# Accepted Manuscript

Title: The role of barrier function, autophagy, and cytokines in maintaining intestinal homeostasis

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PII: \$1084-9521(16)30256-7

DOI: http://dx.doi.org/doi:10.1016/j.semcdb.2016.08.018

Reference: YSCDB 2119

To appear in: Seminars in Cell & Developmental Biology

Received date: 8-7-2016 Revised date: 10-8-2016 Accepted date: 22-8-2016

Please cite this article as: Elshaer Dana, Begun Jakob. The role of barrier function, autophagy, and cytokines in maintaining intestinal homeostasis. *Seminars in Cell and Developmental Biology* http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.semcdb.2016.08.018

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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

**Title:** The role of barrier function, autophagy, and cytokines in maintaining intestinal homeostasis

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#### **Abstract:**

Intestinal homeostasis is maintained through the interplay of the intestinal mucosa, local and systemic immune factors, and the microbial content of the gut. The cellular processes of autophagy, endoplasmic reticulum stress, the unfolded protein response and regulation of reactive oxygen species production are required to maintain a balance between proinflammatory responses against potential pathogens and a tolerogenic response towards commensal bacteria. Intestinally active cytokines regulate innate immune pathways and cellular pathways within the gut mucosa. Disruption of these processes, or alterations in the cytokine milieu, can result in an improper response to the commensal gut microbial community leading to inappropriate inflammation characteristic of conditions such as inflammatory bowel disease.

#### **Keywords:**

mucosal immunity, autophagy, intestinal homeostasis, barrier function, innate immune pathways, gut cytokines

#### **Abbreviations:**

IEC – intestinal epithelial cell

TJ – tight junctions

IBD – inflammatory bowel disease

ER – endoplasmic reticulum

UPR – unfolded protein response

CD - Crohn's disease

IL - Interleukin

NOD2 – nucleotide-binding oligomerization domain–containing protein 2

TLR – Toll-like Receptor

TNF – tumor necrosis factor

IFN – Interferon

PERK - pancreatic ER eIF2α kinase

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