

Table of Contents

ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS.....	3
SUMMARY.....	4
RESUMEN - CASTELLANO	6
RESUMEN - VALENCIANO	8
ABBREVIATIONS	10
LITERATURE OVERVIEW	11
HUMAN MICROBIOTA	11
<i>Colonization with pioneer microbiota</i>	<i>12</i>
MICROBIAL NICHES.....	13
<i>Oral microbiota development</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Gut microbiota development</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Human breastmilk microbiota</i>	<i>14</i>
MICROBIOTA AND IMMUNE SYSTEM	16
<i>Mucosal immunity in the gut</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Mucosal immune system control of microbiota.....</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>The importance of microbiota in shaping the immune system</i>	<i>19</i>
FACTORS INFLUENCING EARLY MICROBIAL COLONIZATION.....	23
<i>Delivery mode</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Breastfeeding</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>Antibiotic use.....</i>	<i>26</i>
ALLERGY AND HYPERSENSITIVITY	27
<i>Immune Development in Healthy and Atopic Children</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Allergy and Microbial Dysbiosis</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>Allergy and Probiotic Interventions.....</i>	<i>32</i>
METHODOLOGIES FOR CHARACTERIZING THE MICROBIOTA	35
<i>454 Pyrosequencing</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Illumina sequencing</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>Flow cytometry and fluorescence activated-bacterial sorting</i>	<i>37</i>
ORIGINAL STUDY DESIGN AND STUDY SUBJECTS INCLUDED IN THE PAPERS OF THIS THESIS.....	39
<i>Lactobacillus reuteri preparation</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Diagnostic criteria of allergic diseases and asthma</i>	<i>40</i>
RATIONALE OF THIS THESIS.....	42
AIMS OF THE THESIS	43
CHAPTER I - ORAL MICROBIOME DEVELOPMENT DURING CHILDHOOD: AN ECOLOGICAL SUCCESSION INFLUENCED BY POSTNATAL FACTORS AND ASSOCIATED WITH TOOTH DECAY	44
ABSTRACT	44
INTRODUCTION	45
METHODS.....	48
<i>Sample collection and study design</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>DNA extraction.....</i>	<i>48</i>
<i>16S rRNA gene amplification and sequencing.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Bacterial load and Streptococcus dentisani measurements with quantitative PCR.....</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Bioinformatics and statistics</i>	<i>50</i>
FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION	52
<i>Bacterial load, richness and diversity through time</i>	<i>52</i>
<i>Bacterial composition during infancy.....</i>	<i>53</i>

<i>The influence of delivery mode and breastfeeding durations</i>	53
<i>Microbial colonization patterns</i>	55
<i>The effect of antibiotics intake on microbiota development</i>	57
<i>Oral microbiota in health and disease</i>	59
<i>Bacterial composition and caries development</i>	60
CONCLUSIONS	63
CHAPTER I – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	65
CHAPTER II – ABERRANT IGA RESPONSES TO THE GUT MICROBIOTA DURING INFANCY PRECEDE ASTHMA AND ALLERGY DEVELOPMENT	68
ABSTRACT	68
INTRODUCTION	69
METHODS	71
<i>Study design</i>	71
<i>Sample labeling and flow cytometry protocol</i>	71
<i>DNA-extraction</i>	72
<i>16S rRNA gene amplification and sequencing</i>	72
<i>Sequence processing and taxonomic classification</i>	73
<i>Bacterial load analysis with qPCR</i>	74
<i>Determination of secretory IgA concentrations in stool samples</i>	74
<i>Statistics</i>	75
RESULTS	77
<i>Proportion of fecal bacteria bound to IgA in relation to allergy development</i>	77
<i>Bacterial load, but not total SigA levels, differ in healthy children and children developing allergic manifestations</i>	77
<i>Bacterial targets of IgA responses in children developing allergic manifestations and children staying healthy up to 7 years of age</i>	78
<i>IgA recognition patterns of gut microbiota differ between healthy and allergic children</i>	80
DISCUSSION	82
CONCLUSIONS	84
CHAPTER II- SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.....	86
CHAPTER III – ORAL MICROBIOTA MATURATION DURING THE FIRST 7 YEARS OF LIFE IN RELATION TO ALLERGY DEVELOPMENT	94
ABSTRACT	94
INTRODUCTION	95
METHODS	97
<i>Sample collection and study design</i>	97
<i>DNA extraction</i>	98
<i>16S rDNA gene amplification and sequencing</i>	98
<i>Bacterial load and measurements with quantitative PCR</i>	99
<i>Bioinformatics and statistics</i>	99
RESULTS	101
<i>Bacterial diversity and density in saliva</i>	101
<i>Microbial colonization patterns</i>	102
<i>Microbial species biomarkers</i>	104
<i>Influencing factors</i>	107
DISCUSSION	109
CONCLUSIONS	112
CHAPTER III- SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.....	113
CHAPTER IV – RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BREASTMILK IGA-COATED MICROBIOTA, PROBIOTIC SUPPLEMENTATION AND ALLERGY DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDHOOD	114
ABSTRACT	114
INTRODUCTION	115
METHODS	117

<i>Study design</i>	117
<i>Sample preparation and flow cytometry-based sorting</i>	118
<i>DNA Extraction</i>	119
<i>16S rDNA gene amplification and sequencing</i>	119
<i>Total bacterial load</i>	119
<i>Bioinformatics</i>	120
RESULTS	122
<i>IgA proportions in breastmilk</i>	122
<i>Bacterial diversity, richness and density in total non-sorted milk samples and IgA-coated fractions</i>	122
<i>Bacterial composition in allergy development and probiotic supplementation</i>	123
<i>IgA responses towards milk microbiota in allergy development</i>	125
DISCUSSION	127
CONCLUSIONS	129
CHAPTER IV – SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION	130
GENERAL DISCUSSION	132
THE POWER (AND LIMITATIONS) OF HIGH-THROUGHPUT SEQUENCING	132
COMBINING FLUORESCENCE ACTIVATED CELL SORTING AND 16S rRNA SEQUENCING	136
BACTERIAL LOAD MEASUREMENTS	137
MICROBIOTA BEYOND THE GUT	139
<i>Sample selection for representing different habitats</i>	139
<i>Other important microbiota niches</i>	140
MICROBIOTA AND IMMUNE MATURATION DURING CHILDHOOD	141
<i>Microbial colonization of the gut and oral cavity</i>	141
<i>The effect of perinatal factors on oral microbiota</i>	143
IGA-COATING OF GUT AND BREASTMILK MICROBIOTA IN RELATION TO ALLERGY DEVELOPMENT	144
THE INFLUENCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS ON MICROBIOTA DEVELOPMENT IN HEALTH AND ALLERGY	147
MODIFYING THE MICROBIOTA TO PROMOTE IMMUNE-RELATED HEALTH	149
<i>Probiotics and allergy – Can we control the microbial colonization during early life?</i>	149
<i>Wider perspective of probiotics in treatment in allergy prevention</i>	151
CAN MICROBIOTA COMPOSITION PREDICT ALLERGIES AND ASTHMA?.....	152
THE “PERFECT STORM”	154
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES.....	157
CONCLUSIONS	158
ANNEX A – PUBLISHED VERSION OF CHAPTER I	159
ANNEX B – PUBLISHED VERSION OF CHAPTER II	160
ANNEX C – PUBLISHED VERSION OF CHAPTER III	161
ANNEX D – GUT MICROBIOTA AND MUCOSA IMMUNITY IN THE NEONATE (REVIEW)	162
ANNEX E – BUGGING ALLERGY; ROLE OF PRE-, PRO- AND SYNBIOTICS IN ALLERGY PREVENTION (REVIEW)	163
BIBLIOGRAPHY	164