New Microbiome Medicine Program Launches Joint Seminar Series with the DDRCC

On Thursday, January 26, 2017 the new Microbiome Medicine Program of the Department of Medicine, the Microbiome Center of the University of Chicago, the Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and the DDRCC held its first joint seminar with Erika Claud as the inaugural presenter. Erika’s talk titled "A microbiome progression" presented an extension of her work involving necrotizing enterocolitis caused by Enterococcus Faecalis in premature infants. Her continuing studies demonstrate how it can lead to poor cognitive output in infants. Recently, the National Institutes of Health announced $157 million in awards to launch a seven-year initiative called the Environmental influences on Child Health Outcomes (ECHO). Dr. Claud will head one of the ECHO pediatric cohorts with the aim of the study being to determine how environmental factors like diet, housing, family interactions and socio-economic status impact the microbiome and influence neurodevelopment of preterm infants all the way from birth to school readiness. Ultimately, they hope to identify factors associated with the microbiome that could be modified to improve the health of these children, improve understanding of health disparities and enable interventions to shift infant neurodevelopmental trajectories in innovative ways. To learn more visit https://sciencelife.uchospitals.edu/2016/09/22/uchicago-among-institutions-nationwide-to-get-157-million-in-nih-awards/

Medicine Microbiome Program (MMP)

The new Microbiome Medicine Program (MMP) of the Department of Medicine was launched in January 2017. An extension of the existing Microbiome Center, the mission of the MMP is to advance the tools and practice of precision medicine through discovery and knowledge of microorganisms and their role in health and disease. The MMP will offer monthly group meetings, expert consultation, technology and educational resources for learning how to conduct research on the microbiome such as the one in the side panel. To learn more visit: https://microbiome.uchicago.edu/medicine

Microbiome Research: where do I begin?

An introductory course about microbiome research for clinicians May 23-25 2017 at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA.

Register here
Recent DDRCC Publications


Siva, S., D. T. Rubin, G. Gulotta, K. Wroblewski and J. Pekow (2017). "Zinc Deficiency is Associated with Poor Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Inflammatory Bowel Disease: Results of a Multi-Year Analysis of a National

Congratulations

Joel Pekow, MD for his R03 award from NIH

Jeannette Messer, DVM, PhD for receiving the AGA Junior investigator microbiome award

Vanessa Leone, PhD for receiving her independent investigator (K01) award

Thomas Gajewski, MD, PhD for receiving an Outstanding Investigator Award from the National Cancer Institute

Michael Rust, PhD for receiving an HHMI Faculty Scholar Award

Graeme Bell, PhD for being named the Kovler Family Distinguished Service Professor

Alex Bobe for winning best abstract in the Translational Research Category for trainees at the 2017 Janet D. Rowley Research Day
Media Mentions
DDRCC Members at the Forefront and in the News

DDRCC member Sonia Kupfer was featured on Wellness Wednesday: Colon Cancer, Facing Death, Wellness News on WOSU Radio March 8th, 2017.

DDRCC members, supported by the Polsky Center, recently launched the start-up companies Clostra BIO (Cathy Nagler) and Gusto Global (Jack Gilbert and John Alverdy). ClostraBio will find new medications to treat and prevent food allergies. Gusto Global will use computer models to predict how bacteria interact with each other to influence health.

Dion Antonopoulos was featured in "Study of microbes gives new insight into Earth’s geology and carbon cycles" by the UChicago news office January 23rd, 2017

DDRCC members Chuan He, PhD, and Tao Pan, PhD, were featured in “An epigenetics gold rush: new controls for gene expression” by Nature Publishing Group February 22nd, 2017.

Eugene Chang’s research was featured in “How Disrupting Your Gut’s Rhythm Affects Your Health” The Wall Street Journal - Feb 27, 2017

David Gozal was quoted in "FDA Clears Expanded Indication for Itamar Medical's WatchPAT™ Sleep Apnea Diagnostic Device for Adolescent" in BioPortfolio July 28th, 2016

David T. Rubin was featured in “GI leader to know: Dr. David Rubin of The University of Chicago” in Becker’s ASC Review - Mar 08, 2017 and “Biosimilars in IBD: The Outlook in 2017” in Medpage Today - Mar 02, 2017

Sangram Sisodia was featured in “Scientists unlock microbiome’s secrets: Collaborations produce unexpected research on role of bacteria in disease” in UChicago news March 7, 2017.
Save the Date

**Microbiome Center Research Symposium**
April 25, 2017

*Call for Abstracts*

Microbiome Center Research Symposium
April 25, 2017
Ida Noyes Hall
8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

**Participating Microbiome Center Institutions:**
The University of Chicago, Marine Biological Laboratory, Argonne
National Laboratory

**Keynote Speaker:** Dr. Jo Handelsman
Former Associate Director for Science at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy
Director of the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery
HHMI Professor of Plant Pathology at UWMadison

**Interdisciplinary Talks and Poster Session**
Graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, faculty, residents

Abstracts for talks and posters due March 8, 2017
Selected abstracts will be notified March 24, 2017

Visit goo.gl/rU2ndy for details and registration

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**DDRCC Retreat**
November 16th, 2017

University of Chicago, Department of Medicine, Section of Gastroenterology & Digestive Diseases Research Core Center (DDRCC) present

**22nd Annual Digestive Diseases Research Core Center Retreat**

Thursday November 16, 2017

University of Chicago
Knapp Center for Biomedical Discovery
900 E. 57th St.
Chicago, IL. 60637

Supported by NIH/NIDDK DK P30DK42086

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**Art Watch: GI and Biological Art on Campus**

The photo art exhibit titled "Uplifted" by Kentaro Yamada features our own David Rubin and is on display on the bridge to DCAM

The “Penicillium” art quilt by artist Cynthia Fowler, MD depicts Penicillin as seen in a petri dish and through a microscope. The piece came to the University of Chicago Medicine after a showing at the National Institutes of Health. It can be viewed on the Center for Care and Discovery’s newly opened fourth floor.
Anvi’o Workshop at UofC April 26-27th, 2017

DDRCC member, A. Murat Eren (Meren), will conduct a two-day anvi’o workshop in 9100 KCBD at the University of Chicago directly after the 2017 Microbiome Center Research Symposium. The workshop will be held on the 26th and 27th of April, 2017.

The workshop is designed to show participants how to visualize complex data using anvi’o, as well as work with genomes, metagenomes, metatranscriptomes, and pangenomes in anvi’o. Participants will also hear about single-nucleotide variant detection and profiling, or refining of metagenome-assembled genomes. Depending on interest, there may be spontaneous discussions about any set of issues regarding ‘omics data analysis and visualization.

The organizers encourage you to consider attending this workshop if you have genomic/metagenomic/metatranscriptomic data, and you want to explore the best ways to analyze it. This workshop wouldn’t be the best use of your time if your current endeavors exclusively revolve around marker gene amplicon data. There will be example datasets for you to follow on your anvi’o installed computers, but feel free to bring your own datasets. The organizers also encourage your attendance if you are a software developer or a power user because they will dive into code whenever it is relevant.

The workshop is free, but the space is limited. So register now by sending an email to meren@uchicago.edu. In your email please mention (1) the lab you are affiliated with (including the department and the university), (2) the environment you are studying, (3) the type of data you have, and (4) what you expect to learn/discuss while you are at the workshop. Please feel free to ask questions as well.

For more information on the workshop or anvi’o visit: merenlab.org

The workshop is being sponsored by the Department of Medicine, Section of Gastroenterology, Hepatology, and Nutrition and by the Digestive Diseases Research Core Center (DDRCC) of the University of Chicago.