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**An Interview with Bruce German, Director, Foods for Health Institute,  
Department of Food Science and Technology at UC Davis**

**At the Future Food-Tech San Francisco summit, you'll be speaking on the panel 'Monetizing the Microbiome: Challenges and Opportunities for Food and Health'. What do you see as the biggest advance made in recent months in understanding the human microbiome?**

At the risk of seeming self-serving, I see that the discoveries of the remarkable microbiota of breast fed infants dominated by specific strain of Bifidobacteria are both important for understanding the role of the microbiota of infants and the principles that influence colonization and competition of the microbiome of everyone.



**Where do you consider to be the most exciting opportunities for food-tech in response to our improving understanding of the microbiome?**

The historical view of the microbiota as being responsive to either probiotics or prebiotics separately is proving to be naive. Opportunities to genuinely alter the compositions and functions of the intestinal microbiota of humans will require a much more complex and integrated approach, combining both ecological exposure to bacteria and selective nourishment of specific bacteria and their functions.

**Where are you planning to focus future research and what do you hope this will achieve?**

We will continue to focus on infancy, the development of the early stages of the intestinal microbiota and the short and long-term influences of the intestinal microbiota on their development and health outcomes.

**What are the barriers you're coming up against in the academic study of the microbiome and how might they be overcome?**

The funding of research on infants remains a discouragingly low priority by Federal Agencies and the Investment community.

**What is your vision for the future of this work? What would you consider to be your ultimate goal?**

We have a vision of guiding all babies to a protective microbiota through their first 1,000 days which includes both the mother and infant as targets of science, technology and public support.

**Join Bruce at the upcoming Future Food-Tech San Francisco summit on March 29-30 2017**  
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