1 st **Turku Gut-Brain Axis Symposium**

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Program

08.45 - 9.30	*Arrivals with Coffee, Posters & Exhibition'*
9.30 - 10.15	Thomaz Bastiaanssen: Making sense of longitudinal and multi-omics host-microbiome experiments
10.15 - 11:00	Filip Scheperjans: Gut Microbiota in Parkinsons Disease – from the basics to the clinic
11.00 - 11.20	Danique Mulder: The (lack of) consistency in gut-brain studies: review of literature and project proposal
11.20 - 11.30	Sponsor greetings: Aluke

Lunch & Posters

13.15 - 13:55	Alejandro Vasquez: Advances made on gut microbiome and mental health
13:55 - 14.25	Mirjam Bloemendaal: The role of the gut microbiome in antidepressant treatment efficacy
14.25 - 14.45	Veronika Górová: Alzheimer's disease and nasal microbiome alterations
14.45 - 15:00	Venla Huovinen: Executive functioning and gut microbiota
15:00 - 15.10	Jonna Jalanka, IFF: Circadian rhythm & gut microbiome
15:10 - 15:20	Sponsor Greetings: International Flavors & Fragrances Inc

Coffee, Posters & Exhibition

15.40-16:00	Alex Dickens: The role of the endocannabinoid system as a long-range messenger in brain to periphery communication
16:00-16:20	Mikael Niku: Modulation of prenatal development by maternal microbial metabolites

The key-note speakers are **Ass. professor** Alejandro Arias Vasquez from Radboud University Medical Center, **Dr. Thomaz F. S. Bastiaanssen** from University of Amsterdam and **Dr. Mirjam Bloemendaal,** MSCA fellow from the Goethe University.

Dr. Arias Vásquez is the Research Group Leader of the Brain, Bacteria, and Behaviour group at the Department of Psychiatry of the Radboud University Medical Center, Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He leads a research line focused on understanding the relationship between gut microbiota variation and mental health outcomes. Furthermore, Dr. Arias Vásquez's research also explores the intricate relationship between nutrition, gut microbiota, and mental health, investigating how dietary interventions can modulate microbiota composition and, in turn, influence mental well-being. In addition to these research approaches, his group is actively working towards establishing consensus definitions and protocols for best practices in microbiota research, aiming to improve reproducibility and reliability in this emerging and crucial field.

Dr. Bastiaanssen is a bioinformatician with background in molecular biology, microbiology and theoretical ecology. His work has shed light on the gut-brain axis with the help of complex data, and he is also known for authoring many bioinformatic guidebooks. He worked in the University College Cork in the lab of Prof. John Cryan and is currently located in the University of Amsterdam.

Dr. Mirjam Bloemendaal obtained a PhD in cognitive neuroscience. She has experience both in academia and industry, setting up and managing public-private consortia. At the Radboudumc and Goethe University she performs bioinformatic analyses studying the role of the gut microbiota in the gut-brain-axis, ultimately aiming to develop non-pharmacological interventions in mental health treatment.

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