

"The trillions of microorganisms that reside in and on our bodies – **our microbiome** – represent a heretofore unrecognized organ, **integral to our health** and wellbeing. When the ecology of this organ is compromised, we become vulnerable to a range of complex diseases."

-Dr. Sean Gibbons  
Assistant Professor, ISB

Our knowledge of the human microbiome has grown exponentially over the past decade.

The ecological diversity of human gut bacteria is declining around the world due to changes in hygiene and lifestyle. This loss of diversity has been associated with the rise of asthma, allergies, obesity, and a host of other disorders.

Meanwhile, commercial excitement surrounding the human microbiome has outpaced research, resulting in unsubstantiated claims and snake oil products.

We aim to bridge this gap by **connecting cutting-edge science to health care**. At ISB, we are unlocking the mysteries of the human microbiome and translating our scientific knowledge into therapies for a number of complex diseases.

Learn more at  
**[systemsbiology.org/microbiome](https://systemsbiology.org/microbiome)**