

University of Groningen

The interplay between genetics, the microbiome, DNA-methylation & gene-expression

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university of
groningen

The interplay between genetics, the microbiome, DNA-methylation & gene-expression

PhD thesis

to obtain the degree of PhD at the
University of Groningen
on the authority of the
Rector Magnificus Prof. E. Sterken
and in accordance with
the decision by the College of Deans.

This thesis will be defended in public on
Wednesday 22 march 2017 at 12:45 hours

By

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Propositions

1. The integration of multiple biological data layers, for example genetic, transcriptomic, methylome and the microbiome data, leads to a more complete understanding of biological effects. (this thesis)
2. Both genetics and the environment influence the microbiome, DNA-methylation & gene-expression. (this thesis)
3. Commonly used medication can have negative influences on your "health". (this thesis)
4. Large-scale (perturbation) studies on the gut microbiome are needed to accurately identify relations between the host and the gut microbiome. (this thesis)
5. The gut microbiome is an attractive target for therapies aimed at improving lipid levels in blood. (this thesis)
6. Genetic risk factors affect both gene-expression and DNA-methylation, at a local and a distal level. (this thesis)
7. Genetic effects on expression and DNA-methylation are tissue-specific. (this thesis)
8. DNA-methylation changes reflect the altered abundance of transcription factors. (this thesis)
9. Analysis of individual genome-, methylome-, microbiome- and transcriptome profiles will become something to be performed on a daily basis for health monitoring.
10. In the coming years, integrative analysis of big data on DNA-methylation, the microbiome, gene expression and genetics will substantially change the healthcare system, all the way from your general practitioner to the ICU.
11. Open access science publications and open access to data and methods will greatly speed up the changes in healthcare and yield major benefits to the public and researchers.
12. A scientist works with others to discover the world around them; science is teamwork.

Table of contents

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

Page 10 - 13

THE INFLUENCE OF A SHORT-TERM GLUTEN-FREE DIET ON THE HUMAN GUT MICROBIOME

Page 14 - 30

PROTON PUMP INHIBITORS AFFECT THE GUT MICROBIOME

Page 31 - 46

THE GUT MICROBIOME CONTRIBUTES TO A SUBSTANTIAL PROPORTION OF THE VARIATION IN BLOOD LIPIDS

Page 47 - 61

POPULATION-BASED METAGENOMICS ANALYSIS REVEALS MARKERS FOR GUT MICROBIOME COMPOSITION AND DIVERSITY

Page 62 - 78

THE EFFECT OF HOST GENETICS ON THE GUT MICROBIOME

Page 79 - 94

GENETIC AND EPIGENETIC REGULATION OF GENE EXPRESSION IN FETAL AND ADULT HUMAN LIVERS

Page 95 - 113

IMPROVING PHENOTYPIC PREDICTION BY COMBINING GENETIC AND EPIGENETIC ASSOCIATIONS

Page 114 - 132

DISEASE VARIANTS ALTER TRANSCRIPTION FACTOR LEVELS AND METHYLATION OF THEIR BINDING SITES

Page 133 - 151

DISCUSSION

Page 152 - 161

APPENDICES

Page 162 - 172