

Nature Reviews Gastroenterology & Hepatology 9, 5 (2012);
 published online 13 December 2011;
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.227](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.227);
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.230](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.230);
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.228](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.228);
[doi:10.1038/nrgastro.2011.229](https://doi.org/10.1038/nrgastro.2011.229)

IN BRIEF

GUT MICROBIOTA

Salmonella has a growth advantage in the inflamed gut

Salmonella enterica serovar Typhimurium (S. Typhimurium) has a growth advantage in the inflamed gut because of its ability to respire ethanolamine. Under normal conditions in the gut, ethanolamine supports little or no growth by fermentation; however, S. Typhimurium is able to induce the gut to produce tetrathionate, which then supports anaerobic growth on ethanolamine. Thus, by inducing intestinal inflammation, S. Typhimurium is able to side-step nutritional competition.

Original article Thiennimitr, P. *et al.* Intestinal inflammation allows *Salmonella* to use ethanolamine to compete with the microbiota. *Proc. Natl Acad. Sci. USA* **108**, 17480–17485 (2011)

HEPATITIS

New predictor of response to treatment in autoimmune hepatitis type 1

Zachou *et al.* investigated whether autoantibodies against filamentous-actin and α -actinin could be used as predictors of response to treatment in patients with autoimmune hepatitis type 1 (AIH1). The researchers analyzed serum samples at baseline and after initiation of treatment in 86 patients with AIH1. Low levels of anti- α -actinin at baseline were found to be independent predictors of response, and the researchers conclude that serum levels of anti- α -actinin could be used to monitor treatment outcomes in patients with AIH1.

Original article Zachou, K. *et al.* Anti- α actinin antibodies as new predictors of response to treatment in autoimmune hepatitis type 1. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2036.2011.04908.x

SCREENING

Effectiveness of stool color card screening in biliary atresia

Biliary atresia is a life-threatening disease that affects newborn babies; it requires early surgical treatment. Researchers from Taiwan performed a retrospective cohort study to evaluate the effectiveness of stool color card screening for early diagnosis. They found that the median age at first admission for patients with suspected biliary atresia decreased from 47 to 43 days and the median age for surgery decreased from 51 to 48 days after the implementation of stool color card screening. The researchers conclude that this screening seemed to increase patients' and physicians' awareness of biliary atresia.

Original article Tseng, J. J. *et al.* Stool color card screening for biliary atresia. *Pediatrics* **128**, e1209–e1215 (2011)

IBD

Fatigue is common in patients with IBD

Bager and colleagues investigated the prevalence and characteristics of fatigue in 425 patients with IBD from six outpatient centers in Denmark. Fatigue was measured using the Multidimensional Fatigue Inventory. The researchers found that approximately 44% of patients were fatigued. Fatigue was most marked in patients <60 years old; anemia or iron deficiency did not seem to be associated with increased fatigue.

Original article Bager, P. *et al.* Fatigue in out-patients with inflammatory bowel disease is common and multifactorial. *Aliment. Pharmacol. Ther.* doi:10.1111/j.1365-2036.2011.04914.x