

Human microbiome and health benefits of exposure to microbial diversity the environment

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UCL

The vertebrate ecosystem

Vertebrates evolved about
500 million years ago

Complex communities of
microbial partners....
Microbiota

Manage
or “farm”

Complex **adaptive**
immune system

Pathogens

Development

- Most organs, including **brain**
- Sex hormone reuptake from gut

Regulate

- **Immune system**
- **Metabolism**
- Diurnal rhythms
- **Gut-brain axis**

Metabolites

? 20-30 % of small molecules in blood, reaching every cell in the body

Shu et al. (1999) Lower Cambrian vertebrates from south China. *Nature* **402**:42-6.

Pancer & Cooper (2006) The evolution of adaptive immunity. *Annu Rev Immunol* **24**:497-518

McFall-Ngai (2007) Adaptive immunity: care for the community. *Nature* **445**:153

Fuhrman et al (2014) *J Clin Endocrinol Metab* **99**:4632 Thaiss et al (2014) *Cell* **159**: 514

Organisms with which humans co-evolved : the “Old Friends”

Microbiota
from mother and family
and environment

Natural environment.
Spores, organisms (and
their genes)

DATA

Immune system **at birth**

- hardware
- software
- needs **DATA**



DATA

- Epigenetic
- Development
- Repertoire

Attack

Repertoire: biodiversity drives a wide range of “memory” cells that can rapidly recognise pathogens

Immunoregulation

- **Do not attack “forbidden targets”**
(self, allergens, gut contents)
- Increase **repertoire of tolerated microbiota**
- **Turn off redundant inflammation**
(cardiovascular & metabolic disease, depression)

System failures in high-income urban settings

All have distorted microbiota

Metabolic dysregulation

Obesity

Chronic unnecessary inflammation

Depression

Cancer (colon and breast)

Forbidden targets

Autoimmunity

Asthma, other allergies

Inflammatory bowel disease

Risk increased by antibiotics

Trasande *et al* (2013) *Int J Obes (Lond)* **37**:16
Shao *et al* (2017) *Front Endocrinol* **8**:170
Cassidy-Bushrow *et al* (2017) *Int J Obes (Lond)*

Slykerman *et al* (2017) *Acta Paediatr* **106**:87
Neufeld *et al* (2017) *J Psychiatr Pract* **23**:25

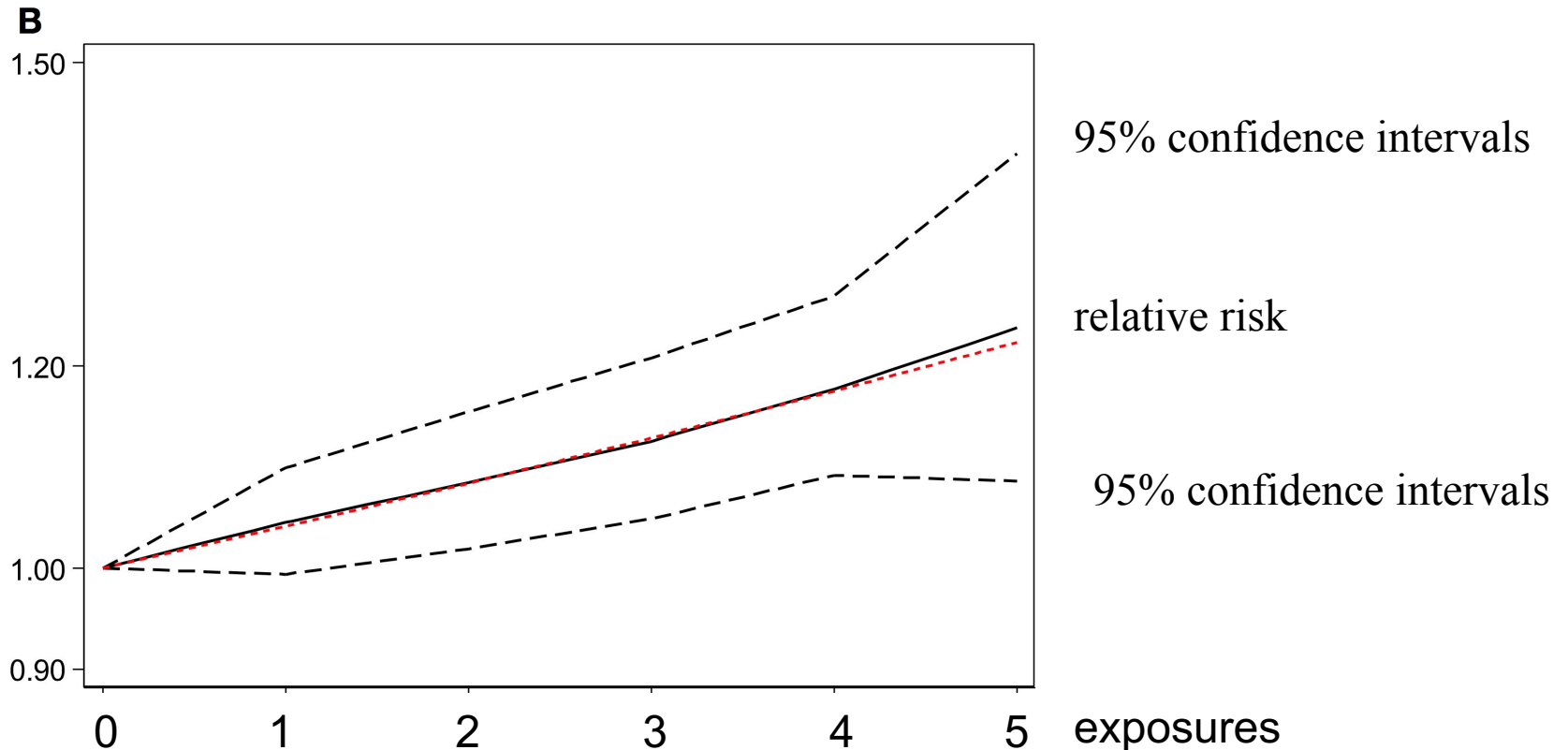
Cao *et al* (2017) Apr 4 *Gut*
Velicer *et al* (2004) *JAMA* **291**:827

Rosser & Mauri (2016) *J Autoimmun* **74**:85
Clausen *et al* (2016) *PLoS One* **11**:e0161654

Korpela *et al* (2016) *Nat Commun* **7**:10410
Metsala *et al* (2013) *Epidemiology* **24**:303

Shaw *et al* (2010) *Am J Gastroenterol* **105**:2687
Hviid *et al* (2011) *Gut* **60**:49

Perinatal (pregnancy or early life) antibiotic exposure and **obesity**

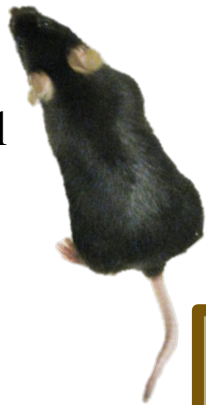


Dose–response meta-analysis of the association between antibiotic exposure in early life and childhood obesity

The gut microbiota (the symbiotic bacteria that live in the gut) can influence **weight gain**

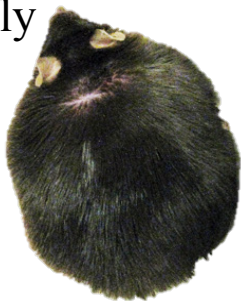
Mice with gut microbiota

Normal



Transfer gut
microbiota

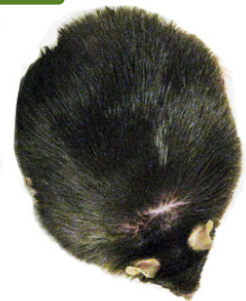
Genetically
obese



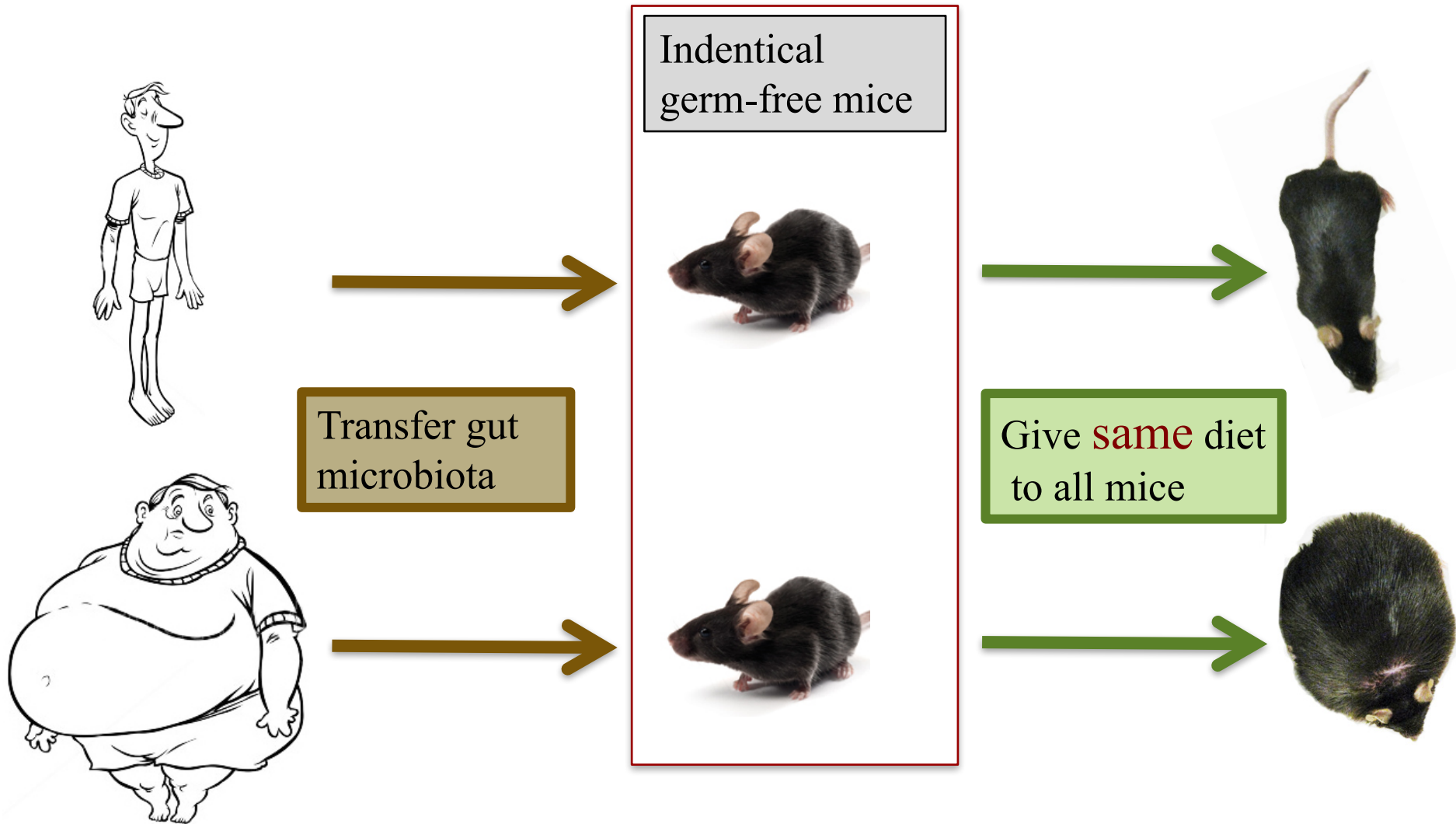
Genetically **normal**,
identical *germ-free*
mice



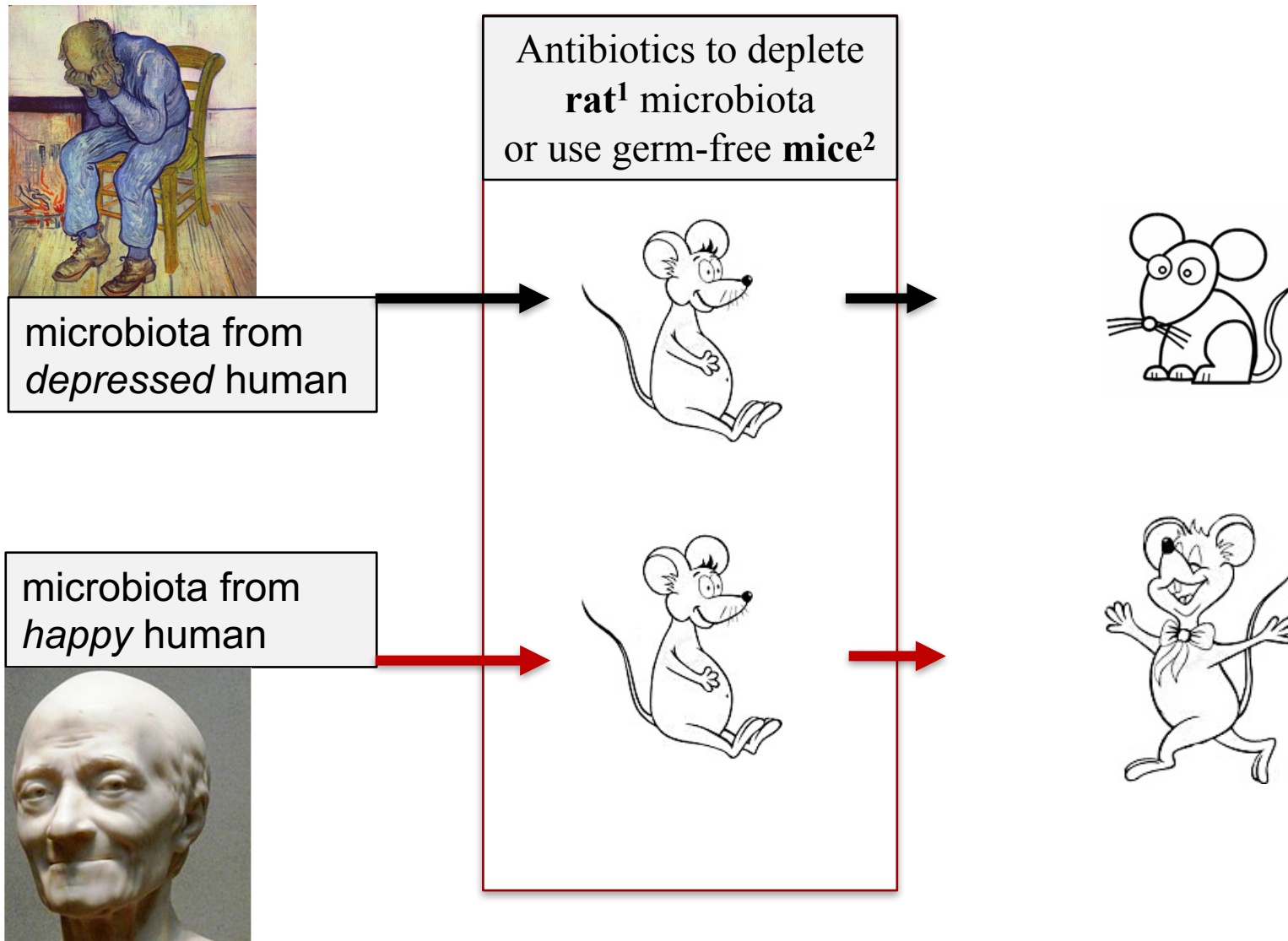
Give **same** diet
to all mice



The gut microbiota (the symbiotic bacteria that live in the gut) can influence weight gain



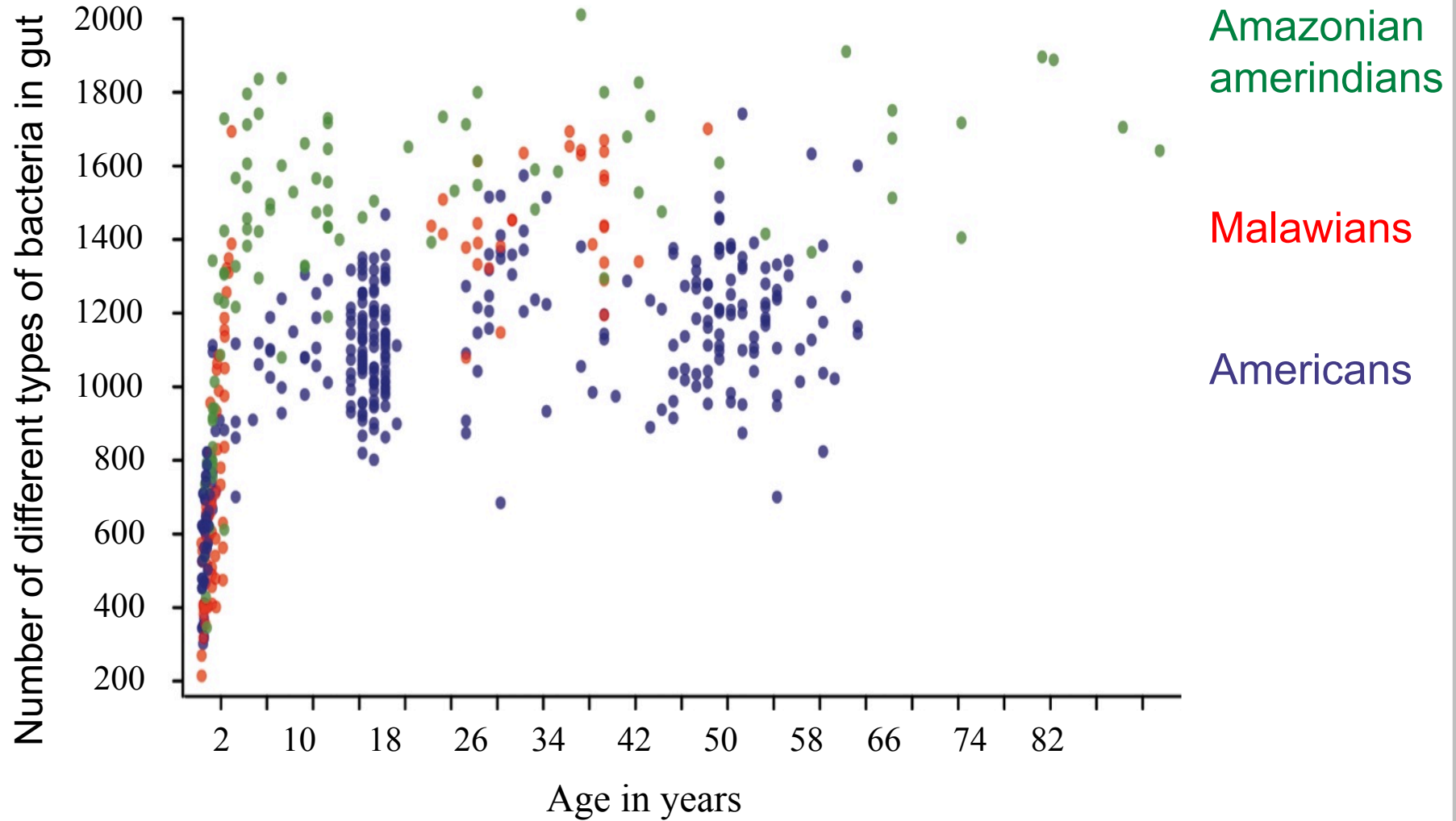
Gut microbiota from depressed humans induces “depression” in the rat and mouse



¹ Kelly *et al* (2016) *J Psychiatr Res* **82**:109

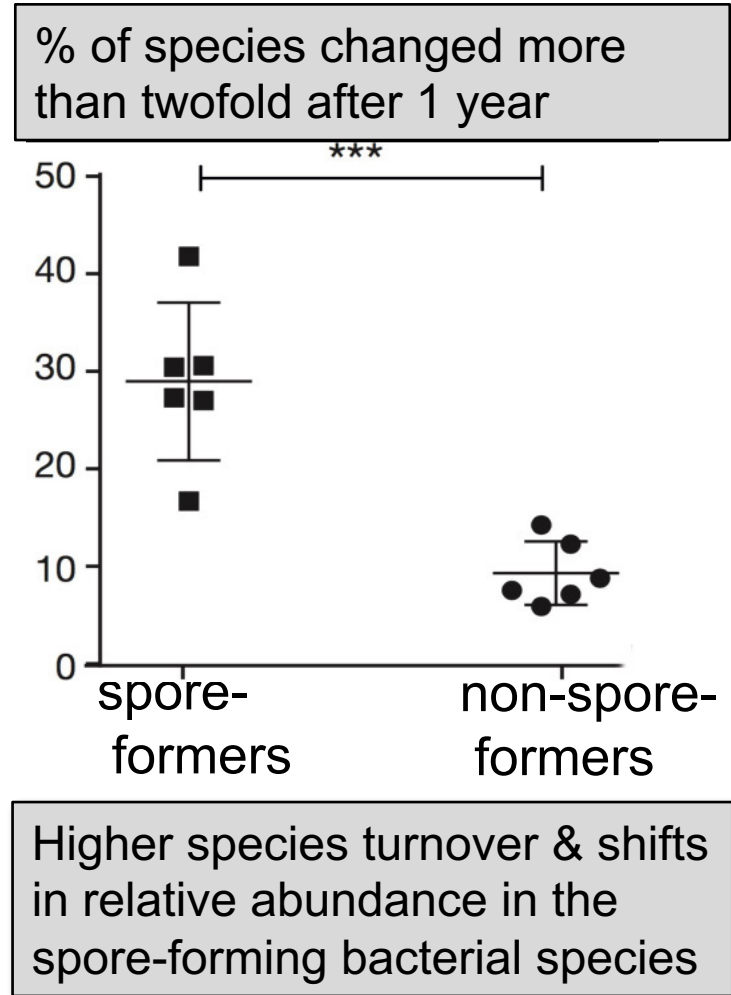
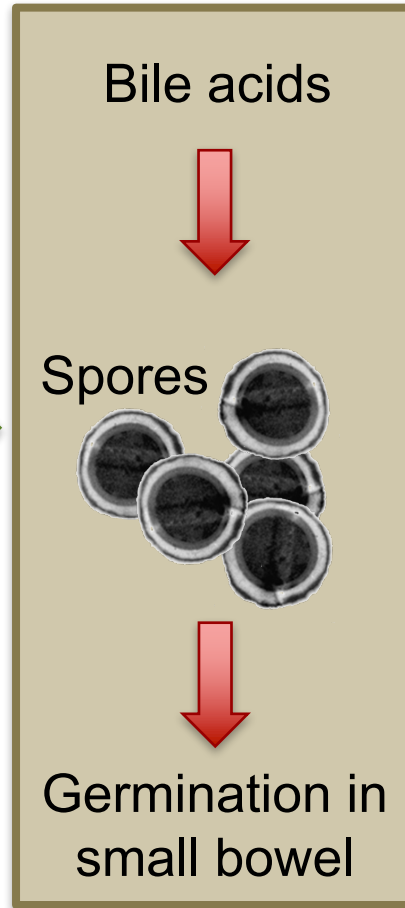
² Zheng *et al* (2016) *Mol Psychiatry* **21**:786

Gut microbiota in people from high- versus low-income countries



Yatsunenkeno *et al* (2012) *Nature* **486**:222

60% of bacterial genera in the microbiota make **spores** (= 30% of the total intestinal bacteria)



Ngure *et al* (2013) *Am J Trop Med Hyg* **89**:709
 Troyer (1984) *Behav Ecol Sociobiol* **14**:189
 Hong *et al* (2009) *Res Microbiol* **160**:375

Hong *et al* (2009) *Res Microbiol* **160**:134
 Rook *et al* (2014) *Clin Exp Immunol* **177**:1-12
 Browne *et al* (2016) *Nature* **533**:543

Environmental microbes and allergies

Epidemiology

Riedler *et al* (2001) *Lancet* **358**:1129
Aichbhaumik *et al* (2008) *CEA* **38**:1787
Sozanska *et al* (2013) *JACI* **133**:1347
Song *et al* (2013) *Elife* **2**:e00458
Lynch *et al* (2014) *JACI* **134**:593

- Farms
- Cowsheds
- Dogs *in the home*
- Rural versus urban
- Microbe-rich house dust

plants
soil
animals
outside air

Identification of candidate organisms

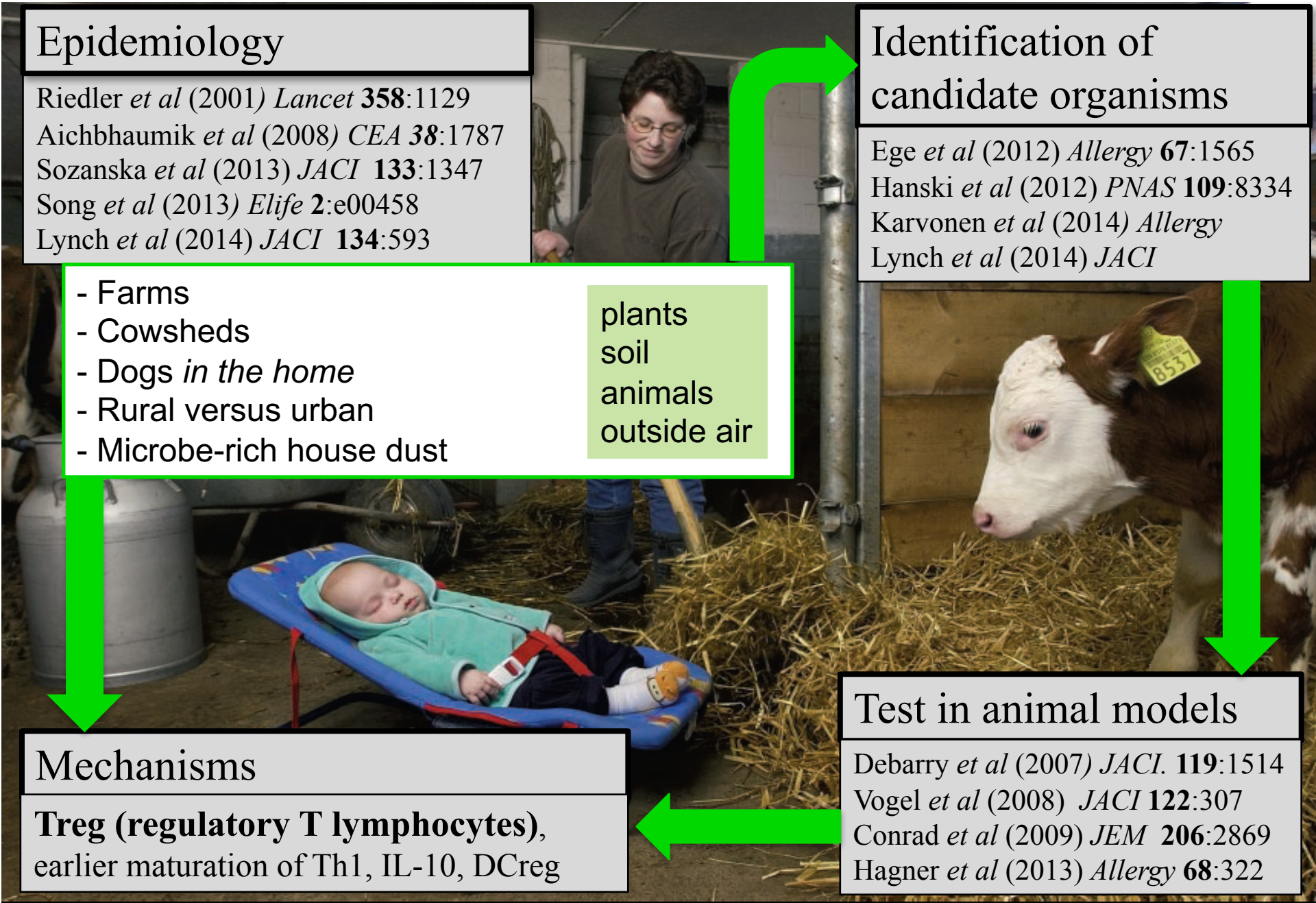
Ege *et al* (2012) *Allergy* **67**:1565
Hanski *et al* (2012) *PNAS* **109**:8334
Karvonen *et al* (2014) *Allergy*
Lynch *et al* (2014) *JACI*

Test in animal models

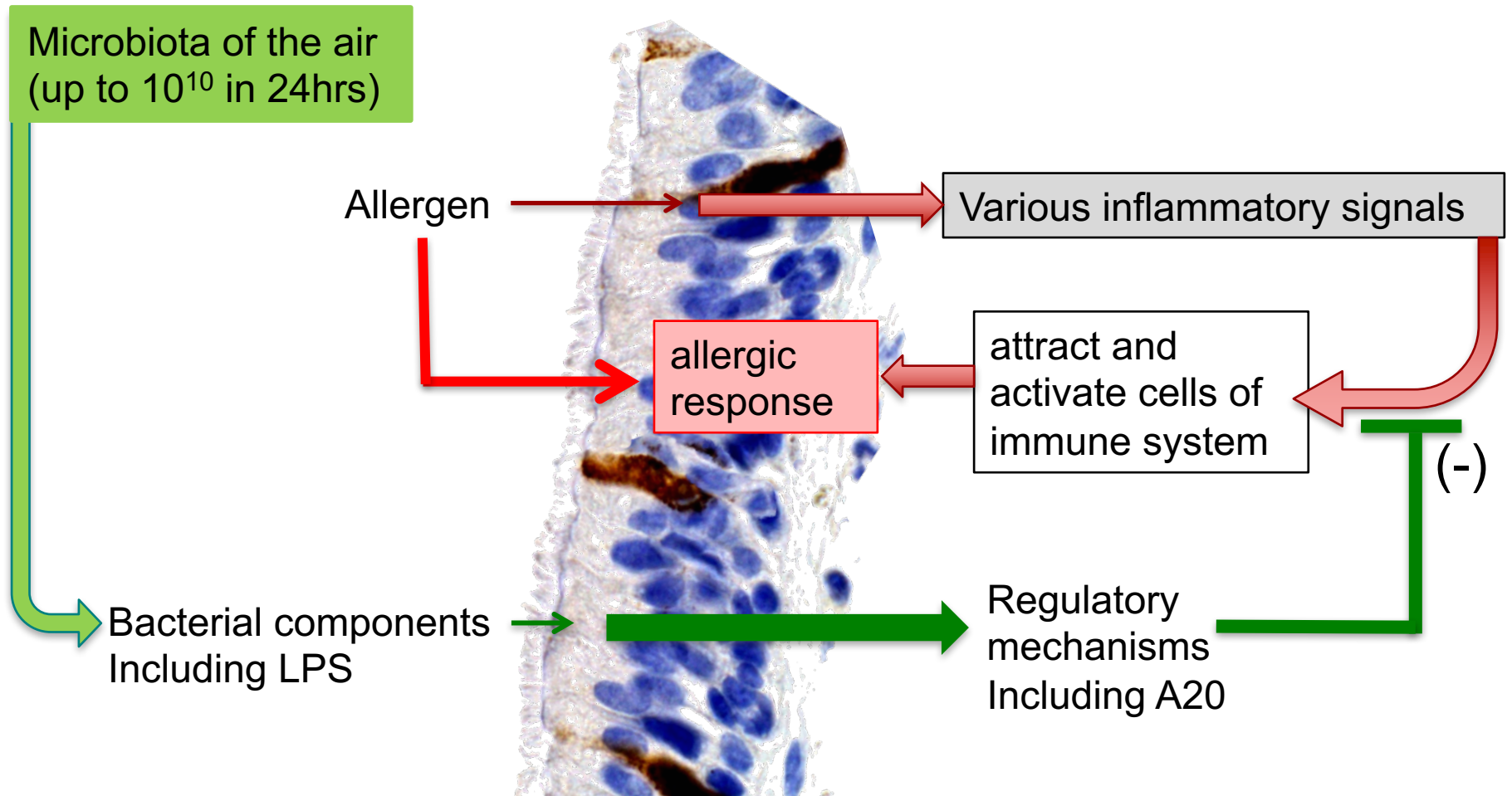
Debarry *et al* (2007) *JACI*. **119**:1514
Vogel *et al* (2008) *JACI* **122**:307
Conrad *et al* (2009) *JEM* **206**:2869
Hagner *et al* (2013) *Allergy* **68**:322

Mechanisms

Treg (regulatory T lymphocytes),
earlier maturation of Th1, IL-10, DCreg



Effects in the airways of the microbiota we breathe



Exposure to dust in a traditional farming environment causes:-

Decreased expression of markers of inflammation
& increased expression of A20 ... **in blood cells**

Stein *et al* (2016) *N Engl J Med* **375**:411

Environmental microbial biodiversity & chronic inflammatory disorders in Russia, Finland & Estonia

4-fold higher prevalence of childhood atopy
6-fold higher prevalence of Type 1 diabetes
- in Finnish Karelia than in Russian Karelia

House dust dominated by gram-negative bacteria

High *Bacteroides* in infant gut microbiota



Fails to block mouse model of Type 1 diabetes
Fails to drive immunoregulation

House dust dominated by gram-positive bacteria

7-fold more clones of *animal*-associated species

Low *Bacteroides* in infant gut microbiota



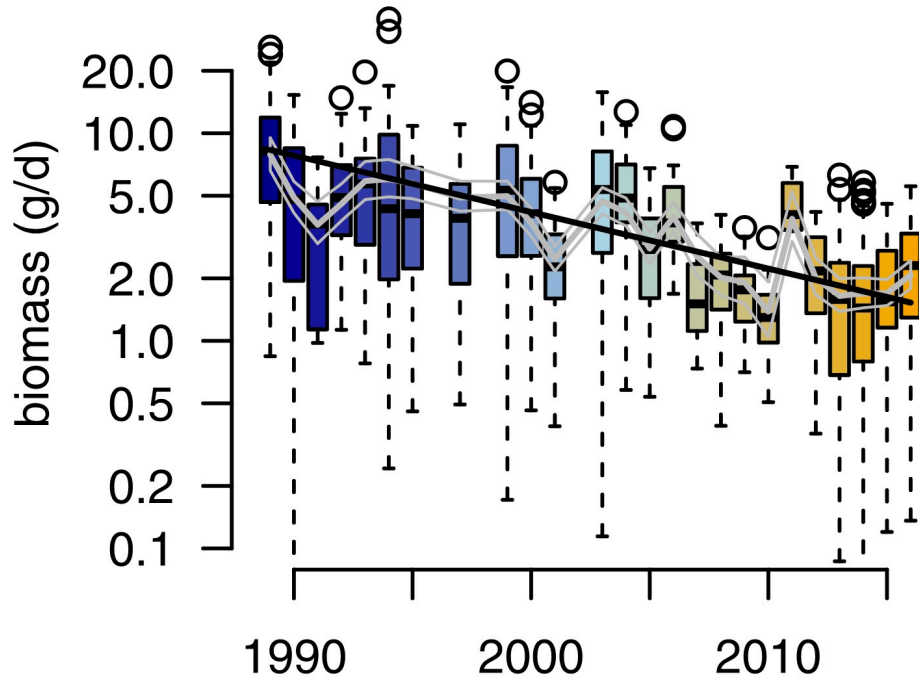
Blocks mouse model of Type 1 diabetes
Drives immunoregulation

Pakarinen *et al* (2008) *Environ Microbiol* **10**:3317
Vatanen *et al* (2016) *Cell* **165**:842

Kondrashova *et al* (2005) *Ann Med* **37**:67



Loss of ~80% of flying insect biomass in 27 years



Not attributable to changes in climate or vegetation

agricultural chemicals,
pesticides, antibiotics



industrial pollution

