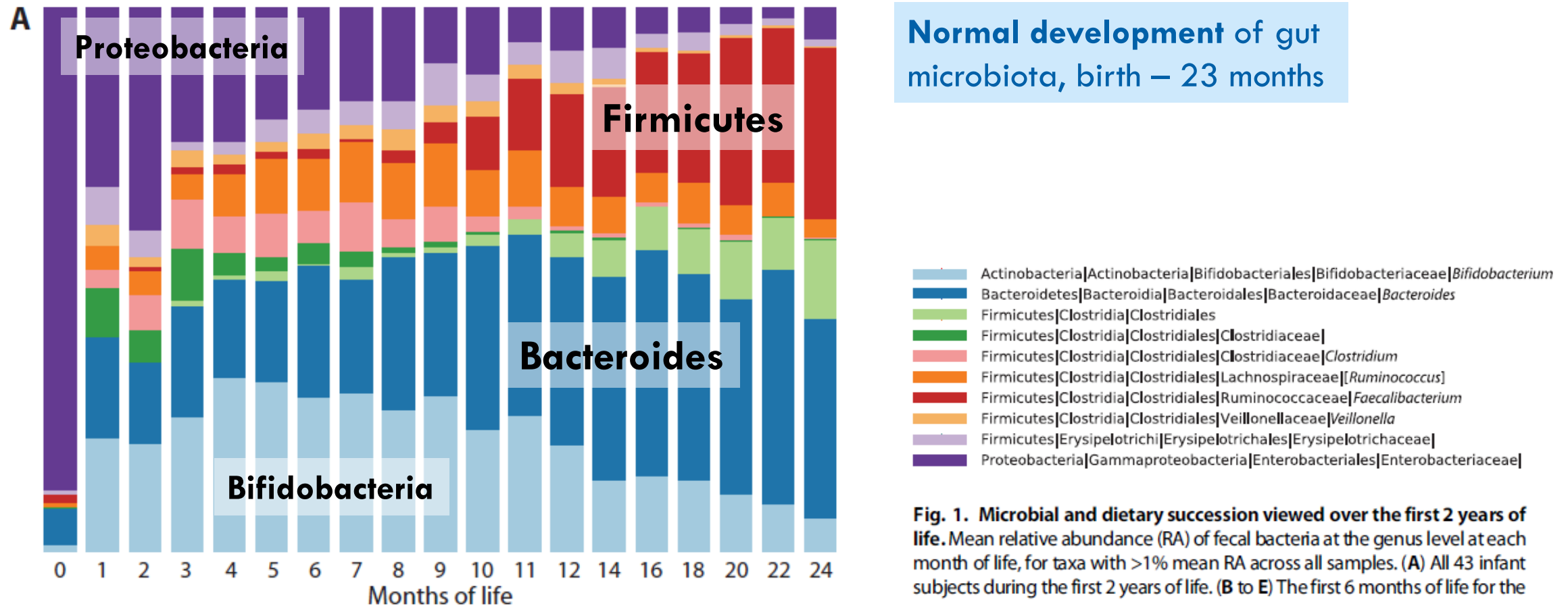
## Altering the Intestinal Microbiota during a Critical Developmental Window Has Lasting Metabolic Consequences

Laura M. Cox,<sup>1,2</sup> Shingo Yamanishi,<sup>2</sup> Jiho Sohn,<sup>2</sup> Alexander V. Alekseyenko,<sup>2,3</sup> Jacqueline M. Leung,<sup>1</sup> Ilseung Cho,<sup>2</sup> Sungheon G. Kim,<sup>4</sup> Huilin Li,<sup>5</sup> Zhan Gao,<sup>2</sup> Douglas Mahana,<sup>1</sup> Jorge G. Zárate Rodríguez,<sup>7</sup> Arlin B. Rogers,<sup>6</sup> Nicolas Robine,<sup>8</sup> P'ng Loke,<sup>1</sup> and Martin J. Blaser<sup>1,2,9,\*</sup>

- Antibiotics used to disrupt microbiota in newborn mice
- Microbiota **recovered** after antibiotic exposure, but immune function and adiposity were **permanently** altered

# Antibiotics, birth mode, and diet shape microbiome maturation during early life

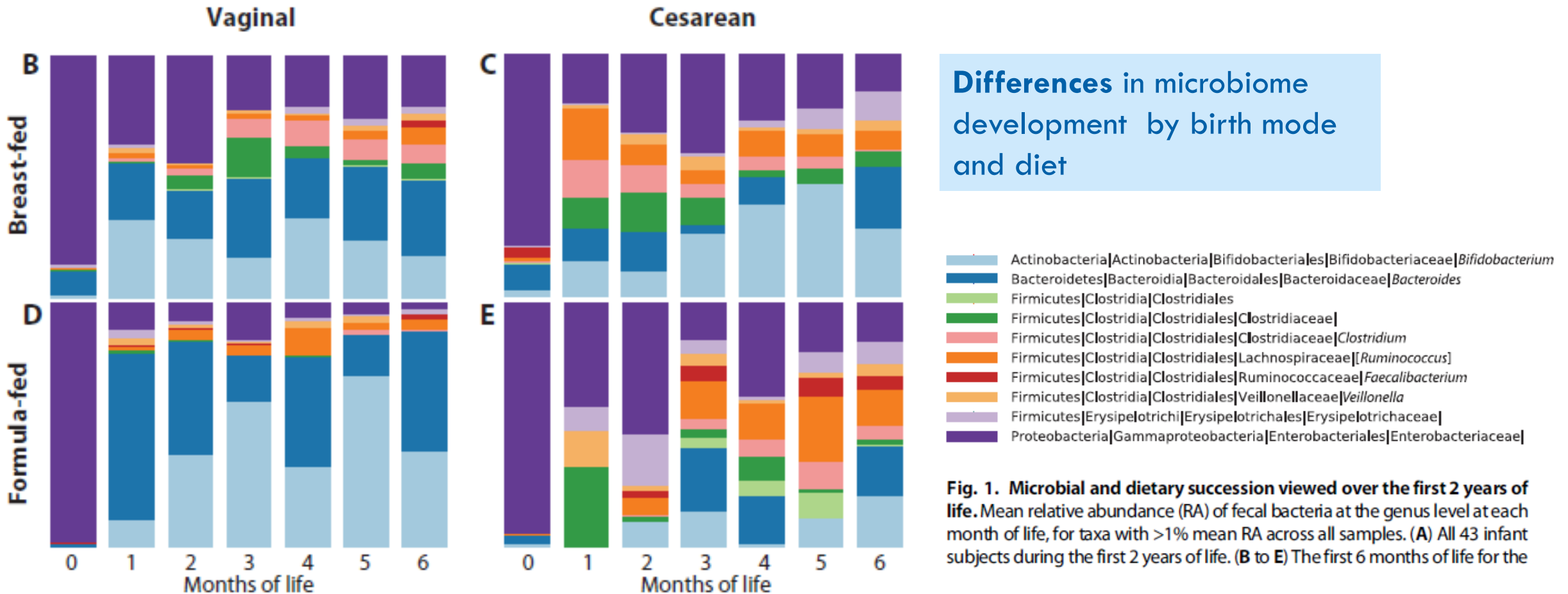
Nicholas A. Bokulich,<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Chung,<sup>1</sup> Thomas Battaglia,<sup>1</sup> Nora Henderson,<sup>1</sup> Melanie Jay,<sup>1,2</sup> Huilin Li,<sup>3</sup> Arnon D. Lieber,<sup>1</sup> Fen Wu,<sup>1,2</sup> Guillermo I. Perez-Perez,<sup>1,4</sup> Yu Chen,<sup>1,2</sup> William Schweizer,<sup>5</sup> Xuhui Zheng,<sup>4</sup> Monica Contreras,<sup>1</sup> Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello,<sup>1</sup> Martin J. Blaser<sup>1,4,6\*</sup>

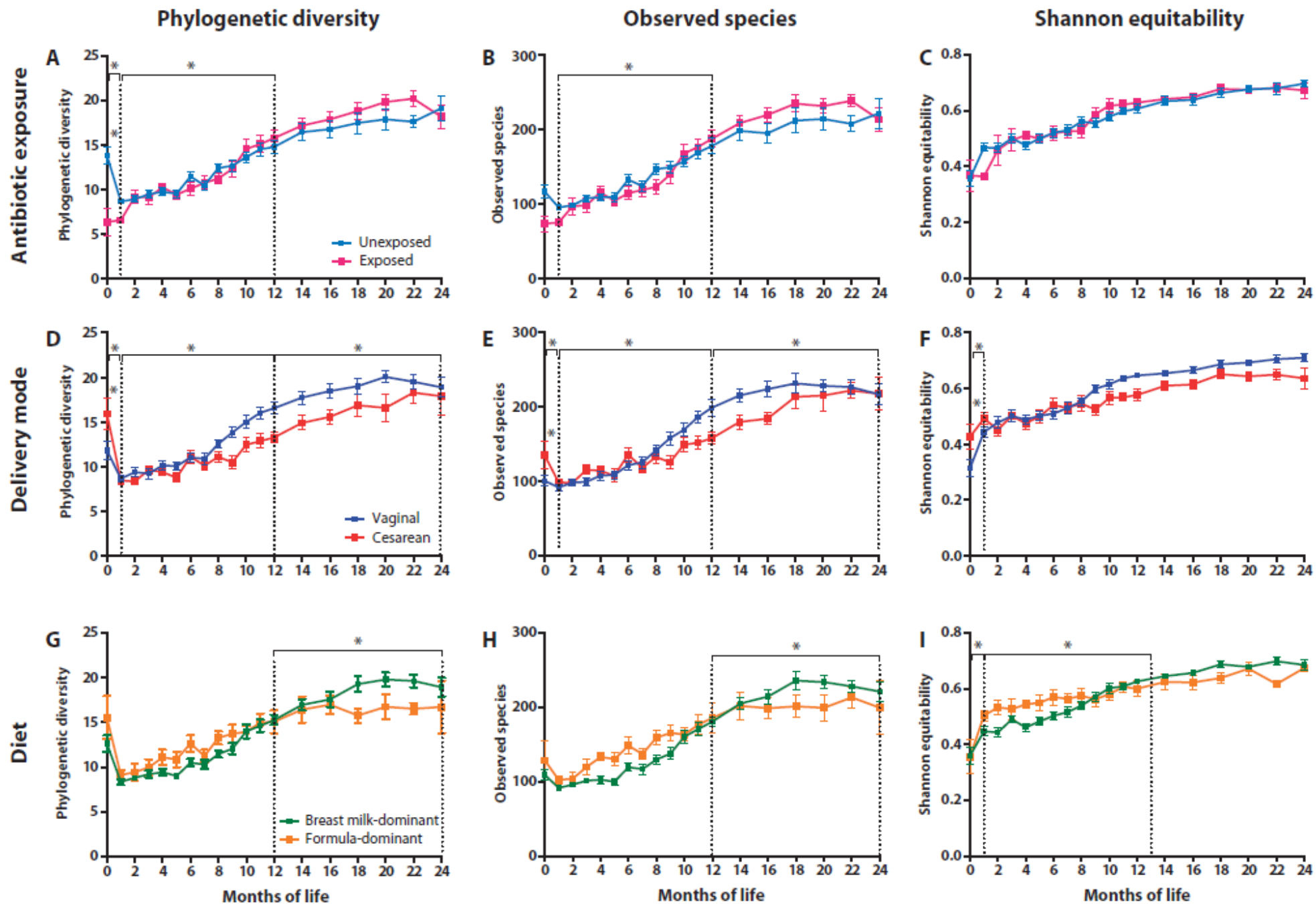




# Antibiotics, birth mode, and diet shape microbiome maturation during early life

Nicholas A. Bokulich,<sup>1</sup> Jennifer Chung,<sup>1</sup> Thomas Battaglia,<sup>1</sup> Nora Henderson,<sup>1</sup> Melanie Jay,<sup>1,2</sup> Huilin Li,<sup>3</sup> Arnon D. Lieber,<sup>1</sup> Fen Wu,<sup>1,2</sup> Guillermo I. Perez-Perez,<sup>1,4</sup> Yu Chen,<sup>1,2</sup> William Schweizer,<sup>5</sup> Xuhui Zheng,<sup>4</sup> Monica Contreras,<sup>1</sup> Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello,<sup>1</sup> Martin J. Blaser<sup>1,4,6\*</sup>

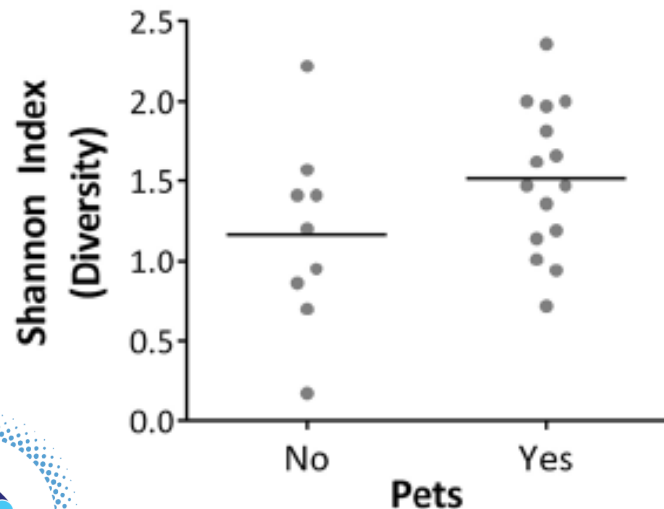




# Pets & Microbiota

Infants living with pets have: (Azad et al AACI 2013)

- ↑ gut microbiota diversity
- Different gut microbiota composition



- ↑ Peptostreptococcaceae (including *C. difficile*)
- ↑ Clostridiaceae
- ↑ Veillonaceae (D)
- ↑ *Coprococcus*
- ↓ Bifidobacteriaceae (C)
- ↓ *Eggerthella* (D)



“Say Hello to the 100 Trillion Bacteria That Make Up Your Microbiome”

May 15, 2013 ~ NYTimes Magazine

MICHAEL POLLAN



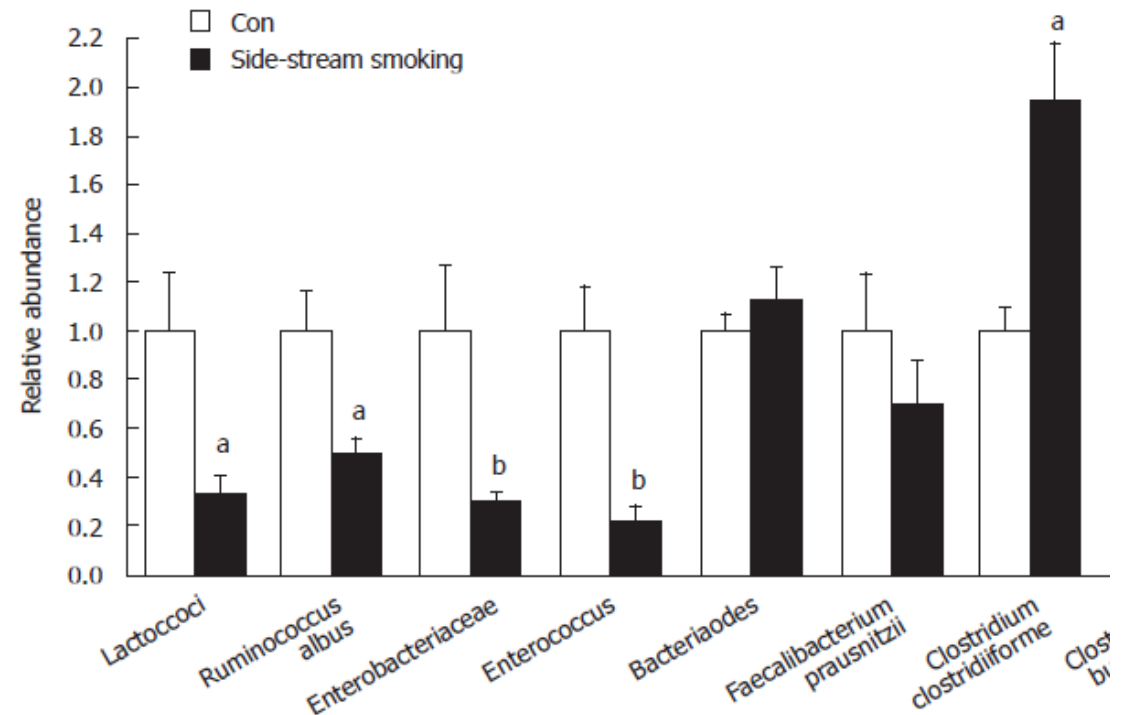
# Smoking & Microbiota?

- Second-hand smoke induced significant changes in gut microbiota in mice

(Wang et al. *World J Gastroenterol* 2012)

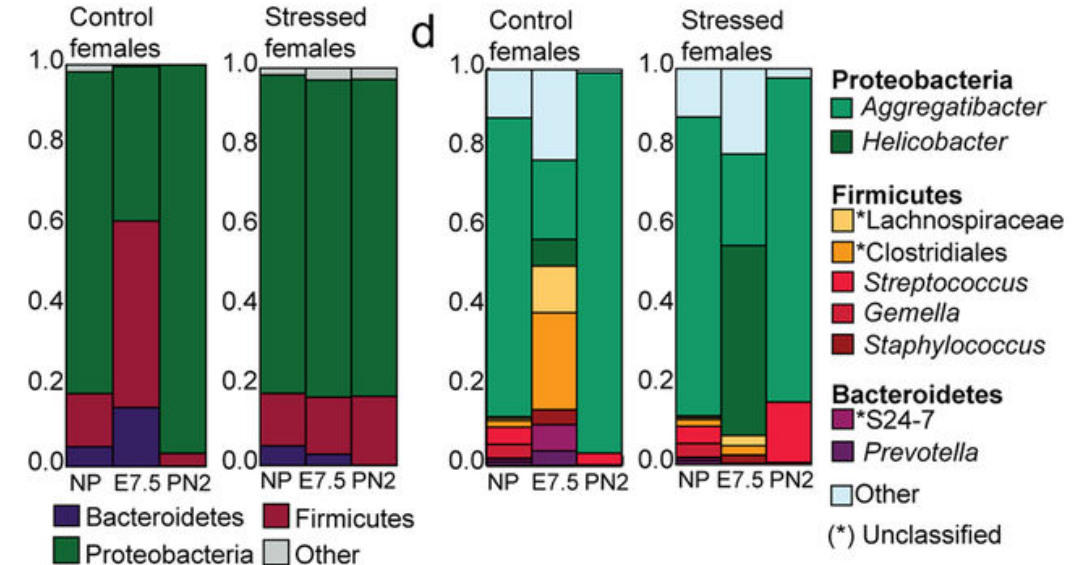
- Maternal smoking during pregnancy associated with altered human infant gut microbiota profiles at birth.

(Gosalbes et al. *Clin Exp Allergy* 2012)



# Stress & Microbiota

- No (?) human evidence yet, but...
- Stress during pregnancy in mice alters maternal and offspring microbiome in a sex-specific manner. (Jašarević et al. Sci Rep. 2017)

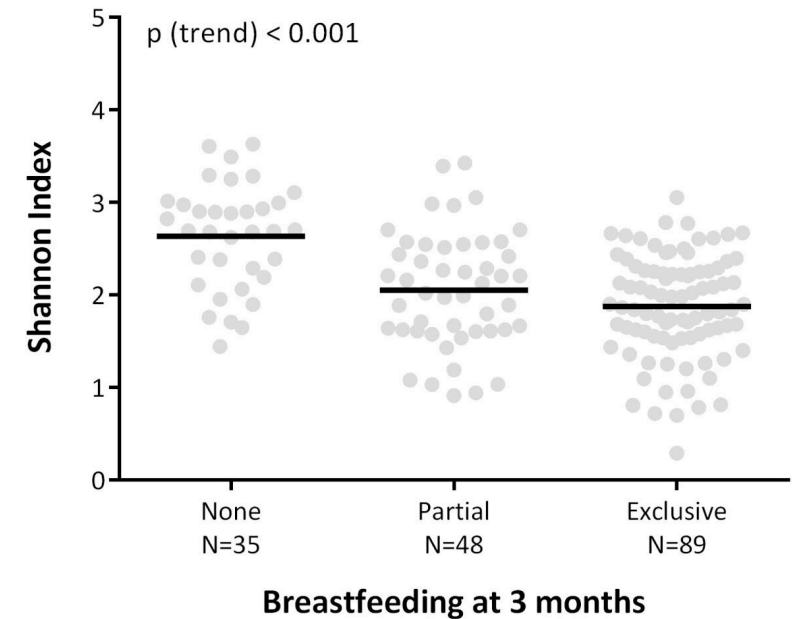
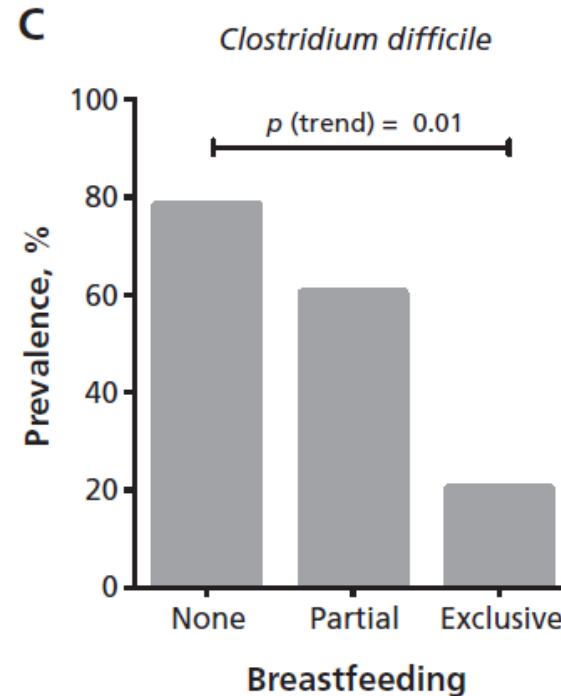
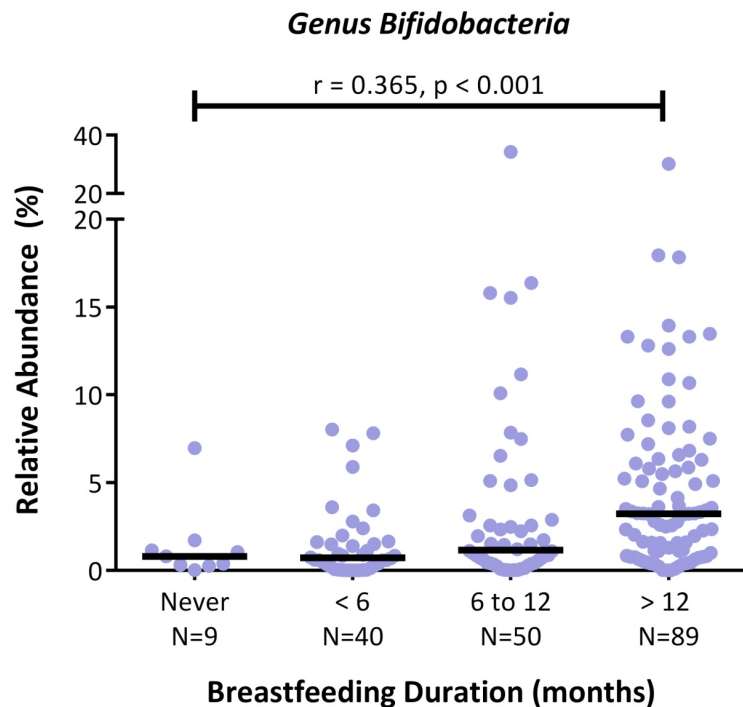


- Gut microbiota composition correlated to grid floor induced stress and behavior in mice. (Bangsgaard Bendtsen et al. PLoS One. 2012 7:10)
- Prenatal stress alters bacterial colonization of the gut in infant monkeys. (Bailey et al. *J Pediatr Gastroenterol Nutr.* 2004 38:4)

# Breastfeeding & Microbiota

Breastfeeding favours:

↑ *Bifidobacteria*, ↓ *Clostridium difficile*, ↓↑ Diversity...



# DOHaD: Asthma, Allergies & Obesity

- Early risk factors:
  - ▣ Cesarean section
  - ▣ Antibiotics
  - ▣ Tobacco smoke
  - ▣ Maternal stress
- Early protective factors:
  - ▣ (Direct) Breastfeeding
  - ▣ Pets



Breast milk supplies  
more than just  
nutrition for babies.



## ***Nature's first functional food***

Breast milk feeds helpful microbes, fights harmful ones, provides immunity, and jump-starts a newborn's life

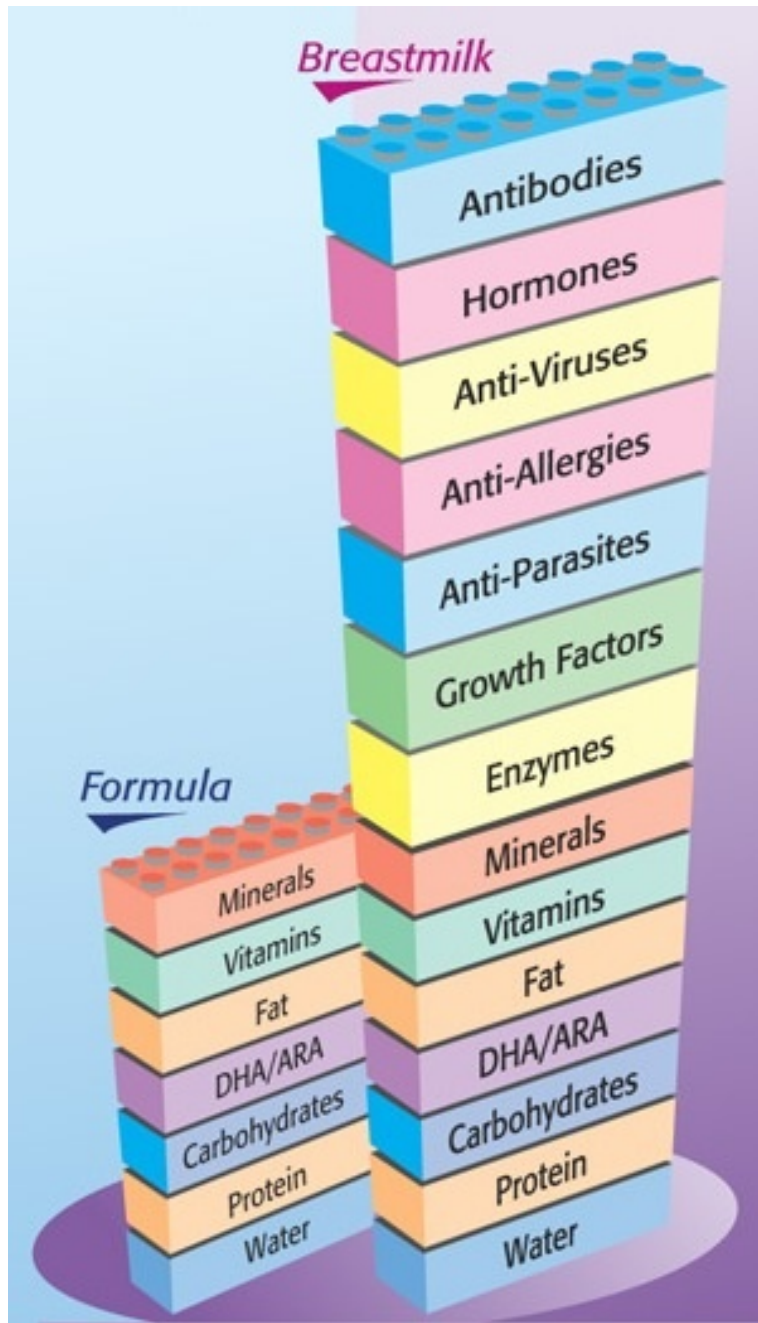
ing explored once again. Scientists have focused on making better microbiome fostered by milk. They have documented how breast milk more than feed a newborn with bacteria. Mother's milk also

---

***“Milk is really a genius fluid that was outrageously understudied. If we can identify components of human breast milk that are important, then we can understand the wisdom of milk—and take advantage of them.”***

**David Mills, UC Davis**





# DID YOU EVER WONDER WHAT'S IN... ?

## BREASTMILK

|  |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>WATER</b></p> <p><b>CARBOHYDRATES</b> (energy source)</p> <p>Lactose</p> <p>Oligosaccharides (see below)</p> <p><b>CARBOXYLIC ACID</b></p> <p>Alpha hydroxy acid</p> <p>Lactic acid</p> <p><b>PROTEINS</b> (building muscles and bones)</p> <p>Whey protein</p> <p>Alpha-lactalbumin</p> <p>HAMELET (Human Alpha-lactalbumin Made lethal to Tumour cells)</p> <p>Lactoferrin</p> <p>Many antimicrobial factors (see below)</p> <p>Casein</p> <p>Serum albumin</p> <p><b>NON-PROTEIN NITROGENS</b></p> <p>Creatine</p> <p>Creatinine</p> <p>Urea</p> <p>Uric acid</p> <p>Peptides (see below)</p> <p>Amino Acids (the building blocks of protein)</p> <p>Alanine</p> <p>Arginine</p> <p>Aspartate</p> <p>Cysteine</p> <p>Glutamate</p> <p>Histidine</p> <p>Isoleucine</p> <p>Leucine</p> <p>Lysine</p> <p>Methionine</p> <p>Phenylalanine</p> <p>Proline</p> <p>Serine</p> <p>Taurine</p> <p>Threonine</p> <p>Tryptophan</p> <p>Tyrosine</p> <p>Valine</p> <p>Carnitine (amino acid compound necessary to make use of fatty acids as an energy source)</p> <p><b>Nucleotides</b> (chemical compounds that are the structural units of RNA and DNA)</p> <p>5'-Adenosine monophosphate (5'-AMP)</p> <p>3'-Cyclic adenosine monophosphate (3'-cyclic AMP)</p> <p>5'-Cytidine monophosphate (5'-CMP)</p> <p>Cytidine diphosphate choline (CDP choline)</p> <p>Guanosine diphosphate (UDP)</p> <p>Guanosine diphosphate - mannose</p> <p>3'- Uridine monophosphate (3'-UMP)</p> <p>5'-Uridine monophosphate (5'-UMP)</p> <p>Uridine diphosphate (UDP)</p> <p>Uridine diphosphate hexose (UDPH)</p> <p>Uridine diphosphate-N acetyl hexosamine (UDPH-N)</p> <p>Uridine diphosphogluconic acid (UDPGA)</p> <p>Several more novel nucleotides of the UDP type</p> | <p><b>FATS</b></p> <p>Triglycerides</p> <p>Long-chain polyunsaturated fatty acids</p> <p>Docosahexaenoic acid (DHA) (important for brain development)</p> <p>Arachidonic acid (AHA) (important for brain development)</p> <p>Linoleic acid</p> <p>Alpha-linolenic acid (ALA)</p> <p>Eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA)</p> <p>Conjugated linoleic acid (lumenic acid)</p> <p>Free Fatty Acids</p> <p>Monounsaturated fatty acids</p> <p>Oleic acid</p> <p>Palmoleic acid</p> <p>Heptadecenoic acid</p> <p>Saturated fatty acids</p> <p>Stearic</p> <p>Palmitic acid</p> <p>Lauric acid</p> <p>Myristic acid</p> <p><b>Phospholipids</b></p> <p>Phosphatidylcholine</p> <p>Phosphatidylethanolamine</p> <p>Phosphatidylinositol</p> <p>Lysophosphatidylcholine</p> <p>Lysophosphatidylethanolamine</p> <p>Plasmalogens</p> <p><b>Sphingolipids</b></p> <p>Sphingomyelin</p> <p>Gangliosides</p> <p>GM1</p> <p>GM2</p> <p>GM3</p> <p>Glucosylceramide</p> <p>Glycosphingolipids</p> <p>Galactosylceramide</p> <p>Lactosylceramide</p> <p>Globosylceramide (GB3)</p> <p>Globoside (GB4)</p> <p><b>Sterols</b></p> <p>Squalene</p> <p>Lanosterol</p> <p>Dimethylsterol</p> <p>Mefosterol</p> <p>Lithosterol</p> <p>Desmosterol</p> <p>Tricycligenol</p> <p>Cholesterol</p> <p>7-dehydrocholesterol</p> <p>Stigma-and campesterol</p> <p>7-ketocholesterol</p> <p>Sitosterol</p> <p>β-sitosterol</p> <p>Vitamin D metabolites</p> <p>Steroid hormones</p> | <p><b>VITAMINS</b></p> <p>Vitamin A</p> <p>Beta carotene</p> <p>Vitamin B6</p> <p>Vitamin B12 (inositol)</p> <p>Vitamin B12</p> <p>Vitamin C</p> <p>Vitamin D</p> <p>Vitamin E</p> <p>α-tocopherol</p> <p>Vitamin K</p> <p>Thiamine</p> <p>Riboflavin</p> <p>Niacin</p> <p>Folic acid</p> <p>Pantothenic acid</p> <p>Biotin</p> <p><b>MINERALS</b></p> <p>Calcium</p> <p>Sodium</p> <p>Potassium</p> <p>Iron</p> <p>Zinc</p> <p>Chloride</p> <p>Phosphorus</p> <p>Magnesium</p> <p>Copper</p> <p>Manganese</p> <p>Sulphur</p> <p>Chromium</p> <p>Cobalt</p> <p>Fluorine</p> <p>Nickel</p> <p><b>METAL</b></p> <p>Molybdenum (essential element in many enzymes)</p> <p><b>GROWTH FACTORS</b> (aid in the maturation of the intestinal lining)</p> <p>Cytokines</p> <p>Interleukin-1β (IL-1β)</p> <p>IL-2</p> <p>IL-4</p> <p>IL-6</p> | <p><b>PEPTIDES</b> (combinations of amino acids)</p> <p>hMGF 1 (Human growth factor)</p> <p>hMGF 2</p> <p>hMGF 3</p> <p>Cholecystokinin (CCK)</p> <p>β-endorphins</p> <p>Parathyroid hormone (PTH)</p> <p>Parathyroid hormone-related peptide (PTHrP)</p> <p>β-defensin-1</p> <p>Calcitonin</p> <p>Gastrin</p> <p>Moletin</p> <p>Bombesin (gastric releasing peptide, also known as neuromedin B)</p> <p>Neurotensin</p> <p>Somatostatin</p> <p><b>HORMONES</b> (chemical messengers that carry signals from one cell, or group of cells, to another via the blood)</p> <p>Cortisol</p> <p>Triiodothyronine (T3)</p> <p>Thyroxine (T4)</p> <p>Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) (also known as thyrotropin)</p> <p>Thyroid releasing hormone (TRH)</p> <p>Prolactin</p> <p>Oxytocin</p> <p>Insulin</p> <p>Corticosterone</p> <p>Thrombospondin</p> <p>Gonadotropin-releasing hormone (GnRH)</p> <p>GRH</p> <p>Leptin (aids in regulation of food intake)</p> <p>Ghrelin (aids in regulation of food intake)</p> <p>Adiponectin</p> <p>Feedback inhibitor of lactation (FIL)</p> <p>Eicosanoids</p> <p>Prostaglandins (enzymatically derived from fatty acids)</p> <p>PG-E1</p> <p>PG-E2</p> <p>PG-F2</p> <p>Leukotrienes</p> <p>Thromboxanes</p> <p>Prostacyclins</p> | <p><b>ANTI-PROTEASES</b> (thought to bind themselves to macromolecules such as enzymes and as a result prevent allergic and anaphylactic reactions)</p> <p>α-1-antitrypsin</p> <p>α-1-antichymotrypsin</p> <p><b>ANTIMICROBIAL FACTORS</b> (are used by the immune system to identify and neutralize foreign objects, such as bacteria and viruses.)</p> <p>Leukocytes (white blood cells)</p> <p>Phagocytes</p> <p>Basophils</p> <p>Neutrophils</p> <p>Eosinophils</p> <p>Macrophages</p> <p>Lymphocytes</p> <p>B lymphocytes (also known as B cells)</p> <p>T lymphocytes (also known as T cells)</p> <p>stgA (Secretory immunoglobulin A) (the most important antirefective factor)</p> <p>IgA2</p> <p>IgG</p> <p>IgD</p> <p>IgM</p> <p>IgM</p> <p>IgE</p> <p>Complement C1</p> <p>Complement C2</p> <p>Complement C3</p> <p>Complement C4</p> <p>Complement C5</p> <p>Complement C6</p> <p>Complement C7</p> <p>Complement C8</p> <p>Complement C9</p> <p>Glycoproteins</p> <p>Mucins (attaches to bacteria and viruses to prevent them from clinging to mucosal tissues)</p> <p>Lactadherin</p> <p>Alpha-lactoglobulin</p> <p>Alpha-2 macroglobulin</p> <p>Lewis antigens</p> <p>Ribonuclease</p> <p>Haemagglutinin inhibitors</p> <p>Bifidus Factor (increases growth of Lactobacillus bifidus - which is a good bacteria)</p> <p>Lactoferrin (binds to iron which prevents harmful bacteria from using the iron to grow)</p> |
|--|---|--|---|---|

## FORMULA

**WATER**

**CARBOHYDRATES**

Lactose

Corn maltodextrin

**PROTEIN**

Partially hydrolyzed reduced minerals whey protein concentrate (from cow's milk)

**FATS**

Palm olein

Soybean oil

Cocunut oil

High oleic safflower oil (or sunflower oil)

M. alpha oil (Fungal DHA)

C.cohnii oil (Algal ARA)

**MINERALS**

Potassium citrate

Potassium phosphate

Calcium chloride

Tricalcium phosphate

Sodium citrate

Magnesium chloride

Ferrous sulphate

Zinc sulphate

Sodium chloride

Copper sulphate

Potassium iodide

Manganese sulphate

Sodium selenate

**VITAMINS**

Sodium ascorbate

Inositol

Choline bitartrate

Alpha-tocopheryl acetate

Niacinamide

Calcium pantothenate

Riboflavin

Vitamin A acetate

Pyridoxine hydrochloride

Thiamine mononitrate

Folic acid

Phylloquinone

Biotin

Vitamin D3

Vitamin B12

**ENZYME**

Trypsin

**AMINO ACID**

Taurine

L-Carnitine (a combination of two different amino acids)

**NUCLEOTIDES**

Cytidine 5-monophosphate

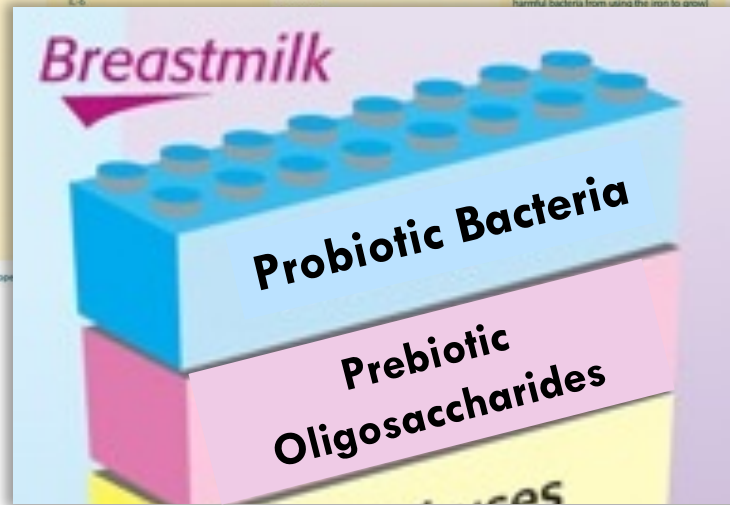
Dioxydium uridine 5-monophosphate

Adenosine 5-monophosphate

Dioxydium guanosine 5-monophosphate

Soy Lecithin

PLUS:



© Haley Rumble.

## Mother's littlest helpers

Breastmilk nourishes the microbes colonizing the neonatal intestinal tract

By Katie Hinde<sup>1</sup> and Zachery T. Lewis<sup>2</sup>

Commensal bacteria underlie, in part, our nutritional status, immune function, and psychological well-being. The trillions of beneficial microbes within our intestinal tract convert dietary nutrients, inhibit pathogen colonization, regulate immune processes, and produce neural signals (1, 2). Advances in our understanding of the importance of microbes have motivated the commercial development of products intended to boost “good” commensals and confer health benefits. Probiotic dietary supplements contain live beneficial microbes hoped to subsequently colonize the gut. Prebiotic nutrients are thought to enhance good gastrointestinal microflora by preferentially nourishing beneficial microbes. Even “psychobiotics” are being explored to ameliorate symptoms of psychiatric illness. These live organisms influence the brain through metabolites and neuroactive compounds in rodent models and preliminary human studies (3). How to most effectively be the landscape architects of our microbial community, however, often remains unclear. An opportunity to gain insights into how natural selection has shaped the coevolution of hosts and microbes can be found in mammalian mother-infant dyads, as our microbiota are ecologically en-

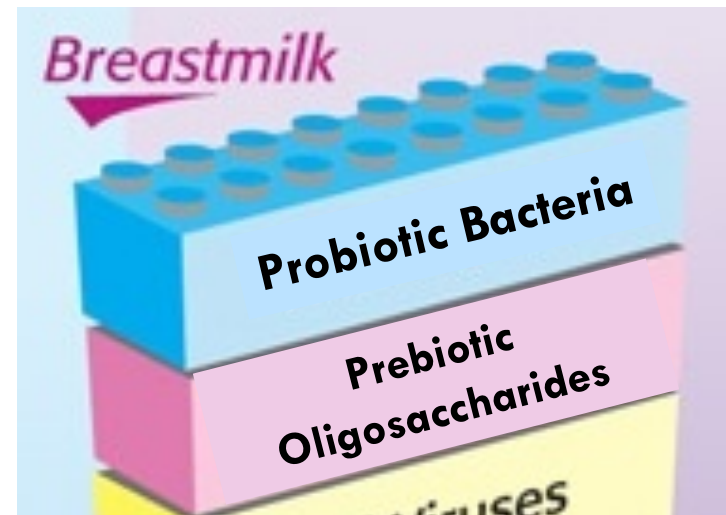
as a result of the intra-oral vacuum dynamics of suckling (6), or via the more speculative translocation to milk through a gut-mammary route (5, 7).

Once breastmilk is in the intestinal environment of an infant, intense microbial competition exists for both space and nutrients. The major available carbon source, human milk glycans, are complex oligosaccharide and glycoconjugate compounds that

---

*“...our microbiota are ecologically engineered by mothers and breastmilk.”*

typically pass undigested from the infant stomach because eutherian mammals (those with a placenta) lack enzymes to cleave them (8, 9). Investigations of the structure of milk oligosaccharides reveal that human milk has a greater diversity (>200 isomers), more complexity, and higher abundance than the milk of other primates, including all of the great apes (4, 8). Importantly, certain oligosaccharides that dominate human milk, but are absent or rare in other primates, are the preferred food of *Bifidobacterium*, the most prevalent microbial clade in the healthy infant gut (8).

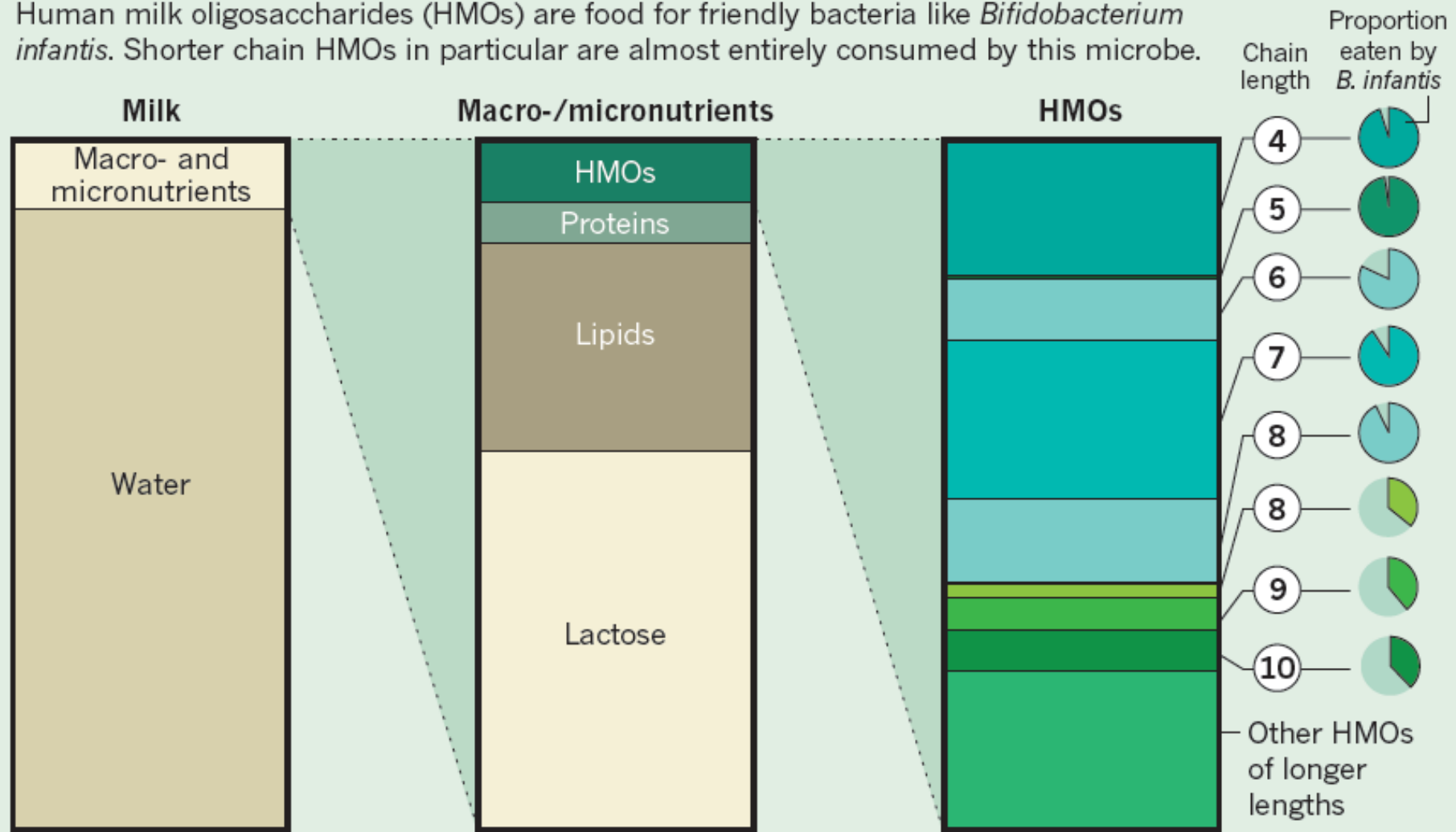


**Probiotics:**  
Live beneficial  
bacteria

**Prebiotics:**  
Non-digestible  
carbohydrates that  
select for beneficial  
bacteria

# WHAT'S IN HUMAN MILK

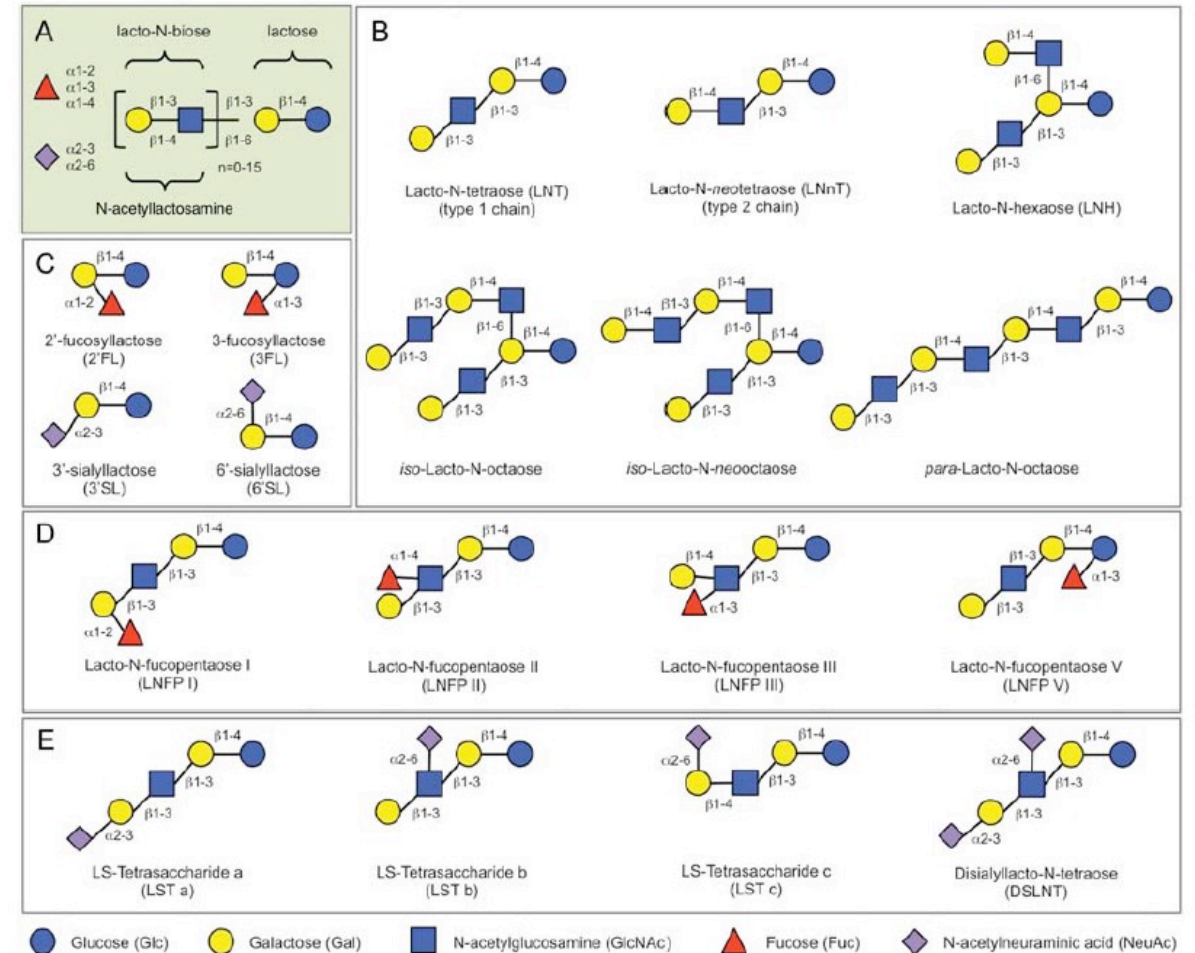
Human milk oligosaccharides (HMOs) are food for friendly bacteria like *Bifidobacterium infantis*. Shorter chain HMOs in particular are almost entirely consumed by this microbe.



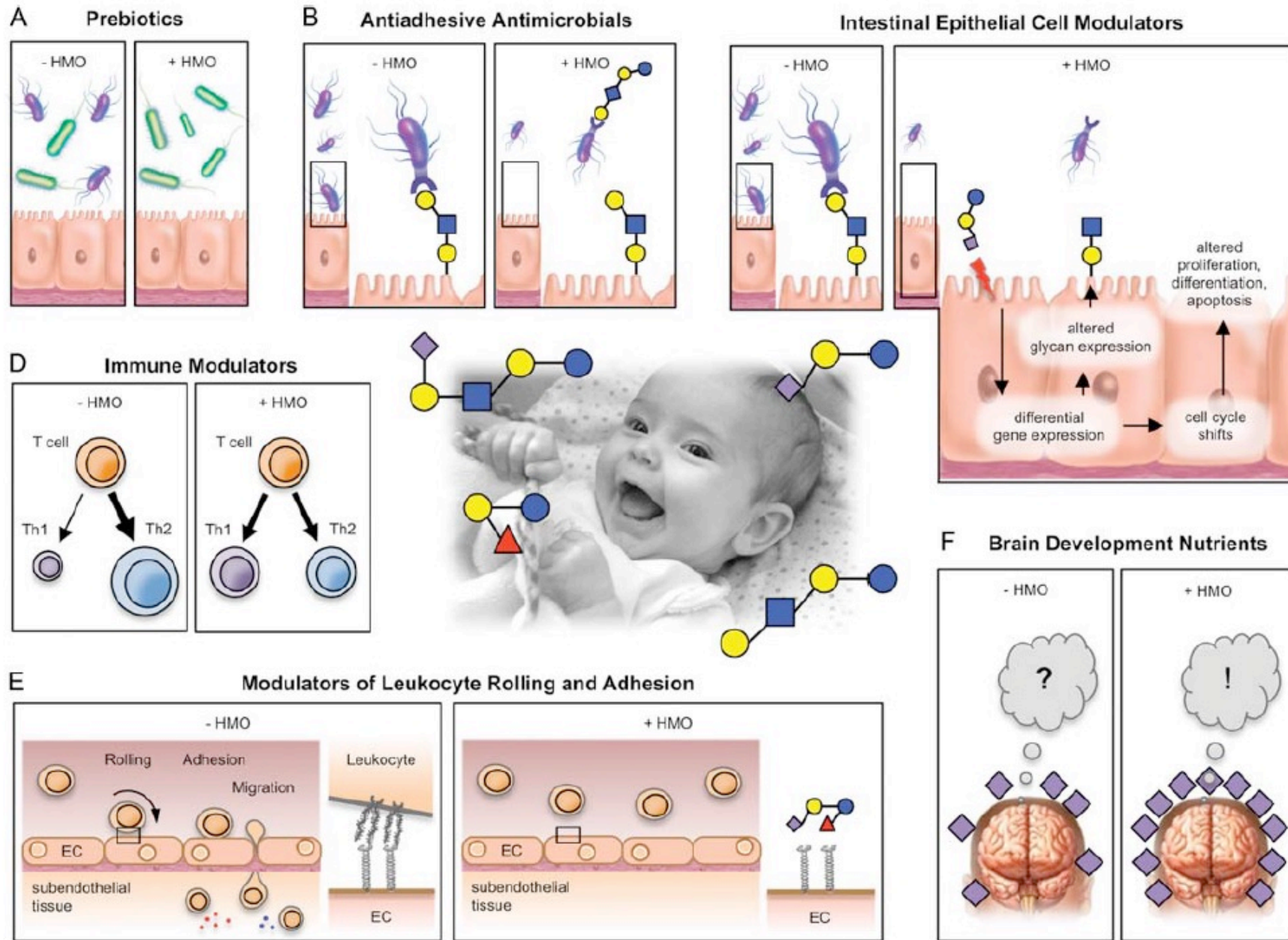
(Petherick *Nature* 2010)

# Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs)

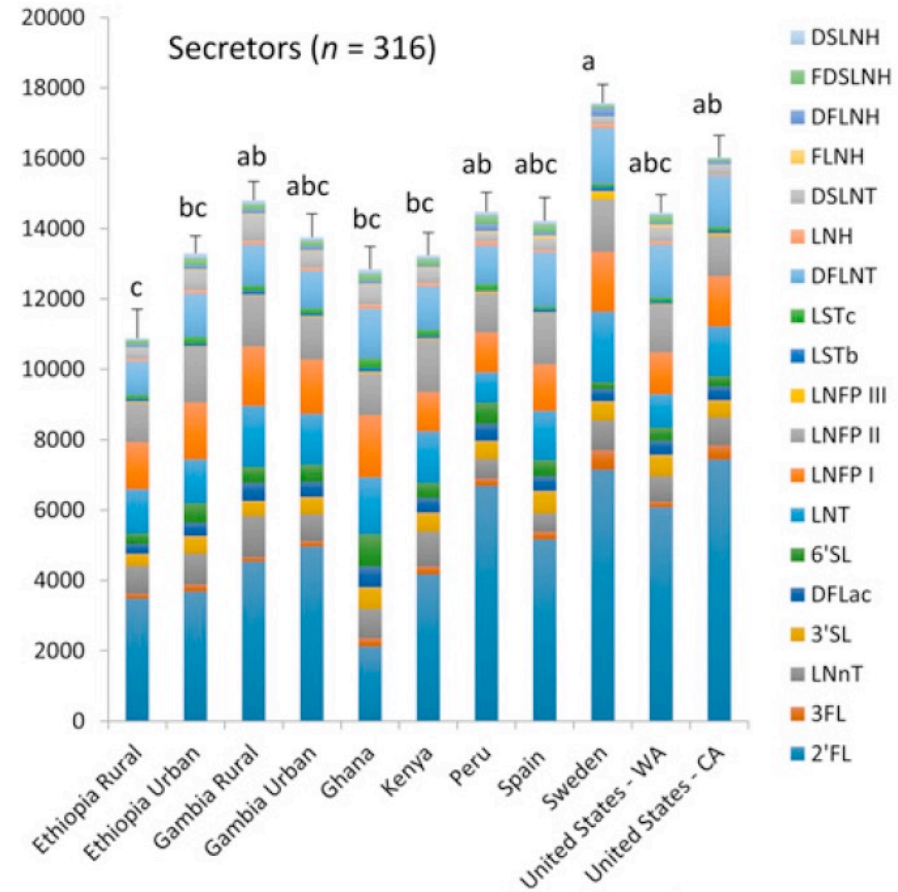
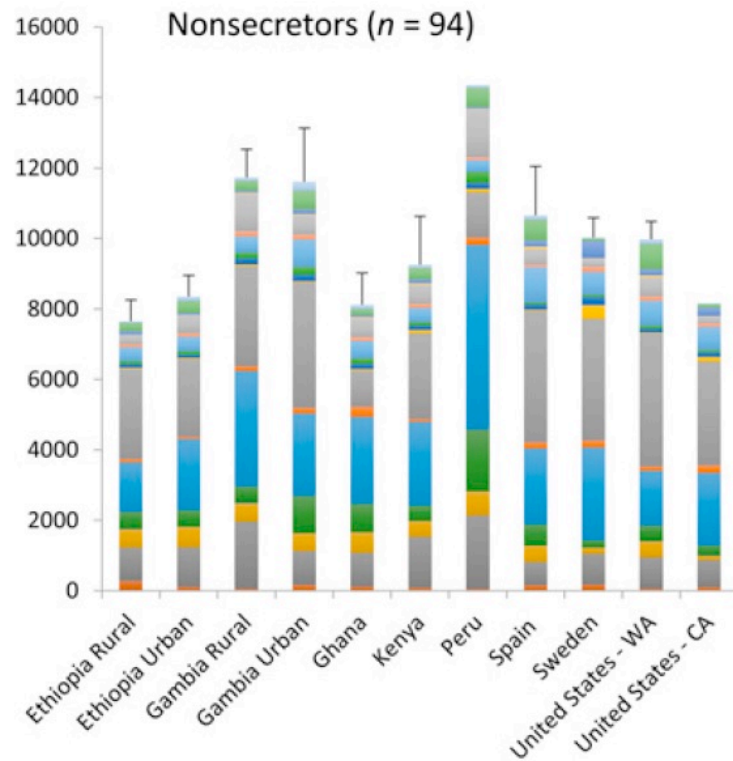
- Non-digestible carbohydrates
- Structurally diverse  
Cows: ~40 vs. Humans: >100
- Highly variable between mothers
- Small studies (N<50):
  - ▣ Possible associations with HIV transmission, allergy, infant adiposity
  - ▣ Maternal determinants (besides genetics) **unknown**



(Bode Glycobiology 2012 –“Every baby needs a sugar mama”)



# Human Milk Oligosaccharides (HMOs)



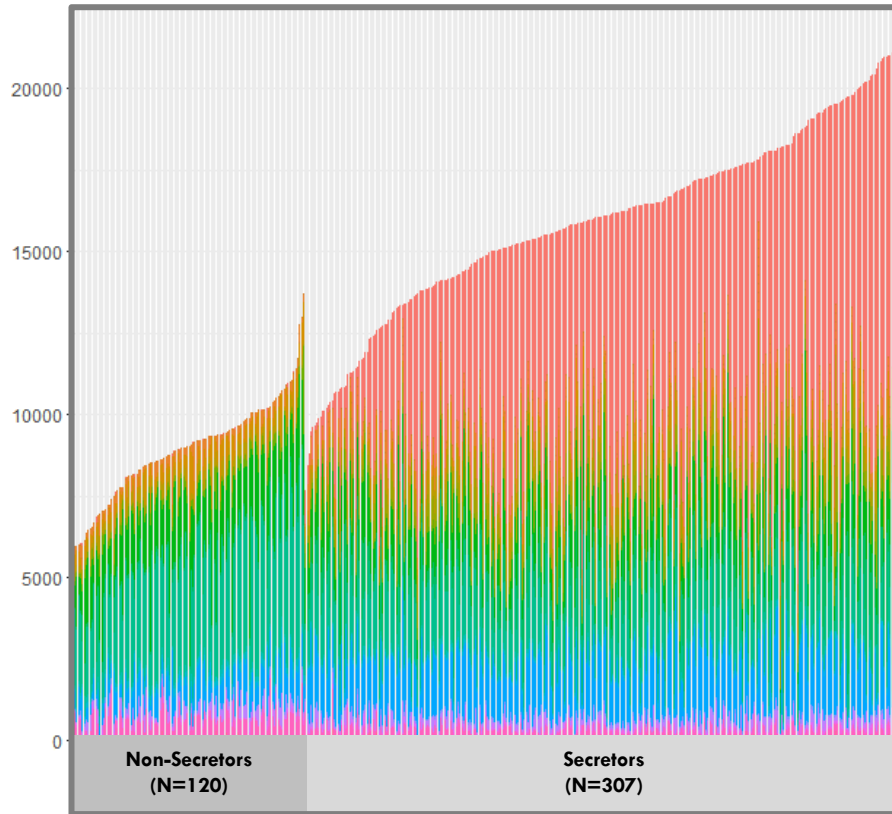
N=410 mothers (9 countries)

(McGuire et al. AJCN 2017)

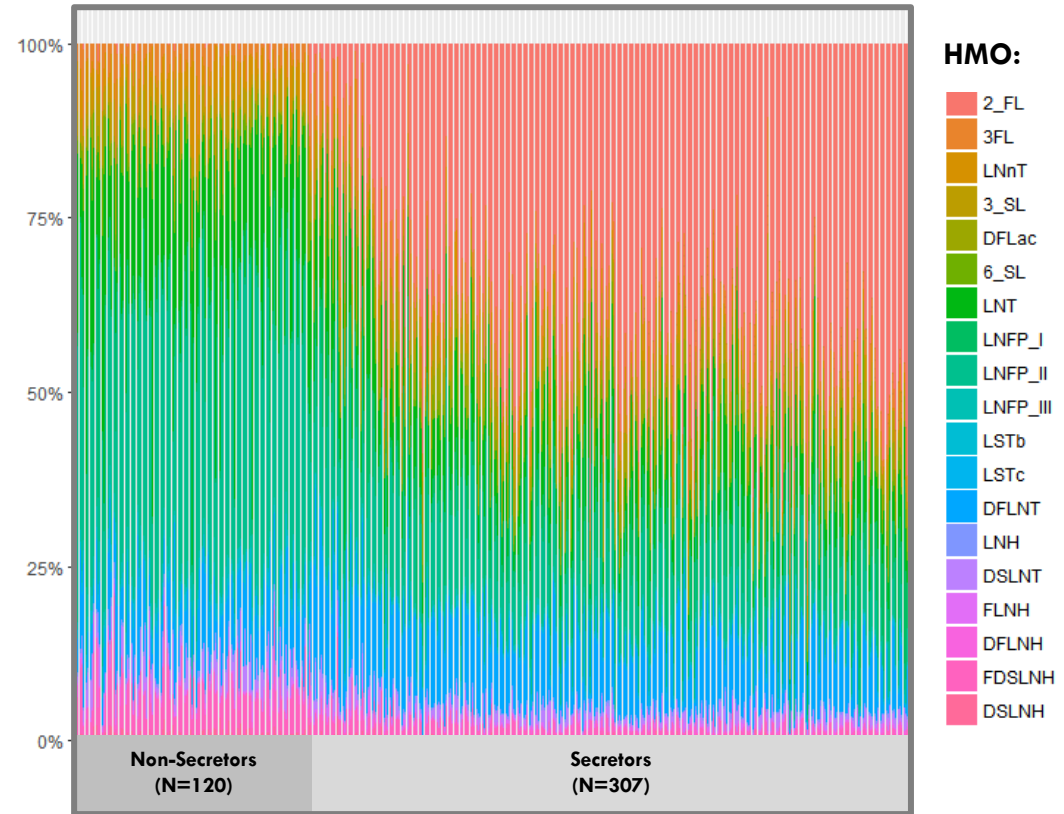


# HMOs in the CHILD Cohort

**Absolute HMO Concentration (nmol/mL)**

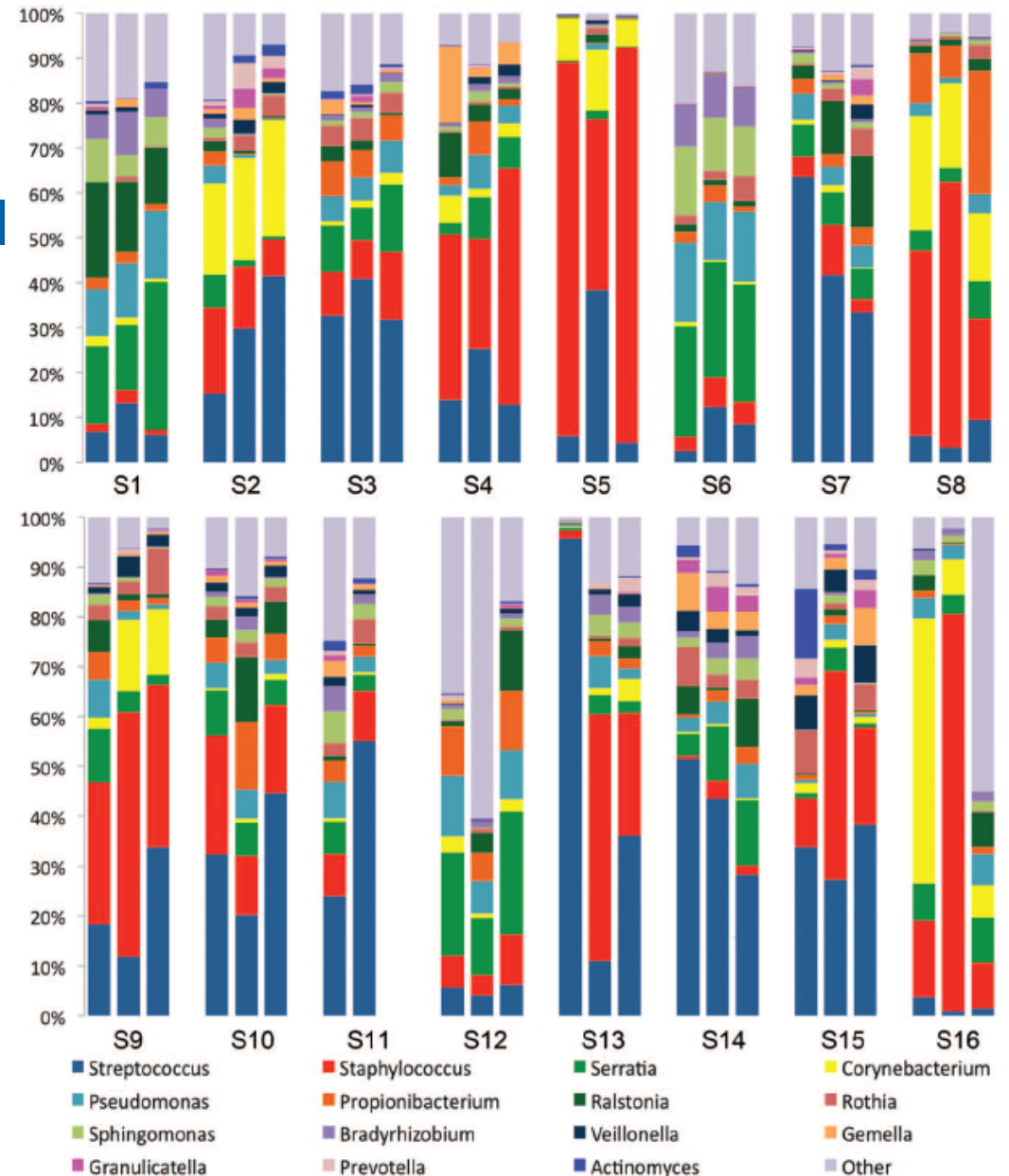


**Relative HMO Composition (%)**



# Milk Microbiota

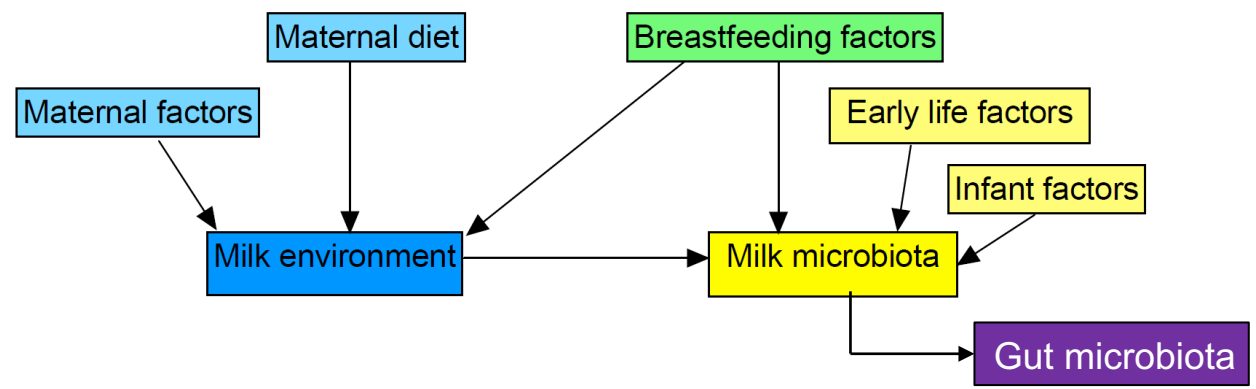
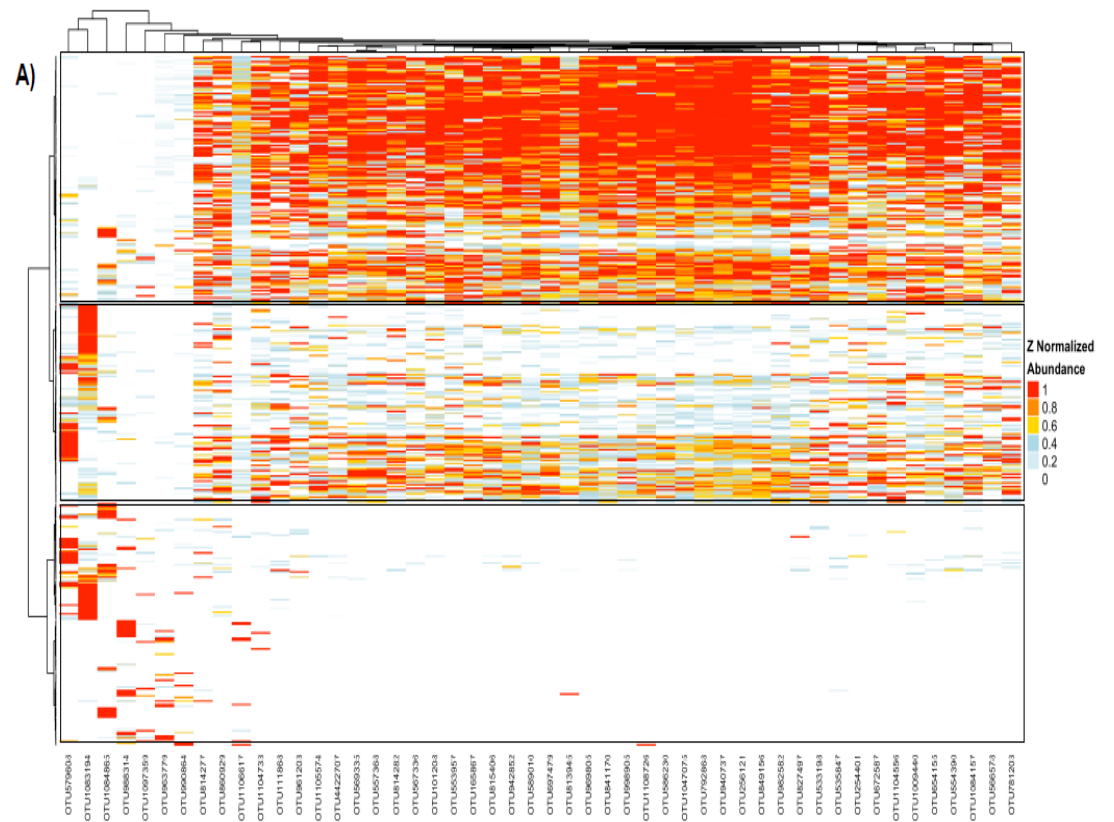
- Human milk is not sterile!
  - ▣ Breastfed infants consume  $10^5$ – $10^7$  bacteria daily.
- Source of gut microbiota
- A few small studies ( $N < 30$ ):
  - ▣ Variation by birth mode, obesity, time postpartum, gestational age, genetics, country... ???
  - ▣ **None** examined infant health







# Milk Microbiota in the CHILD Cohort



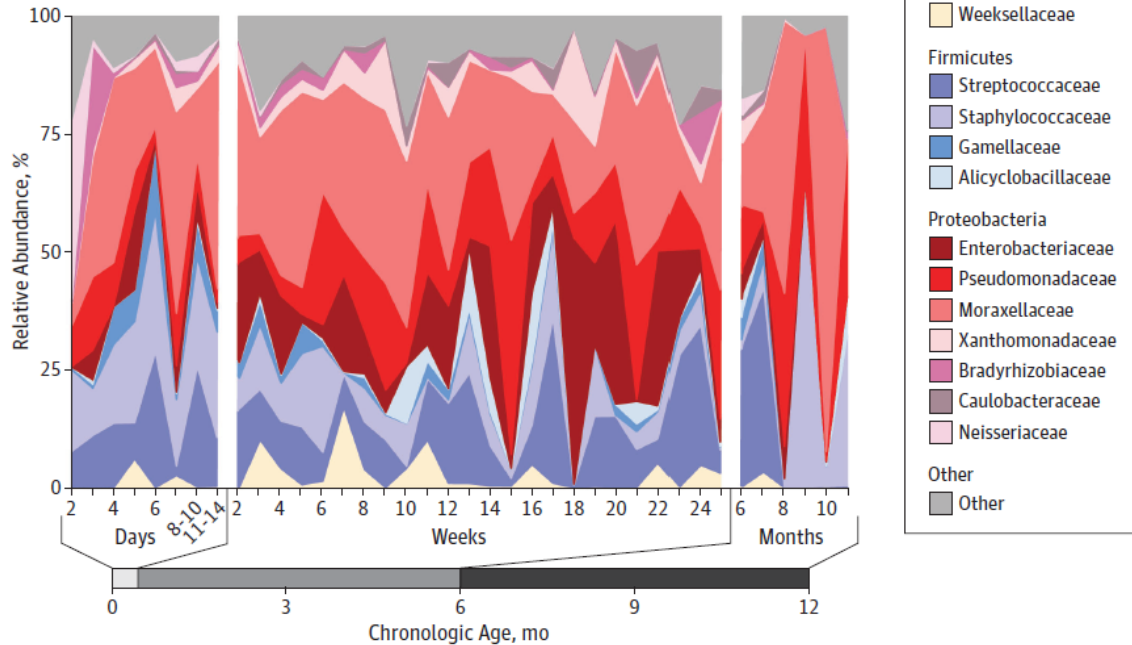
(Shirin Moossavi, Ehsan Khafipour, Azad et al. Unpublished)

# Association Between Breast Milk Bacterial Communities and Establishment and Development of the Infant Gut Microbiome

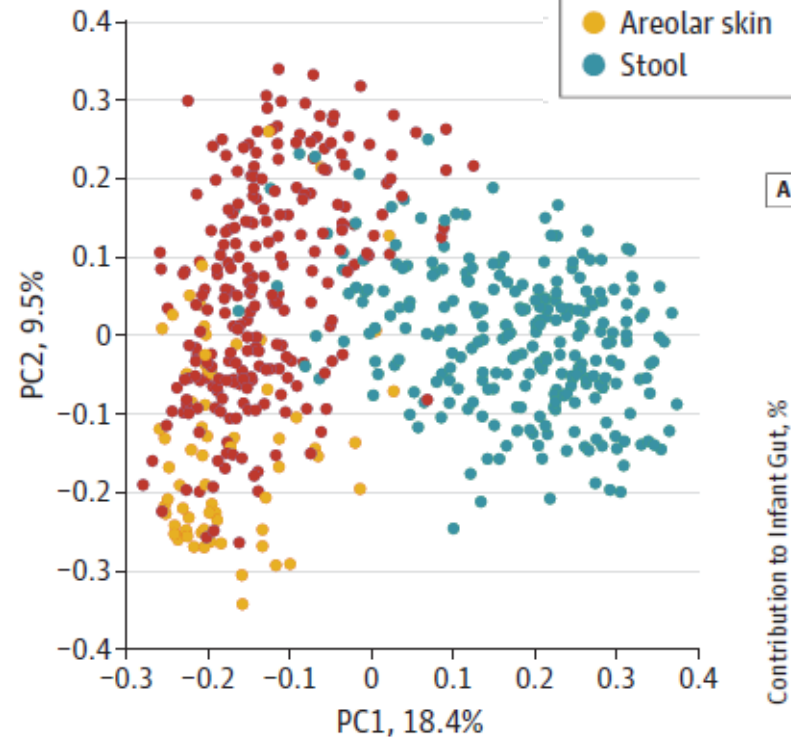
N=107 mother-infant pairs (USA)

Pia S. Pannaraj, MD, MPH; Fan Li, PhD; Chiara Cerini, MD; Jeffrey M. Bender, MD; Shangxin Yang, PhD; Adrienne Rollie, MS; Helty Adisetiyo, PhD; Sara Zabih, MS; Pamela J. Lincez, PhD; Kyle Bittinger, PhD; Aubrey Bailey, MS; Frederic D. Bushman, PhD; John W. Sleasman, MD; Grace M. Aldrovandi, MD

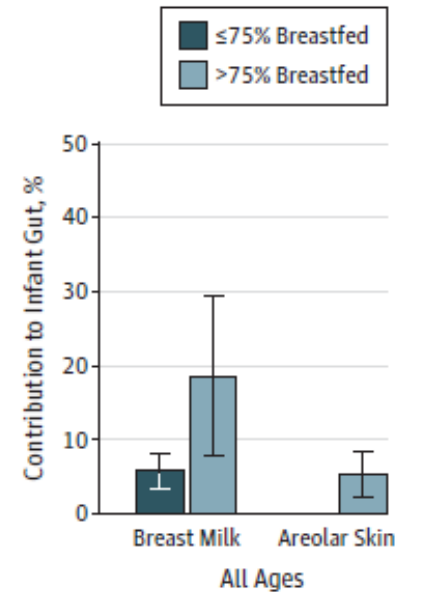
**A** Breast milk microbiota



**A** Principal coordinates analysis



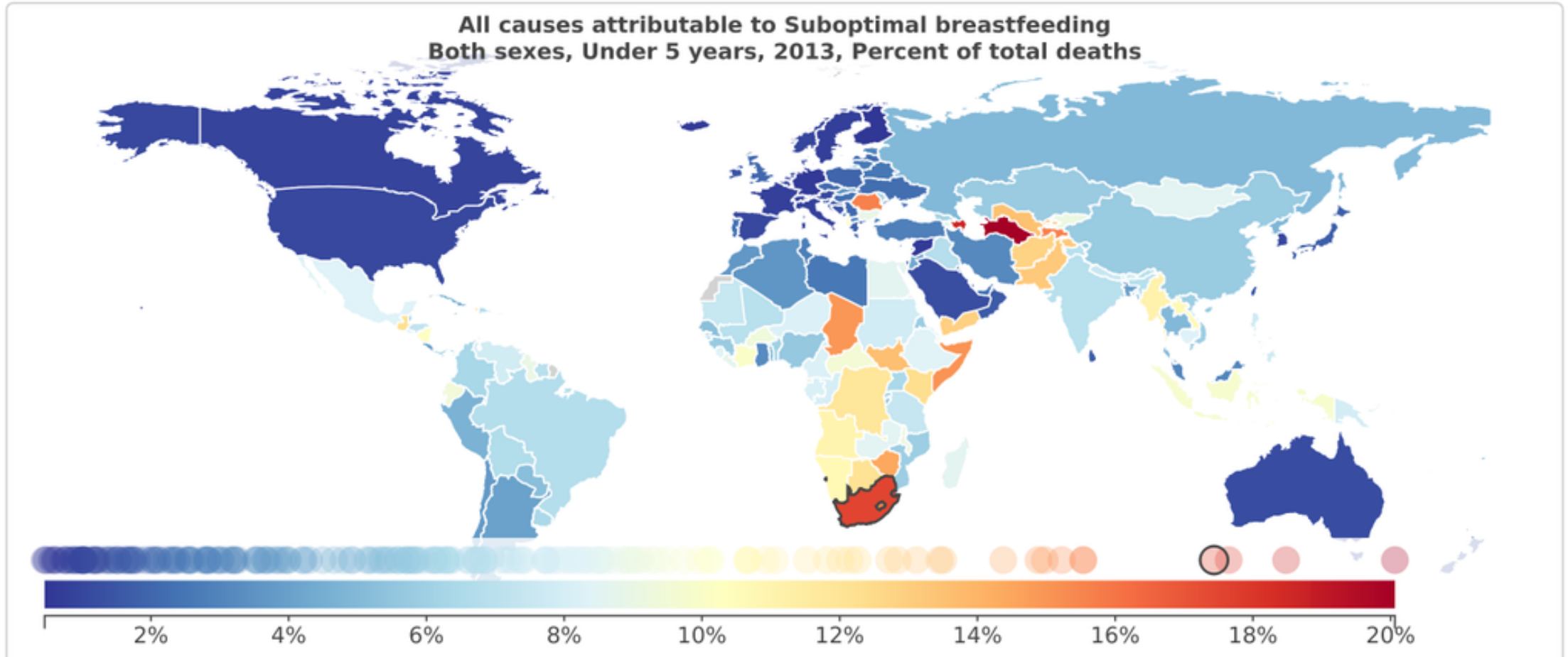
**A** Overall source of bacteria



# What early life factors contribute to health disparities?



# Suboptimal breastfeeding & child mortality



# Breastfeeding Inequities

## Less Breastfeeding:

- Lower education
- Maternal obesity
- Maternal smoking
- First Nations Ethnicity
- Younger maternal age

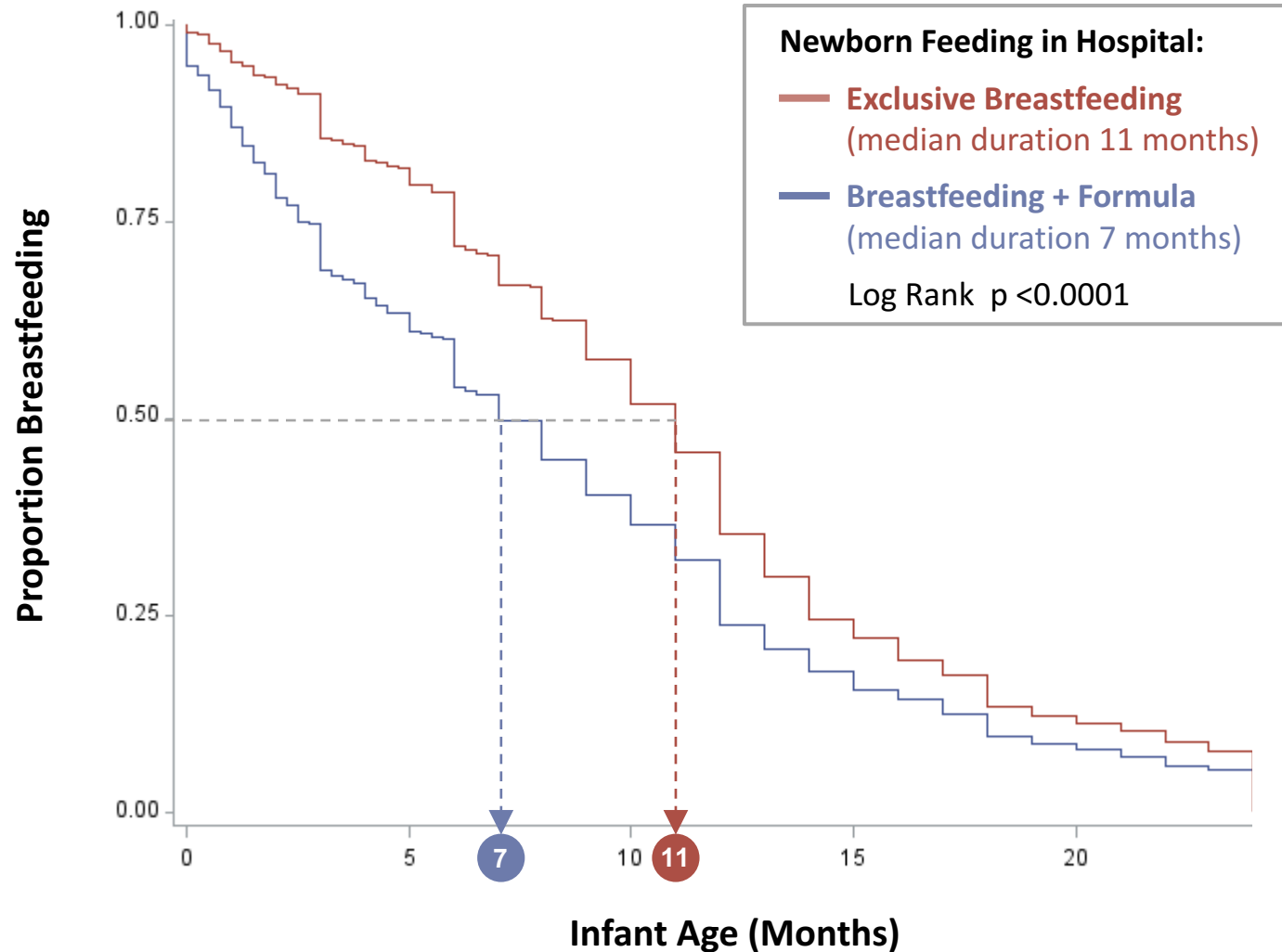
## More Breastfeeding:

- Vancouver

|   | N    | Exclusive BF at 6 months |     | Any BF at 12 months |     |
|---|------|--------------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|
|   |      | %                        | p   | %                   | p   |
| <b>Site</b>                                 |      |                          |     |                     |     |
| Edmonton                                    | 781  | 15.2                     | *** | 35.9                | *** |
| Toronto                                     | 777  | 16.6                     |     | 37.4                |     |
| Vancouver                                   | 740  | 25.3                     |     | 60.9                |     |
| Winnipeg                                    | 998  | 16.3                     |     | 39.4                |     |
| <b>Maternal age (years)</b>                 |      |                          |     |                     |     |
| <30   | 991  | 12.8                     | *** | 32.6                | *** |
| 30 to 35                                    | 1372 | 18.4                     |     | 45.9                |     |
| 35+   | 910  | 23.6                     |     | 49.8                |     |
| <b>Pre-pregnancy BMI (kg/m<sup>2</sup>)</b> |      |                          |     |                     |     |
| Normal: <25                                 | 1863 | 19.6                     | **  | 49.8                | *** |
| Overweight: ≥25 - 30                        | 633  | 18.9                     |     | 43.9                |     |
| Obese: ≥30                                  | 440  | 12.6                     |     | 27.0                |     |
| <b>Ethnicity</b>                            |      |                          |     |                     |     |
| Asian                                       | 508  | 19.5                     |     | 49.0                | *   |
| Caucasian                                   | 2359 | 18.7                     |     | 42.8                |     |
| First Nations                               | 143  | 14.0                     |     | 35.3                |     |
| Other                                       | 225  | 12.0                     |     | 39.6                |     |
| <b>Education</b>                            |      |                          |     |                     |     |
| ≤ High school                               | 280  | 8.7                      | *** | 24.5                | *** |
| Some post-secondary                         | 466  | 15.1                     |     | 36.8                |     |
| Post-secondary                              | 1805 | 18.8                     |     | 43.9                |     |
| Post-graduate                               | 602  | 23.6                     |     | 55.8                |     |



# Supporting Breastfeeding



Compared to newborns who received formula supplementation, those who were exclusively breastfed in hospital breastfed **4 months longer** and had a **21% reduced risk** of breastfeeding cessation over time. (HR 0.79; 95%CI: 0.72-0.88)



Accredited as  
Baby Friendly by

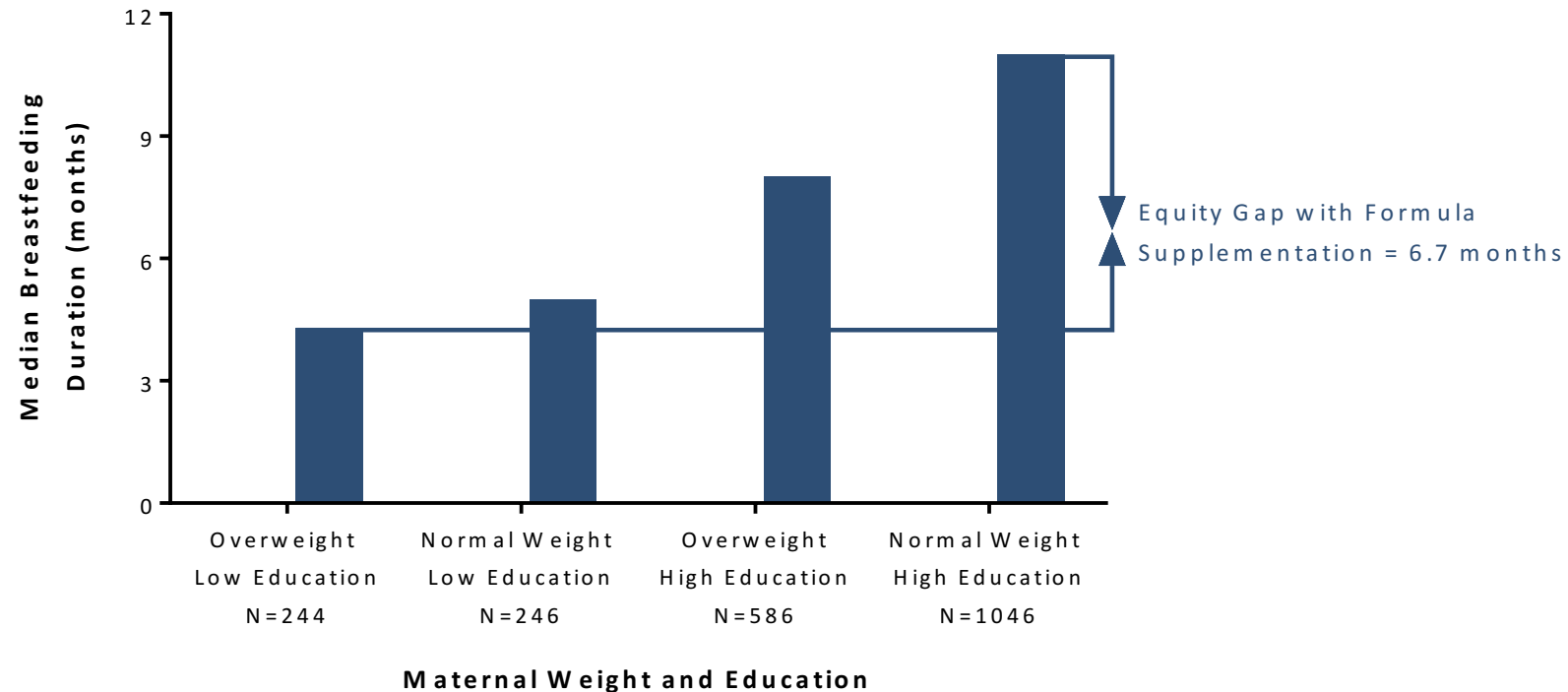


# Newborn Feeding & Breastfeeding (in)Equity



(Vehling, Azad et al. Submitted)

Newborn Feeding in Hospital:  
Breastfeeding + Formula

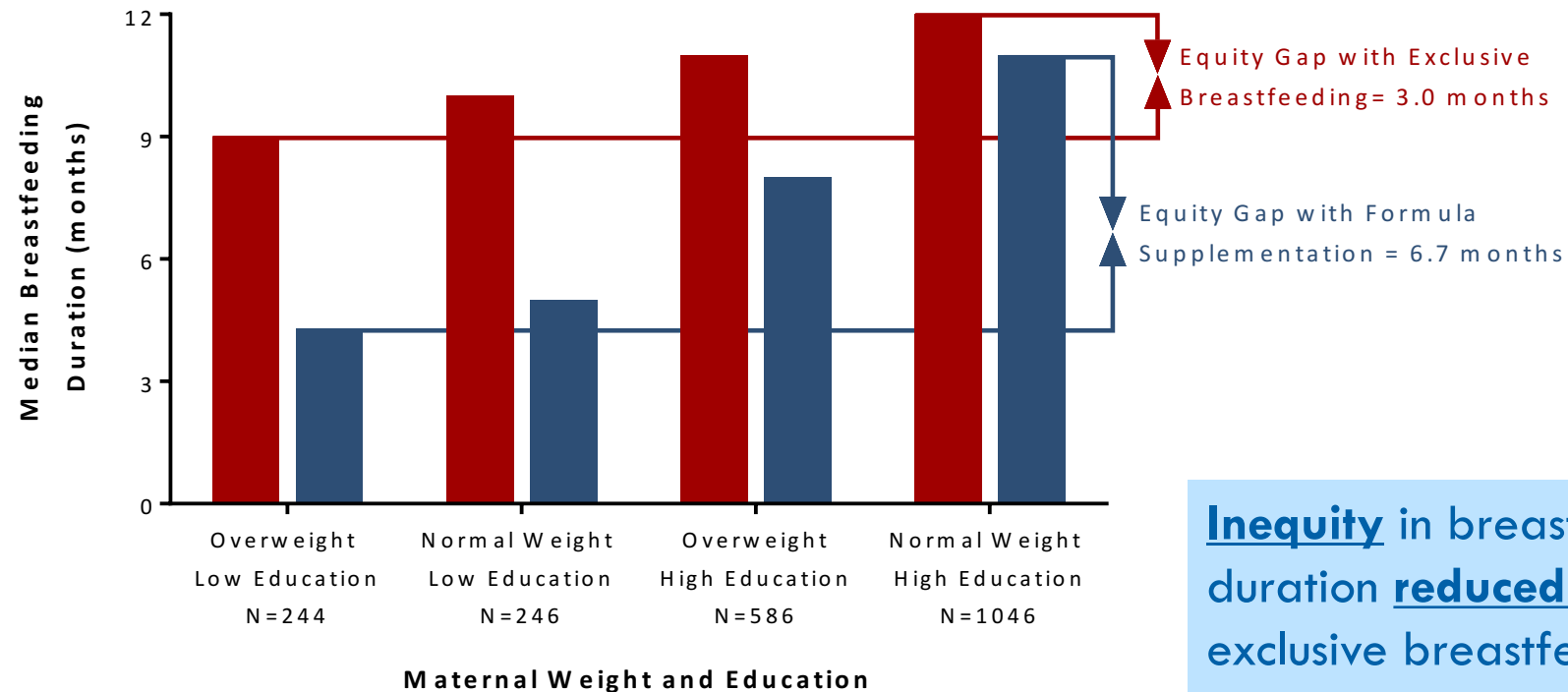


# Newborn Feeding & Breastfeeding (in)Equity



(Vehling, Azad et al. Submitted)

**Newborn Feeding in Hospital:**  
■ Exclusive Breastfeeding  
■ Breastfeeding + Formula

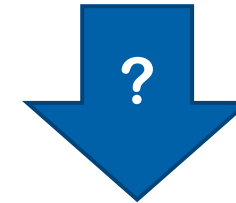


**Inequity in breastfeeding duration reduced by 55% with exclusive breastfeeding in hospital.**



# Summary: DOHaD / Gut Microbiota / Disparities

- Early risk factors:
  - ▣ Cesarean section
  - ▣ Antibiotics
  - ▣ Tobacco smoke
  - ▣ Maternal stress
- Early protective factors:
  - ▣ (Direct) Breastfeeding
  - ▣ Pets



# Unanswered Questions...



- **What is a ‘healthy microbiome’?**
- What are the **long-term** health effects of microbiota “dysbiosis” resulting from early life exposures?
- **HOW** do microbiota influence disease risk?
- How can we **prevent** gut microbiota dysbiosis?
  - ▣ Vaginal delivery, **breastfeed**, avoid unnecessary antibiotics...
- How can we **repair** gut microbiota dysbiosis?
  - ▣ “Vaginal Seeding” after CS? **Breastfeed**? Pre/probiotics? Fecal Transplants?
- How can we target gut microbiota (in early life) to **reduce health disparities**?

# Developmental Origins of CHILD HEALTH & Disease

Meghan Azad, PhD



**Breastfeeding**

## Mechanisms

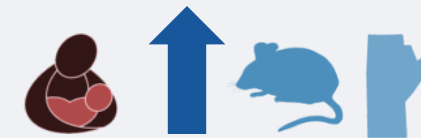
- Gut Microbiota
- Epigenetics
- Metabolism
- Lung Function
- Immunity

**Allergies, Asthma, Obesity, Diabetes, Cognitive Development...**

## Milk Composition

- Microbiota
- Oligosaccharides
- Immune Factors
- Fatty Acids
- Hormones
- Vitamins

**Interventions**



**Maternal Factors**

**Modifiable:** Obesity, Nutrition, Self-Efficacy, Smoking, Birth Mode, Pro/Antibiotics... **Fixed:** Age, Ethnicity, Genetics, Asthma...

# Acknowledgements

## Azad Lab

Faisal Atakora, Kozeta Miliku, Michelle La,  
Lorena Vehling, Deborah Chan, Hasantha Sinnock,  
Annika Klopp

## CHILD Study

Manitoba: Allan Becker & Team

National: Malcolm Sears (McMaster) & Team

SyMBIOTA: Anita Kozyrskyj (U. Alberta), James Scott  
(U. Toronto) & Team

## Collaborators

Ehsan Khafipour, Shirin Moosavi (U. Manitoba)

Lars Bode (U. California San Diego)



*“If breastfeeding did not already exist, someone who invented it today would deserve a **dual Nobel Prize** in medicine and economics.*

*Breastfeeding is a child’s first inoculation against death, disease, and poverty, but also their most enduring investment in physical, cognitive, and social capacity.”*

Keith Hudson  
VP Human Development  
World Bank Group

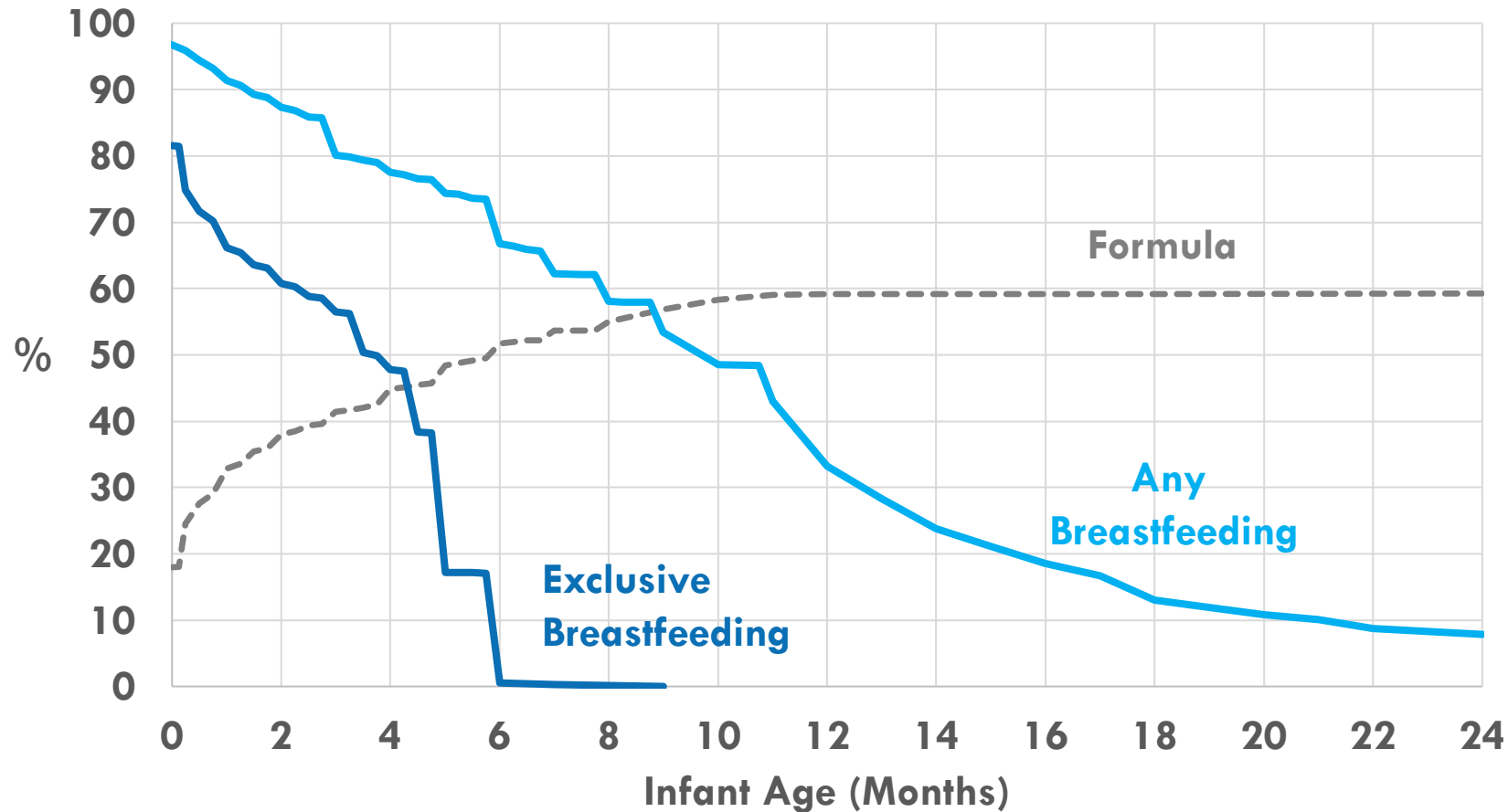
**IMPROVING BREASTFEEDING PRACTICES**  
**COULD SAVE MORE THAN**  
**820,000**  
**LIVES A YEAR**

SOURCE: THE LANCET BREASTFEEDING SERIES

The infographic features a dark blue background with white and light blue text. It includes three stylized icons of a baby's head and shoulders, representing breastfeeding. The text is arranged in a clear, bold hierarchy, with the most significant statistic (820,000) being the largest.



# Breastfeeding in the CHILD Study



World Health Organization  
Recommends:  
**Exclusive BF to 6 mos**  
**Continued BF to 2 yrs+**

N=3139 (Formula), 3159 (Any BF), 3057 (Exclusive BF)

(Vehling, Azad et al. Unpublished)