

## Special Issue

# The Health Impact of Changes in the Microbiota beyond Diet

### Message from the Guest Editor

The gut microbiota is a complex population of microorganisms, including viruses, bacteria, archaea and fungi, which subsists within the gastrointestinal ecosystem. Its function is to maintain a dynamic balance with the host, playing both local and remote roles in important physiological processes, particularly inflammation, and the immune response. Alterations in this complex system have been related to the risk of disease. Although, once established, the composition of the gut microbiota is relatively stable throughout adult life, it can be altered. Diet is considered as one of the main modulators of gut microbiota. Nevertheless, the composition of gut microbiota is mediated by a variety of factors, such as host characteristics, environmental pollutants, geographical location, bacterial infections, antibiotic treatment, lifestyle, surgical procedures and age. This Special Issue aims to collate the studies that present how the microbiota is affected by factors other than nutrition, and to determine the influence of these factors on the predisposition or development of the disease.

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