

The role of the gut microbiota in human cancer

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The role of the gut microbiota in human cancer **The power of an equilibrium**

- 1 Since the gut microbiota is not an isolated organism but a whole ecosystem with numerous interactions, it will be pivotal, but challenging, to elucidate the complex and diverse mutual interactions between gut bacteria, their metabolites, and chemotherapy. *(this dissertation)*
- 2 These insights represent a pivotal first step and underscore the need to evaluate whether the gut microbiota can be used as therapeutic target in cancer cachexia. *(this dissertation)*
- 3 The prevention of Enterobacterales overgrowth might thus be an important strategy to prevent the manifestation of microbial dysbiosis and the associated negative effects on human metabolism and inflammatory state in cancer patients. *(this dissertation)*
- 4 The quantification of the complexity of a living and dynamic ecosystem is one of the main challenges in gut microbiota research. *(this dissertation)*
- 5 The gut microbiota has a strong power: it is able to significantly influence human health. *(this dissertation)*
- 6 These data strongly suggest that the gut microbiota should not be neglected when treating human cancer. *(Impact paragraph of this dissertation)*
- 7 In 1675 I discovered living creatures in rainwater (...).
(Antoni van Leeuwenhoek)
- 8 We believe that as we look to the future, it is imperative not only to focus on what we see through the microscope but also to be keenly aware of the context of our work in the broader society. *(Aravind Natarajan & Ami S. Bhatt)*
- 9 Each of us is a superorganism; a collective of species, living side-by-side and cooperatively running the body that sustains us all. *(Alanna Collen)*
- 10 People who are truly strong lift others up. People who are truly powerful bring others together. *(Michelle Obama)*
- 11 I am among those who think that science has great beauty.
(Marie Skłodowska Curie)

Janine Ziemons
Maastricht, 8 februari 2024