



BMSystems is proud that GEMMA, Microbiota & Autism

H2020 program, was selected for 14 M€ funding!

As part of [Horizon 2020](#), the European Commission has selected for funding an international consortium of scientists to study the role of the gut microbiome in the development of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD). GEMMA, which stands for Genome, Environment, Microbiome and Metabolome in Autism, plans to enroll 600 infants at risk of developing ASD at centers in Italy, Ireland and the USA.

Collecting stool, tissue and blood samples from children over a 5-year period, along with environmental data, scientists will study the interaction between the gut microbiome and its related mechanisms with the intestinal barrier and immune response. The ultimate goal of GEMMA is to identify changes that could predict development of ASD in genetically predisposed infants.

Analysis of the microbial composition and, most importantly, the function of these microbial communities, will open new avenues for the personalized treatment and disease interception in at-risk infants, such as prebiotic or probiotic administration.

Participating organizations include: EBRIS; Nutricia Research; Medinok; [Bio-Modeling Systems](#); Eufomatics; Theoreo; National University of Ireland Galway; Azienda Sanitaria Locale Salerno; Massachusetts General Hospital for Children (a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School); Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche; INRA; INSERM; Utrecht University; Tampere University; Imperial College London and John Hopkins University.

GEMMA is one of 3 projects retained for funding by the European Commission in the [BHC-03 topic](#) of the H2020 Program, which saw 27 proposals competing for €50M of funding.

