# **Clinical microbiomics**

# Towards diagnostics and personalised intervention





# Clinical microbiomics Towards diagnostics and personalised intervention

# I. Association of the human microbiome with diseases

- Colon cancer: From biomarker discovery to diagnostics

# **II. Effects of marketed drugs on gut microbes**

- From observations to screening

## **III. First interventions: Faecal microbiota transplantation**

- Towards mechanistic understanding



#### Community structure of the gut and disease associations are being established...







Structure and function of gut microbiomes, provision of gene reference catalogs

Qin et al., Nature 464(2010)59 Li et al., Nature Biotech. 32(2014)834

ca 250 of > species per sample seen, gene count not saturating due to increase of rare genes

# Stratification of the population (enterotypes)

Arumugam et al. Nature 473(2011)174 Costea et al., in revision (white paper)

Microbiota landscape with 2-3, perhaps more, density areas with still unclear cause (diet contributes)

### Strain-level resolution

Schloissnig et al., Nature 493(2013)45 Zhu et al, Genome Biol. 16(215)82

Two individuals differ in >4% SNPs and >13% gene content in a species they share

...but most published studies are statistically underpowered

#### Antibiotic resistance gene distribution in 252 gut microbiomes а 100% Ca 5Gb per individual mined Fraction of samples with fully covered resistance genes 90% for 370 genes that are known to provide resistance 80% Approved for animal use to 68 antibiotics classes 70% Analog approved for animal use 60% **Antibiotic resistance** Not approved for animal use 50% potential in gut microbiota 40% is associated with use in 30% animals 20% 10% Forslund et al. 0% Genome Res. 23(13)1163 Bioessays 36 (14)316 Sweden enmar 0.004 N = 71N = 145Resistance potential 0.003 Regional USA Italy 0.002 China differences 142 N = 3680.001 Malawi Ireland Spain France N = 4\* 1 \* 1 N = 25= 390000 N = 8US SE IT FR ES CN MA DK IR

### All kind of features (here antibiotic resistance) are being profiled...

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Using samples collected noninvasively from different parts of

human body, we will analyze

As a participant in our studies, you will have direct, free access to your personal analysis

Participants can (but don't have to) contact people with similar microbial profiles around the





# Our gut microbiome is linked to a multitude of different diseases



Per individual: on av. 9 Gb are currently sequenced, i.e. almost 3 human genome equivalents

# Association of microbiota with colon cancer

A predictor based on faecal metagenomes from a French study population

### Consensus model based on 22 differentially abundant species



Fusobacterium nucleatum known to be involved at tumor itself, its also prevalent in stool

The signal is better than the commercially available FOBT test and a wif-1 based test

Zeller, Tap, Voigt et al, Mol.Sys.Biol. 10(2014)766

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# Association of microbiota with colon cancer

Biomarkers work well in early stages and detects features different from FOBT



Signal also holds for early cancer stages, also pre-cancer ones? As FOBT correlates with inflammation, indeed a combination with FOBT greatly enhances prediction accuracy erc

# Association of microbiota with colon cancer

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### From metagenomics to cost effective, sensitive and specific CRC markers

#### Utilizing specific primers from several marker genes per marker species



To be combined with standard FOBT test (ca 6 Euro per sample) Currently: ca 40 Euro costs per sample (but can still be reduced)

### A deluge of studies on fecal CRC microbiomes from different regions



Since 2014 many more CRC associated metagenomes and 16S profiles from fecal samples published and more to come soon ... but are they consistent?

### Many possible confounding factors (inflammation, diet, drug treatment etc.)

Example type II diabetes: Metformin induces gut microbial composition changes

Chinese: Qin et al., Nature 2012; AUC 0.81 Swedish: Karlsson et al., Nature 2013; AUC 0.83 Danish: unpublished (54 T2D+75Ctrl); AUC 0.81

Combined cohort after omission of metformin-treated individuals: AUC = 0.53



Forslund, Hildebrand et al., Nature 228(2015)262 (Metahit)

# **Faecal Microbiota Transplantation (FMT)**



- Transfer of stool from a healthy donor to patient
  - Usually following antibiotics treatment or bowel lavage
- Positive effects reported in GI and non-GI diseases
  - Over 90% success in treating Clostridium difficile infection<sup>1</sup>
- Mechanism is currently unknown, e.g. fate of native and introduced strains
  - Specific bacteria introduced in patient<sup>2</sup>
  - Replacement or 'repair' of 'bad' microbial species

Analysis usually at species/OTU level, but most species are shared

- 1. van Nood, E. et al. (2013). N Engl J Med, 368, 407-15.
- 2. Lawley, TD., et al. (2012). PloS Pathog, 8, e1002995.

#### Donor species and strain colonization after FMT for metabolic syndrome

5 time points up to 3 months after FMT, 164 metagenomes incl. donors



# Strain replacement after faecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) is easier than acquisition of new species

**Strains** 



#### **Species**

Strain replacement implies personalized treatment options, e.g. by replacing multidrug resistance.

Li et al., Science 352(2016)586



#### Tara Oceans studies plankton at planetary scale

P. Bork, C. Bowler, C. de Vargas, G. Gorsky, E. Karsenti, and P. Wincker Science 2015 May 22. Vol. 348 no. 6237 p. 873 DOI: 10.1126/science.aac5605

## For details see: www.bork.embl.de

### Thank you!

