📊 **MaAsLin2 Analysis: WT vs D2 HMA vs D7 HMA Microbiome Samples**

This R script performs a microbiome differential abundance comparison between WT, D2 HMA, and D7 HMA mouse caecal microbiome samples using **MaAsLin2**, and visualizing target species with **ggplot2**.

📁 **Directory Structure**

Ensure your working directory includes the following input files:

* **merged\_abundance\_table.txt** — OTU abundance table
  + exported from the tool MetaPhlAn
  + taxonomic labels follow GTDB-style formatting (e.g., d\_\_Bacteria;p\_\_Firmicutes;...)
  + taxonomic lineages should be annotated in clade\_name
  + tab-delimited
* **metadata\_WC\_HMAvsWT.txt** — Sample metadata file
  + create it based on Supplementary Table 17
* Update the setwd() path in the script as needed.

**🔧 Requirements**

Install the following R packages if not already installed:

install.packages(c("reshape2", "ggplot2", "ggprism", "dplyr", "ggpubr"))

BiocManager::install("Maaslin2")

🚀 **How to Run**

* Set your working directory inside the R script to the folder where the data files are located: setwd("/path/to/your/project\_directory")
* Run the script wc\_maaslin2.R using your preferred R environment.
* MaAsLin2 results will be saved in the specified output directory.

**🧬 Overview of Analysis**

**Step 1: Load Libraries and Data**

* Loads necessary R packages for microbiome analysis and metadata handling.
* Loads the OTU table and metadata file.
* Filters OTU table to include only species-level taxonomic entries (s\_\_, excluding t\_\_).

**Step 2: Configure and Run MaAsLin2**

* Compares groups based on sample title variable (WT, D2 HMA, D7 HMA).
* Sets "D7 HMA" as the reference level.
* Applies:
  + **No normalization**
  + **Log transformation**
  + **Benjamini-Hochberg** multiple testing correction
* Filters features by:
  + Minimum prevalence of **1%**
  + Maximum adjusted p-value of **0.05**

**Step 3: Output and Visualization**

* Outputs results to the folder ‘maaslin2\_WC\_HMAvsWT’

**📈 Output**

* Significant associations (significant\_results.tsv) corresponding to Figure 3D-G in the manuscript.
* All model results (all\_results.tsv).
* Heatmap and scatter plots of top taxa.
* Jitter plots with group means and error bars for each target species corresponding to Figure 3D-G.