Diverse high-fat diets drive multi-omic reprogramming that persists after dietary reversal

Andrew G Van Camp[1], Jiwoon Park[2], Elif Ozcelik[2], Onur Eskiocak[3], Kadir A Ozler[4], Katie Papciak[5], Santhilal Subhash[6], Hanan Alwaseem[7], Ilgin Ergin[4], Charlie Chung[4], Vyom Shah[4], Brian Yueh[4], Aybuke Alici[4], Miriam R Fein[4], Ceyda Durmaz[8], Christopher Mozsary[8], Ece Kilic[4], Namita Damle[8], Deena Najjar[8], Theodore M Nelson[2], Krista A Ryon[8], Daniel J Butler[8], Chirag J Patel[1], Christoph A Thaiss[9], Kivanc Birsoy[10], Christopher E Mason[8], Cem Meydan[11*], Braden T Tierney[1,12*], Semir Beyaz[4*]

Department of Biomedical Informatics, Harvard Medical School, Boston, MA, USA
Department of Systems and Computational Biomedicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA; Graduate Program in Genetics, Stony Brook University, Stony Brook, NY, USA
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, NY, USA
Cell Biology Program, Sloan Kettering Institute, New York, NY, USA
Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, Jammu, India
Rockefeller University, New York, NY 10065, USA
Department of Physiology and Biophysics and the WorldQuant Initiative for Quantitative Prediction, Weill Cornell Medicine, NY, USA
Department of Pathology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA
Laboratory of Metabolic Regulation and Genetics, The Rockefeller University, New York, NY, USA
Department of Medicine, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, NY, USA
The Two Frontiers Project, Fort Collins, CO, USA

*Corresponding author: cem2009@med.cornell.edu
*Corresponding author: braden@twofrontiers.org
*Corresponding author: beyaz@cshl.edu

Abstract

Dietary fat composition modulates host physiology and the gut microbiome, but the long-term effects of specific fat sources and the extent to which these changes resolve after dietary reversal remain incompletely defined. Here, we present a longitudinal multi-omic resource of mice maintained for one year on a purified control diet, seven high-fat diets differing in predominant fat source, or reversal regimens in which animals were switched from high-fat to control diet after 4 or 9 months. We further incorporated two cohorts with distinct pre-existing microbiome configurations to determine how baseline community structure shapes diet-induced remodeling of the gut microbiome ecosystem. By integrating longitudinal phenotyping, fecal metagenomics, fecal metabolomics, plasma metabolomics and lipidomics, and intestinal single-cell RNA sequencing, we defined the shared and dietary fat-specific responses across host and microbiome compartments. Baseline microbiome composition strongly influenced microbial responses to diet, indicating that pre-existing community structure is a major determinant of dietary ecosystem remodeling. Although many altered features shifted toward baseline after dietary reversal, only approximately half of diet-associated microbial changes recovered within the study window. A subset of taxa exhibited persistent alterations, including sustained depletion of *Lactobacillus johnsonii* and *Bifidobacterium pseudolongum* and sustained enrichment of *Alistipes finegoldii*, consistent with a "microbiome memory" of prior high-fat diet exposure. This memory effect is mirrored in the host, by sustained suppression of major histocompatibility complex class II (MHC-II) gene expression in intestinal epithelial cells after dietary reversal. These findings indicate that dietary fats leave a lasting imprint on the host-microbiome interactome that survives dietary intervention. Together, these data establish a resource for defining how dietary fat source, baseline microbiome composition, and dietary history shape host–microbiome states. The entire resource is available online as an RShiny app.

Introduction

Dietary fat is a major determinant of host physiology and the gut microbiome[1,2]. Increased fat intake has been linked to obesity, colorectal cancer, and pro-oncogenic microbial compositional shifts in both human and murine models[3-6]. However, much of the link between diet and disease stems from observational studies not designed to untangle the complexities of host-microbiome interactions[7-13]. The physiologic response to dietary nutrient intake is driven both by those nutrients themselves and by their biochemical transformations by native microbes; variation in host response to these inputs stems from an individual's extant physiology and genetic predispositions[14]. Specific genera that have been shown to increase with a high-fat diet include *Alistipes*, *Erysipelotrichaceae*, and *Helicobacter*[1,15,16]. In turn, high-fat diets (HFDs) increase intestinal tumorigenesis via activating lipid-sensing PPAR transcription factors[17], inflammation[18], bile acids[19], or evoking microbiome dysbiosis[20,21]. The relationship between diet-induced obesity and its comorbid physiologies appears to stem from a complex interplay between host diet, genetic background, native gut microbiota, and immune activation[22-24].

A central challenge in the field is that a "high-fat diet" is often treated as a single exposure, even though dietary fats differ substantially in chain length and saturation of fatty acids. Recent work shows that these differences influence anti-tumor immunity and likely have distinct effects on host metabolism, intestinal physiology, and microbial ecosystem structure[25]. Yet, many studies evaluate only one dietary formulation, making it difficult to distinguish general consequences of high-fat feeding from responses that are specific to particular fat sources. This problem is compounded by the fact that observational studies in humans are often unable to resolve causality in the setting of correlated dietary, microbial, and host variables. Controlled comparative studies in model organisms are therefore needed to determine which effects are shared across high-fat diets, which are fat-source-specific, and which emerge only over

prolonged exposure. Despite epidemiological associations, the mechanistic interplay between

host health, dietary fat, intestinal cell networks, and the microbiome remains poorly understood,

in large part due to the inherent complexity of the diet-microbe-host axis[10].

Another unresolved issue is reversibility. Early work showed that diet-induced obesity is

associated with marked but partially reversible remodeling of the mouse gut microbiome[9], while

later studies demonstrated that prior dietary exposure can leave persistent microbiome

alterations that shape subsequent metabolic responses even after dietary reversal and weight

loss[26]. These observations raise the possibility that dietary history functions as a biological

memory. However, the degree to which such persistence generalizes across diverse fat sources

remains unclear. It is also not well understood whether this putative ecological memory is

mirrored in host tissue programs. This question is particularly important in light of evidence that

a lard-based high-fat diet suppresses major histocompatibility complex class II (MHC-II)

expression in intestinal epithelial cells by triggering microbiome dysbiosis and thereby perturbs

epithelial immune surveillance and promotes tumor initiation[20].

A further source of complexity is baseline microbiome composition. Pre-existing community

structure can shape how the gut ecosystem responds to perturbation, and even closely related

hosts may exhibit divergent microbial and host outcomes when exposed to the same

intervention[27]. Additionally, baseline microbiota can feasibly alter response to dietary input,

leading to variation in host response[28,29]. This means that conclusions drawn from a single

specific-pathogen-free microbial configuration may not generalize across cohorts or facilities.

Comparative designs that explicitly incorporate distinct baseline microbiomes are therefore

essential for identifying robust dietary signatures and for separating context-dependent effects

from broadly conserved responses.

Here, we generated a longitudinal multi-omic resource to define how diverse dietary fats

remodel the host–microbiome interface across time and after dietary reversal. We profiled mice

maintained for one year on a purified control diet, seven high-fat diets differing in predominant

fat source, or reversal regimens in which animals were returned to control diet after 4 or 9

months. To assess the contribution of baseline microbial ecology, we further incorporated two

cohorts with distinct pre-existing microbiome configurations. We integrated longitudinal

phenotyping with fecal metagenomics, fecal metabolomics, plasma metabolomics and

lipidomics, and intestinal single-cell RNA sequencing. This design enables comparison of

shared and fat-specific responses across host and microbiome compartments, identification of

features that persist after dietary reversal, and evaluation of how baseline microbiome

composition shapes diet-induced ecosystem remodeling. By making these data available as an

interactive resource, this study provides a framework for investigating how dietary fat source

and dietary history leave lasting imprints on gut microbial ecology and intestinal host state. This

resource is available in an RShiny app at https://btierneyshiny.shinyapps.io/high-fat-diets-multi-

omics/.

Results

Systematic measurement of the impact of isocaloric, high-fat diets on host physiology

To systematically assess the functional significance of different dietary lipids on the host and

microbiome, we designed custom isocaloric HFDs (Envigo, 4.6 kcal/g total, 22.7% fat by weight,

45% kcal from fat) that have identical macronutrient (protein, carbohydrate and fat) and

micronutrient (vitamins and minerals) composition with different fat sources and a low-fat

purified control diet (Envigo, 3.8 kcal/g, 7.2% fat by weight and 17% kcal from fat, soybean oil-

based) (Fig 1a, Supp Table 1). We chose fat sources that are enriched in major fatty acid types

(saturated, monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fatty acids) from plants and animals as

follows: lard (enriched in PA and OA), coconut oil (enriched in stearic acid (SA) and myristic

acid (MA)), milkfat (enriched in PA, OA and short-chain fatty acids such as butyric acid (BA)),

palm oil (enriched in PA), olive oil (enriched in OA) and fish oil (enriched in eicosapentaenoic

acid (EPA) and docosahexaenoic acid (DHA)) (Fig 1b). In addition, we designed a lard-based

ketogenic diet with very high fat and low carbohydrate abundance (Envigo, 7.0 kcal/g, 70.2% fat

by weight, 90.3% kcal from fat and fat to protein and carbohydrate ratio is approximately 4:1).

We used 8-week-old C57BL/6J (B6) mice (n=20 mice (10 male and 10 female per diet) from

Jackson Laboratory and first acclimated them for one week in the animal facility, feeding all

mice a purified control diet for two weeks and after that started feeding them with the purified

diets described above. We performed longitudinal monitoring for up to 12 months (Fig 1c) to

determine organismal metabolic alterations such as changes in body weight, glucose tolerance

and metabolic cage measurements including respiratory exchange ratio (RER). This was

completed in two independent cohorts that contained different initial microbiome compositions.

We additionally separated mice into "Reversal" (R) and "Non-Reversal" (NR) arms. Non-reversal

mice received a given diet for the entire 12 month duration of the study. Reversal mice received

diets for only a portion of the study before being reverted back to the control diet. The purpose

in doing so was to evaluate longer-term changes to mouse physiology (e.g., permanent

microbial species loss) as a function of diet. Mice were reverted from HFDs to the control diet at

either four months (4MR) (3 male and 2 female mice per diet) or at the nine month sampling

(9MR) (3 male and 3 female mice per diet).

Mice experience discrete phenotypic alterations as a function of sex and diet. The average

weight of all diet-sex groups increased by the end of the study (Fig 1d). Relative to the control,

all high-fat diets appeared to be increased except for fish oil, which roughly tracked with the

control, and keto, which resulted in more weight gain in female mice and less weight gain than

the controls in male mice. RER decreased with time, more so for the high-fat diets, particularly

keto, compared to the control (Fig 1e). Reversions tended to lose weight after being put back on

the control diet (Fig 1f), except for keto, for which males gained weight after reversion, indicating

potential lingering effects of dietary intervention. In males, diet had a limited impact on activity

level, while in females, palm and fish oil in particular were associated with increased activity

levels (Fig 1g).

Disentangling sex, diet, and temporal effects on microbiome diversity

First, we quantified changes in microbiome alpha diversity as a function of diet, time, and host

sex in the non-reversal cohort (Fig 2A). All diets except coconut oil increased diversity relative to

controls by the study's end; however, we noted sex-specific effects in these changes. For

example, by study completion, coconut oil resulted in a 1.6 fold increase in male over female

mice, milkfat yielded a 1.1 fold increase, lard yielded an 1.3 fold increase, and palm oil yielded

an 1.1 fold increase. The ketogenic diet induced a depletion of diversity relative to controls,

more so in male mice than in females (0.9 fold decrease in male vs female mice by study

completion). Olive oil induced increases in both male and female mice continuously throughout

the study period. Other diets, such as palm oil and milkfat, experienced increases at the

beginning that leveled off towards the end, indicating variable time-dependent impacts on

overall community composition.

We next studied changes in beta diversity as a function of diet and mouse sex (Fig 2B), aiming

to find if 1) a single diet induced consistent shifts in microbiome content over time or if 2) the

same diet induced distinct shifts across time. Overall, we observed limited differences between

sexes. Coconut oil, palm oil, and the ketogenic diet had high degrees of individual-specific-

effects, with within-diet beta diversity increasing as the study continued. By comparison, though

they had dramatic effects in alpha diversity, olive oil, fish oil, and lard had limited changes in

beta diversity compared to the initial timepoint, indicating a consistent effect on overall

microbiome composition independent of time. Together, these results indicate that sex has a

distinct effect on the murine microbiome compared to high-fat dietary interventions.

The impacts of high-fat diets on microbial community composition

These dramatic and temporally variable changes in diversity motivated a deeper analysis of

species-level microbiome variation between diets. Dimensionality reduction (Fig 2C)

characterized the degree to which treatment groups explained variation in gut composition

versus the control diet (Fig 2C, blue circle). Plotting 95% confidence intervals for each diet

indicated that, overall, the control group had the most consistency across time within subjects.

Olive oil, palm oil, and the ketogenic diet demonstrated the greatest divergence from the

controls. The confidence intervals for lard, fish oil, and coconut oil overlapped, demonstrating

potential similarity in microbiome composition after treatment. However, the longer treatment

continued (points with increasing opacity in Fig 2C), the more dissimilar from the control mice

these mice appeared.

Via linear modeling, we identified species-level associations with individual diets, sex, and time

(see *Methods*) as compared to the control mice. We defined statistical significance as a False-

Discovery-Rate adjusted p-value (i.e., q-value) of less than 0.05, and an association between a

given microbe and a diet was considered conserved if it was significant and consistent in

direction across at least two timepoints. We only considered stool samples for this analysis,

though the full data resource contains metagenomic samples from the entire digestive tract.

High-fat diets depleted more species than they enriched (Fig 2D). The ketogenic diet had the

most substantial effects on the host gut (significantly increasing the abundance of 53 species

and decreasing the abundance of 31), followed by coconut oil, palm oil, and olive oil. This effect

of ketogenic diet is likely due to its difference from the isocaloric high-fat diet panel in both

caloric density and macronutrient composition. Dietary associations overwhelmed sex effects

(23 species with positive associations with male mice, 31 negative) and temporal (i.e., aging)

effects (27 linearly increasing, 13 linearly decreasing).

Across all treatments, a total of 110 unique species had significant and consistent positive

associations with diet, and 61 had analogously negative associations. We observed a greater

conservation across all high-fat diets in negative-direction compositional effects as compared to

enriching effects. That is, high-fat diets reduced the abundance of similar species but enriched

different ones. Ketogenic, coconut oil, and palm oil had the most distinct associations, with 19,

16, and 14 unique and significant associations, respectively (Fig 2E). Thirteen species had a

significant association with all diets. Twelve of these decreased in abundance relative to

controls: *Acutalibacter muris, Acutalibacter sp910587835, CAG-582 sp910588195,*

Coproplasma sp013316055, Dubosiella newyorkensis, Enterenecus sp910585265,

Eubacterium_J sp910579075, Gallimonas sp910585595, Merdisoma sp009917555,

MGBC161649 sp910587685, UBA3263 sp001689615, and *Ventrimonas sp003669055.* No

species were universally enriched across diets (based on statistical significance). *Akkermansia*

muciniphila, which has reported beneficial associations with numerous human diseases[30], came

close, having statistically significant, positive associations with all diets except lard (where it still

underwent an albeit non-significant, but overall increase relative to controls).

Based on log2 fold changes (L2FCs) in associated species, diets hierarchically clustered into

three groups (Fig 2F, left heatmap dendrogram and associated overlayed boxes): 1) coconut oil,

palm oil, and lard grouped together, 2) olive oil, milkfat, and fish oil grouped together, and 3)

ketogenic was separate from the rest. These groupings were characterized by numerous

human-health associated species. The coconut/palm/lard group was defined by an increase in

Alistipes spp, notably *Alistipes finegoldii. Alistipes finegoldii* is associated with modulating gut

inflammation and immune responses. *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*, which produces short-

chain fatty acids beneficial for colon health, was enriched by L2FC in all diets except milkfat and

significantly enriched in coconut oil[31]. *Bifidobacterium pseudolongum subsp. globulosum,* which

has anti-inflammatory effects and supports immune homeostasis[32], was depleted in all diets

except the ketogenic. *Lactococcus lactis subsp. cremoris*, which is associated with decreased

cholesterol and increased glucose tolerance[33], was increased in the coconut oil diet.

Lactococcus lactis, distinct from *L. lactis subsp. cremoris* and associated with beneficial

immunomodulatory effects[34], was enriched significantly in the lard diet. Similarly, numerous

species with potential impacts on host health were depleted by different high fats. Well-studied

organisms depleted in most or all high-fat diets were *Dubosiella newyorkensis, Parasutterella*

excrementihominis, Faecalibaculum rodentium, Lactobacillus johnsonii, and *Limosilactobacillus*

reuteri. Many of these species, notably *F. rodentium* (and its human homologue, *Holdemanella*

biformis) and *L. johnsonnii*, are involved in maintaining gut homeostasis and exhibit anti-tumor

effects[35–40]. Finally, we noted that the gut pathobiont *Clostridium difficile* was notably enriched in

olive oil by the end of the study.

The longitudinal trajectories of microbial communities as a function of diet

Our initial analysis identified associations with diet, but it did not account for how species

abundance might vary across time after a dietary change. As we observed with *Akkermansia*

muciniphila (Fig 3A, top left) and fish oil, the relationship between time, diet, and certain

microbial species was not uniformly linear. Indeed, many of the additional health-associated

organisms, (e.g., *L. johnsonii*) identified in Figure 2 demonstrated variable trajectories over time

(Fig 3A), with some being permanently depleted, and others (e.g., *D. newyorkensis*) appearing

to recover slightly by the end of the study in all diets.

We observed that in the short term (six months into the study), high-fat diets enriched and

depleted similar proportions of microorganisms (Fig 3B). However, by the study completion, the

majority of lingering associations were depletionary. In other words, in the long term, organisms

initially enriched by a dietary intervention decreased in abundance, whereas, organisms that

were depleted tended to stay depleted, the number of lost species increasing over time,

indicating that high-fat diets, overall, have a mostly repressive effect on the gut microbiome.

We observed (Figure 3C) discrete time signatures of microbial species that varied across diets.

We used c-means clustering to group the longitudinal log2 fold changes (L2FC) of the

organisms identified in Figure 2D-F. We were able to group within-diet species variation across

time into six categories: transient increases, persistent increases, delayed increases, transient

decreases, persistent decreases, and delayed decreases.

We hypothesize that the existence of these time trends could be used to disentangle complex

network dynamics in response to microbial diets. For example, the initial enrichment and later

depletion of a species could be a natural course correction by the gut responding, over time, to

an introduced shift. Similarly, a delayed onset in abundance changes could be a latent

ecological restructuring due to the continued exposure of a dietary stressor.

High-fat diets induce changes to gut microbiome composition that persist even following

cessation of dietary treatment

We next interrogated the impact of dietary reversals on gut microbiome composition. This was

enabled by the two cohorts of mice that were reverted from high-fat diets back to the control diet

at 4 months and 9 months into the study, respectively. We hypothesized that by comparing the

longitudinal trajectories of different taxa, we could discriminate between irreversible, diet-

induced changes to the gut microbiome versus those that would return to baseline with the

original diet.

We observed that across all species associated with dietary shifts (Fig 3D), there were

numerous cases where the relative abundance of a given organism was persistently depleted or

enriched both before and after reversal, indicating long-term effects on gut microbiome

composition due to dietary intervention. For both the four and nine month reversals, about half

of species (53.1% and 51.3%, respectively) reverted to near baseline levels following reversion

to the control diet. For the 4 month reversals, 24.0% of species observed were persistently

depleted, and 22.9% were persistently enriched. For the 9 month reversals, these values were

26.3% and 22.3%, respectively (Fig 3E). Species that were enriched by high-fat diet were more

likely to revert to their baseline levels following reversal (Fig 3E, bottom row, grey bars).

Ketogenic, milkfat, and palm oil caused the greatest number of persistent depletions, and lard,

fish oil, and palm oil resulted in the most persistently enriched species.

As with the non-reversal cohort, we used c-means clustering to interrogate the longitudinal

trajectories of species before and after reversal (Fig 3F). There were discrete patterns of

enrichment, depletion, and return to baseline in the raw log2FC data. These further highlighted

the strength of persistent depletions, with organisms dropping by five-fold log2FC in many

cases, and showing no signs of returning even following reversal. Even when a species began

to return to levels similar to the control mice, it rarely returned all the way to baseline abundance

during the observation window of the experiment.

Finally, we highlighted the trajectories of some of the human-health-associated species that

were identified as diet- associated in Fig 2 (Supp Fig 1). These included *A. finegoldii*, *A.*

muciniphila, L. johnsonii, B. pseudolongum, and *B. thetaiotaomicron*. The strong, persistent

enrichment of *A. finegoldii* in multiple diets was apparent, whereas the depleting effect of the

ketogenic diet (especially for *L. johnsonii* and *B. pseudolongum*) was equally clear. The

ketogenic diet was also associated with persistent enrichment of *A. muciniphila* and *B.*

thetaiotaomicron, although the biological consequences of these shifts cannot be inferred from

the present dataset alone.

Baseline microbiome composition drives response to dietary intervention

Gut microbiome composition acts as a filter through which dietary inputs are processed, yet

most dietary studies rely on a single, standardized specific-pathogen-free (SPF) flora that may

lack ecologically relevant pathobionts. The degree to which baseline microbiome composition

drives response to dietary intervention is not fully known. However, it could feasibly modulate

downstream ramifications on the host. For example, microbiome composition is known to

modulate response to antibiotics, cancer immunotherapy, and other therapeutics[27,41–43]. Our

previous work has established that a lard-based high-fat diet dampens intestinal epithelial

immune surveillance and MHC-II expression in part by depleting pathobionts including

Helicobacter species *H. typhlonius*[20].

To rigorously test the impact of baseline microbiome composition on host and microbiome

alterations, we incorporated a distinct cohort of mice harboring a natural, diverse microbiota

containing the pathobiont *Helicobacter typhlonius* (H+, see Methods). 151 species were found

between both cohorts, with 83 unique to the original cohort (OC), and 113 unique to the H+

cohort (Supp Fig 2). The alpha diversity in the H+ cohort tended to be higher ($p < 0.05$, Supp

Fig 2A) than in the OC cohort across all diets except the ketogenic diet, palm oil, and milkfat.

The H+ mice were notable because their gut microbiota were enriched for the family

Helicobacteraceae (notably *Helicobacter typhlonius*) (Supp Fig 2B), which is known to be

associated with tumorigenesis and MHC II expression[20,44]. Compared to the OC, the H+ cohort

was additionally enriched in *Bacteroides uniformis* (associated with anti-obesity effects in

mice)[45,46], *Odoribacter* (species of which are associated with high-fat diets and glucose

control)[47,48], *Bacteroides acidifaciens* (also associated with anti-obesity effects, insulin

sensitivity, and liver health)[49,50]. It was depleted in many of the health-relevant, diet-associated

pieces in the OC, including *Akkermansia muciniphila* and *Dubosiella newyorkensis*.

We aimed to identify organisms that had 1) the same response to dietary intervention in both

cohorts (i.e., robust to baseline microbiome composition), those that 2) had discordant

responses, and 3) those that were uniquely found in the H+ cohort and diet-associated (Supp

Fig 2C). The results stemming from the full association study, for both taxonomy and functions,

can be found in Supp Fig 2. The majority of associations were distinct between cohorts. Across

all conditions, 200 (11.7%) species were conserved, 829 (48.9%) were in distinct directions, and

668 (39.3%) were organisms uniquely found in the H+ cohort. Fish oil and lard had the least

conservation between cohorts overall, whereas the ketogenic and palm oil had the most.

We identified several specific species that had similar or discrete responses to dietary treatment

in both the H+ and OC (Supp Fig 2D). We define the former group as "robust to the baseline

microbiome composition." Many bacteria implicated in human health fell into this category,

including *L. lactis, L. cremoris, Enterococcus faecalis* (depleted in palm oil/olive oil/coconut

oil/ketogenic and increased in lard and milkfat), and *B. thetaiotaomicron. Clostridium spp.*

additionally demonstrated conserved responses, being depleted in palm oil, olive oil, the

ketogenic diet, and coconut oil, and enriched in fish oil and lard. However, some of the strongest

associations from the OC were not universally replicated across all diets (Supp Fig 2E). This

was notably the case for coconut oil, the ketogenic diet, and palm oil. *B. globulosum* was slightly

enriched in palm oil in the OC cohort, but depleted in all the H+ cohort (and all other diets). *L.*

reuteri and *L. johnsonii* also exhibited different responses to palm oil, being depleted by

treatment in the OC and increased in the H+ cohort.

Finally, we interrogated microbiome changes in organisms and pathways that were specific to

the H+ cohort. *Helicobacter C typhlonius* was significantly depleted by the ketogenic diet. It

additionally was decreased in lard and in olive oil. It was increased by all other diets (though

these associations were not FDR-significant). *Helicobacter C sp910577135*, though, was

significantly depleted in all diets. Additionally, the genus *Bacteroides* was notably associated

with dietary shifts. This included health-associated organisms like *Bacteroides acidifaciens*

(associated with decreased BMI)[49], which was increased significantly by the ketogenic diet and

milkfat, and *Bacteroides uniformis* (a putatively beneficial short-chain fatty acid producer), which

was significantly depleted by coconut oil.

The landscape of high-fat diet-induced metabolomic and lipidomic changes

We additionally generated fecal and plasma metabolomics (polar and lipids for the latter). The

processed resultant data tables as companion datasets for integration with host gene

expression and microbiome composition data. We observed the strongest associations between

diet and fecal metabolomics, followed by lipidomics, followed by serum metabolomics (Figure

4A). Fish oil, in particular, had a differential signature from the other diets. Ketogenic also stood

apart from the others, but predominantly in the lipidomics.

Again using linear modeling, we evaluated associations between these multi-omic features and

host diet (Fig 4B). As with bacterial associations, the majority of fecal metabolite associations

were negative. The ketogenic and fish oil diets demonstrated the greatest number of

associations for diets (ketogenic: 92 positive and 70 negative; fish oil: 87 positive and 74

negative). Lard and milkfat had the fewest (lard: 23 positive, 23 negative; milkfat: 55 positive, 24

negative).

We noted that while they had fewer overall associations than fecal metabolomics, the plasma

metabolite associations were almost all positive, except in the case of fish oil (Fig 4B). Plasma

lipids showed increased associations with ceramides and sphingomyelins with the ketogenic

diet (a hallmark of ketosis)[51], whereas fish oil demonstrated suppression of these species

compared to other fats (Fig 4C). Coconut oil demonstrated increased medium-chain

hydroxylated sphingolipids, and lard and palm oil had similar signatures, especially in long-chain

ceramides.

The polar metabolite data additionally yielded associations relevant to host health. The

ketogenic diet increased carnitines, ketone-related metabolites (e.g., β-hydroxybutyrate analogs

and acetoacetate derivatives), citric acid cycle flux, and an upregulation of amino acid

catabolites. Palm oil and lard increased branched chain amino acid catabolites (e.g., xanthine),

carnitines, and indicators of oxidative stress (e.g., taurine). Fish oil increased omega-3 fatty

acids and, simultaneously, appeared to reduce carnitines. Coconut oil, overall, had a signature

intermediate between the ketogenic diet and saturated fats, whereas milkfat had, on average,

reduced association sizes but clustered with lard and palm oil.

Finally, we noted that following dietary reversal, some diet-associated metabolites were still

persistently increased or decreased, mirroring the effect observed with certain taxa (Fig 4E-F).

The majority of persistently altered metabolites were associated with sex; only 11 were diet

associated (across fish oil, olive oil, milkfat, ketogenic, and coconut oil). Two unidentified

metabolites, hydroxybutyrate, and pantetheine were increased, and three carnitines were

decreased. No lipids were persistently altered according to this analysis. That being said, these

values stem from rigorous False Discovery Rate adjusted cutoffs adjusted for all diet-metabolite

associations; nominally significant associations yielded many more, still high effect size,

persistent alterations (Supp Fig 3).

High-fat diets alter diverse classes of fecal metabolites

We next grouped fecal metabolites into functional categories and compared their signatures

across diets (Fig 5B, Supp Fig 4). As we observed in the plasma metabolomics, high-fat diets

mostly affected lipid metabolism, with the ketogenic having the most outsized effects. Host sex

appeared to impact lipid metabolism as well as bile acid composition and heme metabolism.

Fecal lipid alterations predominantly involved variation in long-chain fatty acids (Supp Fig 4A).

Only a handful of short-chain fatty acids were enriched, and these were found in the ketogenic

diet, coconut oil, and fish oil. Across all diets, the majority of altered lipids were saturated fats.

Polyunsaturated fats were overall depleted. We observed strong variation in sphingolipids (Supp

Fig 4B) and other lipid species (Supp Fig 4C). The ketogenic diet showed the most distinct

profile, with marked increases in ceramides and sphingomyelins together with pronounced

accumulation of acyl-carnitines and long-chain dicarboxylates, consistent with elevated β-

oxidation, peroxisomal ω-oxidation, and sphingolipid turnover. Across diets, long-chain lipid

responses varied substantially: ketogenic, lard, and fish-oil diets enriched very-long-chain

omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, whereas palm, olive, and coconut oils—and to a lesser

extent milkfat and lard—primarily increased palmitoyl-, stearoyl-, oleoyl-, and linoleoyl-linked

species, reflecting their saturated and monounsaturated compositions. Fish oil uniquely

increased EPA- and DPA-derived metabolites (e.g., 20:5n3, 21:5n3, 18:4n3), while saturated-fat

diets showed stronger ceramide accumulation. Medium-chain species and dicarboxylates were

broadly enriched across diets, whereas short-chain fatty acids were only modestly increased,

indicating shared enhancement of fatty-acid oxidation pathways with diet-specific routing

through oxidative and sphingolipid metabolism.

Additional impacted metabolite categories of interest in the context of host health included (1)

steroid metabolism enriched by all diets except coconut oil and (2) neurotransmitters that were

enriched by milkfat, olive oil, and fish oil. The specific steroids that were altered tended to be

cholesterol and its related compounds (Fig 5C). Cholesterol had high L2FCs compared to

control in the ketogenic diet, fish oil, and coconut oil. It was notably not enriched in olive oil,

whereas lanosterol and beta-sitosterol were. 7-ketocholesterol, which is associated with

atherosclerosis, was enriched in the ketogenic diet and depleted in palm oil and olive oil.

5alpha−pregnan−3beta, 20alpha−diol disulfate was depleted in all diets. For neurotransmitters

(Fig 5D), we observed that carboxyethyl-GABA was enriched in fish oil, the ketogenic diet,

coconut oil, olive oil, and milkfat. Fish oil was additionally enriched in arachidonoyl

ethanolamide; all diets except the ketogenic depleted histamine. Palm oil enriched

acetylcholine.

We also report diet-specific variation in carbohydrate, bile acid, antioxidant, and polyphenol

metabolisms (Fig 5G-K). High-fat diets tended to universally enrich sucrose,

N−acetylglucosaminylasparagine, citraconate/glutaconate, quinate, and diacetylchitobiose.

Fumarate, lactose, maltose, glucose and lactobionate were depleted. Fish oil and the ketogenic

diet, again similar in signature, uniquely enriched gycolate, glucuronate, methylphosphate, and

methylsuccinate. The most universally enriched bile acids across all diets (though most notably

in the ketogenic) were taurine-conjugated. Deoxycholic acid sulfate, chenodeoxycholic acid

sulfate (1), tauroursodeoxycholic acid sulfate (1), lithocholic acid sulfate (2), and

ursodeoxycholate sulfate (1) were universally depleted. Fish oil enriched the most antioxidants

(gamma−CEHC, delta−tocopherol, gamma−tocopherol/beta−tocopherol, and alpha−tocopherol

acetate), whereas milkfat enriched the fewest. For polyphenols, vanillate, ferulate,

dihydroferulate, ferulylglycines, 4−hydroxycinnamate, and dihydrocaffeate sulfate (2) were

enriched in nearly all diets, whereas daidzein was depleted. For vitamins, pyridoxate, pterin,

biopterin, and pantetheine were universally enriched, and 3–hydroxy–2–methylpyridine sulfate,

nicotinate ribonucleoside, pyridoxine (Vitamin B6), pantothenate, and 25–hydroxycholesterol

sulfate were depleted. Gamma–tocotrienol was uniquely and highly enriched in palm oil, and

vitamin D3 sulfate was uniquely enriched in the ketogenic diet.

Fecal metabolomic alterations are correlated with diet-induced microbiome shifts

We observed alterations in some microbially-produced or associated metabolites. For example,

lactobacillic acid was depleted in all diets; lactobionate and lactose were as well. This seemed

reasonable, as based on the results from Figure 2, lactobacilli were reduced across most dietary

conditions. To further understand the relationship between fecal metabolomics and gut

microbiome composition, we used regularized regression to identify putative relationships

between species composition and metabolite abundance (see *Data Availability,* FigShare

repository). As an alternate, more conservative, approach, we provide the same analysis that

used univariate linear regression to compute associations between metabolite-microbe pairs,

enabling statistical inference and multiple hypothesis testing on each potential relationship (see

Data Availability, FigShare repository). We found generally consistent results between both

methods, though the latter, as expected, did yield fewer associations, and in the main figures we

report the results from the former.

Microbial species were predominantly associated with increases and decreases lipid

metabolism (Fig 6A). Bile acids were predominantly inversely correlated to different microbial

species. *Alistipes finegoldii, Cholodaousia sp003612585,* and *Lawsonibacter sp910588635* had

the most associated metabolites overall. Many of the species altered by diet and highlighted in

Figure 2 were correlated to diverse metabolite concentrations outside of lipids alone. *A.*

finegoldii, for example, was correlated to increased polyphenol metabolism, neurotransmitter

metabolism, and bile acid metabolism. *L. johnsonii* was also positively correlated to polyphenol

concentrations. *L. lactis* was inversely correlated with steroid levels. *A. muciniphila* was

negatively correlated with neurotransmitters.

With an emphasis on well-characterized (i.e., non-candidate taxon) bacteria, we executed a

network analysis to identify microbes that were potentially central to gut ecology as well as

specific microbe-metabolite relationships with relevance to the host (Fig 6B). For lipid

metabolism, we observed that *A. finegoldii, Schaedlerella arabinosiphila*, *A. muciniphila, B.*

globulosum, Limosilactobacillus reuteri, and *Muribaculum gordoncarteri* formed a large network

that included many different derivatives of stearic acid, pristanic acid, oleic acid, and palmitic

acid, all of which were found in the dietary treatments in this study. In general, these organisms

were inversely correlated with these fatty acids. *M. gordoncarteri* was inversely correlated with

linoleate and myristate, for example. One exception to this were *Lactococcus lactis* and *A.*

finegoldii, which was positively correlated to levels of pristanate, stearidonate, and phytanate. It

has been reported as capable of metabolizing similar medium chain fatty acids[52]. Of additional

interest are *B. globulosum* and *S. arabinosiphila*, which was negatively correlated to various

ethanolamides and arylcarnatines.

Exploring networks outside of general lipid metabolism reproduced known causal relationships

between microbial metabolism and the fecal metabolome. For example, *A. finegoldii* was

strongly, positively correlated to carboxethyl-GABA production (Supp Fig 5A), indicating a

possible direct relationship between high-fat diets and the gut-brain axis. Similarly, there were

positive correlations between both *L. lactis* and arachidnyl ethanolamide, an endocannabinoid.

We additionally reproduced and identified putative novel gut microbiome relationships with

steroid, vitamin, carbohydrate, bile acid, and polyphenol metabolism (Supp Fig 5B-F). For

example, in accordance with the literature, *L. lactis* had a strong negative correlation with

lanosterol, and *B. globulosum* had a negative correlation with 7-ketocholesterol (to which *A.*

finegoldii was positively correlated). *L. cremoris* and *D. newyorkensis* were inversely associated

with Vitamin B6 production. Finally, *L. reuteri* was highly associated with chenodeoxycholic acid

sulfate and tauroursodeoxycholic acid sulfate.

High-fat diets modulate host transcription of metabolic and immune genes

We analyzed differentially-expressed genes (DEGs) for each cell type observed from scRNA-

seq in the mice fed different HFDs compared to the mice fed the control diet using two

independent methods, DESeq2 and Wilcoxon rank sum tests. The dataset contains 20 different

cell types, with 14 intestinal cell types and six immune cell types (Fig 7a). The total number of

DEGs observed for each diet in each cell type via each method were plotted for cell types with

greater than 100 DEGs (DESeq2 DEGs Fig 7b, Wilcoxon DEGs Supp Fig 6a). The greatest

number of DESeq2 DEGs were observed in intestinal epithelial cells, including enterocytes

(mature proximal and late progenitor) and goblet cells, which all had more DEGs increased

compared to the control diet than decreased. In enteroendocrine cells, more decreased than

increased DEGs were observed. To examine specific DEGs, the L2FC for the top five DEGs for

each of the top six cell types at 12 months were plotted (DESeq2 DEGs Fig 7c, Wilcoxon DEGs

Supp Fig 6b). These top DESeq2 DEGs included MHC-II genes such as H2-Aa and Cd74, as

well as antimicrobial lectin genes Reg3b and Reg3g, and metabolism-related genes Slc2a2 and

Cyp4a10.

We observed even stronger associations between MHC-II genes and diet in the Wilcoxon DEGs

(Fig 7d). Of particular note, MHC-II gene (H2-Aa, H2-Ab1, and Cd74) expression appeared to

be repressed (FDR < 0.05) even following both the four and nine month dietary reversals,

across diverse cell types. A subset of these diet-gene-celltype associations were additionally

FDR-significant and/or trending similarly in the DESeq2 analysis. This further indicates potential

persistent metabolic reprogramming due to high-fat diets on immune status, which could have

implications for long-term impacts of dietary changes on host health.

Discussion

In this study, we present a high-resolution, multi-omic atlas of host-microbe interactions,

constructed by subjecting mice to seven compositionally diverse high-fat diets and a purified

low-fat control diet. This work maps microbial and host responses across two longitudinal

cohorts with discrete baseline microbiomes over the course of a year. This dual-cohort design

allows us to disentangle how the initial ecosystem structure dictates the trajectory of diet-

induced microbiome remodeling. Furthermore, by reverting a subset of animals to control diet,

we decoupled transient adaptations from persistent biological signatures. Integrating

longitudinal metagenomics, metabolomics, lipidomics, and host single-cell transcriptomics, this

resource provides the community with a robust reference for how specific dietary lipids remodel

the gut ecosystem and host physiology across time and varying microbial contexts.

This resource extended prior efforts in understanding the associations between host sex, diet,

time, and the gut microbiome[10,53–55]. Across seven high-fat diets, fat composition emerged as

the dominant driver of microbial structure, exceeding sex and aging effects at the species level,

consistent with prior demonstrations that dietary fat source reproducibly reshapes gut

community ecology[8,56]. Although several diets transiently increased alpha diversity, species-

level modeling revealed that high-fat feeding more consistently depleted shared commensals

than it generated conserved enrichments, and longitudinal clustering showed that early

enrichments often resolved into persistent losses. Approximately half of diet-associated taxa

failed to fully recover after dietary reversal, echoing evidence that diet-induced microbial shifts

can establish durable ecological states that are not readily reversed by nutritional

normalization[26,57]. Hierarchical clustering further revealed three broad diet groupings, with

coconut oil, palm oil, and lard clustering together; olive oil, milkfat, and fish oil forming a second

cluster; and the ketogenic diet remaining distinct, underscoring both shared ecological

constraints and fat-specific selection pressures. Importantly, baseline microbiome composition

acted as a decisive filter for dietary response: fewer than 12% of species-level associations

were conserved across *Helicobacter*-negative and *Helicobacter*-positive cohorts, and many taxa

exhibited directionally discordant responses, supporting the concept that host–diet interactions

are conditioned by pre-existing microbial networks[58,59]. Together, these findings indicate that

high-fat diets impose progressive and partially persistent restructuring of the gut microbiome,

but the magnitude and direction of these effects depend strongly on both fat composition and

baseline community structure.

The fecal metabolite data revealed expected associations between specific fats and metabolic

features; for example, the ketogenic diet was associated with increased ceramides,

sphingomyelins, and acyl-carnitines consistent with enhanced fatty-acid oxidation[60], whereas

fish oil enriched EPA- and DPA-derived omega-3 metabolites and tocopherols[61], and saturated-

fat–rich diets preferentially increased palmitoyl-, stearoyl-, and oleoyl-linked lipid species and

ceramides. Second, we observed numerous microbiome associations with diets as well as

discrete metabolites with known ramifications for host health, indicating the potential in

identifying microbial mediators of response to nutrition. *Alistipes spp.*, specifically *Alistipes*

finegoldii, was increased across multiple diets; *notably, A. finegoldii* emerged as a central hub in

microbe–metabolite association networks and was linked to extensive alterations in lipid, bile

acid, polyphenol, and neurotransmitter metabolism, including carboxyethyl-GABA. In contrast,

Lactobacillus johnsonii, another microbe considered to be protective against carcinogenesis[62],

was depleted across most diets (most prominently in the ketogenic diet), and its loss coincided

with depletion of lactobacilli-associated metabolites such as lactobacillic acid and lactose

derivatives. Additional microbes that were altered included *Akkermansia muciniphila* (most

strikingly increased in the ketogenic diet). Other organisms with reported host health impacts

that were impacted to varying degrees were *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron* (increased; coconut

oil [significant], generally increased across most diets except milkfat), *Bifidobacterium*

pseudolongum subsp. globulosum (decreased; all diets except ketogenic), *Limosilactobacillus*

reuteri (decreased; most or all diets), *Dubosiella newyorkensis* (decreased; all diets), and

Parasutterella excrementihominis (decreased; most or all diets)[32,35,63–68]. Across diets, the

dominant transcriptional shifts localized to the intestinal epithelium, particularly mature proximal

enterocytes, and were characterized by coordinated changes in nutrient transport and metabolic

genes such as *Slc2a2*, *Sis*, and *Cyp4a10*, together with enterocyte-associated lipid-handling

genes including *Fabp1* and *Hmgcs2*. In parallel, epithelial defense and antigen-presentation

genes, including *Reg3b*, *Cd74*, and *H2-Aa*, were altered across cell types, along with immune-

modulatory factors such as *Ccl5* and *Rorc*, indicating that long-term dietary fat composition

reshapes both metabolic and host–immune interface programs in the gut epithelium.

One of the core motivations for building this resource was to identify the degree to which dietary

choices could have persistent effects on the host even following reversion to a control diet for a

period of three or eight months, approximately equal to seven and 21 human years,

respectively[69]. Our reversal analysis indicates that persistent changes may in fact occur,

consistent with previous studies demonstrating microbiome "scarring" from antibiotic usage[70,71]

or persistent microbiome alterations that are associated with post-dieting weight gain[26]. While

body weight and systemic metabolites mostly resolved upon return to a control diet, we

observed that approximately 50% of diet-induced species failed to revert to baseline, with

organisms like *Alistipes finegoldii* remaining persistently enriched and commensals like

Lactobacillus johnsonii remaining persistently lost.

Notably, this ecological memory was mirrored in the host transcriptome, where single-cell RNA

sequencing revealed sustained suppression of MHC-II pathway genes (e.g., H2-Aa, Cd74) in

intestinal epithelial cells. Given that we and others have previously shown that epithelial MHC-II

expression plays crucial roles in coordinating immune surveillance against tumors, enteric

pathogens, and local inflammation, this sustained suppression implies a lasting state of

vulnerability[20,72,73]. Collectively, these findings indicate dietary history as a distinct biological

variable, where past nutritional stress creates a latent susceptibility mediated by both microbial

and host alterations that persist despite lifestyle correction. Further work is needed to

interrogate the causal direction of these persistent host-microbiome states, as well as their

stability, in human models and in light of other exposures.

Overall, this resource will be valuable for researchers interested in identifying links between the

microbiome, fecal and serum metabolome, lipidome, and host transcriptional state. We

anticipate the associations and datasets here can be integrated to evaluate hypotheses that

could not be easily tested in humans or in other observational cohort data. Our full resource is

available at https://btierneyshiny.shinyapps.io/high-fat-diets-multi-omics/.

626
627 **Limitations of the study:**
628
There are several limitations of our study. First, some of the associations that are consistent

across all high-fat diets could be confounded by the ingredients of the purified control diet,

which is soybean oil based. Similarly, the ketogenic diet differs from the isocaloric high-fat panel

in both caloric density and macronutrient composition. Second, as reported in prior high-fat diet

microbiome studies, Lactococcus species can represent potential contaminants in some

datasets[8]. In our study, the increase in lactococcal taxa was not uniform across diets, arguing

against a simple global contamination artifact; however, this possibility should still be considered

when interpreting taxon-specific findings. Third, the reversal experiments demonstrate

persistence of selected phenotypes within the defined observation window, but they do not

establish whether these effects remain stable over longer timescales. A further limitation is

uneven sample depth across modalities. In particular, intestinal single-cell RNA-seq were

available for fewer samples, which reduces power for direct cross-modality association

analyses, especially microbe-to-host DEG relationships. These integrative analyses should

therefore be interpreted as prioritization tools rather than definitive evidence of host–microbe

coupling. Finally, this study was designed as a systems-level observational resource rather than

a mechanistic dissection. The atlas therefore does not by itself establish causal relationships

between dietary fat source, microbial community structure, metabolite profiles, and host tissue

responses. Instead, its principal value lies in providing a comparative framework that can be

used to generate testable hypotheses and guide focused causal experiments.

Figure Legends

Figure 1. Systematic measurement of the impact of isocaloric high-fat diets on host physiology.
A. Longitudinal study design in C57BL/6J mice. Subsets of animals were reverted to
control diet after 4 months or 9 months on HFD, and all cohorts were terminated at 12
months for multi-omic interrogation (microbiome profiling, metabolomics, and scRNA-
seq). Schematic created with BioRender.
B. Heatmap of dietary fatty-acid composition across diets. Values represent the relative
abundance of each fatty acid across all diets, normalized by column. Hierarchical
clustering groups diets and fatty acids by similarity.
C. Summary of distinguishing lipid features of each diet/fat source. Schematic created
using BioRender.
D. Trajectories of body weight over 12 months shown as percent change from starting
weight.
E. Respiratory exchange ratio (RER) measured by metabolic cage at indicated
timepoints (1, 3, 7, and 12 months), displayed as a heatmap by diet and sex annotation.
F. Average body weight in diet-reversion cohorts, shown by diet and sex across time,
with colors indicating continuous HFD, 4-month reversal, and 9-month reversal cohorts.
For each diet, male cohorts included n = 8 continuous-HFD mice, n = 3 four-month-
reversal mice, and n = 3 nine-month-reversal mice; female cohorts included n = 9
continuous-HFD mice, n = 2 four-month-reversal mice, and n = 3 nine-month-reversal
mice.

G. Locomotor activity measured by metabolic cage across light and dark cycles (day
annotation), calculated as the average of X- and Y-axis infrared beam-break (laser
disruption) counts, shown longitudinally by diet and sex.

Figure 2. Associations between high-fat diets and gut microbiome composition. Diet colors are
shared under panels A and B.
A. Shannon diversity across diets and time by sex (n = 71 mice, 376 longitudinal fecal
samples; non-reversal arm). X axis, month of sampling; Y axis, diversity. F = female, M =
male. Vertical bars, standard deviation within each diet–time–sex group.
B. Beta diversity across diets and time by sex (same mice and samples as panel A).
Axes and symbols as in panel A.
C. Distance-based redundancy (db-RDA) of overall microbiome composition constrained
by diet (same mice and samples as panel A). Each point is one fecal sample from one
mouse; lighter points are earlier in the study, darker points later. Ellipses summarize
where most samples per diet fall (approximate 95% confidence regions). Grey lines link
the same animal across timepoints. Arrows show how strongly each diet aligns with the
ordination axes.
D. Counts of species passing Benjamini–Hochberg FDR < 0.05 in generalized linear
models of abundance versus metadata, after requiring the same direction of association
at more than one timepoint and at most one high-fat diet association per species (sex-
by-diet interaction panel omitted). Bars split by model term: sex, linear time, and diet
versus control; blue, positive association; red, negative. Further filtering is described in
Methods.
E. UpSet plot of diet-associated species using the same significance and persistence
rules as panel D. Each column is a diet; dots mark which diets share an intersection; bar
height is the number of species; intersections with fewer than two species are omitted.
F. Heatmap of mean log2 fold change of each species' abundance on each high-fat diet
versus control (pseudocount in the ratio), for the species set from panel D. Asterisks
match the FDR rule in panel D. Species labeled only in supplementary tables are
omitted from the axis. Colored outline boxes are manual diet groupings.

Figure 3. Longitudinal microbiome shifts with and without dietary reversal in the H- vs. H+
cohorts; n = 158 mice, 809 fecal samples total: non-reversal 71 mice / 376 samples; four-month
reversal 38 mice / 136 samples; nine-month reversal 49 mice / 297 samples). Reversal status is
defined per mouse and applies at all timepoints for that animal. Diet colors follow panel B and
are reused in panels A, C, and F.
A. Species-level trajectories: average log2 fold change in relative abundance versus
time-matched control for each high-fat diet (n = 158 mice, 809 fecal samples). Zero line,
no difference from control; horizontal axis, study month (e.g., M1, M4).
B. For each diet, the fraction of associations at each timepoint (solid vs dashed; should
sum to 100% at each time) (n = 158 mice, 809 fecal samples).
C. Fuzzy c-means on longitudinal log2 fold change profiles for non-reversal mice (k = 20;
14 clusters shown, 6 omitted as redundant or low signal; four omitted clusters were near-
flat by a post hoc center rule, max |mean log2 fold change| across on-diet times <

0.2973; two showed small non-flat variation and were dropped for clarity) (n = 71 mice,
376 fecal samples). Each thin line is one species in one mouse; color is cluster. Axes
match panel A.
D. Heatmap of log2 fold change versus control across reversal and non-reversal; rows
are species (hierarchical clustering), columns calendar time and diet phase. Green
outlines, annotated persistent enrich, revert, or deplete groups (n = 158 mice, 809 fecal
samples).
E. Counts of species persistently enriched or depleted after four- or nine-month reversal
(one count per species per diet per reversal arm). "Persistently increased/decreased"
and "reverted" as in the main text (n = 158 mice, 809 fecal samples).
F. Clustered microbial trajectory profiles as in panel C but with reversal on the X axis:
on-diet block (OnDiet_D0–M12), four-month reversal block (Rev4MR_…), nine-month
reversal block (Rev9MR_…); dashed segments, pre-reversal timepoints in reversal arms
(n = 158 mice, 809 fecal samples).

Figure 4. Fecal metabolites, fecal lipids, and serum metabolites by diet. Metabolite layers
matched to fecal microbiome sampling at M6 and M9 (n = 71 mice with paired data).
A. db-RDA per matrix (samples × log-transformed features; constraint, diet). Subpanels:
untargeted fecal metabolomics M7 (n = 52 samples), fecal lipidomics M8 (n = 68), serum
metabolomics M6/M11 averaged (n = 65 sample-by-sex points), each after layer-specific
prevalence filtering and correlation de-redundancy where applied (Methods).
B. Bar summaries of features with Benjamini–Hochberg FDR < 0.1 in linear models of
log10 abundance (or normalized log measure) on sex and diet (diet and sex terms
counted separately). Blue, negative association; red, positive. After filtering, models
used 1048 fecal metabolites, 43 lipid species, and 94 serum metabolites.
C. Lipids with FDR < 0.1 for at least one high-fat diet (n = 68 fecal lipid samples). Cell
color, mean log2 fold change versus control; rows and columns clustered hierarchically.
D. Serum metabolites with FDR < 0.1 (same display rules as panel C) (n = 65 serum
sample-by-sex combinations as in panel A).
E. Among features significant on high-fat diet and again after return to control, counts
staying higher or lower (FDR < 0.1 in both windows), split by fecal metabolites, lipids,
and serum.
F. Features classified as persistently changed in panel E. Each point is one feature; X
axis, feature name; Y axis, post-reversal association strength (Methods). Color, diet;
shape, layer (fecal metabolite, lipid, serum). Horizontal dashed line, zero effect.

Figure 5. Fecal metabolite classes, diet associations, and overlaps (n = 52 samples from n = 71
mice with paired microbiome sampling; 1048 metabolite features after prevalence filtering).
A. Overlap of metabolites positively or negatively associated with diet or sex at FDR <
0.05 (per-metabolite GLM, ValueLog10 ~ sex + diet, Benjamini–Hochberg). Bar colors,
direction; numbers above bars, counts. Overlap bars are descriptive (no separate test on
the counts).
B. FDR-significant metabolites per biochemical class by diet (n = 52 samples, 1048
features). Blue, negative associations; red, positive.

C-H. Strongly diet-associated metabolites (FDR < 0.05) by class; metabolites with at
least one diet association enter the heatmaps.
760
Figure 6. Microbe–metabolite associations (n = 71 mice and 52 fecal metabolite profiles at M7
with paired microbiome data; filtering as in Methods).
A. Counts of microbial species with the largest numbers of non-zero LASSO coefficients
linking their abundances to fecal metabolite levels (positive vs negative facets; point
color, metabolite class).
B. Network of LASSO coefficients with |coef| > 0.1 between microbes and fecal lipid-
related features. Red, positive; blue, negative; line width, |coef|; green squares,
metabolites; purple circles, taxa; point size, degree.
769
Figure 7. Single-cell transcriptomic profiling identifies diet-associated, cell-type-specific
transcriptional changes in host tissue.
A. UMAP of the scRNA-seq atlas colored by annotated cell type (n = 90,971 cells from
31 mice; 20 annotated cell types).
B. Number of significantly increased and decreased differentially expressed genes
(DEGs) identified by DESeq2 in male mice, grouped by cell type and diet for the 12-
month diet comparisons. Bars show genes with FDR-adjusted $p < 0.05$. For DESeq2,
raw RNA counts were pseudobulked by summing counts within each cell type for each
mouse and diet, and differential expression was tested separately for each cell type and
diet versus control using DESeq2 with Benjamini-Hochberg multiple-testing correction.
Male 12-month comparisons included n = 3 control mice and n = 2 mice per diet group
(32,895 cells total across control, Coco, Fish, Keto, Lard, and Olive groups); genes were
tested after filtering for counts >= 10 in at least 2 pseudobulk samples. No additional
statistical tests were applied to this summary visualization.
C. Top five DESeq2 DEGs from the six cell types with the largest numbers of significant
DEGs, ranked by absolute log2 fold change among genes with adjusted $p < 0.05$. Point
position indicates log2 fold change, point size indicates -log10(FDR-adjusted p value),
and color indicates diet. The underlying statistical framework, biological replicate
numbers, and multiple-comparison correction are the same as in (B) (n = 3 control mice
and n = 2 mice per diet group for each comparison). No additional statistical tests were
applied to this summary visualization.
D. Differential expression of MHC-II genes across diets and reversal conditions. Points
show gene-level log2 fold changes for H2-Aa, H2-Ab1, and Cd74, and gray bars indicate
the mean log2 fold change across these genes within each cell type and condition.
Differential expression was computed separately for each cell type and condition versus
control using Libra single-cell Wilcoxon testing with mouse as the replicate variable and
Benjamini-Hochberg multiple-testing correction. The analysis included male cells only (n
= 68,171 cells from 23 mice total across all conditions shown); each comparison used n
= 3 control mice and n = 2 mice in the corresponding diet or reversal group. No
additional statistical tests were applied to this summary visualization.
800

Supplementary Figure 1. Example trajectories for taxa with persistent reversal or depletion
patterns (Cohort 2, H–; n = 158 mice, 809 fecal samples; arms as in Fig. 3). Each mini-panel is
one diet–taxon combination. Left segment, average log2 fold change versus time-matched
control on continuous high-fat diet (non-reversal). Middle, four-month reversal (dotted, on high-
fat before switch; solid, after return to control). Right, nine-month reversal (same convention).
Black, continuous high-fat; orange, four-month reversal cohort; green, nine-month reversal
cohort.
808
Supplementary Figure 2. In-house (H+) versus Jackson (H–) cohort comparison using
longitudinal fecal microbiome data (H–: n = 158 mice, 809 samples; H+: n = 64 mice, 302
samples).
A. Alpha diversity by cohort and diet (H– reference line solid, H+ dashed). Unadjusted p-
values from t-tests in-panel. Diet colors match panel C. Point shape, sex (M/F) (all
samples per cohort as above).
B. Volcano plot for H+ versus H– (control-diet fecal samples only): per-species linear
mixed model ABUNDANCE ~ COHORT + (1|ANIMAL_ID), Benjamini–Hochberg across
species; dashed line, FDR 0.05 on –log10 scale. X axis, cohort coefficient; Y axis,
–log10(adjusted p-value); color, direction of significant hits.
C. Conserved, distinct, and unique diet–microbe association counts across cohorts
(colors as panel A). Asterisks elsewhere in this figure, BH FDR < 0.05.
D.-F. Heatmaps of log2 fold change versus H– reference for the three panel C
categories. X axis, diet–cohort combinations; columns grouped by diet. Asterisks, BH
FDR < 0.05 in that cohort. Red/blue, L2FC versus control within cohort. Panel D, same-
direction L2FC across cohorts; panel E, at least one opposing L2FC between cohorts.
825
826   Supplementary Figure 3. Metabolites altered after reversal at nominal p < 0.05 (extends Fig. 4,
827   which used FDR). Each point is one feature; X axis, feature; Y axis, post-reversal association
828   strength; color, diet; shape, layer (fecal metabolite, lipid, serum). Horizontal dashed line, zero.
829
Supplementary Figure 4. Additional fecal lipid detail (same modeling framework as main lipid
panels).
A. Lipid feature counts by chain length and saturation class, split by association direction
(red, increased with term; blue, decreased). Bar height, count; Y axis log-scaled. Fill,
model term (diet or sex).
B. Sphingolipids with Benjamini–Hochberg FDR < 0.1 for at least one contrast (rows
clustered; columns as panel C: diets then sex). Cell color, mean L2FC; asterisks per
plotting rules on the figure.
C. Non-sphingolipid lipids meeting the same FDR rule; layout as panel B; saturation strip
beside rows; grey boxes, manual interpretive highlights only.
840
841   Supplementary Figure 5. Microbe–metabolite networks by fecal metabolite class (as Fig. 6:
842 |LASSO coef| > 0.1). Red/blue, sign of association; width, |coef|; green squares, metabolites;
843   purple circles, taxa; size, degree.
844

Supplementary Figure 6. Wilcoxon-based single-cell differential expression (Libra), complementing Fig. 7.

A. DEG counts by cell type and diet (12-month males; FDR < 0.05; mouse as replicate; Benjamini–Hochberg) (n = 3 control and n = 2 per diet group; 32,895 cells across listed diets; cell types with <50 cells in a comparison excluded). No further tests on this summary plot.

B. Top five Wilcoxon DEGs in the six cell types with the most hits (ranked by |log2FC| among FDR-significant genes). Points, log2FC; size, –log10(FDR); color, diet. Same testing framework as panel A (n = 3 control, n = 2 per diet per comparison). No further tests on this summary plot.

Data and Code Availability

Author Contributions

Conceptualization, S.B.; Data curation, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., and A.G.V.C.; Investigation: S.B., O.E., K.A.O, K.P., S.S., H.A., I.E., C.C., V.S., B.Y., M.R.F., C.D., C.Mozsary, E.K., A.G., N.D, D.N., K.A.R., D.J.B..; Formal analysis, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., A.G.V.C., and E.O.; Statistical design, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., A.G.V.C., and E.O.; Software, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., and A.G.V.C.; Visualization, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., A.G.V.C., E.O., and J.P.; Supervision, B.T.T., S.B., and C. Meydan, C.E.M.; Resources: C.A.T, C.J.P.; Project administration, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., C.E.M., and T.M.N.; Funding acquisition: S.B., K.B., C.E.M, B.T.; Writing – original draft, B.T.T., S.B., C.Meydan., and A.G.V.C.; Writing – review and editing, all authors.

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Declaration of Interests

902 S.B. received funding from Caper Labs for research unrelated to this study. B.T.T. consults for
903 Zymo Research and is a shareholder of Seed Health and Microbial Marine; he sits on the board
904 of the latter, and none were involved in funding this study. C.E.M. is a co-founder of Onegevity
905 and Biotia. All other authors declare no competing interests.

STAR Methods

Mice, diets and study design

908 C57BL/6J (strain name: 000664) mice were obtained from the Jackson Laboratory. Mice were
909 housed in pathogen-free conditions and maintained at 12 hours light/dark cycles. All mice in this
910 study were age- and sex-matched (both male and female). Food and water provided ad libitum.
911 All animals used in this study were handled according to ethical procedures approved by The
912 Institutional Care and Use Committee (IACUC) at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.

Diet design

We have designed custom isocaloric HFDs (Envigo, 4.6 kcal/g total, 22.7% fat by weight, 45%
kcal from fat) that have identical macronutrient (protein, carbohydrate and fat) and micronutrient
(vitamins and minerals) composition with different fat sources and a low-fat purified control diet
(Envigo, 3.8 kcal/g, 7.2% fat by weight and 17% kcal from fat, soybean oil based). In addition, to
study how fat abundance in diet affect outcomes, we designed a lard-based ketogenic diet with
very high fat and low carbohydrate abundance (Envigo, 7.0 kcal/g, 70.2% fat by weight, 90.3%
kcal from fat and fat to protein and carbohydrate ratio is approximately 4:1). The detailed
composition of each diet can be found in Supplementary Table 1.

Study design

Experiments were performed using age- and sex-matched C57BL/6J mice starting at 8 weeks
old housed in specific pathogen-free (SPF) conditions. To assess the impact of baseline
microbiome composition on dietary responses, we utilized two distinct microbial cohorts:

● **Helicobacter-negative (H-) Cohort:** C57BL/6J mice were purchased from The Jackson
Laboratory. These mice are standard SPF flora-competent but historically devoid of
Helicobacter species and other pathobionts.
● **Helicobacter-positive (H+) Cohort:** We utilized an in-house breeding colony of
C57BL/6J mice maintained at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. Unlike the H- cohort,
these mice naturally harbor a distinct commensal community including *Helicobacter*
species. PCR and metagenomic analysis of fecal contents confirmed in this cohort the
presence of *H. typhlonius* and *H. mastomyrinus*, species known to associate with
elevated epithelial MHC-II expression[20].

To prevent cross-contamination of microbiomes, H- and H+ cohorts were housed in separate,
isolated containment rooms for the duration of the study.

We employed a longitudinal study design spanning 12 months to assess both the chronic
impacts of high-fat feeding and the persistence of these signatures after dietary cessation.
Before starting high-fat diets, all mice were placed on a purified control diet for two weeks. The
study was divided into three arms:

1. **Continuous Feeding Arm:** Mice were maintained on their respective HFD or control
diets for the full duration (up to 12 months) to establish the chronic trajectory of host-
microbiome interactions.
2. **Early Reversal Arm:** After 4 months of HFD feeding, a sub-cohort of mice was switched
to the Low-Fat Control diet to assess phenotype reversibility.
3. **Late Reversal Arm:** After 9 months of HFD feeding, a second sub-cohort was switched
to the Low-Fat Control diet to assess phenotype reversibility.

Metabolic cage measurements

Age-matched C57Bl/6 mice were stratified by diet and sex to ensure nearly equal numbers of
each per diet. Mice were placed into metabolic cages accommodating one mouse each
(CLAMS, Columbus). While in metabolic cages, original diets for mice were continued and mice
were habituated to the cages for one week before testing under 12h each light/dark cycle.
Within metabolic cages, acquired parameters included O_2 volume, O_2 in/out, accumulated O_2,
CO_2 volume, CO_2 in/out, accumulated CO2, RER, Heat, Flow, Pressure, Feeder weight, feeder
accumulation, drink weight, drink accumulation, movement in X axis, movement in Y axis and
movement in Z axis. Mice were kept within metabolic cages for 4 days in each time interval (1m,
3m, 7m, 12m) and data was recorded every 5 minutes for each parameter.

Metabolic cage bioinformatics analysis

Metabolic cage data was recorded in CLAMS format by Columbus Instruments and converted to
CSV files using the OXYMAX software. Samples that experienced technical issues in data
recording and/or animal death were removed from the dataset. For the analysis and
visualizations, we used R version 4.2 along with the following packages: dplyr, tidyr, ggplot2,
tidyverse, ggrepel, RColorBrewer, ComplexHeatmap, and circlize. Data was filtered using the
RER parameter to be within the biologically relevant range of 0.5 to 1. Samples were grouped
by diet, sex, and time intervals, and the average RER values were calculated over all
measurements.

For activity analysis, to ensure consistent measurements across samples, the interval was
filtered to at most 1000 measurements. Groups were formed by sex, diet, night/day cycle, and

time. Total ambulatory activity was calculated by taking the average of the X.ambulatory and
Y.ambulatory parameters.

SnapFreeze RNA-isolation and bulk RNA sequencing

Mice were euthanized within a CO2 chamber and the small intestine was removed and
separated from intraperitoneal fat. A cold (4 °C) wash with 1xPBS removed debris and feces. A
small portion of the ileum was cut and snap-frozen in liquid nitrogen. RNA was isolated using a
RNeasy Plus Mini Kit (Qiagen 74134) and gDNA was removed using the provided elimination
column.

Total RNA samples underwent quality control and normalization prior to library construction.
Host ribosomal RNA was depleted using the NEBNext rRNA Depletion Kit (Human/Mouse/Rat;
New England Biolabs, E6310). Strand-specific libraries were prepared with the NEBNext Ultra II
Directional RNA Library Prep Kit for Illumina (New England Biolabs, E7760) according to the
manufacturer's protocol. Library fragment size distributions were assessed on an Agilent
TapeStation using the High Sensitivity D1000 ScreenTape assay (Agilent Technologies, 5067-
5584 and 5067-5585). Libraries were pooled and sequenced as paired-end 150 bp reads
(PE150) on an S4 flow cell using the Illumina NovaSeq 6000 sequencing platform at the
Genomics Resources Core Facility (GRCF) at Weill Cornell Medicine.

Single-cell sequencing

Isolation of intestinal crypts was conducted following previously established protocols. In short,
the entire intestine was excised, with fat, connective tissues, and blood vessels removed, and
flushed with ice-cold 1X PBS. After orienting the tissue, the small intestine was sectioned into 3-
5 cm fragments and incubated in 1X PBS/EDTA (7.5 mM) with gentle agitation at 4°C for 30
minutes. Crypts were released from the tissue by mechanical disruption, passed through a 70-
micron strainer to eliminate villi and tissue debris. The crypts were then washed with cold PBS
and spun down at 300g for 5 minutes. To obtain intestinal epithelial cells (IECs), the crypts were
dissociated into single cells using TrypLE Express (Cat# 12604-013, Invitrogen). Dead cells
were excluded from analysis using the viability dye SYTOX (Cat# S34857, Life Technologies),
and the SYTOX-negative population was sorted using a Sony SH800S cell sorter. single-cell
droplets were immediately prepared on the 10X Chromium according to manufacturer
instructions at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Single Cell Facility. Single cell libraries were
prepared using a 10X Genomics Chromium Controller (Cat #120223, 10X Genomics) and the
10X Genomics Chromium Next GEM Single Cell 3' Gene Expression kit (Cat #1000268, 10X
Genomics) according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Fecal metagenomics

Following collection of fecal samples, samples were snap frozen in liquid nitrogen and stored at
-80 °C. DNA extraction was carried out using a fecal sample-based modification of the
Maxwell® RSC PureFood GMO and Authentication Kit (Catalog No. AS1600; Promega
Corporation, Madison, WI) following the manufacturer's guidelines. In brief, 75 mg of fecal
pellets were placed into 2 mL microcentrifuge tubes, to which 1 mL of CTAB buffer was added,
followed by vortexing with the MO BIO Vortex Adapter for 30 seconds. After homogenization,
the samples were heated at 95°C for 5 minutes, cooled at room temperature for 2 minutes, and
vortexed horizontally for an additional minute. The pellets were then manually homogenized in
the same tubes using disposable Fisherbrand™ Pellet Pestles (Thermo Fisher Scientific,
Waltham, MA, USA) until fully dispersed. For further lysis, 40 µL of Proteinase K and 20 µL of
RNase A were added, and the samples were vortexed for 1 minute before incubating at 70°C for

10 minutes. Extracted DNA was used for shotgun metagenomic library preparation using
standard Illumina DNA Prep chemistry, and sequenced on an Illumina NovaSeq platform.

Gut microbiome bioinformatic analysis

Paired-end stool microbiome samples were quality-controlled with a pipeline wrapping portions
of the bbtools suite (version 38.92) that we have leveraged in other work[74,75]. Initially, clumpify
[parameters: optical=f, dupesubs=2, dedupe=t] grouped the reads. Subsequently, bbduk
[parameters: qout=33, trd=t, hdist=1, k=27, ktrim="r", mink=8, overwrite=true, trimq=10,
qtrim='rl', threads=10, minlength=51, maxns=-1, minbasefrequency=0.05, ecco=f] was used to
excise adapter contamination. Tadpole [parameters: mode=correct, ecc=t, ecco=t] was used to
correct sequencing errors. The repair function of bbtools was used to remove any unmatching
reads. Finally, to eliminate potential human contaminants, Bowtie2 [parameters: --very-
sensitive-local] was employed for alignment to the human genome.
1026
To generate alignment-based taxonomic annotations for our database, we used three different
approaches, each with the default settings: MetaPhlAn4 (V4.0.4, aligned against the default
database), Kraken2/Bracken (V2.1.2, aligned against against the complete genomes for
microorganisms on RefSeq as of October 2022), and Xtree (V0.92i, aligned against the
Genome Taxonomy Database r207).[76–80] Xtree, a k-mer based aligner, produces coverage
statistics, including global coverage (total genome coverage) and unique coverage (reads
mapping to a specific genome in the database). Bacterial genomes were filtered based on a
threshold of 10% global and/or 5% unique coverage. The relative abundances for Xtree were
calculated by dividing the total reads aligned to a specific genome by the total number of reads
aligning to all genomes. MetaPhlAn4 automatically computed relative abundances. For the
Kraken2 output, Bracken was utilized to determine relative abundances. These classifiers each
use different databases and provide slightly different perspectives on the composition of the
samples in question so, as a result, we opt to provide all three of their outputs in the resource
described here. In the main text, however, we report results from MetaPhlAn4, as it is well-
established for gut microbiome studies and, based on this study and our prior work[74], tends to
have a reasonable tradeoff between sensitivity and specificity. Alpha and beta diversities were
computed using the vegan package in R on log-transformed relative abundance data [81]. Unless
otherwise noted, software was executed with default settings.

LC-MS analysis of polar plasma metabolites

Plasma samples (10 µl) were extracted with 90 µl of cold acetonitrile: methanol: formic acid
(75:25:0.2, v/v/v) containing ^{15}N- and ^{13}C-labeled amino acid standards (MSK-A2-1.2,
Cambridge Isotope Laboratories, Inc). Samples were vortexed vigorously followed by
centrifugation for 30 minutes (20,000 x g, 4°C). The supernatant was transferred to an LC vial
and 5 µl was injected onto a ZIC-pHILIC (150 × 2.1mm, 5 µm particle size; EMD Millipore)
column. Polar extracts were separated on a Vanquish UHPLC coupled to a QExactive orbitrap
mass spectrometer as previously described[82]. The samples were analyzed in a randomized
order with QC samples injected every 4 hours for batch normalization. A pool of all the biological
samples was prepared and analyzed using a data-dependent acquisition method. The raw data
were searched against an internal metabolite library containing >200 polar metabolites using a
2-ppm mass tolerance and a 6 second retention time threshold relative to authentic standards.
Relative metabolite abundances were quantified using Skyline Daily (v21.1).

Lipidomics analysis

Lipidomics analysis were performed by LC-MS/MS followed the protocol described previously[83].
Briefly, samples were supplemented with internal standards, and 2mL of isopropyl alcohol:
water: ethyl acetate (30:10:60; v/v:v) was added to the extracts. Samples were subjected to two
rounds of vortex and sonication followed by 10-min centrifugation at 4,000 rpm. The supernatant
or top layer was used as lipid extract and subjected to LC-MS/MS for analysis of sphingolipid
species. The MUSC Lipidomics Shared Resources performed lipid extraction and analyses.
Inorganic phosphates (Pi) or total protein amounts were used for normalization.

Fecal metabolomics (Metabolon)

Global untargeted metabolomics of mouse fecal samples was performed by Metabolon, Inc.
(Durham, NC, USA) using ultrahigh-performance liquid chromatography–tandem mass
spectrometry (UHPLC–MS/MS) platform. Frozen fecal samples were shipped on dry ice and
stored at –80 °C until processing. Samples were prepared at a constant mass-to-volume ratio,
and recovery standards were added prior to extraction for quality control. Proteins were
precipitated with methanol under vigorous shaking to dissociate small molecules bound to
protein matrices and recover chemically diverse metabolites. Following centrifugation, the
resulting supernatant was divided into multiple fractions for analysis under positive and negative
ion conditions across reverse-phase (C18) and hydrophilic interaction (HILIC) chromatographic
columns.

Microbiome-diet associations (non-reversal)

We used a linear modeling approach to identify putative associations between microbiome
taxonomic relative abundances and dietary intake. In brief, for each timepoint and for each
taxon identified in a given cohort, we fit the following model:
1081

1) $ln(microbe\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Diet + \varepsilon$

The *microbe_abundance* variable is the relative abundance of a given microorganism where all
zero values have been replaced with a pseudocount of 0.5. The diet term corresponds to a
categorical variable with 8 levels, one for each high-fat diet and another for the control. The
control diet was the reference group. We adjusted for multiple testing across all models fit for a
given taxonomic classifier using the Benjamini-Hochberg approach. An association was
considered statistically significant at q < 0.05 and trending towards significance at q < 0.1. For
the results highlighted in the manuscript, we reported taxa that were statistically significant or
trending with a given diet and associated with at least two timepoints in the same direction.
1091

While numerous modeling strategies could be employed to analyze this dataset (e.g., non-linear
methods, mixed models incorporating multiple timepoints), we opted for a timepoint-by-timepoint
linear approach due to 1) its simplicity in identifying timepoint-specific microbiome shifts, the
ability to do statistical inference, and 3) and integrating the reversal analysis and non-reversal
analysis into a single, straightforward pipeline. The major downside to this approach is a loss of
power due to the number of associations fit and reliance on p-values, resulting in excessive
conservatism in reporting results.
1099

1100 For the time and sex-associated counts in Figure 2D, we fit the following two additional models,
1101 extracting the number of FDR-significant associations for the sex and time effects (β_2),
1102 respectively:
1103

2) $ln(microbe\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Diet + \beta_2 * Sex + \beta_3 * Sex * Diet + (1|Animal\,ID) + \varepsilon$

3) $\ln(microbe\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Diet + \beta_2 * Time + \beta_3 * Time * Diet + (1|Animal\,ID) +$
ε

We opted to fit these separate models to consider sex and time to avoid using one, large
overparameterized model with excess degrees of freedom and associated loss of power.
Having 1) additionally enabled a straightforward way to compare the reversal versus non-
reversal associations, matching timepoints in the different mice.
1111
Analysis of the reversal cohorts was with the same modeling strategy to the non-reversal
cohorts. We fit the same model specification, annotating for a given model, however, if a mouse
was on or off the diet referenced in the categorical variable. For example, mice that underwent
the four-month reversals would be considered "on diet" at month 1 and "off diet" at month 9. The
interpretation of the beta coefficient on the diet variable, therefore, would enable insight into the
impact of the diet after it was reverted to control. For example, if the association between the
ketogenic diet and a certain organism was FDR significant and negative relative to control both
before and after reversal, the interpretation would be that the impact of the ketogenic diet on
that organism lingered. If an association were negative before reversal and non-significant,
positive, or extremely low in absolute value, after reversal, that would indicate a reversion to
normality.

Longitudinal analysis of microbiome trends
Filtering for taxa highlighted as trending or significant by the statistical analysis, we used c-
means clustering to identify temporal signatures of microbiome response to dietary changes in
both the reversal and non-reversal cohorts. For the non-reversals, we selected microbial taxa
that were associated with ($q < 0.1$) at least two on-diet timepoints. For the reversals, we
selected taxa that were associated with at least two timepoints after the four month reversals
and one timepoint (the only one available) after the nine month reversals. Before clustering, we
computed the L2FC of each taxon relative to the control diet. These values are what are
visualized in Figure 3. For the clustering itself (cmeans function in R, iter.max set to 2,000), we
tested c-means for c = 16, c = 18, and c = 20. We report the values for c = 20 in the text, though
the results were similar for all three in terms of exemplar trends displayed and the
taxonomic/dietary compositions of each.

Analysis of dietary alterations as a function of variation in baseline microbiome composition
We again used a linear modeling strategy to analyze the impact of differences in baseline
microbiome on response to diet as described in the study design section above. We fit three
models, using the same pseudocount replacement of 0.5 for 0 values as above, filtering for
microbes that were present in more than three samples. In all models below the Cohort variable
is a binary encoding of the BC versus the H+ the latter referring to mice with a distinct baseline
microbiome due to their source lab. Animal_ID is a unique identifier for each mouse. We
adjusted p-values for multiple hypothesis testing as above and used the same cutoffs.
1143
1144 For all timepoints and both cohorts, we fit a mixed model comparing the organisms abundant in
1145 each cohort.
1146
1147   4) $\ln(microbe\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Cohort + (1|Animal\_ID) + \varepsilon$
1148 We next used data from just the H+ cohort in order to ascertain the within-cohort diet-specific
1149 effects:
1150
1151   5) $\ln(microbe\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Diet + \varepsilon$
1152 Finally, we used data from both the H+ cohort and original cohort to fit an interaction model to

1153   gauge diet-specific differences.
1154

6) $ln(microbe\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Diet * Cohort + \varepsilon$

We next sought to categorize cohort-associated taxa into three groups that correspond to the
three heatmaps in Supplementary Figure 2: 1) Same response to diet between cohorts, 2)
Discrete response to diet between cohorts, 3) Organisms uniquely found in the H+ cohort. For
group 1, we identified organisms/diets with q < 0.1 in equation 4 and with the same direction of
beta coefficients between the cohorts. For group 2, we identified organisms/diets with q < 0.1 in
equation 4 and opposite beta coefficients between the cohorts. For group 3, we identified
organisms with q < .1 in equation 3) that were not found in the BC.

Diet-microbiome-metabolite associations

We computed associations between diets and metabolites using another linear modeling
approach of the following form:
1166

1167   7) $log10(metabolite\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * Diet + \varepsilon$

1168 *Metabolite_abundance* is the mean of the metabolite abundance of a given fecal metabolite
1169 across the two timepoints metabolomics was completed (5 and 7 months). The *Diet* variable is
1170 defined categorically as in previous regressions. P-values and significance cutoffs were
1171 adjusted and defined as before, respectively.
1172

We computed associations between microbial features and metabolites using two different
methods: as LASSO regression and another linear modeling approach. For the LASSO
regression, for each metabolite we used the cv.glmnet function from R's glmnet package on
centered and scaled microbe and metabolite, log10 transformed, relative abundance data. We
replaced 0 values with a 0.5 pseudocount. We fit the following model, where *n* is the total
number of microbes. To reduce the space of microorganisms we were interrogating, we only
selected non single-genome-bin (SGB) organisms (i.e., prioritizing species with cultured
representatives). For metabolites, to reduce auto-correlation as well as the entire search space,
we clustered (hierarchically, cutpoint of 0.75) based on abundance and selected, when possible,
metabolites with annotations as cluster representatives. In the event a cluster had multiple
annotated metabolites, the one with the highest prevalence was selected.
1184

1185   8) $log10(metabolite\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_{1,n} * log10(microbe\_abundance_{1,n}) + \varepsilon$

1186

1187 As a more conservative approach, reported in the Supplement, we fit the following linear model
1188 for each microbe-metabolite pair. Again, we used log10 transformations on the relative
1189 abundances of the microbes and metabolites, replacing 0 values with a 0.5 pseudocount and fit
1190 following model:
1191

1192   9) $log10(metabolite\_abundance) \sim \beta_0 + \beta_1 * log10(microbe\_abundance) + \varepsilon$

1193

We defined significant/trending values and adjusted for multiple testing as before.

Analysis of single-cell DEGs

Sequencing reads were aligned to the mouse reference genome and quantified using Cell
Ranger (10x Genomics). The resulting count matrices were processed in R using the Seurat
package. Cells were filtered based on the number of detected genes, total UMI counts, and
mitochondrial gene content to remove low-quality cells and potential doublets. Gene expression

data were log-normalized, and the top 2,000 highly variable genes were identified for downstream analysis. Cell cycle scores were computed using canonical S and G2/M phase markers, and cell cycle phase was assigned to each cell. To correct for batch effects across samples, datasets were integrated using Seurat's canonical correlation analysis (CCA) workflow via FindIntegrationAnchors and IntegrateData. Principal component analysis (PCA) was performed on the integrated assay, and uniform manifold approximation and projection (UMAP) was used for two-dimensional visualization. Graph-based clustering was performed using the shared nearest neighbor (SNN) algorithm at a resolution of 0.9, yielding distinct clusters that were annotated into 21 cell types—including immune populations (B cells, NK cells, dendritic cells, plasmacytoid dendritic cells, CD4+ and CD8+ T cells), epithelial lineages (stem cells, transit-amplifying cells, enterocytes at multiple maturation stages, Paneth cells and progenitors, goblet cells, enteroendocrine subtypes, and tuft cells), and erythrocytes—based on known marker gene expression. The final dataset comprised 20,747 genes across 90,971 cells. Pseudobulk count matrices were constructed by summing raw reads across all cells for each mouse-cell type combination, and genes with less than 10 reads were filtered out. For each high-fat diet group with at least two male biological replicates, DESeq2 size-factor normalization and dispersion estimation were performed using default settings, and differential expression with the control group was assessed using a negative binomial generalized linear model with diet as the sole covariate. A Wald test for statistical significance was applied, and the Benjamini-Hochberg procedure was used to adjust for multiple comparisons. In parallel, single-cell differential expression was conducted using Wilcoxon rank-sum tests (Libra) comparing each high-fat diet group to control within cell type, using biological replicate as the unit of replication and restricting analyses to male mice and cell types with ≥50 cells per contrast.

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Bacteria with the most fecal metabolomic associations

Legend:
- Antioxidant Metabolism
- Bile Acid Metabolism
- Carbohydrate Metabolism
- Lipid Metabolism
- Neurotransmitter Metabolism
- Nucleotide Metabolism
- Other Metabolism
- Polyphenol Metabolism
- Steroid Metabolism
- Vitamin Metabolism

Lipid Metabolism

Persistently altered metabolites post–reversal (nominal significance)

A

Male 12–month DEGs by cell type (>100 DEGs) and diet (Wilcoxon)

B