The Human Microbiota: What we have learned about our microbial companions in a new Golden Age for Microbiology

Dr. Alan WALKER
Staff Scientist
Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute
Hinxton, Cambridge, UK

Abstract
Human beings are home to an extremely abundant and diverse collection of microbes, collectively entitled the human microbiota. The microbiota carries out a range of beneficial activities that can enhance host health, but has also been implicated in numerous disorders. In this presentation I will emphasise the importance of our resident microbes, highlight some recent developments in the field of microbiota research and discuss ways in which advances in molecular biology and DNA sequencing technologies have pushed microbiology into a new golden age of discovery.

List of key references: