

2018 COLLOQUIUM

Intestinal microbiota and its host: harmony or discord?

A word from the President

Professor Bernard Devulder
President of the Scientific Committee of Institut Servier

For 18 years now, Institut Servier has organized annual colloquia. For 15 of these years, they were fostered, promoted and run by Professor Pierre Godeau, President and Founder of the Institut Servier. Yesterday, at the opening of Institut Servier's Annual Scientific Days, which now always begin with the Laureate Symposium, we paid tribute to our departed Master.

As I stand before you today, I simply want to remind you that it is he to whom we owe the first 15 colloquia of Institut Servier, which he wanted to devote to topics that are still relevant today: "Memory", "Angiogenesis and antiangiogenesis", "Together in the face of pain", "Cancer, new strategies, new hopes", "The longevity revolution", "Vulnerability and aging: prevent, delay, manage", "The principle of precaution", "Obesity", "Functional dependence", "News and prospects in transplantation", "Pharmacogenetics and pharmacogenomics", "Stroke", "From arthrosis to osteoarthritis", "Sarcopenia", "Skin aging", "Nanotechnologies", and "Iron overload". And so, with this in mind, our annual colloquia have long been the "Pierre Godeau Colloquia".

At the third Scientific Days of Institut Servier, which kicked off yesterday with the dynamic Laureate Symposium, the high quality of the scientific research and the quality of the international exchanges incited by the work of the fellows and their French and foreign host laboratories were plain to see. Today's colloquium, the 18th annual colloquium organized by Institut Servier, aims to showcase the most up-to-date and relevant information on the gut microbiota.

This choice of theme by the Scientific Committee is ambitious but responsible. The number of para- or pseudo-scientific articles and reviews that have appeared in recent years on this subject has grown exponentially. No doubt this can be explained by the impressive therapeutic virtues ascribed to the gut microbiota, which extends to the remarkable benefits of faecal transplantation. Institut Servier approaches with rigor and caution the challenges brought about by the recent discoveries on the gut microbiota: its composition, its physiological role, its involvement in immune education, the harmful effects of its alteration, particularly on metabolic and neurological health, and its involvement in immunoregulation, which open new avenues for innovation in drugs and treatments in oncology, diabetology and even psychiatry.

The program of this colloquium is rich and diverse, and on behalf of the Scientific Committee, I want to wholeheartedly thank the eminent scientists who agreed to share their expertise with us on this fascinating subject. Here, before you, I would also like to specially thank Ms. Béatrice Guardiola and Professor François Bricaire, co-presidents of the colloquium and moderators of the discussions, and express my true appreciation of Ms. Guardiola's determination to propose the subject of this colloquium with audacity and conviction and to organize the program.

May these Scientific Days satisfy all the participants, speakers and attendees, and meet the expectations of internet users, ever more numerous, who will discover the main topics in this collection and on the Institut Servier website.