

# Targeting gut microbiome could be key to improving HIV health outcomes

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The study seeks to understand the protective functions of intestinal immune cells and their relationship with specific gut microbial species that become depleted during chronic HIV infection, even with antiretroviral therapy. (Illustration by Shutterstock)

Tulane University researcher [Namita Rout, PhD](#), assistant professor of microbiology and immunology, has been awarded a five-year, \$3.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study how changing the gut microbiome may ease chronic

inflammation and associated gastrointestinal issues for people taking antiretroviral therapy (ART) for HIV. [Read the full story here.](#)