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# Bioavailability of amino acids, especially of tryptophan, in human milk and infant formulas



**Elise Charton**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> year of thesis)

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Amélie Deglaire (STLO)  
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Didier Dupont (STLO)

# SUMMARY

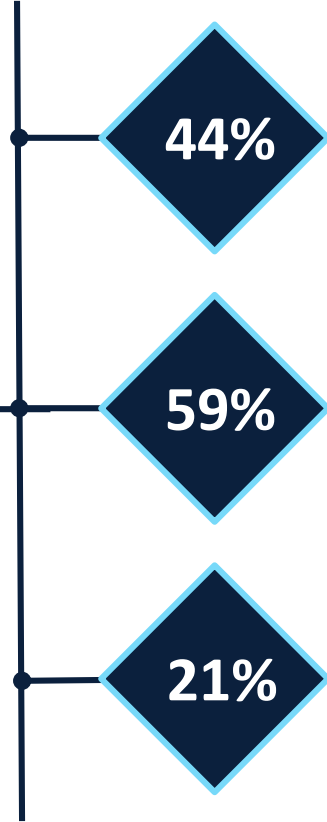
01 – Scientific context

02 – Objectives & strategy

03 – Results

04 - Perspectives

# 01 – Scientific context



Of infants are breastfed from BIRTH TO 5 MONTHS in the World

(UNICEF, 2011)

Of infants are breastfed AT BIRTH in France

(Epiplane data, 2012-2013)

Of infants are breastfed at 3 MONTHS in France

10% Exclusive breastfeeding  
11% Dominant breastfeeding

(Epiplane data, 2012-2013)

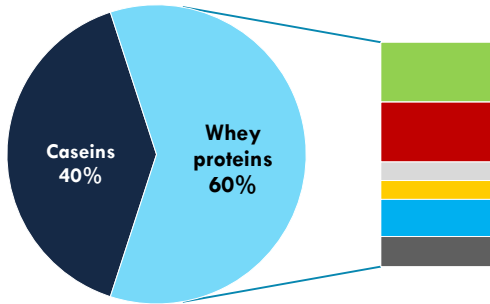
# 01 – Scientific context

- Caseins
- α-lactalbumin
- β-lactoglobulin
- lactoferrin
- serum albumin
- lysozyme
- immunoglobulins
- others

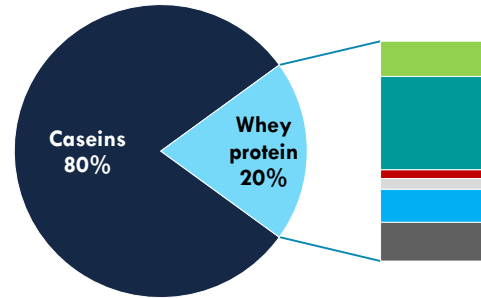
## How an Infant formula is made from Bovine milk?



**Human Milk**



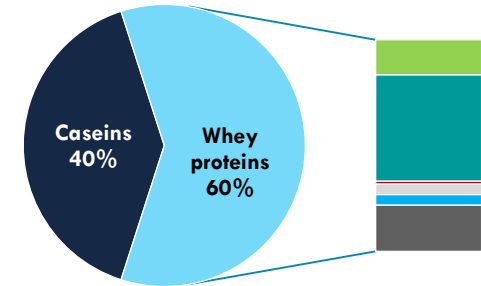
**Bovine Milk**



➔  
**Addition of  
WPC**



**Infant Formula**  
0 to 6 months



WPC : Whey proteins concentrate

Data : Chatterton et al., 2003 ; Nasirpour et al., 2005

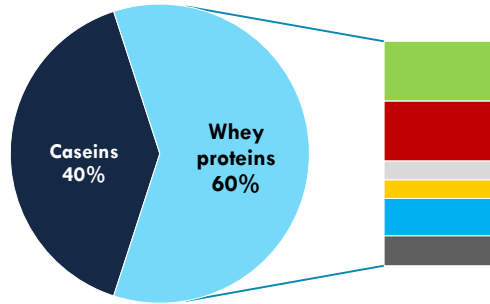
# 01 – Scientific context

- Caseins
- $\alpha$ -lactalbumin
- b-lactoglobulin
- lactoferrin
- serum albumin
- lysozyme
- immunoglobulins
- others

## How an Infant formula is made from Bovine milk?



### Human Milk



0,8 – 1,2 g protein / 100 mL

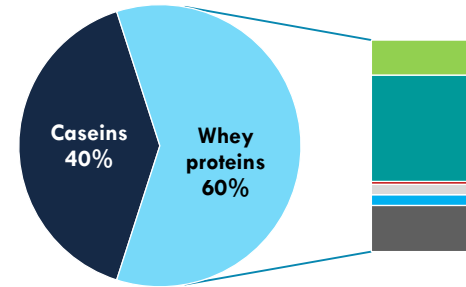
↳ 13,6 – 20,4 mg Trp/100 mL

(min, max, WHO, 2017)



### Infant Formula

0 to 6 months



1,1 – 1,8 g protein / 100 mL

(Min – Max, based on Total Nitrogen x 6.25 (EU Regulation 2016/127))

↳ ≤19,2 mg Trp/ 100 mL

(min, EU Regulation 2016/127)

➔ **Trp, a limit for reducing protein content in IF** (Lönnerdal & Lien, 2003)

**Only a few study on tryptophan content and its bioavailability in human milk** (Darragh, Moughan, 1998 ; Maathuis et al., 2017)

# 01 – Scientific context

**BIOAVAILABILITY:** nutrient fraction digested, absorbed by intestinal mucosa and available for subsequent body metabolic functions → **True ileal digestibility is a good proxy** (Fuller & Tomé, 2005)

## DIGESTIBILITY CALCULATION:

$$\text{Total N flow (g/g DMI)} = N_{\text{ileum}} \times \frac{\text{Marker}_{\text{meal}}}{\text{Marker}_{\text{ileum}}}$$

$$\text{Apparent ileal digestibility: Apparent ileal digestibility (\%)} = \frac{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}} - \text{Total N flow}_{\text{ileum}}}{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}}} \times 100$$

## Standardised digestibility (Rutherford et al., 2006):

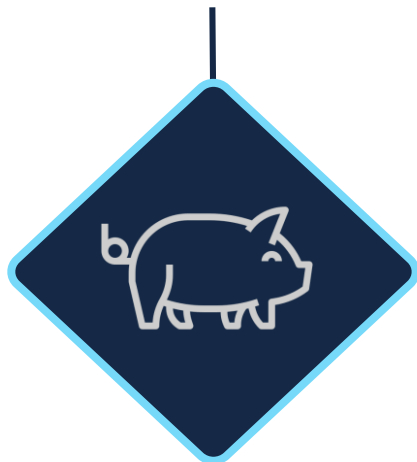
$$\text{Standardized ileal digestibility (\%)} = \frac{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}} - N_{\text{exogenous flow}}_{\text{ileum}}}{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Standardized ileal digestibility (\%)} = \frac{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}} - (\text{Total N flow}_{\text{ileum}} - N_{\text{endogenous flow}}_{\text{ileum}})}{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}}} \times 100$$

## 02 – Objectives

### Measure of AAs and Total Nitrogen ileal digestibility in human milk and IF

- ◆ In vivo experiment
- ◆ Digestibility calculation

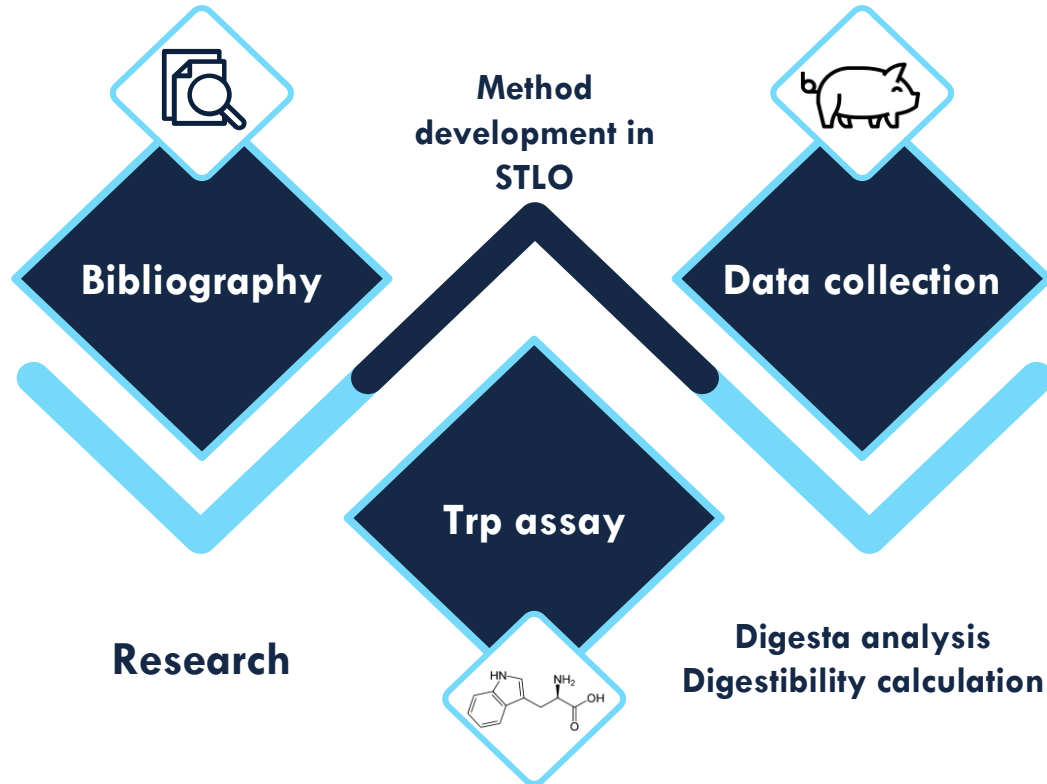


### Effect of Trp on infant development and diet effect

- ◆ Trp metabolites
- ◆ Intestinal and brain development



## 02 – Strategy

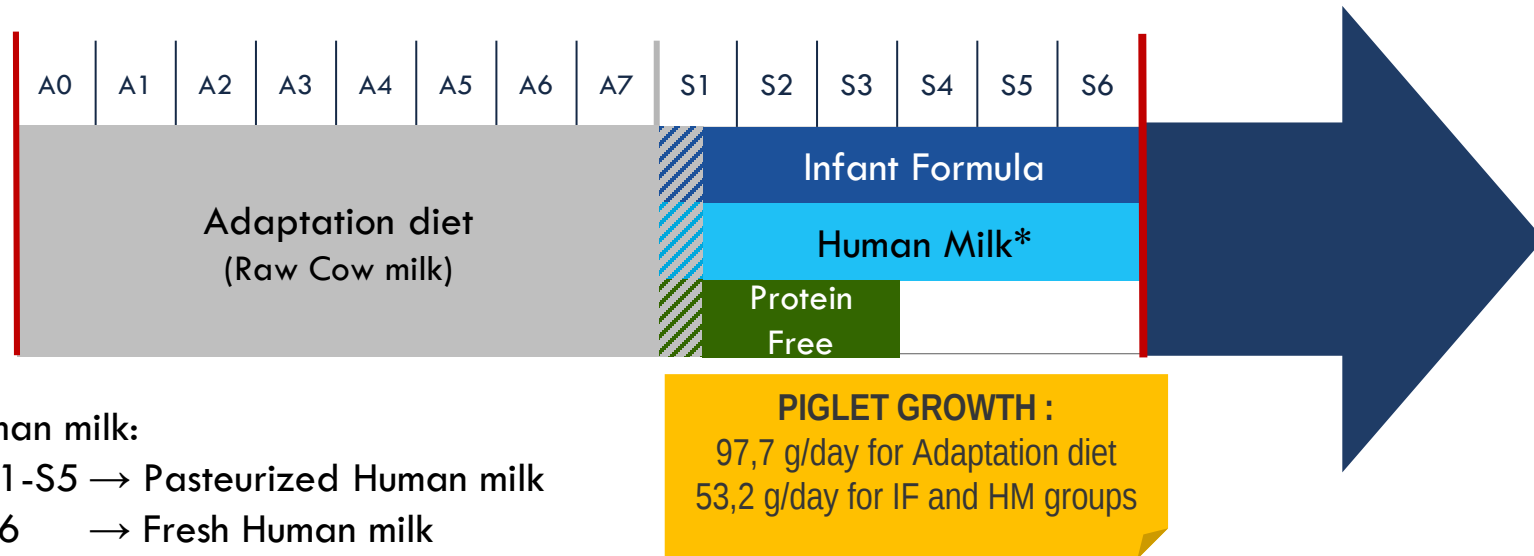


## 02 – Strategy

Ethical committee agreement needed for HM collection and Animal experiment



Model: Yucatan piglets (10 days old)  
 Meal intake : 345 g/ kg BW/ day  
 HM: n=9      IF: n=9      PF: n=6



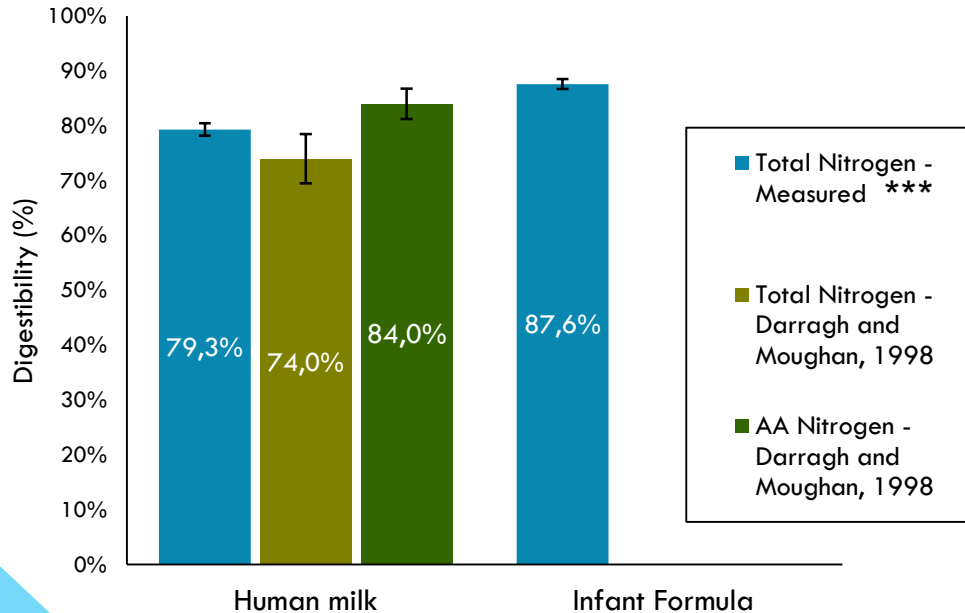
# 03

## Results

Digestibility, Microbiota, Gut-  
brain axis

# 03 – Results: Ileal Digestibility – Total nitrogen

## Total Nitrogen apparent digestibility



## EFFECT OF Non Proteic Nitrogen (NPN) on Apparent total Nitrogen digestibility

HM : 25% Ntot | IF : 5% Ntot

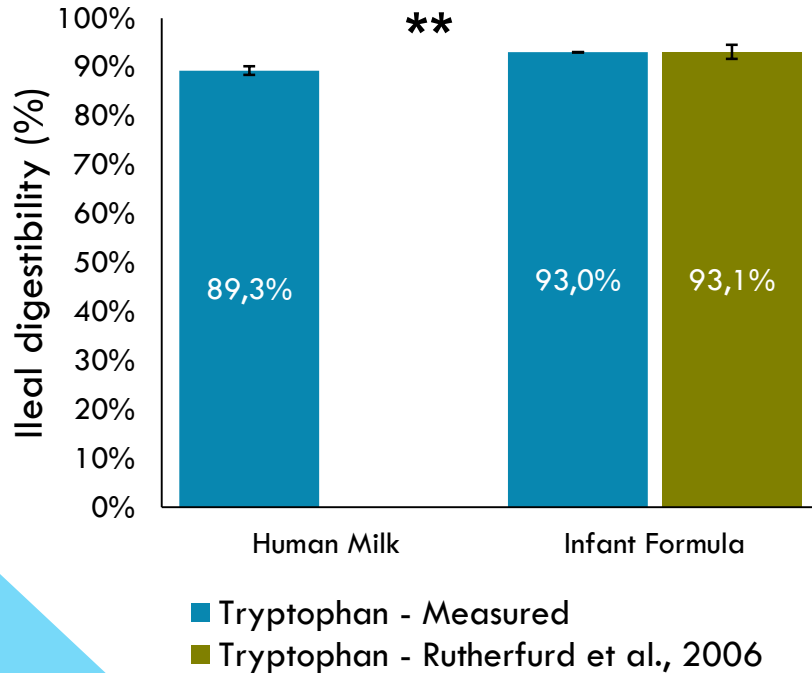
*NPN is composed by:*

- Urea
- Glucosamine
- Free Amino acids
- $NH_3$ /creatin/ureic acid
- Peptides
- ...

\*\*\* p-value<0,001

# 03 – Results: Ileal Digestibility - Tryptophan

Tryptophan Apparent Ileal digestibility







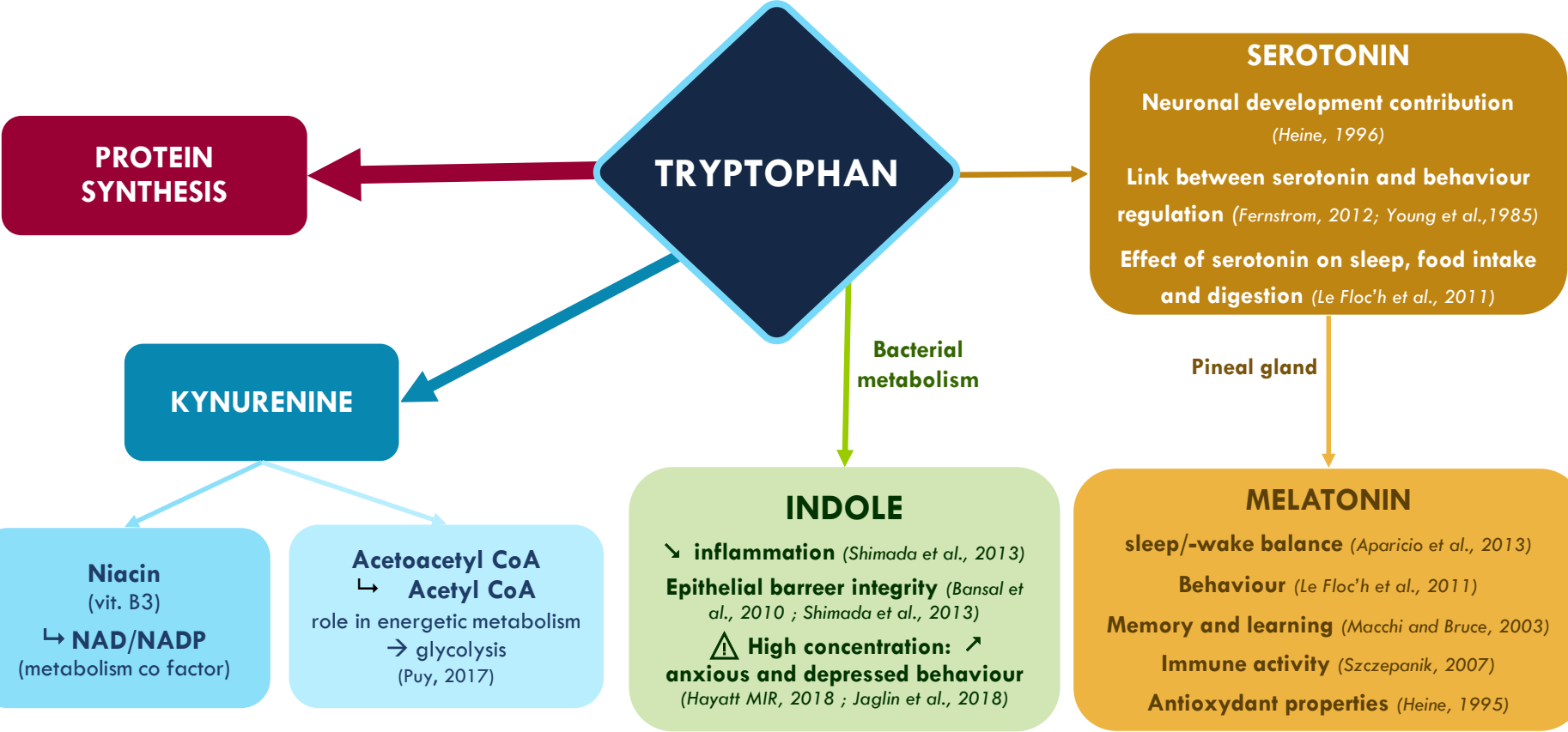
\*\* p-value<0,01

Does the use of Trp is similar between both diets ?

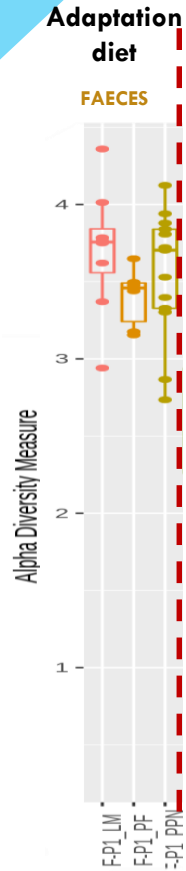
- ↳ Metabolomic analysis
- ↳ Transcriptomic analysis

# 03 – Results: Ileal Digestibility – Tryptophan

-  Principal use of Trp : anabolism
-  Secondary use of Trp : catabolism
-  - Major pathway
-  - Minor pathway



## 03 – Results : Microbiota



Alpha diversity / Shannon = Number of OTUs and evenness

F-P1 = Faecal collection during adaptation diet

F-P2 = Faecal collection at slaughtering

LM = Human Milk

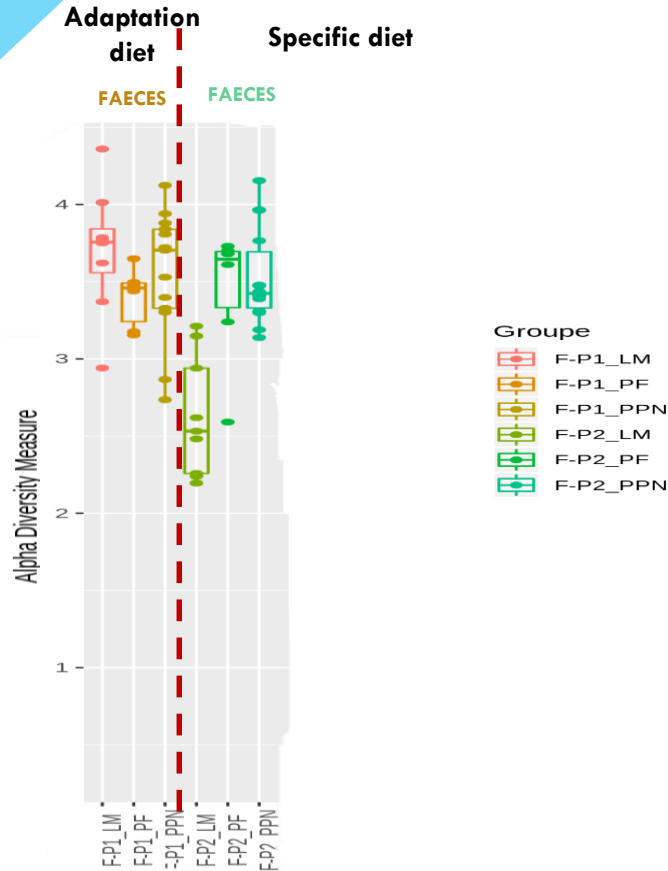
C = Colon

PF = Protein Free

PPN = Infant formula

**AFTER ADAPTATION DIET** : in faeces, no differences between piglets

# 03 – Results : Microbiota



**Alpha diversity / Shannon = Number of OTUs and evenness**

F-P1 = Faecal collection during adaptation diet

F-P2 = Faecal collection at slaughtering

LM = Human Milk

C = Colon

PF = Protein Free

PPN = Infant formula

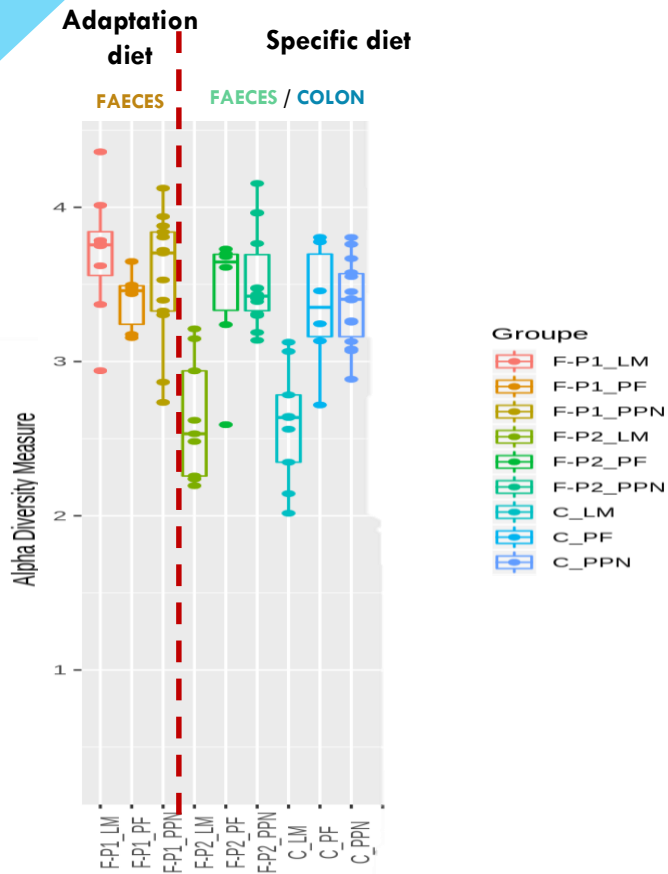
**AFTER ADAPTATION DIET :** in faeces, no differences between piglets

**AFTER SPECIFIC DIET :**

- In faeces (green):
  - **Reduction of  $\alpha$ -diversity for HM diet  $\rightarrow$  decrease of OTU number**
  - **Similar alpha-diversity for IF and PF diets**



## 03 – Results : Microbiota



### Alpha diversity / Shannon = Number of OTUs and evenness

F-P1 = Faecal collection during adaptation diet

F-P2 = Faecal collection at slaughtering

LM = Human Milk

C = Colon

PF = Protein Free

I = Ileum

PPN = Infant formula

**AFTER ADAPTATION DIET : in faeces, no differences between piglets**

**AFTER SPECIFIC DIET :**

- In faeces (green):
  - **Reduction of  $\alpha$ -diversity for HM diet  $\rightarrow$  decrease of OTU number**
  - **Similar alpha-diversity for IF and PF diets**
- In colon (blue):
  - Colon microbiota is similar to faecal microbiota

**$\rightarrow$  Alpha-diversity decreases in breastfed infants and reduced at 6 age of month**

(Ho et al., 2018 ; Ma et al., 2020)

# 04 – Perspective : Gut-Brain axis

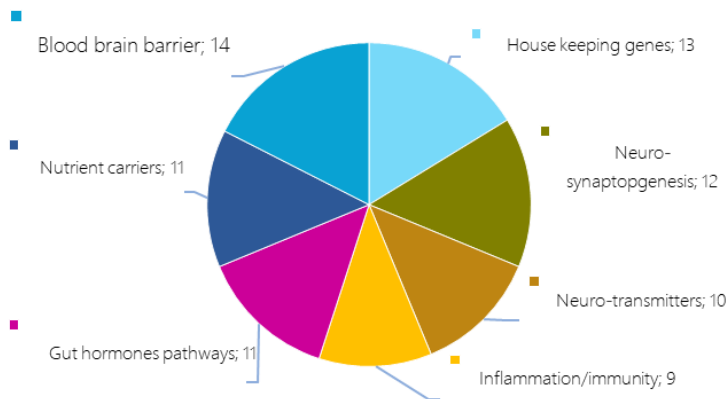
**Metabolomic analysis :** Tryptophan metabolites analysis in the Riddet Institute (New-Zealand)

**Transcriptomic analysis :** SmartChip analysis on brain and on intestine

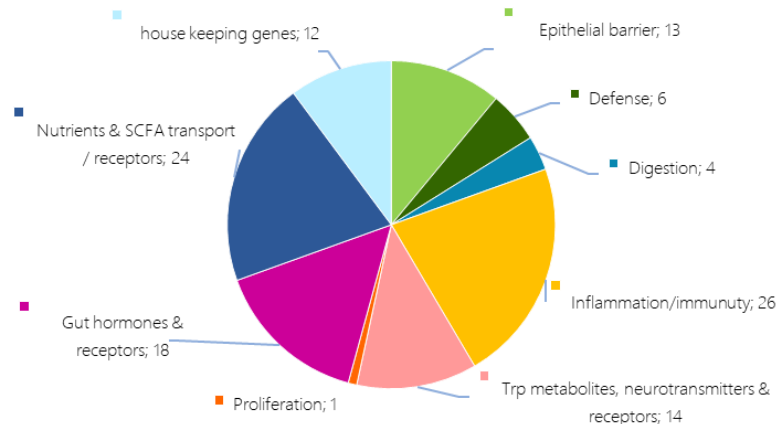
*Study of the effect of the diet on gut-brain axis with Alexandre's help (Master 2 trainee)*

- Both are designed
- Intestinal SmartChip is ongoing

Brain SmartChip (80 genes)



Intestinal SmartChip (120 genes)



# Conclusion



## Diet affect apparent digestibility

Differences in Ntot and Trp  
Apparent digestibility



## Effect of diet on microbiota

Effect on intestine/brain  
development?



## Study of gut-brain axis in process...



## More research to do



# Thanks

**Do you have any questions?**