

Recently, I attended two interesting conferences. One was on the subject of Human Oncology and the other, on Laboratory Animal Science. Although I have heard a lot spoken about the “microbiome”, I now realize that this field of biology is going to play a very important role in the future of human and veterinary medicine. In fact, my feeling is that a better understanding of this new field of the microbiome is going to revolutionize our understanding of medicine, our health and the health of our domestic animals.

In addition to the two conferences I attended, I was privileged to visit the “Museum of Natural History” in New York last month, and found, not to my surprise, a large exhibition on the microbiome. Clearly, this new medical scientific field is taking on a greater and greater importance which cannot and should not be ignored.

To us veterinarians the field of the microbiome should be somewhat explicable when we remember the ruminant digestion and physiology. The rumen microbiome environment contains a large consortium of microbes that harbor the complex degradation system for the microbial attachment and digestion of plant biomass. The same naturally is applicable to the equine which are hindgut fermenters and require the correct extensive microbiome gut flora for their good health.

At the Oncology meeting in Jerusalem, entitled “The Cutting Edge of Contemporary Cancer Research” held in October this year, 2018 at the International Convention Center, a few lectures also covered the gut microbiome, pointing to potential therapeutic benefits to oncology patients carrying the appropriate gut microbiome.

So far, only one article has been published in the Israel Journal of Veterinary Medicine on this subject, by Drs. Furmanski and Mor, describing a case of a 10 year old Abyssinian cat diagnosed with ulcerative colitis unresponsive to conventional therapy. A fecal microbiota transplantation was performed, with resultant therapeutic improvement.

I look forward to more articles covering this important and promising topic of a newly emerged novel therapy.

All the best to our readers and wishing you a Happy Hanukkah, and a healthy and successful holiday season and happy New Year.

Sincerely

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Furmanski, S. and Mor, T.: First Case Report of Fecal Microbiota Transplantation in a Cat in Israel. *Isr. J. Vet. Med.* 72: 35-41, 2017.