

The Center of Excellence for Bioinformatics at Ghent University has the pleasure to welcome you at the seminar of

Prof. Jeroen Raes, University of Brussels (VIB)

Enterotypes of the human gut microbiome

The functioning of the human body constitutes a complex interplay of human processes and 'services' rendered to us by the 1000 trillion microbial cells we carry. Disruption of this natural microbial flora is linked to infection, autoimmune diseases and cancer, but detailed knowledge about our microbial component remains scarce. Recent technological advances such as metagenomics and next-generation sequencing permit the study of the various microbiota of the human body at a previously unseen scale. These advances have allowed the initiation of the International Human Microbiome Project, aiming at genomically characterizing the totality of human-associated microorganisms (the "microbiome"). Here, I will present our work on characterizing the human intestinal flora based upon the analysis of high-throughput meta-omics (metagenomics, meta-transcriptomics, metaproteomics) data. I will show how the healthy gut flora can be classified into three major types ("enterotypes") that are independent from host nationality, age, bmi and gender.

Date: February 28th 2012, 11 am

Place: Main Auditorium, Technologiemark 927, 9052 - Zwijnaarde