

The Good Gut: Taking Control of Your Weight, Your Mood, and Your Long-term Health

By Justin Sonnenburg, Erica Sonnenburg

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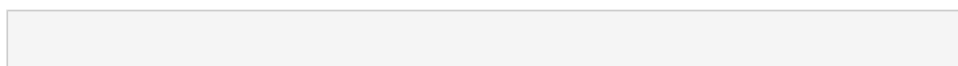
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The groundbreaking science behind the surprising source of good health

Stanford University's Justin and Erica Sonnenburg are pioneers in the most exciting and potentially transformative field of human health and wellness, the study of the relationship between our bodies and the trillions of organisms representing thousands of species to which our bodies play host, the microbes we call the microbiota. The Sonnenburgs argue that the microbiota determines in no small part whether we're sick or healthy, fit or obese, sunny or moody—and that the microbiota has always been with us, coevolving with humans and entwining its functions with ours. They show us that humans are really composite organisms with microbial and human parts. But now, because of changes to diet, antibiotic over-use, and over-sterilization, our gut microbiota is facing a “mass extinction event,” which may explain the mysterious spike in some of our most troubling modern afflictions, from food allergies to autism, cancer to depression. It doesn't have to be this way.

The Good Gut is a groundbreaking work that offers a new plan for health that focuses on how to nourish your microbiota, including recipes and a menu plan. The Sonnenburgs show how we can keep our microbiota off the endangered species list and strengthen the community that inhabits our gut and thereby improve our own health. In this important and timely investigation, they look at safe alternatives to antibiotics; dietary and lifestyle choices to encourage microbial health; the management of the aging microbiota; and the nourishment of your own individual microbiome.

Caring for our gut microbes may be the most important health choice we can make.



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Editorial Review

Review

David Perlmutter, MD and author, #1 New York Times Bestseller, *Grain Brain: The Surprising Truth About Wheat, Carbs, and Sugar - Your Brain's Silent Killers*:

"Virtually every aspect of health and vitality is influenced by the collection of microbes living within us. *The Good Gut* empowers the reader with the opportunity to embrace this leading edge science in an actionable, user-friendly way."

Mark Hyman, MD, Director, Cleveland Clinic Center for Functional Medicine, and author, #1 New York Times bestseller, *The Blood Sugar Solution*:

"We are facing a mass genocide threatening the lives of billions of people across the globe. It is the killing and harming of our own inner garden, our gut bacteria, by our processed diet, antibiotics, acid blockers and other gut busting drugs. *The Good Gut* for the first time connects the dots between the health of our gut flora or microbiome and our health. A bad gut causes heart disease, obesity, diabetes, cancer, autoimmune disease and more, while a good gut can prevent and heal most of what ails us in the 21st century. If you want to learn how to cultivate your own inner garden and create abundant good health, read *The Good Gut*!"

David S. Ludwig, MD, PhD, Professor, Harvard Medical School and author, *Ending the Food Fight*:

"Microbes in our gut outnumber the cells in our body by more than 3 to 1. We'd better make peace with them. The Sonnenburgs show us how in their fascinating book, *The Good Gut*. I recommend it to everyone who eats."

Daphne Miller, MD author of *Farmacology: Total health from the Ground Up and The Jungle Effect*:

"Sonnenburg are two rising stars in the field of microbiology and immunology research. Lucky for us, they are willing and able to put scientific jargon aside and offer us a fascinating, funny, and easy-to-read book about the latest human microbiome discoveries and how these discoveries might help us tend to our inner microbes so as to optimize our overall health."

Mark Liponis, MD, corporate medical director, Canyon Ranch:

"In *The Good Gut*, Stanford researchers and authors Justin and Erica Sonnenburg explain some of the mysteries of the invisible world inside us. Thanks to their insight and research, the rest of us can now benefit from understanding how to improve our health by taking care of the microbes living within us."

Adam Perlman, MD, executive director, Duke Integrative Medicine at Duke University:

"The 100 trillion bacteria that make up our gut microbiota represent the next great frontier in medicine and our understanding of how to obtain and maintain health. *The Good Gut* is a must read for anyone who struggles with health issues, from obesity to depression, and anyone looking to truly optimize their health and well-being."

From the Hardcover edition.

About the Author

Justin Sonnenburg, PhD, is an associate professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology at the Stanford University School of Medicine. In 2009, he was the recipient of an NIH Director's New

Innovator Award.

Erica Sonnenburg, PhD, is a senior research scientist at the Stanford University School of Medicine in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, where she studies the role of diet on the human intestinal microbiota.

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We all know that much of our health is predetermined by our genes. We also know that we can generally improve our health if we eat right, exercise, and manage our stress. But how to do those things is a matter of great debate. Many well-meaning health programs are focused solely on weight loss or heart health, but what if there was a second genome, one that held the key to much of our overall health, but one that we could influence by very specific (and often surprising) lifestyle choices? Well, this second genome exists. It belongs to the bacteria that inhabit our gut and is vital to our overall well-being, in countless ways. The details of how these intestinal bacteria, known as the microbiota, are hard-wired into health and disease are starting to come to light and they are reshaping what it means to be human.

As scientists try to unravel the causes behind the prevalence of predominantly Western afflictions such as cancer, diabetes, allergies, asthma, autism, and inflammatory bowel diseases, it is becoming increasingly clear that the microbiota plays an important role in the development of each of these conditions and potentially many others. Our bacterial inhabitants touch all aspects of our biology in some way, directly or indirectly. But the modern world has changed the way we eat and how we live, and as a result, our intestinal microbiota is facing challenges that it has not experienced in the entirety of human evolution.

Our digestive system is much more than a collection of human cells that surround our last few meals—it also contains a dense colony of bacteria and other microorganisms. In fact, for every one human cell in our body, we house an additional ten bacterial cells that amount to a filibusterproof majority that legislates much of our biology. But before you start thinking of yourself as a human being with bacterial cells inside, it may be more accurate to consider yourself as a bacterial being with a human cell coating.

More than we ever expected, the gut microbiota sets the dial on our immune system. If the gut bacteria are healthy, it's likely that the immune system is running well. Much is being learned about how the microbiota impacts our brains. The brain-gut axis impacts our well-being profoundly, far more than just letting us know when it's time to eat. Gut bacteria can affect moods and behavior and may influence the progression of some neurological conditions.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Leticia Brewster:

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? Guide is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim or even goal; it means that publication has different type. Some people truly feel enjoy to spend their the perfect time to read a book. They are reading whatever they get because their hobby is actually reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this The Good Gut: Taking Control of Your Weight, Your Mood, and Your Long-term Health.

Gordon Rollins:

Book is to be different for every single grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important normally. The book *The Good Gut: Taking Control of Your Weight, Your Mood, and Your Long-term Health* has been making you to know about other knowledge and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The e-book *The Good Gut: Taking Control of Your Weight, Your Mood, and Your Long-term Health* is not only giving you far more new information but also for being your friend when you feel bored. You can spend your current spend time to read your e-book. Try to make relationship together with the book *The Good Gut: Taking Control of Your Weight, Your Mood, and Your Long-term Health*. You never feel lose out for everything if you read some books.

Alexander Ray:

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