

Inaugural Microbiome Subcommittee of the PACCARB Public Meeting Agenda

The Microbiome: Where Wellness Begins

Hubert H. Humphrey Building - 200 Independence Ave SW, Room 800, Washington, DC 20201

Mission Statement: The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has convened an international group of leading microbiome experts in the newly formed HHS Microbiome Subcommittee — a subcommittee of the Presidential Advisory Council on Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (PACCARB). The subcommittee has been convened to examine the current state of the field and discuss a strategic vision for future research priorities, with the goal of generating insights that are meaningful and actionable for the public and healthcare professionals. The panel will identify the scientific, translational, and infrastructure advances needed to support microbiome-based prevention and treatment strategies, with a summary of the discussion to be presented to the full PACCARB. This initiative reflects HHS's commitment to advancing microbiome science in service of public health and the reduction of chronic disease across the lifespan.

CHAIR

Suchitra Hourigan, MD | Chief, Clinical Microbiome Unit, NIAID, NIH | USA

PACCARB SGE

Jennie H. Kwon, DO, MSCI | Northwestern University | USA

SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS

Martin Blaser, MD | Rutgers University | USA

Frederic Bushman, PhD | University of Pennsylvania | USA

Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, PhD | Rutgers University | USA

Eran Elinav, MD, PhD | Weizmann Institute of Science | Israel / German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) | Germany

Sangeeta Khare, PhD | U.S. Food and Drug Administration | USA

Rob Knight, PhD | UC San Diego | USA

Sarkis K. Mazmanian, PhD | California Institute of Technology | USA

Majdi Osman, MD, MPH | Wellcome Sanger Institute and University of Cambridge | UK

Nicola Segata, PhD | University of Trento | Italy

Tim Spector, MD | King's College London | UK

Jennifer Wargo, MD, MMSc | UT MD Anderson Cancer Center | USA

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM (ET)

9:30 – 9:35

RULES OF ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPANT ROLL CALL

Sarah McClelland, MPH, Designated Federal Official

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

Tammy Huizenga, DO, HHS

9:35 – 9:40

WELCOME ADDRESS

Admiral Brian Christine, MD, Assistant Secretary for Health, HHS

Agenda subject to change

9:40 – 9:45 OPENING STATEMENT

Jay Bhattacharya, MD, PhD, NIH Director

9:45 – 9:50 INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE

Suchitra Hourigan, MD

9:50 – 10:15 CURRENT STATE OF THE FIELD

Rob Knight, PhD

10:15 – 10:35 EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A HEALTH GUT MICROBIOME

Tim Spector, MD

RESEARCH GAPS AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR MICROBIOME-BASED PREVENTION AND TREATMENT STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE HEALTH

Suchitra Hourigan, MD

10:35 – 10:45 CHALLENGES IN MOVING TOWARD CAUSATION AND REPRODUCIBLE MICROBIOME INTERVENTIONS

Nicola Segata, PhD

10:45 – 10:55 EARLY LIFE AS A HIGH-PRIORITY WINDOW FOR PREVENTION AND WOMEN'S HEALTH AND THE MICROBIOME

Maria Gloria Dominguez-Bello, PhD

10:55 – 11:05 NERVOLOGICAL DISEASE AND THE GUT-BRAIN AXIS

Sarkis Mazmanian, PhD

11:05 – 11:15 BREAK

11:15 – 11:25 CANCER AND THE MICROBIOME

Jennifer Wargo, MD, MMSc

11:25 – 11:35 THE VIROME

Frederic Bushman, PhD

11:35 – 11:45 FUNCTIONAL MICROBIOMICS – MOVING BEYOND SEQUENCING

Eran Elinav, MD, PhD

11:45 – 11:55 SCALING, METHODS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Rob Knight, PhD

11:55 – 12:05 PERSONALIZED AND PRECISION APPROACHES

Martin Blaser, MD

12:05 – 12:15 REGULATORY SCIENCE AND TRANSLATION

Sangeeta Khare, PhD

Agenda subject to change

12:15 – 12:25 CLINICAL TRANSLATION, PHYSICIAN EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC TRUST

Majdi Osman, MD, MPH

12:25 – 12:30 WRAP-UP AND CLOSING REMARKS

Suchitra Hourigan, MD

ADJOURN

Sarah McClelland, MPH, Designated Federal Official

ADJOURN

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