

BioImmersion Taxonomy Campaign

Applied to Probiotic

The scientific world is now focusing on the human microbiome. The National Human Genome Research Institute (NHGRI) led the Human Genome Project for NIH, which culminated in the completion of the full human genome sequence in April 2003. In 2007 NHGRI created The Human Gut Microbiome Initiative, focusing their attention on sequencing the world of the human microbiome. They recently issued the statement that, "Our adult bodies harbor 10 times more microbial than human cells. Their genomes endow us with physiologic capacities that we have not had to evolve on our own and thus are both a manifestation of who we are genetically and metabolically, and a reflection of our state of well-being."

This is a truly auspicious development in the world of medical science. The understanding and acknowledgement that the number of genes in the microbiome exceeds our human genes by at least two fold, and the realization that without an understanding of the interaction between our human genome and microbial genome, it is impossible to obtain a complete picture of the foundations for human health, means that the power of 21st Century science will be illuminate the mysterious world of the microbiome.

Thus far, scientific inquiry into the microbiome has been stunted by the commercial world. In the early 1900s it became evident that certain fermented foods confirm robust health and longevity, and that money can be made by claiming ownership to certain strains and labeling these organisms with names that are tied to the given company. Making corporate claims for bugs as intellectual property runs counter to the scientific process and study principles of life forms. Since then, the scientific process of classification has stopped and world of probiotic has turned into a private, commercial enterprise. There is no other field of life science that has not gone through the correct process of taxonomy. Taxonomy is the science of classifying plants, animals, and microorganisms into increasingly broader categories based on shared features. It is the practice or principles of classification and the study of the rules and practice of classifying living organisms

The BioImmersion Campaign is to bring back the science of Taxonomy into the probiotic world of the microbiome and to motivate companies to join the scientific process of global classification and designation and to coalesce all the research data into one system. It was this very process that enabled the Human Genome Project to complete the mapping of the total human genome two years sooner than expected. A project many researchers thought would never be completed. The goal therefore is to utilize the globally recognized scientific strain designation for all bacterial life forms. Partnership with the world leading microbial repositories as well as relationships with the major growers of bacteria and other organism is essential to move forward.

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