“Probiotics: ‘A breeze that blows through two open windows?’ A focus on autoimmunity and infant colic.”

A presentation by J. Marc Rhoads, M.D.

Summary: As a newly colonized host, the neonate intestine is highly responsive to the commensal organisms that first establish a niche. We were the first to postulate that intestinal inflammation and dysbiosis may play a role in infant colic; recent meta-analyses have strongly supported a role of probiotics in reducing crying in these infants. Evidence has also shown in humans and animal models that probiotics prevent neonatal necrotizing enterocolitis. Our lab research now focuses on probiotics in a model autoimmunity caused by absent Tregs, called the scurfy mouse (IPEX syndrome in humans). Probiotic L. reuteri reduces inflammation profoundly in this disease, and clues to its mechanism of action will be presented.

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