



The Microbiome and Skin Aging

November 2022

Michael Hoptroff



Unilever

Microbiome at Unilever

2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2022

Microbiomics Capability

Capability

Underarm & Skin Microbiome

Underarm, Skin and Scalp Microbiome

Technology Strategy Board
Driving Innovation

Harmonised Microbiome Data Pipeline

Baby Microbiome

The PEARL Study
Pregnancy and Early Life

Aging

SKIN MICROBIOME IN HEALTHY AGEING

UK R&D Strategy

Innovate UK
Knowledge Transfer Network

Microbiome AI

Insights

Oral Microbiome

IADR
International Association for Dental Research

Scalp Microbiome

AAAD
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF DERMATOLOGY

B

Partnerships

Global Microbiome Research Network

Market



Whole Body Understanding



Hands



Mouth



Scalp



Axilla



Face



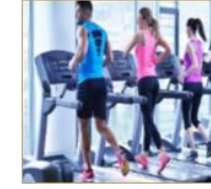
Leg & Forearm



Age

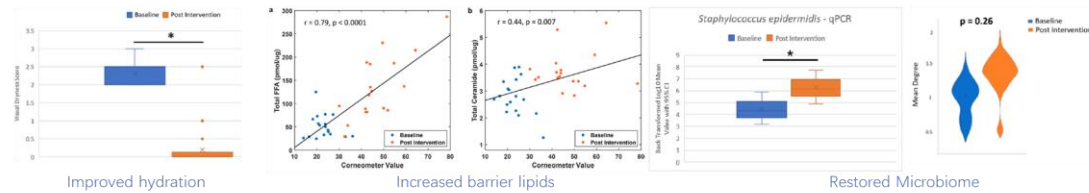


Pollution



Lifestyle

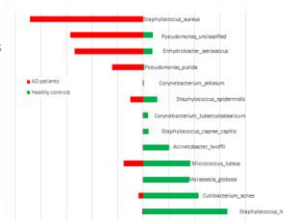
Treatment of Dry Skin (clinical study, n=37)



scientific reports <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-022-09231-8>

Atopic Skin (clinical study, n=23)

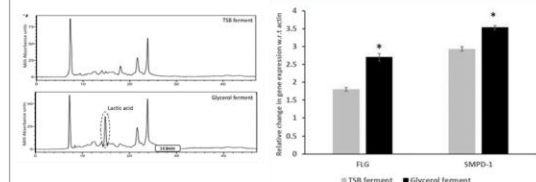
- Elbow, Neck
- Indian population
- Metagenomic analysis



frontiers in Cellular and Infection Microbiology [doi: 10.3389/fcimb.2020.570423](https://doi.org/10.3389/fcimb.2020.570423)

Prebiotics to increase lactic acid production

- Increased microbial production of lactic acid
- Increased epidermal gene expression



Experimental Dermatology [DOI: 10.1111/exd.14604](https://doi.org/10.1111/exd.14604)

Impact of Preservatives (n=60)

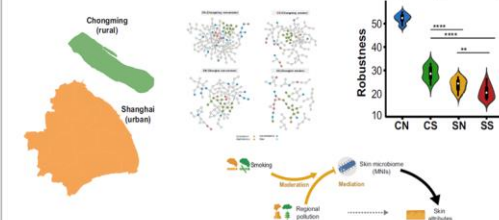
- Lotions & Cleansers
- DMDM Hydantoin
- Iodopropynylbutylcarbamate
- Phenoxyethanol
- Propyl/methyl paraben



C	System A 1hvT2	System B 1hvT2	System C 1hvT2	System D 1hvT2
Chao1	p=0.69	p=0.66	p=0.085	p=0.22
Faith's PD	p=0.60	p=0.63	p=0.25	p=0.39
Shannon	p=0.41	p=0.88	p=0.75	p=0.19

PLOS ONE <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0254172>

Pollution & Lifestyle (n=58)

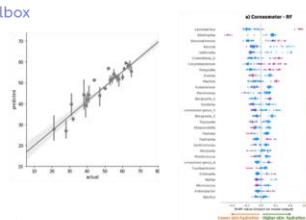


mSystems <https://doi.org/10.1128/mSystems.00319-21>

Microbiome AI (n=164)

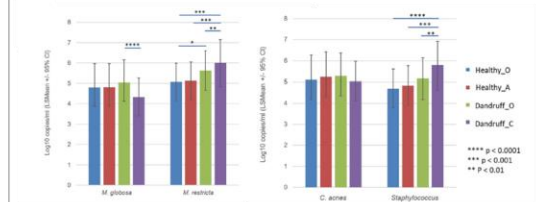


- "Explainable" AI toolbox
- 2 x Clinicals
- Dry skin
- Age
- Smoking
- Menopause



scientific reports <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-83922-6>

Dandruff Microbiome (n=120)



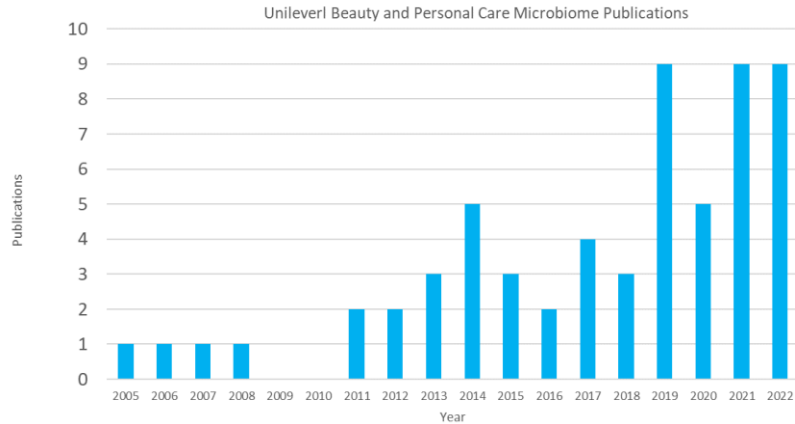
PLOS ONE <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0225796>

Microbiome Science

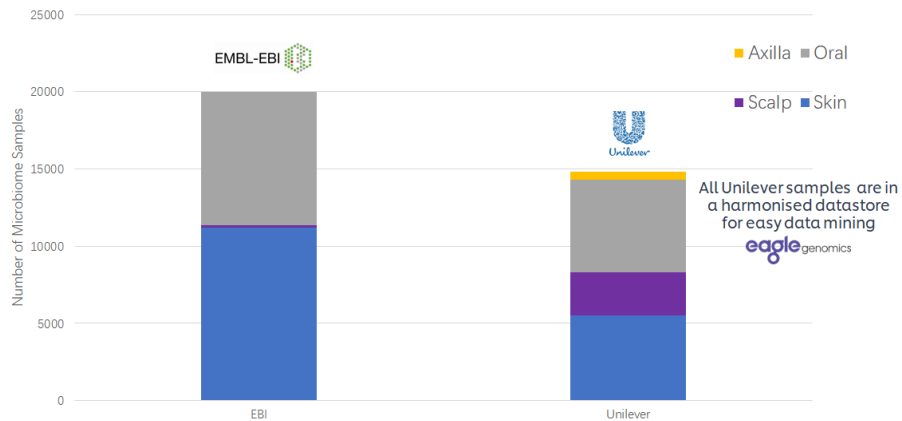
More than 30 conference speeches

Over 65 publications

More than 100 patents



Our data in context:



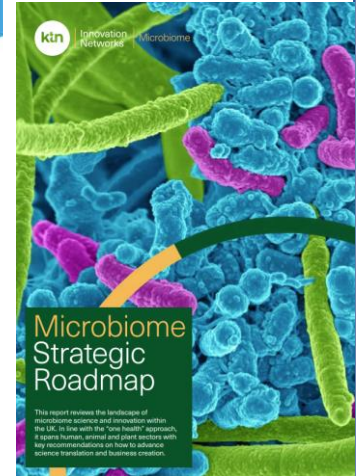
LIDo London Interdisciplinary Doctoral Programme
@ UCL, KCL, QMUL, Birkbeck, LSHTM, RVC



Microbiome Innovation Centre
A global opportunity for Industry, for Research, for the Future



Industrial Advisory Panel



- Current cohort of 62 students.
- New: 35 four-year studentships (Oct 2022)
 - 11 PhD in 2022,
 - 12 PhD in 2023,
 - 12 PhD in 2024,

What is Skin (...from a microbes perspective 😊)

A place to live

Chemical

- Aridity
- pH
- Osmolarity
- O₂/AnO₂
- HLB
- Host Antimicrobials
- UV

Physical

- Substrate
- XYZ constrained
- °C
- Desquamation
- Turnover
- Stability

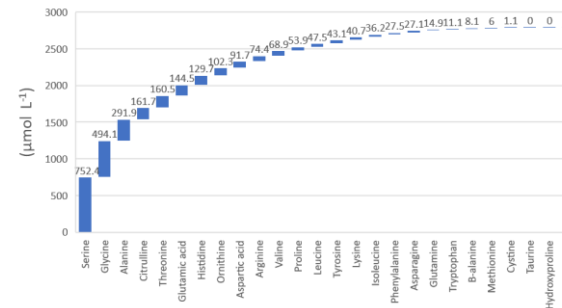
“it’s the environment, stupid”



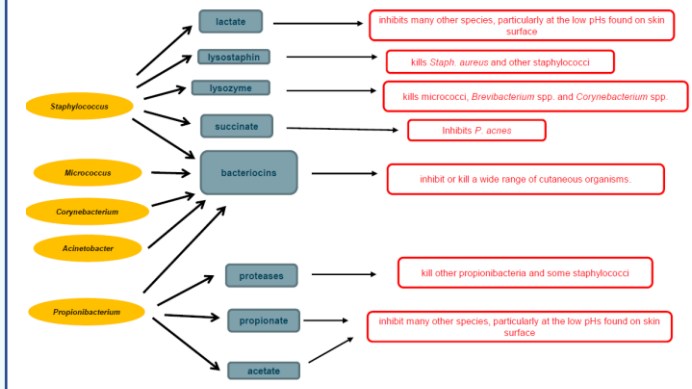
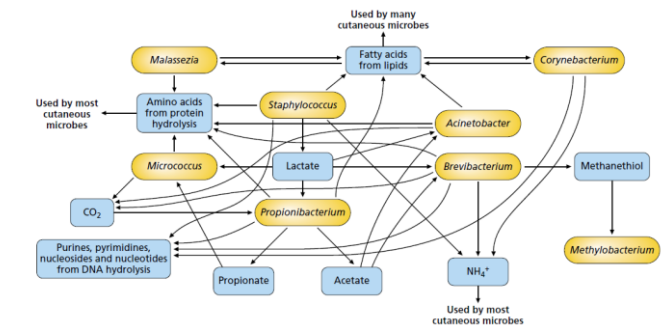
A source of food

CLASS OF NUTRIENT	COMPOUND	SOURCE
Carbon/energy source	Glucose	Sweat; hydrolysis of glycoproteins
	Ribose	Hydrolysis of nucleic acids
	Glycerol	Lipid hydrolysis
	Amino acids	Hydrolysis of proteins; sweat
	Fatty acids	Stratum corneum; sweat; hydrolysis of lipids; sebum, microbes
Nitrogen source	Lactic acid	Sweat; microbes
	NH ₄ ⁺	Sweat; microbes
	Amino acids	Sweat
	Urea	Sweat
	Uric acid	Sweat
Essential amino acids	Amino acids	Hydrolysis of proteins; sweat
Phosphorus	Phosphate	Hydrolysis of nucleic acids; sweat
Vitamins and growth factors	Biotin, thiamine, riboflavin, nicotinic acid, pyridoxine, inositol, ascorbic acid, p-aminobenzoate	Sweat
	Vitamin E	Sebum
Micronutrients	Na ⁺ , K ⁺ , Mg ²⁺ , Cl ⁻	Sweat; dead keratinocytes; interstitial fluid

Free amino acid concentration in eccrine sweat



A home shared with friends & enemies



“External” Stressors

Inflammation | Injury | Immune response | Climate | Product use | Lifestyle etc

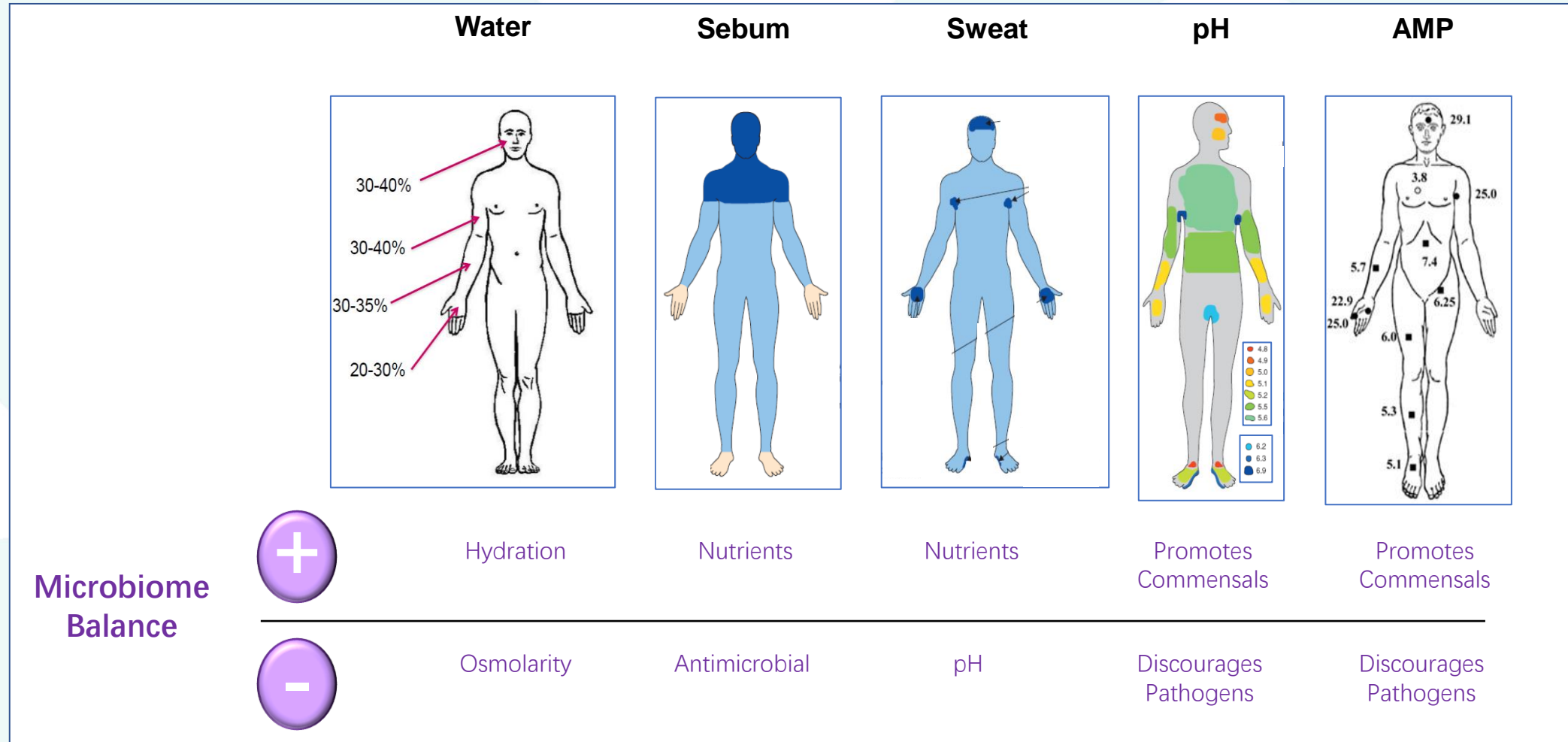
Wilson, *Bacteriology of Humans*; 2008

Harker & Harding, *Amino acid composition, including key derivatives of eccrine sweat*; 2013

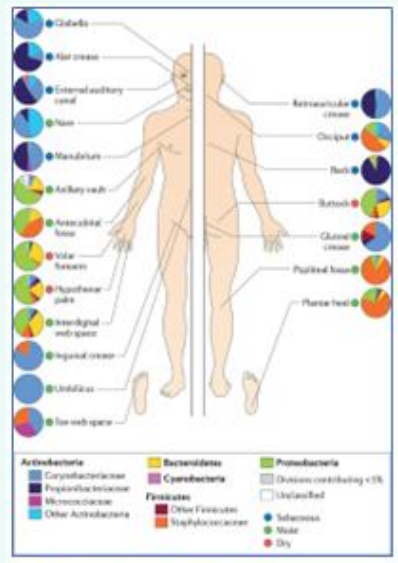
Wilson, *The Human Microbiota in Health & Disease*, 2018

Baker & Wolfe, *Physiological mechanisms determining eccrine sweat composition*; 2020

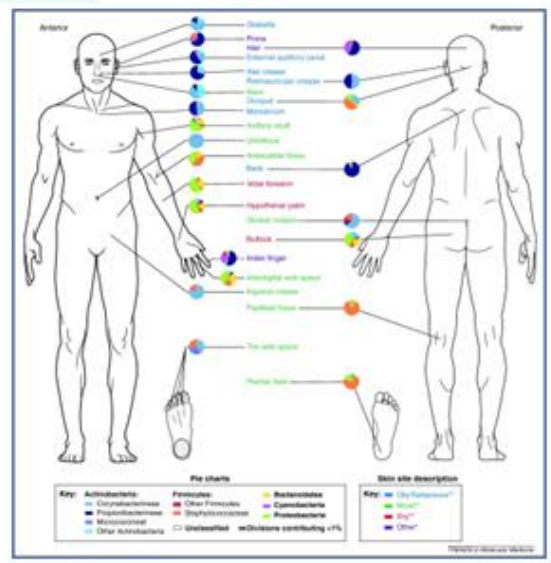
Human Skin – Multiple Environments in One



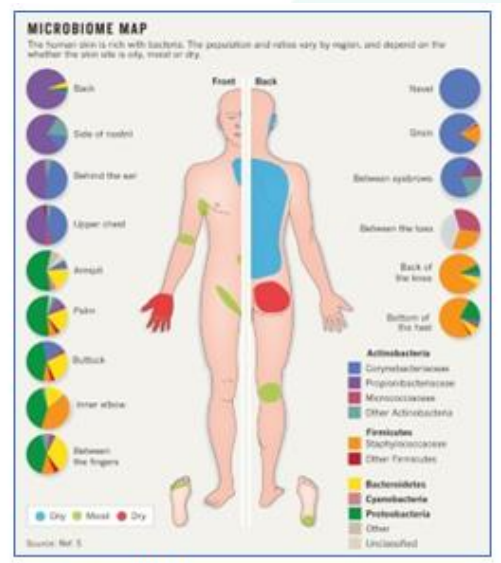
Environment & Microbiome



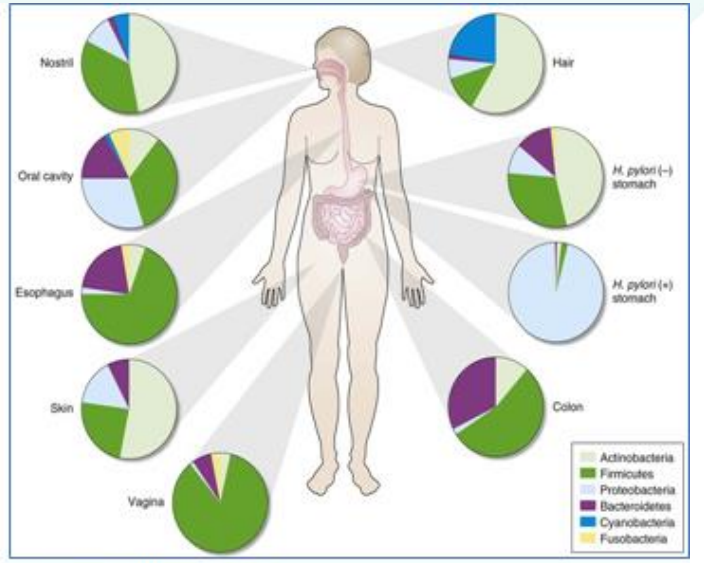
Grice and Segre, 2011



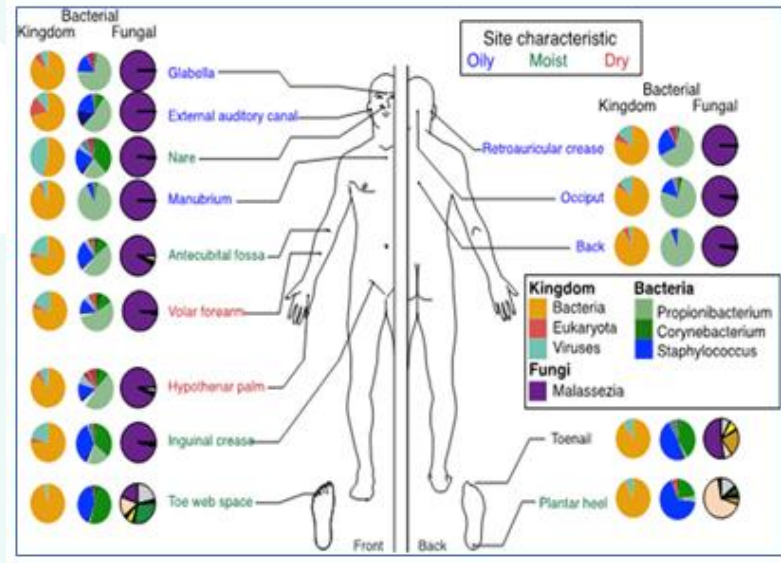
Kong, 2011



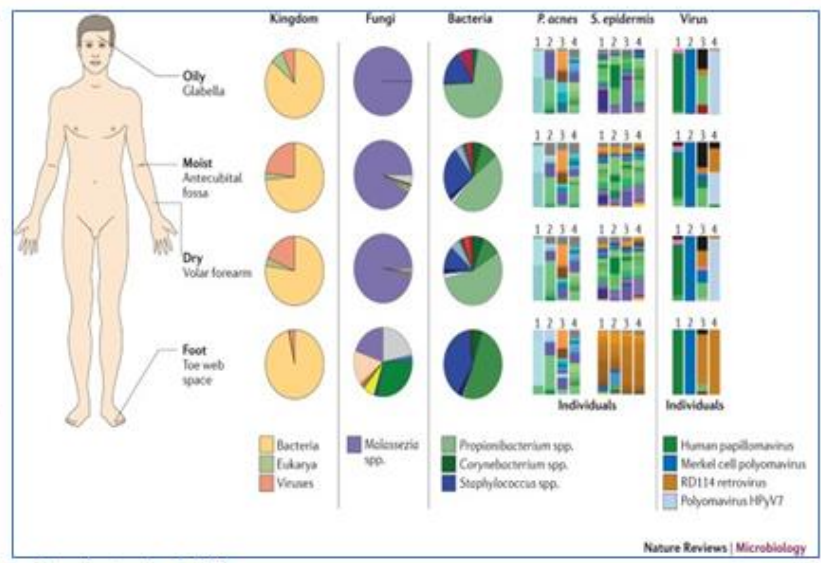
Trivedi, 2012



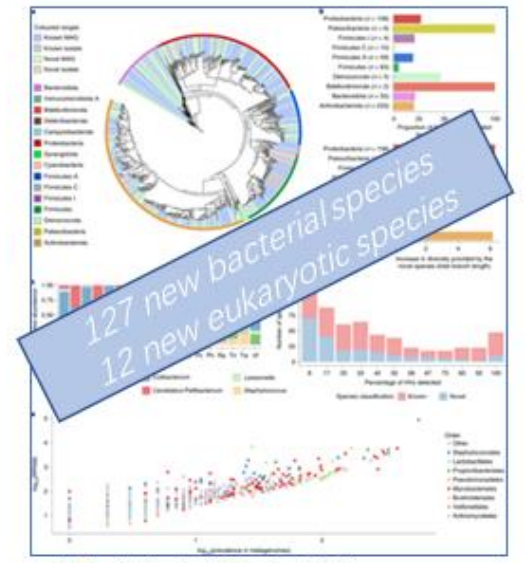
Cho and Blaser, 2012



Oh et al, 2014, Kong and Segre, 2017



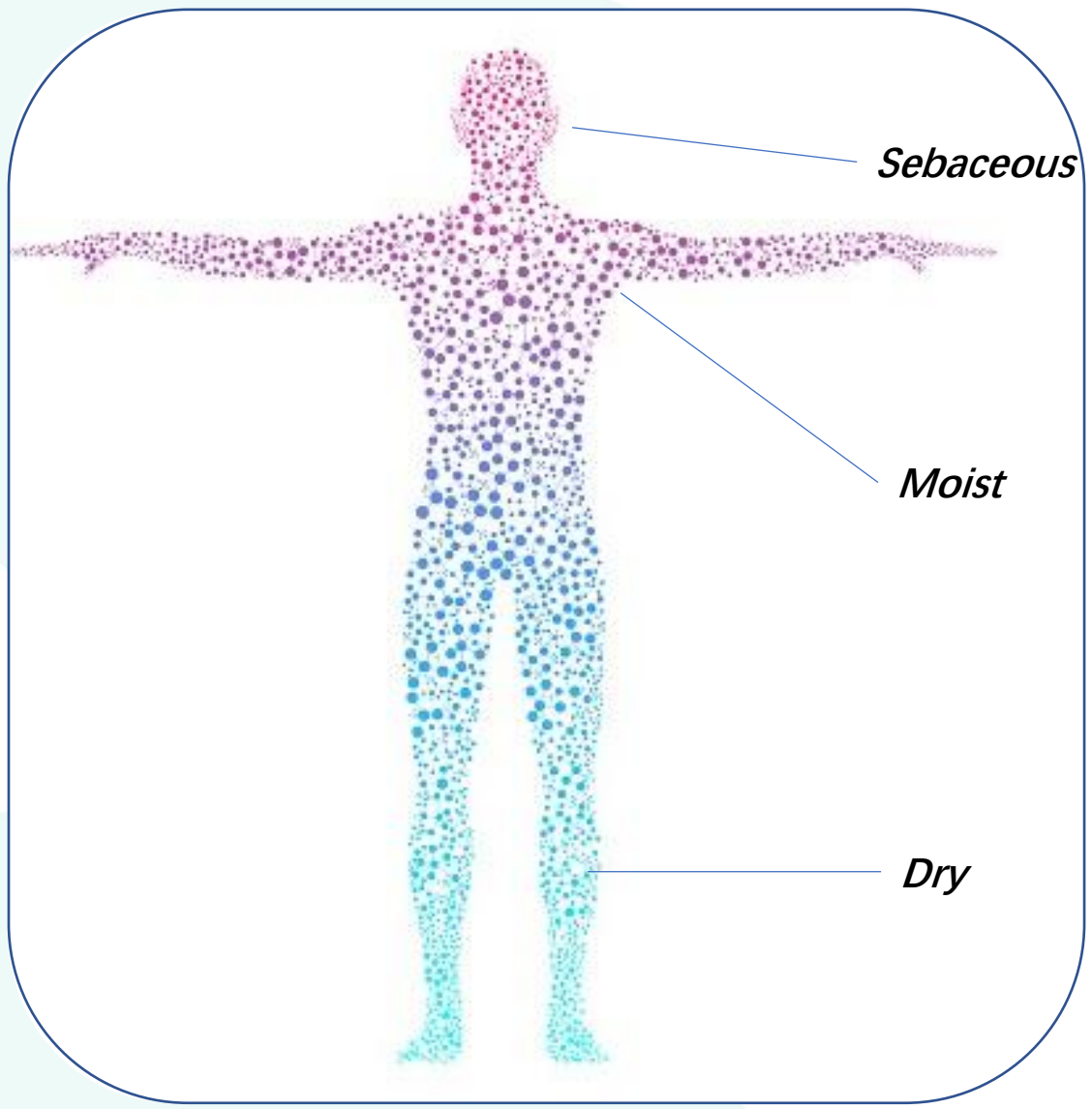
Byrd et al., 2018



Saheb Kashaf et al., 2021

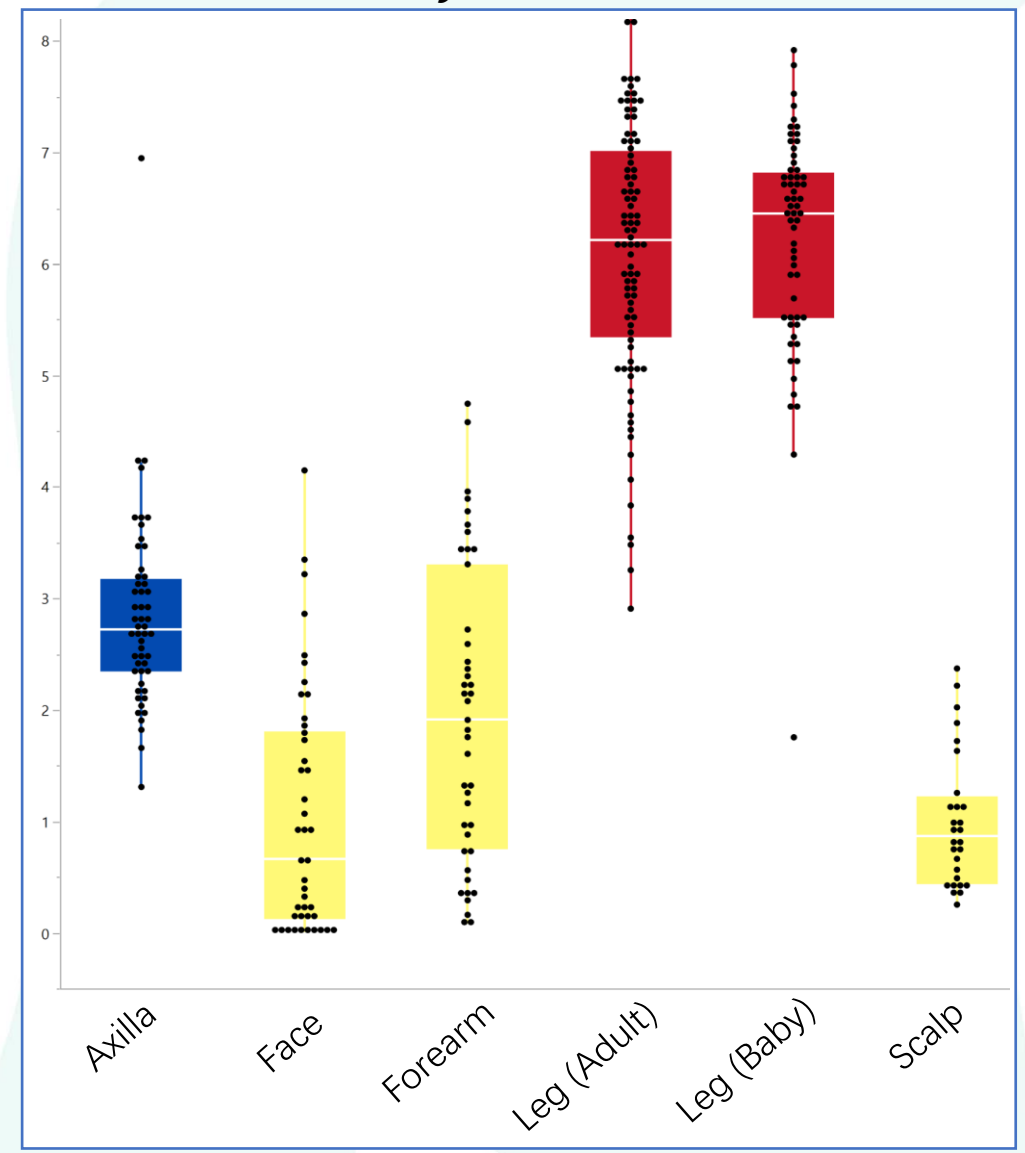
Body Sites - Unilever Data

Body Site & Environment

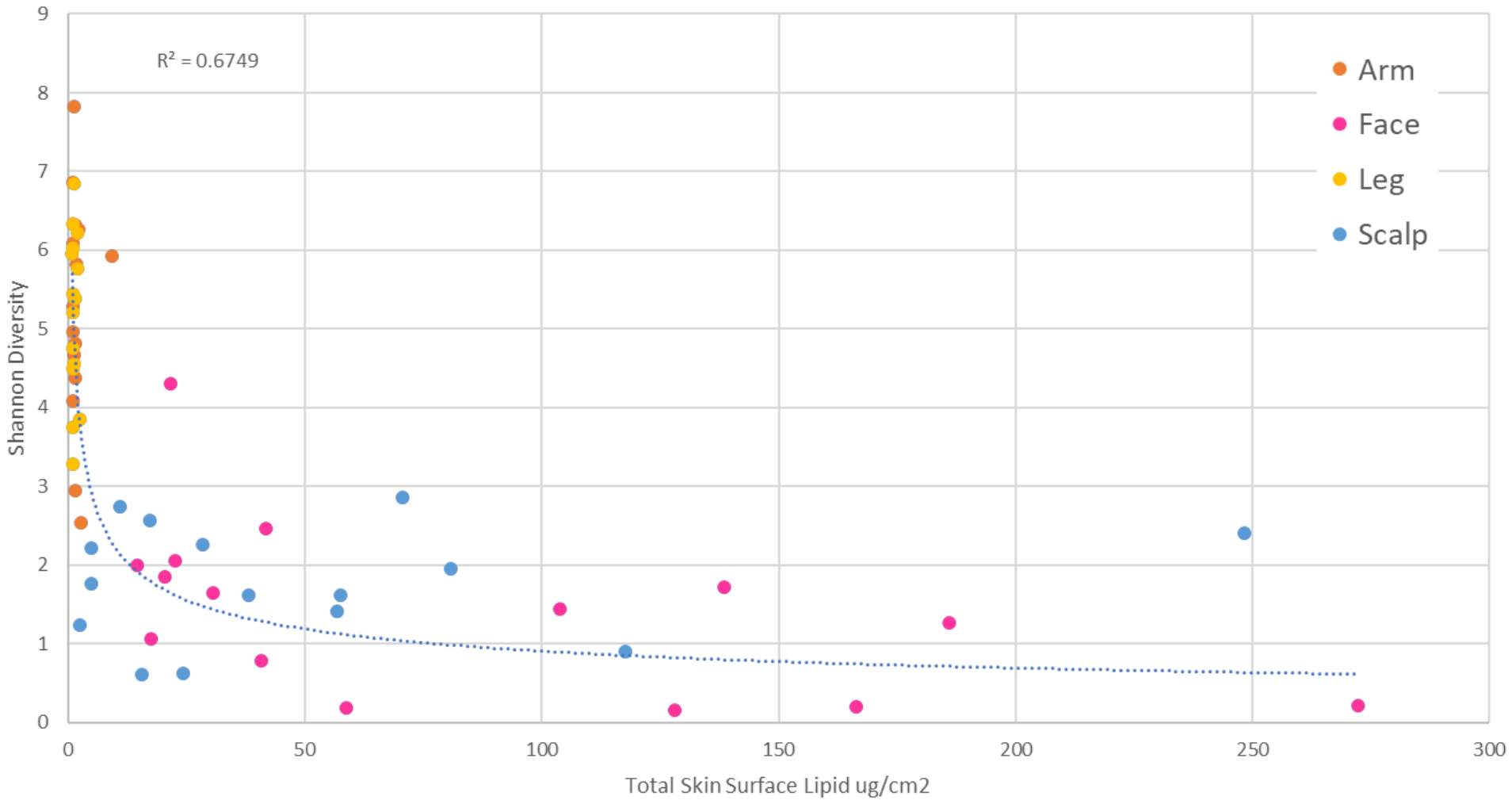


331 subjects

Shannon Diversity – Richness and Evenness



Body Sites - Alpha Diversity

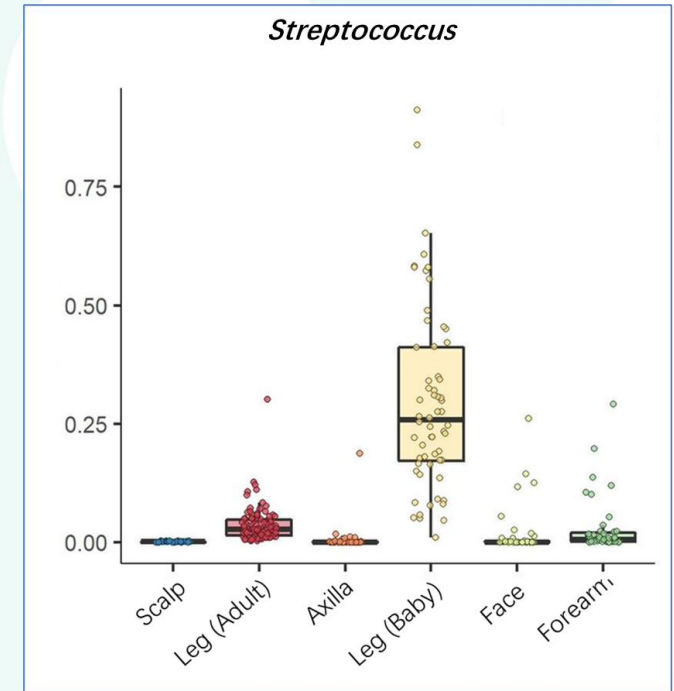
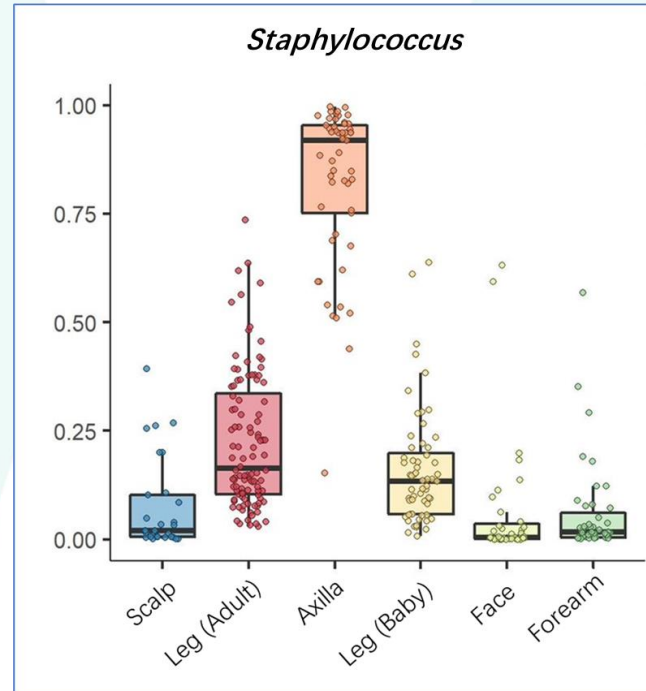
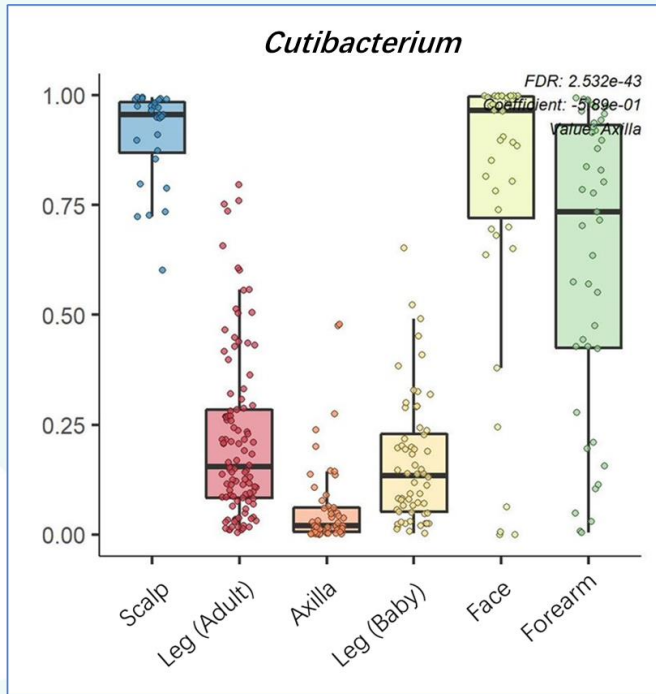


Body Site & Environment

Skin surface lipids drive diversity reduction and the concomitant shift to a microbiota dominated by Cutibacteria

Body Sites – Community Composition

Body Site & Environment



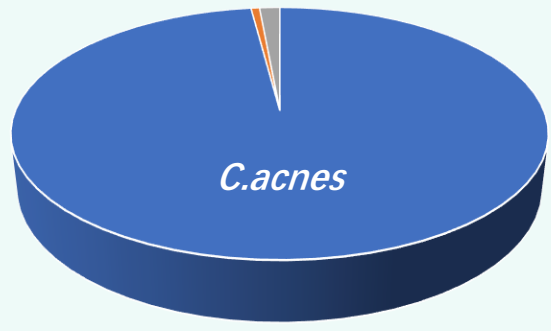
% MRA
331 subjects

Major community commensals with high abundance and prevalence across all sites

Body Sites – Community Composition

Body Site & Environment

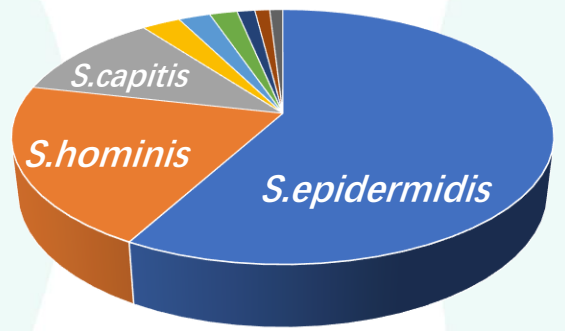
Cutibacterium



- *C.acnes*
- *C.avidum*
- *C.granulosum*

Body Site	<i>C.acnes</i>	<i>C.avidum</i>	<i>C.granulosum</i>
Scalp	99%	0%	1%
Face	100%	0%	0%
Forearm	100%	0%	0%
Adultleg	99%	0%	1%
Babyleg	98%	0%	2%
Axilla	43%	21%	36%

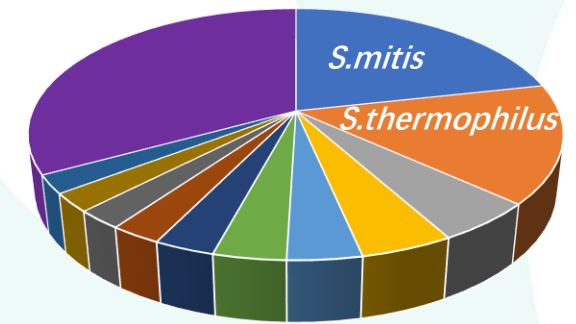
Staphylococcus



- *S.epidermidis*
- *S.hominis*
- *S.capitis*
- *S.pasteurii/warneri*
- *S.aprophyticus*
- *Staph_other*
- *S.haemolyticus*
- *S.lugdunensis*
- *S.aureus*

Body Site	<i>S.epidermidis</i>	<i>S.hominis</i>	<i>S.capitis</i>	<i>S.haemolyticus</i>	<i>S.pasteurii/warneri</i>	<i>S.lugdunensis</i>	<i>S.aprophyticus</i> sp.	<i>S.aureus</i>	<i>Staph_other</i>
Adultleg	30%	35%	15%	4%	8%	0%	5%	1%	3%
Axilla	79%	14%	3%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%
Babyleg	39%	26%	7%	16%	3%	0%	1%	6%	2%
Face	46%	0%	53%	0%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%
Forearm	36%	42%	18%	0%	1%	0%	0%	4%	0%
Scalp	28%	1%	71%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Streptococci



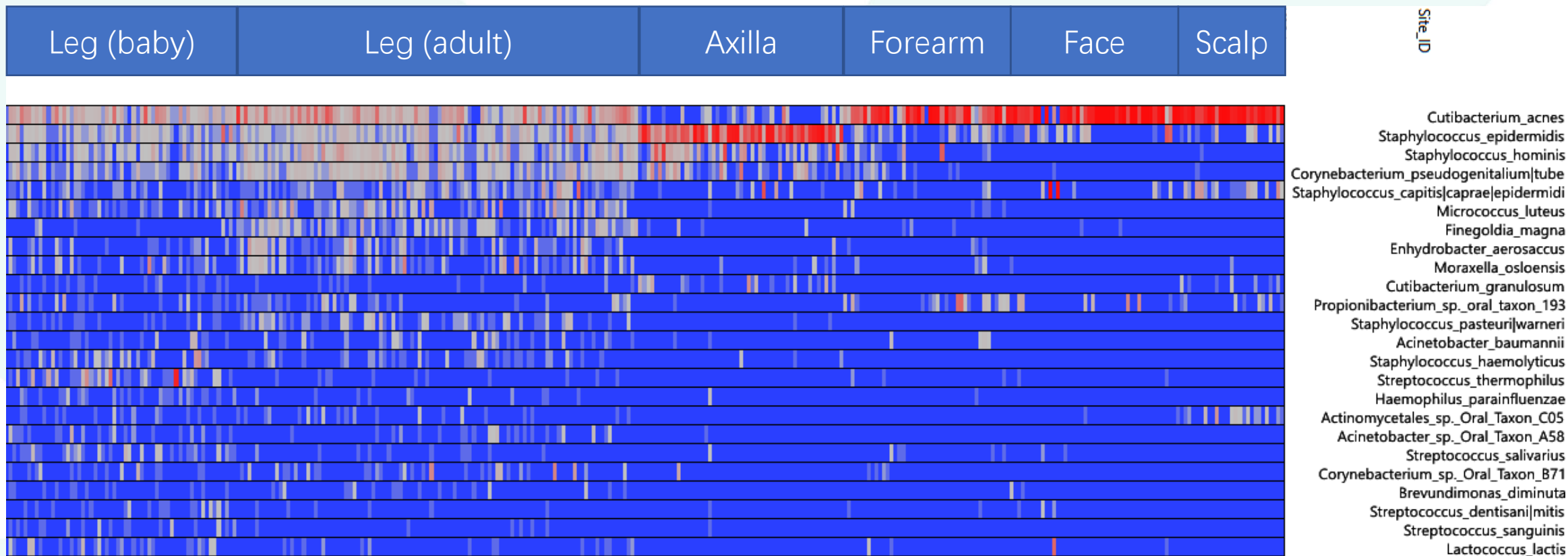
- *S.mitit*
- *S.thermophilus*
- *S.salivarius*
- *S.cristatus*
- *S.agalactiae*
- *S.peroris*
- *S.parasanguinis*
- *S.dentisani*
- *S.infantis*
- *S.infantarius*
- *S.sanguinis*
- *S_OTHER*

Body Site	<i>S.mitit</i>	<i>S.thermophilus</i>	<i>S.salivarius</i>	<i>S.cristatus</i>	<i>S.agalactiae</i>	<i>S.peroris</i>	<i>S.parasanguinis</i>	<i>S.dentisani</i>	<i>S.infantis</i>	<i>S.infantarius</i>	<i>S.sanguinis</i>	<i>S_OTHER</i>
Adultleg	13%	8%	7%	2%	2%	0%	5%	5%	4%	1%	5%	49%
Axilla	3%	0%	22%	6%	0%	0%	10%	4%	9%	1%	4%	40%
Babyleg	26%	20%	5%	6%	0%	5%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	35%
Face	39%	5%	6%	0%	13%	0%	1%	8%	1%	0%	1%	21%
Forearm	5%	4%	9%	0%	69%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	11%
Scalp	31%	11%	1%	2%	1%	0%	2%	16%	6%	0%	4%	34%

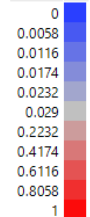
Species as % of genera MRA
331 subjects

Body Sites – Community Composition

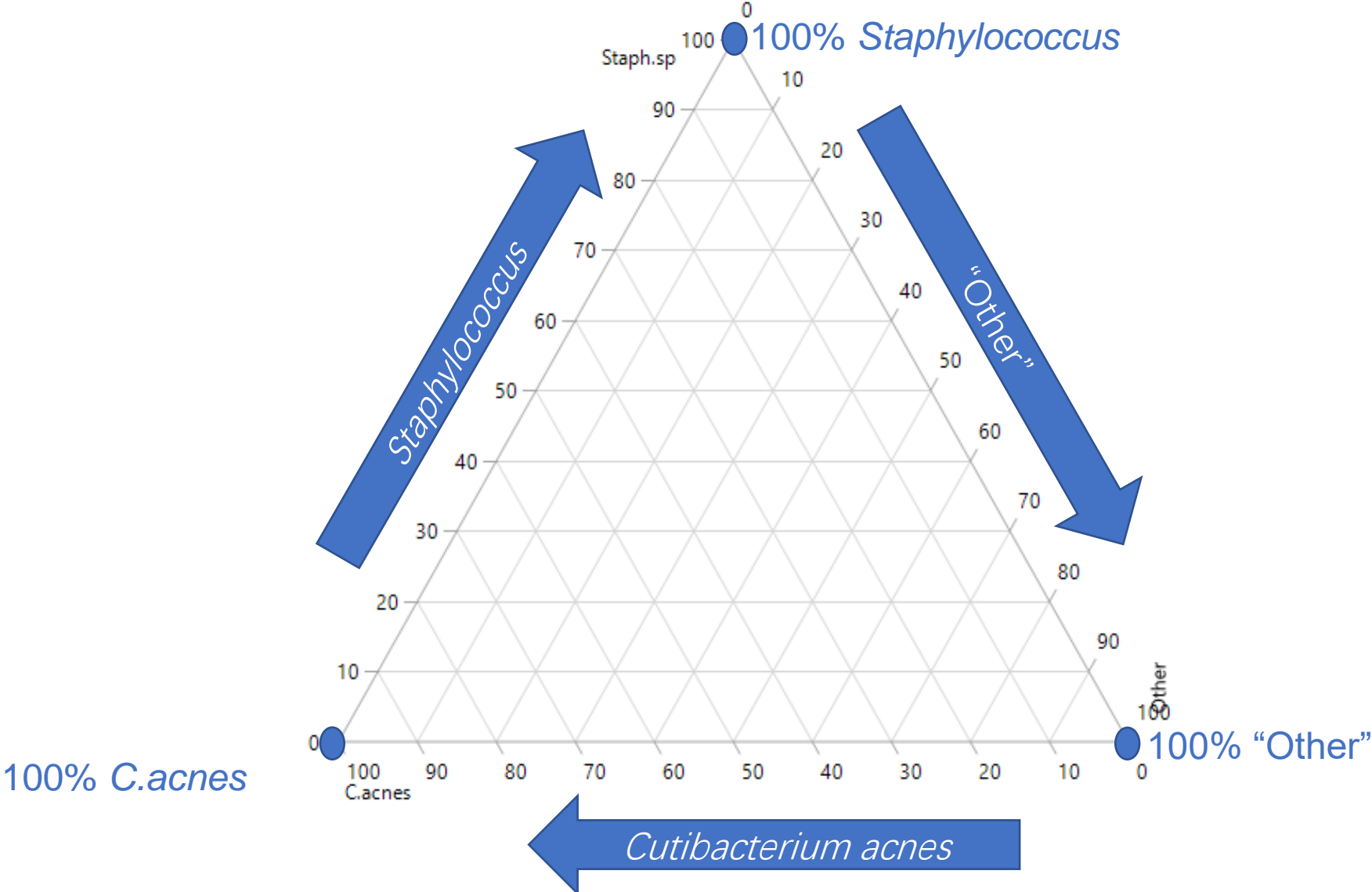
Body Site & Environment



% MRA per subject
331 subjects



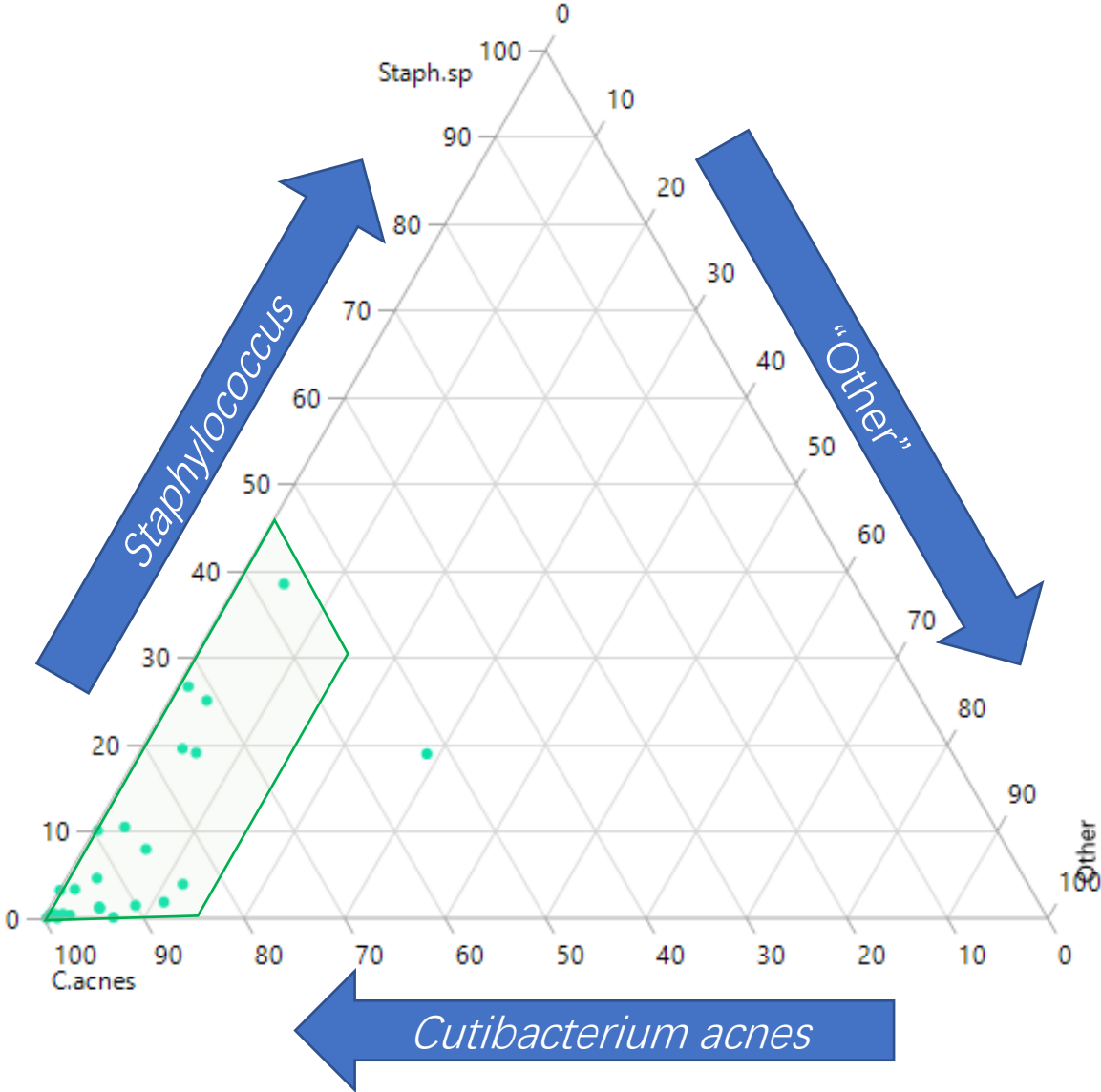
Body Sites – Community Composition



Body Sites – Community Composition

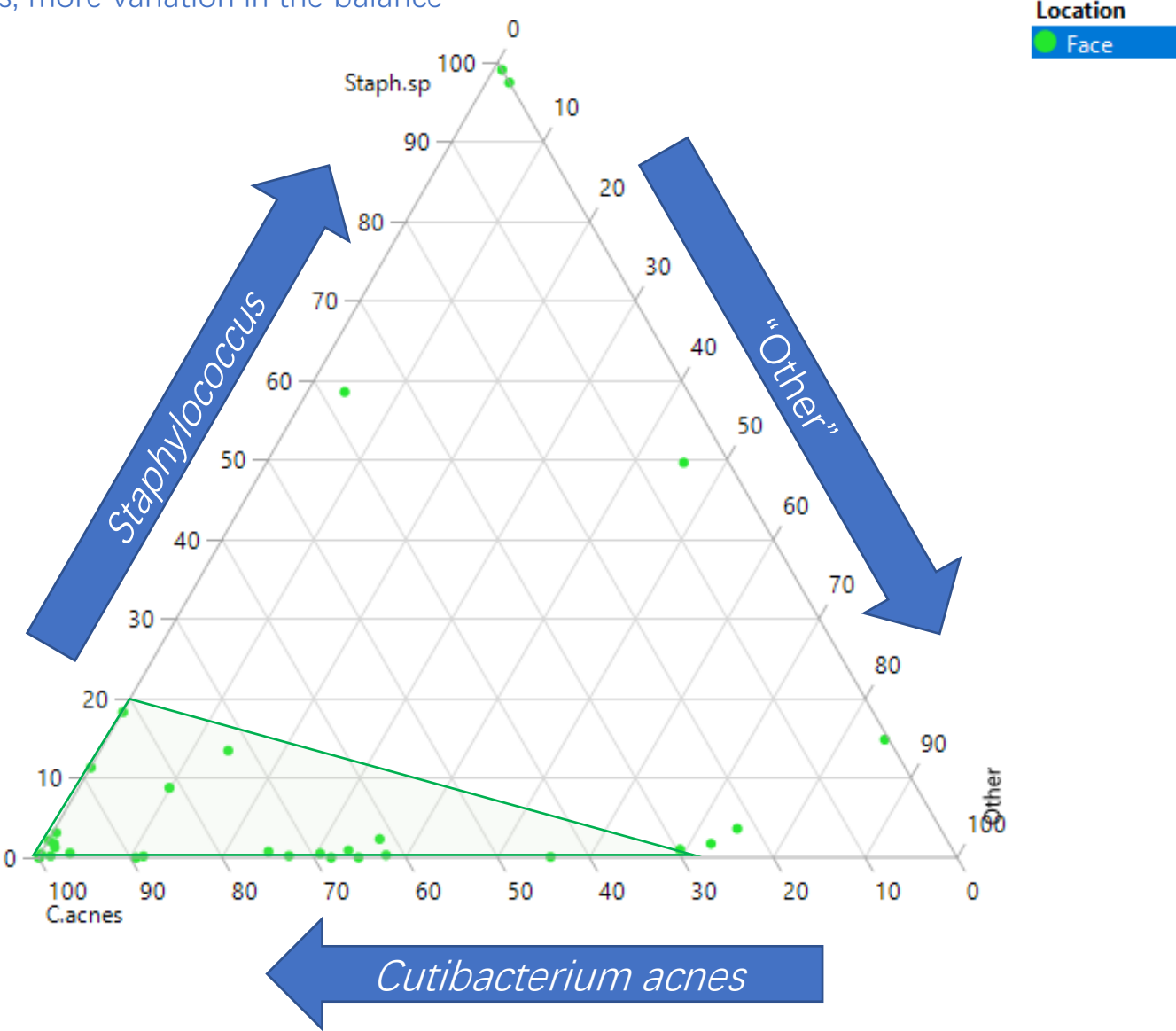
Scalp: *Cutibacterium* dominates, plus *Staphylococcus capitis* and *S. epidermidis*

Location
● Scalp



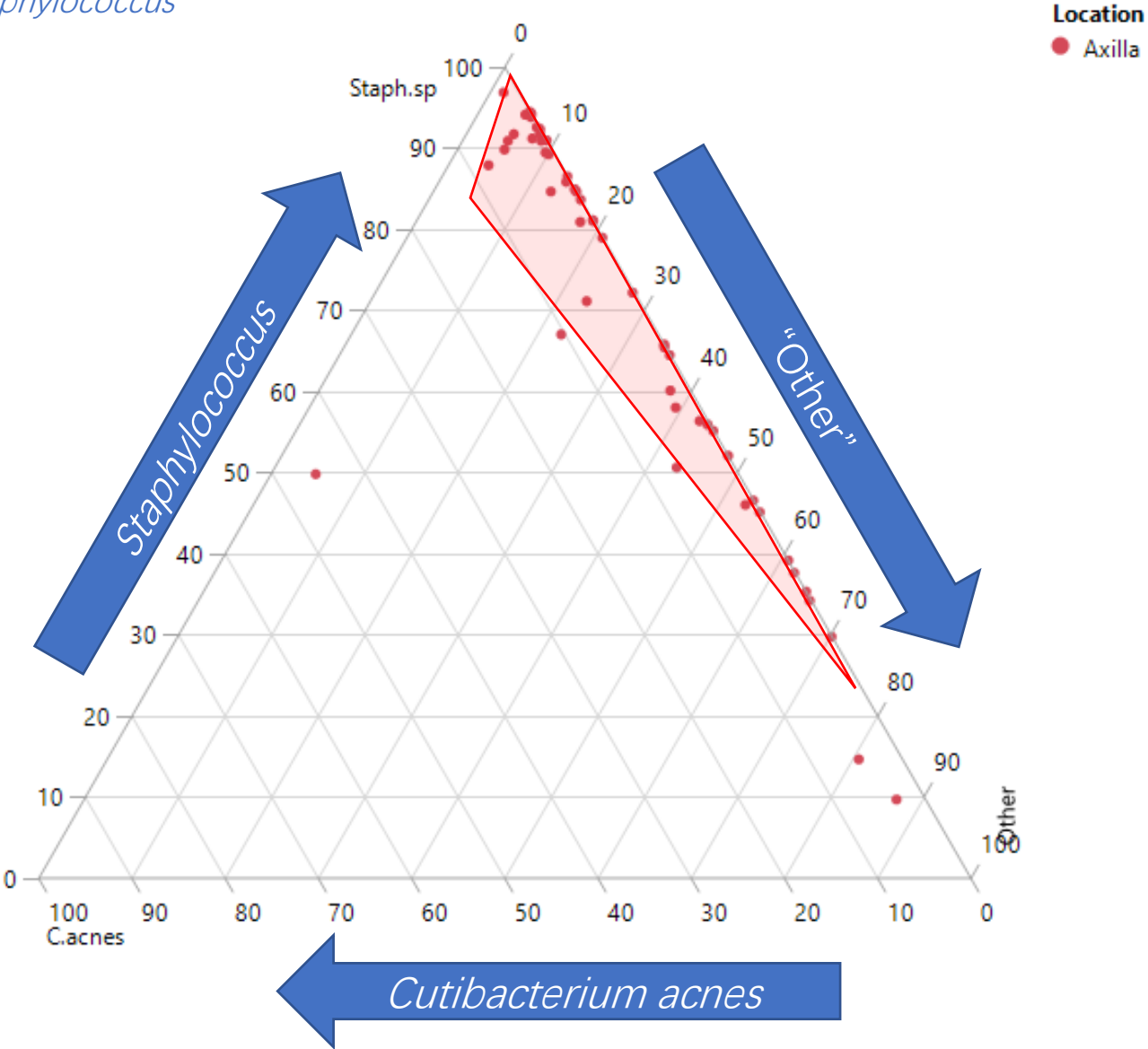
Body Sites – Community Composition

Face: *Cutibacterium* dominates, more variation in the balance



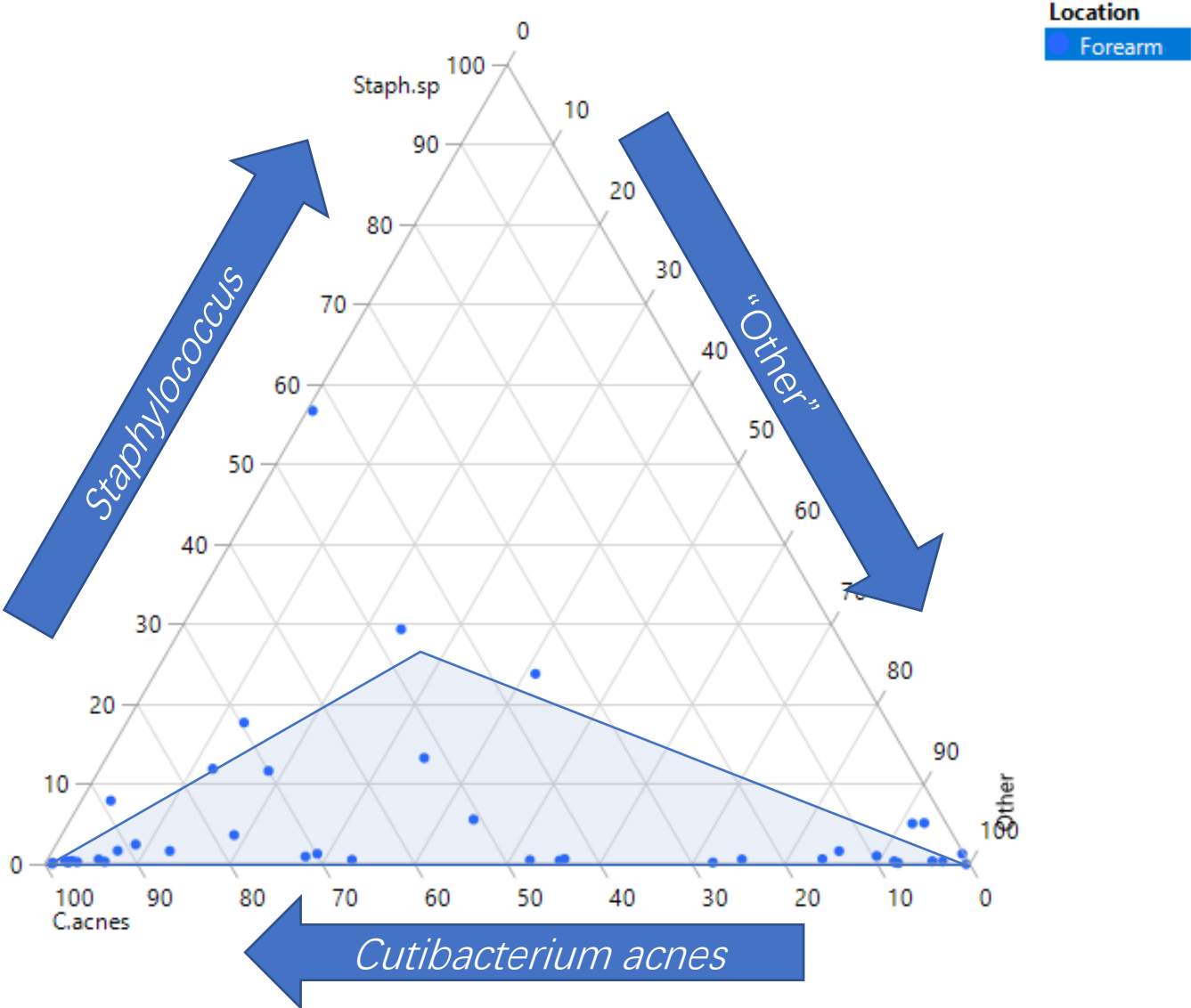
Body Sites – Community Composition

Axilla: High dominance of *Staphylococcus*



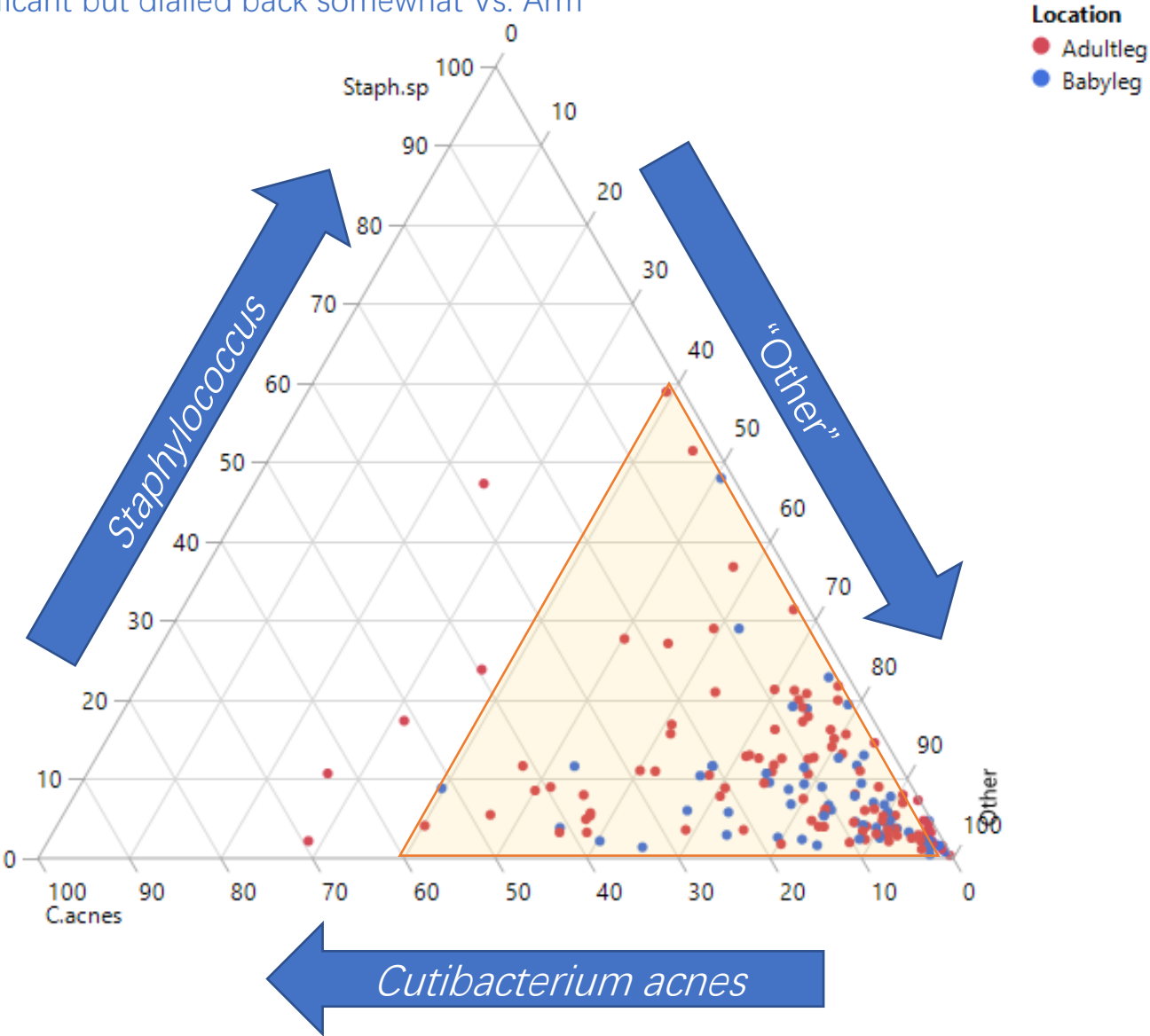
Body Sites – Community Composition

Arm: Although well represented, Cuti and Staphs are less dominant



Body Sites – Community Composition

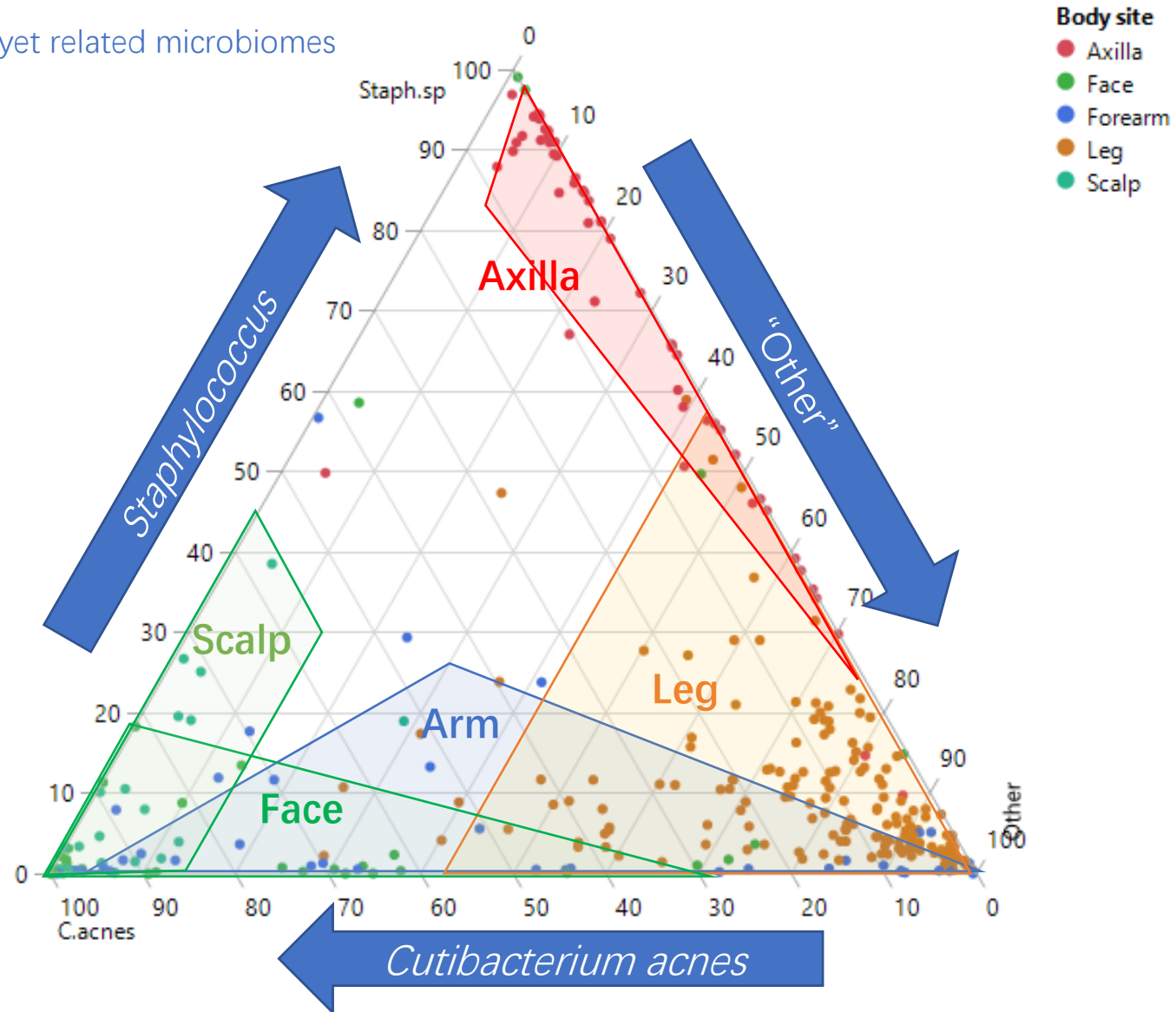
Leg: Cuti and Staphs still significant but dialled back somewhat Vs. Arm



Body Sites – Community Composition

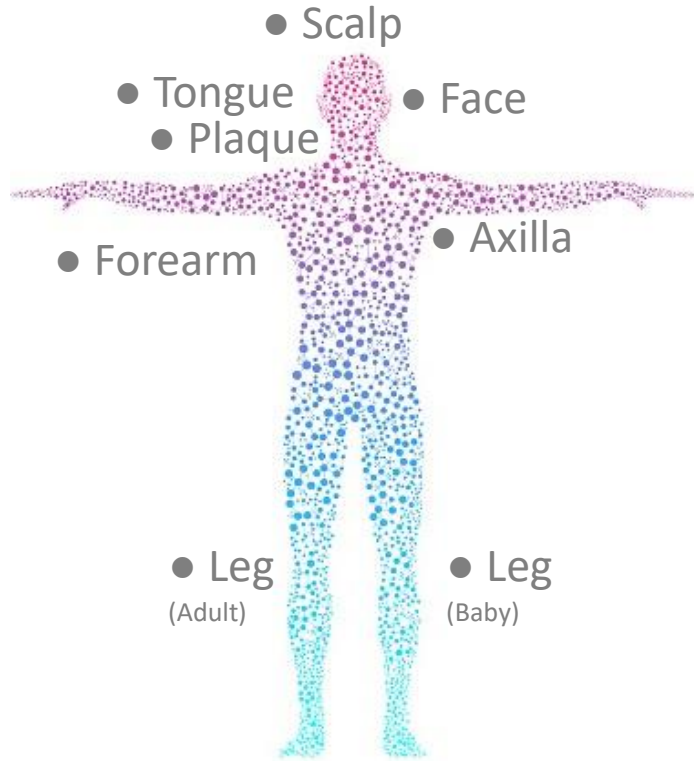
Variations on a theme

Body site niches have distinct yet related microbiomes



AI Prediction

450 Samples

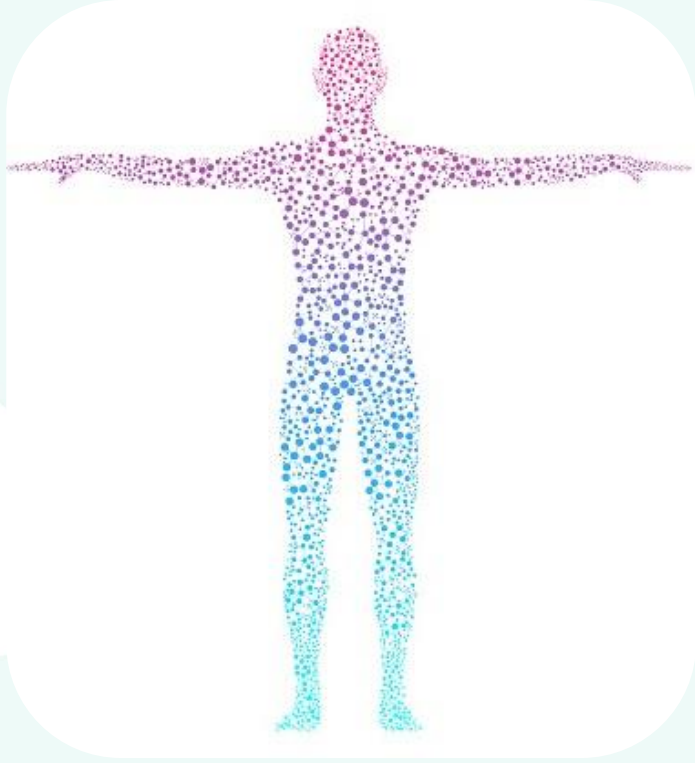


A.I. Accuracy = 93%
(validation data)

Actual Site

Adultleg	21	0	0	0	0	0	0
Axilla	0	12	0	0	0	0	0
Babyleg	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
Face	0	0	0	5	1	0	1
Forearm	0	0	0	0	8	0	0
Plaque	0	0	0	0	0	11	0
Scalp	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
Tongue	0	0	0	0	0	0	10

Predicted Site

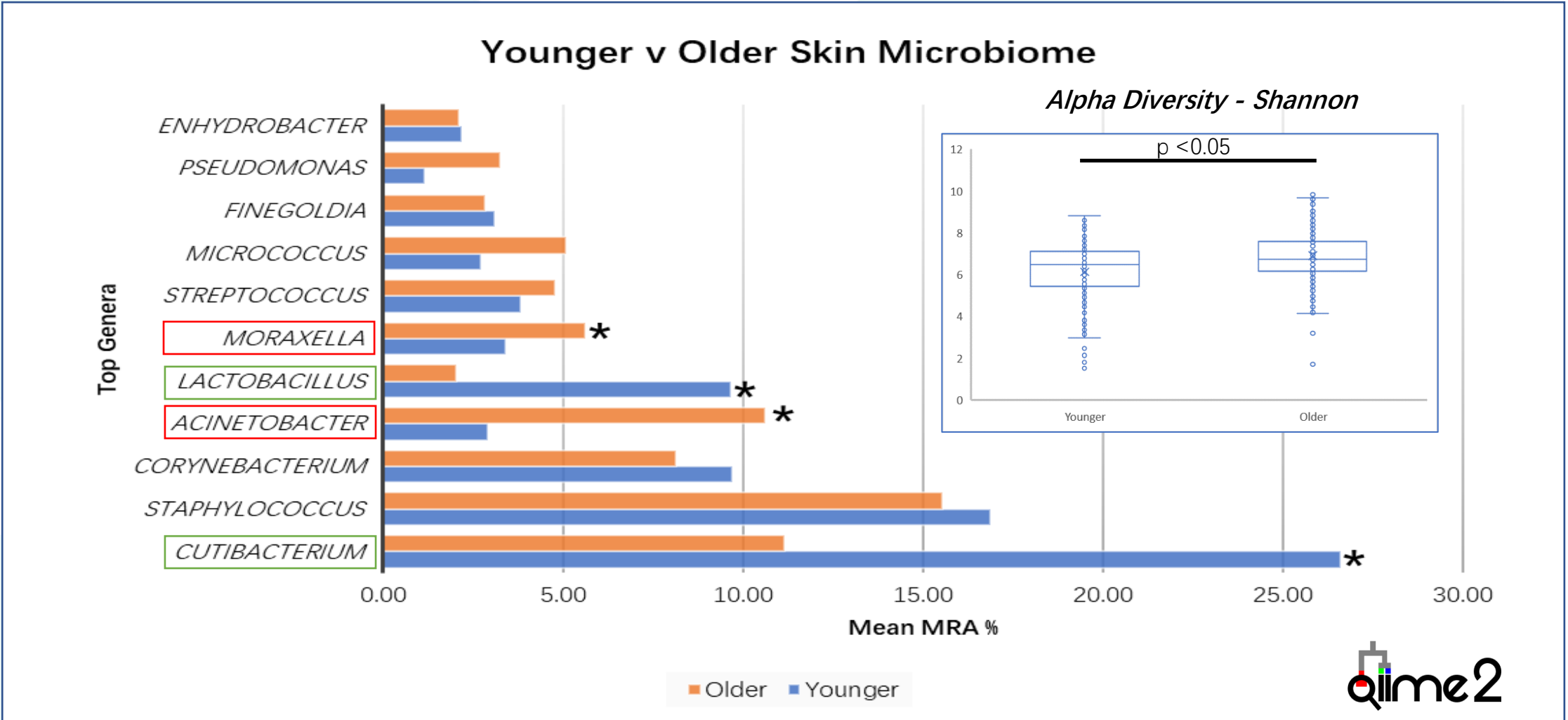


Age

Microbiome changes

Older = 50-55 (268 samples)

Younger = 21-41 (273 samples)



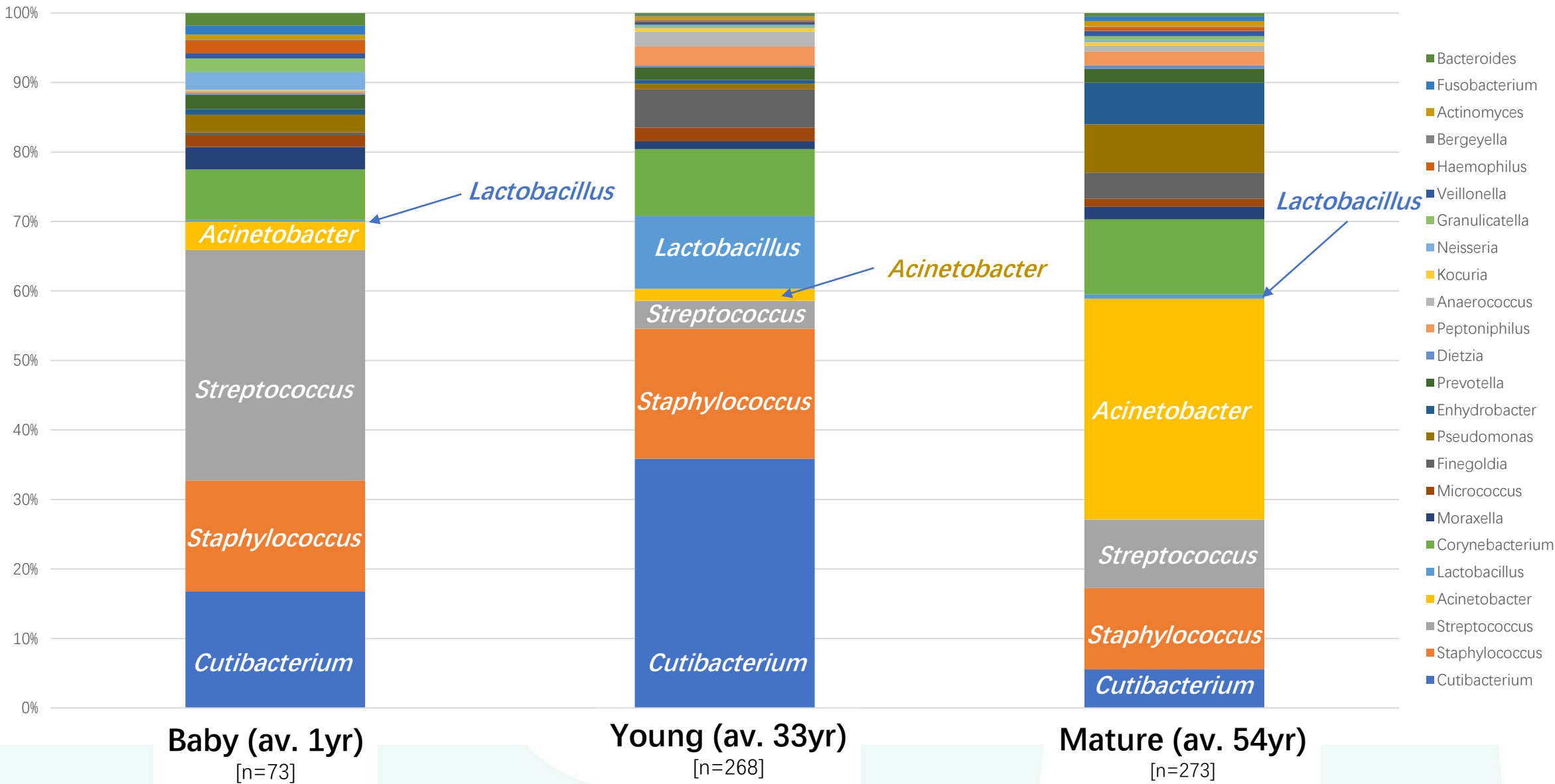
Younger skin:

- Higher abundance of *Cutibacterium* and *Lactobacillus*

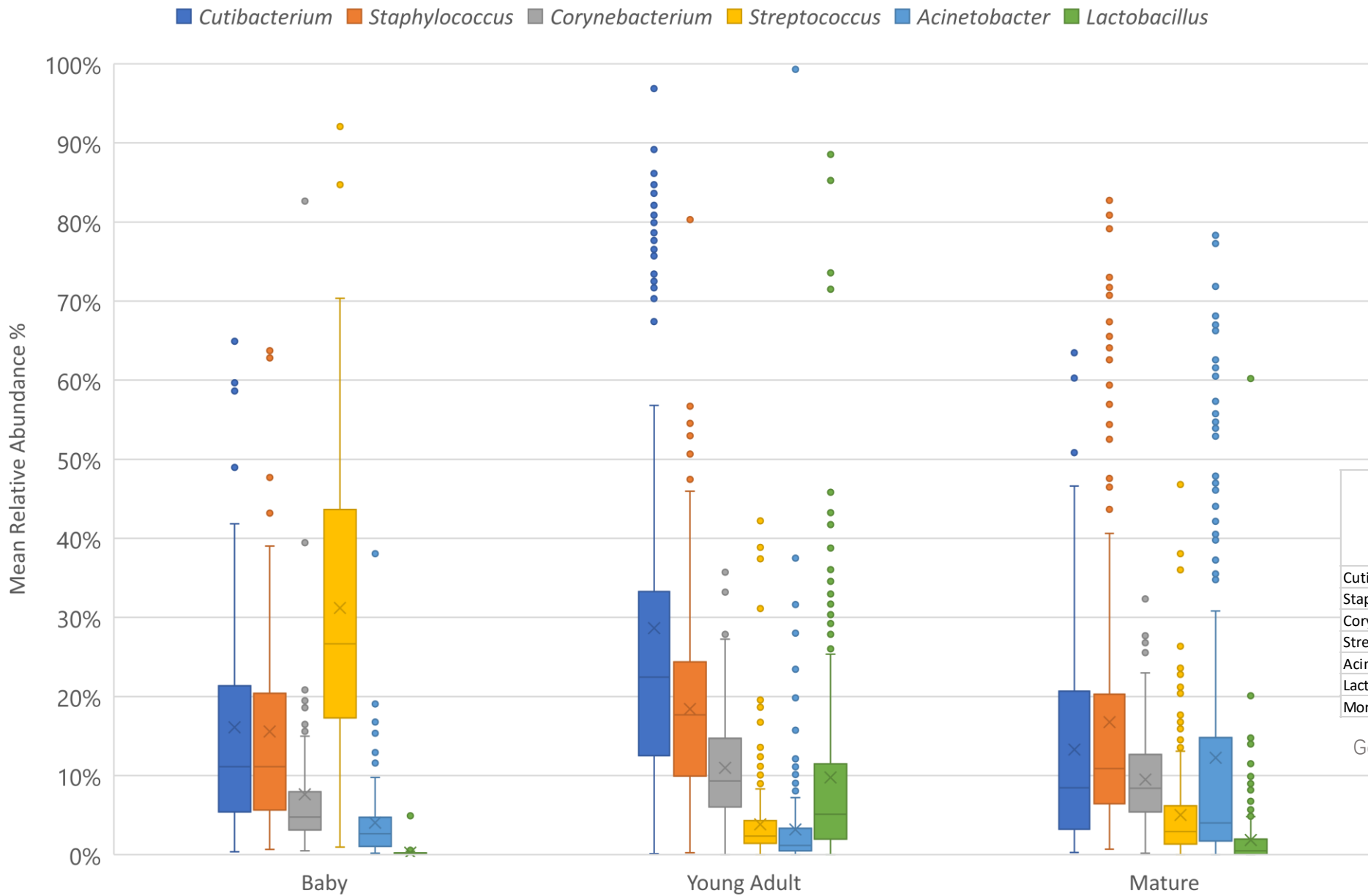
Older Skin

- Higher Abundance of *Acinetobacter* and *Moraxella*

Microbiome changes with age



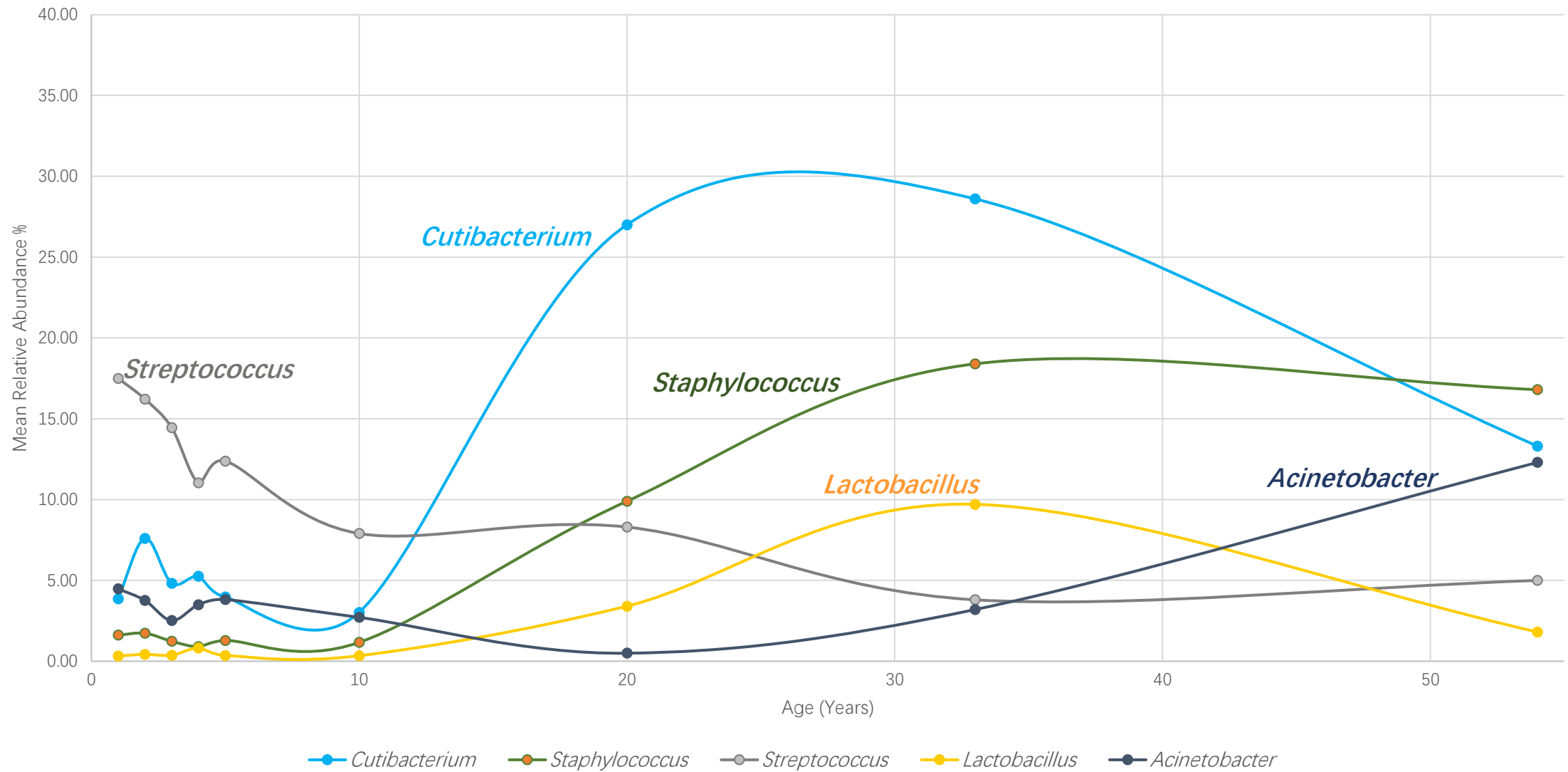
Microbiome changes with age



	Baby	Young Adult	Mature Adult
Cutibacteria	B	A	B
Staphylococcus	A	A	A
Corynebacteria	A	B	C
Streptococcus	A	B	B
Acinetobacter	B	B	A
Lactobacillus	B	A	B
Moraxella	B	B	A

Genera not connected by the same letter are significantly different

Skin Microbiome: Through the Years

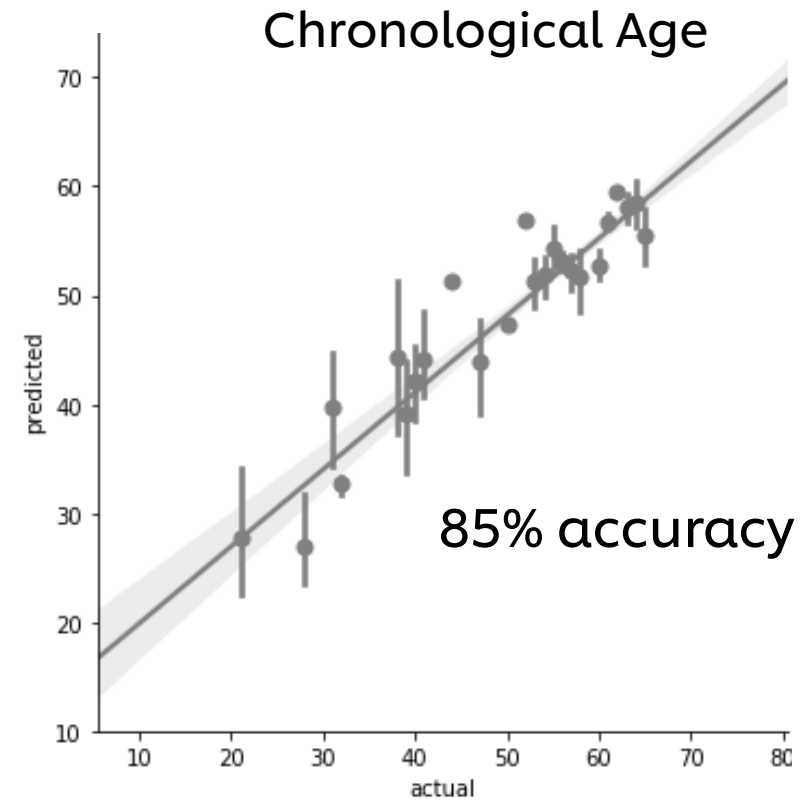
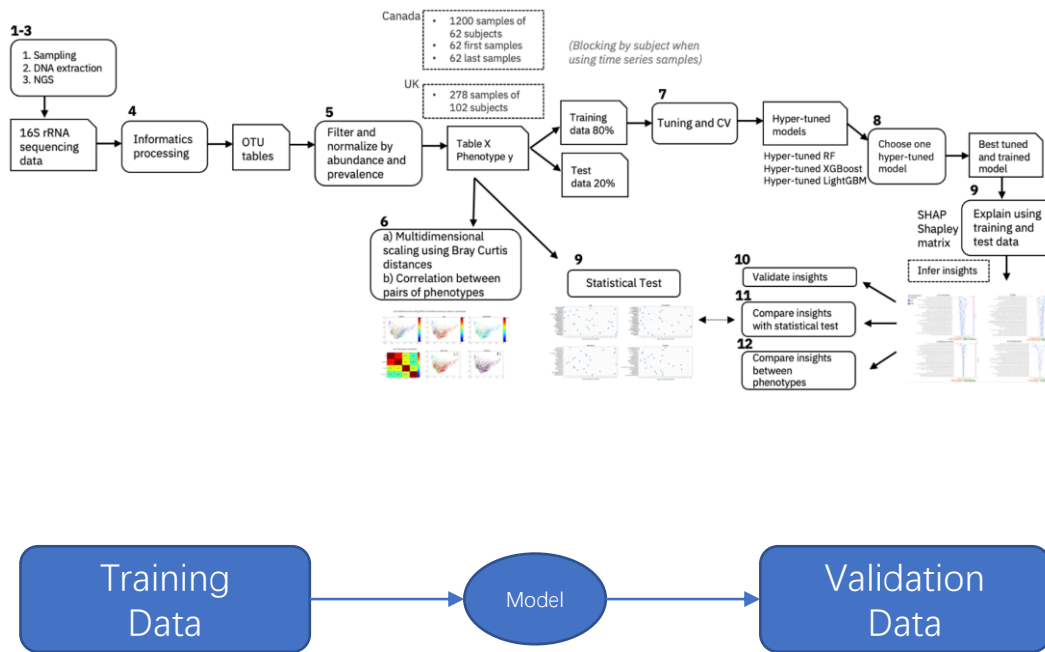


Age & Microbiome

Prediction

Accurate predictions of age from microbiome

relation between actual age and predicted age



Subject Metadata Prediction Accuracies:
Age: 85% Hydration: 90% Smoking Status: 85% Pre/Post Menopause: 92%

Why does it matter?

Cutibacterium acnes & Skin surface lipids

Sebaceous lipids

20% free fatty acids



- Triglycerides
- Free fatty acids
- Wax esters
- Squalene
- Cholesterol (esters)

Pappas 2015

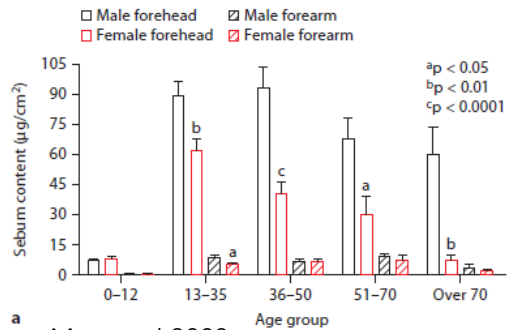
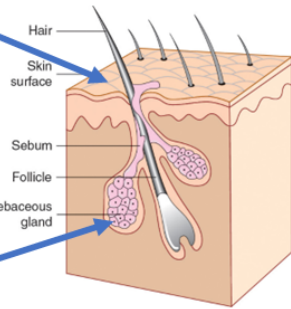


1% free fatty acids



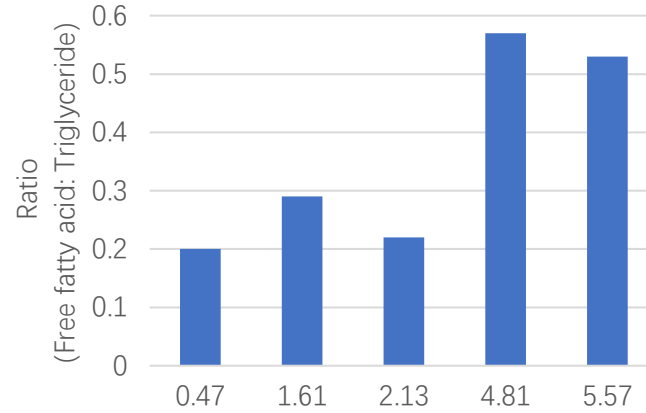
- Triglycerides
- Free fatty acids
- Wax esters
- Squalene
- Cholesterol (esters)

Stewart et al 1978

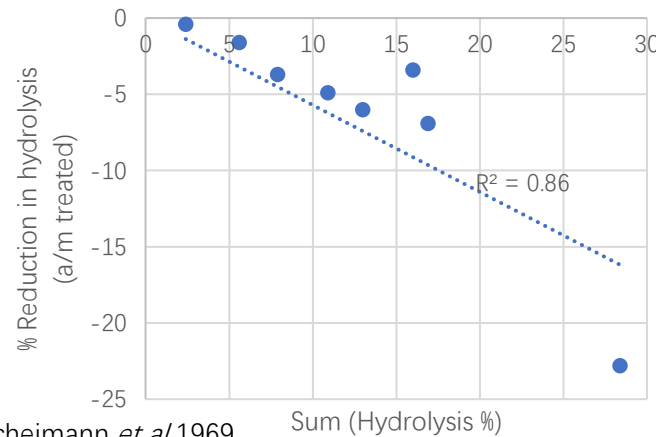


Man et al 2009

Microbial Hydrolysis

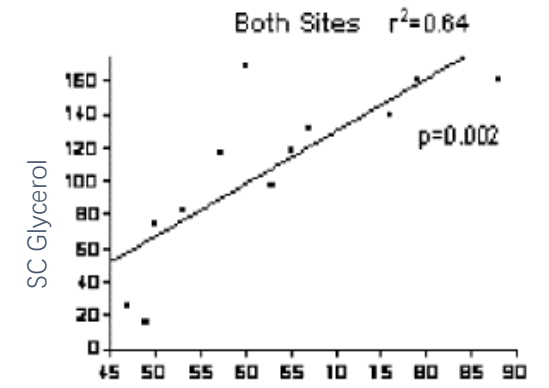


McGinley et al 1980 *C. acnes* (Log cfu cm²)

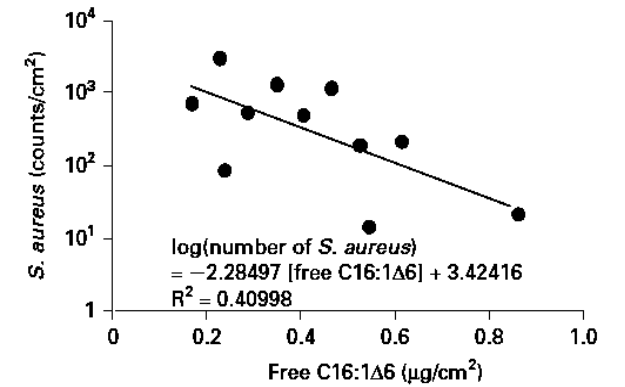


Scheimann et al 1969

Effects on Skin



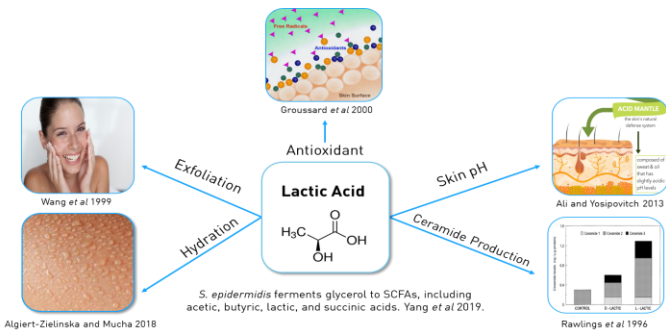
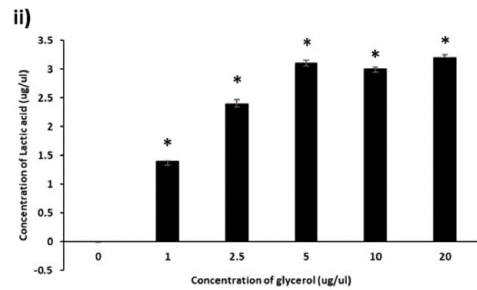
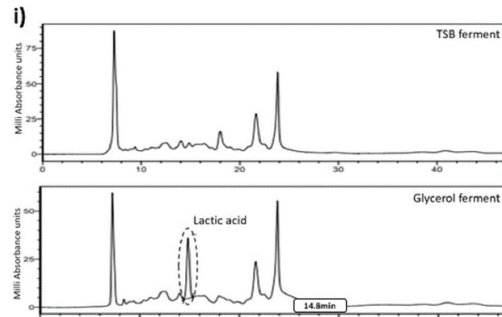
Elias et al 2005 SC Hydration



Tagigawa et al 2005

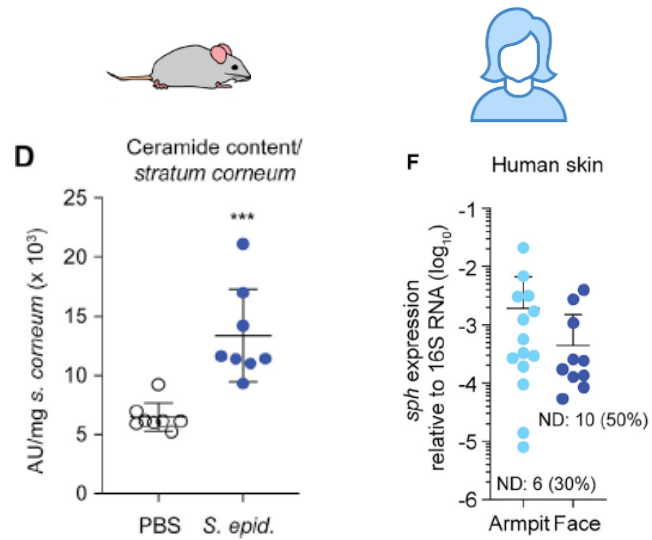
Staphylococcus epidermidis

Lactic acid



Salgaonkar et al 2021

Barrier & Sphingomyelinase

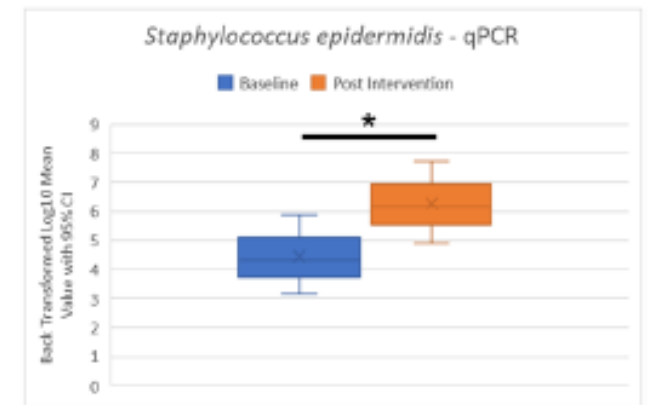
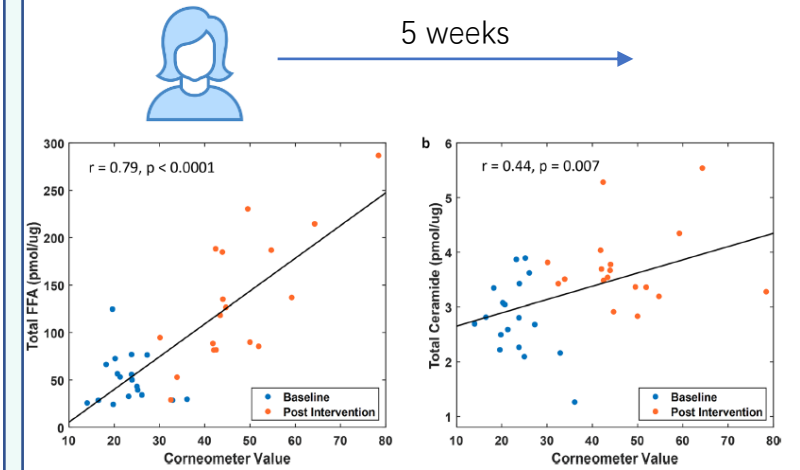


Highlights

- Commensal *Staphylococcus epidermidis* contributes to skin barrier homeostasis
- *S. epidermidis* produces a sphingomyelinase that helps generate protective ceramides
- Sphingomyelinase contributes to *S. epidermidis* skin colonization
- *S. epidermidis* prevents skin dehydration via its sphingomyelinase activity

Zheng et al 2022

Topical treatment

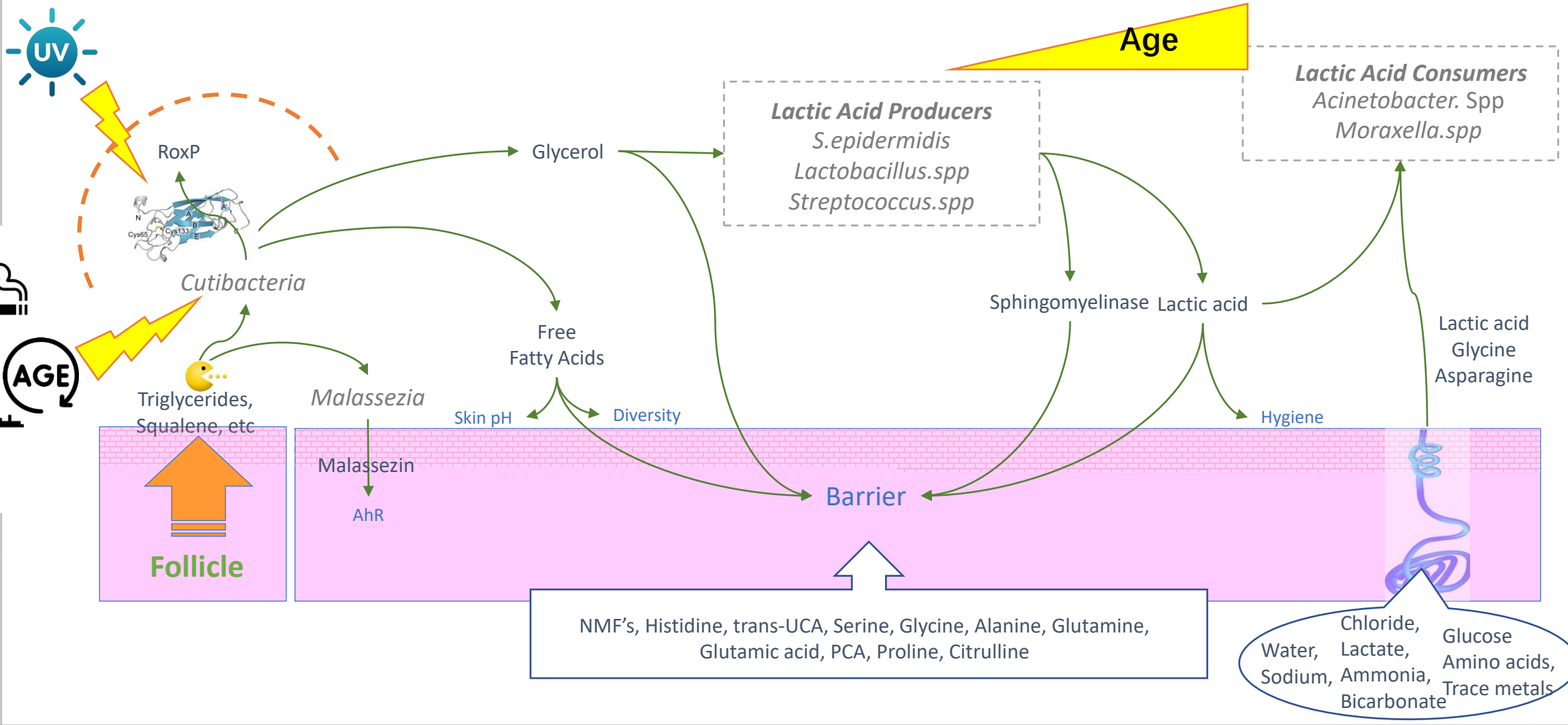


Murphy et al 2022

Bringing it all together



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Cutibacteria & skin surface lipids: Nicolaides 1958, Strauss 1966, Kraus 1968, Freinkel 1968, Scheimann 1969, Greene 1970, Marples 1970, Kellum 1973, Nicolaides 1974, Puhvel 1975, Stewart 1978, McGinley 1980, Cove 1980, Downie 1998. **RoxP:** Stødkilde 2022. **Lactic acid bacteria:** Ahle 2022, Zheng 2022, Salgaonkar 2021, Hayashi 2021, Nishioka 2021, Wilson 2008, Marzio 1999. **Eccrine sweat:** Harker & Harding 2013, Baker & Wolfe, 2020. **Malassezia:** Gaitanis et al 2008. **NMF:** Kroll et al 2012



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Thanks



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Srikala



Suzi



Vera



Vidula



Vinitha



Xueyang



Zongxiu



Akshatha



Anindya



Barry



Bharat



Bo



Cheri



Elaine



Gordy



Karthika



Mandy



Maya



Mike



Angharad



Roopa