

IHMCSA

International Human Microbiome Coordination and Support Action

Milestone MS30: Final Conference

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Туре				Disse	eminatio	on Level	
R	Document, report			PU	Public		\boxtimes
DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, pro	totype		СО	Confid	ential, only for members of the	
DEC	Websites, patent fillings,	videos, etc.	\boxtimes		consor	rtium (including the Commission	
OTHER				CI	Classif	ied, as referred to Commission Decision 844/EC	
Tonics	SC1-HCO-17-2020 • Coordin	Call: H2020-SC1				D man microbiome in Europe and beyond	

Start date of the project: May 1st, 2021

Duration: 36 months

End date of the project: April 30th, 2024

Project ID: 964590





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Executive summary

The Human Microbiome Action Final Conference, held on February 29th, 2024, in Brussels, blending the latest scientific advancements with crucial discussions on public health and policy. This hybrid event attracted over 70 people on site while over 500 people followed online on the day of the event, underscoring the importance of broadening the dialogue on the future of microbiome research. The conference succeeded in disseminating the outcomes of the project to a diverse audience, including the scientific community, healthcare professionals, and industry leaders, while also emphasizing the value of networking. The introduction of the European Microbiome Centres Consortium (EMCC) marked a significant advancement towards fostering collaboration and standardization in the field. With a rich agenda and an array of distinguished speakers, the event facilitated an effective exchange of knowledge and ideas. The positive feedback from attendees and speakers highlighted the event's excellent organization and content and suggested enhancing interactive opportunities in future conferences. Overall, the conference achieved its aims of disseminating project findings and fostering connections, setting a solid foundation for future progress in microbiome research.



Scope of the conference

The Human Microbiome Action Final Conference, held in Brussels on February 29th, 2024, marked a significant step forward in microbiome research with a focus on translating microbiome research advancements to improve public health and policy regulation. The event aimed to share the Human Microbiome Action project's findings with a wide audience, including scientists, regulators, healthcare professionals, industry representatives, and the general public. The discussions centred on the latest advancements in the field, the future of microbiome research, and its potential to improve public health and inform policy and healthcare practices.

The conference emphasized the importance of the human microbiome in future healthcare innovations, translating research insights into actionable knowledge for policymaking and healthcare professionals. It aimed to move beyond academic discussion, using the project's results to contribute actively to better public health outcomes in the future. A key objective was the launch of the European Microbiome Centres Consortium, a platform for dialogue and collaboration across various sectors.

By bringing together experts from different fields, the conference aimed to encourage an interdisciplinary approach to public health challenges, leveraging microbiome research to inform policy decisions and clinical practices. Ultimately, the event sought to highlight the role of microbiome research in shaping a healthier future, urging stakeholders to recognize its potential in transforming healthcare.

Agenda and Speakers

The general structure of the event aimed to combine knowledge transfer with networking activities. During the five sessions, various high-level speakers from the field of microbiome research presented the findings, outcomes and advancements of the project. Attendees and speakers had the possibility to engage in networking activities by joining on stage during the panel discussions or engaging with other attendees during the break sessions. To enable follow-up questions from the previous session, a dedicated networking table has been established in the break room. The full program as well as an overview on the speakers can be seen in the Annex (Annex I).



Session 1: Cultivating Change

This session set the stage for the conference, with Joël Doré introducing the overarching goals and welcoming attendees. As Keynote speakers we were able to welcome Dirk Hadrich from the European Commission's Directorate General Research and Innovation who gave insights into the influence of microbiome research in shaping future policies. As the second keynote speaker Pascale Vonaesch from the University of Lausanne, representing the Microbiota Vault initiative highlighted the need to preserve microbiomes for future generations.

Session 2: Guardians of the Gut

Session 2, moderated by Emmanuelle Maguin from INRAE provided insights into the latest research on the use of human microbiomes for improving healthcare. Paul Ross from UCC explored the path to identifying a healthy microbiome core. Dirk Haller, TUM, provided insights into microbiome changes linked to diseases, and Céline Druart, PRI, discussed translating microbiome biomarkers to clinical practice. Finally, the session provided a panel discussion on overcoming translational challenges to bring microbiome research into clinical practice. The panel consisted of Dirk Haller (TUM), Philippe Marteau (Sorbonne Université Assistance Publique des Hôpitaux de Paris) and Minneke Coenraad (MICROB-PREDICT project; Leiden University Medical Center).

Session 3: Trillions of Cells, Trillions of Voices

Moderated by Mani Arumugam from the University of Copenhagen, this session underscored the need for standardization and consensus in microbiome research. After an introduction into the Delphi Method by Kevin Legent (KPL), used by the project to reach a consensus on critical research aspects, Jonel Trebicka (EF-CLIF / University of Münster), Anandhi Iyappan (EMBL) and Francesco Asnicar (University of Trento) presented preliminary results of this technique for standardizing human microbiome data, clinical metadata, and analysis methods, respectively. Céline Druart (PRI) presented the project's work towards self-assessment tools while Hub Zwart (Erasmus University Rotterdam) closed the round of presentations with a philosophical outlook on the implications of microbiome research about life, health symbiosis and stewardship. A panel discussion followed, addressing various aspects to harmonize research efforts and policies. Panellists included Hub Zwart (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Stefaan Van der Spiegel (European Commission; Head of Sector, Substances of Human Origin), Marcus Claesson (APC Microbiome Ireland) and William Fusco (Policlinico Universitario Gemelli – Rome).



Session 4: Building Bridges for the Future of Microbiome Research

Joël Doré (INRAE) presented the launch of the European Microbiome Centres Consortium (EMCC), emphasizing collaboration and support structures essential for advancing microbiome research. The EMCC will act as a legacy of the Human Microbiome Action project, ensuring the long-term impact and sustainability of the project results.

Session 5: Exploring Future Frontiers in Microbiome Research

Moderated by Stephan Kampshoff the final session of the event was directed towards identifying critical research questions, with Emmanuelle Maguin leading the attendees into the topic. A panel discussed closed the event with a roadmap for microbiome research, highlighting key challenges and opportunities for translational success. The panellists of this panel consisted of a wide array of representatives from different EU-funded projects including Stéphane Chaillou (DOMINO project, INRAE), Tanja Kostic (MicrobiomeSupport Association; Austrian Institute of Technology), Carolina Alves Costa Silva (ONCOBIOME project, Gustave Roussy) and Federica Carraturo (GEMMA project; University of Naples) – highlighting again the need for interdisciplinarity and collaboration in the field and practiced during the whole event.

Promotion of the event

advancing microbiome research.

The promotion of the Human Microbiome Action Final Conference aimed to engage a wide audience and ensure high participation levels through various communication channels. The campaign featured the conference website as its cornerstone, providing up-to-date information on speakers, sessions, and registration.

Social media efforts via the EUFIC-managed SciFoodHealth LinkedIn and Twitter/X accounts were central to our strategy, generating significant interaction and building a community around the event. Beyond, we also engaged with the EUFIC-managed Sustainable Food System Network Microbiome Subgroup, interacting with a group of 300 experts on the topic. Additional outreach has been achieved through the promotion of the project's newsletter. The conference also gained exposure on key event listing sites like EUAgenda and the DG Research & Innovation's events page, targeting relevant stakeholders. Email campaigns targeted our network, including past attendees of Delphi Surveys and partner networks, contributing to the promotional mix.

This approach ensured the conference reached and engaged its intended audience, highlighting its role in



Main results

The Human Microbiome Action Final Conference, held as a hybrid event on February 29th in Brussels, showcased the dynamic field of microbiome research with 384 registrants in total. The hybrid format achieved the maximum of 150 registrants for in-person attendance and allowed 234 registrants for online participation, reflecting widespread interest. Out of the 384 registrants, we welcomed 74 people in person (Annex II) and recorded 594 views of the live stream on the day of the event. The event was marked by active participation, insightful talks, and lively discussions, with the live stream recordings surpassing 900 views subsequently. The recording of the live stream is publicly accessible on the SciFoodHealth YouTube channel:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5aqsPWw7 DY

A highlight was the gathering of international microbiome research experts and stakeholders, facilitating knowledge exchange, networking, and collaboration. The diverse sessions explored microbiomes' roles in health and research standardization, unveiling new findings and charting future directions. The strong networking aspect also showed in the collaboration with several EU-funded projects like MICROB-PREDICT (grant number: 825694), MicrobiomeSupport (grant number: 818116), ONCOBIOME (grant number: 825410), ML4Microbiome (COST Action CA18131), DOMINO (grant number: 101060218) & GEMMA (grant number: 82503)

Notably, the launch of the European Microbiome Centres Consortium (EMCC) marked a major advancement towards collaboration and standardization in Europe and will lead to the sustainable use of the project outcomes. The discussions, especially on translating research into clinical practice, offered deep insights into current challenges and solutions. Overall, the conference met its goals of sharing findings and fostering connections, paving the way for future microbiome research advancements with an emphasis on practical health outcomes.

Feedback

Feedback from attendees and speakers at the Human Microbiome Action Final Conference has provided critical insights into the conference's success and areas for improvement. Attendees praised the event for its organization and high-quality content, with special mention of the European Microbiome Centres Consortium (EMCC) launch as a key achievement, signalling a significant move towards enhanced microbiome research collaboration.



Speakers, unanimously positive, lauded the event's organization and the depth of discussions it facilitated. Nonetheless, both speakers and attendees suggested longer Q&A sessions to improve interaction and engagement, indicating a universal desire for more in-depth dialogue.

The feedback, pointing towards an overall high satisfaction rate, suggests the conference effectively met its goals. However, the constructive criticism received signals a clear path for incorporating more interactive elements in future events, ensuring even greater participant engagement and fruitful exchanges. A summary of the feedback from speakers and attendees can be seen in the Annex (Annex III).

Conclusion

The Human Microbiome Action Final Conference achieved its goal of advancing the field of microbiome research, with its impact resonating among a wide audience. The successful launch of the EMCC and the active participation underscores the conference's role in fostering collaboration and setting the direction for future research. Feedback from participants highlights the event's success while pointing to opportunities for enhancing engagement and dialogue in future editions. Moving forward, the insights gained, and connections formed at this conference will continue to influence the trajectory of microbiome research and its application in improving public health and policy.



Annex



Annex I – Agenda



Final Conference

Human Microbiome Action Summit

Navigating Policies, Safeguarding Public Health, and Charting Future Frontiers

2002.2024 Brussels and online



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 964590



Agenda

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Session 1

Cultivating Change: The Role for Human Microbiomes Towards Robust Policies and Responsible Practices in Public Health

Moderator: Joël Doré (INRAE)

9:00 Welcome and Opening

Joël Doré (INRAE)

Yeynote Speech - Cultivating Public Health: The Unseen Influence of Microbiome Research

in Shaping Robust Policies

Dirk Hadrich (EU Commission - DG Research and Innovation)

Keynote Speech - Preserving the Microbiome for Future

9:35 Generations - The Microbiota Vault
Pascale Vonaesch (Microbiota Vault; University of Lausanne)

Coffee break at 10:00

Session 2

Guardians of the Gut: Strategies for Safeguarding Human Microbiomes and Enhancing Healthcare Systems Moderator: Emmanuelle Maguin (INRAE)

10:30 Charting the Course: Unveiling the Path to a Healthy Functional Core in the Human Microbiome Paul Ross (UCC/APC Microbiome Ireland)

Assessing Microbiome Changes and Disease Links:

10:50
A Comprehensive Analysis in Human Models
Dirk Haller (Technical University of Munich)



Precision in Translation: Formulating Principles for Accelerating Microbiome Biomarker to Clinical Practice Céline Druart (Pharmabiotic Research Institute)

Panel Discussion - What are the Bottlenecks in

Translating Microbiome Discoveries into Clinical Practice
Panelists: Dirk Haller (Technical University of Munich),
Philippe Marteau (Sorbonne Université Assistance Publique
des Hôpitaux de Paris), Minneke Coenraad (MICROB-PREDICT;
Leiden University Medical Center) + open chair
Moderator: Emmanuelle Maguin (INRAE)

Lunch break at 12:10

Session 3

Trillions of Cells, Trillions of Voices A Need for Common Grounds
Moderator: Mani Arumugam (University of Copenhagen)

13:40
Harvesting Expert Insights: Unveiling the Delphi Survey
Technique as a Powerful Instrument for Structured
Opinion Extraction in Diverse Domains
Kevin Legent (KPL)

Advancing Microbiome Research: Establishing Foundations, Standards, and Protocols for Clinical Applications and Global Interoperability

14:00

11:30

- Standardising Clinical Metadata
 Jonel Trebicka (EF-CLIF / University of Münster)
- Standardising Human Microbiome Data Anandhi Iyappan (EMBL)
- Standardising Microbiome Analysis Methods Francesco Asnicar (University of Trento)

15:00
Navigating the Microbial Landscape:
Integrating Self-Assessment Tools and Delphi Insights
in Microbiome Testing
Céline Druart (Pharmabiotic Research Institute)

Presentation - The Human Being as a Consortium:
Implications of Microbiome Research for How we Think
About Life, Health, Symbiosis, and Stewardship
Hub Zwart (Erasmus University Rotterdam)



Panel Discussion - Resolving Dissonance in Microbiome Research & Policies: Striving for a Harmonious Global Voice

Panelists: Hub Zwart (Erasmus University Rotterdam),

15:40 Stefaan Van der Spiegel (European Commission: Head

Stefaan Van der Spiegel (European Commission; Head of Sector, Substances of Human Origin), Marcus Claesson (APC Microbiome Ireland), William Fusco (Policlinico Universitario Gemelli - Rome) + open chair

Moderator: Mani Arumugam (University of Copenhagen)

Coffee break at 16:20

Session 4

Building Bridges for the Future of Microbiome Research -The European Microbiome Centres Consortium Moderator: Joël Doré (INRAE)

16:50 Launch of the European Microbiome Centres Consortium
(EMCC) to Support the Future of Microbiome Research
Joël Doré (INRAE), Céline Druart (Pharmabiotic Research Institute)

Session 5

Exploring Future Frontiers in Microbiome Research -From Identifying Critical Research Questions to Crafting a Visionary Roadmap for Translational Success Moderators: Stephan Kampshoff & Debora Serra (EUFIC)

17:10 Identifying the Most Pressing Research Questions for Future Studies
Emmanuelle Maguin (INRAE)

Panel discussion - Where Will Microbiome Research Lead us? Vision and Roadmap for Future Endeavors. Overcoming Challenges in Translating Research Findings

Panelists: Stéphan Chaillou (DOMINO; INRAE), Tanja Kostic (MicrobiomeSupport Association; Austrian Institute of Technology), Carolina Alves Costa Silva (ONCOBIOME; Gustave Roussy), Federica Carraturo (GEMMA; University of Naples) Moderators: Stephan Kampshoff & Debora Serra (EUFIC)

Closure of the conference and networking at 18:15



Annex II – Signature List Attendees

	Human Micr	obiome Action Final Conference - Atten	dance list
Name	Surname	Organisation	Signature
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Naeem	Ali		
S) Carolina	. Alves Costa Silva	Institute Gustave Roussy	R
Leila	Ammar-Keskes	University of Sfax	
Manimozhiyan	Arumugam	University of Copenhagen	Who
Awais	Aslam		
S) Francesco	Asnicar	University of Trento	A
Houssam	ASSIOUI	FSAC Université Hassan 2	- fle
Magdalena	Atanasova	4	
Nelly	Badalato	Geno Screen	B
Bernard	Bariet	Basal Nutrittion	
Ana	Batista	INRAE	AneBalista 7
Bernard	Berger	Nestlé	7.2
Sylvie	Binda	Lallemand	



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	Boucher	University College Cork	keys souther
Nadiya	Boyko	Uzhhorod National University	
Patrizia	Brigidi	University of Bologna	Pot & Si
BRUNO	BUDRIO		
Oliver	Bulto		
Pierre	Burguiére	Geno Screen	
Mariaelena	Caboni	Holobiome	
Patrice	Cani	UC Louvain	con the
Ainara	Cano	University of the Vasque Country	
S Federica	Carraturo	Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II	Lebelle
David	Cauwenbergh		
Stéphan	Chaillou	INRAE	Store
Luka	Chlaidze		
Jarka	Chloupkova	European Parliament	

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(S) Marcus	Claesson	University College Cork	M. Com
(S) Minneke	Coenraad	Leiden University Medical Center	
BITZOS	Costantina		By s Voin'
KIRA	DALGAARD	Ferring Pharmaceuticals	A.
Dr. Hannelore	Daniel		
Anja	De Meerleer	1	
Béatrice	de Montera	Catholic University of Lyon	Borrontee
Laura Lynn	De Sittry		*
THIBAUT	DECAMP		2 South
Thomas	Demuyser	UZ Brussels University Hospital	Daylon
Muriel	DERRIEN	KU Leuven	03
Michel	Dieudonné		
③ Joël	Doré	INRAE	-30
© Celine	Druart	Pharmabiotic Research Institute (PRI)	Quart
Claude	Dubus	y er	- the
Youssef	El Mouali	Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research	

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Cumhur	Er		Cumb
Ida	Falk Villesen	Odense Universitets Hospital	
Alessio	Fasano	Harvard University	
(\$\text{William}	Fusco	Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Rome)	Villam The
(P) Helene	Genty	INRAE Transfert	
Alejandro	Gutiérrez de Terán Bueno	Finnova Foundation	1
© Dirk	Hadrich	European Commission	HIN
○ Dirk	Haller	Technical University Munich	165
Dara	Hedayatpour	APC Microbiome Ireland, Teagasc Moorepark	Da Muly from
Zahra	Hejazi		Ugaji
Gema	Herrero	N	
Gema	Herrero Corral	INRAE	tue Mino
Jacopo	lacovacci	Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori Milano	
KHALID	IBRAHIM	University of Zakho	
Eliana	Ibrahimi	University of Tirana	

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Mads	Israelsen	Region of Southern Denmark	12
Anandhi	lyappan	EMBL Heidelberg	A & Coppan
Teenus	Jayaprakash		
Thomas	Joder	GMT Science – Paris Biotech Santé	
Liliane	Jonckheere		Journes RJas
Raphaela	Joos	APC Microbiome Ireland, University College Cork	Rjas
Stephan	Kampshoff	EUFIC	Shelen / lengoly/
Danish Afzal	Khan		4/
Artem	KHLEBNIKOV		
Tanja	Kostic	MicrobiomeSupport Asc.	Tanija Kostil
Lyudmyla	Kovalenko	Doctor Kimchi	U .
(C) Aicha	Kriaa	INRAE	
Kübra	Küçükgöz	Warsaw University of Life Sciences	
Elizabete	Laivina		
Aonghus (Lavelle	APC Microbiome Ireland, University College Cork	Ap? foill
Paul	Le Brun		

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Marion	Leclerc		Med
S Kevin	Legent	KPL Paris	A C
Olga	Liashenko		
Cidalia	Lisboa		
Antonio	Lo Cascio		
Sandro	Maccaglia	European Commission	Shille
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S Emmanuelle	Maguin	INRAE	Neer
Cedric	Malfroid		
Leo Celimene	Marghem		Kerti.
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ANDRE	MASSART		
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Sedina	Mehmedagic-Putes	3.4	
Corina	Mocean		
Emilie	Moens de Hase	UC Leuven	(Flamb

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Chris	Rahi		
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Fiona	Ross	APC Microbiome Ireland, University College Cork	fional soss
S Paul	Ross	APC Microbiome Ireland, University College Cork	Paul Ross

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Baharsadat	Rouhani Esfahani	Isfahan University of Medical Sciences	
Xavier	Roux	Biocodex - France	
Yasir	Saleem		
Sofia	Sanchez		-
) José Miguel	Sánchez	EUFIC	Juballa
Arjun	Sarathi	University of Copenhagen	mss.
Simon P.	SAVERYS	Dignity Service	
Robert	Schierwagen	Münster University	W/
Debora -	Serra	EUFIC	Dose Sono
Khurram	Shahzad		
Jessica	Sharrocks	DNA Genotek Inc.	
Dasha	Silchenko	EUFIC	Duy Det
Catherine	Stanton	APC Microbiome Ireland, Teagasc Moorepark	Cut State
S Chaillou	Stephane	INRAE	
Wafaa	Taha		
Caroline	Taouk	Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research	

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S Jonel	Trebicka	Münster University	
Anastasios	Tsaousis	Kent University	
Stefaan	Van der Spiegel	EU Commission	4
Fleur	van Eeden	My Micro Zoo	
Thierry	Vancrombrugge		
Monique	Vee		
Patrick	Veiga	INRAE	
Nuria	Vieco	Adisseo	At A
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Annex III - Feedback

Human Microbiome Action - Post-Event Survey - Speaker

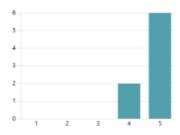
8 Responses

55:52 Average time to complete

Active Status

How satisfied were you with the overall organization and management of the conference?
 (1 being very dissatisfied, 5 being very satisfied)





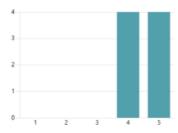
2. Did you feel adequately prepared and supported by the event organizers before the conference?





3. How would you rate the quality of the technical support and equipment provided during your presentation? (1 being low quality, 5 being high quality)





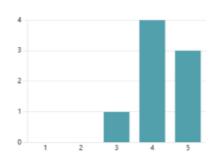


4. Did you find the conference schedule and timing to be conducive to a productive and engaging experience?



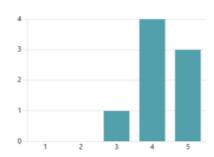
- 5. Were you satisfied with the level of interaction and engagement with the audience during your presentation?
 - (1 being very dissatisfied, 5 being very satisfied)

4.25 Average Rating



How would you rate the networking opportunities provided during the conference? (1 being not satisfied, 5 being fully satisfied)

> 4.25 Average Rating



7. Do you have any suggestions or feedback on how we can improve the experience for speakers in future events?

8 Responses Latest Responses
"No suggestion needed"
"no"
"Provide water on the stage ;-)"

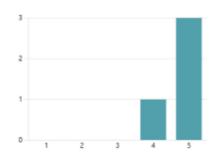


Human Microbiome Action - Post-Event Survey - Attendees



How satisfied were you with the overall organization and management of the conference? (1 being very dissatisfied, 5 being very satisfied)

> 4.75 Average Rating



3. Did you find the timing and duration of the conference sessions to be convenient?

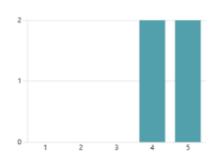






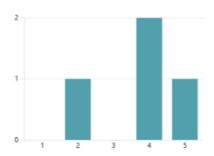
4. How would you rate the quality of the presentations and panel discussions? (1 being very poor, 5 being excellent)

> 4.50 Average Rating



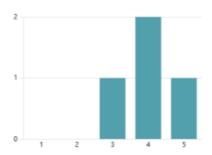
5. How satisfied were you with the venue for the event? (1 being very dissatisfied, 5 being very satisfied)

3.75 Average Rating



6. How satisfied were you with the catering services provided during the coffee breaks, lunch break, and networking reception? (1 being very dissatisfied, 5 being very satisfied)

4.00 Average Rating





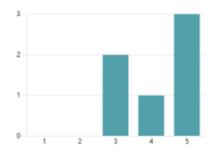
7. Did you find the networking opportunities provided during the conference to be valuable?





8. How satisfied were you with the overall organization and management of the conference? (1 being very dissatisfied, 5 being very satisfied)

4.17 Average Rating



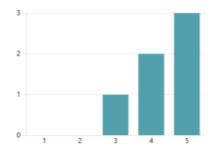
9. Did you find the timing and duration of the conference sessions to be convenient?





10. How would you rate the quality of the presentations and panel discussions? (1 being very poor, 5 being excellent)

4.33 Average Rating





11. Did you experience any technical difficulties while attending the conference online?



If yes, which technical difficulties did you experience? We sincerely apologies for any technical difficulties during the event.

4 Latest Responses
Responses 'no sound in the beginning, quite poor quality of sound overall'

13. What was the most significant moment or new information you gained from the event?

7 Latest Responses
7 "got connected with some speakers"
Responses "The new developments involving microbiame"

4 respondents (57%) answered microbiome for this question.

efforts such as the Vault

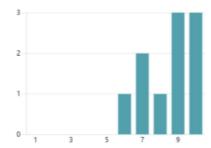
efforts such as the Vault
vision human Microbiome follow microbiome translational inclusion

general uncertainties microbiome specific cases individual level

microbiome communication EU Microbiome diversity valid commission food in the projects round tables Creation of the EMCC

14. How likely are you to recommend future conferences organized by us to your colleagues or peers? (1 being very unlikely, 10 being very likely)

> 8.50 Average Rating





15. Do you have any suggestions or feedback on how we can improve future conferences?

Latest Responses

10

"check the technical issues and have someone to reach when participants ha...

Responses

"Nil"

"No, I was very happy with the event."

2 respondents (20%) answered microbiome for this question.

industrial partners talks presentations on this topic

Research and Researchers Thank u regulatory researchs clinical

visible d event gaps microbiome data labs technical issues

happy with the event couple of days day which made it difficult

iterative interactions biomarkers and diagnostics participants have issues