Gastrointestinal microbiome: the forgotten organ in ICU

The gastrointestinal microbiome is a consortium of bacteria, archaea, fungi, protozoa, and viruses, implicated in vital physiologic processes including energy homeostasis, metabolism, gut epithelial health, immunologic activity, and neurobehavioral development. The growing knowledge on the microbiome may modify current dogma and management of sepsis patient, as there are clear association with systemic health and outcome.

This presentation is intended to familiarize the audience with the gut microbiome and its alteration in critically ill states, to highlight the effects (benefit as well as side effects) of treatment used in intensive care on patient's microbiome, and review current knowledge on microbiome-targeted therapies.