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Unveiling the gut virome in human health and diseases

Due to the advances in high-throughput sequencing technologies, the gut vriome is increasingly being perceived as one important component of the gut microbiome, where the number of viral biological entities is believed to far outcompetes that of the bacterial populations [1,2]. The human virome are primarily composed of bacteriophages, animal-cell viruses, endogenous retroviruses and viruses causing persistent and latent infections. Collectively they contains a more diverse genetic entity than the gut bacteria [3,4]. While the composition of them in the gut is precipitately being revealed, their roles in human health remain largely unexplored. It is undeniable that certain gut viruses are deleterious to human health. Interestingly, enteric viruses however, in some cases, can recapitulate the beneficial effects of commensal bacteria through different mechanisms, including modulating the innate and adaptive immunity of the host [5-7].