



Methodological Issues in Gut Microbiota Researches

Jin-Town Wang

Professor, Department of Microbiology, National Taiwan University College of Medicine

Staff physician, Department of Internal Medicine, National Taiwan University Hospital

The human intestinal tract is colonised by a complex community of microbes, which can have major impacts on host health. Recent research on the gut microbiota has largely been driven by the advent of modern sequence-based techniques, such as metagenomics. Although these are powerful and valuable tools, they have limitations. Traditional culturing and phylogeny can mitigate some of these limitations, either by expanding reference databases or by assigning functionality to specific microbial lineages.