YOU ARE WHAT YOUR BUGS EAT!
Diet, the Gut Microbiota and its Metabolome in Human Health and Disease

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Research on dietary manipulation of the gut microbiota and its metabolome is unlocking the keys to help maintain human health and treat disease. This topic will be the subject of the National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) seminar at a noon luncheon on Thursday, October 25th in 1310 Longworth House Office Building. The presenter is Dr. Gary D. Wu, University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine.

"While we've long known that diet and prevention of disease is linked, we are just now learning more about the many linkages between diet and the gut microbiota, including the important impact of the gut microbiota on health and wellbeing," says Wu.

“This presentation provides an excellent example of the value of federally funded food and agricultural research, extension, and education in producing the scientific outcomes and outreach needed to meet 21st century challenges and opportunities,” says Andy LaVigne, President of NCFAR.

Highlights: The human gut contains a vast number of microorganisms known collectively as the “gut microbiota”. Learn how factors including age, genetics, host environment, and diet can influence the composition of the gut microbiota and how dietary manipulation of the gut microbiota and its metabolome may be a modality to both maintain health and treat disease. Despite the gut microbiota's importance in maintaining the health of its host, growing evidence suggests the gut microbiota may also be an important factor in the pathogenesis of various diseases, many which have shown a rapid increase in incidence over the past century. As is the case with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD), the microbiota is “dysbiotic” with an altered community structure and decreased diversity. If the dysbiotic microbiota plays a role in disease pathogenesis, interventions that modify its composition might be a strategy to treat certain disease processes.

The seminar is open to the public and the media. ******

The National Coalition for Food and Agricultural Research (NCFAR) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, consensus-based, and customer-led coalition that brings food, agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and natural resource stakeholders together with the food and agriculture research and Extension community, serving as a forum and a unified voice in support of sustaining and increasing public investment at the national level in food and agricultural research, Extension, and education. NCFAR’s Hill Seminar Series, now in its fourteenth year, regularly presents leading-edge researchers working to provide answers to pressing issues confronting the public and Congress. The Hill Seminar Series helps demonstrate the value of public investment in food and agricultural research—investment that returns 45 percent per year on average, and $20 in economic benefit from every $1 investment in food and ag research.

Click Here to Register for Seminar. Go to http://www.ncfar.org/Hill_Seminar_Series.asp for more information about the seminar series and past topics. Interviews with NCFAR President Andy LaVigne are available by request. For additional information, go to www.ncfar.org; or contact Tom Van Arsdall, Executive Director, at tom@vanarsdall.com or (703) 509-4746.