

THE FORUM

for Medical Affairs

Annual Educational Program

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Carpenter Ballroom



The Human Microbiome: Germ Warfare or Collaboration?

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Microbes have challenged us since the plague and the work of Semmelweis and Pasteur. Numerous microbial species start symbiosis with us from birth- outnumbering our own cells tenfold, and our gene pool over 100 fold- contributing to our nutrition, immunity and well-being. Microbial Metagenomics- the study of collective genomes of microbial communities- has expanded our reach beyond culturing them. Antibiotics and other perturbations may rob us of these benefits and predispose to invasion by pathogens. Microbial transplant for C.diff infection is an example of the potential benefits from manipulation of our flora. Public enthusiasm is clear from the wide use of probiotics 'blindly.' Is this good or bad? This program offers insight into the basic science as well as the promises and problems to be encountered.

Learning Objectives

On completion of this activity participants should be able to recognize (1) that normal microbial colonization of humans is specific and diverse, (2) that there are interactions between the microbiome and human cells, and (3) that these interactions contribute to health and diseases.

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This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the Accreditation Requirements and Policies of the Medical Society of the State of New York (MSSNY) through the joint providership of the Westchester Academy of Medicine and The Forum for Medical Affairs. The Westchester Academy of Medicine is accredited by MSSNY to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

The Westchester Academy of Medicine designates this live activity for a maximum of *2 AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

Disclosure Statement

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The following faculty have indicated a relationship with the following:

Alexander Khoruts, MD
CIPAC Limited - Partial Research Support

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