Introduction to the Gut Microbiome

What's Up With Your Gut Microbiome?

Vocabulary for Students

- **Antibiotic**: A medicine that is used to treat a bacterial infection either by killing bacteria or keeping them from growing and reproducing.
- **Bacteria**: Single-celled organisms that lack a nucleus.
- **Ecosystem**: The community of organisms in an area, along with their nonliving surroundings.
- **Fecal transplant**: The transfer of fecal bacteria from a healthy person to a sick person.
- **Fungi**: Eukaryotic organisms that get their food from decaying materials. Eukaryotic cells have a membrane-bound nucleus and organelles.
- **Gut microbiome**: The collection of bacteria, fungi, viruses, and other microbes that live inside our bodies.
- **Microbe**: A tiny creature that is too small to be seen with the naked eye.
- **Primary producer**: An organism that can make its own food.
- **Vaccine**: A substance made up of a weakened or killed disease-causing organism that produces immunity in the body against that organism.
- **Virus**: A tiny, nonliving particle that invades and then reproduces inside a living cell.

What's Up With Your Gut Microbiome? homepage