



**SINTEF**

70 år  
1950-2020

# MICROBIOTA@SINTEF

Ýrr A. Mørch and Tonje M. B. Heggeset

Blue Legasea Webinar 11.12.2020

## Department of Biotechnology og Nanomedicine



**Research Director**  
Trond E. Ellingsen



**Biotechnology**  
Håvard Sletta



**Massespectrometry**  
Sjoerd Hak



**Polymer particles and  
surface chemistry**  
Heidi Johnsen

Projects and infrastructure

Norwegian and international  
research groups and industry

78 employees  
120 projects

## How we work

Competence, methods and technology  
established through research-led  
national and international projects

Using expertise

Driving competence

Main goals for SINTEF

Solve challenges for industry and  
develop technology for a better  
society

# Markets, products, core competence

Pharmaceuticals



Aquaculture



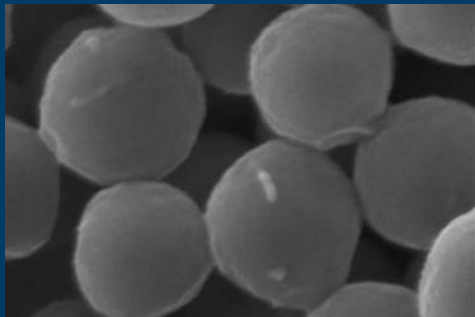
Biomass/Biorefining/  
Biopolymers/Enzymes



(Bio-)Chemicals



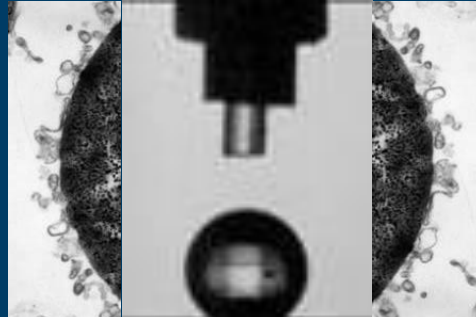
Food and water



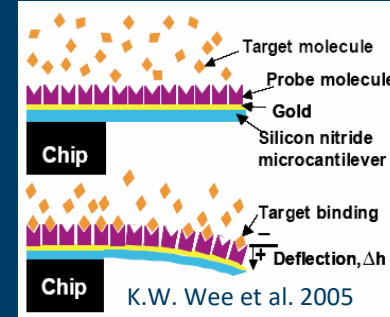
Nanomedicine



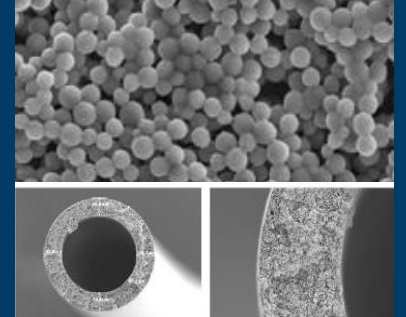
Analytics R&D  
Services



Coatings/surfaces



Sensors/tracers



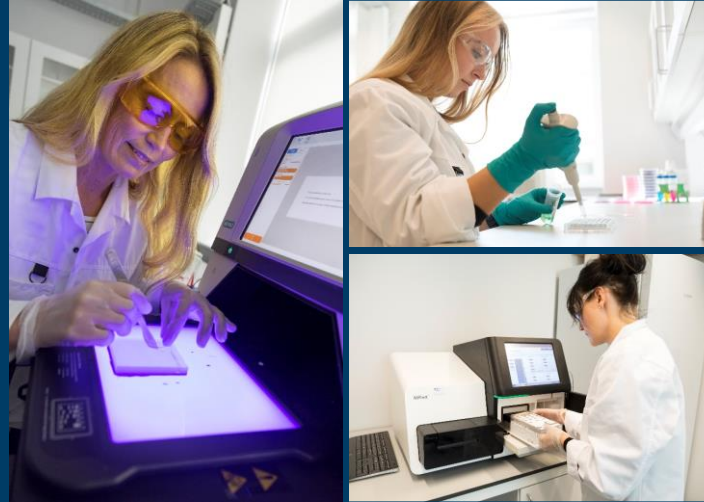
Membranes/particles

# State-of-the-art infrastructure platforms

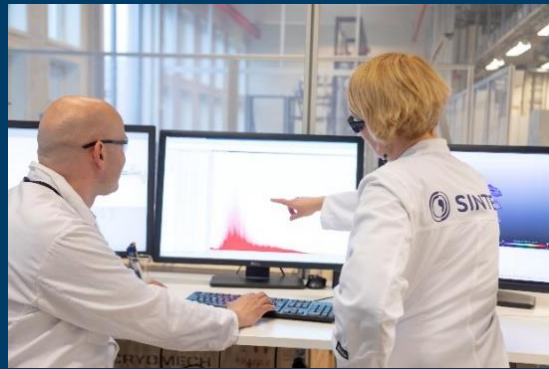
Microbial fermentation and cell culture



Molecular biology and bioinformatics



Robotic high-throughput screening



Advanced analysis

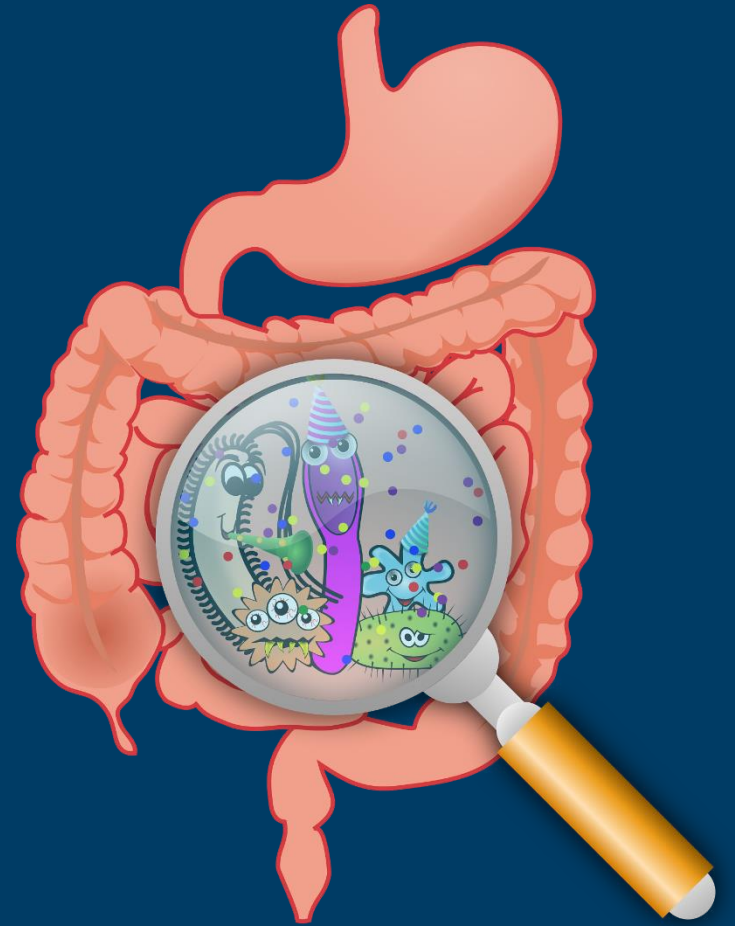


Particles, membranes and surface modification

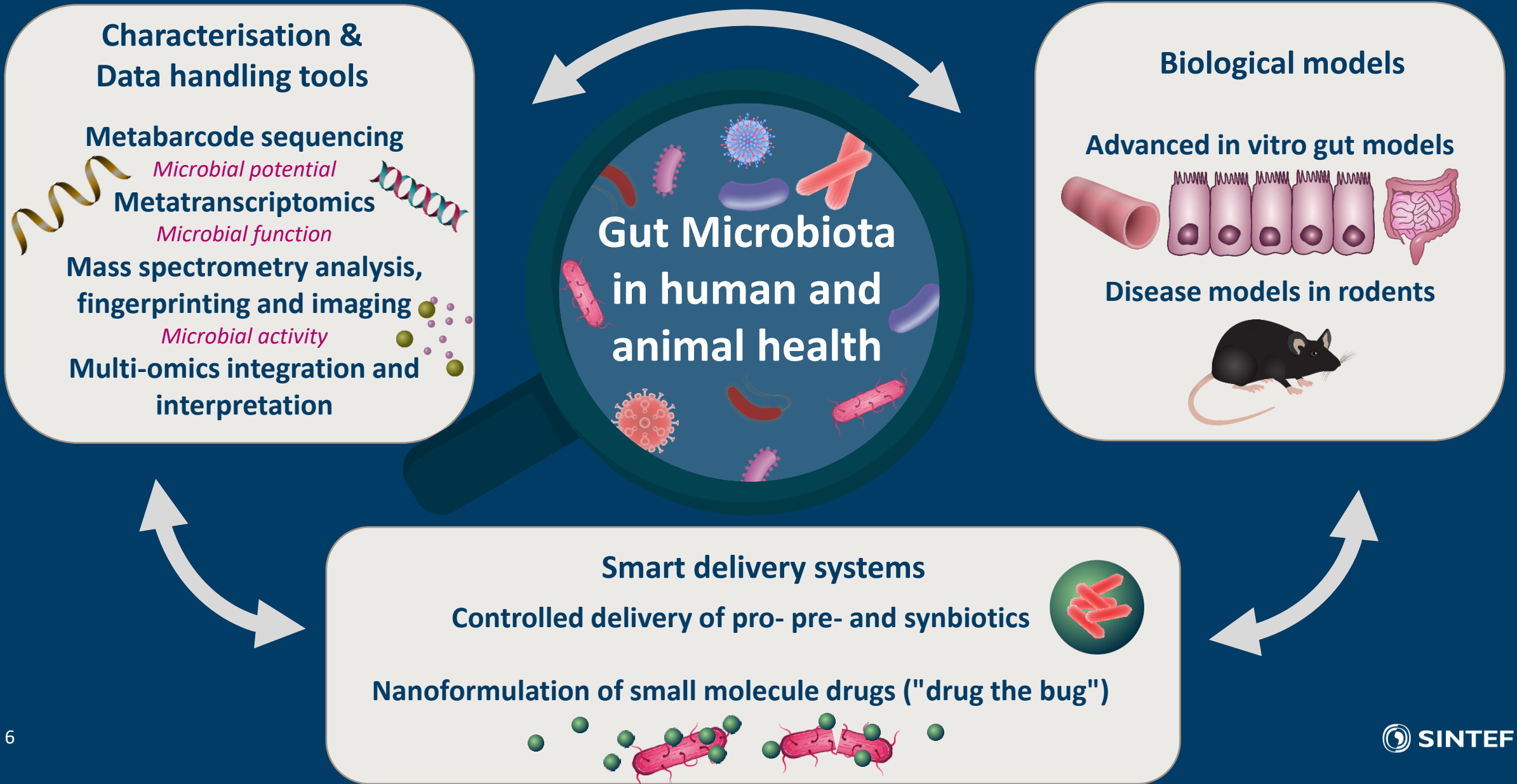
# Microbiota@SINTEF

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- SINTEF has unique competence and infrastructure in a range of the technology components needed to fill important technology and knowledge gaps within gut microbiota research.
- We are in the process of establishing a complete toolbox within selected areas of gut microbiota research to support national and international research activity.



# Microbiota@SINTEF

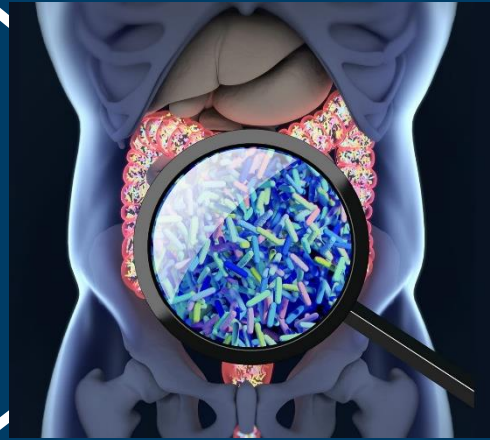


# Characterization and data handling tools

## Microbial activity

### Metabolome

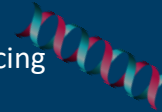
- Mass spectrometry analysis
- MS imaging



## Microbial potential

### Metagenome

- Metabarcoding sequencing (which organisms)
- DNA-sequencing



## Metadata

Patient data, model data

## Microbial function

### Metatranscriptome

- RNA-sequencing
- RT-qPCR (targeted)



## Integration, Translation & Interpretation

- Network analysis/mapping
- Multi-omics integration
- Multivariate data analysis
- Data handling

## Implementation

- Microbiota characterization in model systems and human samples
- Effect of pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, and (pre/pro/syn) biotics on microbiota
- Biodistribution
- Host-bacteria interactions
- Health-microbiota relationships

## Infrastructure

- Sequencing (MiSeq, MinION)
- QX200 Droplet Digital PCR System
- Robotics platform
- Mass spectrometry platform:
  - LC-MS/MS, GC-MS, GC-MS/MS
  - High resolution MS
  - Ultra-high-resolution MS
  - MALDI-MS
  - MS Imaging
  - Inorganic analysis: ICP-MS
- Data storage





# Mass-spectrometry fingerprinting and imaging

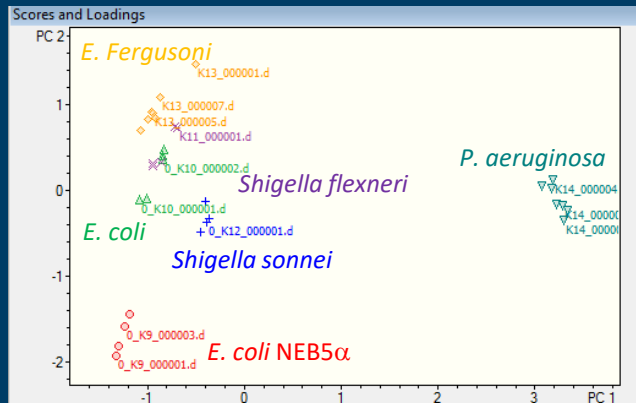
## Microbial genotyping

Aim: Fast sub-typing of bacterial strains

- Mass spectrometry typing of bacterial strains
- MALDI- High resolution MS
- Multivariate data analysis



*Shigella flexneri*      *Shigella sonnei*      *Escherichia Fergusoni*



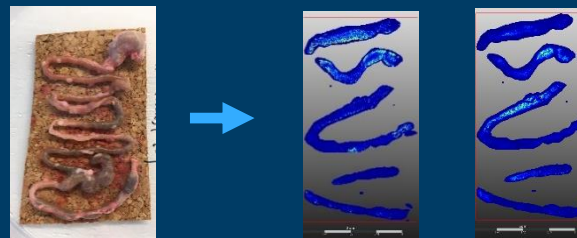
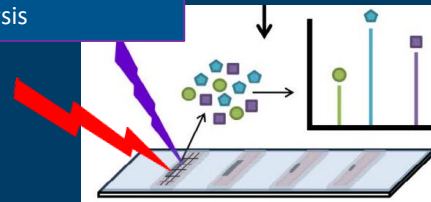
## Microbiome profiling



Embedding

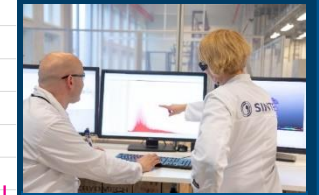
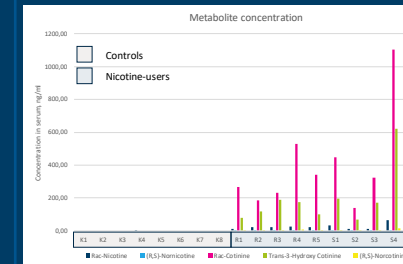
Frozen sectioning

Imaging metabolite analysis



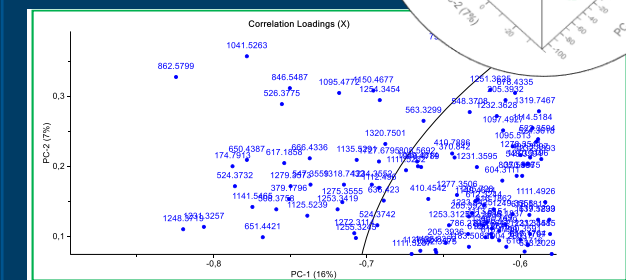
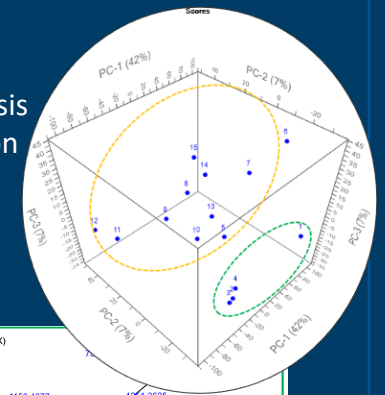
Tentatively identified components include: lipids, fosfatidylcholine & amino acids

## Metabolomics/Lipidomics



FT-ICR-MS ultra high resolution MS

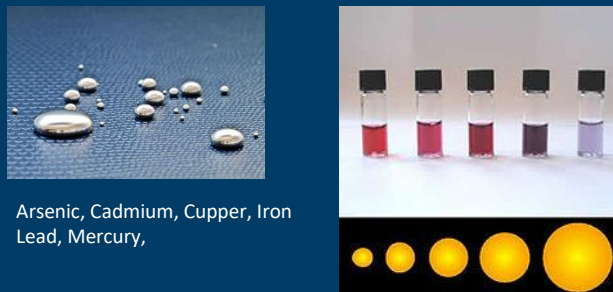
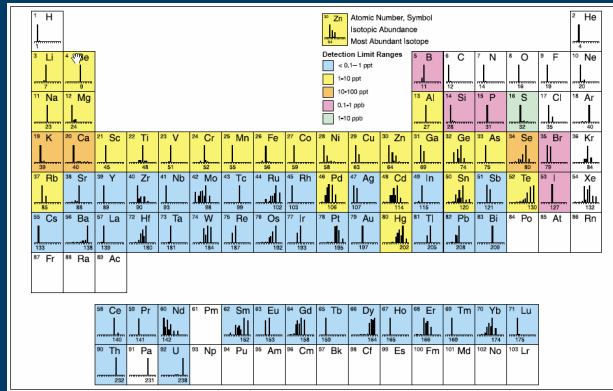
- Mass spectrometry
- Targeted analysis,
- Non-targeted analysis
- Ultra-High resolution MS
- Multivariate data analysis



# Environmental & Food/Feed analysis

## Inorganic analysis

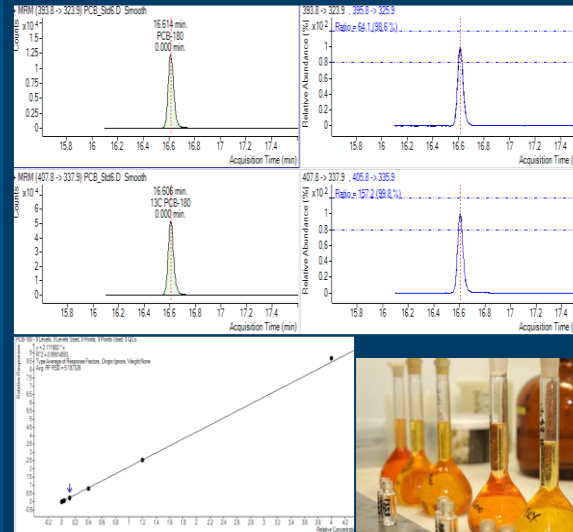
- ICP-MS
- Sample work-up and analysis



Arsenic, Cadmium, Copper, Iron  
Lead, Mercury,

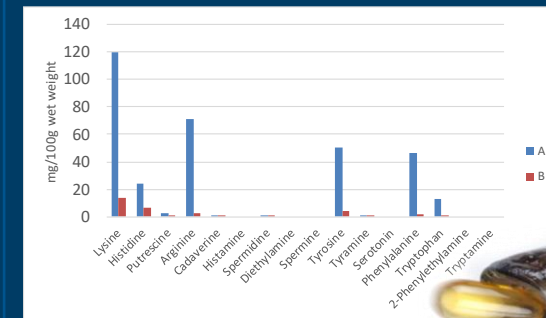
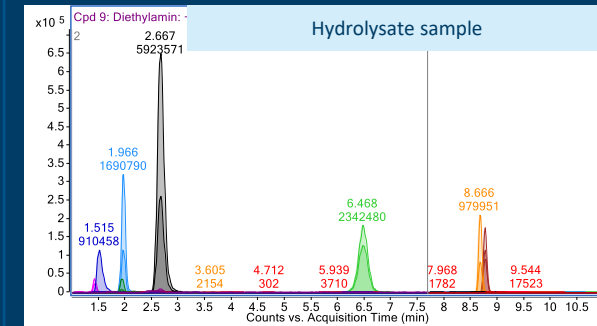
## PAH/PCB/Dioxin...

- GC-MS/MS
- Sample work-up and analysis
- Internal standards
- Validation



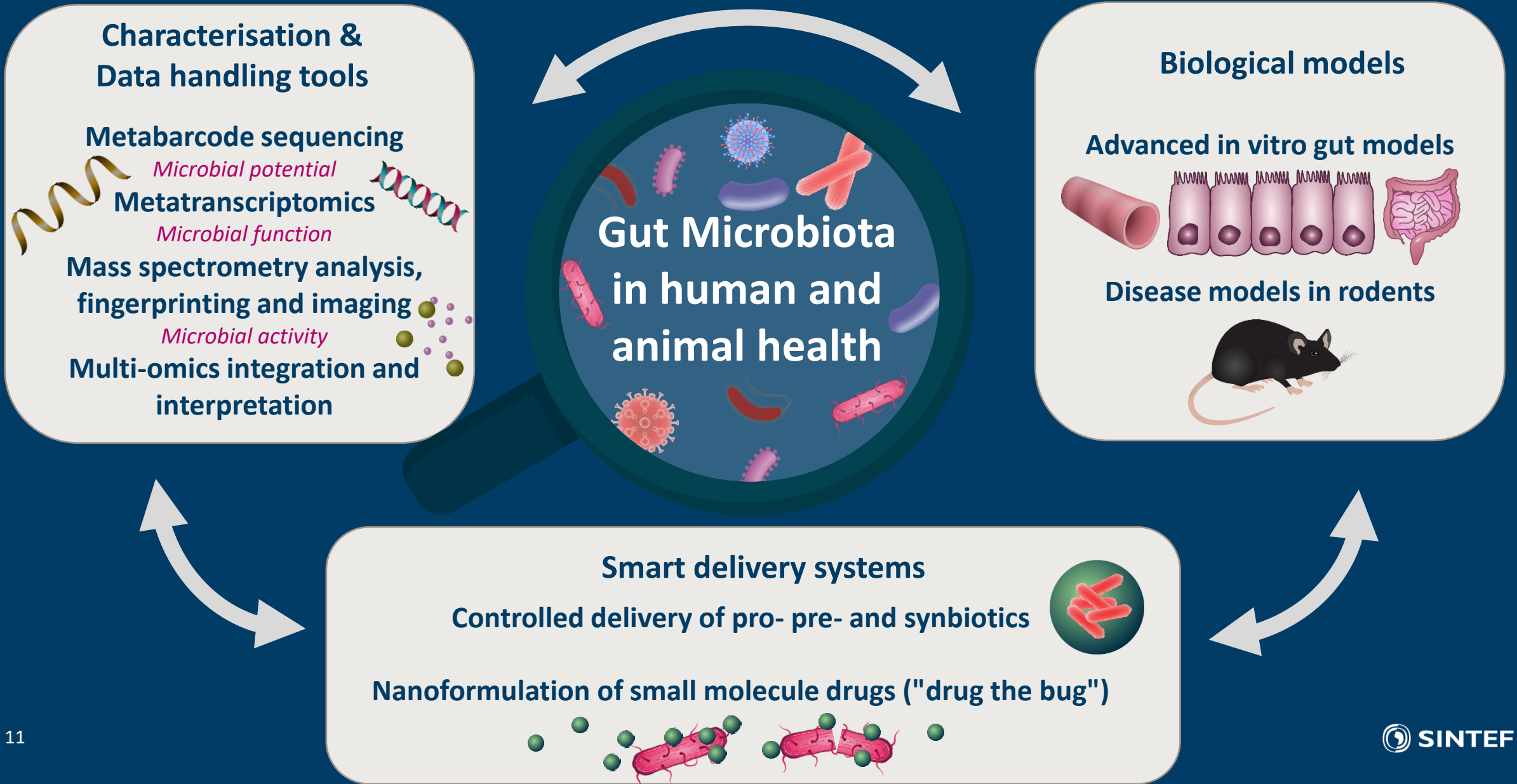
Following Commission Regulations (EU)  
589/2014 & (EU) 709/2014

## Microplastic, PAH, pesticides, toxins, fatty acids, vitamins, biogenic amines



Performed according to ISO 17025:2017

# Microbiota@SINTEF

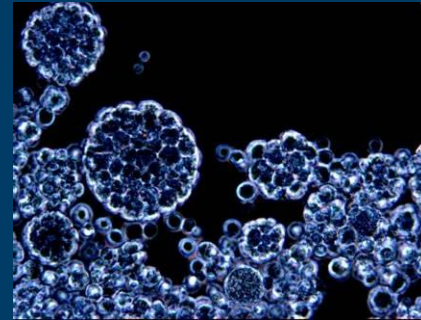


# Cultivation and processing

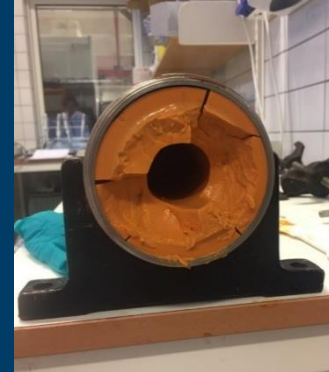
High competence in the cultivation of microorganisms from ml to pilot scale fermentation



Inoculation for pilot scale fermentation



$\omega$ -3 FA-producing thraustochytrid



Centrifugation



Cell paste

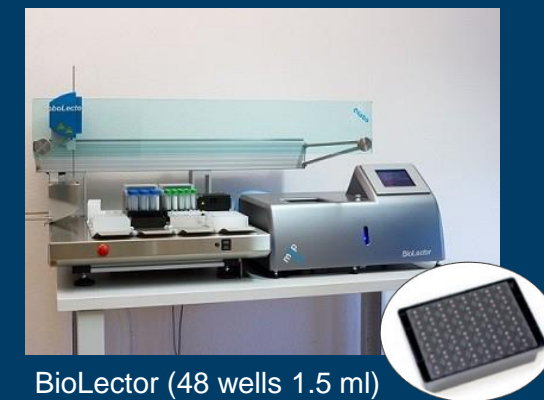
Example:

Microbial production of lipids and the  $\omega$ -3 fatty acid DHA to meet feed demands from the fish farming industry (supply from fish oil is not sufficient)

*How can we increase the productivity?*

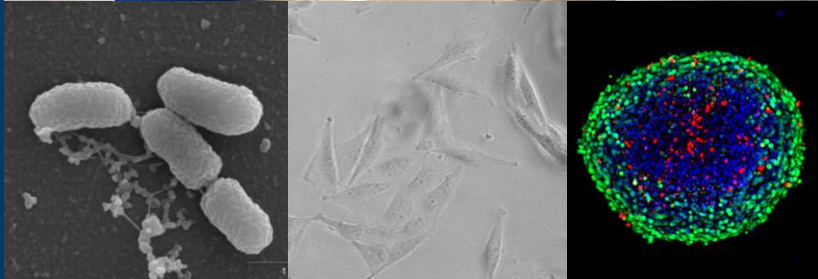
Other relevant example:

- bioactive oligosaccharides from algae



BioLector (48 wells 1.5 ml)

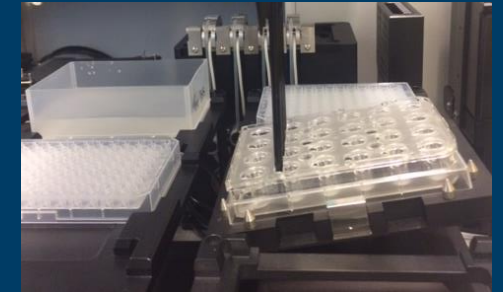
# Biological models – in vitro



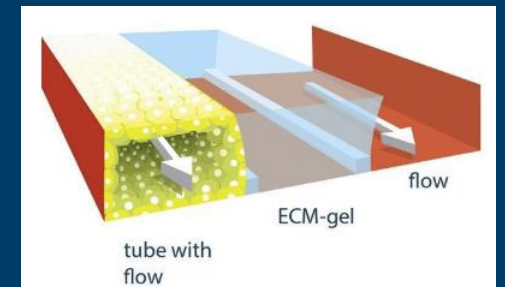
- **More than 70 mammalian cell lines available**  
In vitro efficacy and toxicity
- **Biosafety II approved**  
Assays with a range of multi-resistant microbial strains implemented (G-, G +, fungi)
- **2D and 3D in vitro assays**  
High throughput screening using 3D cell culture models for improved in vivo relevance
- **Fully automated *in vitro* model systems**  
Barrier assays: colon, lung. Image based readouts
- **Infrastructure for anaerobic cultivation**

## To be implemented for gut microbiota research

- OrganoPlate® system from MIMETAS (gut-on-a-chip)
- Effect of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals on gut microbiota



Liquid handling robot sampling from the basolateral side during fully automated CaCO-2/HT29 transwell assays.



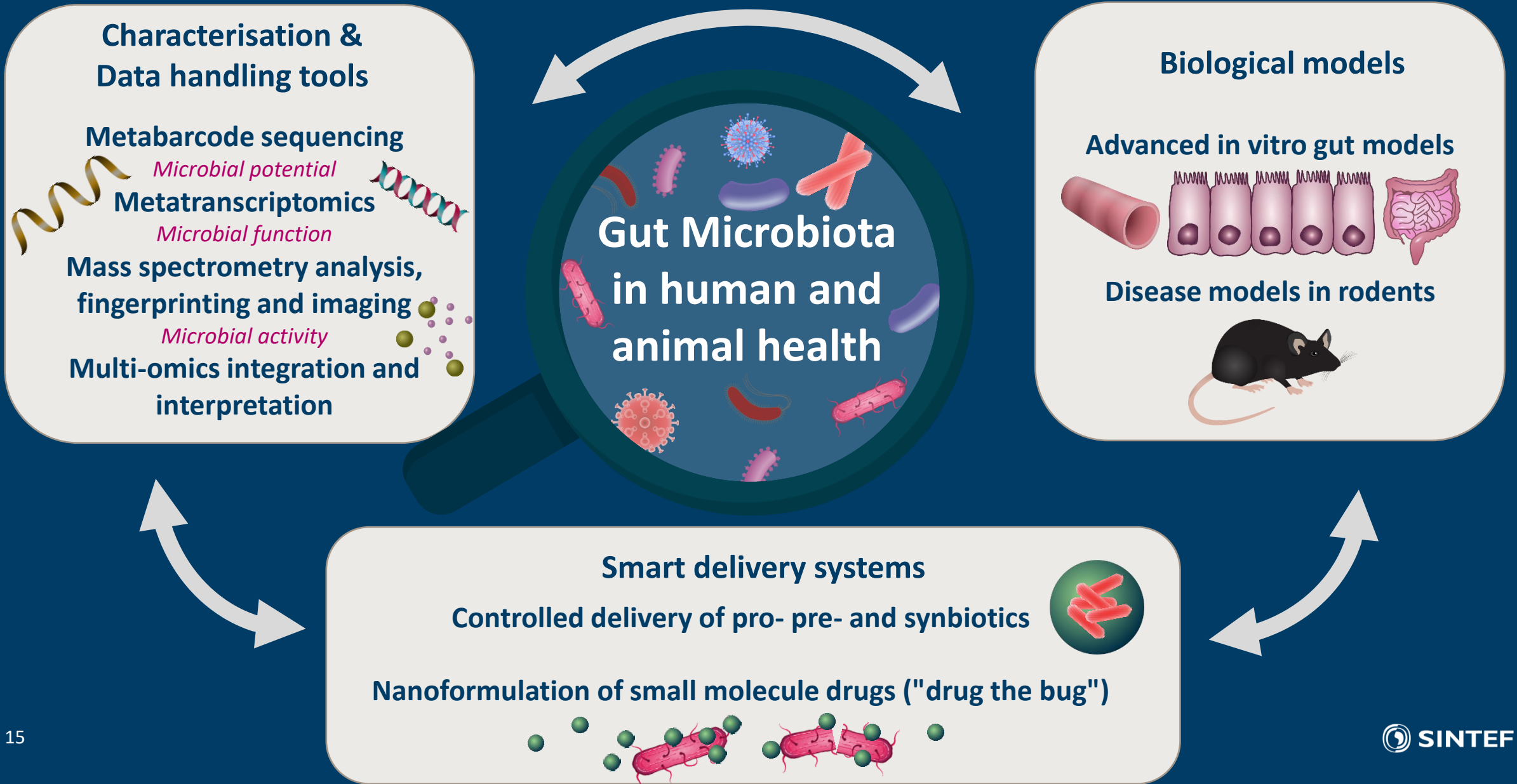
Cross-section of OrganoPlate® 3-lane  
<https://mimetas.com/page/organoready-caco-2>

# Biological models – in vivo

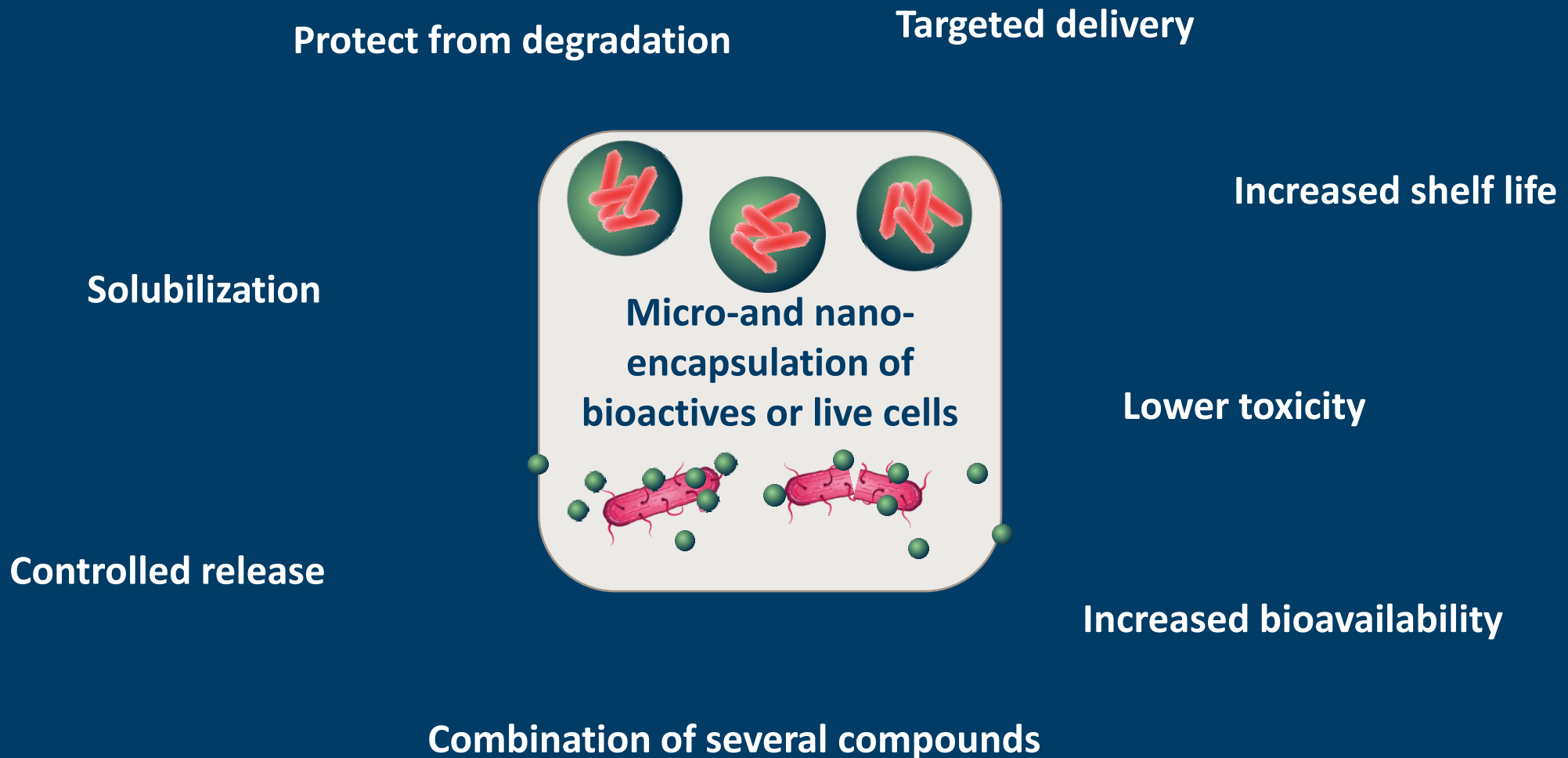


- **Treatment and effect**  
Efficacy, pharmacokinetics and biodistribution of pharmaceuticals and nutraceuticals in mouse models of diseases
- **Safety**  
In vivo safety evaluation of substances in mice and rats
- **Administration methods**  
Intravenous and local injections, surgical techniques, oral
- **Imaging systems**  
Whole animal imaging, ultrasound, animal PET/MRI, MS imaging, multiphoton and confocal microscopes
- **Microbiota analysis in rodents**
- **To be implemented for gut microbiota research**  
Inflammatory bowel disease and colorectal cancer models

# Microbiota@SINTEF

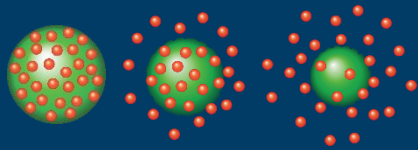


# Smart delivery





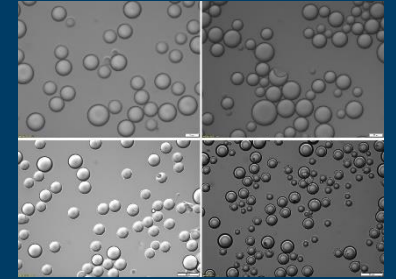
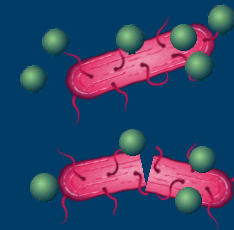
# Competence and expertise on smart delivery



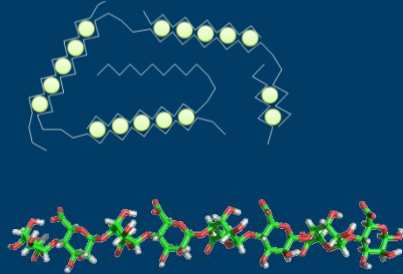
Programmable release profiles and release studies



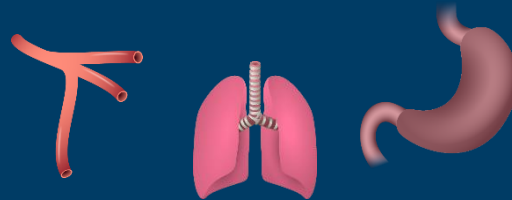
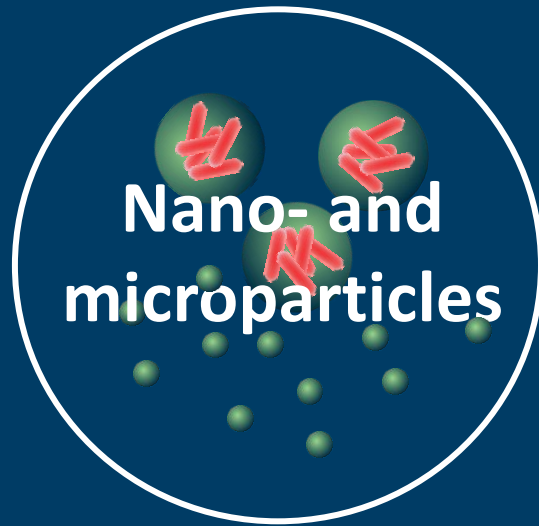
Various encapsulation techniques



Antibiotics, vaccines, anti-cancer, anti-inflammatory and anti-fungal drugs, human and bacterial cells, nutraceuticals, vitamins,  $\omega$ -3/fish oil, odours



Degradable natural and synthetic materials tailor-made for smart delivery



Various administration routes



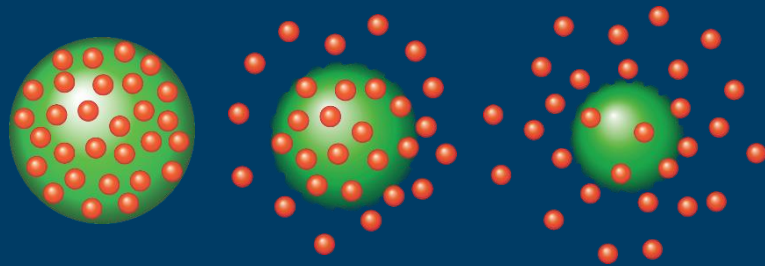
Advanced characterisation

# Smart delivery for targeting gut microbiota

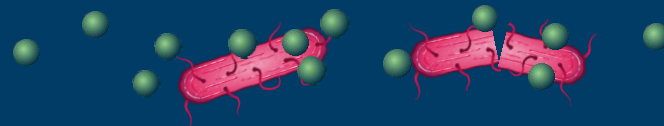
For human and animal health and welfare

Nano/microformulation of bioactives

Controlled release



"Drug the bug"



Controlled delivery of pro-, pre- and synbiotics

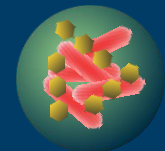
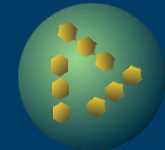
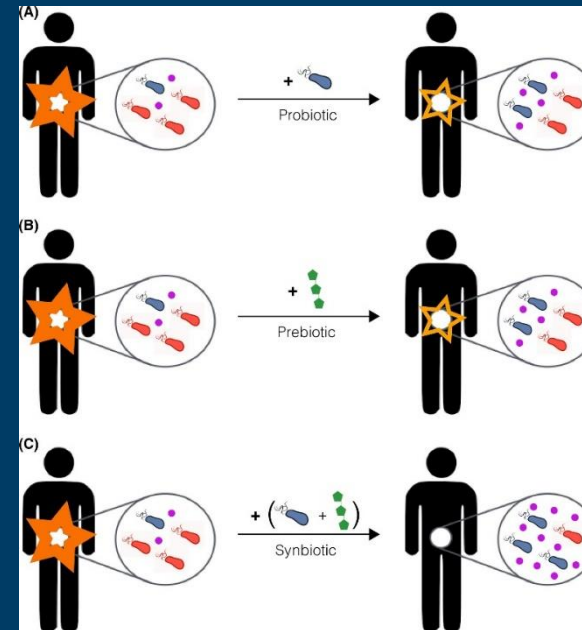


Image: Gurry, Microbial Technology, 2017, 10, 1070-1073

# Closing remarks

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- Gut microbiota is a new strategic research area at SINTEF
- Through internal funding we are currently developing novel methods and building competence to support gut microbiota research
- We are looking for industrial and academic collaborations where we can contribute with our state-of-the art infrastructure and broad competence in ongoing or new projects

**Contact us:**

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Tonje Heggeset: [tonje.heggeset@sintef.no](mailto:tonje.heggeset@sintef.no)





— **70 years** —  
1950-2020

Technology for a better society