

Dipartimento di Biotecnologie e Bioscienze – UNIMIB

giovedì 9 giugno, 2022, ore 16:30, aula U3-04 / Webex

Microbiota-derived metabolites in health and disease

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Abstract: The gut microbiota is a master regulator of host physiology. Intestinal microbes produce numerous metabolites through primary and secondary metabolic pathways, many of which are dependent on host diet. The effects exerted by these microbial-derived metabolites represent therefore the combined output of host-microbe interactions influencing host energy metabolism, development and function of the immune system, maintenance of mucosal integrity as well as intestinal microbiota community dynamics.

I will discuss the current knowledge on specific microbial-derived metabolites, notably secondary bile acids, short chain fatty acids and tryptophan metabolites, and their role in affecting host health. Furthermore, I will show how microbiota-derived metabolites induce the production of the anti-inflammatory cytokine IL10 by iNKT cells, a population of tissue resident unconventional T lymphocytes, promoting intestinal homeostasis and control of inflammation in experimental colitis models.

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