



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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An Introduction to the Microbiome

Experts from NIH, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center,
The Forsyth Institute, Thermo Fisher Scientific, and IES Diagnostics
Free Webinar December 4, 11 am EST

(Tinton Falls, NJ) Speakers from Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center and The Forsyth Institute, both in Boston, will provide An Introduction to the Microbiome in a free webinar, December 4, 2014, at 11 am EST. The session is part of the BioPharma Research Council's year-end series on emerging topics. Full information and registration is at www.biopharmaresearchcouncil.org.

The human body is host to trillions of bacteria and other microbes that form the microbiome. These microbiota are partially responsible for maintaining a healthy ecological community, but can also contribute to disease when abnormal growth occurs. The body's flora represents a key area of research interest, as it relates to immunology, nutrition/digestion, among other crucial aspects of human health.

Our experts address knowledge developed from study of the preterm infant, a clean slate upon which a healthy microbiome is developed, and the impact for oral health as we mature:

Camilia R. Martin, M.D., M.S., is Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School, Associate Director of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, and Director for Cross-Disciplinary Research Partnerships, Division of Translational Research, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center (BIDMC)

Dr. Martin's research interests are focused in neonatal nutrition and its impact on health and disease in the preterm infant. She has participated in multi-site clinical trials serving as the Principal Investigator at BIDMC, evaluating growth and long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes in the extremely preterm infant.

Floyd E. Dewhirst, DDS, is a Senior Member of Staff, Department of Microbiology, at The Forsyth Institute.

His research group created the Human Oral Microbiome Database (HOMD) to provide web accessible taxonomic and genomic information and tools (www.homd.org) to the research community. His research group has cultured and produced DNA from over 200 human oral bacteria as part of the Human Microbiome Project reference genome sequencing effort.

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Alexander “Sasha” Vlassov, Ph.D., is a Senior Staff Scientist and Group Leader at Thermo Fisher Scientific. He is developing advanced technologies for microbiota research and improved methods for extracting nucleic acids from clinically relevant samples.

The webinar will be moderated by **Howard Young, Ph.D.**, Deputy Chief, NCI Laboratory of Experimental Immunology and Chair, NIH Immunology Interest Group, and **Winston Kuo DMSc**, COO, IES Diagnostics.

The BioPharma Research Council (BRC) offers this webinar as part of its mission to stimulate interaction among functional silos across the biomedical research and development community. Founded in 2009, the BioPharma Research Council is an association for scientists throughout the biomedical research community- industry, academic, nonprofit, government, and supplier labs and their teams. www.biopharmaresearchcouncil.org

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