



## Original Review Article

# Insights into Emerging Trends of Gut Dysbiosis in Alzheimer's Disease: Exploring Potential of Pre and Probiotics

### Article History:

#### Name of Author:

Vinay<sup>1</sup>, Jitendra Singh Yadav<sup>2\*</sup>, Mayank Patel<sup>1</sup>, Arti Gupta<sup>3</sup>

**Affiliation:** <sup>1</sup>Shri Ram Murti Smarak College of Eng. & Tech. (Pharmacy), Bareilly, U.P. India-243202

<sup>2</sup>Department of Pharmaceutics, Shri Dhanvantary Pharmacy College, Kim, Surat, Gujarat, India-394150

<sup>3</sup>Amity Institute of Pharmacy, Amity University, Mumbai. Maharashtra - 410206

#### Corresponding Author:

Jitendra Singh Yadav (PhD)

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**Abstract:** First discovered by Alois Alzheimer in 1906, Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common cause of dementia. It is characterized by memory loss, gradual cognitive decline, and neuroinflammation linked to tau protein tangles and  $\beta$ -amyloid plaque buildup. Effective treatment is still difficult despite the fact that there are many ideas that attempt to explain its complex genesis, such as cholinergic, amyloid, tau propagation, neurovascular, mitochondrial, inflammatory, and gut microbiota dysbiosis theories. Recent research identifies the gut microbiota-brain axis (GMBA) as a key modulator of AD pathogenesis, affecting amyloid- $\beta$  metabolism through microbial metabolites and neurotransmitters, neuroinflammatory responses, and blood-brain barrier integrity. Microbes in the gut create short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), including butyrate, propionate, and acetate, which are essential for immunological modulation, metabolic control, and neuronal function. Neurodegeneration is linked to gut microbial imbalance, which is disrupted by dysbiosis. Probiotics, prebiotics, dietary changes, and fecal microbiota transplantation all target the GMBA, which presents a potential approach to managing AD and merits more research to prove causality and therapeutic efficacy.

**Keywords:** Alzheimer's disease, gut microbiota, brain health and illness, dysbiosis, prebiotics, probiotics.

## INTRODUCTION

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is primarily linked to various factors, resulting in changes to both brain function and behavior, for instance cognitive decline and memory loss. Alois Alzheimer, a psychiatrist and neuropathologist, initially identified AD in 1906. He presented his findings at the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of South-West German Psychiatrists, which were based on observations of plaques and neurofibrillary tangles in the brain histology of a patient experiencing memory loss, aggression, confusion,

and paranoia. Soon afterwards, the illness associated with Alzheimer was officially named "Alzheimer's disease" by his associate, Emil Kraepelin [1]. Currently, Alzheimer's disease is the leading cause of dementia, impacting 5.8 million individuals in the US. It is forecast that Alzheimer's disease cases in the United States will increase to 13.8 million by the year 2050 [2]. The pathological characteristics of AD are marked by the gradual accumulation of beta-amyloid (A $\beta$ ) plaques and tangles of overly phosphorylated tau neurofibrils, resulting in

neuroinflammation and continuous cognitive deterioration [3]. Dysfunction of synapses, persistent activation of the immune system and traumatic events impacting on brain leads to disrupt central immune homeostasis and hasten disease progression through substantial neuronal loss in the hippocampus [4].

Despite significant research efforts to understand the pathogenesis of the disease, the cause-and-effect relationships of the complex biological processes involved in Alzheimer's disease are not yet fully understood. Although, several hypothesis have been put forward to explain the Etiopathogenesis of AD; these includes- Cholinergic hypothesis [5], Amyloid hypothesis [6,7], Tau propagation hypothesis [8,9,10], Neurovascular hypothesis [11,12], Gut microbiota dysbiosis hypothesis, Inflammatory hypothesis [13,14], Metal ion hypothesis [15], Lymphatic system hypothesis [16,17] and Mitochondrial cascade and related hypothesis [18-20]. Researchers have been working to develop various therapeutic strategies to combat AD, which have been formulated to understand the causes of AD pathogenesis and progression. These strategies describe that AD is a complex and multifaceted disease, and therefore, different therapeutic options have been proposed. Many of these options have failed in clinical trials and have not been found to produce significant benefits, which highlights the need for further research and development of more effective treatments [21-23]. The inability to fully comprehend the illness makes it difficult to create successful treatments, highlighting the necessity of a thorough and multifaceted strategy to address it. Reliable and consistent biomarkers are still a ways off from being used practically in clinical settings, despite the fact that early disease identification is frequently seen as essential for intervention in its early phases [24, 25].

Varied population of microorganisms, known as the gut microbiota, including bacteria, fungi, and viruses, inhabit the gastrointestinal tract. This microbial balance is disrupted by dysbiosis, which has been connected to a number of neurological conditions. Multiple routes, including peripheral neurotransmitters, microbial metabolites, and immunological signalling molecules, may be involved in gut-brain communication, according to emerging data [26]. There is mounting evidence that gut dysbiosis is regularly seen in animal models and AD patients, highlighting its possible involvement in the development and course of the illness. According to mechanistic studies, the gut microbiota may affect AD pathology through a number of interrelated pathways, such as the generation of neuroactive metabolites, changes in systemic and neuroinflammatory responses, control of the integrity of the blood-brain barrier, and impacts on the

aggregation and clearance of amyloid- $\beta$ . The idea that altering the microbiome may help control AD is supported by early therapeutic strategies such dietary changes, fecal microbiota transplantation, probiotics, and prebiotics. However, the study of the microbiota-gut-brain axis is still in its early stages, with significant obstacles such as inter-individual variation in microbiome profiles, a lack of conclusive evidence, and an inadequate comprehension of the interactions between microbial metabolites and their hosts. In order to prove causation and make it possible to logically develop clinically successful microbiome-based treatments for AD, these gaps must be filled [27]. A potential therapeutic target for conditions affecting the central nervous system, like Alzheimer's disease, the gut microbiota brain axis (GMBA) has gained prominence in biomedical research in recent years [28-30].

#### **Establishment & Composition of GM:**

The complex ecology known as the gut microbiota serves as a home for a wide variety of microorganisms that have mutually beneficial interactions with their human host. In addition to offering many benefits and resistance to the development of new species, the gut microbiome is made up of a variety of bacteria that maintain a mutually beneficial relationship with the host. The recolonization of dangerous bacteria could result from an imbalance in this intricate ecosystem, which could then cause inflammatory reactions and the emergence of various diseases [31]. The gut microbiota plays a crucial role in maintaining a state of balance within the human intestine [32]. This substance offers numerous effects including defense against pathogens, carbohydrate breakdown and control of fat storage, the production of vital vitamins, and the regulation of the immune response, signifying an environmental factor of great significance in human homeostasis [33]. GM plays a significant role in several metabolic processes through the fermentation of undigested carbohydrates and the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), with a range of beneficial systemic impacts [34]. The three most commonly produced SCFAs are acetate, propionate, and butyrate [35]. These substances may regulate hepatic processes such as lipogenesis and cholesterol production, according to evidence. While butyrate is mostly utilized by the gastrointestinal mucosa as an energy source, propionate is engaged in gluconeogenesis in the liver, and acetate is the SCFA with the highest concentration in plasma and has been connected to low plasma insulin levels [36]. Furthermore, the gut microbiota promotes the creation of ketone bodies and carbon dioxide, and also helps regulate energy balance by stimulating the intestinal enteroendocrine cells [36-38]. In addition to its metabolic roles, the gut microbiome helps prevent the establishment of pathogenic microorganisms. Process entails creation

of bacteriocins or antimicrobial peptides [39]. As a result, there is a competition for nutrients, which in turn stimulates innate immunity through the secretion of IgA and the activation of Toll-like receptors (TLR) [40, 41]. These compounds are able to detect molecular patterns found in microorganisms that consist of bacterial-derived lipopolysaccharides (LPS), lipoproteins, flagellin, and DNA from pathogens [34].

Intestinal microbiota's immunomodulatory activity plays a role in its interaction with the immune system, influencing both the activation of innate immunity and the maturation and subsequent refinement of adaptive immunity [42, 43]. The intestinal microbiota's activity at the neurological level is of utmost importance and is achieved through a two-way communication process between the gut and the brain via the Gut-Brain axis (GBA) [44]. GM influences the enteric nervous system by regulating

the synthesis, release, and degradation of neurotransmitters and neurotrophic factors, preserving the sensory barrier, adjusting enteric sensory signals, producing bacterial byproducts, and controlling mucosal immunity [34-45]. Psychological relationship was observed as a connection between mood disorders and an imbalance of gut bacteria [46]. Effect is primarily attributed to neurotransmitters viz., serotonin and dopamine, which are produced by native GM, influencing brain alertness, mood regulation, memory, and learning process [45, 47].

Effectiveness of intestinal microbiota activities largely hinges on its composition, which evolves with age through various life stages. Microbiota development commences during gestation and concurrently advances alongside the host, performing the essential roles required for homeostasis preservation as illustrated in (Table -1).

**Table 1:** Common species of gut microbiota and effects of their metabolites on the central nervous system

| Gut microbiota                                                                                                  | Metabolites                    | Effects on the central nervous system function                                                                       | Ref.         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Lactobacillus, Bifidobacterium                                                                                  | Gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) | The primary inhibitory neurotransmitter is responsible for controlling mood, behavioural and cognitive processes.    | (49)         |
| Bifidobacterium infantis, Streptococcus, Escherichia, Enterococcus, Lactococcus, Lactobacillus,)                | Candida Serotonin (5-HT)       | Neurotransmitters, control emotional responses.                                                                      | (50)         |
| Escherichia, Bacillus, Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Streptococcus                                                | Dopamine                       | Regulate both mental and physical activities, including cognitive functions like learning and memory.                | (50)         |
| Lactobacillus, Bacillus                                                                                         | Acetylcholine                  | Cognitive, memory, social interaction, self-care capacity, and emotional well-being.                                 | (51)         |
| Bacteroides, Bifidobacterium, Propionibacterium, Eubacterium, Lactobacillus, Clostridium, Roseburia, Prevotella | Short-chain fatty acids (SCFA) | Enhance the blood-brain barrier's permeability reduction, stimulate the production and release of neurotransmitters. | (52)         |
| Lactococcus, Lactobacillus, Streptococcus, Enterococcus                                                         | Histamine                      | Manage sleep patterns and cognitive functions.                                                                       | (53)<br>(54) |

Additionally, the human gastrointestinal tract is a hospitable environment that is home to more than 100 trillion microbes, thereby classifying the microbiome as the body's largest "virtual organ." This, in turn, affects and regulates the host's overall fitness, appearance, and well-being [48]. As a result, significant efforts have been focused on countering the impact of intestinal dysbiosis in neurodegenerative disease.

#### Gut -Brain Axis:

Through microbial-metabolite, immunological, endocrine, and neurological pathways, the "gut-brain axis" is a two-way communication system that connects the central nervous system and the gastrointestinal tract. It affects behavior, emotions, and thought processes in addition to coordinating intestinal processes including

motility and secretion. Intestinal permeability modulation, enteroendocrine hormone secretion, immunological activation with cytokine release, vagal and enteric nervous system signalling, and microbial synthesis of neuroactive metabolites such as short-chain fatty acids are important pathways. A disturbance of this intricately regulated network leads to neuroinflammation, barrier dysfunction, and altered neurotransmission—processes that are becoming more and more linked to neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's [55]. Within this communication network, the brain influences gut movement, sensory, and secretion processes, while signals from the gut in turn impact brain function [56]. Maintaining gut homeostasis relies heavily on this relationship, which has also been linked to the development of various metabolic and mental health issues, including psychiatric and neurological disorders [57, 58].

Different routes of communication between the gut microbiota and the brain have been proposed:

- The vagus nerve serves as the primary modulatory pathway, with its influence exerted through both incoming and outgoing branches [59, 60].
- Through the production of metabolites and bioactive peptides, including short-chain fatty acids, as well as the regulation of neurotransmitters, like serotonin and acetylcholine, the gut microbiota affects the host [59-61].
- The HPA system releases cortisol in response to stress, which can affect intestinal motility, health, and mucus production. Ultimately, this can lead to changes in the gut microbiota's composition. By altering the levels of stress hormones, this alteration may have an impact on the central nervous system. [61].
- The immune response is mediated through the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and chemokines [62].
- Immunity plays a critical role in this process. Specifically, toll-like receptors (TLRs) and peptidoglycans (PGNs) act as sensors of microbial components, mediating the immune response towards microbes [63, 64].

Local immune activation can, through various pathways, result in immune activation in different organs, including the brain [65]. This low-grade immune activation has been linked to the underlying causes of certain forms of depression and neurodegenerative disorders, including AD and Parkinson's disease (PD) [59]. The intricate relationship between various factors is not unexpected, considering that the gut–brain axis is directly or indirectly linked to neuropsychiatric illnesses, with the gut microbiota serving as a primary component of this communication [66].

### Gut dysbiosis & AD

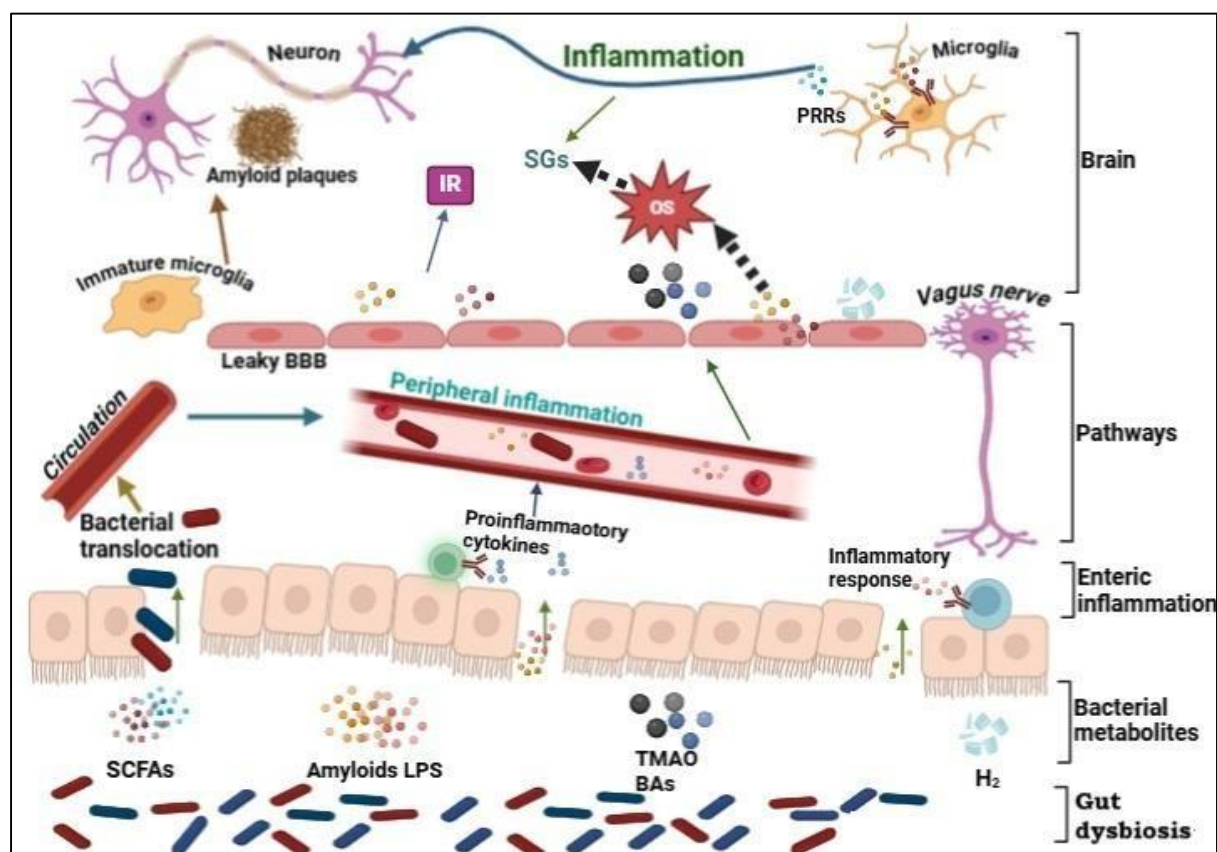
The role of gut microbiota and GMBA in AD is of utmost importance. GM plays a crucial role in overall health and function of the brain, and alterations in the GM have been linked to various neurological disorders, including AD. GMBA, a member of the gut microbiota, has been shown to have a significant impact on the development and progression of AD [67]. Gut bacteria composition has a dramatic impact on any age-related neurological disorder. External factors such as diet, lifestyle, and pro-inflammatory insults, as well as internal components including genetic variations, the immune system, metabolites, and hormones, significantly impact the makeup of the gut microbiome, which subsequently produces signalling compounds viz., SCFAs, tryptophan, choline, and hormones (including ghrelin, leptin) in the gastrointestinal tract capable of regulating central nervous system functions [68]. Aging has a significant impact on the composition of GM, which tends to favor the development of pro-inflammatory bacteria. These include *Bacillus fragilis*, *Faecalibacterium prausnitzii*, *Eubacterium rectale*, *Eubacterium hallii*, and *Bacteroides fragilis*. Local and systemic inflammation come from the reduction of anti-inflammatory bacterial numbers. This inflammation damages the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and increases the permeability of the gastrointestinal system. A compromised blood-brain barrier encourages neuroinflammation.

According to research by Cattaneo et al., patients with amyloid-positive illnesses have more pro-inflammatory microorganisms than healthy individuals [69]. Although infection with *Salmonella enterica* or *Candida albicans* enhanced susceptibility to subsequent infections in transgenic mice expressing mutant human APP and in *Caenorhabditis elegans* models harboring human A $\beta$ 42, these animals outlived wild-type controls with prolonged survival. A $\beta$ 's antibacterial qualities are responsible for this contradiction, as its heparin-binding motif makes it easier for it to interact with the glycosylated parts of microbial cell walls. By promoting microbial agglutination and disrupting pathogen adherence to host cells, this binding helps the host defend against infection even if the host is generally more susceptible [70]. Bacteria-derived amyloids have been identified as potential causative factors for A $\beta$  peptide aggregation in AD. Specifically, amyloids produced by certain bacteria, such as curli from *E. coli*, TasA from *Bacillus subtilis*, CsgA from *S. Typhimurium*, FapC from *Pseudomonas fluorescens*, and phenol soluble modulins from *Staphylococcus aureus*, have been shown to contribute to the development of Alzheimer's disease pathology by promoting the formation of A $\beta$  oligomers and fibrils [71].

Amyloids originating from bacteria, other factors are involved in the onset and progression of Alzheimer's disease. The administration of lipopolysaccharides (LPS) from bacteria to experimental animals in the fourth ventricle of

the brain resulted in a symptom profile that closely resembled Alzheimer's disease [72]. Even the injection of LPS in mice leads to an increase in A $\beta$  levels in the hippocampal area, resulting in cognitive defects. This supports the role of LPS in the formation of amyloid fibrils [73,74]. Upon being in use, LPS has been discovered to initiate the TLR4 pathway, causing immune cells to produce pro-inflammatory cytokines and IgM/IgA, leading to an intensification of systemic inflammation [75-78]. From this viewpoint, gut inflammation could be a reason why AD develops. The connection between the GM's composition, inflammation, additional neuroinflammation, and the onset of AD, is a key point of contention in understanding the causes of Alzheimer's disease. Several investigations have found pathogens in the brain tissue of patients who died from AD [79-82].

Among the viruses and bacteria that have been linked to AD are herpes simplex virus type 1 and various bacterial species, including *Chlamydomphila pneumoniae*, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, and other spirochetes [83-85]. Evidence also indicates a substantial rise in levels of *Helicobacter pylori*-specific IgG antibodies in both the cerebrospinal fluid and the serum of individuals with AD [86]. New therapeutic strategies may be developed by exploring the key function of specific gut microbiota compositions associated with AD, in an effort to increase the presence of beneficial microorganisms, while also modifying both dietary habits and lifestyle, which could help to prevent the progression of AD as shown in (Figure 1) [87-89].



**Figure 1:** Depicts the effects of an imbalance in the gut microbiome in AD. Gut dysbiosis results in a decrease of beneficial compounds, including SCFAs and H<sub>2</sub>, and an increase of harmful compounds, such as amyloids and Trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO), which leads to increased permeability of the intestinal mucosal barrier and BBB, activation of peripheral immune responses, and elevated levels of peripheral and central oxidative stress. The progression of AD pathology is furthered by gut dysbiosis, which leads to enhanced amyloid plaque formation, increased neuroinflammation, SGs, and IR.

#### Probiotics and Prebiotics as a Potential treatment strategy for AD:

##### Probiotics:

First used in 1974, the term "probiotics" today refers to "live microorganisms that, when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host." Immune response modulation, stress protection, pathogen colonization inhibition, and intestinal epithelial barrier function augmentation are some of their positive benefits. In models of neurodegenerative diseases, probiotic supplementation has been demonstrated to improve spatial memory, lower the load of amyloid plaque in the hippocampus, and restore synaptic plasticity and long-term potentiation in rats treated with A $\beta$  [90-93]. These effects are partially mediated by the brain's inhibition of NF- $\kappa$ B

signaling that is dependent on TLR4 and RIG-I. There isn't much clinical data, but one randomized study found that probiotics helped AD patients' cognitive performance and lipids and malondialdehyde levels, two plasma indicators. Although these results point to the therapeutic potential of probiotics in halting or reducing the course of AD, there is currently not enough clinical evidence to support their routine usage in AD care [94-95].

The exact mechanism by which probiotics display effects in AD remains unclear. According to 16s rRNA sequencing, supplementation with probiotics in humans did not appear to alter the types of bacteria in the intestinal flora, yet it did cause the benefits of probiotics to manifest on behaviour by temporarily modifying the state of gene expression in the collective microbiome, a phenomenon that was later validated in germ-free mice and identical twins [96]. Therefore, metatranscriptomic and metabolomic technologies are needed to assess the effects of probiotic intervention on gut microbiota in the host. Although probiotics have been widely promoted among the general public, many probiotic strains and formulations have yielded contradictory clinical results [91]. More attention should be paid to the adverse effects of probiotics. These include: - Systemic infection, GI side effects, Gene transfer from probiotics to normal microbiota, Harmful metabolic effects of probiotics, Immune system stimulation and other potential negative consequences [97]. However, future probiotic treatments for Alzheimer's disease necessitate the creation of methods to overcome colonization resistance [91].

### **Prebiotics:**

The existing definition of prebiotics is "a substrate that selectively benefits from being used by the host's micro-organisms and can lead to a reduction in cognitive impairments and decreased A $\beta$  deposition in the brains of animals with Alzheimer's disease" [98]. Prebiotics are non-digestible organic compounds, specifically short-chain carbohydrates that can selectively promote the growth and/or activity of one or a small set of beneficial gut bacteria [99]. The gut microbiota serves as a source of food, which in turn triggers the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), ultimately impacting both gastrointestinal and extra intestinal functions [100]. A body of research is indicating their potential usefulness as additional therapy options for various neurological and psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, depression, and Parkinson's disease [101]. Current research into AD prevention and treatment is also exploring the potential benefits of prebiotics, yielding encouraging outcomes [99,101-110]. Yeast beta glucans administration to mouse models of Alzheimer's disease (AD) has been shown to be effective in several ways. It helps to re-establish a balance between pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory gut microbiome species. This balance is crucial for the production of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs), which in turn limits neuroinflammation and insulin resistance [102]. Reduced neuroinflammation and improved short-term memory and cognitive ability in mice that resembled features of Alzheimer's disease were also reported after pre-treatment with lactulose and melibiose, two trehalose analogues. This improvement may be attributed to enhanced autophagy function [104].

Furthermore, 5xFAD mice that were fed a diet supplemented with mannan oligosaccharide for eight weeks were able to promote the growth of *Lactobacillus* species and reduce the abundance of *Helicobacter*. This resulted in a decrease in LPS leakage and helped to prevent dysfunctions in the intestinal epithelial barrier and the blood-brain barrier. This prebiotic-driven reshaping of the gut microbiota was accompanied by several notable effects, including reduced A $\beta$  accumulation in various brain regions such as the cortex, hippocampus, and amygdala, reestablishment of redox homeostasis, and increased levels of butyrate [105]. Comparable outcomes were achieved in both rat and mouse models of Alzheimer's disease through the oral administration of oligosaccharides derived from *Marinda officinalis*, which resulted in enhanced memory and learning capabilities, as well as reduced plaque formation, oxidative stress, and overall inflammation [109-110].

The exact mechanism by which the aforementioned prebiotics work is still unclear, but their ability to maintain a diverse and stable gut microbiota may underlie these observed benefits [102, 107, 109]. Recent studies support this hypothesis by indicating that the combination of probiotics and prebiotics, often referred to as synbiotics, appears to be more beneficial than prebiotics alone in promoting neurogenesis and decreasing both local and systemic inflammation, with its effects being more pronounced [107]. Findings from a large, multi-ethnic longitudinal study involving 1837 elderly individuals without signs of neurodegeneration have demonstrated that regular consumption of fructan, a well-established prebiotic, decreases the likelihood of developing AD, supporting previous research conducted in mice [106]. Despite the study's comprehensive normalization for factors such as age, gender, recruitment time, ethnicity, daily caloric intake, education, and APOE genotype, other authors argue that the evidence supporting the use of prebiotics in clinical practice remains insufficient [108]. These data collectively imply that prebiotics could be beneficial as a preventative or supplementary treatment for AD, but further human clinical trials are required to form a definitive conclusion illustrated in (Table 2).

**Table 2:** Effects of probiotics/prebiotics on AD

| SR.NO. | GUT MICROBIOTA[Probiotics/Prebiotics]                                                                                                                                                                       | MODEL                                                               | FINDING                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Ref. |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1.     | <i>Collinsella</i>                                                                                                                                                                                          | PRS mode [PRISice-2 software]                                       | Previous research has linked certain microorganisms to neuroinflammatory processes within the MGBA, whereas protective species such as <i>Gordonibacter</i> are understood to produce metabolites that foster gut and brain well-being.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 111  |
| 2.     | <i>C. rodentium</i>                                                                                                                                                                                         | female germ-free Swiss Webster mice[Study design C57BL/6 mice were] | Observations in this study showed a decrease in BDNF levels within the hippocampi of mice infected with <i>C. rodentium</i> , implying that an enteric bacterial infection can negatively affect memory by decreasing hippocampal BDNF.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 112  |
| 3.     | <i>Lactobacillus</i> , <i>L. rhamnosus</i>                                                                                                                                                                  | BALB/c mice                                                         | The administration led to a decrease in both anxiety and stress response, accompanied by alterations in central gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) receptors expression.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 113  |
| 4.     | <i>Bifidobacterium infantis</i> , 552 <i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i> strain R0011 (95%) and 553 <i>L. helveticus</i> strain R0052 (5%), <i>L. rhamnosus</i> (JB-1), 554 and <i>Lactobacillus farciminis</i> | RAT MODEL                                                           | An imbalance has developed between the 565 pro-inflammatory and anti-inflammatory responses, with the entire immune system now predominantly shifting 566 toward inflammation. This shift is characterised by a significant 567 increase in the release of pro-inflammatory cytokines and a corresponding 568 decrease in the release of anti-inflammatory cytokines, leading to 569 further exacerbation of the inflammation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 114  |
| 5.     | <i>L. acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium langum</i> , and <i>L. case</i>                                                                                                                                  | CLINICAL TRAIL                                                      | In individuals who are overweight, levels of inflammatory cytokines have decreased.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 115  |
| 6.     | <i>Erysipelatoclostridium</i>                                                                                                                                                                               | AD model mice (i.e., APP/PS1 mice),                                 | <i>Erysipelatoclostridium</i> plays a crucial role in the development of AD, acting as microorganisms associated with inflammation. <sup>54</sup> In mice with AD, they act as a central bacterial taxon, significantly contributing to the synthesis of DCA in the gut.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 116  |
| 7.     | <i>Dubosiella</i>                                                                                                                                                                                           | wild-type (WT) mice                                                 | <i>Dubosiella</i> exhibits anti-aging effects in AD mice by enhancing the bacterial genus, which includes reducing oxidative stress, improving endothelial function, and modifying the GM.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 116  |
| 8.     | Gram-negative bacilli, and <i>Escherichia coli</i> (E. coli)                                                                                                                                                | <i>Drosophila</i> as a Model                                        | Researchers led by Zhan et al. discovered that fragments from <i>Escherichia coli</i> (E. coli) and lipopolysaccharide, a compound produced by certain bacteria, were found together in areas of the brain known as A plaques in deceased Alzheimer's disease (AD) patients. Additionally, lipopolysaccharide was found in the brain's perivascular areas, which suggests that the breakdown of the blood-brain barrier due to microbial activity may be contributing to the neurodegeneration seen in AD. Reports suggest that systemic inflammation and gut permeability are significant factors in the development of Alzheimer's disease. | 117  |
| 9.     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Mouse model                                                         | Research utilizing mouse models has shown the effects of gut microbiota on amyloid-beta accumulation, neuroinflammation, and cognitive                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 118  |

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|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                        | deterioration. Evidence from these results suggests a link between the gut microbiome and the development of dementia.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |     |
| 10. | <i>C. butyricum</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | AD animal models                                       | Butyricum triggers the release of GLP-1, which safeguards the BBB, possibly through the regulation of tight junctions. Similarly, <i>C. butyricum</i> has been shown to prevent brain endothelial barrier dysfunction, as indicated by reduced brain water content and the reinstatement of normal tight junction protein levels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 119 |
| 11. | <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> MTCC 1325                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 3-month-old male albino rats (Wistar strain)           | The following effects have been observed: 1. Improved spatial memory. 2. Enhanced gross behavioral activity. 3. The formation of hyperchromatic nuclear chromatin in the cytoplasm. 4. An increased level of acetylcholine (ACh) in the hippocampus and cerebral cortex. 5. A decreased level of amyloid plaques and neurofibrillary tangles (NFT) in the hippocampus and cerebral cortex.                                                                                                                                                                              | 120 |
| 12. | <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium bifidum</i> and <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Adult normal reared male Wistar rats                   | The provided data lists several benefits associated with a particular treatment or intervention. These benefits include: 1. Improved spatial learning and memory. 2. Restoration of synaptic plasticity in the brain's hippocampus. 3. Prevention of the accumulation of A $\beta$ peptide in the brain's hippocampus. 4. Decrease in malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in the brain. 5. Increase in total antioxidant capacity in the plasma.                                                                                                                               | 121 |
| 13. | SLAB51                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 3xTg-AD mice                                           | The analysis of brain homogenates revealed several key findings: 1. A decrease in p53 levels was observed. 2. An increase in RAR $\beta$ levels was detected. 3. Elevated levels of antioxidant enzymes were found, including: - Glutathione S-transferase (GST) - Glutathione peroxidase (GPx) - Superoxide dismutase (SOD) - Catalase (CAT) 4. A decrease in poly-ADP ribose polymerase (PARP) levels was observed. 5. A decrease in 8-Oxoguanine glycosylase (OGG1) levels was detected in the brain.                                                                | 122 |
| 14. | SLAB51 ( <i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium breve</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium infantis</i> , <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> , <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> , <i>Lactobacillus paracasei</i> , <i>Lactobacillus delbrueckii</i> subsp. <i>bulgaricus</i> and <i>Lactobacillus brevis</i> ) | 8-week-old male 3xTg-AD mice                           | There are several key findings related to glucose and insulin signaling in the brain: 1. Increased levels of glucose transporter 3 (GLUT3) and glucose transporter 1 (GLUT1) were observed in the hippocampal CA1 region. 2. Reduced levels of phosphorylated tau protein were found in the brain, which may indicate a decrease in tau aggregation. 3. Elevated levels of HbA1c, a marker of long-term glucose control, were detected in the plasma. 4. Increased expression of the insulin-like growth factor-I receptor (IGF-IR $\beta$ ) was observed in the brain. | 123 |
| 15. | <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> , <i>Lactobacillus delbrueckii</i> subsp. <i>Bulgaricus</i> , <i>Lactobacillus paracasei</i> , <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium breve</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium infantis</i> and <i>Streptococcus salivarius</i>                                            | 6–8-month-old female AppNL–G–F and C57BL/6 (wild type) | The provided data suggests several key findings related to the effects of a particular treatment or intervention. These findings include: 1. Elevated levels of short chain fatty acids (SCFAs) in the brain's hippocampus, specifically: - Acetate - Butyrate - Lactate 2. Increased levels of SCFAs in the serum, including: - Propionate - Isobutyrate 3. Enhanced c-fos immunoreactivity                                                                                                                                                                            | 124 |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |     |
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|     | subspecies, <i>thermophilus</i>                                                                                                                                                                            |                                   | in the brain, which is indicative of increased neuronal activity. 4. Reduced anxiety-like behavior in individuals undergoing this treatment or intervention.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |     |
| 16. | <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> ,<br><i>Bifidobacterium bifidum</i> and<br><i>Bifidobacterium longum</i>                                                                                                  | Male<br>Sprague-<br>Dawley rats   | The following effects have been observed: 1. Enhanced spatial learning and memory capabilities. 2. An increase in the amplitude of field excitatory postsynaptic potentials (fEPSPs) within the hippocampus. 3. An increase in long-term potentiation in the CA1 region of the hippocampus. 4. Reduced paired-pulse facilitation in neurons. 5. Lower levels of nitric oxide in the serum.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 125 |
| 17. | <i>Lactobacillus reuteri</i> ,<br><i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i> and<br><i>Bifidobacterium infantis</i>                                                                                                    | Male Wistar<br>rats               | The following effects have been observed: 1. Improved spatial learning and memory. 2. Reduced accumulation of A $\beta$ (amyloid-beta) in the hippocampus. 3. Lower levels of MDA (malondialdehyde), a marker of oxidative stress, in the brain. 4. Increased levels of SOD (superoxide dismutase), an antioxidant enzyme, in brain homogenates. 5. Decreased levels of IL-1 $\beta$ (interleukin-1 beta) and $\alpha$ -TNF (tumor necrosis factor-alpha) in hippocampal tissue.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 126 |
| 18. | <i>Bifidobacterium breve</i> strain<br>A1                                                                                                                                                                  | 10-week-old<br>male ddY<br>mice   | The effects of the treatment on cognitive function and related biological markers include: 1. Enhanced spatial learning and memory capabilities. 2. Elevated plasma acetate levels. 3. Reduced expression of genes induced by amyloid beta (A $\beta$ ) in the hippocampus. 4. Prevention of cognitive dysfunction caused by amyloid beta (A $\beta$ ).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 127 |
| 19. | <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i><br>1688FL431-16LA02,<br><i>Lactobacillus fermentum</i> ME3,<br><i>Bifidobacterium lactis</i><br>1195SL609-16BS01 and<br><i>Bifidobacterium longum</i><br>1152SL593-16BL03 | 8-week-old<br>male Wistar<br>rats | The following effects have been observed: 1. Enhanced memory and spatial learning abilities. 2. An increase in superoxide dismutase (SOD) levels in hippocampal tissue. 3. A decrease in malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in the hippocampus. 4. A reduction in the number and size of amyloid-beta (A $\beta$ ) plaques in the brain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 128 |
| 20. | <i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i> UBLR-<br>58                                                                                                                                                                 | Female<br>Swiss albino<br>mice    | Observations in Brain Tissue: 1. Decreased MDA level: MDA (Malondialdehyde) is a marker of lipid peroxidation, which is a process that can lead to cell damage. A decrease in MDA level suggests a reduction in oxidative stress in the brain. 2. Increased SOD level: SOD (Superoxide Dismutase) is an enzyme that helps to neutralize superoxide radicals, which are a type of free radical that can cause cell damage. An increase in SOD level indicates an enhanced ability to counteract oxidative stress in the brain. 3. Increased GPx level: GPx (Glutathione Peroxidase) is an enzyme that helps to reduce oxidative stress by neutralizing hydrogen peroxide and other peroxides. An increase in GPx level suggests an improved ability to mitigate oxidative damage in the brain. 4. Increased CAT level: CAT (Catalase) is an enzyme that helps to break down hydrogen peroxide into water and oxygen, thereby reducing oxidative stress. An increase in CAT level indicates an enhanced ability to neutralize | 129 |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |     |
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|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                  | hydrogen peroxide in the brain. 5. Reduced amyloid plaques deposition: Amyloid plaques are abnormal protein deposits that are associated with neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's. A reduction in amyloid plaques deposition suggests a decrease in the progression of neurodegenerative disease in the brain.                               |     |
| 21. | <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> NCIB3610 and <i>Escherichia coli</i> OP50                                                                                                                                                                                              | Not relevant                                                                                                     | The provided data appears to describe several potential benefits of a particular treatment or intervention. These benefits include: 1. Improved cognitive function 2. Reduced expression of A $\beta$ peptides 3. Relief from behavioral deficits 4. Enhanced chemotactic response                                                                      | 130 |
| 22. | <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> , <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> lysates, vitamins A, vitamin D, omega 3 fatty acids in cod liver oil, vitamins B1, B3, B6, B9, B12, and Interval treadmill running                                                             | Male APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B6C3-Tg(APPswe, PSEN1dE9) 85Dbo/Mmjax; APP/PS1TG)                                  | Observations Indicative of Potential Neuroprotective Effects: 1. Increased exploratory activity 2. Reduced A $\beta$ plaques in the hippocampus 3. Increased microglia in the brain 4. Elevated OGG1 levels in the brain 5. Increased presence of <i>Lactobacillus reuteri</i> in the gut 6. Enhanced cognitive performance                             | 131 |
| 23. | <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> , <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> lysates, vitamins A, vitamin D, omega 3 fatty acids in cod liver oil, vitamins B1, B3, B6, B9, B12, and Interval treadmill running                                                             | 3-month-old, male APP/PS1 transgenic mice (B6C3-Tg (APPswe, PSEN1dE9) 85Dbo/Mmjax; APP/PS1TG) and six wild types | Observations of Oxidative Stress Markers: 1. Elevated levels of Superoxide Dismutase (SOD) were found in the hippocampus. 2. An increase in the concentration of Nuclear Factor-Erythroid Factor 2-Related Factor 2 (NRF-2) was observed in the liver. 3. A higher level of 8-oxodG, a marker of oxidative DNA damage, was detected in the hippocampus. | 132 |
| 24. | <i>Lactobacillus helveticus</i> IDCC3801                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Male Sprague Dawley rats and ICR mice                                                                            | The following effects have been observed: 1. An increase in memory and cognitive function. 2. A decrease in the activity of $\beta$ -secretase in the brain. 3. A decrease in the amount of intracellular APP $\beta$ . 4. An increase in the amount of intracellular APP $\alpha$ . 5. A decrease in the production of A $\beta$ 40 in the brain.      | 133 |
| 25. | <i>Lactobacillus Pentosus</i> and <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> C29.                                                                                                                                                                                           | Male ICR mice                                                                                                    | Research has shown several key effects of a particular treatment or intervention: 1. Enhanced spatial learning and memory capabilities. 2. Elevated levels of cAMP response element-binding protein (CREB) in the hippocampus. 3. Increased activation of brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) in the hippocampus.                                  | 134 |
| 26. | <i>Lactobacillus casei</i> , <i>Lactobacillus plantarum</i> , <i>Lactobacillus salivarius</i> , <i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i> , <i>Lactobacillus rhamnosus</i> , <i>Streptococcus thermophilus</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium bifidum</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium</i> | male and female 3xTg mice                                                                                        | The study revealed several key findings related to cognitive function and neurodegeneration. These include: 1. Enhanced spatial learning and memory capabilities. 2. Reduced levels of A $\beta$ 40 and A $\beta$ 42 peptides in the hippocampus. 3. Decreased levels of amyloid and tau proteins in                                                    | 135 |

|     |                                                                                    |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |     |
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|     | <i>infantis</i> , <i>Bifidobacterium longum</i> , and <i>Bifidobacterium breve</i> |          | the basal forebrain and frontal cortices. 4. Lower expression of the microglial marker arginase 1 (ARG1) in the brain.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |     |
| 27. | Prebiotic mannan oligosaccharide                                                   | 5XFADmic | There is a reduction observed in cognitive deficits, amyloid plaques, oxidative stress, and microglial activation, accompanied by changes in the gut microbiome.                                                                                                                                                                                             | 136 |
| 28. | Prebiotic R13                                                                      |          | TrkB receptor kinase blocked the pro-inflammatory pathway in the gut, resulting in decreased amyloid production and oxidative stress.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 137 |
| 29. | prebiotic sodium oligo-mannate (GV-971)                                            |          | The goal is to improve mental faculties and manage mild to moderate Alzheimer's disease. Studies indicate that GV-971 has the potential to counteract cognitive decline by correcting gut imbalances; reducing brain inflammation; and crossing the blood-brain barrier to directly interact with A $\beta$ , preventing the formation of A $\beta$ fibrils. | 138 |

## CONCLUSION

Our knowledge of health, illness, and the creation of innovative biotherapeutics has significantly increased as a result of research on the human microbiota. Considerable advancements have been made in the identification and characterization of particular probiotic strains and prebiotics, as well as in the validation of their possible health benefits. Despite these developments, there is still mistrust in the medical world, mostly because of the shortcomings of recent studies. Variability in illness models frequently affects results, and there are still few large-scale, randomized, controlled clinical trials that support the purported advantages of probiotics and prebiotics. Live probiotic cells' ability to survive and operate is further hampered by the harsh circumstances of the gastrointestinal track. Although it is frequently challenging to demonstrate their specificity, prebiotics get around this problem by preventing enzymatic breakdown and favorably encouraging the growth of good gut microorganisms. Microencapsulation of probiotics is one of the newer techniques that optimizes delivery selectivity and cell viability throughout gastrointestinal transit. Future approaches are probably going to combine prebiotics (synbiotics) and microencapsulated probiotics, which will have synergistic effects. Creating physiologically appropriate models to investigate host-microbiota interactions and designing targeted delivery systems that guarantee effectiveness and repeatability in clinical settings are two of the major challenges that lie ahead.

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