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Regulation and Workings of the Gastrointestinal Microbiota

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Message from the Guest Editor

The human gastrointestinal tract is an evolutionary adaptation of the one-cell amoeba. Evolutionary accommodation for ingress and egress introduced a layer of vulnerability that required the development of compensatory defense mechanisms.

By design, the initial human bacterial flora is acquired during birthing from the bacterial flora of the female vagina. To understand bacterial governance of the gastrointestinal microbiota, one must comprehend those that function to regulate the bacterial constituency of the female genital tract. The basic stability of its oxidation/reduction potential and the paucity of exogenous bacterial challenges facilitate the identification of underlying mechanisms of bacterial governance.

Why has the gastrointestinal microbiota been such an enigma to understand is the inability to control variables that influence the oxidation/reduction potential of the microbiological environment. Bacterial pathogenicity constitutes a de-stabilization force. Both entities have developed well-defined mechanisms to address microbial pathogenicity.

Current research needs to focus on improving the understanding of these mechanisms.

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

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