Imagine a Future Without Childhood Malnutrition

OpenBiome is accelerating microbiome science to improve health for all. We believe the next generation of scientific advancements will come from our own bodies—the human microbiome—and that these breakthroughs will profoundly transform global health. These benefits will only be realized if everyone, everywhere can access this groundbreaking science. OpenBiome fills a critical gap by partnering with leading researchers, clinicians, and innovators to advance and ensure access to novel and affordable microbiome therapeutics.

Microbiome therapeutics have the potential to profoundly reduce the burden of malnutrition, which affects millions of children and adolescents worldwide. The standard interventions such as ready-to-use therapeutic foods have been available for 30 years—but science has shown that malnutrition is complex and requires more innovative solutions. We aim to support research and therapies to prevent and treat malnutrition by targeting the microbiome.

We move research forward through robust and flexible partnerships. We put patients first and share our data publicly. As an award-winning nonprofit spun out of MIT, our first success began in 2012 with the development and scaling of investigational microbiota transplant therapy, commonly known as fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT), and catalyzed research on the gut microbiome.

To date, we have provided over 70,000 treatments for patients across the US in partnership with 1,300 medical centers including MGH, Memorial Slone Kettering and the NIH. We've been supported by the CDC, the Gates Foundation, CRI, Draper Richards Kaplan, and YCombinator, among others, and have been featured in the New York Times, CNN and the BBC for our innovative work.
We have already helped save lives and are ready to do it again.

Through state-of-the-art microbiology techniques, we and our partners are developing tailored treatments called live biotherapeutic products (LBPs) for malnutrition. By identifying specific good microbes and providing them in a nutritional supplement, the idea is to repopulate the gut with these beneficial bacterial species, rebalance the gut microbiome, and enable recovery from malnutrition. We ensure that our products meet the health needs of target populations and do not rely on non-representative data or research methods. Because our LBPs for malnutrition will include beneficial strains from different geographic regions, they are expected to be optimally effective globally.

In 2025, we will open an international phase 1 and 2 clinical trial testing an LBP to treat malnutrition in children aged 6-24 months in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Another project in the pipeline aims to develop a low-cost LBP to tackle anemia and micronutrient deficiency among adolescent girls in LMICs. We envision developing a product portfolio tailored for childhood, adolescent, and maternal health, and ultimately promoting a healthy gut microbiome across the lifespan.

What if we could harness the microbes within us to transform global health? Join us to accelerate research and therapies through microbiome science.

To learn more about the Malnutrition Program at OpenBiome or to discuss a potential collaboration, contact us by email at: info@openbiome.org