



# H3ABioNet

Pan African Bioinformatics Network for H3Africa

## 16SrRNA Intermediate Bioinformatics Online Course: Int\_BT

### Module 2:

## Introduction to the microbiome – why 16S?



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Shantelle Claassen-Weitz

# Learning Outcomes

Describe the importance of the microbiome and why it should be studied – why 16S

- Defining the term “microbiome” (and other related terminology)
- Current hypothesis around the ways we may be acquiring our microbes; how it may change due to lifetime exposures (for example, the GIT microbiome has been described as an extremely plastic entity); and how these microbial profiles may be similar or vary between individuals
- Know that different body sites have unique microbiomes
- Appreciate the importance of studying the microbiome (what are the clinical impacts).



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## Introduction to the microbiome – why 16S?

### Part 2.1

### The human microbiome: meeting our microbes



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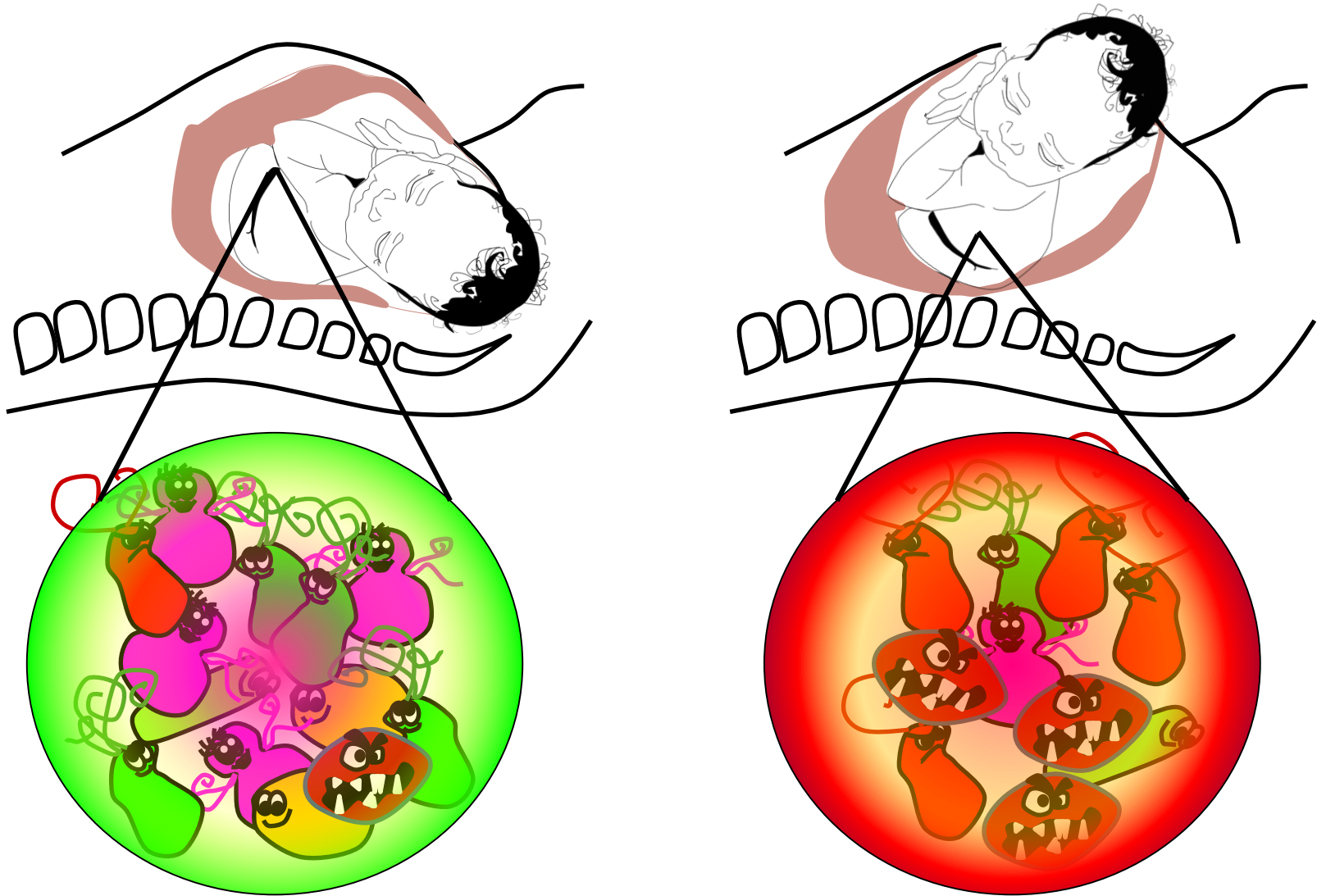
Shantelle Claassen-Weitz

# The human microbiome: meeting our microbes



<https://www.bbc.com/news/health-43674270>

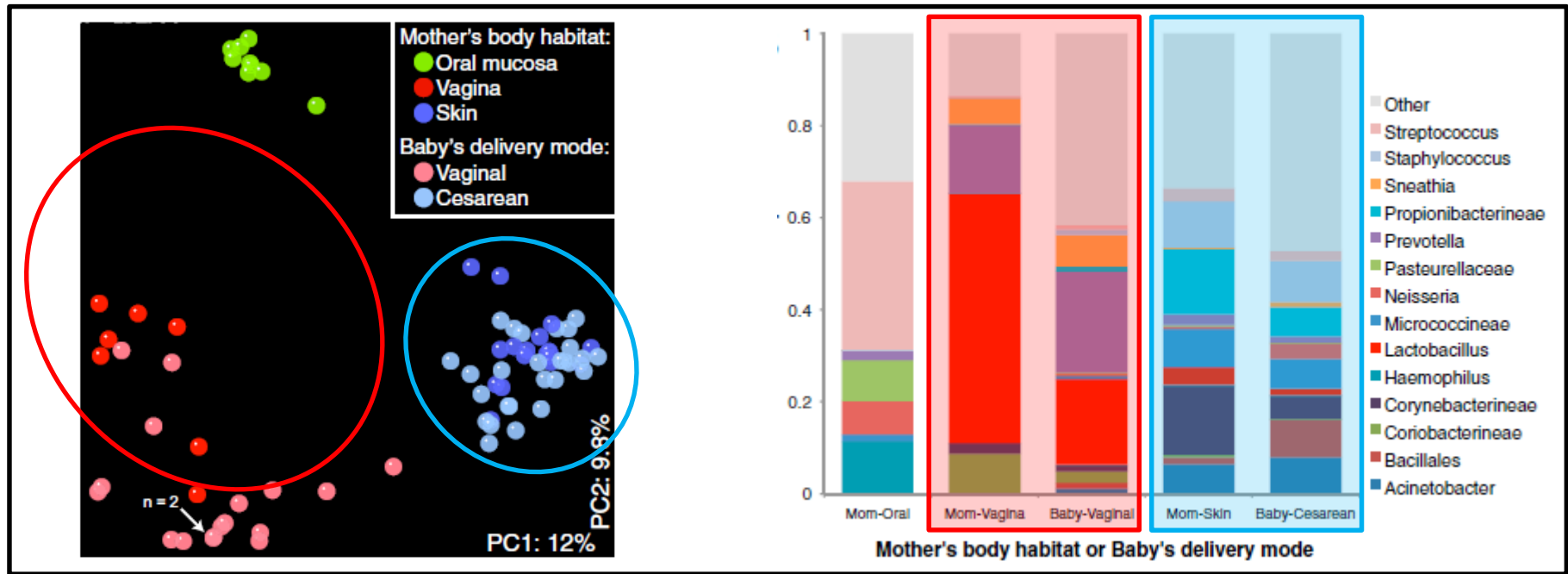
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Dominguez-Bello et al. (2010). *PNAS*.107(26):11971–75, Nagpal et al. (2016). *Front. Microbiol.* <https://doi.org/10.3389/fmicb.2016.01997>



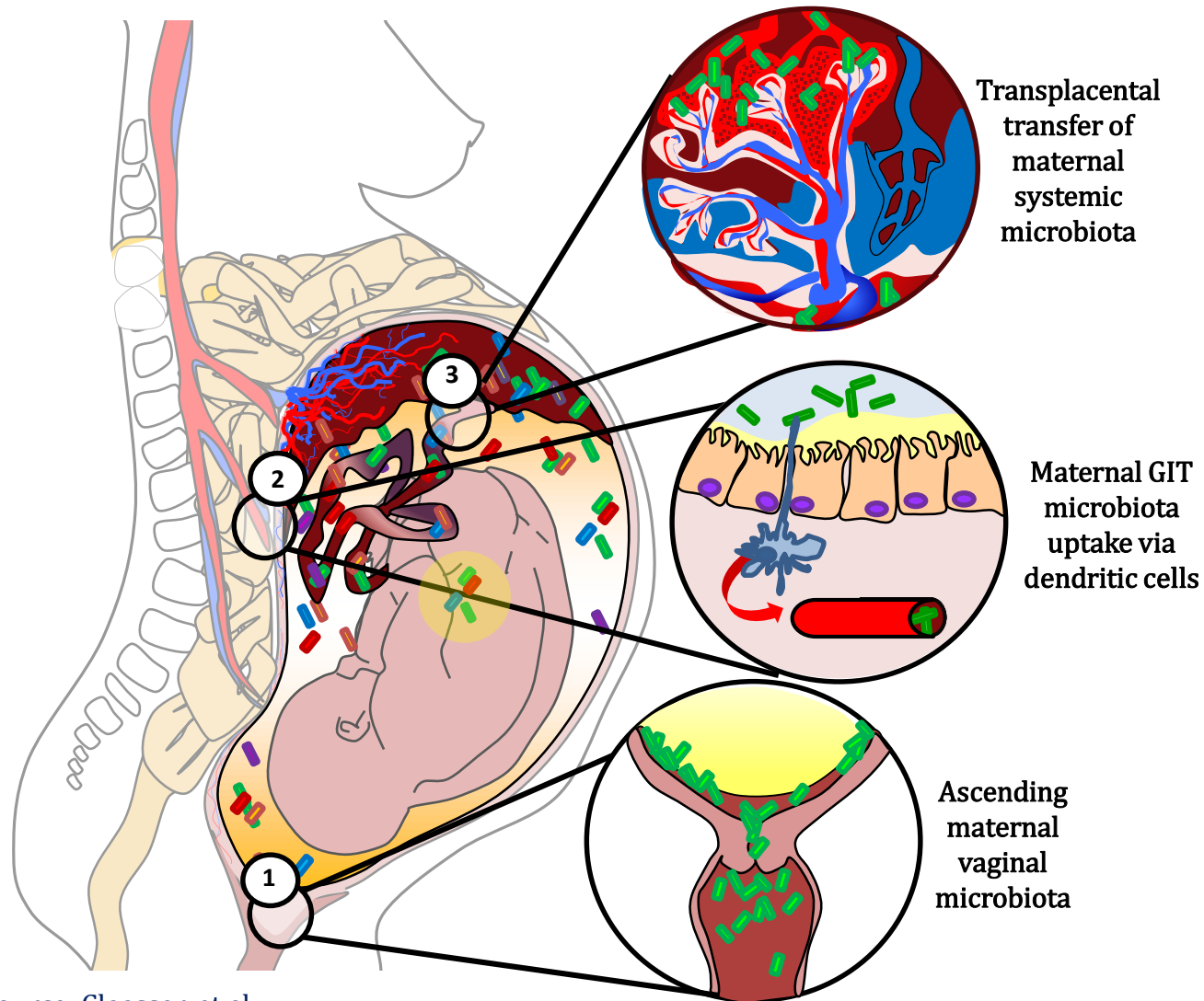
## This baby had visitors already!!!

Satokari et al. (2009) *Lett Appl Microbiol.* 48(1):8-12;  
Jiménez et al. (2008) *Res Microbiol.* 159(3):187-93;  
Gosalbes et al. (2012) *Clin Exp Allergy.* 43(2):198-211;  
Jiménez E et al. (2005). *Curr Microbiol.* 51(4):270-4;  
DiGiulio DB. (2012) *Semin Fetal Neonatal Med.* 17(1):2-11.

Source: Hamzelou, J. (2012) *New Scientist*, 14 April 2012, 6-7




# The human microbiome: meeting our microbes



Source: Claassen et al.

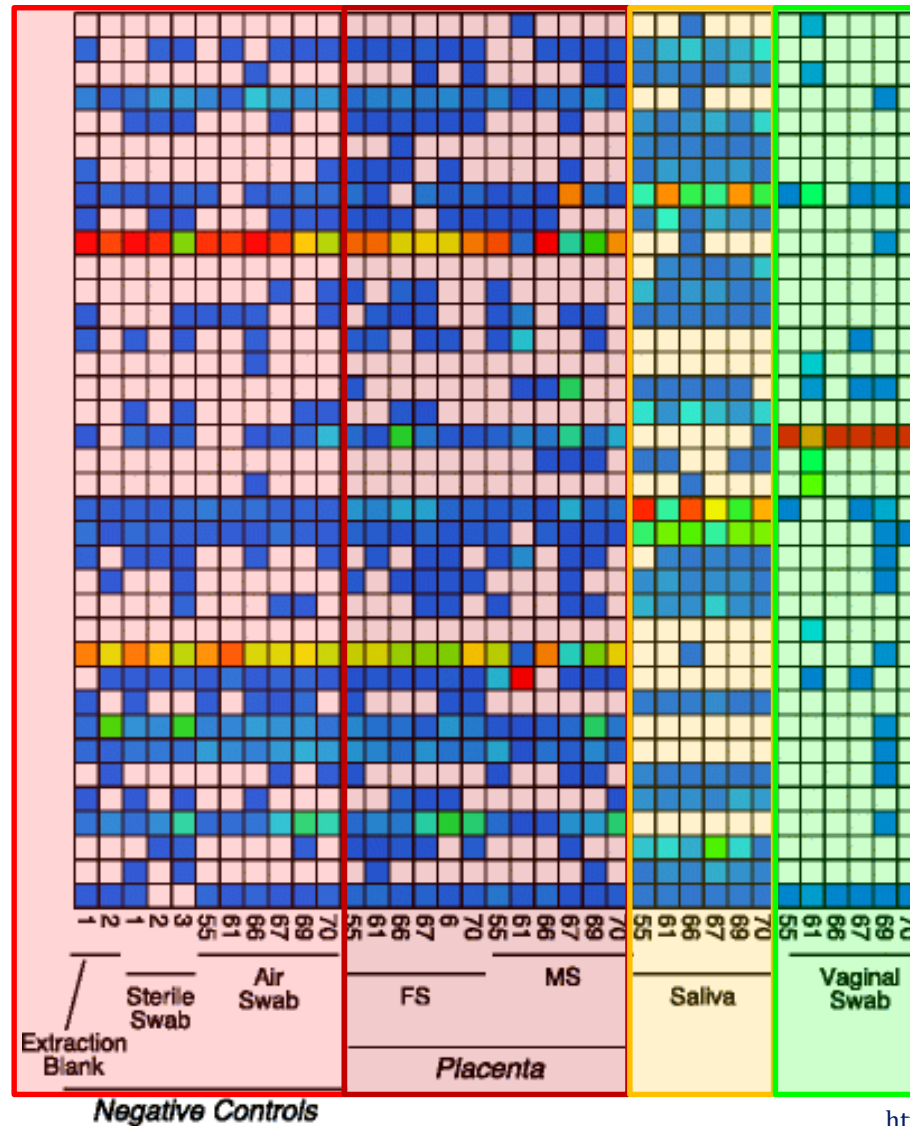
## A critical assessment of the “sterile womb” and “in utero colonization” hypotheses: implications for research on the pioneer infant microbiome



Maria Elisa Perez-Muñoz<sup>1</sup>, Marie-Claire Arrieta<sup>2,3</sup>, Amanda E. Ramer-Tait<sup>4</sup> and Jens Walter<sup>1,5\*</sup> 

Perez-Munoz et al. (2017) Microbiome. 5(48) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-017-0268-4>

# The human microbiome: meeting our microbes

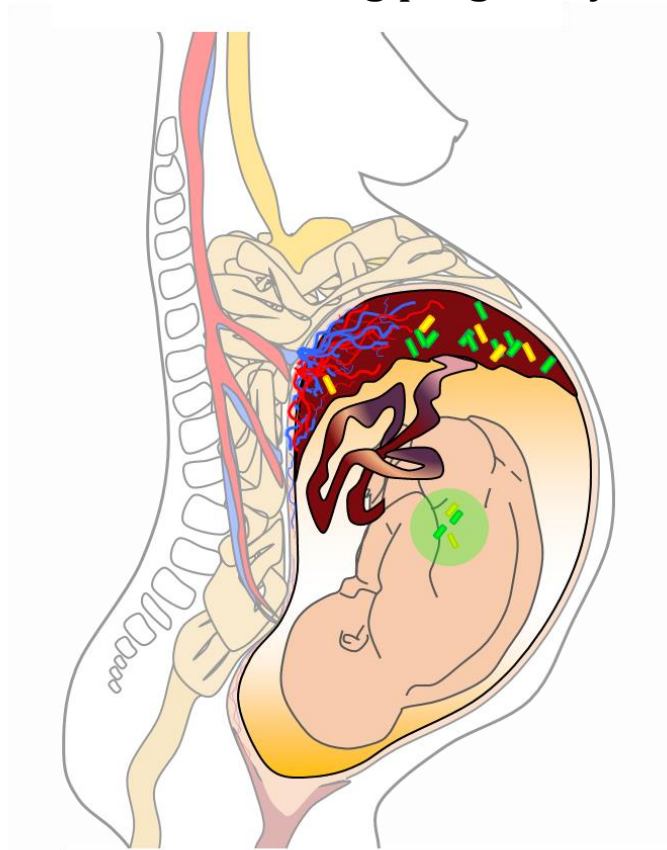


Lauder et al. (2016) Microbiome. 4(29)  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s40168-016-0172-3>

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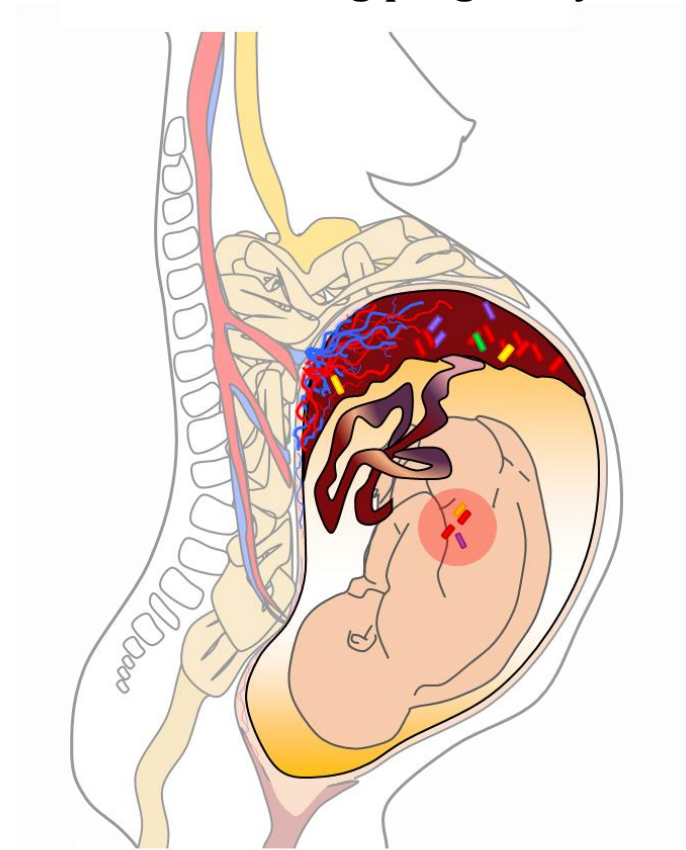
# The human microbiome: meeting our microbes

## Probiotics during pregnancy



Source: Claassen et al.

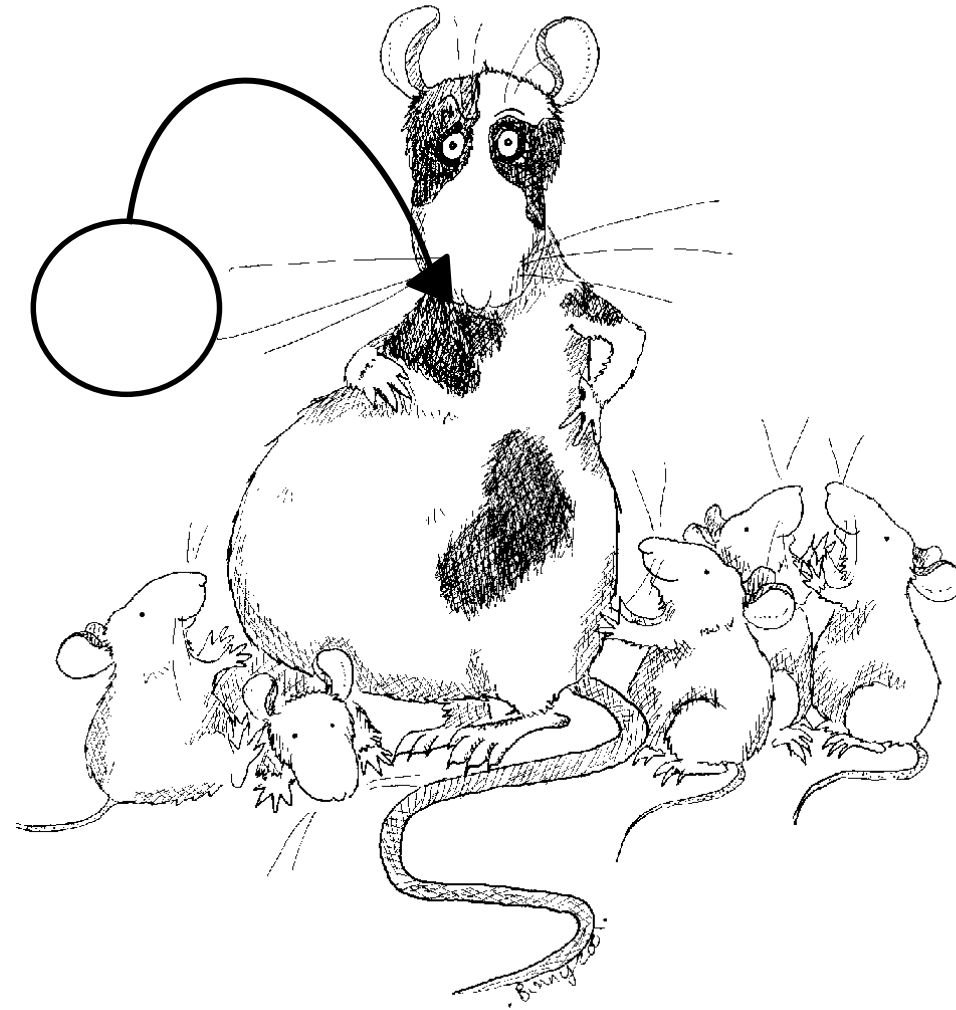
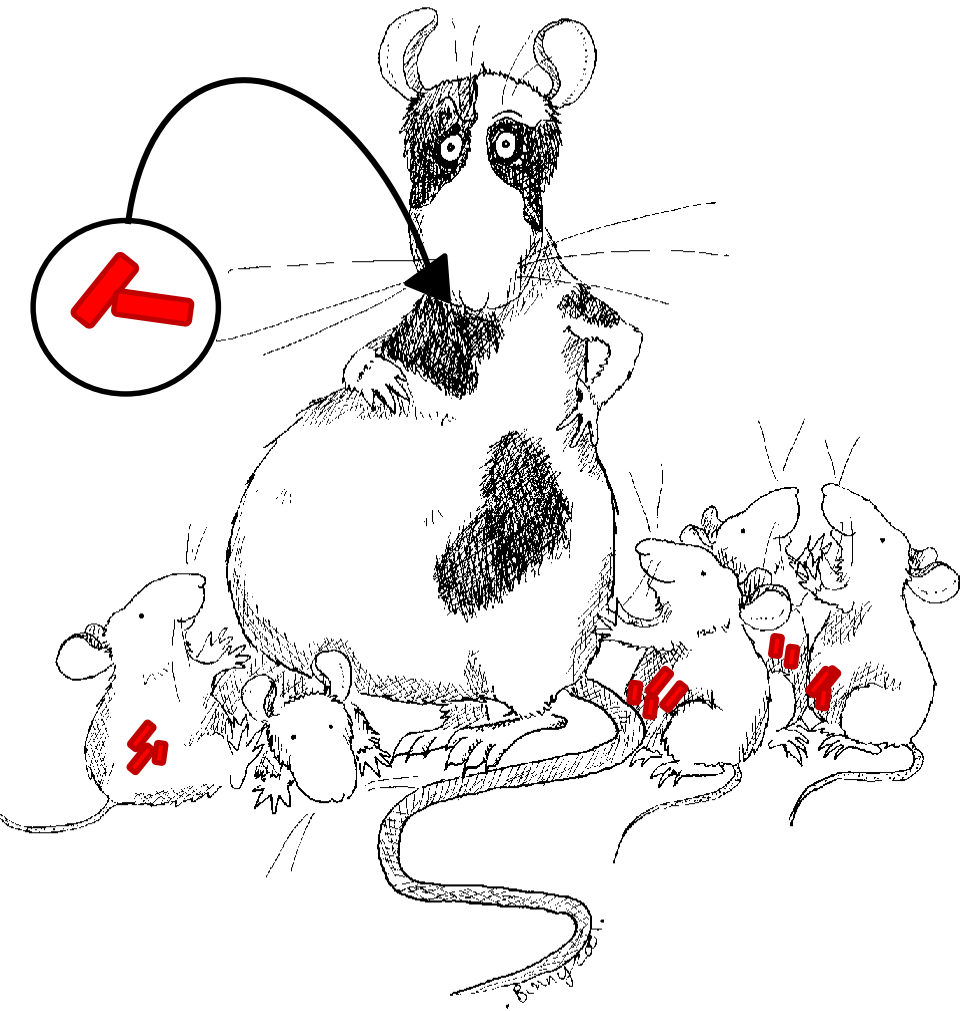
## Placebo during pregnancy



Source: Claassen et al.

Satokari et al. (2009) *Lett Appl Microbiol.* 48(1):8-12; Jiménez et al. (2008) *Res Microbiol.* 159(3):187-93; Gosalbes et al. (2012) *Clin Exp Allergy.* 43(2):198-211; Jiménez E et al. (2005). *Curr Microbiol.* 51(4):270-4; DiGiulio DB. (2012) *Semin Fetal Neonatal Med.* 17(1):2-11

# The human microbiome: meeting our microbes



Jiménez et al. (2008) *Res Microbiol.* 159(3):187-93; Jiménez E et al. (2005). *Curr Microbiol.* 51(4):270-4;

## In summary:

- We are more microbes than human.
- Studies, using 16S sequencing technology, have shown that we may acquire our microbes during the process of delivery and that profiles may be dependent on delivery mode.
- In addition, studies (which include studies using 16S technology) have recently reported that in-utero colonization may occur prior to colonization during the process of delivery.
- Studies investigating samples sites such as placental samples, cord blood and amniotic fluid, which are all regarded as “**low-biomass**” **specimens**, need to have optimal study designs and sequencing controls in place.