Guidance of microbial balance for the quality of life

An individual genome of a living organism responds to its environment, also when it concerns digestion of food, the metabolism of nutrition, the kind of microbial species in our gastro-intestinal tract, or how these microbes can impact our health. The study of the interaction of nutrition and (microbial and human) genes—especially with regard to the prevention or treatment of disease—has led to detailed description of molecular mechanisms. The individual changes in human microbial species diversity and its response to nutritional modulation has been described. Also nutritional intervention studies describe the impact on health and the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) has allowed only limited health claims with regards to microbial modulating activities, while the impact of other nutrition is considered well studied. The question arises if the current R&D approaches are satisfying the needs of particular individual cases and the general public. While the analytical methodology has gone through an evolution of refinements: can a group type of nutritional intervention study in a clinical setting provide meaningful data with biomarkers? Are these types of studies suitable for the given individual genetic diversity? What is the meaning of big data? Or does human individual nutritional research prevail? What is the fundament for current dietary guidance on vitamins and minerals? What is the learning for dietary guidance for nutritional intervention impacting the microorganisms that have an influence on our health and our brain? What type of information is currently lacking? A fine selection of speakers will shed their light from different angles in order to evaluate future R&D directions to support our goal to improve the quality of life through balancing the microbiome.

Biography

Dr. R. te Biesebeke has a PhD from the Top Institute Food and Nutrition, the Wageningen University and Research Centre in the Netherlands, a M.Sc. in Biology from the University of Utrecht, and holds a Biochemistry Engineering (Ing) degree from Saxion Polytechnics (the Netherlands). Dr. R. te Biesebeke is former task force member of ILSI Europe (Brussels, Europe) and External Expert of the World Health Organisation (Geneva, Switzerland). As Chief Scientific Officer and Chairman of the HNM Foundation, he is interested in the Quality of life through the interaction of Human Genome, Nutrition & Microbiology.

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Ger Rijkers (1952) is Professor of Biomedical and Life Sciences, University College Roosevelt, Netherlands. He is a medical immunologist and senior scientist at the Laboratory of Medical Microbiology and Immunology at St Antonius Hospital in the Netherlands. He is Section Editor for the journal Beneficial Microbes, sits on the Editorial Board of Pneumonia and is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of IPA.

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Loekintofood is run by dr Loek Pijls pmp, who has worked on nutrition for over 25 years, from most angles possible: in various roles in several food companies, in public-private partnerships, in government bodies & at universities, and on different continents. Before founding Loekintofood in 2015, Loek was The Coca-Cola Company’s Global Director Nutrition Innovation. For Nestlé Health Science he was Regulatory Affairs Manager for Benelux, as well Corporate. He was ILSI Europe’s Senior Scientist, and Director of the EC-funded EURRECA Network of Excellence.

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