

# The Role of Microbiota in Animal Physiology: An Integrative Review

Assal Ghazi Alshammary<sup>1</sup><sup>\*</sup>, Jehan Mahmood Rajab<sup>2</sup>, Rusul A. A. Alshammary<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Al-Mustansiriya University, College of Science, Department of Microbiology, Iraq-Baghdad.

<sup>2</sup>Al-Mustansiriya University, College of Science, Department of Biology, Iraq-Baghdad.

\*Corresponding Author: Assal Ghazi Alshammary

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.55145/ajbms.2024.03.02.08>

Received March 2024; Accepted May 2024; Available online June 2024

**ABSTRACT:** This review examines a broad range of microbiota functions in terms of animal physiology, including its effect on digestion, immunological capabilities, metabolism, reproductive regulation, and nervous system. Its purpose is to provide a systematic overview of on-going research, determine the gap of knowledge and evaluate how environmental factors and the alteration of the microbiome can help to improve the health of animals and contribute to the conservation effort. This study describes the roles of microflora in digestion and absorption of nutrients, modulation of the immune system, and reproduction components and newborn development. Alongside this, it reports the interplay between the bacteria and the central nervous system, which underpins the behavior and mental health. This mission of the review is to offer an integrated overall comprehension of microbiota, which will be used to detect applicable insights and make actionable decisions for future research, veterinary care, and conservation efforts.

**Keywords:** Microbiota 1, Animal Physiology 2, and Metabolism 3



## 1. INTRODUCTION

Microbiota is a complex dynamical system made up of many small organisms— such as bacteria and archaea, terrestrial and aquatic protists, fungi, and viruses—interacting in commensalistic, mutualistic, or pathogenic ways with multicellular organisms, such as plants, animals, and humans. Such microbial communities are particularly present both inside and on the surface parts of the hosts' bodies [1].

The gut microbiota, a complex galore of microorganisms living in it and on animals, is a key factor in animals' physiology. It helps in digestion, nutrient absorption & the immune system. Microbiota serves as the source also of behavioral as well as metabolic parameters, keeping a symbiosis relationship, which is necessary and needed for the full health, and well-being of all. Imbalances can lead to various diseases, emphasizing the importance of microbiota in physiological homeostasis. Animals developed in an environment teeming with microorganisms. Although harmful microbes have traditionally been recognized for causing infectious diseases, it is only recently that we have realized diseases can also stem from a deficiency of beneficial microbes [2].

The vital role of microbiota in captive animal conservation was emphasized. Altered microbiomes in captivity are linked to disease and unsuccessful reintroductions. The research suggests that manipulating captive animals' microbiota to resemble wild populations could improve reintroduction success. Therefore, microbiome management should be integrated into future conservation strategies [3].

It was clearly demonstrated that the composition of goats' jejunal microbiota communities provided valuable insights into the role of bacterial communities in animal physiology. Additionally, this composition is both age- and region-dependent within the gut, indicating specialized physiological functions. The research suggests that there exists a critical timeframe for potential microbiota manipulation, opening doors for preventive or therapeutic interventions in animal health. Importantly, it aims to enhance nutrient utilization and reduce the incidence of gut diseases. These findings underscore the intricate link between microbiota and animal well-being, advocating for the inclusion of microbiome management in animal healthcare strategies [4].

Animals have evolved in an environment teeming with microbes, challenging fundamental beliefs across biological disciplines, including developmental biology. Lab-grown animals without microbial exposure may survive, but their fitness is compromised in natural settings. Given the planet's largely unexplored microbial biodiversity, ignoring the role of microbes renders any analysis of animal development incomplete. Instead, animal development likely involves ongoing interactions with the microbial world. It is suggested that a full understanding of both embryogenesis and post-embryonic development must acknowledge the critical role of symbiotic microbes in providing developmental cues and shaping phenotypes. This acknowledgment broadens the scope of developmental biologist's exploration and takes us to a new realm of investigation [5].

Multicellular organisms tolerate changes in the environment and nutrient disposition through metabolic system adjustments. The key ones in this response are the TOR (Target of Rapamycin) and the insulin/IGF (insulin-like growth factor) pathways, which imitate cell functions including proliferation and development. In the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans*, the insulin receptor DAF-2 is in charge of metabolism in which reproductive development is facilitated, while NHRs regulate larval development, which is metabolic and environmentally based. Surprisingly, the microorganisms have been proved to affect consistent development of the host by interacting with those signaling pathways, which signify the microorganism's participation in the complex development processes with the host [6].

We expect the microbe will have a significant and multifaceted impact on the physiology of the animal, including functions like digestion, immune response, and metabolism among others, and that the environmental factors will be major driver of this relationship. Accordingly, the research aims to achieve the following objectives:

1. To systematically review existing literature on the relationship between microbiota and various physiological functions in animals, including but not limited to digestion, immune response, and metabolic processes.
2. To identify gaps in the current understanding of how microbiota contribute to animal physiology, thereby highlighting areas requiring further investigation.
3. To analyze the impact of environmental factors, such as diet and habitat, on the composition and functionality of microbiota in animals.
4. To assess the potential of microbiota manipulation as a tool for improving animal health, and as a factor in conservation efforts.
5. To synthesize findings into an integrative framework that offers a holistic view of the role microbiota plays in animal physiology, providing actionable insights for researchers, veterinarians, and conservationists.

Through the attainment of these objectives, the project intends to augment the already existing body of knowledge on animal healthcare and conservation strategies that work.

This integrative review addressing the role of microbiota in animal health is supplemented with results from related human studies. The reason behind this strategy is diverse. First, most of the biologic interactions that involve the microbiota are conserved among species hence making the human-centric research relevant and informative for the understanding of animal physiology. Moreover, the methods utilized in the human studies usually give the possibility to find transferable approaches that can be used in animal experiments. Human studies in addition to this allow one to draw the comparative framework to have an in-depth analysis regarding the role of microbiota across different species. In contrast, human research can be the place to identify the gaps of the existing animal research, on which additional research should be directed. Eventually, it is worth noting that such strategy gives translational insights that can connect the physiology of animals with the wider implications for human health. Consequently, human-related research is vital to positive long-term effects of this study, making the review more holistic, multidisciplinary, and relevant to both animal and human health sector.

## 2. Methods

### 2.1 Criteria for article selection

By adhering to the following criteria, we aim to ensure the selection of high quality, relevant articles for a thorough and credible review.

1. Date of Publication: Articles published within the last 10-15 years to ensure up-to-date information, unless seminal works are being considered.
2. Type of Study: Preference for peer-reviewed, original research articles, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses. Exclusion of editorials, opinion pieces, and unpublished works.
3. Subject Focus: Articles specifically investigating the relationship between microbiota and animal physiology.
4. Species Studied: Inclusion of studies involving a variety of animal species for a more comprehensive review.
5. Methodology: Preference for articles with robust experimental designs, clearly defined variables, and reliable statistical analyses.
6. Language: Articles published in English or with an available English translation.
7. Source: Articles indexed in reputable databases like PubMed, Scopus, or Web of Science.
8. Quality Metrics: Studies should have a high-quality score based on a recognized assessment tool like the Newcastle-Ottawa Scale for observational studies or the Cochrane Risk of Bias tool for randomized trials.
9. Sample Size: Studies with adequate sample sizes for meaningful statistical analysis.

## 2.2 Search Terms

In combination, there was a use of keywords and Medical Subject Headings (MeSH) for an increased number of searches. The terms searched were used in a multitude of patterns and phrases to approximate the relevant articles. The primary search terms included Microbiota, Animal Physiology, Gut Microbiome, Immune Responses, Metabolic Processes, Animal Health, and Non-Animal Factors.

Adding to this, the use of areas of the search like "AND," "OR" and "NOT" helped users fine-tune their query. As an illustration, reports including "Microbiota AND Animal Physiology", " Gut Microbiome AND Immune Response" , " Animal Health OR Environmental Factors" were used.

We pursued a rigorous and comprehensive literature review through descriptive databases and search terms aimed to investigate about microbiota's role in animal physiology.

## 3. The Microbiota and Animal Physiology: An Overview

In fact, since the discovery of microbiota, they have been more frequently investigated for their part in both good and bad state. The place they come from determines to what extent these microbial communities can be categorized as gut-microbiota, oral-microbiota, respiratory-microbiota, and skin microbiota. They do not produce any harmful substances for their host rather; they can enhance and regulate one's immune system. Nevertheless, an unbalanced microbiome, a condition called dysbiosis, results in breaking the system functionality and being the driver of different diseases, including cardiovascular ones, cancer, and respiratory illnesses [7].

The term is originated from the early 20th century. Scientists identified that there are lots of different microbial communities, such as bacteria, fungi and viruses, settled throughout our bodies including the gastro-intestinal tract, skin, lungs and mouth [8].

Microbiota comprises of the unique microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, and viruses that inhabit a particular environment, for instance, the gut, the oral cavity, and many more.

The name is a group of organisms present and relationship between numbers of them. Unlike microbiome, which is narrow to just the microbes, microbiome includes the organisms' genetic material, structural components, and metabolites. Consequently, microbiome is broader than microbiota. It gives a microbe's survival tool kit with the ability to interact with each other and the environment, in a more thorough way. It includes the factors like the surrounding conditions (pH levels or availability of nutrients) which are needed for the bacteria [9].

Animals are often considered as an autonomous beings, who are self-contained units in an ecosystem, but rather animals develop as interdependent systems—known as metaorganisms or holobionts—through dynamic interactions between eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells. The concept of microbiome is quite revolutionary, as it negates the assumption that an organism only exists in isolation, but rather in symbiosis with microbes and other eukaryotes. Even though this concept is not entirely clear yet, it is fascinating because it shows the complex interconnections within the ecosystems. In addition, the key factor pivoting around the relationship of host-associated bacteria and the surface mucus epithelium which is modified at every age and with the age-related ailments. Still, some other microorganisms that are less known, like archaea, fungi and viri, deserve attention as well. Along with culture methods and molecular techniques, we can extend this comprehension of the veiled microbial communities. The computational modeling offers the significant help, but the result needs be verified in the lab at a higher complexity. The development of knowledge about metaorganism belongings was accomplished however many gaps are still to be filled in order to be able to carry on the research [10].

Certain microbial compositions are linked to adverse health effects like obesity, allergies, and treatment resistance. Adjusting or supplementing the microbiota can revert it to a healthier state, often through the use of probiotics or fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT). Presently, the selection of FMT donors focuses on the donor's observable traits rather than the expected microbial composition in the recipient and its potential health advantages. Nonetheless, there is a significant discrepancy between the conditions of the donor and the recipient after the transplant [11].

## 4. Role of Microbiota in Digestive Health

Gut health in livestock is a complex interplay involving diet, the gut mucosal barrier, immune status, and a balanced microbiota of bacteria, protozoa, and fungal zoospores. These elements collectively contribute to efficient digestion, nutrient absorption, and immune function. In ruminants, fermentation in the digestive tract produces volatile fatty acids, microbial protein, and methane, which affect overall animal health and growth. Microbial feed supplements can boost health and performance by preventing disease, promoting beneficial microbes, stabilizing gut and rumen pH, and enhancing nutrient absorption. The gut microbiome is pivotal in feed conversion, a major factor in livestock production costs [13].

Understanding the link between gut microbiota and the health and productivity of commercial broiler chickens and other species is complex due to variations among flocks. These differences are influenced by environmental factors, diet, and host traits. Gut microbiota plays a vital role in maintaining intestinal health by outcompeting harmful microbes, thus saving energy otherwise used for immune defense. Given the increasing evidence of microbiota's

importance and the methods available to optimize it, it's likely that routine monitoring of gut microbiota will become standard in future farming practices [14].

Emerging evidence suggests a critical role for gut microbiota (GUT-M) in vertebrates' physiological functions, including immunity, growth, metabolism, and even brain development and behavior. The primary bacterial phyla that make up the human gut microbiota are the following: the Bacteroidetes (20–40%), which include Flavobacteria, Bacteroidia, Sphingobacteria, and Cytophagia; the Verrucomicrobia (20–40%), the Actinobacteria, and to a lesser extent, Proteobacteria; and one Archea phyla, the Euryarchaeota. Most existing research focuses on rodents and humans, leaving a data gap on the impact of the microbiota-gut-brain axis (MGBA) in farm animals. A deeper understanding of MGBA's effects could significantly benefit animal welfare and health, particularly through tailored selection, nutrition, and management strategies. It's increasingly acknowledged that GUT-M can influence the nervous system and behavior, not just in commonly studied models like rodents and humans, but also in farm animals such as poultry, pigs, and cattle [15].

## 5. The gut-brain axis

The gut-brain axis is crucial for sustaining bodily balance, with both internal and external elements affecting communication between the digestive and central nervous systems. Lately, the influence of the microbiome in regulating this signaling pathway has gained attention, leading to the recognition of a microbiota-gut-brain axis [16].

Many studies in pre-clinic showed that the gut microbiota metabolites, which signal the brain via a variety of the immunological, neuronal and endocrinological pathways, influence the brain functions. However, in vitro and in vivo models are critically important in understanding mechanisms, but clinical data in of relevance on living patients is scarce. Of course, the characterization of these metabolites as either helpful or harmful depends on specifics like diet, metabolic state and disease status. To comprehend thoroughly the elaborate association between food consumption, gut microbiota, metabolites, and the brain function, gathering relevant dietary habits and clinical conditions is key and imperative. Specialized researches through metagenomic [17], metabolomic and metatranscriptomic methods in clearly defined populations will unravel the complexities of the gut-brain axis, thus establish personalized therapeutic approaches for neurological disorders including Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease [18].

## 6. Role of Microbiota in Immune System Modulation

The composition of gut microbiota is very important for animals in building immune cell responses and selection of good or bad microbes. The mediation that happens between the microbiota and the host leads to a stronger immunity that has the microbiota-derived metabolites as the regulators of both the innate and adaptive immunity. A well-balanced gut microflora exerts the stability of the immune system, represents a factor of success in the infection resistance and it may play a role in vaccine effectiveness. The missing microbiota in a germ-free animal is reminiscent of a naïve immunity system and with that heightened inflammation, the broader function of the microbiota in host physiology and disease is highlighted. The evidence of the effects of microbiome modulation through approaches like prebiotics/probiotics or fecal transplant was clearly seen as a promising route to clinical applications, which could be used to fine-tune the immune response [19].

Studies investigated the role of a compromised gut microbial ecology under oral antibiotics on the cancer development both in the subcutaneously and the liver metastasis between pancreatic cancer, colon cancer, and melanoma. The depletion of the microbiome in the gut microbiome was substantial only in all the models examined in this work. Still, in contrast with mice, where mice on Rag1-knockout which have no mature T and B cells and where this depletion didn't contribute to deceleration of the tumor growth. In the flow cytometry tests, it was found that there was a substantial increase in interferon gamma-producing T cells and a corresponding down trend in those T cells that secrete interleukin 17A and interleukin 10. The data support the idea that new therapeutic approaches stimulating the gut microbiome could arise [20].

Research found that microglia—gut bacteria through the creation of SCFAs (short-chain fatty acids) primarily governed immune cells pertinent to the central nervous system—. H3K4me3 H3K9ac marked the conducting microglia of germ-free mice epigenetically on the metabolic gene that hamessed an increased mitochondrial mass and dysfunctional specific respiratory chain at the same time. Acetate emerged as the master SCFA, directly stirring microglia maturation, and taming their metabolic state. Additionally, he noted that acetate was found to regulate microglial phagocytosis and the course of neurodegenerative disease. These discoveries confirm that acetate is a bacterial-molecule of microglia's metabolic pathways that determines microglia functions in both healthy and disease conditions [21].

### 6.1 Germ-free animals

As the foundation of the most relevant researches, germ-free animals that are produced in sterile environments without any microorganisms are successful in discovering microbiota's role in health and disease. These animals are free of the usual gut, skin bacteria, and therefore serve as a particular platform for analyzing the host body without the microbial influence. Researchers employ assays in studying how microbial communities contribute or lack, affecting

physiology, immunity as well as disease vulnerability. Diet is the keynote in microbial diversity balance; shifting the dietary patterns causes this diversity variations, finally it can lead to the inflammation and diseases of the gut. Macronutrients, micronutrients, and additives by means of particular cellular protein variations, cytokines expression, may affect gut delicate balance and so on. It has cause food or microbial metabolite intervention to come to the forefront as the field of immunonutrition, which targets the restoration of immune balance and combatting inflammatory disease [22].

### 6.2 Disease resistance and susceptibility

The microbiota of the intestine is of very great importance to the maintenance of the immune system and, consequently, an individual's vulnerability to various diseases. Due to their interaction with immune cells, these microorganisms distinguish among the harmful and the natural and thus are an integral part of a more intelligent and vigilant immune defense. On the condition, that gastrointestinal microbiota is well balanced; it can strengthen innate and adaptive immunity as well as constitute a barricade against diseases. Nonetheless, in case of any disruption of the microbes as such, dysbiosis, the site becomes more vulnerable to infections, autoimmune diseases, and even some cancers. This intricate relation led to the discovery of microbial-focused therapies to help maintain immunity and combat diseases due to their biological significance [23].

Billions of both important and harmful microbes like *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* came home to the roller-coasters of the human respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts where they served for the sake of people health. They whom they set up guard barriers of immunity by hermetic envelopment of mucosal surfaces with bactericides including short-chain fatty acids and host-derived cytokines. Microbial communities living in the gastrointestinal tract have been widely recognized to basically constitute a symbiotic relationship with the host. Another determinant of lung health was the role of respiratory tract microbiota that provided immune balance and respiratory health. The use of anti-TB antibiotics that subsequently resulted in microbiota imbalances and higher susceptibility of the host to *M. tuberculosis* infection was anticipated. Their examination of the latest data on the lung microbiota's role in respiratory health focused on the microbiota in both humans and animals [24].

Illustration 1 shows the bidirectional communication between the gut-lung axis as if the bacteria *M. tuberculosis* is inhaled. It shows, in the part about lung and gut dysbiotic, the contributions of key cells of the immune system and bacterial metabolites like SCFAs (short-chain fatty acids).

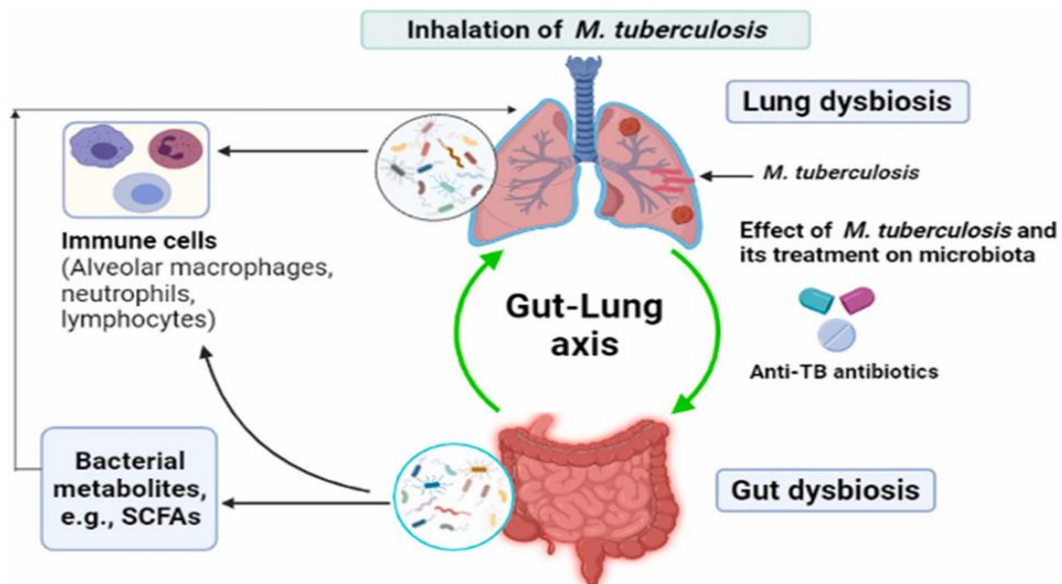


FIGURE 1. - Gut-Lung Axis in Tuberculosis Infection

### 7. Role of Microbiota in Metabolism

The microbiota is indeed a powerful driving force behind the metabolism of both animals and humans, whereby it performs a variety of functions ranging from nutrient absorption, energy regulation to the production of vitamins that are crucial. The microbes are responsible for a breakdown of complex carbohydrates and proteins. As a result, the host is able to use the food to the maximum potential. When it comes to Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) where there are a few risk factors for cardiovascular diseases, the involvement of the microbiota is of utmost importance. Key mechanisms

including inflammation, metabolism of short-chain fatty acids, and bile acid regulation underlie the microbiota-gut interaction and its impacts on host metabolism. To this end the animal studies findings that microbiota imbalance can possibly be the cause of metabolic syndrome were found to be a bit sceptical in humans signaling a need for more human studies for deep understanding and appropriate measure strategy[25].

### 7.1 Energy harvest and storage

Microbiota in animal gut is very important when it comes to energy absorption and storage through its function as a helper in breakdown of complex fibers into short chain fatty acids and similar molecules, which can later be absorbed. In addition, microbial communities are also shown to regulate hormonal signals that affect the feeling of hunger and satiety which then control energy input. They communicate with metabolic pathways, which include energy depots, such as fat and glycogen formation. This signals their importance in the development of energy reserves. Disruptions of microbiota profiling may lead to the disruption of these systems which may bring about problems metabolic ones including obesity. Studies with germ-free mice that are of more recent years have not only confirmed these roles but also imply that inconsistencies in the research have made what microbiota components contribute to obesity very unclear[26].

### 7.2 Impact on obesity and other metabolic disorders

The relation of microbiota composition with several health outcomes, for instance, obesity and allergies, were curious to the researchers. They gave priority to use FMT and the role of donor selection efficacy. The team put forth an algorithm attempting to identify most favorable donors in reference strictly to microbiome of these donors. The investigators have now created a more accurate modeling tool for human and mouse recipients in which they predict post-transplant conditions. The new FMT experiment was made to prove the unique capabilities of the algorithm to handle non-trivial treatment objectives. In addition, it developed a constitution that would help to pick the most adequate bacterial cocktail for transplantation. Due to this the researchers established the feasibility of optimal FMT selection, which can be performed using an ideal donor or ready-to-use cultured set and are effective on both mice and humans [11].

The obesity, which was conclusively shown to be interrelated with other physiological and mental disorders through gut microbiota via gut-brain axis (GBA), was considered in this research using Scopus, PubMed, Google Scholar and Web of Science databases. The GBA mediates its effects through three pathways: neurological, by means of the vagus nerve and the enteric nervous system; endocrine, influencing the hypothalamus-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA); and immunological. Microbial changes associated with obesity that can significantly impact metabolism and eating are defined. It turns out that the microbiota in the gut is an important factor in the treatment for obesity therefore therapies like fecal microbiota transplantation, probiotics and prebiotics have the potential for being a possible treatment for obesity [27].

## 8. Role of Microbiota in Reproductive Health

The gut microbes are a particularly potent factor of reproductive health in animals, impacting hormones levels, fertility and pregnancies outcomes. By these microbial communities, endocrine system works, which regulates the release of critical reproductive hormones such as estrogen and progesterone. Researches presented that an even mix of gut microbiota may result in a better quality of embryo and chances of a successful implantation, this will boost the infertility. Microbiota in reproductive tissues also provide protection which help prevent infections which may complicate the whole pregnancy. However, dysbiosis in these microbial communities, a condition in which the microbes are unbalanced, can lead to gamete quality deficits, delays in embryo growth, and even heightened susceptibility to reproduction-related illnesses. By recognizing these microbes, the activity of which is so important for reproductive health, it is possible to create specialized intervention programs that improve the reproductive health of humans [28].

In addition, the concept of a greater diversity of microbiome in female reproductive tract questioning the conventional wisdom of a diversified ecology being considered as a healthy one. On the other hand, a microbiome for the vagina that is dominated by Lactobacillus strains generally signifies health but other compositions of bacteria are suggestive of vaginal imbalance and increase in disease risk. Within a period of 10 years, the knowledge of these "one-of-a-kind" physiological systems "took the world by storm." There were also notable changes in the fields of microbiome and its potential influence on delivering pregnant women and especially preterm births. Among the latest findings, the role of microorganisms emerges, revealing how these microbes [29] impact the gynecologic health and reproductive systems of women.

For instance, an article indicates that the microbiome is pivotal in the physiology of domestic, captive animals, which is manifested through the animal's susceptibility to disease and general welfare. Although the primary aim of this study is to determine the effects of microbiota on acute general physiological conditions in animals, the theoretical base may relate to reproductive health also. Results reveal two methods of modifying microbiota similar to natural population ones. This can possibly be used as a supporting mechanism for increasing reproductivity and health. Animal

reproductive health is a new and unexplored field. The possible methods mentioned here such as administering probiotics or dietary amendments to the animals could serve as the starting point of new research in this field like bisphenol A (BPA) exposure.

## 9. Future directions

New findings in the area of "microbiomes" and how they relate to animal physiology come by the day and are derived from various disciplines, hence highlighting a holistic approach to "health and disease". One of the most thrilling pathways is the gut-brain axis study, which looks into the gut bacteria interaction among other behavioral conditions and neurological condition. In addition, a growing body of research has recently explored the role of microbiota in the pathogenesis of metabolic disorders such as obesity and diabetes, and sought to understand how an imbalance of microbial populations might be involved in the development of this disease.

The microbiome's participation in animal reproduction breed of research is also a significant field. Researchers investigate the influencing roles of microbiomes in hormone regulation, fertility and production, which has an important bearing on livestock production and conservationism. Ecologists also continue to look at microbiota's contribution to immunity starting from the prevention of autoimmune diseases and infections to the other end.

Technological developments in microbiome sequencing and computational analysis increase possibilities for diagnostic methods, helping get more accurate understanding of humans-microbiota relationships. Such discoveries will certainly spur the development of the targeted, microbiota-based interventions, for example, the probiotic treatments, especially customized diet, as well as the intestinal microbiota transplants. The anticipated advancements in microbiota research in the future will revolutionize what we know as the vital role of microbiota in animal health.

## 10. Potential applications in medicine and veterinary science

The emerging knowledge of microbiota in conditioning animals' function encompasses broad perspectives in both medical and veterinary practices. In human medicine, targeted microbiota administration could overthrow the treatment of many human problems including gastrointestinal troubles and mental disorders. For example, fecal microbiota transplants have already produced some good results in the treatment of *Clostridium difficile* infections; maybe as more information is gathered, they can be used to address other diseases mainly related to the gut. In addition, the microbiome could be used to regulate immune responses through which immune processes associated with autoimmune disorders or cancer could be managed.

In animal science, improvement of the microbiota understanding helps establish more efficient and environmentally friendly livestock farming systems. Personalized probiotics treatments favorably impact the digestive system for efficient nutrient absorption, growth rates, and disease protection in the livestock. Moreover, enhancing microbial balance within livestock could potentially lessen the need for antibiotics thereby addressing the problem of resistance to such drugs. Companion animal microbiota can have benefits on gastrointestinal health and may help address some behavioral issues which are associated with the gut-brain relationship.

In summary, the future of microbiota research gives rise to a variety of less-invasive innovative and even more personalized treatments, applicable to both human medicine and veterinary medicine.

## 11. Conclusions

This review enlightens us how the microbiota is among many roles; it helps the digestion and nutrient absorption, modulate immune response and breeding. In addition, understanding the peculiar communication between microbiota and the central nervous system, which has an effect on behavior and mental health. This information thus has extensive consequences, indicating the possible approaches that future medicine and veterinary provisions may take, with an aim of promoting health and also handling various disorders. The area is ready to catch up with other advanced societies in disease prevention, metabolic health and reproduction and commence. Alongside recent research in this field, microbiota-based choices in healthcare clearly make more sense than ever before.

## Funding

None

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The authors would like to thank Mustansiriyah University (<https://uomustansiriyah.edu.iq/>) / Baghdad, Iraq.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare no conflict of interest

## REFERENCES

- [1] L. De Sordi, L. Marta and D. Laurent, "The battle within: interactions of bacteriophages and bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract," *Cell host & microbe*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 210-218, 2019.
- [2] K. T. Walsh and K. Guillemin, "The impacts of microbiota on animal development and physiology," in *Evolution, Biodiversity and a Reassessment of the Hygiene Hypothesis*, G. A. W. Rook and C. A. Lowy, Eds., *Progress in Inflammation Research*, vol. 89, pp. 177–196, 2022..
- [3] Dallas, Jason W., and Robin W. Wame, "Captivity and animal microbiomes: potential roles of microbiota for influencing animal conservation." *Microbial ecology*, vol. 85, pp. 820-838, 2023.
- [4] Zhang, X., Wu, J., Zhou, C., Tan, Z., & Jiao, J, "Spatial and temporal organization of jejunal microbiota in goats during animal development process". *Journal of Applied Microbiology*, vol. 131, pp.68-79, 2021.
- [5] Bosch, T.C.G. & McFall-Ngai, M., " Animal development in the microbial world: Re-thinking the conceptual framework. In S.F. Gilbert (Ed.)", *Current Topics in Developmental Biology*, Vol. 141, pp. 399-427, 2021.
- [6] Feng, M., Gao, B., Garcia, L. R., & Sun, Q, "Microbiota-derived metabolites in regulating the development and physiology of *Caenorhabditis elegans*", *Frontiers in Microbiology*, Vol. 14, p.1035582, 2023.
- [7] K. Hou, Z.X. Wu, X.Y. Chen, et al., "Microbiota in health and diseases," *Sig Transduct Target Ther*, vol. 7, p. 135, 2022..
- [8] Ursell LK, Haiser HJ, Van Treuren W, et al, "The intestinal metabolome: an intersection between microbiota and host" *Gastroenterology*, Vol. 146 ,pp. 1470-6, 2014 .
- [9] G. Berg, D. Rybakova, D. Fischer, et al., "Microbiome definition re-visited: old concepts and new challenges," *Microbiome*, vol. 8, p. 103, 2020.
- [10] D. Esser, J. Lange, G. Marinos, et al., "Functions of the microbiota for the physiology of animal metaorganisms," *J. Innate Immun.*, vol. 11, pp. 393–404, 2019.
- [11] O. Shtossel, S. Turjeman, A. Riumin, et al., "Recipient-independent, high-accuracy FMT-response prediction and optimization in mice and humans," *Microbiome*, vol. 11, p. 181, 2023.
- [12] S. M. Jandhyala, R. Talukdar, C. Subramanyam, H. Vuyyuru, M. Sasikala, and N. Reddy, "Role of the normal gut microbiota," *World J. Gastroenterol.*, vol. 21, pp. 8787–8803, 2015.
- [13] Negash, A, " Gut microbiota ecology role in animal nutrition and health performance" *Journal of Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobials*, Vol. 6, 2022.
- [14] Diaz Carrasco, Juan M., Natalia A. Casanova, and Mariano E. Fernández Miyakawa, "Microbiota, Gut Health and Chicken Productivity: What Is the Connection?" *Microorganisms*, Vol.7, p.374, 2019.
- [15] Kraimi, N., Dawkins, M., Gebhardt-Henrich, S. G., Velge, P., Rychlik, I., Volf, J., Creach, P., Smith, A., Colles, F., & Leterrier, C, "Influence of the microbiota-gut-brain axis on behavior and welfare in farm animals: A review", *Physiology & Behavior*, Vol.210,pp.112658 ,2019.
- [16] Margolis, K. G., Cryan, J. F., & Mayer, E. A, "The Microbiota-Gut-Brain Axis: From Motility to Mood", *Gastroenterology*, Vol.160, pp. 1486-1501,2021.
- [17] T. S. Chaudhry, S. G. Senapati, H. P. S. Mannam, H. V. Voruganti, Z. Abbasi, T. Abhinav, A. B. Challa, N. Pallipamu, N. Bheemisetty, and S. P. Arunachalam, "The impact of microbiota on the gut–brain axis: Examining the complex interplay and implications," *J. Clin. Med.*, vol. 12, no. 16, p. 5231, 2023.
- [18] H. Ahmed, Q. Leyrolle, V. Koistinen, O. Kärkkäinen, S. Layé, N. Delzenne, and K. Hanhineva, "Microbiota-derived metabolites as drivers of gut–brain communication," *Gut Microbes*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2022.
- [19] Sánchez, B., Gueimonde, M., Peña, A. S., & Bernardo, D, "Intestinal Microbiota as Modulators of the Immune System", *Journal of Immunology Research*, 2015.
- [20] Sethi, V., Kurtom, S., Tarique, M., et al, "Gut microbiota promotes tumor growth in mice by modulating immune response", *Gastroenterology*, Vol. 155, pp.33-37, 2018.
- [21] Ery D, Dokalis N, Mezö C, et al, "Microbiota-derived acetate enables the metabolic fitness of the brain innate immune system during health and disease" *Cell Metab*, Vol.2;33,pp.2260-2276.e7, 2021 .
- [22] Das, D., Biswas, N., & Mandal, "Influence of diet on gastrointestinal immunology. In D. Bagchi & S. E. Ohia (Eds.), *Nutrition and Functional Foods in Boosting Digestion*", *Metabolism and Immune Health*, pp. 89-98, 2022.
- [23] Dzutsev, A., Goldszmid, R. S., Viaud, S., Zitvogel, L., & Trinchieri, G, "The role of the microbiota in inflammation, carcinogenesis, and cancer therapy", *European Journal of Immunology*, Vol. 45, pp. 7-321, 2015.
- [24] Shah, T., Shah, Z., Baloch, Z., & Cui, X, "The role of microbiota in respiratory health and diseases, particularly in tuberculosis", *Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy*, Vol.143, p 112108, 2021.
- [25] Wang, P., Deng, X., Zhang, C., & Yuan, H, "Gut microbiota and metabolic syndrome" *Chinese Medical Journal*, Vol, 133, pp.808-816,2020.
- [26] Tremaroli, V., Kovatcheva-Datchary, P., & Bäckhed, F, "A role for the gut microbiota in energy harvesting?" *Gut*, Vol. 29,2010.



- [27] A. Asadi, S. M. N. Shadab Mehr, M. H. Mohamadi, F. Shokri, M. Heidary, N. Sadeghifard, and S. Khoshnood, "Obesity and gut-microbiota-brain axis: A narrative review," *J. Clin. Lab. Anal.*, vol. 36, p. e24420, 2022.
- [28] Nan Wang, Lu Chen, Kangle Yi, Baizhong Zhang, Chunjin Li & Xu Zhou , "The effects of microbiota on reproductive health: A review", *Critical Reviews in Food Science and Nutrition*, 2022.
- [29] Zhu, B., Tao, Z., Edupuganti, L., Serrano, M. G., & Buck, G. A, "Roles of the Microbiota of the Female Reproductive Tract in Gynecological and Reproductive Health [Review] ", *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews*, Vol.86, pp.e00181-21, 2022.