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



Elise Charton
(2nd year of thesis)

Thesis directors :
Amélie Deglaire (STLO)
Isabelle Luron (NuMeCan)
Didier Dupont (STLO)

SUMMARY

01 – Scientific context

02 – Objectives & strategy

03 – Results

04 - Perspectives

01 – Scientific context



44%

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

(UNICEF, 2011)

59%

Of infants are breastfed AT BIRTH in France

(Epiplane data, 2012-2013)

21%

Of infants are breastfed at 3 MONTHS in France

10% Exclusive breastfeeding
11% Dominant breastfeeding

(Epiplane data, 2012-2013)

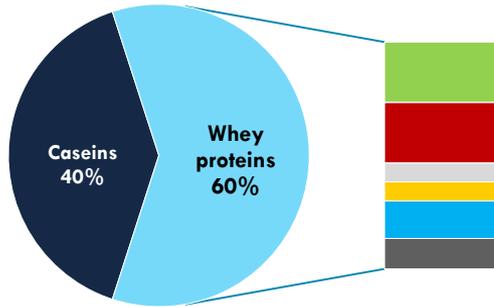
01 – Scientific context

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

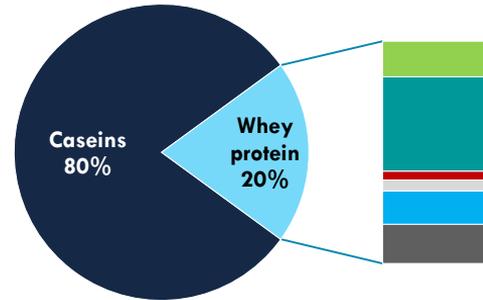
How an Infant formula is made from Bovine milk?



Human Milk



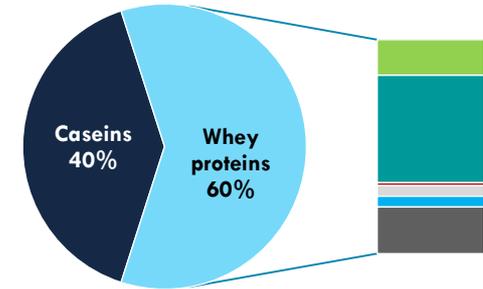
Bovine Milk



➔
**Addition of
WPC**



Infant Formula
0 to 6 months



WPC : Whey proteins concentrate

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

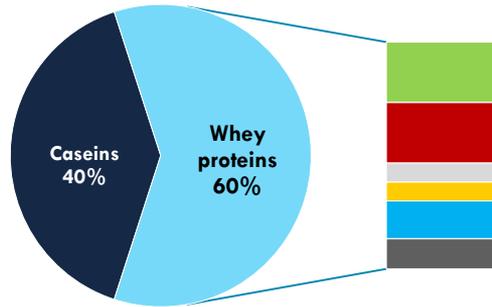
01 – Scientific context

- Caseins
- α -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

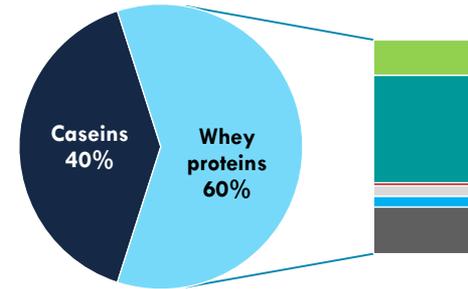
↳ 13,6 – 20,4 mg Trp/100 mL

(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** (Lönerdal & 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):

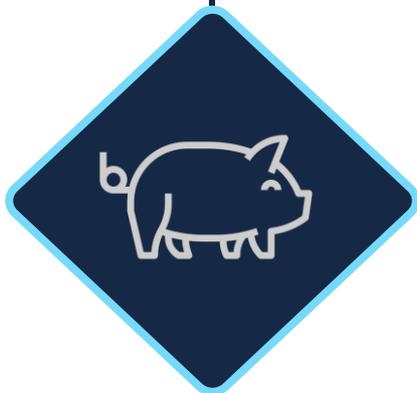
$$\text{Standardized ileal digestibility (\%)} = \frac{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}} - N_{\text{exogenous flow}}_{\text{ileum}}}{\text{Dietary } N_{\text{intake}}} \times 100$$

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

02 – Objectives

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

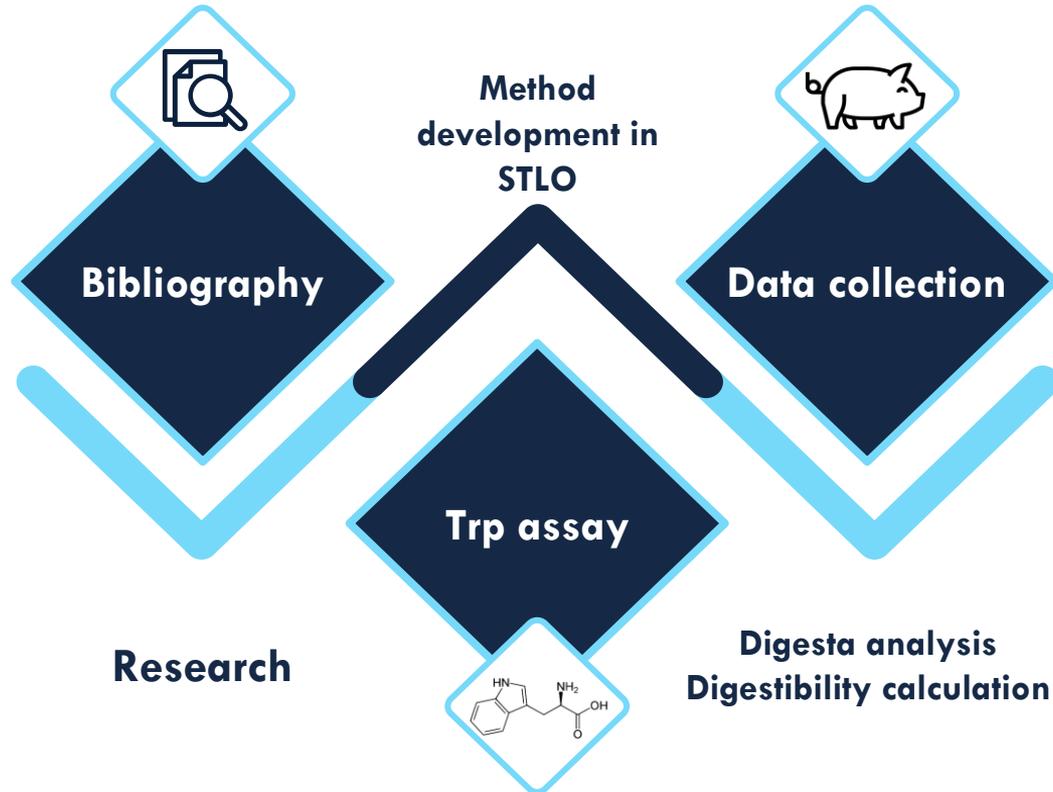
- ◆ In vivo experiment
- ◆ Digestibility calculation



Effect of Trp on infant development and diet effect

- ◆ Trp metabolites
- ◆ Intestinal and brain development

02 – Strategy

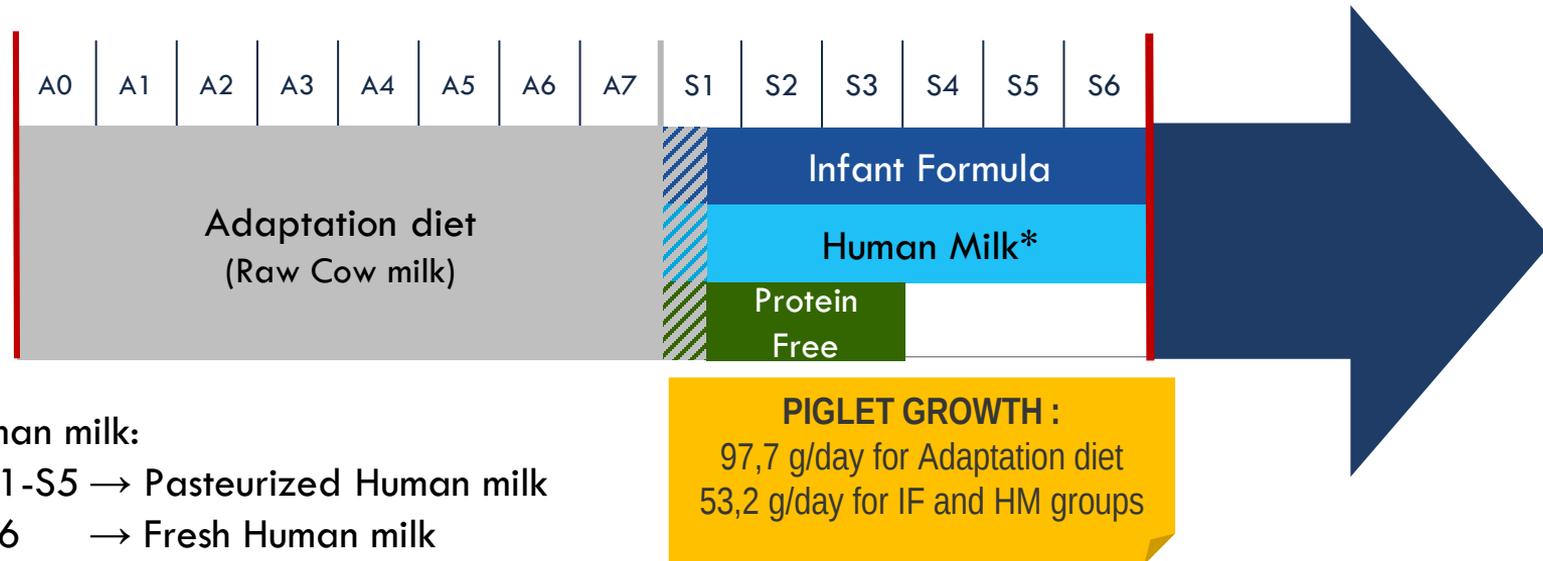


02 – Strategy

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



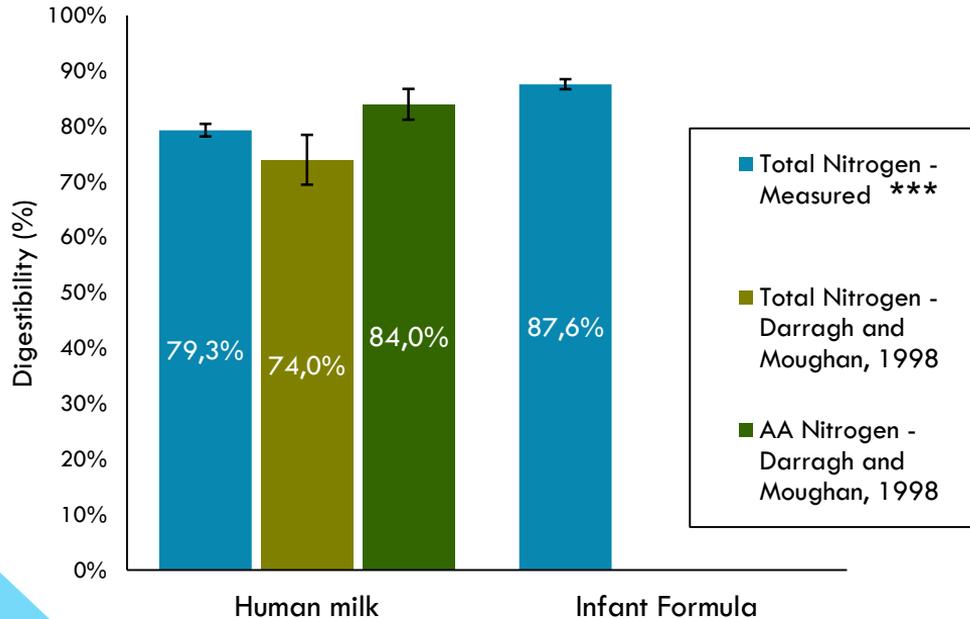
03

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

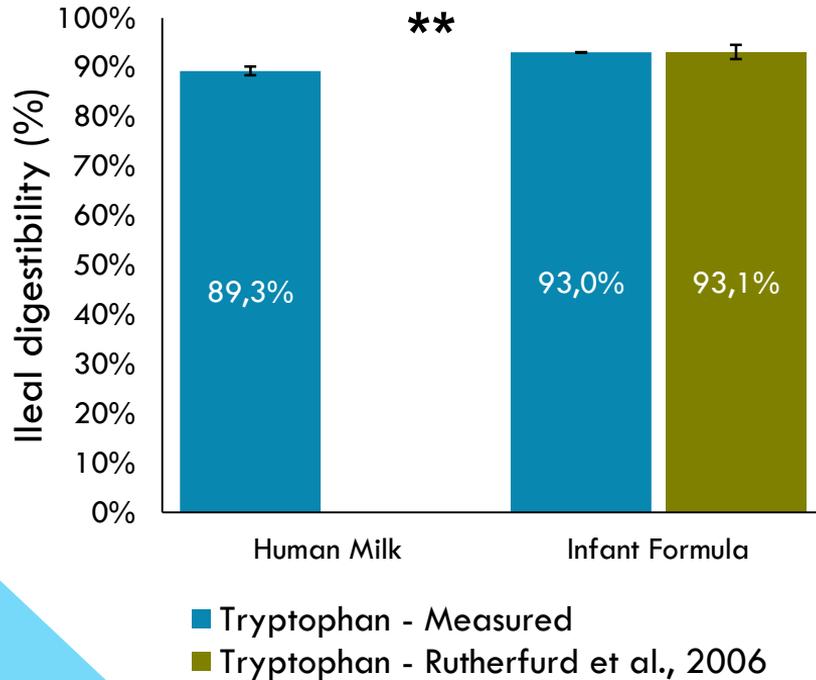
NPN is composed by:

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

*** p-value<0,001

03 – Results: Ileal Digestibility - Tryptophan

Tryptophan Apparent Ileal digestibility



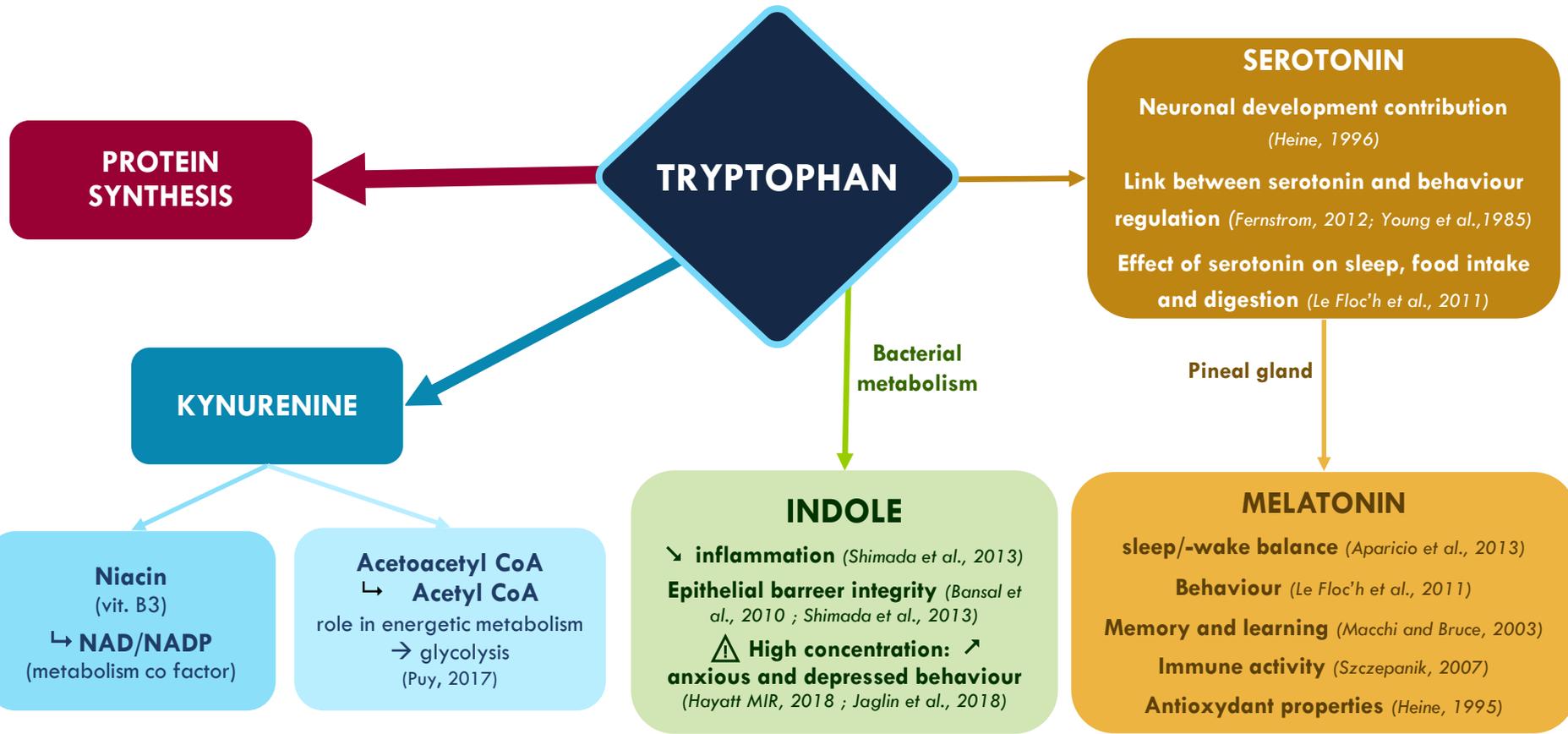
** p-value < 0,01

Does the use of Trp is similar between both diets ?

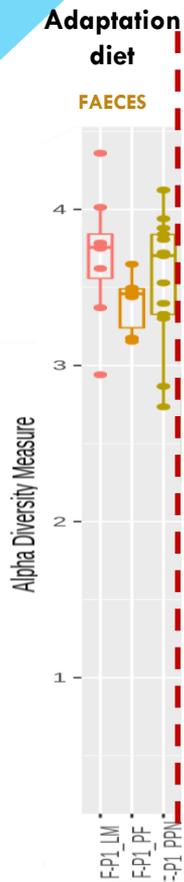
- ↳ Metabolomic analysis
- ↳ Transcriptomic analysis

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

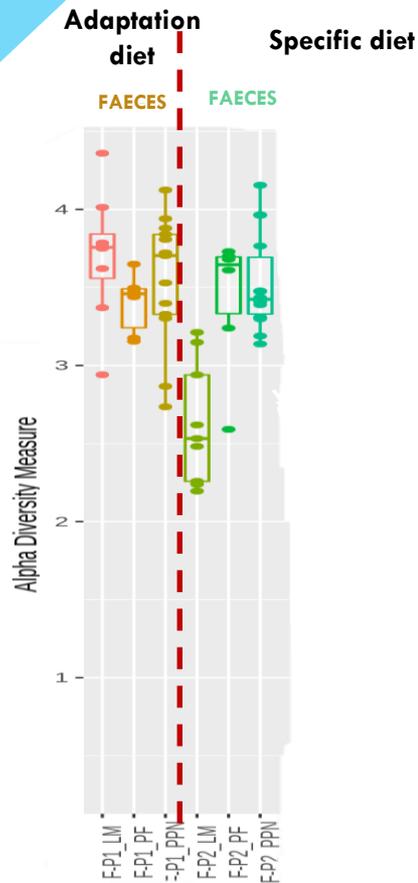
C = Colon

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

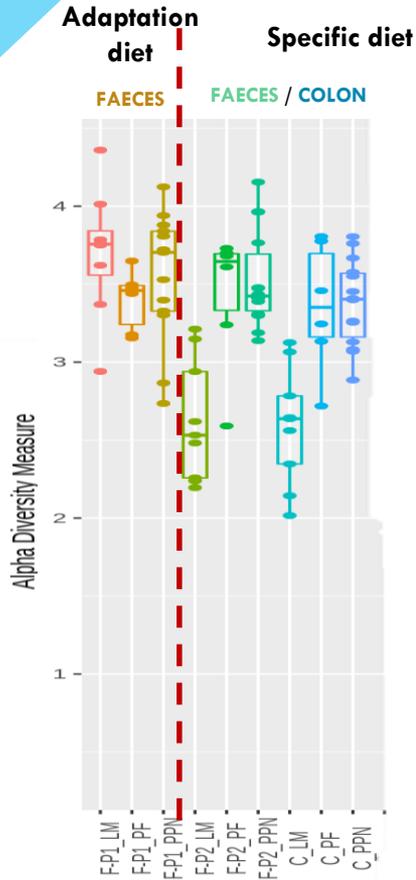
PPN = Infant formula

AFTER ADAPTATION DIET : in faeces, no differences between piglets

AFTER SPECIFIC DIET :

- In faeces (green):
 - **Reduction of α -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 α -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

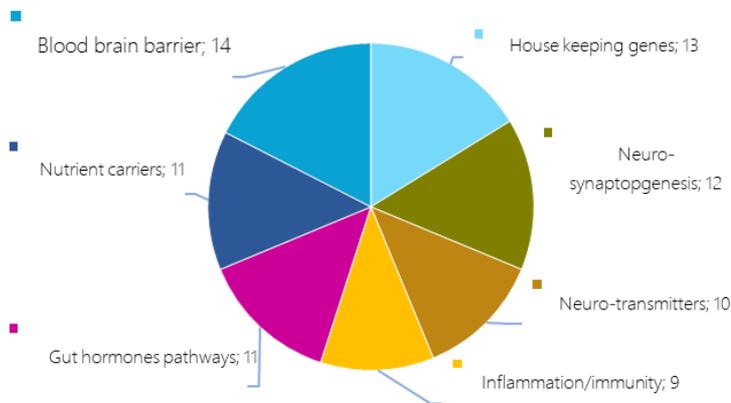
Metabolomic analysis : Tryptophan metabolites analysis in the Riddet Institute (New-Zealand)

Transcriptomic analysis : SmartChip analysis on brain and on intestine

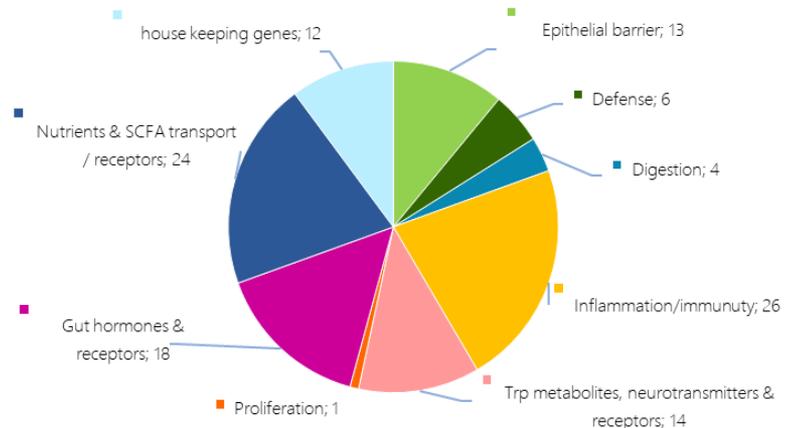
Study of the effect of the diet on gut-brain axis with Alexandre's help (Master 2 trainee)

- 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

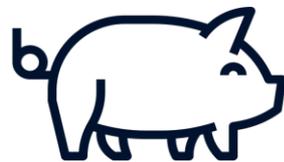
Effect on intestine/brain
development?



Study of gut-brain axis in process...



More research to do



Thanks

Do you have any questions?