

*Is neurodevelopment influenced by atopy in the mother or infant?* **Exploring the role of infant and maternal atopic status, infant gut microbiome, and metabolites in early child neurodevelopment**

by

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## **Abstract**

**Background:** Allergic diseases affect about 30% to 35% of all children, and the frequency of these diseases has been increasing in recent years. Growing epidemiological data suggests interactions exist between infant neurodevelopment and inflammatory immune diseases, including food sensitization and allergies. In this study, we aim to characterize and determine how atopic disease in both the infant and the mother shape infant neurodevelopment, as well as explore factors that play a role in this relationship.

### **Research Aims:**

**Research Aim I** - I will investigate the association of allergic sensitization in 1-year old infants, especially food sensitization, in relation to the Bayley's scale of neurodevelopment.

**Research Aim II** - I will test the association between maternal prenatal atopy status and infant neurodevelopment.

**Research Aim III** - I will determine the mediating role of the gut microbiome and metabolome (short-chain fatty acids and amino acids metabolites) in the pathway between maternal atopic disease and infant neurodevelopmental scores.

### **Methods:**

As assessed by the Bayley's neurodevelopmental scale at 1 year and 2 years of age, statistical analysis will be performed to determine the association between Infant and maternal allergic sensitization and infant neurodevelopment. Using 16S rDNA sequencing and NMR methods to profile gut microbe and metabolite abundance at 1 year, mediating tests on infant gut microbial and metabolite abundance will be conducted to determine whether certain metabolites or infant

gut microbiome is in the pathway between prenatal maternal atopic status and infant neurodevelopment.

## **Results:**

**Result for Research Aim I** - In the current study, AS was present among 16.4% of infants, while 13.4% had FS. Both atopic and food sensitization at 1 year of age were associated with statistically significantly lower social-emotional scores at that age, independent of the infant's ethnicity. These findings were sex-specific and only observed among boys, among whom social-emotional scores were lowered by 5 points if AS was present (-5.22 [95%CI: -9.96, -0.47]  $p = 0.03$ ) or if FS was present (-4.85 [95%CI: -9.82, 0.11],  $p=0.06$ ).

**Result for Research Aim II & III** – Combined atopic conditions is present among 66.57% of mothers and 22.39% live with maternal asthma. Combined maternal atopy is associated with decrease in cognitive and motor scores at 2 years of age among male infants; and with increased cognitive scores at 2 years of age among female infants. In particular, cognitive scores are lowered by 3.87 points (-3.87 [95%CI: -8.28, 0.54],  $p = 0.09$ ) and motor scores are lowered by 3 points (-3.00 [95%CI: -6.28, 0.27],  $p = 0.072$ ). Female infants whose mothers have combined maternal atopy experience an increase of 4.12 points in cognitive scores (4.12 [95%CI: -0.85, 9.08],  $p = 0.10$ ). Infants born from Moms of Asian ethnicity experience the greatest decrease in infant neurodevelopmental scores (Table 3.5). On the other hand, maternal asthma decreases socio-emotional scores at 2 years among all infants (-3.70 [95%CI: -8.05, 0.64],  $p = 0.094$ ). Sex-stratification demonstrate an increase in male infant language scores at 1 year (6.56, [95%CI: 1.76, 11.37],  $p = 0.008$ ) and a decrease in male socio-emotional scores at 2 years (-6.60 [95%CI: -14.07, 0.88],  $p = 0.08$ ). In the mediation analysis, creatinine mediates the association between maternal asthma and infant cognitive scores at 2 years, specifically of female infants with White

Caucasian mothers. Furthermore, when sequential mediation was performed with prenatal depression as mediator 1 and infant gut microbiome as mediator 2 in the pathway between maternal atopic status and child neurodevelopment, this resulted in no statistically significant mediating effect.

**Conclusion:**

Allergic symptomatology may adversely affect neurodevelopment because of the related clinical manifestations and necessary treatments. Creating a pathway from food sensitization to infant neurodevelopment through the gut microbiome will fill the existing knowledge gap in understanding the interaction between neurological and immunological development.

Interventions in preventing atopic disease associated with impaired neurodevelopment are valuable to clinicians, mothers, and their families, as they help increase positive maternal and neonatal health outcomes and overall quality of life.

## Preface

This thesis is an original work by Nicole Anne Marie Rodriguez. The thesis was written in accordance with the guidelines set by the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research at the University of Alberta. This thesis is subdivided into 3 separate sections:

**Chapter 1:** consists of a literature review that is followed by an outline of the overall purpose, objectives, hypotheses, and sample size calculation for the studies.

**Chapter 2:** presents the first research study on the association between infant atopic and food sensitization and neurodevelopment. This chapter has been accepted for publication in *Frontiers in Pediatrics, Pediatric Neurology*, under the topic of Allergic Diseases and Neurodevelopment.

**Chapter 3:** presents the second research study on maternal atopic status and infant neurodevelopment. The potential mediating role of infant gut metabolites and infant gut microbiome on this pathway will be explored.

**Chapter 4:** presents final discussion and concluding remarks on the two studies, as well as outlines the bias assessment and summary of significance and future research directions.

## **Dedication**

*Dedicated to all single parents, immigrant families, neurodivergent students, and the Filipino community – you are all where I come from and why I find the strength in every day. Padayon kita - budlay budlay pero kuha! (Onwards we go!).*

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To my partner, Venugopal Hegde, who stood with me and who never got tired of reminding me of my strength – I love you! Here's to more adventures and chasing our dreams – together.

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To Mark Angelo Tarvina, my best friend, I would not be here without you. Thank you for being my compass. You deserve all the love in the world. This is most especially for you.

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## List of Abbreviations

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>AS</b>         | Atopic Sensitization                                   |
| <b>ASD</b>        | Autism Spectrum Disorders                              |
| <b>ADHD</b>       | Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder               |
| <b>BBB</b>        | Blood Brain Barrier                                    |
| <b>BSID – III</b> | Bayley Scales of Infant Development – Third Edition    |
| <b>FS</b>         | Food Sensitization                                     |
| <b>CESD</b>       | Center for Epidemiological Studies-Depression          |
| <b>CHILD</b>      | Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development Study |
| <b>CI</b>         | Confidence Intervals                                   |
| <b>CNS</b>        | Central Nervous System                                 |
| <b>DAG</b>        | Directed Acyclic Graph                                 |
| <b>IgE</b>        | Immunoglobulin E                                       |
| <b>IgE-FA</b>     | immunoglobulin E-mediated food allergy                 |
| <b>M</b>          | mediator   |
| <b>MIA</b>        | Maternal Immune Inflammation                           |
| <b>ND</b>         | Neurodevelopment                                       |
| <b>NDD</b>        | Neurodevelopmental Disorders                           |
| <b>SCFAs</b>      | Short Chain Fatty Acids                                |
| <b>SEM</b>        | Structural Equation Modeling                           |
| <b>sIgA</b>       | Secretory Immunoglobulin A                             |
| <b>SPT</b>        | Skin Prick Test  |
| <b>X</b>          | Independent or exposure variable                       |
| <b>Y</b>          | Dependent or outcome variable                          |

## **CHAPTER 1: Introduction**

Chapter 1 provides a literature review on the association between (i) infant atopic and food sensitization and neurodevelopment and between (ii) maternal combined atopy and infant neurodevelopment. First, the chapter explores established research on factors that influence infant atopy and food sensitization, including sex-specific patterns in sensitization risk. Second, the chapter covers factors that shape infant neurodevelopment, with a focus on the connection between infant and maternal atopic disease. Third, the chapter describes the potential mediating role of the infant gut microbiome with sensitization, immunity, and neurodevelopment. The final section of this chapter outlines the research question, hypothesis, and sample size calculation.

### **1.1 Infant Atopy and Food Sensitization**

#### ***1.1.1 Defining atopy and food sensitization***

Food and atopic sensitizations are known to be multifactorial diseases that are shaped by complex interactions of a child's geographic, genetic, ethnic, and dietary exposures (1,2). Food sensitization is a first and strong indicator of immune deviation and is defined as the presence of IgE antibodies against certain foods (3–5). This immune-mediated process is more specifically referred to as a classic Type 1 hypersensitivity response which develops over time when repeated exposure to a food antigen activates allergen-specific T cells in susceptible infants. When T helper (TH2) activity is enhanced, it leads to the recruitment of eosinophils, basophils, and allergen-specific IgE (sIgE). T cells provide 'help' to B cells to secrete allergen-specific IgE (immunoglobulin E), which then primes mast cells to degranulate on subsequent exposure to the allergen, releasing histamine and other inflammatory mediators (6). Furthermore, the induction and maintenance of FS and atopy is due in part by secretion of certain cytokines (e.g. IL-4, IL-

13, IL-5) that comes with the upregulation of Th2 responses (7).

Additionally, FS, determined by skin prick testing or serum IgE levels to the allergen, affects up to 28% of preschool children in the U.S. (4). The resultant IgE-mediated immune response to the allergen initiates the inflammatory process resulting in food hypersensitivity or sensitization (6). If the food allergen is blocked by serum or intestinal immunoglobulins (such as IgA), the immune response will be diminished and tolerance to the allergen will occur.

### ***1.1.2 Rising atopic and food sensitization rates***

The prevalence of allergic diseases has reached approximately 20% globally and has been particularly widespread amongst children(8). Recent analysis report that about 30 percent to 35 percent of all children suffer from allergic diseases, and the frequency of these illnesses has been rising in recent years (9).The U.S. in particular has seen a 50% increase in food allergy from 1997 to 2011, resulting in an overall 8% prevalence of food allergy among U.S. children (10).

### ***1.1.3 Factors that lead to infant atopic and food sensitization***

Research points to a common temporal order of allergic diseases among children also known as the “atopic march” which follows the following order: atopic dermatitis (AD), and food allergy in infancy to later on allergic asthma (AA) and allergic rhinitis (AR) in childhood (11,12). Globally, the topmost common food items that trigger sensitization are cow’s milk and eggs, while peanuts are more common triggers in the North America (1).While cow’s milk, eggs, and wheat related food allergies usually subside by age 2 to 10 years old, infant sensitization to peanut is the most likely to persist

into later childhood and/or to proceed to food allergy (13–15).

It is important to note that sensitization does not always lead to clinically-significant and symptomatic allergic response. However, when sensitization does develop to allergy, it can be life threatening and could lead to stress and low quality of life among children and their caregivers.

#### ***1.1.4 Infant sex differences in sensitization risks***

Currently, there is no definite consensus in the scientific community regarding the influence of an infant's biological sex on the development of food and/or atopic sensitization (16). However, several observations have been documented including a pattern of higher frequency of food sensitization and allergy among male infants (higher IgE levels were reported) than females (16). These associations appear to be reversed later in adult years — with females having higher FS than males). For example, a Norwegian study reported that sex differences in severe allergic reactions to food were only observable during the adolescence and adulthood periods but not at 2 years of age (17). Starting adolescence, females experienced 20% more allergic reactions compared to males. Other researchers argue that the difference might not be so much attributable to biological sex but to gender, which appears to be a better predictor of differential coping or management strategies for dealing with allergic diseases among males and (17–19). The exact mechanism of why these differences is observed is not clear. However, some studies suggest the potential impact of factors including differential immune system processing, influence of sex hormones on antigen receptors, variations in microbiome composition, and other mediators (19–21).

Although the findings regarding the association of sex with allergic outcomes is

not clear, there still is an agreement that future prospective studies need to investigate and clarify the influences of sex and gender difference. Making this distinction is critical to provide personalized diagnosis, management and treatment of food allergy (16,19).

#### ***1.1.5. Impact of food sensitization on infant development***

The harmful impact of childhood food allergy on quality of life of children and their families has been well researched (22–24). Food sensitization poses a significant economic and quality of life burden to children and their families (25). For example, a U.S. prospective study examined parent-reported health-related quality of life (HRQoL) scores of children 0-12 years. Results of the study revealed that reduced HROQoL scores are associated with older children, especially those with multiple and severe food allergies (25). These findings are consistent with a Swedish study that assessed overall health related quality of life of children 6-12 years and revealed that multiple food allergies, severe symptoms, and older children have worse HRQoL outcomes (23).

Additionally, the financial burden brought by food allergies to children and their families is becoming more pronounced. For example, a Canadian cross-sectional study of families examined the impact of childhood food allergy on household costs (22). Compared to families with no food-allergic children, families with food-allergic children incur a 20% increase in total annual direct costs which is largely influenced by food costs (22).

Therefore, since food allergy contributes substantial financial stress and impaired quality of life, research efforts to better understand how to meet the needs of vulnerable and high-risk children and their families must be taken into account.

## 1.2 Infant Neurodevelopment

### 1.2.1 *The “window of opportunity” of the early infant brain development*

The infant’s first year of life is known as the “window of opportunity” because it is a period of development when the brain is most vulnerable to all kinds of pre and post-natal factors (26). It is well known that an infant’s brain has a high degree of plasticity and is easily influenced early disruptions (26). Prenatal factors including antibiotic use, infections, environment, dietary habits, and mode of delivery are strong predictors of maternal health status, fetal development, and can shape the infant microbiome and cognitive development from birth up to 3 years (27,28).

Findings from other systemic reviews also point to the effectiveness of certain interventions for infants born high-risk for cognitive impairments. One systematic review points to the overall effectiveness of multisensory stimulation (e.g. soft lullabies, gentle rocking and massage) in improving infant neuromuscular and neurological development (29).

On the other hand, because most data on infant neurodevelopment are gathered from parental self-reports, studies still recommend additional measures that will verify the reliability of parent-reported data (30, 31). However, several studies have supported the reliability of parent-reported evaluations of their child’s cognitive development. For example, parent subjective assessments of their infant’s attention and regulatory abilities match expected objective measures of cortical rhythms of their child (32). Therefore, it is possible that patterns of brain activity may match parent observations of their child’s development, suggesting that data from parent evaluations provide useful supplementary

information regarding brain-behavior relations among infants.

Thus, understanding how easily malleable the infant brain is to early interventions and pre and postnatal elements is critical to studying which alterations to a child's normal cognitive trajectories need to be addressed early on to prevent both mental and behavioral disorders in the future.

### ***1.2.2 Infant neurodevelopment risk factors***

Neurodevelopmental disorders affect intellectual and psychosocial abilities of the child and harmful consequences may persist till later years in life. Risk factors that lead to neurodevelopmental disabilities are complex, multifaceted, and are often themselves associated with each other (1). Therefore, identifying biological and environmental factors that put infants at high risk is a critical priority in health research as early timing of interventions are known to improve outcomes of children affected by NDs (1). Risk factors associated with maternal milieu, including maternal diet, infection, stress, and maternal history of immune and psychiatric disorders are proposed to have influences with infant brain development, starting in utero.

#### *Infant in utero environment – maternal immune conditions, maternal diet, and maternal stress*

The blood brain barrier (BBB), a dynamic and semipermeable structure, restricts components from the circulating blood from crossing over to the extracellular space of the central nervous system (CNS) (2). However, since the BBB is still in its early developing stages in the fetus, it is more permeable and thus, certain antibodies are able to breach this protective barrier. Specifically, maternal-derived brain-reactive antibodies are hypothesized to cross-react with CNS antigens after breaching the fetal BBB. Research supports that women with impaired B-cell tolerance due to autoimmune disease tend to produce these antibodies and their infants are more likely to have ASD and be positive for brain-reactive antibodies ((3)Animal studies

demonstrate that when the brain-reactive antibodies of mothers whose offspring live with autism were injected into pregnant mice, neurodevelopmental impairments were observed including decreased motor skills, reduced exploration, and altered cerebellar metabolites (4). A population-based case-control study from the U.S. produced results consistent with the animal study, wherein mid-gestation antibodies of mothers whose children with ASD had higher reactivity to human fetal brain proteins compared to the general population control group (5).

Another maternal factor suggested to have programming effects on the developing fetal brain is maternal diet and early nutrition. For example, maternal low-protein diet was not only associated with impaired offspring growth and malnutrition, it also disrupted expression of dopamine systems in the brain and a several dopamine-dependent pathways responsible for reward-related behaviors (5,6).

Other maternal elements that contribute to fetal programming include maternal psychological stress and psychiatric disorders during the pregnancy period. When a mother engages in smoking and/or substance abuse during pregnancy, it results to altered gene expression of certain fetal brain regulatory genes important for brain growth, myelination, and neuronal migration — all leading to altered brain structure and function. Moreover, maternal anxiety during the pregnancy period increases exposure of the infant to maternal stress hormones such as cortisol, which can compromise brain regions involved in decision making, emotional regulation, and social behavior (7).

These findings lend support that adverse maternal factors have the potential to alter brain development of their infants *in utero*, that may heighten the risk of the child developing neurodevelopmental disorders.



### *Insecure Attachment Styles and Low Income Households*

The World Health Organization (WHO) warns that more than 200 million children under the age of five are not fulfilling their developmental potential due to exposure to adverse risk factors including poverty, malnutrition, and unsafe home environments (8). There are five critical components of nurturing care that may offset harmful effects of social disadvantage on neurodevelopment: good health, adequate nutrition, safety and security, responsive caregiving, and opportunities for learning (9). Healthy formation of parental and/or care-giver bonds and secure attachments improve an infant's capacity of emotional connectivity, the ability to build safe and secure relationships, and the development of positive self-esteem in later life. Children who experience neglect and lack of consistent parental figures (for example, children placed in numerous foster care homes) are more likely to experience self-regulation difficulties and thus are at greater risk of developing addiction and other mental health illness.

Low financial resources may also affect children by limiting their access to adequate health and nutrition as well as increase their exposure to familial interpersonal stresses (10). Disruptions in household relationships stemming from arguments on financial challenges are linked to negative parenting behaviors including greater hostility, irritability, rejection, and explosive disciplinary actions. As a result, children in these households face greater socioemotional difficulties, impairing healthy neurodevelopment.

### *Infant Preterm Birth*

There is sufficient research evidence that present the dangers of preterm birth to infant neurological outcomes through complex causal pathways including hypoxia/ischemia, infection, and inflammation of fetal membrane structures (11). Among the consequences of early birth

include risk of brain injury, including white matter damage, intraventricular hemorrhage, and cortical and deep gray matter damage (12). Furthermore, pre-term birth affects the timing of neurobiological processes including synapse formation, dendrite formation, and neuronal migration and differentiation (13). One of the consequences of premature birth is also low birth weight and a meta-analysis revealed that low birth weight infants exhibit the strongest associations with inattention, hyperactivity, internalizing problems in childhood and adolescence and higher risks of mental health problems in adult years. Since a significant portion of brain development occurs around the last 6 weeks of gestation, missing this critical period can have significant consequences for the preterm infant (14).

#### *Atopic and food sensitization as risk factors on early brain development*

Atopy and impaired neurodevelopment have immune dysregulation and inflammation in common, and share many risk factors, for example, maternal history of atopic disease (33). Accumulating epidemiologic evidence further supports a connection between the infant's immune system and neurodevelopmental disorders. A recent study of school-children revealed that peanut sensitivity or allergic rhinitis in 6-year olds predicted symptoms of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at 12 years of age(34). A temporal association between atopic disease and neurodevelopment has also been demonstrated in very young children with a family history of atopy whereby infants with any atopic disease (eczema or food allergy) at 12 months exhibited lower motor scores on the Bayley Scales of Infant Toddler Development at 18 months (35). Among infants with diagnosed food allergy at 12 months, lower social-emotional scores were reported at 18 months (35).

*Parental atopic sensitization status as a risk factor for infant atopy and neurodevelopment*

Parental histories of food sensitization and other allergic diseases are known to influence the allergic outcomes of their children (36–39). Some studies suggest that infant sensitization may even begin as early as prenatal and or initial postnatal periods (37, 40–43). Research has demonstrated that high levels of maternal and cord blood inflammatory markers are linked to increased offspring risk of eczema, wheezing, and lower respiratory tract infections (37, 44, 45).

Among the various maternal and paternal influences, maternal allergy/asthma emerged as having the most associations with the development of allergies in offspring (37). Additionally, it is the mother's history of asthma and not the father's history that is a stronger predictor of childhood asthma (2,46–48). Thus, this association implies that apart from genetics, other in utero mother-child system interactions may explain why maternal allergen exposure is a large contributor to the child's allergic outcomes (49). For example, in human and mouse studies, allergic moms tend to transfer immune responses to their offspring via placenta and breastmilk which then shapes the infant immune response to certain allergens (50). A combination of genetic and environmental maternal factors regulate the induction of tolerance and allergy responses in infants, mainly through immune T cell responses (50). However, the exact mechanisms that occur in the maternal-child interface including allergen exposure during breastfeeding and how they shape future disease susceptibility of the infant is still largely unknown. Further investigations are needed to better understand the role of maternal factors on offspring food allergy (50).

Recently, maternal immune activation (MIA) or excessive maternal immune response during pregnancy is suspected to be attenuated by microglia which are immune cells in the central nervous system that influence neurodevelopment and brain disorders (51,52). Findings of an Australian study revealed that children ages 5, 8, 10, 14, and 17, who are born from mothers with

asthma, allergy, atopy and eczema scored higher in having behavioral/emotional problems (52). Increased behavioral and emotional problems occurred especially in children with more than one allergy exposure and/or those whose mothers have an infection condition (52). Interestingly, they found that females scored higher in internalizing scales from maternal infection, whereas males showed equal increase in scores in both internalizing and externalizing problems (52).

### *Infant gut microbiome and immune system interactions shape neural development*

Previous studies support that the microbiome's role in the immune system development and regulation is a hypothesized mechanism for its association with neurodevelopmental disorders — a well-documented one being autism spectrum disorders (ASDs), which is linked with immune dysfunction (80,81). Further support on the influence of the gut microbiome in infant brain development presented an association between differential microbiome composition and cognition scores of typically developing infants up to 2 years of age (82). Consistent with these findings infant gut microbiome composition was also related to neurodevelopmental outcomes in communication, personal and social, and fine motor skills was found in children at age 3 years (83). Furthermore, recent research strengthened the support for the association of infant gut microbiome and early brain development by revealing strong, sex-specific findings on the positive association between Bacteroidetes abundance in late infancy and change in cognitive and language performance from 1 to 2 years (84).

In addition to the well-documented associations of the infant gut microbiome to atopy and food sensitization, infant bacterial composition was also determined as a key factor in infant neurodevelopment. Specifically, previous studies support that the microbiome's role in the immune system development and regulation is a hypothesized mechanism for its association with neurodevelopmental disorders — a well-documented one being autism spectrum disorders

(ASDs), which is linked with immune dysfunction (80,81).

### **1.3 Infant Gut Microbiota**

#### ***1.3.1 Infant gut microbiome's role in infant atopic and food sensitization***

*Association between infant gut microbial diversity and composition with atopic and food sensitization*

The expanding rates of immunoglobulin E–mediated food allergy (IgE-FA) has made it a global public health concern (53). Perturbations to the infant gut microbiome also known as “dysbiosis” and IgE-FA both have immune dysregulation as a common denominator (53).

Findings of a study regarding the association between infant gut bacterial composition and food-related atopy at age 3–5 revealed less diverse gut microbiome composition in children with IgE-FA compared with children without IgE-FA (53). In particular, children with IgE-FA in milk and peanuts showed the least diverse microbiome and specifically in the orders Lactobacillales, Bacteroidales, and Clostridiales (53).

Increasing evidence implicates the infant gastrointestinal microbiota as a critical player in the development of diseases in children, including atopic conditions such as asthma and allergies. Previous literature support that interactions between infant diet and commensal microbiota may shape food allergy and consequently determine the infant's mucosal immune tolerance (54,55). Additionally, different compositions of the neonatal human gut microbiota were shown to predict varying risks of childhood atopy (50). Literature also suggests that distinct types of food sensitization may exhibit differential infant gut microbial profiles (55). For example, infants allergic to peanuts have higher levels of Bacteroides, and those with cow's milk

allergy (CMA) have higher levels of anaerobic bacteria Ruminococcaceae and Lachnospiraceae (56–58). Furthermore, a recent study demonstrated that temporal changes in the ecologic composition of gut microbiota during infancy is associated with food sensitization (59). In particular, persistently low gut Bacteroidetes abundance throughout the infancy period was associated with a 3-fold risk of sensitization to food allergens, specifically to peanuts (59).

*Infant gut microbiome's mediating role in the association between immunity and IgE-FA*

Research suggests that gut microbes modify a child's risk of IgE-FA through its role in the immune pathways (53). For example, breastfeeding supplies the child with secretory immunoglobulin A (sIgA) which can then bind to harmful microbial antigens (60–62). Other breastmilk components including oligosaccharides promote the growth of beneficial bacteria including Bifidobacterium and Lactobacillus which induce the production of cytokines that are key to preventing immune dysregulation. Furthermore, gut bacteria produce essential short chain fatty acids (SCFA) which contribute to strengthen the intestinal barrier and B-cell functions and thus minimizes potential inflammation. Therefore, since the gut microbiota plays a critical role in regulating the immune response and thus prevent IgE-FA, its role as a mediator in preventing IgE- FA via the immune control merits further research.

## Differential gut bacterial composition as a key factor to infant neurodevelopment

Further support on the influence of the gut microbiome in infant brain development were presented by Carlson et. al (2018), wherein differential microbiome composition was related to cognition scores of typically developing infants up to 2 years of age. Consistent with these findings, an association was found between infant gut microbiome composition and neurodevelopmental outcomes in communication, personal and social, and fine motor skills was found in children at age 3 years (83). Furthermore, sex-specific findings were linked to the positive association between Bacteroidetes abundance in late infancy and change in cognitive and language performance from 1 to 2 years (84).

### ***1.3.2 Potential mediating effect of the infant GM in the pathway of infant atopic and food sensitization and the infant brain development***

Atopy and impaired neurodevelopment have immune dysregulation and inflammation in common, and share many risk factors, for example, maternal history of atopic disease (33).

Accumulating epidemiologic evidence further supports a connection between the infant's immune system and neurodevelopmental disorders. A recent study of school-children revealed that peanut sensitivity or allergic rhinitis in 6-year olds predicted symptoms of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at 12 years of age (34). A temporal association between atopic disease and neurodevelopment has also been demonstrated in very young children with a family history of atopy whereby infants with any atopic disease (eczema or food allergy) at 12 months exhibited lower motor scores on the Bayley Scales of Infant Toddler Development at 18 months (35). Among infants with diagnosed food allergy at 12 months, lower social-emotional scores were

reported at 18 months.

While the influence of infant atopy and food sensitization on their corresponding neurodevelopment is well recognised, it is still not well understood. Furthermore infant gut microbial colonization and exposure has been known to play a critical role in both infant atopy and food sensitization and infant brain development, however gaps in research exist in determining whether and in what ways the infant microbiome plays a mediating role in the pathway between infant sensitization and neurodevelopment.

#### **1.4 Potential covariates affecting infant sensitization status, infant neurodevelopment, and the infant gut microbiota**

##### ***1.4.1 Maternal characteristics***

###### *Prenatal diet (fruit intake)*

There is strong support for the influence of maternal prenatal diet on the sensitization risk of their offspring (85–87). However no clear consensus currently exists specifically for the exact effect of prenatal fruit intake. For example, a study suggested that higher maternal consumption of green and yellow vegetables, citrus fruit, and  $\beta$ -carotene during pregnancy was associated with lower occurrence of eczema in the offspring (88). Additionally, higher maternal vitamin E intake during pregnancy was inversely associated with risk of infantile wheeze (88). However, contrary to these findings, other researchers argue that food items high in advanced glycosylated end products including fruit juice are associated with increased risk of allergic disease(89). Lastly, contrary to both of these findings which found a significant effect, other studies did not find other dietary exposures including prebiotic supplements, maternal allergenic



food avoidance, and vitamin, mineral, fruit, and vegetable intake to strongly influence risk of allergic or autoimmune disease (90,91). One particular study however, found that probiotic and fish oil supplementation during later pregnancy and lactation is associated with lower risk of eczema or allergic sensitisation to food during childhood (91).

Overall, prenatal diet is still a factor of interest for our study because although research appears to be conflicting, all of the studies still support that components of prenatal diet play a role in sensitization of the infant.

#### *Prenatal smoking*

Maternal smoking is known to harm a child's development both in-utero and during the postnatal period (92–94). An early study states that exposure to prenatal smoking significantly increases allergen-specific immunoglobulins IgE and IgD in newborn infants even if they were born to parents without any allergic histories (95). In particular, infants of non-allergic parents who were exposed to prenatal smoking had three times higher levels of cord IgE and four times higher risk of developing atopy before 18 months of age compared to infants born to moms who did not smoke (95). In support to these findings, second hand smoke exposure during infancy increases food sensitization and eczema risk up to 16 years of age (96).

#### *Prenatal depression*

Prenatal psychosocial stress is a contributing factor that increases a child's risk of having developmental delays, dysregulated immune responses, and psychopathology in later life (97– 100). For example, prenatal stress is associated with higher levels of

inflammatory biomarkers including C-reactive protein and IL-6 that appears to persist in adulthood (98,101–103). In support of these findings, researchers presented the first human study to show an independent association between prenatal depression and lower infant gut immunity (104,105). Specifically, mothers experiencing depression during pregnancy tend to have lower sigA concentrations, a protective component of the body's immune system (104). Since the an infant's early source of sigA comes from their mother's breastmilk, low sigA concentrations and thus a compromised immune system are subsequently observed among infants born from mothers living with depression. It is also important to note that low sigA harms gut immunity as it makes the infant's gut more susceptible to harmful C-difficile infection and development of atopic disease (104,105).

#### *Breastfeeding duration*

The push for longer breastfeeding duration by the clinicians and the scientific community is grounded in well-established data regarding the abundant nutrients and protective benefits it confers to the child (106). From obesity prevention, immune protection, allergy protection, and promotion of a healthy gut microbiome, it is well established that breastfeeding, especially prolonged breastfeeding duration has lasting beneficial effects for both mother and child (93,107).

### **1.4.2 Infant characteristics**

#### *Infant introduction to solid food*

The infant's period of complementary feeding (6–24 months of age) is a demanding period of infant nutrition due to high requirements for metabolic processes, rapid developmental processes, and limited gastric capacity (108). In addition, high

caloric intake is necessary during this period to facilitate healthy brain development which includes wiring of neurons for communication, maintenance of synapses, and myelination to name a few.

Aside from its important role in infant brain development, the introduction to diverse kinds of solid food, most especially those known to be “allergenic” reduces the risk of allergic sensitization (109). Several randomized controlled trials (RCTs) of introduction to allergenic solid foods found that early introduction, usually from age 4 to 6 months, reduced the risk of food sensitization and allergic disease. A recent comprehensive systematic review and meta- analysis of randomized controlled trials (RCTs) presented that early introduction of egg at 4 to 6 months of infant age reduced egg allergy by 46% (110). Additionally, introduction of peanut reduced peanut allergy by 71% (110).

### ***Siblings***

Previous research supports that the presence of older siblings may contribute to a decreased risk of food allergy - a phenomenon also termed the “sibling effect”. First coined by Golding and Peters in their British Birth survey, the “sibling effect” was observed when the risk for eczema and hay fever decreased in infants with higher sibling count (111). Moreover older siblings were associated with a lower risk of developing food allergy (112,113). Researchers suggest that the protective effect of siblingship might be due to exposure to microbial stimulation from close contact with siblings during the early life years (111). Others speculate that exposure to infections through sibling interaction may prevent allergies (111,114).

A possible explanation for the protective association of the presence of older

siblings is because of increased exposure to microbial stimulation in early childhood resulting from close contact with siblings. In addition, several studies have proposed that exposure to certain infections may protect against allergies (115,116). On the other hand, other findings support this by showing that having older sibling/s improves social communication in children with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) which may be due to increase opportunities of having social interactions with their siblings (117).

### *Birth mode*

Birth mode is known to be a critical player in the development of atopic sensitization (118). For instance, research from a Finnish child population report that cumulative incidences of atopic sensitization were highest among those born by assisted vaginal delivery or c-section (118). However, neonates born via elective c-section have the highest incidence of food allergy among infants of mothers without atopic diseases. This finding is further supported by research that demonstrated an increased risk of asthma medication in infants born by emergency C- section (119).

Furthermore, birth mode has also been distinguished as an important determinant in shaping the infant gut microbiota during infancy (7). Delivery via c-section strongly influences the infant gut by decreasing colonization rates of Bacteroides and increasing the prevalence of clostridia until seven months postpartum. Consistent with these findings, infants born via c- section delivery also showed impaired Bacteroidetes colonization, lower microbial diversity, and a compromised immune response (120).

With regards to neurodevelopment, birthmode is associated with differences in neurodevelopmental effects but only in early infant life (121,122). Further research is needed to determine the extent of birth mode's consequences on infant brain development

in the adult years.

### *Infant sex*

#### *Infant sex and neurodevelopmental disorders*

There is currently an observed pattern of males having a higher risk for neurodevelopmental disorders compared to females (123,124). In particular, males appear to be up to four times at higher susceptibility to impaired brain development which includes intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorder (autism) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) (123). The exact causes of these discrepancies are currently being investigated but previous research points to variations in genetics, hormones and their interaction with other risk factors including stress and lead exposure (123,124). For example, a study demonstrated that a certain protein transferase crucial in brain functioning and metabolism is higher in females than males due to the extra X chromosome found in females. Other studies report lead exposure measured via maternal blood samples is associated with ADHD risk for male children but not in females (125). However, this association is later reversed during early adolescence, where females appear to have higher diagnosis of ADHD (126).

#### *Infant sex and atopic and food sensitization*

Researchers have argued for further investigation regarding the roles of sex and gender differences in allergy studies to provide personalized diagnosis, management and treatment of food allergy (19). Differences in food and allergic prevalence between males and females are well documented with a higher number of male children suffering from general atopic symptoms, including asthma, food allergies, and skin reactions

against multiple allergens (127). However, a reversal of this trend occurs in adulthood with more females experiencing food intolerance and food hypersensitivities compared to men (19). Several causal pathways have been suggested to explain the gender gap in food allergy including hormonal influences on immune cells, gender-specific influence of the gut microbiome on food allergy, effect of prebiotics, and potential gender effects on approaching food allergy (19).

## **1.5 Research Question and Hypothesis**

### ***1.5.1 The Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Cohort Study***

Datasets for both research study one and research study two were derived from the Canadian Healthy Infant Longitudinal Development (CHILD) Study which is a national, prospective longitudinal birth cohort that recruited pregnant women from the general population from 4 cities across Canada (15). The cohort was developed to address research priorities in uncovering gene-environment interactions during pregnancy and early childhood and to provide a platform to study factors that alter risk of subsequent allergy and asthma development in children. The cohort consists of healthy, full-term infants and the mother-child pairs are followed which allows us to explore infant neurodevelopmental outcomes through time. Both parental and infant assessments were collected from pregnancy up to five years of infant age. Questionnaires include environmental, psychosocial, nutrition, and health assessments. Additionally, biological samples include blood, urine, nasal, stool, and breastmilk samples. This comprehensive data collection of child and parental health information allows CHILD researchers to test hypothesis related to fetal and early infant origins of complex diseases such as atopic and food sensitization, providing insight into the role of these critical windows of exposure on immune, physiological, and microbiome trajectories.

### ***1.5.2 Objectives***

For children who are a subsample of the CHILD birth cohort (www.childstudy.ca) from the Edmonton site, we aim to determine a) the association between food or any allergen sensitization in the first year of life and children's neurodevelopment at toddler age in a general (not high atopy-risk) population and b) to assess any whether any of the resulting associations are sex-specific. My secondary objective is to investigate the potential mediating role of the infant gut microbiome in the pathway between atopic and food sensitization and neurodevelopmental outcomes.

### ***1.5.3 Research Questions***

**Primary Research Question** - How does positive food and atopic sensitization (ie. a wheal size  $\geq 2\text{mm}$ ) at 1 and 2 years of infant age influence neurodevelopmental scores (Bayley Scale of Infant Development Third Edition or BSID-III) on the cognitive, language, social-emotional, and motor domains?

**Secondary Research Question** - What is the sequential mediating role of infant gut microbiota composition at 4 months, on the association from maternal atopic status and child neurodevelopment scores?

### ***1.5.4 Sample Size Calculation***

Differences have been found in neurodevelopmental scores as measured by Bayley Scales of Infant Toddler Development III Edition (BSID-III) between infants with atopic

$$n = 2 \left[ \left( \frac{Z\alpha}{2} + Z\beta \right) * \frac{SD}{Mean1 - Mean2} \right]^2$$
$$n = 2 \left[ (1.96 + 0.84) * \frac{20.9}{111.9 - 103.54} \right]^2$$
$$n = 98$$

sensitization and those without atopic sensitization at 18 months of infant age. An Australian study found a statistically significant difference between the socioemotional BSID-III scores of infants with IgE-mediated food allergy (Mean: 103.54, SD: 20.9) and those with no food allergies (Mean: 111.9, SD: 19.3) (35). Thus, this sample size calculation was done comparing infants with food sensitization and those without food sensitization, using mean BSID-III socioemotional scores. Assuming 80% power and a two-sided alpha or 0.05, a sample size of 98 infants in each group is required to detect a difference of 15.46 in the BSID-III socioemotional scores among infants. Therefore, with our sample numbers  $n = 537$ , we will have sufficient power to detect meaningful differences in the BSID-III neurodevelopmental scores between infants with or without sensitization status.

## **1.6 Summary**

The rise of infant immune diseases including food and atopic sensitization is becoming a noticeable trend in children's health. This trend indicates the vulnerability of the developing immune system to early environmental changes and stressors (1). Parallel to the rise in allergic diseases is the link to subsequent infant neurodevelopmental challenges and metabolic diseases, conditions which are even more common to infants born from mothers with history of allergic conditions (2,3). To date, there is scarce literature that further explains more to the story – what is the link between allergic and infant neurodevelopmental outcomes, which factors play a key role, and what is its connection to the infant gut microbiome, if any?

The next two Chapters – Chapters 2 and 3 will be two papers that bring results that may act as promising clues to help uncover parts of this story.



## **CHAPTER 2: Sex-specific associations among infant food and atopic sensitizations and infant neurodevelopment**

### **2.1 Abstract**

#### **Introduction:**

Food sensitization is a first and strong indicator of immune deviation in the progression to other allergic conditions. Sensitization to food or other allergens and related inflammation during critical windows of infant development may adversely affect neurodevelopmental milestones. However, additional research is needed to test this association further.

#### **Methods:**

Associations between atopic (any food or aeroallergen) or food sensitization (specific to egg, soybean, peanut, and milk) at age 1 year and neurodevelopment up to 2 years of age were evaluated in the national CHILD Cohort Study, with a secondary aim examining whether these associations were sex-specific. Food and atopic sensitization were assessed by skin prick tests (SPT) in one-year-old infants, with neurodevelopment assessed using the cognitive, language, motor, and social-emotional subscales of the Bayley Scales of Infant Development (BSID-III) administered at 1 and 2 years of age.

#### **Results:**

Atopic sensitization was present among 16.4% of infants, while 13.4% had food sensitizations. Only socioemotional scores reached statistical significance among the four BSID-III domains. Both atopic and food sensitization at one year of age was associated with lower social-emotional scores, independent of the infant's ethnicity. These findings were sex-specific and only observed among boys, among whom social-emotional scores were lowered by 5 points if atopic

sensitization was present (-5.22 [95%CI: -9.96, -0.47], p=0.03) or if food sensitization was present (-4.85 [95%CI: -9.82, 0.11], p=0.06). Similar results were observed using the standard SPT cut-off of  $\geq 3$ mm — for atopic sensitization (-5.17 [95%CI: -11.14, -0.80], p=0.09) and for food sensitization (-4.61 [95%CI: -10.96, 1.74], p=0.15).

**Conclusion:**

In our study of term infants, we found an inverse, cross-sectional association between atopic and food sensitization status and social-emotional development scores in males but not females.

## 2.2 Introduction

Food allergy in high-income countries is on the rise, with an allergy to common foods reported in more than 10% of 1-year-old infants (1). Food allergy is a classic Type 1 hypersensitivity response that develops over time when repeated exposure to a food antigen activates allergen-specific T cells. These T cells provide “help” to B cells to secrete allergen-specific IgE (immunoglobulin E), which then primes mast cells to degranulate on subsequent exposure to the allergen, releasing histamine and other inflammatory mediators (2). Mast cells can cause neuroinflammation, and children with high levels of mast cells have a greater risk of developing autism spectrum disorder (ASD) (3).

The phenomenon of the “atopic march,” wherein allergic diseases happen in progression, begins in childhood (4). Food sensitization, determined by skin prick testing or serum IgE levels to the allergen, affects up to 28% of preschool children in the United States (5). While it may not develop into clinically significant food allergy, food sensitization is a first and strong indicator of immune deviation in the atopic march (5, 6). The resultant IgE-mediated immune response to the allergen initiates the inflammatory process resulting in food sensitization (2). Conversely, if the food allergen is blocked by serum or intestinal immunoglobulins (such as IgA), the immune response will be diminished, and tolerance to the allergen will occur. Disease severity is related to the amount of circulating IgE. Among the various food allergens, infant sensitization to peanuts is the most likely to persist into later childhood and/or proceed to food allergy (7, 8). The infant’s 1st year of life is the “window of opportunity,” wherein nutrition and other exposures can significantly impact an infant’s developing immune and nervous systems (9).

Atopy and impaired neurodevelopment have immune dysregulation and inflammation in common and share many risk factors (10). Accumulating epidemiologic evidence further

supports a connection between the infant's immune system and neurodevelopmental disorders. In the comprehensive review by Jyonouchi et al. (11), it was pointed out that allergic symptoms commonly worsen behavioral symptoms of ASD. A newer study of school children revealed that peanut sensitivity or allergic rhinitis in 6-year-olds predicted symptoms of attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) at 12 years of age (12). Temporal associations between atopic disease and neurodevelopment have been also found in very young children with a family history of atopy, whereby 12-month-old infants with any atopic disease (eczema or food allergy) exhibited lower motor scores on the Bayley Scales of Infant Toddler Development at 18 months (13). Among infants with diagnosed food allergy at 12 months, lower social-emotional scores were reported at 18 months (13). Recent findings from the Boston Birth Cohort have demonstrated a higher incidence of neurodevelopmental disabilities among children with atopic disease compared to children without atopy (14). In this study, we determined the association between food or any allergen sensitization as a marker of IgE dysregulation in the 1st year of life and children's neurodevelopment at the toddler age in a general (not high atopy risk) population. Sex-specific associations were tested. We hypothesized that atopic sensitization adversely affects the neurodevelopment of the growing infant and thus will lead to lower neurodevelopmental scores.

## 2.2 Methods and Study Design

Our present study accessed data from a subsample of the CHILD birth cohort ([www.childstudy.ca](http://www.childstudy.ca)) consisting of 537 infants from the Edmonton site. The CHILD birth cohort recruited pregnant women aged  $\geq 18$  years who delivered singleton infants at  $\geq 35$  weeks of gestational age and a birth weight of  $\geq 2500$  g. Multiple gestations, in vitro fertilized births, and preterm births were excluded, as were children born with congenital abnormalities or respiratory distress syndrome. Mothers were followed throughout pregnancy, atopic and food sensitization were both assessed at one year of infant age, and infant neurodevelopmental scores at ages one and two years. Study covariates were collected from study questionnaires during pregnancy and three months post-partum and/or hospital birth records. They consisted of the following maternal factors: maternal ethnicity (White Caucasian, Asian, Other), maternal age (18 to 29, 30 to 39, over 40), maternal education (some/finished high school, some university/college, university degree), asthma treatment during pregnancy (yes or no), prenatal smoking (yes or no), and maternal depression (never, prenatal, postnatal, persistent). Maternal diet was also included and was based on the prenatal fruit intake (“5-a-day” method), which measures the sum of “servings of fruit, not including juices, “plus servings of juice” per day (15).

In the CHILD Cohort Study, fruit intake was associated with infant cognition and was based on the 5- day method from a modified 174-item, self-reported Food Frequency Questionnaire (15, 16). Studied infant factors included child sex (male or female), gestational age (in weeks), presence of older siblings (yes or no), birth mode (Vaginal-no IAP [intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis], Vaginal-IAP, CS-elective, CS- emergency), breastfeeding at three months (exclusive breastfeeding, partial breastfeeding, zero, and unknown) and introduction of solid foods at three months of infant age (yes or no).

A Direct Acyclic Graph (DAG) approach was pursued to select a minimal adjustment set of potential confounding factors to test further associations between infant sensitization and child Neurodevelopment (Figure 1; (17) ). A DAG gold-standard change-in-estimate procedure was used where covariates were selected by backward elimination from the initial DAG adjusted model (18). The Human Research Ethics Boards at the University of Alberta approved this study (Ethics number Pro00103296).

### **2.2.1 Food and Atopic Sensitization Assessments**

Measures for sensitization were outlined in a previous CHILD Cohort Study paper (19). In our sample, food sensitization was defined as any positive skin prick test to peanut, milk, egg, or soybean allergens. On the other hand, atopic sensitization was defined as any positive skin prick test to test food or aeroallergens. Data from food and atopic sensitization were obtained at 1 year of infant age through a skin prick test (SPT) performed by trained staff with one point of a plastic, bifurcated needle (a Duotip II device by Lincoln Diagnostics), held at a 45° angle with the skin plane after complete submersion into an allergen solution. Ten standardized and common food allergens (peanut, soybean, egg white, and cow's milk) and aeroallergens (*Alternaria tenuis*, cat hair, dog epithelium, *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*, *Dermatophagoides farinae*, German cockroach), a positive control (histamine), and a negative control (glycerin) were tested. As implemented in large-scale infant studies, a wheal size of  $\geq 2$  mm in diameter in response to any allergen was considered to indicate positive sensitization for that particular allergen (20). The standard skin prick test procedure that uses a cut-off wheal size  $\geq 3$  mm in diameter (21) was also tested in sensitivity analyses.

### ***2.2.2 Neurodevelopmental assessments***

Infant neurodevelopmental scores were obtained from the Bayley Scale of Infant Development Third Edition (BSID-III) at 1 year and 2 years of age. Since BSID-III score assessments are unique to the CHILDCohort Study's Edmonton site, only infants from this location are included in this study. These scores are a validated and objective measure of a child's neurodevelopment, including cognitive, language, motor development, and social-emotional domains (22, 23). Primary caregivers completed BSID-III questionnaires before the child's bedtime. The Cognitive scale (91 items) assesses visual preference, attention, memory, exploration, manipulation, and concept formation. The Language scale assesses receptive communication (49 items) and expressive communication (48 items). The Motor scale assesses gross motor (72 items) and fine motor (66 items) skills. The Cognitive (0.91), Language (0.93), and Motor (0.92) subscales have high-reliability coefficients, and good test-retest stability with coefficients around 0.80 (22, 23). The Social-Emotional scale (35 items) measures six functional and emotional development milestones that are subdivided into different age groups (24). A registered psychologist trained research staff to administer the BSID-III instrument and conducted semi-annual assessments. All scores were obtained based on the child's chronological age at testing. Raw scores were converted to scaled scores, and then to composite scores. The standardized population means for the composite score is 100 (standard deviation of 15). A higher score on the BSID-III scales indicates better abilities.

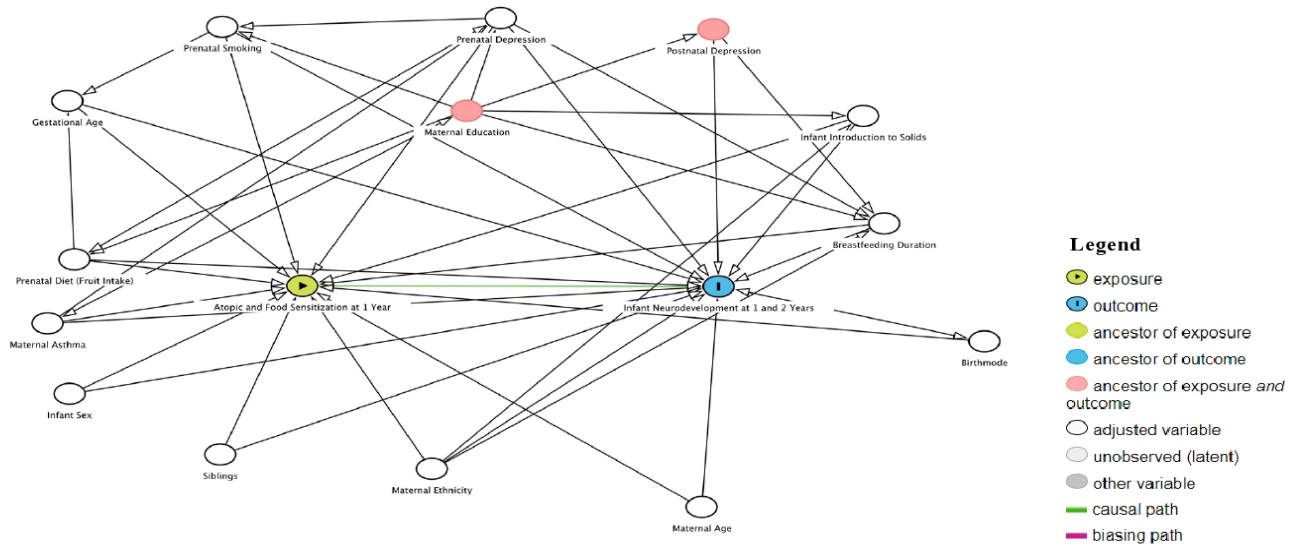
### **2.3 Statistical analysis**

The distribution of one-year atopic and food sensitization status and BSID-III scores across study covariates was determined. Comparisons of categorical variables were made using the Chi-square or Fisher's exact tests. Continuous variables were compared with the t-test if

binary and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) if more than two categories. ANOVA was also used to compare the means of neurodevelopmental scores from BSID-III subscales by atopic and food sensitization status. Univariable and multivariable linear regressions were conducted to quantify (via beta-coefficients) the association between atopic or food sensitization status and neurodevelopmental scores. Potential confounding factors selected by the DAG approach were retained in multivariable regression models if they met the criterion of 15% change in estimate for atopic or food sensitization. From the minimum DAG set of maternal ethnicity, age, asthma, prenatal depression, prenatal smoking and prenatal diet, infant sex, gestational age, older siblingship, birth mode, breastfeeding duration, and introduction of solid foods (Figure 2.1). Each multivariable model had a unique minimal set of adjustments based on the DAG and 15% backwards selection model building approach (Table S1). Additionally, we have assessed the normality of all BSID-III scores (see attached supplementary FigureS1 and Figure S2).



**Figure 2.1.** Direct Acyclic Graph (DAG) representing exposure, covariate, and outcome direct associations to select potential confounding factors.



## 2.4 Results

### 2.4.1 Participant characteristics

In our study of 537 infants, 52.0% were male, and 56.5% had an older sibling (Table S2). The mean gestational age was 39 weeks (mean = 39.1, SD = 1.4). The majority of their mothers were of Caucasian ethnicity (78.8%), between the ages of 30 to 39 years (68.2%), did not smoke (96.3%), and completed university (55.5%). Most infants were born vaginally, in the absence (52.1%) or presence (23.9%) of intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP). At 3 months of age, 58.1% were exclusively breastfed, 27.2% were partially breastfed (breastmilk and formula), and 14.3% were not breastfed; almost all infants (97.6%) were not yet introduced to solid foods. At 1 year of age, atopic sensitization (to food or aeroallergens) was present in 16.4% of infants; the prevalence of food sensitization was 13.4%, making food the predominant allergen for sensitization at this age.

Atopic or food sensitization was more likely among infants of mothers with a university education ( $p < 0.05$ ) or Asian ethnicity ( $p < 0.001$ , Table S4). At age one year, language and motor scores increased by 1 point for each week of gestational age; infants of Asian ethnicity had the lowest scores on the cognition, language, and social-emotional domains, and boys had the lowest language scores (Table S5). In addition to gestational age and Asian ethnicity, several more covariates were associated with lower BSID scores at age two years, including male sex (all domains), pre/postnatal maternal depression (social-emotional), lack of breastfeeding (cognitive/language), and absence of siblings (motor, Table S6).

#### *2.4.2 Assessing the association of infant atopic and food sensitization at 1 year with neurodevelopment at one year and two years of age*

Mean scores from four neurodevelopmental domains at 1 and 2 years were compared between atopy status. We found no statistically significant differences between atopic or food sensitization at age one year and BSID-III cognitive, language, or motor scores at age one year (Table 1). However, the crude linear regression comparison indicated an inverse association between one-year social-emotional scores and atopic sensitization (4.6 points lower,  $p = 0.01$ ) or food sensitization (4.5 points lower,  $p = 0.01$ ). In male infants (Table 1), these crude differences were of a greater magnitude for atopic sensitization (98.0 versus 104.1,  $p = 0.005$ ) and for food sensitization (98.1 versus 104.0,  $p = 0.01$ ). No sensitization differences in BSID-III mean scores were seen among female infants at one year of age. There were no statistically significant crude differences in mean scores between any of the 2-year BSID subscale domains and atopic or food sensitization in 1-year old infants in total or in sex-specific strata (Tables 1, 2). Although lower two-year social-emotional scores were observed for food sensitization in female infants (mean, 105.89 versus 110.75,  $p = 0.1$ , Table 2.1), this was not statistically significant.

Multivariable regression models revealed that the inverse association between one-year social-emotional scores and food or atopic sensitization remained after adjusting for maternal ethnicity. Specifically, there was a reduction in social-emotional scores among infants who developed atopic (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.13; 95%CI: -7.41, -0.86) or food sensitization (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.01; 95%CI: -7.55, -0.47) compared to their infants who did not develop atopic or food sensitization (Figure 2.2, Table 2.2). For sensitization to a food or aeroallergen, this association was limited to male infants (adjusted beta-coefficient: -5.22; 95%CI: -9.96, -0.47) and not found among female infants (adjusted beta-coefficient: -2.92; 95%CI: -7.50, 1.66, Figure 2, Table 2.2). For sensitization to food, the association was also more evident in male infants (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.85; 95%CI: -9.82, 0.11,  $p = 0.06$ ) than female infants (adjusted beta-coefficient: -2.82; 95%CI: -8.07, 2.43), although it did not reach statistical significance in either sex (Figure 2, Table 2.2).

In order to strengthen the validity of our results, we conducted a sensitivity analysis for the associations between sensitization and infant neurodevelopment using the standard  $\geq 3$ mm SPT cut-off (Heinzerling et al., 2013). Results from the fully-adjusted model using the conventional  $\geq 3$ mm wheal size also revealed decreased socio-emotional scores for atopic (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.99; 95%CI: -8.93, -1.04) and food sensitization (adjusted beta-coefficient: -5.22; 95%CI: -9.50, -0.94). Male infants with atopic sensitization remained more affected than their female counterparts (-5.17 [95%CI: -11.14, -0.80],  $p=0.09$  versus adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.21; 95%CI: -9.72, 1.31, respectively). When the standard  $\geq 3$  mm cut-off for sensitization was used, results were consistent with our findings that used the  $\geq 2$  mm wheal size — male infants with food sensitization at 1 year had lower, albeit non- significant socio-

emotional scores (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.61; 95%CI: -10.96, 1.74,  $p = 0.154$ ) than female infants (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.88 %CI: -11.08, 1.32).

Since non-normal distributions were noted in all four BSID-III subscales for atopy and food sensitization at one year of infant age, we conducted a log transformation of these scores. Our analysis revealed no changes to the significance of the  $\beta$ -coefficients of the transformed variables. For example, the crude socio-emotional scores at 2 years among all infants was not statistically significant (-2.36 [95%CI: -5.98, 1.27],  $p=0.2$ ) and the same is observed when it was log-transformed (-0.131 [95%CI: -0.347, -0.085],  $p=0.2$ ). Again, running the same crude analysis with the  $\geq 3$  mm SPT cut-off also led to a non-significant association between atopy at 1 year and socio-emotional scores at 2 years (- 2.79 [95%CI: -8.29, 2.70],  $p=0.3$ ) and in a log-transformed model (-0.022 [95%CI: -0.07, -0.03],  $p=0.4$ ). Using an SPT cut-off of  $\geq 3$  mm did not produce a statistically significant outcome with any of the other Bayley's III neurodevelopmental subscales.

Consequently, this resulted in no changes to our main findings.

Covariate adjustment did not uncover statistically significant associations between infant atopic or food sensitization, and neurodevelopmental outcomes, with one exception: cognitive and language scores at age 2 were higher in male infants with food sensitization (Table 2.2).

**Table 2.1 Comparison of mean scores for neurodevelopmental domains at age 1 and 2 years across atopic and food sensitization status at 1 year, all infants and stratified by infant sex.**

| All infants                        |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
|                                    | Atopic sensitization 1YR - YES<br>N=88<br>(16.39% overall)<br>Mean (SD)       | Atopic sensitization at 1YR - NO<br>N=449<br>(83.61% overall)<br>Mean (SD)        | p-value   | Food sensitization 1YR- YES<br>N=72<br>(13.41% overall)<br>Mean (SD)            | Food sensitization at 1YR- NO<br>N=465<br>(86.59% overall)<br>Mean (SD)       | p-value   |  |   |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 1YR</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 1 year          | 109.32 (10.89)  | 110.18 (10.19)  | 0.472   | 108.89 (10.98)  | 110.22 (10.19)  | 0.308   |  |   |
| BSID-III language 1 year           | 107.37 (9.89)   | 107.95 (12.34)  | 0.679   | 107.75 ( 9.48)  | 107.87 ( 12.32)   | 0.935   |  |   |
| BSID-III motor 1 year              | 101.58 (12.28)  | 102.80 (15.08)  | 0.474   | 101.36 (12.42)  | 102.80 (14.97)  | 0.440   |  |   |
| BSID-III social-emotional 1 year   | 98.76 (10.94)   | 103.36 (14.23)  | <b>0.005</b>  | 98.71 (11.15)   | 103.21 (14.13)  | <b>0.011</b>  |  |   |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 2YR</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 2 year          | 105.51 (14.24)  | 105.80 (14.37)  | 0.865   | 105.76 (14.72)  | 105.74 (14.29)  | 0.992   |  |   |
| BSID-III language 2 year           | 99.80 (12.40)   | 100.24 (11.97)  | 0.752   | 99.89 (12.26)   | 100.21 (12.01)  | 0.834   |  |   |
| BSID-III motor 2 year              | 98.74 (9.33)  | 98.94 (9.53)  | 0.856   | 99.01 (9.73)  | 98.89 (9.46)  | 0.918   |  |   |
| BSID-III social-emotional 2 year   | 106.72 (14.74)  | 109.08 (15.90)  | 0.202   | 106.69 (14.97)  | 109.00 (15.84)  | 0.250   |  |   |
| <b>Sex stratified</b>              |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| <b>Female infants</b>              |   |   |   | <b>Male infants</b>   |   |   |  |   |
|                                    | Atopic sensitization 1YR - YES<br>N=40 (7.45% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Atopic sensitization at 1YR - NO<br>N=218 (40.60% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Food sensitization 1YR - YES<br>N=28 (5.21% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Food sensitization at 1YR - NO<br>N=230 (42.83% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Atopic sensitization 1YR - YES<br>N=48 (8.94% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Atopic sensitization at 1YR - NO<br>N=231 (43.02% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Food sensitization 1YR - YES<br>N=235 (43.76 % among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) | Food sensitization at 1YR - NO<br>N=44 (8.19% among all infants)<br>Mean (SD) |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 1YR</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 1 year          | 109.88 (7.72)   | 110.75 (10.14)  | 109.64 (7.06)   | 110.73 (10.9)   | 98.04 (11.38)   | 104.12 (14.62)  | 108.41 (12.93)   | 109.72 (10.29)  |
| BSID-III language 1 year           | 107.78 (9.05)   | 110.13 (12.01)  | 108.82 (7.07)   | 109.88 (12.06)  | 107.02 (10.63)  | 105.89 (12.32)  | 107.05 (10.78)   | 105.91 (12.27)  |
| BSID-III motor 1 year              | 100.15 (11.39)  | 103.66 (15.63)  | 99.29 (11.54)   | 103.58 (15.42)  | 102.77 (12.97)  | 12.00 (14.53)   | 102.68 (12.90)   | 102.03 (14.52)  |
| BSID-III social-emotional 1 year   | 99.62 (10.47)   | 102.54 (13.78)  | 99.64 (10.09)   | 102.39 (13.69)  | 98.04 (11.38)   | <b>104.12</b> (14.62)   | 98.10 (11.89)  | <b>104.00</b> (14.52)   |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 2YR</b> |   |   |   |   |   |   |  |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 2 year          | 107.88 (12.90)  | 108.42 (15.24)  | 108.57 (12.83)  | 108.30 (15.13)  | 103.54 (15.12)  | 103.32 (13.06)  | 103.98 (15.69)   | 103.24 (12.97)  |
| BSID-III language 2 year           | 101.50 (10.71)  | 103.76 (11.49)  | 101.18 (9.21)   | 103.69 (11.61)  | 98.38 (13.58)   | 96.93 (11.48)   | 99.07 (13.90)  | 96.82 (11.43)   |
| BSID-III motor 2 year              | 99.45 (9.12)  | 99.9 (9.53)   | 99.79 (9.62)  | 99.88 (9.46)  | 98.15 (9.55)  | 97.99 (9.45)  | 98.52 (9.88)   | 97.92 (9.39)  |
| BSID-III social-emotional 2 year   | 107.38 (11.71)  | 110.74 (15.69)  | 105.89 (11.14)  | 110.75 (15.53)  | 106.17 (17.01)  | 107.49 (15.98)  | 107.21 (17.12)   | 107.27 (15.99)  |

*Note:* SD= standard deviation; Statistical comparison of means completed by ANOVA. <sup>a</sup>**Bold values are statistically significant**

**Table 2.2** Univariate and multivariate linear regression for sensitization at 1 year versus social-emotional scores at 1 and 2 years, all infants and stratified by infant sex (N=537).

| <b>Atopic Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments - All Infants</b>  |                                |                |   |                |
|---|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b>   | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 1-Year  | -0.86 (-3.22, 1.50)            | 0.47           | 0.441 (-2.17, 3.05)                           | 0.74           |
| Language 1-Year   | -0.58 (-3.34, 2.18)            | 0.68           | 0.64 (- 2.25, 3.54)                           | 0.66           |
| Motor 1-Year  | -1.22 (-4.58, 2.13)            | 0.47           | -1.93 (-5.06, 1.20)                           | 0.23           |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year   | -4.59 (-7.80, -1.39)           | <b>0.01</b>    | -4.13 (-7.41, -0.86)                          | <b>0.01</b>    |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b>   | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year  | -0.28 (-3.57, 3.00)            | 0.87           | 1.99 (-1.74, 5.72)                            | 0.30           |
| Language 2-Year   | -0.44 (-3.20, 2.31)            | 0.75           | 2.17 (-0.78, 5.11)                            | 0.15           |
| Motor 2-Year  | -0.20 (-2.38, 1.97)            | 0.86           | 0.89 (-1.49, 3.27)                            | 0.24           |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year   | -2.36 (-5.98, 1.27)            | 0.20           | -0.61 (-4.43, 3.21)                           | 0.76           |
| <b>Food Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments - All Infants</b>    |                                |                |   |                |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b>   | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 1-Year  | -1.33 (-3.89, 1.23)            | 0.31           | -0.27 (-2.90, 2.36)                           | 0.84           |
| Language 1-Year   | -0.12 (-3.12, 2.87)            | 0.94           | 0.76 (-2.36, 3.89 )                           | 0.63           |
| Motor 1-Year  | -1.43 (-5.08, 2.21)            | 0.44           | -2.37 (-5.77, 1.03)                           | 0.17           |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year   | -4.50 ( -7.97, -1.02)          | <b>0.01</b>    | -4.01 (-7.55, -0.48)                          | <b>0.03</b>    |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b>   | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year  | 0.02 (-3.55, 3.59)             | 0.99           | 2.28 (-1.74, 6.30)                            | 0.27           |
| Language 2-Year   | -0.32 (-3.32, 2.68)            | 0.83           | 2.19 (-1.00, 5.38)                            | 0.18           |
| Motor 2-Year  | 0.12 (-2.24, 1.49)             | 0.92           | 1.25 (- 1.33, 3.83)                           | 0.34           |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year   | -2.31 (-6.25, 1.63)            | 0.25           | -0.59 (-4.72, 3.54)                           | 0.78           |
| <b>Atopic Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments - Male Infants</b> |                                |                |   |                |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b>   | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 1-Year  | -0.80 (-4.15, 2.56)            | 0.64           | 0.80 (-3.06, 4.66)                            | 0.68           |
| Language 1-Year   | 1.13 (-2.67, 4.93)             | 0.56           | 2.49 (-1.68, 6.65)                            | 0.24           |
| Motor 1-Year  | 0.37 (-3.73, 4.48)             | 0.73           | -0.02 (-4.17, 4.13)                           | 0.99           |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year   | -6.08 (-10.58, -1.58)          | <b>0.01</b>    | -5.22 (-9.96, -0.47)                          | <b>0.03</b>    |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b>   | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year  | 0.22 (-3.97, 4.42)             | 0.92           | 4.53 (-0.49, 9.54 )                           | 0.08           |
| Language 2-Year   | 1.45 (-2.26, 5.15)             | 0.44           | 5.40 (1.22, 9.58)                             | <b>0.01</b>    |
| Motor 2-Year  | 0.15 (-2.80, 3.11)             | 0.92           | 1.61 (-1.83, 5.04)                            | 0.36           |

|                         |                     |      |                    |      |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| Social-Emotional 2-Year | -1.32 (-6.42, 3.78) | 0.61 | 1.79 (-3.95, 7.52) | 0.54 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|------|--------------------|------|

**Food Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments - Male Infants**

| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | -1.31 (-4.78, 2.16)            | 0.46           | 1.15 (-2.59, 4.89)                            | 0.55           |
| Language 1-Year                 | 1.14 (-2.80, 5.08)             | 0.57           | 2.30 (-2.08, 6.68)                            | 0.30           |
| Motor 1-Year                    | 0.26 (-4.00, 4.51)             | 0.78           | -0.19 (-4.48, 4.11)                           | 0.93           |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | -5.91 (-10.59, - 1.23)         | <b>0.01</b>    | -4.85 (-9.82, -0.11)                          | 0.06           |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | 0.73 (-3.61, 5.08)             | 0.74           | 5.53 (0.34, 10.72)                            | <b>0.04</b>    |
| Language 2-Year                 | 2.25 (-1.58, 6.08)             | 0.25           | 6.54 (2.23, 10.85)                            | <b>0.00</b>    |
| Motor 2-Year                    | 0.60 (-2.46, 3.66)             | 0.70           | 2.25 (-1.32, 5.82)                            | 0.22           |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year         | -0.06 (-5.35, 5.23)            | 0.98           | 3.57 (-2.39, 9.53)                            | 0.24           |

**Atopic Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments- Female Infants**

| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | -0.87 (-4.20, 2.45)            | 0.61           | -0.15 (-3.78, 3.48)                           | 0.94           |
| Language 1-Year                 | -2.35 (-6.29, 1.58)            | 0.24           | -1.40 (-5.43, 2.62)                           | 0.49           |
| Motor 1-Year                    | -3.92 (-8.67, 0.83)            | 0.18           | -4.36 (-9.22, 0.50)                           | 0.08           |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | -2.92 (-7.50, 1.66)            | 0.21           | -2.99 (-7.57, 1.58)                           | 0.20           |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | -0.54 (-5.59, 4.51)            | 0.83           | -0.82 (-6.34, 4.71)                           | 0.77           |
| Language 2-Year                 | -2.26 (-6.12, 1.59)            | 0.25           | -1.17 (-5.09, 2.75)                           | 0.56           |
| Motor 2-Year                    | -0.49 (-3.70, 2.71)            | 0.76           | 0.09 (-3.34, 3.51)                            | 0.96           |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year         | -3.37 (-8.51, 1.77)            | 0.20           | -1.96 (-7.28, 3.37)                           | 0.47           |

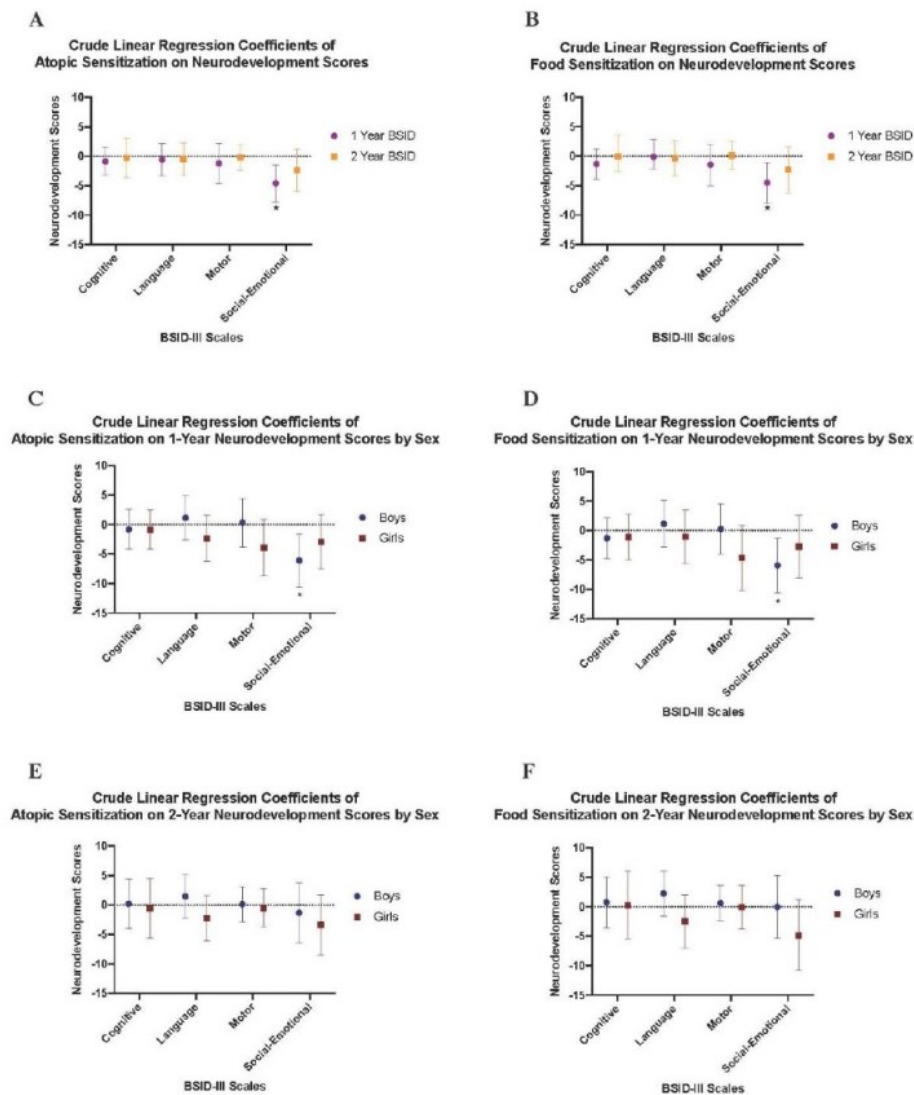
**Food Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments - Female Infants**

| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | -1.09 (-4.95, 2.78)            | 0.58           | -1.36 (-5.29, 2.57)                           | 0.50           |
| Language 1-Year                 | -1.06 (-5.64, 3.53)            | 0.65           | -0.70 (-5.32, 3.92)                           | 0.77           |
| Motor 1-Year                    | -4.68 (-10.21, 0.85)           | 0.16           | -5.54 (-11.15, 0.07)                          | 0.05           |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | -2.74 (-8.02, 2.53)            | 0.31           | -2.82 (-8.07, 2.43)                           | 0.29           |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | 0.27 (-5.61, 6.40)             | 0.93           | -1.06 (-7.43, 5.31)                           | 0.74           |
| Language 2-Year                 | -2.51 (-6.99, 1.98)            | 0.27           | -1.91 (-6.46, 2.63)                           | 0.41           |
| Motor 2-Year                    | -0.09 (-3.83, 3.64)            | 0.96           | 0.52 (-3.44, 4.49)                            | 0.80           |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year         | -4.86 (-10.82, 1.11)           | 0.11           | -3.71 (-9.80, 2.38)                           | 0.23           |



Note: Bolded p-values are statistically significant

**Figure 2.2** Crude linear regression models demonstrating (A) Crude models of atopic sensitization at 1 year on neurodevelopment scores at 1 and 2 years; (B) Food sensitization at 1 year on neurodevelopment scores at land 2 years; (C) Atopic sensitization at 1 year on neurodevelopment scores at 1 year stratified by child sex; (D) Food sensitization at 1 year on neurodevelopment scores at 1 year stratified by child sex; (E) Atopic sensitization at 1 year on neurodevelopment scores at 2 years stratified by child sex; and (F) Food sensitization at 1 year on neurodevelopment scores at 2 year stratified by child sex. Crude regression coefficient estimates are shown by closed circles and whiskers represent the 95% confidence interval.



### 3.0 Discussion

In a general population of 537 Canadian infants, there was no convincing evidence of temporal associations between IgE-mediated atopy or food sensitization status at 1 year and neurodevelopmental outcomes at 2 years of age. These findings concur with the reported absence of association between 12-month atopic or food sensitization and BSID-III neurodevelopment milestones at 18 months in a high-allergy-risk Australian cohort (13), as well as between infant serum IgE levels during the 1st years of life and attention deficit disorders at school age in a general population US cohort (25). Also, we did not find correlational associations between atopy status and neurodevelopment in 1-year-old children, with one exception. Independent of maternal ethnicity, infants with atopic sensitization had reduced scores by 4.13 points ( $p = 0.01$ ) on the social-emotional domain of Bayley's scales compared to their infant counterparts who were not atopic. Similarly, the infants experiencing food sensitization also exhibited 4-point lower social-emotional scores than the infants who did not have food sensitization ( $p = 0.03$ ). However, all of these associations were limited to male infants, such that socialemotional scores were lowered by 5 points if atopic sensitization was present ( $-5.22$  (95% CI:  $-9.96, -0.47$ )] and, similarly, if food sensitization was present [ $-4.85$  (95% CI:  $-9.82, 0.11$ ),  $p = 0.06$ ]. No cross-sectional associations were found in the female infants, and their social-emotional scores were equivalent to that of the male infants. The social-emotional subscale evaluates an infant's interaction, emotionality, self-regulation, and reactivity (26). It is a strong predictor of future behavioral or emotional disorders in childhood and academic achievement in later life (26, 27). We will consider possible bi-directional explanations for our findings in the following paragraphs.

Indeed, the cross-sectional nature of the atopy-socioemotional development association would not support a causal hypothesis put forward by Chua et al. (10), which points to evidence on temporal

associations and common risk factors between atopic conditions and neurodevelopment disorders. The association was not affected by study covariates and possibly acted through factors we did not measure. Mikkelsen et al. (28) reported that food sensitization in infants, for example, to milk, presents challenges and induces stress for new parents as they attempt to feed their infant. Such stressful environments may impact negatively on infant social-emotional development scores. Indeed, this has been reported in preterm and term infants, where studies document the influence of parental postnatal stress or a lack of positive affect on the socio-emotional development of offspring (29, 30). Finally, we observed lower but not statistically significant socialemotional scores at age 2 years in female infants with food sensitization, which appears to be a similar trend to that reported among 1-year-old infants with food allergy in the Australian cohort (13).

An alternate speculation involves reverse causation in which socio-emotional impairment, secondary to a stressful environment, is in the pathway to atopic or food sensitization. Stressors for infants, such as low maternal sensitivity or psychological distress, have been linked to atopic dermatitis (31) and functional gastrointestinal disorders (32). A mother's distress while breastfeeding can alter milk microbiota (33) or lower milk secretory immunoglobulin A (34), both of which affect infant gut immunity (35). Hence, impaired mother-infant feeding or social interactions may lower socioemotional responses in the infant (36) and, via the gutbrain axis, lead to food intolerance (37). Since parentchild interactions, namely strategies for infant soothing, were not assessed in our study, we are unable to offer explanations for the unexpected findings on food sensitization and improved cognition or language in boys. Parent use of strategies, such as cuddling to soothe fussy infants, may change electrocortical rhythms in the infant's brain toward improved neurodevelopmental outcomes (38). A detailed assessment of infant stress responses in studies of atopic disease and neurodevelopmental outcomes is needed to unpack these associations.

Furthermore, we believe that gender bias may also influence our male-specific findings that are worthy of further investigation. Globally, research reporting parental gender bias is becoming well established. For example, a study in Germany revealed that male children of parents who believe girls are better at reading exhibited lower reading-related competence beliefs and were discouraged from reading (39). Consistent with this research, a study in Bangladesh demonstrates that more parents invest in their male children's education and health expenses than their female offsprings (40). Research from Balkan and Scandinavian countries confirms these findings that biased parents allocate greater resources to children of their preferred gender (41). Overall, these studies demonstrate the need to address gender bias in pediatric research as it appears to impair critical areas of child development.

There are several strengths of our study: (i) objective and standard assessment of atopic sensitization in infants with skin prick testing, (ii) objective assessment of neurodevelopment by experts using a well-validated and widely-used standardized measure, (iii) neurodevelopmental assessment at two-time points to enable testing of cross-sectional and temporal associations, and (iv) large sample size in a general population of children that enabled adjustment for early life covariates that were determined from the construction of a direct acyclic graph (DAG). On the other hand, we had no information on whether the study infants with food sensitization had clinically significant signs and symptoms of food allergy, a critical element for proposed hypotheses for our findings. However, their parents would likely have seen the skin wheal reactions to the skin prick testing. We were also unable to examine the infants at high risk for neurodevelopmental morbidity as the CHILd Cohort Study excluded preterm birth below 34 weeks of gestation. Other high-risk groups under-represented in our study were families of low

socioeconomic status. Further studies are required to investigate the generalizability of our findings to other populations.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

In our study, atopic and food sensitization at one year did not predict neurodevelopmental outcomes at 2 years of age. However, atopic and food sensitization status at one year was cross-sectionally associated with reduced social- emotional scores among male infants. We speculated on bidirectional associations that may explain this inverse association. Since mother-infant interactions play a critical role in the socio-emotional development of infants, our study supports the need for additional research on maternal and infant risk factors between atopic and food sensitization and neurodevelopmental disorders. Possible biologic pathways that explain associations between atopic and food sensitization on infant neurodevelopment also merit further evaluation. Click or tap here to enter text.

#### **5.0 Acknowledgement**

We thank the CHILD Cohort Study (CHILD) participant families for their dedication and commitment to advancing health research. CHILD was initially funded by CIHR and AllerGen NCE. Visit CHILD at [childcohort.ca](http://childcohort.ca). (16)

#### **6.0 Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

#### **7.0 Funding**

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## **CHAPTER 3. Sex-dependent patterns in the association of maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores**

### **3.1 Introduction**

Neurodevelopmental disorders (NDD) in children including autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) account for 7% to 14% of all children in developed countries and pose a significant burden in the health system and the quality of life of many families ((17,18). Factors that give rise to developmental impairments include genetic, biological, and environmental influences – among which, maternal immune factors during pregnancy are proposed to play a strong role in shaping infant neurodevelopmental outcomes ((19).

In particular, the role of inflammatory disorders, including maternal asthma and allergic status in mothers during NDD pathogenesis is an emerging area of research. Maternal atopic status indicates an underlying immune dysregulation, effects of which may be transduced to the fetus through inflammatory cell signaling pathways and epigenetic mechanisms (19). Since key neuronal networks are being rapidly established during this critical window of early infant development, maternal stress and adverse immune reactions can impair typical developmental trajectory and lead to long-term negative effects (20–25). In animal models, maternal inflammatory response during pregnancy alters offspring brain function independent of pathogens and other risk factors (23). For example, rodent models showed that offspring exposed to maternal infection during pregnancy had abnormalities in brain morphology and possess behavioral characteristics like those with ASD (26). Another study in primates described

significant volume decrease in the frontal lobe and defects in cognitive functioning in those whose mothers are immune compromised (27).

In humans studies, parental history of allergies remains to be one of the strongest and well-established predictors of subsequent allergic disease in the offspring (28). A meta-analysis revealed that maternal asthma predisposes their child to asthma and greater risks of wheezing (29,30). Another systematic review indicated that parental history of atopic disease increases the risk of atopic dermatitis and allergic rhinitis in children, with the risk being higher in those whose parents have multiple atopic conditions (28,31)

On the other hand, studies specifically examining the association between maternal atopic conditions and alterations in infant neurodevelopment remains limited. A comprehensive systematic review and meta-analysis highlight that those with atopic diseases have 30-50% greater risk of developing ADHD (32). Other research studies provided evidence for maternal asthma increasing the risk of ADHD and comorbid maternal asthma and allergies increasing the risk of ASD in the offspring (33,34). Researchers even argue that the effects of maternal allergy on child neurodevelopment follow sex-specific patterns. For example, ADHD risk of infants born to mothers with atopic disease was found to be higher in female than male infants (35).

Despite growing research efforts on exploring the associations between maternal atopic status and infant neurodevelopment, research investigating possible mechanisms that explain these relationships remain scarce. We extend this research by assessing: (i) the associations between combined maternal atopic conditions and subsequent infant neurodevelopmental scores, (ii) the association between maternal asthma and infant neurodevelopmental scores, and (iii) exploring mediators in these associations.



## **3.2 Methods**

### ***3.2.1 Study Design***

Similar to the first study assessing the effect of infant atopic status on child neurodevelopment, our second study also accessed data from the CHILD birth cohort ([www.childstudy.ca](http://www.childstudy.ca)) consisting of 335 infants from the Edmonton site. Neurodevelopmental scores as measured by Bayley Scale of Infant Development Third Edition (BSID-III) are specific only to the Edmonton site. The CHILD birth cohort recruited pregnant women aged  $\geq 18$  years who delivered singleton infants at  $\geq 35$  weeks of gestational age and a birthweight of  $\geq 2500$  g. Multiple gestation, in vitro fertilized births, and preterm births were excluded, as were children born with major congenital abnormalities or respiratory distress syndrome. Mothers were followed throughout pregnancy, atopic and food sensitization were both assessed at one year of infant age, and infant neurodevelopmental scores at ages one and two years. Study covariates were collected from study questionnaires during pregnancy and at 3 months postpartum and/or hospital birth records. They consisted of the following maternal factors: maternal ethnicity (White Caucasian, Asian, Other), maternal age (18 to 29, 30 to 39, over 40), maternal education (some/finished high school, some university/college, university degree), asthma treatment during pregnancy (yes or no), prenatal smoking (yes or no), and maternal depression (never, prenatal, postnatal, persistent). Maternal diet was also included and was based on the prenatal fruit intake (“5-a-day” method), which measures the sum of “servings of fruit, not including juices, “plus servings of juice” per day (Kristal et al., 2000). In the CHILD Cohort Study, fruit intake was found to be associated with infant cognition and was based on the 5-day method from a modified

174-item, self-reported Food Frequency Questionnaire (Bolduc et al., 2016; Kristal et al., 2000). Studied infant factors included child sex (male or female), gestational age (in weeks), presence of older siblings (yes or no), birth mode (Vaginal-no IAP [intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis], Vaginal-IAP, CS-elective CS-emergency), breastfeeding at 3 months (exclusive breastfeeding, partial breastfeeding, zero, and unknown) and introduction of solid foods at 3 months of infant age (yes or no).

### ***3.2.2 Using DAG to identify covariates***

A Direct Acyclic Graph (DAG) approach was pursued to select a minimal adjustment set of potential confounding factors to further test associations between infant sensitization and child Neurodevelopment (Figure 1) (128). A DAG gold-standard change-in-estimate procedure was used where covariates were selected by backward elimination from the initial DAG adjusted model (129). The Human Research Ethics Boards at the University of Alberta approved this study (Ethics number Pro00103296).

### ***3.2.3 Maternal Atopic Status Assessments***

Detailed questionnaires on key maternal covariates, including maternal asthma and other diagnoses of atopic conditions were administered at recruitment and is again completed at 1 year of infant age (36). Combined maternal atopy is defined as the presence of any allergic condition in addition to maternal asthma; while maternal asthma indicates a diagnosis of asthma without any comorbid allergic conditions.

### ***3.3.4 Neurodevelopmental Assessments***

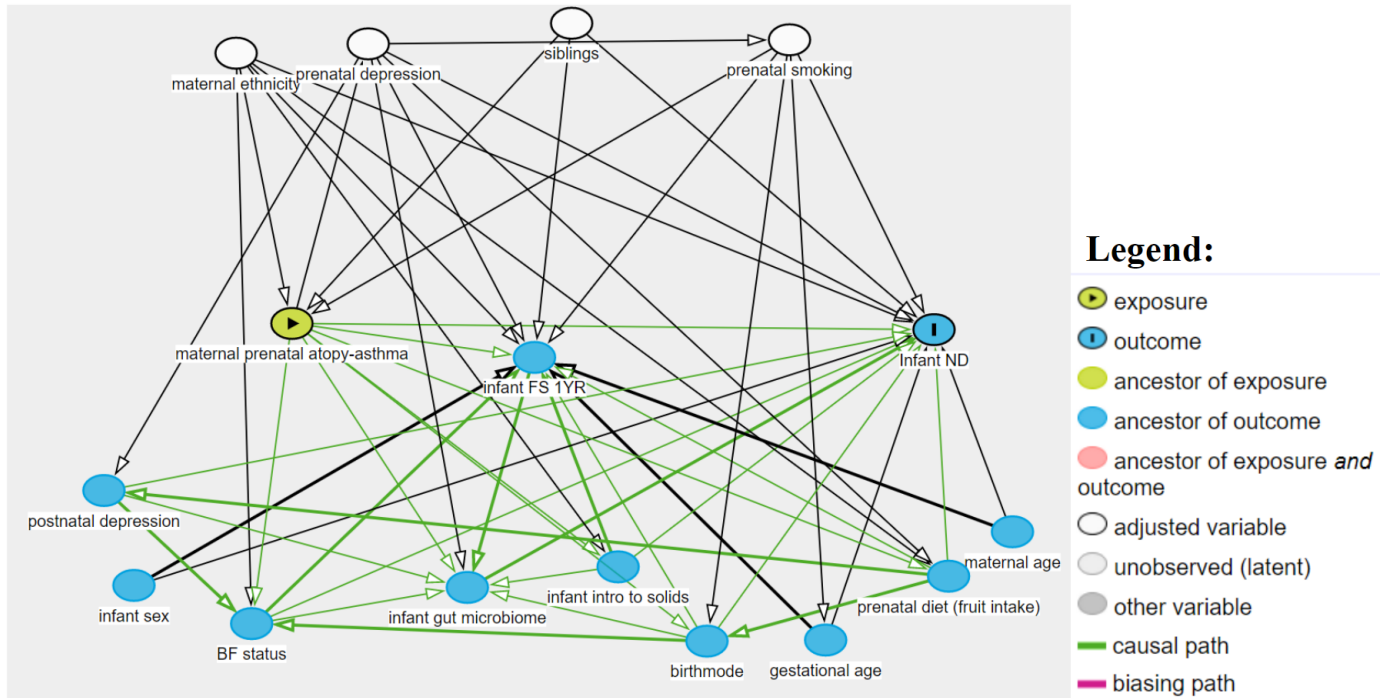
Infant neurodevelopmental scores were obtained from the Bayley Scale of Infant Development Third Edition (BSID-III) at one year and two years of age. BSID III is a validated and objective measure of a child's neurodevelopment, including cognitive,

language, motor development, and social-emotional domains (131,132). Primary caregivers completed BSID-III questionnaires before the child's bedtime. The Cognitive scale (91 items) assesses visual preference, attention, memory, exploration, manipulation, and concept formation. The Language scale assesses receptive communication (49-items) and expressive communication (48-items). The Motor scale assesses gross motor (72-items) and fine motor (66-items) skills. The Cognitive (0.91), Language (0.93), and Motor (0.92) subscales have high-reliability coefficients, and good test-retest stability with coefficients around 0.80 (132). The Social-Emotional scale (35 items) measures six functional emotional development milestones that are subdivided into different age groups (Tede et al., 2016). A registered psychologist trained research staff to administer the BSID-III instrument and conducted semi-annual assessments. All scores were obtained based on the child's chronological age at the time of testing. Raw scores were converted to scaled scores, then to composite scores. The standardized population mean for the composite score is 100 (standard deviation of 15). A higher score on the BSID-III scales indicates better abilities.

### 3.3 Statistical Analysis

#### *3.3.1 Evaluating the association between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores*

The distribution of one-year atopic and food sensitization status, and BSID-III scores across study covariates was determined. Comparisons of categorical variables were made with use of the Chi-square or Fisher's exact tests. Continuous variables were compared with the t-test if binary and one-way analysis of variance (ANOVA) if more than 2 categories. ANOVA was also used to compare the means of neurodevelopmental scores from BSID-III subscales by maternal atopy status (Table 3.4). Univariable and multivariable linear regressions were conducted to quantify (via beta-coefficients) the association between atopic or food sensitization status and neurodevelopmental scores. Potential confounding factors selected by the DAG approach were retained in multivariable regression models if they met the criterion of 15% change in estimate for atopic or food sensitization. From the minimum DAG set of maternal ethnicity, age, asthma, prenatal depression, prenatal smoking and prenatal diet, infant sex, gestational age, older siblingship, birth mode, breastfeeding duration, and introduction of solid foods (Figure 1). Each multivariable model had a unique minimal set of adjustments based on the DAG and 15% backwards selection model building approach.

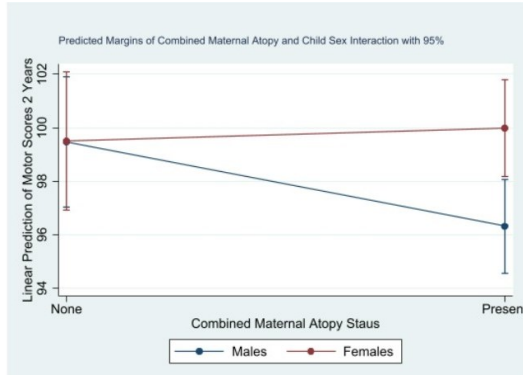


**Figure 3.1** DAG exploring the association between maternal atopy status and infant neurodevelopment

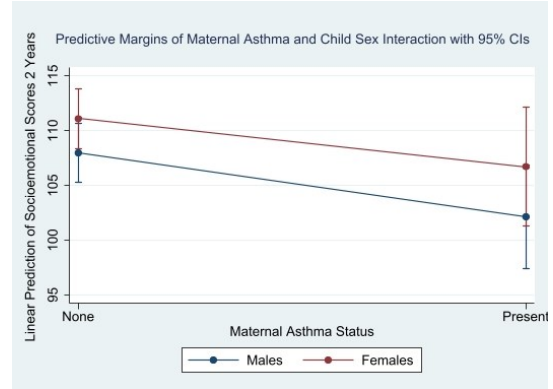
### ***3.3.2 Assessing the interaction effect of infant sex in the association between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores***

Since several research studies observe a sex-dependent patterns on the effect of prenatal immune disorders (37–40), including maternal on infant gut and psychiatric health, we tested interaction effects of infant sex in our model where maternal atopy is the exposure and neurodevelopmental scores is the outcome (Figure 3.2).

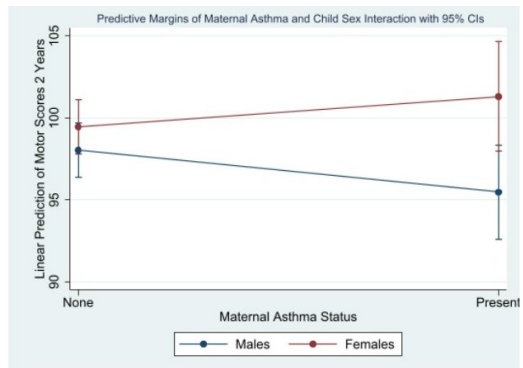
A.



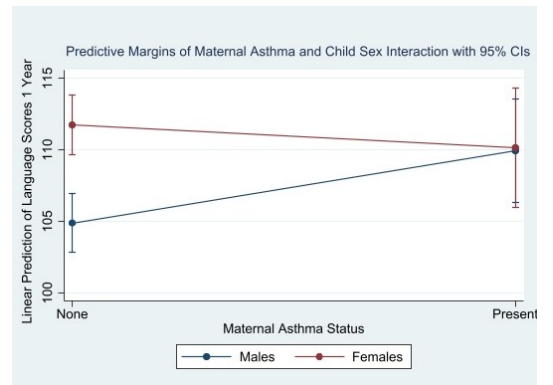
C.



B.



D.



**Figure 3.2** Evaluating the interaction effect of infant sex in the association between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores. Note that the above only displays results for infant scores that showed a statistically significant interaction between the exposure and outcome.

### ***3.3.3 Testing the potential mediating role of the infant gut microbiome***

Mediation tests whether the association between the exposure and outcome (ie. known as the direct effect) can be explained via intermediates or mediators within the temporal pathway (133). The causal steps strategy developed by Baron and Kenny in 1986 and the product of coefficients approach will be applied to assess mediation results. To perform structural equation models in STATA, mediators and outcomes in the model must be in their linear form (41).

In particular, the exposures for the analysis are maternal atopic status and the outcome is the infant neurodevelopmental scores (cognitive, language, socio-emotional, and motor scores) at 1 and 2 years of age. Potential infant gut microbiome mediators from fecal samples taken from home assessments at 1 year of infant age include the gut microbiome in the phylum and order level and the relative abundance of short-chain fatty acids (SCFAs). Regression models will be performed to identify microbial mediators that have significant crude associations with maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores. If an infant gut microbial passes the Baron and Kenney mediation criteria – that is, it produces a significant association with maternal atopy and neurodevelopmental scores, then their effect will be further analyzed using sequential mediation models.

In our study, a multiple mediator path model was used to examine indirect associations of prenatal depression at 36 weeks (mediator 1) and  $\alpha$  diversity or relative abundance of microbiota of the infant gut at the phylum and order level (mediator 2). To generate 95% CIs in mediation models, bootstrapping, which is a nonparametric resampling technique (1000 bootstrap resamples) was applied.

## 3.4 Results

### 3.4.1 *Participant characteristics*

In our study of 337 infants, 51.6% were male, and 48.4% were female (Table 3.3). The mean gestational age was 39 weeks (mean = 39.1, SD = 1.4). Most of the mothers were of Caucasian ethnicity (81.8%), between the ages of 30 to 39 years (67.5%), did not smoke (95.5%), and completed university (53.0%). Most infants were delivered vaginally, in the absence (54.7%) or presence (21.8%) of intrapartum antibiotic prophylaxis (IAP). At 3 months of age, 58.0% were exclusively breastfed, 31.0% were partially breastfed (breastmilk and formula), and 17.9% were not breastfed. Additionally, almost all infants (97.3%) were not yet introduced to solid foods. At 1 year of age, 66.6% of infants were born to mothers with combined atopic status (any diagnosed allergy or asthma); and the prevalence of maternal asthma alone was 22.4%.

Combined maternal atopy is more likely among mothers with White Caucasian ethnic backgrounds ( $p < 0.10$ , Table 3.4). Additionally, mothers with combined atopic status are more likely to give birth vaginally without IAP ( $p < 0.10$ , Table 3.4).

### 3.4.2 *Assessing the crude linear regression associations of maternal atopy status and maternal asthma with neurodevelopment at one year and two years of infant age*

In the crude linear regression models of maternal atopy, there were no statistically significant associations between combined maternal atopic status and infant neurodevelopment scores at 1 or 2 years (Table 3.1, Table 3.2). However, when stratified into male and female infant sex, crude models showed that cognitive and motor scores at 2 years are associated with combined maternal atopic status in male infants; and combined maternal atopy is associated with female cognitive scores at 2 years for female infants. Specifically, a marginal, inverse association is observed between male cognitive scores at 2 years and combined maternal atopy (3.8 points



lower,  $p = 0.07$ ; Table 3.2); while a significant association is observed in male infant motor scores at 2 years (3.17 points lower,  $p = 0.04$ ; Table 3.2). In contrast, female infants experience a marginal increase in 2-year cognitive scores if their mothers have combined atopic disease (4.21 points higher,  $p = 0.07$ ; Table 3.2).

**Table 3.1 Comparison of mean scores for neurodevelopmental domains at age 1 and 2 years across combined maternal atopy and maternal asthma status at 1 year, all infants and stratified by infant sex.**

|  |  | All infants  |   |   |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|--|---|---|
| Combined Maternal Atopy 1YR - YES      |  | Combined Maternal Atopy at 1YR - NO                            | Maternal Asthma 1YR- YES                                    | Maternal Asthma at 1YR- NO                                      | p-value  |  |   |   |
| N=223<br>(66.57% overall)<br>Mean (SD) |  | N=112<br>(33.43% overall)<br>Mean (SD)                         | p-value   | N=75<br>(22.39% overall)<br>Mean (SD)                           | N=260<br>(77.61% overall)<br>Mean (SD)                     |  |   |   |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 1YR</b>     |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 1 year              | 110.4395 (10.12777)  | 110.8482 (11.2684)   | 0.738   | 110.954 (10.758)  | 109.267 (9.54)   | 0.221  |   |   |
| BSID-III language 1 year               | 109.4279 (12.32889)  | 107.2857 (12.21241)  | 0.134   | 108.328 (12.263)  | 110.027 (12.477)   | 0.294  |   |   |
| BSID-III motor 1 year                  | 103.6188 (17.17984)  | 101.8393 (13.24445)  | 0.337   | 102.408 (16.325)  | 105.16 (14.594)  | 0.189  |   |   |
| BSID-III social-emotional 1 year       | 102.2897 (12.69506)  | 102.0909 (14.50058)  | 0.899   | 101.833 (13.343)  | 103.562 (13.215)   | 0.33   |   |   |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 2YR</b>     |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 2 year              | 105.3453 (14.45596)  | 105.2232 (12.45512)  | 0.939   | 105.135 (13.841)  | 105.893 (13.735)   | 0.676  |   |   |
| BSID-III language 2 year               | 100.3767 (12.20367)  | 99.81982 (10.70361)  | 0.683   | 100.158 (11.811)  | 100.307 (11.445)   | 0.539  |   |   |
| BSID-III motor 2 year                  | 98.10314 (9.620883)  | 99.48214 (9.690696)  | 0.218   | 98.738 (9.647)  | 97.96 (9.709)  | 0.923  |   |   |
| BSID-III social-emotional 2 year       | 108.6136 (16.21096)  | 107.7477 (15.07163)  | 0.639   | 109.533 (15.662)  | <b>104.122 (15.754)</b>                                    | <b>0.009**</b>   |   |   |
| <b>Sex stratified</b>                  |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |
| <b>Female infants</b>                  |  |  |   | <b>Male infants</b>   |  |  |   |   |
|  | Combined Atopy 1YR - YES<br>N=40 (7.45% among all infants) | Combined Atopy at 1YR - NO<br>N=218 (40.60% among all infants) | Maternal Asthma 1YR - YES<br>N=28 (5.21% among all infants) | Maternal Asthma at 1YR - NO<br>N=230 (42.83% among all infants) | Combined Atopy 1YR - YES<br>N=40 (7.45% among all infants) | Combined Atopy at 1YR - NO<br>N=218 (40.60% among all infants) | Maternal Asthma 1YR - YES<br>N=28 (5.21% among all infants) | Maternal Asthma at 1YR - NO<br>N=230 (42.83% among all infants) |
|  | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)   | Mean (SD)   | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)   | Mean (SD)   |
| <b>Infant neurodevelopment 1YR</b>     |  |  |   |   |  |  |   |   |
| BSID-III cognitive 1 year              | 110.99083 (9.3823074)                                      | 112.64151 (11.033331)  | 110.313 (8.322)   | 111.831 (10.316)  | 109.91228 (10.807701)                                      | 109.23729 (11.326409)  | 108.488 (10.382)  | 110.077 (11.154)  |
| BSID-III language 1 year               | 111.87156 (11.118137)                                      | 110.50943 (12.83718)   | 110.156 (13.026)  | 111.738 (11.365)  | 107.078 (13.012162)  | 104.38983 (10.938727)  | <b>109.93 (12.207)**</b>                                    | <b>104.891 (12.217)**</b>                                       |

|   |                           |                           |                     |                     |  |  |                                     |                                     |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BSID-III motor 1 year                     | 103.73394<br>(17.231884)  | 103.86792<br>(14.04257)   | 105.875<br>(13.54)  | 103.262<br>(16.813) | 103.50877<br>(17.205291)                 | 100.01695<br>(12.319723)                 | 104.628<br>(15.467)                 | 101.554<br>(15.842)                 |
| BSID-III social-emotional 1 year          | 101.05769<br>(11.817238)  | 104.80392<br>(15.873273)  | 104.677<br>(12.037) | 101.694<br>(13.643) | 103.45455<br>(13.422312)                 | 99.745763<br>(12.879539)                 | <b>102.738</b><br><b>(14.108)**</b> | <b>101.969</b><br><b>(13.095)**</b> |
| <b><i>Infant neurodevelopment 2YR</i></b> |                           |                           |                     |                     |  |  |                                     |                                     |
| BSID-III cognitive 2 year                 | 109.40367<br>(14.809356)* | 105.18868<br>(11.967997)* | 110.156<br>(13.409) | 107.5 (14.2)        | 101.46491<br>(13.033096)*                | 105.25424<br>(12.979551)*                | 102.721<br>(13.247)                 | 102.769<br>(13.105)                 |
| BSID-III language 2 year                  | 104.44954<br>(10.986091)  | 102.03846<br>(10.493624)  | 106.219<br>(9.527)  | 103.039<br>(11.104) | 96.482456<br>(12.080286)                 | 97.864407<br>(10.590265)                 | 95.907<br>(10.834)                  | 97.3 (11.838)                       |
| BSID-III motor 2 year                     | 99.981651<br>(9.7941608)  | 99.490566<br>(8.8331165)  | 101.313<br>(9.586)  | 99.454<br>(9.437)   | <b>96.307018</b><br><b>(9.1381987)**</b> | <b>99.474576</b><br><b>(10.477161)**</b> | 95.465<br>(9.127)                   | 98.023<br>(9.837)                   |
| BSID-III social-emotional 2 year          | 110.04587<br>(14.8526)    | 110.57692<br>(15.199776)  | 106.719<br>(14.29)  | 111.085 (14.999)    | 107.20721<br>(17.39494)                  | 105.25424<br>(14.634151)                 | <b>102.143</b><br><b>(16.68)**</b>  | <b>107.969</b><br><b>(16.21)**</b>  |

Note: SD= standard deviation; Statistical comparison of means completed by ANOVA. \*p<0.10 \*\*p<0.05

On the other hand, crude results in the association between maternal asthma and infant BSID-III scores demonstrated that in non-sex-stratified model that looks at all infants, maternal asthma leads to a decrease of 5.41 points in the socio-emotional scores at 2 years ( $p = 0.009$ ; Table 3.2). Male infants exhibit a 5.04-point increase in language scores at 1 year ( $p = 0.02$ , Table 3.2). Moreover, while male infant socio-emotional scores do not seem to have significant links with combined maternal atopy, the opposite is true when maternal asthma was assessed on its own. In particular, male infants experience a significant decrease in their socio-emotional scores at 2 years (5.83 points lower,  $p = 0.04$ ). No significant associations between maternal asthma and neurodevelopmental scores were observed in female infants at 1 or 2 years of age.

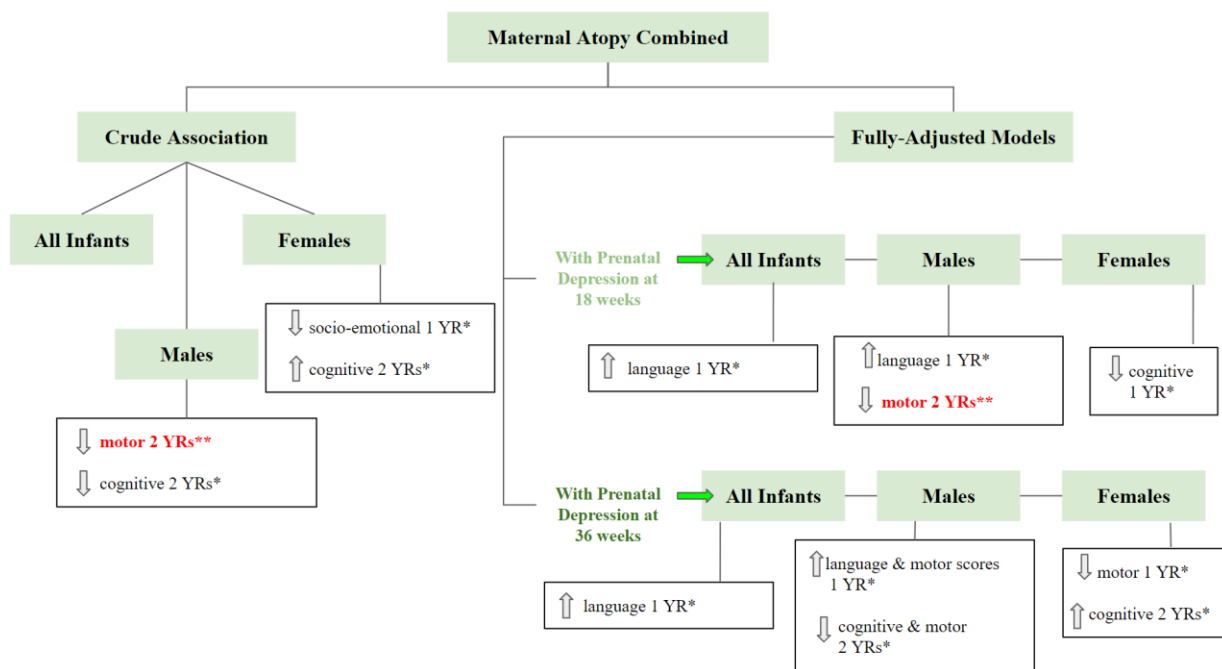
### ***3.4.3 Multivariable regression model results examining the association between maternal combined atopy status with neurodevelopment at one year and two years of infant age***

In the fully adjusted models, only the inverse relationship between male infant motor scores at 2 years and maternal atopy had a statistically significant association at 2 years (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.04; 95% CI: -7.6, -0.47; Table 3.2; Table 3.6).

The inverse association between combined maternal atopy and male infant cognitive scores at 2 years remained after adjusting for key covariates that include maternal ethnicity and prenatal depression at 36 weeks (adjusted beta-coefficient: -3.87; 95% CI: -8.28, 0.54). However, this association is not significant ( $p = 0.085$ ). Infants belonging to Asian ethnicities experience the most decrease in cognitive scores (adjusted beta-coefficient: -9.86; 95% CI: -18.74, -0.98,  $p = 0.03$ ) (Table 3.5). Using prenatal depression in the second semester or at 18 weeks as a covariate in the fully-adjusted model did not produce similar significant associations with male infant cognitive scores (Table 3.2; Table 3.6).

Additionally, male infant motor scores at 2 years also retained its inverse, albeit non-significant association with combined maternal atopy (adjusted beta-coefficient: -3.003; 95% CI: -6.28, 0.27,  $p = 0.072$ ). However, when the prenatal depression covariate is changed from 36 weeks to 18 weeks, results reveal that prenatal depression in 18 weeks retains the significant association between male infant motor scores at 2 years and maternal atopy (adjusted beta-coefficient: -4.04; 95% CI: -7.6, 0.47,  $p = 0.027$ ; Table 3.6). At both prenatal depression timepoints (ie. at 18 weeks and at 36 weeks), mothers of Asian background experience the highest reduction in motor scores (Table 3.5, Table 3.6). Finally, the increase in cognitive scores among female infants whose moms have combined maternal atopy was not retained in the fully-adjusted models.

A summary of statistically significant associations ( $p < 0.05$ ) between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores is shown in the figure below (Figure 3.3).

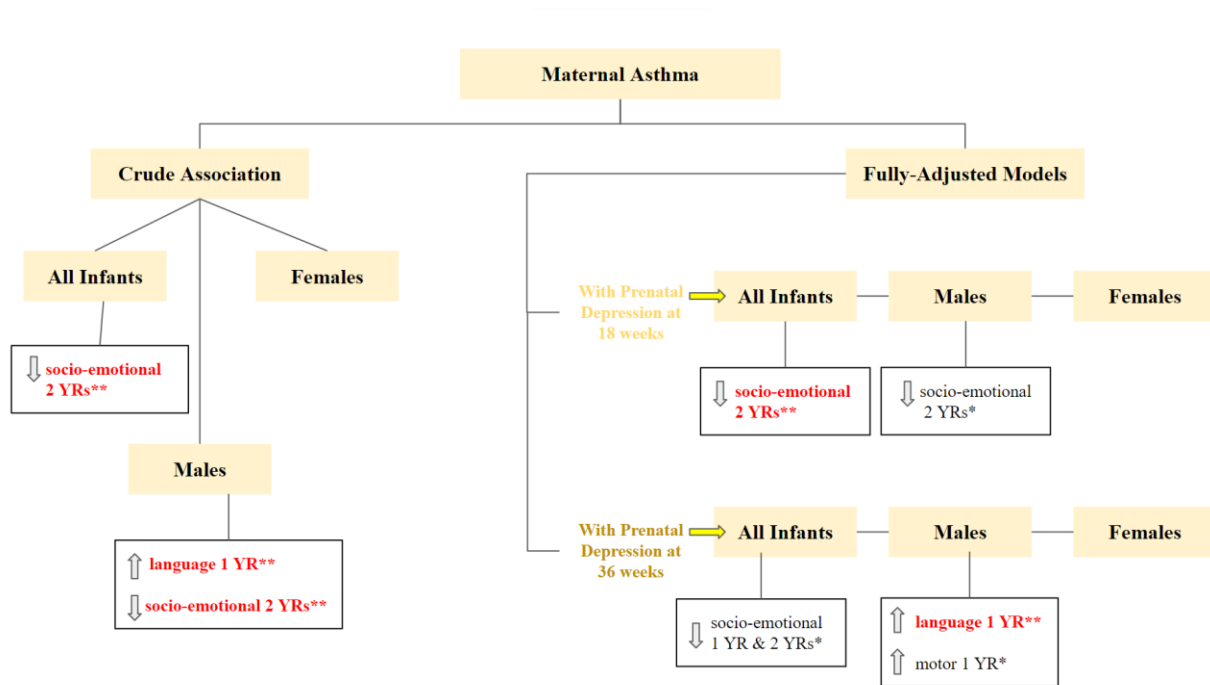


**Figure 3.3.** Flow diagram presenting a summary overview of statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ )\*\* and marginal associations ( $p < 0.10$ )\* between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores. The left-hand side of the diagram shows the associations in the crude or univariate linear regression analyses and the right hand side shows the results from fully-adjusted or multivariate linear regression analyses. Both crude and fully-adjusted models include stratified analyses of all infants, male, and female groups. Under fully-adjusted models, 2 separate models are shown - the first model uses prenatal depression at 18 weeks as a covariate and the second model uses prenatal depression at 36 weeks as a covariate. Any associations between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopmental scores are listed under their respective groups and to the left of the scores are arrows representing either an increase (upward direction) or decrease (downward direction) of scores. Significant associations ( $p < 0.05$ ) are also emphasized in red text.

#### ***3.4.4 Multivariable regression model results examining the association between maternal asthma and neurodevelopment at one year and two years of infant age***

Furthermore, fully-adjusted models for the association between maternal asthma and infant BSID-III scores present prenatal depression as a covariate. The statistically significant decrease in socioemotional scores at 2 years in all infants was retained in the multivariate model with prenatal depression at the second trimester or 18 weeks (adjusted beta-coefficient: -6.14; 95% CI: -11.04, -1.24,  $p = 0.014$ ) rather than at 36 weeks (adjusted beta-coefficient: -3.70; 95% CI: -8.05, 0.64,  $p = 0.094$ , Table 3.2; Table 3.7, Table 3.8). The increase in male infant language scores at 2 years linked with maternal asthma also remained in all fully-adjusted models. Higher language scores were observed during prenatal depression at 36 weeks compared to 18 weeks (adjusted beta-coefficient: 6.56; 95% CI: 1.76, 11.37,  $p = 0.008$  versus adjusted beta-coefficient: 5.39; 95% CI: 0.48, 10.29,  $p = 0.032$ , Table 3.7, Table 3.8).

Lastly, there was no significant relationship between maternal asthma and male infant socio-emotional scores at 2 years in the fully-adjusted models (Table 3.7, 3.8). A summary of statistically significant associations ( $p < 0.05$ ) between maternal asthma and infant neurodevelopmental scores is shown in the figure below (Figure 3.4).



**Figure 3.4.** Flow diagram presenting a summary overview of statistically significant ( $p < 0.05$ )\*\* and marginal associations ( $p < 0.10$ )\* between maternal asthma and infant neurodevelopmental scores. The left-hand side of the diagram shows the associations in the crude or univariate linear regression analyses and the right hand side shows the results from fully-adjusted or multivariate linear regression analyses. Both crude and fully-adjusted models include stratified analyses of all infants, male, and female groups. Under fully-adjusted models, 2 separate models are shown - the first model uses prenatal depression at 18 weeks as a covariate and the second model uses prenatal depression at 36 weeks as a covariate. Any associations between maternal asthma and infant neurodevelopmental scores are listed under their respective groups and to the left of the scores are arrows representing either an increase (upward direction) or decrease (downward direction) of scores. Significant associations ( $p < 0.05$ ) are also emphasized in red text.



### ***3.4.5 Determining gut microbiome and metabolites that may be in the pathway between combined maternal atopy and maternal asthma and neurodevelopmental scores***

Regression analysis was used to evaluate the hypothesis that certain bacterial metabolites in the infant gut mediate the effect of combined maternal atopy or maternal asthma on infant neurodevelopmental scores (Table 3.10, Table 3.11). The first mediation analysis uses combined maternal atopy as the independent ( $X$ ) variable, while maternal asthma on its own, without the presence of other maternal atopic conditions was used as the  $X$  variable for the second mediation test (Table 3.13 and Table 3.14). As previously mentioned, mediators were identified using the Baron and Kenny 1986 mediation criteria – that is, a variable is considered a mediator if there is a significant exposure ( $X$ ) to mediator ( $M$ ) association and a mediator ( $M$ ) to outcome ( $Y$ ) association, in addition to a significant association between exposure ( $X$ ) and outcome ( $Y$ ).

The initial mediation analysis aims to identify which of the infant gut metabolites at 4 months of age are mediators in the path between combined maternal atopy and neurodevelopmental scores. From the previous analysis, I already have data regarding the  $X \rightarrow Y$  associations – that is, which specific neurodevelopmental scores ( $Y$ ) have significant associations with maternal atopy or maternal asthma ( $X$ ) and in which group of infants (Figure 3.3 and Figure 3.4). Thus, knowing which  $X$  and  $Y$  variables and from which groups have marginal ( $p < 0.10$ ) and significant ( $p < 0.05$ ) associations, I then proceeded to test each of the infant gut metabolites for associations with maternal atopy and asthma ( $X \rightarrow M$ ) and neurodevelopmental scores ( $M \rightarrow Y$ ). Results from testing which metabolites mediate the association between maternal atopy and infant Bayley-III scores are found in Table 3.9 to Table 3.12; while metabolites for maternal asthma and Bayley-III scores are in Table 3.13 to Table 3.15.

Results from the analysis show that the metabolites dimethylamine and phenylalanine are candidate mediators for the pathway between maternal asthma and the increase in male infant language scores at 1 year (Figure 3.5).

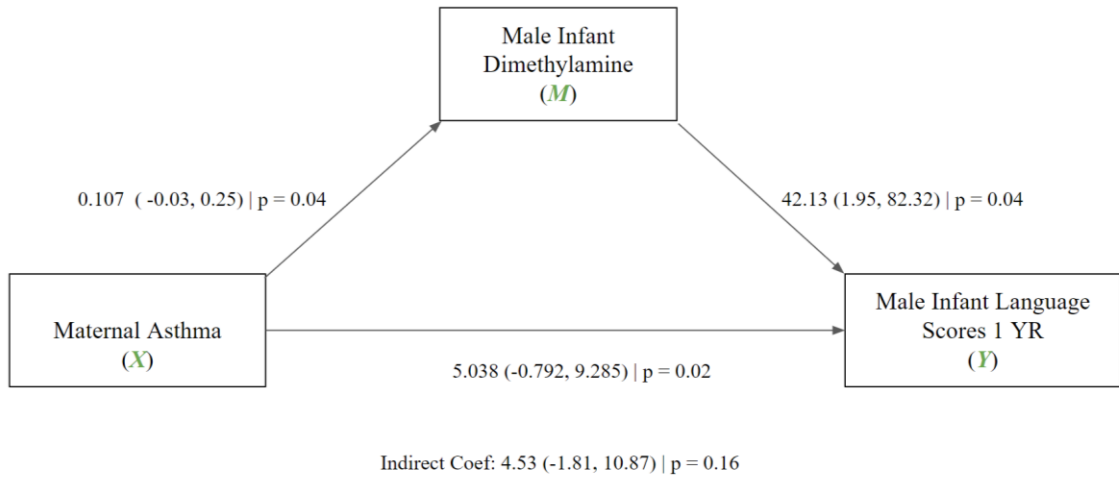


**Figure 3.5.** Metabolites identified as mediators in the association between maternal asthma and male infant language scores at 1 year of infant age.

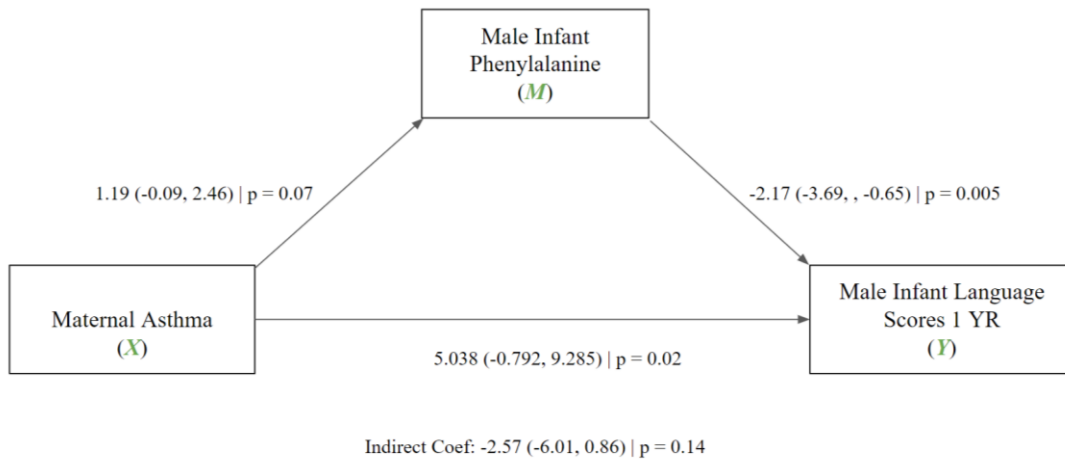
After these potential metabolite mediators were identified, structural equation modelling (SEM) was conducted to see if these mediators have a significant mediating effect in the pathway. Examining each of the pathways reveal two separate trends. First, looking at the infant gut metabolite dimethylamine, maternal asthma is linked to an increase in dimethylamine (beta-coefficient: 0.107; 95%CI: -0.03, 0.25; p-value = 0.04; Figure 3.6A), which is then linked to a subsequent increase in male infant language scores at 1 year (beta-coefficient: 42.13; 95%CI: 1.95, 82.32; p-value = 0.04; Figure 3.6A). Second, looking at the infant gut metabolite phenylalanine reveals an opposite M -> Y association in which maternal asthma is marginally associated with an increase in phenylalanine (beta-coefficient: 1.19; 95%CI: -0.09, 2.46; p-value = 0.07; Figure 3.6B),

which is then related to a subsequent decrease in male infant language scores at 1 year (beta-coefficient: -2.17; 95%CI: -3.69, -0.65; p-value = 0.005; Figure 3.6B). However, results reveal that none of these mediating effects are statistically significant (Figure 3.6A and Figure 3.6B).

**A.**



**B.**



**Figure 3.6.** Structural equation model (SEM) diagrams showing the associations between metabolites, maternal asthma, and 1-year male infant language scores. Pathways are labeled in the form of coefficient (confidence intervals) | p-value.

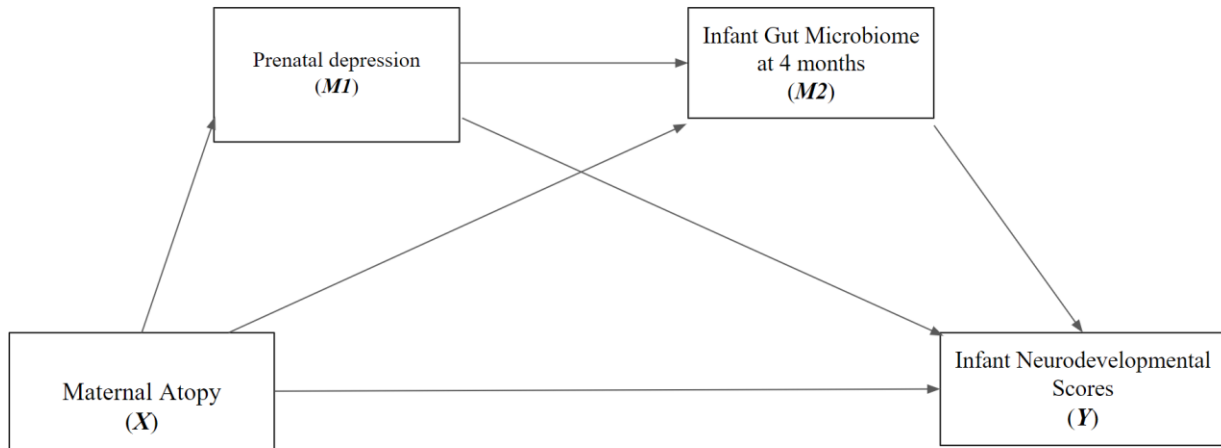
Furthermore, similar identification of potential mediators was used for infant gut microbiome at 4 months. According to the DAG (Figure 3.1), there is not a direct path from maternal atopy to infant gut microbiome (direct paths are indicated by bold lines), but a direct path exists through infant atopy and food sensitization. However, the analysis in Chapter 2 that investigated the relationship between infant food sensitization and neurodevelopment scores already revealed the lack of significant association between infant sensitization and neurodevelopmental scores. This lack of association is also summarized in Table 3.16 below. Therefore, structural mediation cannot be pursued with infant atopic sensitization or food sensitization as the exposure (X).

**Table 3.16. Logistic regression presenting the association between infant sensitization status and maternal atopic status.**

| ALL INFANTS                      |              |                |                  |                  |            |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------|
| <b>Maternal Atopy (Combined)</b> | <b>Coef.</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>Sig</b> |
| Food sensitization               | .005         | .989           | -.703            | .713             |            |
| Atopic sensitization             | .116         | .729           | -.541            | .774             |            |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>           | <b>Coef.</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>Sig</b> |
| Food sensitization               | -.31         | .481           | -1.171           | .552             |            |
| Atopic sensitization             | .17          | 0.64           | -.541            | .881             |            |
| MALE INFANTS                     |              |                |                  |                  |            |
| <b>Maternal Atopy (Combined)</b> | <b>Coef.</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>Sig</b> |
| Food sensitization               | -.045        | 0.928          | -1.023           | .933             |            |
| Atopic sensitization             | -1.852       | 0.941          | -.957            | .887             |            |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>           | <b>Coef.</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>Sig</b> |
| Food sensitization               | -.314        | .594           | -1.468           | .841             |            |
| Atopic sensitization             | 0.075        | 0.883          | -.927            | 1.077            |            |
| FEMALE INFANTS                   |              |                |                  |                  |            |
| <b>Maternal Atopy (Combined)</b> | <b>Coef.</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>Sig</b> |
| Food sensitization               | .059         | 0.910          | -.969            | 1.087            |            |
| Atopic sensitization             | .262         | 0.585          | -.680            | 1.205            |            |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>           | <b>Coef.</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>Sig</b> |
| Food sensitization               | -.305        | 0.645          | -1.604           | .994             |            |
| Atopic sensitization             | .299         | 0.563          | -.714            | 1.311            |            |

*Note: Each row represents a separate model. Infant groups (all infants, males, and females) are in dark blue row headings, while lighter blue headings represent the exposure or (X) variable.*

On the other hand, mediation analysis (Stata 17) was used to examine the indirect effects of maternal atopy and maternal asthma ( $X$ ) on infant neurodevelopmental scores ( $Y$ ) mediated through prenatal depression at 18 and 36 weeks and infant gut microbiome (Figure 3.7). For the potential mediators, depression was considered as mediator 1 ( $M1$ ) and infant gut microbiome as mediator 2 ( $M2$ ).



**Figure 3.7** Proposed sequential mediation model to test the associations between maternal atopy (combined maternal atopy and maternal asthma), prenatal depression, and infant neurodevelopment.

As previously mentioned, before proceeding to run sequential mediation assessments, there needs to be a significant exposure ( $X$ ) to mediator ( $M$ ) association ( $p < 0.05$ ). To test this, I ran linear regression tests between: (i) maternal atopy and prenatal depression scores at 18 weeks, (ii) maternal atopy and prenatal depression scores at 36 weeks, (iii) maternal asthma and prenatal depression scores at 18 weeks, and (iv) maternal asthma and prenatal depression scores at 36 weeks

(Table 3.18). These analyses were run for each of the three groups: all infants, male infants, and female infants (Table 3.17).

**Table 3.17. Linear regression that tests the exposure to mediator ( $X \rightarrow M$ ) association between maternal asthma and prenatal depression and between maternal atopy and prenatal depression.**

| ALL INFANTS                  |       |         |           |           |     |
|------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----|
| Maternal Atopy (Combined)    | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks | 1.331 | .133    | -.41      | 3.072     |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks | 1.76  | .029    | .178      | 3.342     |     |
| Maternal Asthma              | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks | .127  | .902    | -1.9      | 2.155     |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks | .829  | .374    | -1.003    | 2.661     |     |
| MALE INFANTS                 |       |         |           |           |     |
| Maternal Atopy (Combined)    | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks | 1.198 | .288    | -1.025    | 3.421     |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks | 1.29  | .171    | -.561     | 3.142     |     |
| Maternal Asthma              | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks | .909  | .467    | -1.555    | 3.372     |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks | -.093 | .931    | -2.229    | 2.043     |     |
| FEMALE INFANTS               |       |         |           |           |     |
| Maternal Atopy (Combined)    | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks | 1.474 | .28     | -1.217    | 4.166     |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks | 2.229 | .096    | -.398     | 4.856     |     |
| Maternal Asthma              | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks | -.641 | .702    | -3.95     | 2.669     |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks | 1.907 | .218    | -1.14     | 4.954     |     |

Note: Each row is a separate model. \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$

Based on the above Table 3.17 results that tests the mediation criterion for an exposure to mediator association ( $X \rightarrow M$ ), none of the associations between prenatal depression scores either at 18 or 36 weeks were significantly related to maternal atopy or maternal asthma, with the exception of two models: (i) maternal atopy and prenatal depression at 36 weeks in the all infants group and (ii) maternal atopy and prenatal depression at 36 weeks in the females group. Since an  $X \rightarrow M$  association exists for these two models, the next step will be to test the  $M \rightarrow Y$  association – that is, between prenatal depression at 36 weeks and infant neurodevelopmental scores (Table 3.18). Since none of the models show a significant  $M \rightarrow Y$  association, my results do not fulfill this criterion and thus, sequential mediation cannot be performed.

**Table 3.18 Linear regressions that tests the mediator to outcome ( $M \rightarrow Y$ ) association between prenatal depression at 36 weeks and infant neurodevelopmental scores at 1 and 2 years of infant age.**

| All Infants at 1 Year         |       |         |           |           |     |
|-------------------------------|-------|---------|-----------|-----------|-----|
|                               | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| <b>Cognitive 1 Year</b>       |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | .026  | .78     | -.157     | .209      |     |
| <b>Language 1 Year</b>        |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | .007  | .95     | -.209     | .223      |     |
| <b>Motor 1 Year</b>           |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.037 | .798    | -.317     | .244      |     |
| <b>Socioemotional 1 Year</b>  |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.066 | .574    | -.298     | .166      |     |
| All Infants at 2 Years        |       |         |           |           |     |
|                               | Coef. | p-value | [95% Conf | Interval] | Sig |
| <b>Cognitive 2 Years</b>      |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.062 | .61     | -.304     | .18       |     |
| <b>Language 2 Years</b>       |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.066 | .52     | -.268     | .136      |     |
| <b>Motor 2 Years</b>          |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.053 | .54     | -.221     | .116      |     |
| <b>Socioemotional 2 Years</b> |       |         |           |           |     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.107 | .44     | -.376     | .162      |     |

Note: Each row is a separate model; \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$

On the other hand, even if results do not support proceeding to sequential mediation analysis, crude significant mediation (M) to outcome (Y) associations between the infant gut microbiota Firmicutes, Clostridia, and *Clostridium difficile* with decreased male infant motor scores at two years were observed (Table 3.19, Table 3.20).

### **3.5 Discussion**

#### ***3.5.1 The relationship between maternal atopy and asthma and infant neurodevelopment***

In our study, maternal atopy in general (wherein the mother may have a combination of atopic conditions), significantly lowers male infant motor scores at 2 years in the presence of prenatal depression at 18 weeks. Similarly, maternal asthma on its own is linked to an increase in male infant language scores at 1 year and a decrease in male socioemotional scores in 2 years.

The former finding regarding maternal atopy is consistent with results from an Australian Cohort wherein reduced motor scores were also observed in infants with any allergic sensitization (42). Several studies support the link between maternal immune conditions including maternal asthma and allergies and subsequent developmental delays in their offspring, with most highlighting the impact of immune dysregulation in allergic disease (1–3). In particular, the underlying maternal immune activation (MIA) in asthma and allergies which result from genetic or environmental factors became a key topic of interest in increasing the risk of impaired child neurobehavior (4–7). Some studies offer explanations wherein underlying MIA in maternal asthma and allergies compromises the placenta's ability to regulate the maternal-fetal immune interface, which may lead to increased inflammatory cells and signaling that disturb the developing immune system and brain functions (11–13). A large population-based case-control study found consistent associations between a history of maternal immune disorders and childhood developmental disorders, specifically child autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and developmental delays without autism (DD) (8). In human infants, one particular study concluded that maternal prenatal total IgE was positively and significantly correlated with infant ADHD (3). This is further supported by another research study demonstrating that a positive immune history of maternal allergies or asthma was associated with increased severity of social symptoms, including cognition and



mannerisms in the child (9). Even animal models have similar results wherein allergen-induced models of maternal inflammation in rodents present increased abnormal motor, cognitive, and social behaviors in offspring (10).

On the other hand, the latter finding of our study presents that maternal asthma increases in male infant language scores at 1 year and reduces male socioemotional scores at 2 years, even after controlling for prenatal depression. Consistent with our findings on socioemotional development, a positive maternal immune history of asthma and allergies increase the severity of social symptoms of ASD (43). On the other hand, the increase it is noteworthy that the increase in language scores does not support our original hypothesis that maternal allergy impairs all neurodevelopmental scores in the offspring. Interestingly, several research findings agree that on inconclusive findings regarding the exact impact of maternal asthma on the cognitive domains of child neurodevelopment (44). For example, a comprehensive systematic review looking specifically at maternal asthma and infant neurodevelopment concluded that the relationship between maternal asthma during pregnancy and neurobehavioral outcomes in the offspring is weak (44). A cross-sectional study published after this systematic review also produced consistent results – that is, infants up to 1 year of age whose mothers had asthma during pregnancy displayed no difference in sensory and temperament features when compared to infants whose mothers did not have asthma (45).

It is important to note however, that findings of the systematic review states that the neurodevelopmental trajectory of infants whose mothers have well-managed asthma during pregnancy did not differ when compared to infants whose moms did not have asthma (44). We speculate that since the majority of the participating mothers of our current study do not smoke, have mid to above average income, and obtained university education – all of which are positive

social determinants of health (46)– it is likely that they have had adequate access to health resources and asthma treatment and medications, leading to better management of their asthma symptoms.

### ***3.5.2 Determining potential metabolite mediators in the pathway between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopment***

Our results show that dimethylamine and phenylalanine are metabolites that mediate the effect between maternal asthma and female infant cognitive scores at 2 years (Figure 3.5, Table 3.14). However, structural mediation analysis reveals that the mediating effect of these two metabolites are not significant (Figure 3.5). In our study, the observed association of maternal asthma with increased levels of phenylalanine and the subsequent decrease in male infant language scores is consistent with research evidence that state the harmful effects of prenatal phenylalanine exposure on infant neurodevelopment, specifically on infant cognition (47–49). For instance, a study presented that prenatal phenylalanine exposure is not only related to cognitive impairment at 1 year of infant age, but these detrimental effects on offspring intelligence persist till early childhood, up to 7 years of age (47).

Meanwhile, previous research suggest that dimethylamine has been implicated as one of the volatile nitrogenous amino acids linked to hypergastrinemia in infants, a condition that suggests compromised digestive health (50). Additionally, dimethylamine is also one of the urinary metabolites determined as a potential objective biomarker for post-natal depression (51). This is contrary to our research finding which observed an increase in dimethylamine associated with increased male infant language scores at 1 year. It is worth noting however, that this observed mediating effect is not significant ( $p = 0.16$ ).

Although our study presents that the mediating effect of these metabolites are non-significant, research is starting to uncover supporting evidence that point the potential role of metabolites in modulating an infant's early-life immune system. The degree to which metabolites impact infant health and immune or metabolic programming remains to be fully understood. Consistent with existing literature, we recommend future studies to examine human milk and microbiome-associated metabolites that may play a role in programming immune and metabolic functions in an infant's early life.

### ***3.5.3 Sex-dependent patterns in the relationship between maternal atopy and infant neurodevelopment***

In our study, the impact of maternal atopy and maternal asthma on infant neurodevelopmental scores exhibit a sex-dependent pattern, specific to male infants. These male sex-specific associations have also been observed in other literature investigating factors that shape infant neurodevelopment. A recent study presented that maternal immune conditions differentially have more adverse behavioral and emotional impact on male infants than females (52). Furthermore, the same study found a higher prevalence of maternal immune conditions in male than female infants, suggesting that maternal immune conditions may also be influenced by offspring sex. Overall, our studies support existing research that male infants appear to be more vulnerable to maternal inflammation-mediated neurodevelopmental disorders. However, the biological pathways that describe this association remains unclear.

### ***3.5.4 Determining the mediating effect of infant gut microbiome via prenatal depression in the association between maternal atopy status and infant neurodevelopment***

In our study, the significant association between maternal atopy status and infant cognitive or motor scores were not sequentially mediated by infant atopy (Table 3.17) or prenatal depression (Table 3.18). However, there were crude significant mediation (M) to outcome (Y) associations between the infant gut microbiota potential mediators Firmicutes, Clostridia, and *Clostridium difficile* with decreased male infant motor scores at two years (Table 3.17, Table 3.18).

In the early infant gut development, the early bacterial colonizers are dominated by Bifidobacteria and Lactobacillus and later the infant gut eventually becomes enriched with Bacteroides and Firmicutes (38). In Firmicutes, the Clostridium genera represent 95% of the

Firmicutes phyla (39,40). Meanwhile, *C. difficile* remains a harmless commensal in neonates and infants (41,42). In terms of a normal gut microbiome trajectory, *C. difficile* is expected to peak around the first month of life and then gradually decrease – *C. difficile* is found to be present in about 37% of healthy infants less than 1 month of age, with its levels gradually decreasing to about 30% between 1 and 6 months of infant age (43). At 3 years of age, the infant gut microbiota composition and diversity resembles that of the adult (44).

Noting the normal infant gut trajectories is important because deviation from the expected colonization patterns is often indicative of perturbations that threaten infant immunity and overall health (45). In our study, a unit increase in Firmicutes at 3 months of infant age is associated with a crude decrease in motor scores, a finding that is consistent with a study that showed significant relationship between Firmicutes levels and reduced gross motor behavior scores in infants 2-3 years of age (46). However, contrary to our findings, higher proportions of Firmicutes at the phylum level was proposed to be beneficial or protective for the development of the neural system (46). This is further supported by another study from the CHILDB cohort that presented Firmicutes microbiota clusters in late infancy to be associated with enhanced neurodevelopmental outcomes, specifically with cognitive scores (47). Since the association between motor scores and Firmicutes were not influenced by any of the covariates we measured, the difference in our results with other previous research highlights the need to further assess more pathways in which Firmicutes abundance and composition play a role in shaping infant motor function.

The role of *C. difficile* in the infant gut microbiota is mostly explored in certain hypervirulent strains that colonizes the gastrointestinal tract leading to *C. difficile* infection (CDI) which is influenced by several factors including antibiotics (48). Current study in mice has

linked CDI in altering specific brain regions that lead to the dysregulation in the metabolism of brain dopamine, an important area of the brain that is known to play a role in the onset of neurodevelopmental disorders (49). However, this leaves an important gap for gut microbiome research: that is, in exploring how *C. difficile* impacts infant brain development of human infants.

While much is yet to be uncovered about the pathways through which the infant gut microbiome influences brain development, research suggest that the gut-brain interactions begin in utero and is shaped by maternal factors that include maternal stress, chemical exposures, diet, immune conditions, and delivery mode among many others (50,51). Research evidence supports that the gut-brain axis intersects with microbe-immune activities wherein neuroimmune cells communicate with gut microbes and metabolites during early brain development (51,52). While studies have explored the gut and brain connection in adults and animal models, still, there is paucity in research regarding the microbiome-brain connection during the critical window of early infant development (53,54). Therefore, we recommend additional prospective longitudinal studies that will further add pieces to the puzzle that will reveal a clearer picture of the connection between atopic diseases, neurodevelopment, and the role of the brain-gut connection.

### 3.6 Conclusion

Our study supports that maternal atopy status plays a critical role in shaping the gut microbiome composition. Male infants whose mothers have atopic conditions are at a higher risk of neurodevelopmental impairment. We show that this association is mediated by metabolites creatinine. Although no mediation has been found by the gut microbiota, we found significant associations between gut microbiota Firmicutes, Clostridia, and *C. difficile*, and infant motor scores. Our research supports that since maternal inflammation-mediated expression of neurodevelopmental challenges is becoming more prevalent, the need to explore biological mechanistic evidence that demonstrates clear pathways between the gut bacteria, gut metabolites, and neuronal dysregulation should be a research priority. Information from these studies is important to identify potential interventions, early detection, and alternative therapeutic recommendations that improve overall health of infants.

### 3.7 Chapter 3: Tables

**Table 3.1 Comparison of mean scores for neurodevelopmental domains at age 1 and 2 years across combined maternal atopy and maternal asthma status at 1 year, all infants and stratified by infant sex.**

| All infants                        |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|                                    | Combined Maternal Atopy<br>1YR - YES                                   | Combined Maternal Atopy at<br>1YR - NO  | p-value  | Maternal Asthma<br>1YR- YES  | Maternal Asthma at<br>1YR- NO  | p-value   |  |  |
|                                    | N=223<br>(66.57% overall)<br>Mean (SD)                                 | N=112<br>(33.43% overall)<br>Mean (SD)  |  | N=75<br>(22.39% overall)<br>Mean (SD)  | N=260<br>(77.61% overall)<br>Mean (SD)                                 |   |  |  |
| <i>Infant neurodevelopment 1YR</i> |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| BSID-III cognitive 1 year          | 110.4395 (10.12777)  | 110.8482 (11.2684)  | 0.738  | 110.954 (10.758)   | 109.267 (9.54)   | 0.221   |  |  |
| BSID-III language 1 year           | 109.4279 (12.32889)  | 107.2857 (12.21241)   | 0.134  | 108.328 (12.263)   | 110.027 (12.477)   | 0.294   |  |  |
| BSID-III motor 1 year              | 103.6188 (17.17984)  | 101.8393 (13.24445)   | 0.337  | 102.408 (16.325)   | 105.16 (14.594)  | 0.189   |  |  |
| BSID-III social-emotional 1 year   | 102.2897 (12.69506)  | 102.0909 (14.50058)   | 0.899  | 101.833 (13.343)   | 103.562 (13.215)   | 0.33  |  |  |
| <i>Infant neurodevelopment 2YR</i> |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| BSID-III cognitive 2 year          | 105.3453 (14.45596)  | 105.2232 (12.45512)   | 0.939  | 105.135 (13.841)   | 105.893 (13.735)   | 0.676   |  |  |
| BSID-III language 2 year           | 100.3767 (12.20367)  | 99.81982 (10.70361)   | 0.683  | 100.158 (11.811)   | 100.307 (11.445)   | 0.539   |  |  |
| BSID-III motor 2 year              | 98.10314 (9.620883)  | 99.48214 (9.690696)   | 0.218  | 98.738 (9.647)   | 97.96 (9.709)  | 0.923   |  |  |
| BSID-III social-emotional 2 year   | 108.6136 (16.21096)  | 107.7477 (15.07163)   | 0.639  | 109.533 (15.662)   | <b>104.122 (15.754)</b>  | <b>0.009**</b>  |  |  |
| Sex stratified                     |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| Female infants                     |  |   |  | Male infants   |  |   |  |  |
|                                    | Combined<br>Atopy 1YR -<br>YES<br>N=40 (7.45%<br>among all<br>infants) | Combined<br>Atopy at<br>1YR - NO<br>N=218<br>(40.60%<br>among all<br>infants) | Maternal<br>Asthma<br>1YR - YES<br>N=28<br>(5.21%<br>among all<br>infants) | Maternal<br>Asthma at<br>1YR - NO<br>N=230<br>(42.83%<br>among all<br>infants) | Combined<br>Atopy 1YR -<br>YES<br>N=40 (7.45%<br>among all<br>infants) | Combined Atopy<br>at 1YR - NO<br>N=218 (40.60%<br>among all<br>infants) | Maternal<br>Asthma 1YR<br>- YES<br>N=28<br>(5.21%<br>among all<br>infants) | Maternal<br>Asthma at<br>1YR - NO<br>N=230<br>(42.83%<br>among all<br>infants) |
|                                    | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)   | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)   | Mean (SD)  | Mean (SD)  |
| <i>Infant neurodevelopment 1YR</i> |  |   |  |  |  |   |  |  |
| BSID-III cognitive 1 year          | 110.99083<br>(9.3823074)   | 112.64151<br>(11.033331)  | 110.313<br>(8.322)   | 111.831<br>(10.316)  | 109.91228<br>(10.807701)   | 109.23729<br>(11.326409)  | 108.488<br>(10.382)  | 110.077<br>(11.154)  |
| BSID-III language 1 year           | 111.87156<br>(11.118137)   | 110.50943<br>(12.83718)   | 110.156<br>(13.026)  | 111.738<br>(11.365)  | 107.0708<br>(13.012162)  | 104.38983<br>(10.938727)  | <b>109.93<br/>(12.207)**</b>   | <b>104.891<br/>(12.217)**</b>  |



|                                    |                          |                          |                     |                     |  |  |                                     |                                     |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| BSID-III motor 1 year              | 103.73394<br>(17.231884) | 103.86792<br>(14.04257)  | 105.875<br>(13.54)  | 103.262<br>(16.813) | 103.50877<br>(17.205291)                 | 100.01695<br>(12.319723)                 | 104.628<br>(15.467)                 | 101.554<br>(15.842)                 |
| BSID-III social-emotional 1 year   | 101.05769<br>(11.817238) | 104.80392<br>(15.873273) | 104.677<br>(12.037) | 101.694<br>(13.643) | 103.45455<br>(13.422312)                 | 99.745763<br>(12.879539)                 | <b>102.738</b><br><b>(14.108)**</b> | <b>101.969</b><br><b>(13.095)**</b> |
| <i>Infant neurodevelopment 2YR</i> |                          |                          |                     |                     |  |  |                                     |                                     |
| BSID-III cognitive 2 year          | 109.40367<br>(14.809356) | 105.18868<br>(11.967997) | 110.156<br>(13.409) | 107.5 (14.2)        | 101.46491<br>(13.033096)                 | 105.25424<br>(12.979551)                 | 102.721<br>(13.247)                 | 102.769<br>(13.105)                 |
| BSID-III language 2 year           | 104.44954<br>(10.986091) | 102.03846<br>(10.493624) | 106.219<br>(9.527)  | 103.039<br>(11.104) | 96.482456<br>(12.080286)                 | 97.864407<br>(10.590265)                 | 95.907<br>(10.834)                  | 97.3 (11.838)                       |
| BSID-III motor 2 year              | 99.981651<br>(9.7941608) | 99.490566<br>(8.8331165) | 101.313<br>(9.586)  | 99.454<br>(9.437)   | <b>96.307018</b><br><b>(9.1381987)**</b> | <b>99.474576</b><br><b>(10.477161)**</b> | 95.465<br>(9.127)                   | 98.023<br>(9.837)                   |
| BSID-III social-emotional 2 year   | 110.04587<br>(14.8526)   | 110.57692<br>(15.199776) | 106.719<br>(14.29)  | 111.085<br>(14.999) | 107.20721<br>(17.39494)                  | 105.25424<br>(14.634151)                 | <b>102.143</b><br><b>(16.68)**</b>  | <b>107.969</b><br><b>(16.21)**</b>  |

Note: SD= standard deviation; Statistical comparison of means completed by ANOVA. \*\*p<0.05

**Table 3.2. Univariate and multivariate linear regression for maternal atopic status and maternal asthma at 1 year versus neurodevelopmental scores at 1 and 2 years, all infants and stratified by infant sex (N=335).**

| Combined Maternal Atopy Multivariate Model Adjustments - All Infants |                         |         |   |                      |   |                      |
|--|-------------------------|---------|---|----------------------|---|----------------------|
| BSID - III Scores at 1YR   | Crude Estimate (95% CI) | p-value | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | p-value <sup>a</sup> | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>b</sup> | p-value <sup>b</sup> |
| Cognitive 1-Year   | -0.409 (-2.806, 1.988)  | 0.74    | -1.343(-3.875, 1.189)                               | 0.30                 | 0.139 (-2.439, 2.716)                               | 0.92                 |
| Language 1-Year  | 2.14 (-0.670, 4.944)    | 0.13    | 2.664 (-0.490, 5.819)                               | 0.10*                | 2.509 (-0.497, 5.516)                               | 0.10*                |
| Motor 1-Year   | 1.78 (-1.860, 5.419)    | 0.34    | 1.840 (-2.230, 5.909)                               | 0.37                 | 2.541 (-1.414, 6.496)                               | 0.21                 |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year  | 0.199 (-2.879, 3.276)   | 0.90    | -1.132 (-4.569, 2.305)                              | 0.52                 | 0.422 (-2.863, 3.706)                               | 0.80                 |
| BSID - III Scores at 2YR   | Crude Estimate (95% CI) | p-value | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | p-value <sup>a</sup> | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>b</sup> | p-value <sup>b</sup> |
| Cognitive 2-Year   | 0.122 (-3.027, 3.271)   | 0.94    | -0.565 (-3.980, 2.850)                              | 0.75                 | -0.114 (-3.471, 3.243)                              | 0.95                 |
| Language 2-Year  | 0.557 (-2.123, 3.238)   | 0.68    | -0.420 (-3.466, 2.625)                              | 0.79                 | 1.139 (-1.565, 3.843)                               | 0.41                 |
| Motor 2-Year   | -1.379 (-3.576, 0.818)  | 0.22    | -1.783 (-4.265, 0.698)                              | 0.16                 | -1.200 (-3.569, 1.168)                              | 0.32                 |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year  | 0.866 (-2.762, 4.494)   | 0.64    | 0.270 (-4.076, 4.616)                               | 0.90                 | 1.519 (-2.289, 5.327)                               | 0.43                 |
| Maternal Asthma Multivariate Model Adjustments - All Infants         |                         |         |   |                      |   |                      |
| BSID - III Scores at 1YR   | Crude Estimate (95% CI) | p-value | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | p-value <sup>a</sup> | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>b</sup> | p-value <sup>b</sup> |
| Cognitive 1-Year   | -1.687 (-4.394, 1.02)   | 0.22    | -1.655 (-4.553, 1.243)                              | 0.26                 | -1.130 (-4.082, 1.821)                              | 0.45                 |
| Language 1-Year  | 1.698 (-1.477, 4.874)   | 0.29    | 1.953 (-1.660, 5.567)                               | 0.29                 | 2.718 (-0.741, 6.176)                               | 0.12                 |
| Motor 1-Year   | 2.752 (-1.362, 6.866)   | 0.19    | 2.832 (-1.800, 7.465)                               | 0.23                 | 4.841 (0.348, 9.335)                                | 0.87                 |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year  | 1.730 (-1.754, 5.212)   | 0.33    | 0.398 (-3.521, 4.318)                               | 0.84                 | -3.703 (-8.046, 0.64)                               | 0.09*                |
| BSID - III Scores at 2YR   | Crude Estimate (95% CI) | p-value | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>a</sup> | p-value <sup>a</sup> | Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI) <sup>b</sup> | p-value <sup>b</sup> |
| Cognitive 2-Year   | 0.759 (-2.804, 4.321)   | 0.68    | -1.048 (-4.966, 2.870)                              | 0.60                 | 1.821 (-2.069, 5.712)                               | 0.36                 |
| Language 2-Year  | 0.148 (-2.878, 3.174)   | 0.92    | -1.743 (-5.262, 1.776)                              | 0.33                 | 1.231 (-2.014, 4.475)                               | 0.46                 |
| Motor 2-Year   | -0.778 (-3.269, 1.712)  | 0.54    | -2.178 (-4.994, 0.637)                              | 0.13                 | -0.542 (-3.257, 2.174)                              | 0.70                 |

|                         |                      |         |                          |         |                        |       |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------|
| Social-Emotional 2-Year | -5.41 (-9.48, -1.34) | 0.009** | -6.141 (-11.043, -1.239) | 0.014** | -3.703 (-8.046, 0.640) | 0.10* |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|------------------------|-------|

**Combined Maternal Atopy Multivariate Model Adjustments – Male Infants**

| <b>BSID – III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>b</sup></b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | 0.675 (-2.803, 4.153)          | 0.70           | 0.322 (-3.387, 4.03)                                      | 0.86                       | 1.989 (-1.698, 5.676)                                     | 0.29                       |
| Language 1-Year                 | 2.681 (-1.233, 6.595)          | 0.18           | 4.113 (-0.429, 8.656)                                     | 0.08*                      | 3.712 (-0.608, 8.03)                                      | 0.09*                      |
| Motor 1-Year                    | 3.492 (-1.485, 8.468)          | 0.17           | -5.503 (-0.324, 10.681)                                   | 0.39                       | 5.283 (-0.156, 10.724)                                    | 0.06*                      |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | 3.709 (-0.508, 7.926)          | 0.29           | 1.948 (-2.976, 6.873)                                     | 0.44                       | 4.607 (0.131, 9.084)                                      | 0.34                       |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>b</sup></b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | -3.79 (-7.91, 0.33)            | 0.07*          | -3.636 (-8.447, 1.175)                                    | 0.14                       | -3.87 (-8.278, 0.536)                                     | 0.09*                      |
| Language 2-Year                 | -1.382 (-5.053, 2.289)         | 0.46           | 1.568 (-2.451, 5.587)                                     | 0.441                      | 2.715 (-0.894, 6.323)                                     | 0.14                       |
| Motor 2-Year                    | -3.17 (-6.21, -0.124)          | 0.04**         | -4.035 (-7.600, -0.470)                                   | 0.03**                     | -3.003 (-6.276, 0.270)                                    | 0.07*                      |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year         | 1.953 (-3.293, 7.199)          | 0.46           | -1.306 (-6.721, 4.11)                                     | 0.63                       | 0.515 (-4.87, 5.901)                                      | 0.85                       |

**Maternal Asthma Multivariate Model Adjustments - Male Infants**

| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>b</sup></b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | -1.589 (-5.398, 2.221)         | 0.41           | -1.966 (-5.976, 2.045)                                    | 0.33                       | -0.674 (-4.887, 3.539)                                    | 0.75                       |
| Language 1-Year                 | 5.038 (-0.792, 9.285)          | 0.02**         | -5.385 (-0.482, 10.287)                                   | 0.76                       | 6.56 (1.76, 11.37)  | 0.008**                    |
| Motor 1-Year                    | 3.074 (-2.395, 8.543)          | 0.27           | 3.159 (-2.579, 8.897)                                     | 0.28                       | 5.707 (-0.458, 11.871)                                    | 0.07*                      |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | 0.770 (-3.92, 5.76)            | 0.75           | -0.653 (-6.069, 4.763)                                    | 0.81                       | 1.55 (-3.58, 6.69)  | 0.55                       |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>b</sup></b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | -0.048 (-4.611, 4.515)         | 0.98           | -1.430 (-6.727, 3.867)                                    | 0.59                       | 1.411 (-3.674, 6.496)                                     | 0.58                       |
| Language 2-Year                 | -1.393 (-5.421, 2.635)         | 0.50           | -5.314 (-10.086, -0.543)                                  | 0.74                       | 0.258 (-4.167, 4.683)                                     | 0.91                       |
| Motor 2-Year                    | -2.558 (-5.915, 0.799)         | 0.13           | -4.290 (-8.176, -0.404)                                   | 0.65                       | -1.914 (-5.664, 1.837)                                    | 0.32                       |

|                         |                         |        |                         |       |                     |      |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------|------|
| Social-Emotional 2-Year | -5.826 (-11.56, -0.094) | 0.04** | -6.595 (-14.065, 0.876) | 0.08* | -3.68 (-9.80, 2.44) | 0.24 |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|-------------------------|-------|---------------------|------|

**Combined Maternal Atopy Multivariate Model Adjustments - Female Infants**

| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | -1.651 (-4.941, 1.640)         | 0.32           | -3.093 (-6.619, 0.432)                                    | 0.09*                      | -1.433 (-5.056, 2.189)                                    | 0.44                       |
| Language 1-Year                 | 1.362 (-2.509, 5.233)          | 0.49           | 1.169 (-3.155, 5.493)                                     | 0.17                       | 1.468 (-2.603, 5.538)                                     | 0.48                       |
| Motor 1-Year                    | -0.0001 (-0.005, 0.004)        | 0.96           | -1.487 (-7.739, 4.764)                                    | 0.86                       | -0.013 (-5.855, 5.829)                                    | 0.10*                      |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | -0.005 (-0.01, 0.0009)         | 0.10*          | -3.879 (-8.678, 0.920)                                    | 0.11                       | -3.752 (-8.599, 1.095)                                    | 0.13                       |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | 4.21 (-0.398, 8.82)            | 0.07*          | 2.603 (-2.217, 7.424)                                     | 0.29                       | 4.115 (-0.852, 9.083)                                     | 0.10*                      |
| Language 2-Year                 | 0.005 (-0.002, 0.011)          | 0.19           | 1.568 (-2.451, 5.587)                                     | 0.44                       | 2.715 (-0.894, 6.323)                                     | 0.14                       |
| Motor 2-Year                    | -0.134 (-5.513, 5.245)         | 0.96           | 0.641 (-2.788, 4.071)                                     | 0.71                       | 0.646 (-2.791, 4.083)                                     | 0.71                       |
| Social-Emotional 2-Year         | -3.746 (-8.231, 0.739)         | 0.15           | -1.306 (-6.721, 4.110)                                    | 0.63                       | 0.515 (-4.870, 5.901)                                     | 0.85                       |

**Maternal Asthma Multivariate Model Adjustments - Female Infants**

| <b>BSID - III Scores at 1YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>b</sup></b> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|---|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Cognitive 1-Year                | -1.518 (-5.400, 2.364)         | 0.44           | -1.033 (-5.341, 3.276)                                    | 0.64                       | -1.562 (-5.745, 2.621)                                    | 0.46                       |
| Language 1-Year                 | -1.582 (-6.144, 2.980)         | 0.50           | -1.285 (-6.506, 3.936)                                    | 0.63                       | -1.546 (-6.327, 3.234)                                    | 0.52                       |
| Motor 1-Year                    | 2.614 (-3.712, 8.940)          | 0.42           | 3.198 (-4.211, 10.607)                                    | 0.71                       | 3.525 (-3.116, 10.167)                                    | 0.30                       |
| Social-Emotional 1-Year         | 2.984 (-2.310, 8.277)          | 0.27           | 1.585 (-4.213, 7.382)                                     | 0.59                       | 2.195 (-3.458, 7.847)                                     | 0.44                       |
| <b>BSID - III Scores at 2YR</b> | <b>Crude Estimate (95% CI)</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Fully-Adjusted Model Estimate (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> | <b>p-value<sup>b</sup></b> |
| Cognitive 2-Year                | 2.656 (-2.820, 8.132)          | 0.34           | 0.367 (-5.438, 6.173)                                     | 0.90                       | 2.446 (-3.377, 8.268)                                     | 0.41                       |
| Language 2-Year                 | 3.180 (-1.038, 7.398)          | 0.14           | 3.638 (-1.249, 8.526)                                     | 0.14                       | 2.352 (-2.037, 6.742)                                     | 0.29                       |
| Motor 2-Year                    | 1.857 (-1.831, 5.548)          | 0.32           | 0.938 (-3.112, 4.988)                                     | 0.65                       | 1.080 (-2.869, 5.030)                                     | 0.59                       |

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|                         |                      |      |                         |       |                      |      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|------|
| Social-Emotional 2-Year | -4.37 (-10.16, 1.43) | 0.14 | -3.944 (-10.127, 2.239) | 0.209 | -3.94 (-10.13, 2.24) | 0.21 |
|-------------------------|----------------------|------|-------------------------|-------|----------------------|------|

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*Note:* <sup>a</sup>Prenatal depression at 18 weeks was a covariate; <sup>b</sup>Prenatal depression at 36 weeks was used as a covariate; <sup>c</sup>p<0.10 <sup>\*\*</sup>p<0.05

**Table 3.3. Frequency characteristics for categorical variables in the study sample of maternal atopy status at 1 year and neurodevelopmental data at 1 and 2 years of age (n=335)**

| <b>Maternal characteristics</b> | Total N | n (%)       | <b>Infant characteristics</b> | Total N | n (%)       |
|---------------------------------|---------|-------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------|
| <b>Family Income</b>            | 331     |             | <b>Child Sex</b>              | 335     |             |
| Less than 39,999                |         | 13 (4.14)   | Boys                          |         | 173 (51.64) |
| 40,000 to 79,999                |         | 77 (24.52)  | Girls                         |         | 162 (48.36) |
| 80,000 to 99,999                |         | 53 (16.88)  | <b>Breastfeeding 3 Months</b> | 335     |             |
| Exceeds 100,000                 |         | 171 (54.46) | None                          |         | 60 (17.91)  |
| <b>Maternal Education</b>       | 332     |             | Partial                       |         | 104 (31.04) |
| Some/finished high school       |         | 23 (6.93)   | Exclusive                     |         | 60 (17.91)  |
| Some university/college         |         | 130 (39.16) | <b>Birthmode</b>              | 331     |             |
| University degree               |         | 179 (53.92) | Vaginal no IAP                |         | 181 (54.68) |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>          | 335     |             | Vaginal IAP                   |         | 72 (21.75)  |
| Yes                             |         | 260 (77.61) | CS-Elective                   |         | 35 (10.57)  |
| No                              |         | 75 (22.39)  | CS-Emergency                  |         | 43 (12.99)  |
| <b>Combined Maternal Atopy</b>  | 335     | 223 (66.57) |                               |         |             |
| Yes                             |         | 112 (33.43) |                               |         |             |
| No                              |         |             |                               |         |             |
| <b>Prenatal Smoking</b>         | 335     |             | <b>Gestational Age</b>        | 333     |             |
| Yes                             |         | 15 (4.48)   | 37 weeks+                     |         | 314 (94.29) |
| No                              |         | 320 (95.52) | 34-36 weeks                   |         | 19 (5.71)   |
| <b>Maternal Depression</b>      | 335     |             | <b>Siblings</b>               | 334     |             |
| Yes                             |         | 41 (12.24)  | Yes                           |         | 186 (55.69) |

|                           |           |             |    |             |
|---------------------------|-----------|-------------|----|-------------|
| No                        |           | 294 (87.76) | No | 148 (44.31) |
| <b>Maternal Age</b>       | 335       |             |    |             |
| 18-29                     |           | 93 (27.76)  |    |             |
| 30-39                     |           | 226 (67.46) |    |             |
| 40+                       | 16 (4.78) |             |    |             |
| <b>Maternal Ethnicity</b> | 335       |             |    |             |
| White Caucasian           |           | 274 (81.79) |    |             |
| Asian                     | 26 (7.76) |             |    |             |
| Other                     |           | 35 (10.45)  |    |             |

**Table 3.4. Percentage distribution of combined maternal atopy and maternal asthma status at 1 year across candidate covariates (n=335)**

| Categorical variables           | Combined Maternal Atopy 1 YR (YES)<br>(66.57% overall)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | Combined Maternal Atopy on 1 YR (NO)<br>(33.43% overall)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | p-value<br>(22.39% overall)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | Maternal Asthma (YES)<br>(77.61%)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | Maternal Asthma 1 YR (NO)<br>(77.61%)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | p-value            |
|---------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--------------------|
| <b>Maternal Characteristics</b> |  |  |   |   |   |                    |
| <b>Maternal age</b>             |  |  | 0.914 <sup>a</sup>                                |   |   | 0.029 <sup>a</sup> |
| 18 to 29                        | 63 (67.74)   | 30 (32.26)   | 29 (31.18)  | 64 (68.82)  |   |                    |
| 30 to 39                        | 150 (66.37)  | 76 (33.63)   | 45 (19.91)  | 181 (80.09)   |   |                    |
| Over 40                         | 10 (62.5)  | 6 (37.5)   | 1 (6.25)  | 15 (93.75)  |   |                    |
| <b>Maternal education</b>       |  |  | 0.561   |   |   | 0.029              |
| Some/finished high school       | 16 (69.57)   | 7 (30.43)  | 9 (39.13)   | 14 (60.87)  |   |                    |
| Some university/ college        | 90 (69.23)   | 40 (30.80)   | 33 (25.38)  | 97 (74.62)  |   |                    |
| University degree               | 114 (63.69)  | 65 (36.31)   | 31 (17.32)  | 148 (82.68)   |   |                    |
| <b>Prenatal smoking</b>         |  |  | 0.266 <sup>a</sup>                                |   |   | 0.751              |
| Yes                             | 8 (53.33)  | 7 (46.67)  | 4 (26.67)   | 11 (73.33)  |   |                    |
| No                              | 215 (67.19)  | 105 (32.81)  | 71 (22.19)  | 249 (77.81)   |   |                    |
| <b>Maternal ethnicity</b>       |  |  | 0.099   |   |   | 0.026              |
| White Caucasian                 | 189 (68.98)  | 85 (31.02)   | 68 (24.82)  | 206 (75.18)   |   |                    |
| Asian                           | 16 (61.54)   | 10 (38.46)   | 1 (3.85)  | 25 (96.15)  |   |                    |



|   |              |              |              |                    |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Other   | 18 (51.43)   | 17 (48.57)   | 6 (17.14)    | 29 (82.86)         |
| <b>Infant characteristics</b>   |              |              |              |                    |
| <b>Child sex</b>  |              |              | 0.788        | 0.263              |
| Boys  | 114 (65.90)  | 59 (34.10)   | 43 (24.86)   | 130 (75.14)        |
| Girls   | 109 (67.28)  | 53 (32.72)   | 32 (19.75)   | 130 (80.25)        |
| <b>Older siblings</b>   |              |              | 0.749        | 0.167              |
| Yes   | 125 (67.20)  | 61 (32.80)   | 47 (25.27)   | 139 (74.73)        |
| No  | 97 (65.54)   | 51 (34.46)   | 28 (18.92)   | 120 (81.08)        |
| <b>Birth mode</b>   |              |              | <b>0.084</b> | 0.164              |
| Vaginal-noIAP   | 112 (61.88)  | 69 (38.12)   | 34 (18.78)   | 147 (81.22)        |
| Vaginal-IAP   | 49 (68.06)   | 23 (31.94)   | 23 (31.94)   | 49 (68.06)         |
| CS-elective   | 29 (82.86)   | 6 (17.14)    | 8 (22.86)    | 27 (77.14)         |
| CS-emergency  | 31 (72.09)   | 12 (27.91)   | 10 (23.26)   | 33 (76.74)         |
| <b>Infant introduction to solids at 3 months</b>                          |              |              | 0.169        | 0.690 <sup>a</sup> |
| Yes   | 4 (44.44)    | 5 (55.56)    | 1 (11.11)    | 8 (88.89)          |
| No  | 218 (67.08)  | 107 (32.92)  | 74 (22.77)   | 251 (77.23)        |
| <b>Infant breastfeeding duration (months)   Mean (Standard Deviation)</b> |              |              | 0.141        | 0.187              |
|   | 9.17 (6.63)  | 10.34 (7.05) | 8.61 (6.43)  | 9.82 (6.87)        |
| <b>Prenatal Depression   Mean (Standard Deviation)</b>                    |              |              | 0.133        | 0.902              |
| 18 weeks  | 10.27 (7.23) | 8.93 (5.47)  | 9.91 (6.99)  | 9.78 (6.63)        |
| <b>Prenatal Depression   Mean (Standard Deviation)</b>                    |              |              | <b>0.029</b> | 0.374              |
| 36 weeks  | 10.64 (7.10) | 8.88 (5.32)  | 10.70 (7.41) | 9.87 (6.37)        |
| <b>Maternal prenatal fruit intake   Mean (Standard Deviation)</b>         |              |              | 0.493        | 0.651              |
|   | 3.15 (1.99)  | 3.32 (2.43)  | 3.31 (2.42)  | 3.18 (2.06)        |
| <b>Gestational age (in weeks)   Mean (Standard Deviation)</b>             |              |              |              | 0.912              |
|   | 39.07 (1.42) | 39.34 (1.26) | 0.093        | 39.15 (1.41)       |
|   |              |              |              | 39.17 (1.36)       |

<sup>a</sup>Fisher's exact test <sup>b</sup>Bold values are statistically significant <sup>c</sup>Total number of observations (N) is based per column per atopy/food sensitization yes/no

**Table 3.5. Fully adjusted model results for the association between combined maternal atopy and neurodevelopmental scores including maternal ethnicity and prenatal depression at 36 weeks as covariates.**

| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Combined Maternal Atopy – All Infants</b>  |         |           |           |         |              |
|---|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| <b>Cognitive Scores at 2 Years</b>                                      | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -.114   | -3.471    | 3.243     | .947    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -9.59   | -15.686   | -3.495    | .002    | ***          |
| Other Ethnicities   | -5.756  | -11.172   | -.339     | .037    | **           |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.109   | -.352     | .134      | .378    |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 2 Years</b>                                       | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 1.139   | -1.565    | 3.843     | .408    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -14.506 | -19.499   | -9.514    | 0       | ***          |
| Other Ethnicities   | -4.57   | -8.921    | -.218     | .04     | **           |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.146   | -.341     | .049      | .143    |              |
| <b>Motor Scores at 2 Years</b>  | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -1.2    | -3.569    | 1.168     | .319    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -4.526  | -8.827    | -.225     | .039    | **           |
| Other Ethnicities   | -1.765  | -5.587    | 2.057     | .364    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.066   | -.237     | .105      | .449    |              |
| <b>Socio-emotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 1.519   | -2.289    | 5.327     | .433    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -3.923  | -10.818   | 2.972     | .264    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | -3.534  | -9.767    | 2.699     | .265    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.138   | -.413     | .137      | .325    |              |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Combined Maternal Atopy – Male Infants</b> |         |           |           |         |              |
| <b>Cognitive Scores at 2 Years</b>                                      | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -3.872  | -8.28     | .536      | .085    | *            |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -9.862  | -18.742   | -.983     | .03     | **           |
| Other Ethnicities   | -4.718  | -10.867   | 1.431     | .132    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.171   | -.551     | .21       | .377    |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 2 Years</b>                                       | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 2.715   | -.894     | 6.323     | .139    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -13.341 | -19.487   | -7.194    | 0       | ***          |
| Other Ethnicities   | 2.281   | -5.5      | 10.063    | .563    |              |

|   |         |           |           |         |              |
|---|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.088   | -.318     | .141      | .448    |              |
| <b>Motor Scores at 2 Years</b>  | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -3.003  | -6.276    | .27       | .072    | *            |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -6.029  | -12.623   | .564      | .073    | *            |
| Other Ethnicities   | -3.377  | -7.944    | 1.189     | .146    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.065   | -.347     | .218      | .651    |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                   | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | .515    | -4.87     | 5.901     | .85     |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -5.863  | -14.803   | 3.078     | .197    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | -9.398  | -21.063   | 2.267     | .113    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.062   | -.405     | .282      | .723    |              |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Combined Maternal Atopy – Female Infants</b> |         |           |           |         |              |
| <b>Cognitive Scores at 2 Years</b>  | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 4.115   | -.852     | 9.083     | .104    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -9.787  | -18.033   | -1.541    | .02     | **           |
| Other Ethnicities   | -4.698  | -15.456   | 6.061     | .389    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.165   | -.482     | .152      | .305    |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 2 Years</b>   | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 2.715   | -.894     | 6.323     | .139    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -13.341 | -19.487   | -7.194    | 0       | ***          |
| Other Ethnicities   | 2.281   | -5.5      | 10.063    | .563    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.088   | -.318     | .141      | .448    |              |
| <b>Motor Scores at 2 Years</b>  | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | .646    | -2.791    | 4.083     | .711    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -3.413  | -9.119    | 2.293     | .239    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | 3.846   | -3.598    | 11.291    | .309    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.078   | -.298     | .141      | .481    |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                   | Coef.   | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | .515    | -4.87     | 5.901     | .85     |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0       | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -5.863  | -14.803   | 3.078     | .197    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | -9.398  | -21.063   | 2.267     | .113    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.062   | -.405     | .282      | .723    |              |

<sup>a</sup>Reference group; \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$

**Table 3.6. Fully adjusted model results for the association between combined maternal atopy and neurodevelopmental scores including maternal ethnicity and prenatal depression at 18 weeks as covariates.**

| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Combined Maternal Atopy – All Infants</b>  |        |           |           |         |              |
|---|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|--------------|
| <b>Cognitive Scores at 2 Years</b>                                      | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -.565  | -3.98     | 2.851     | .745    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0      | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -4.189 | -11.035   | 2.657     | .229    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | -5.835 | -11.216   | -.454     | .034    | **           |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks  | -.152  | -.392     | .088      | .214    |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 2 Years</b>                                       | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -.42   | -3.466    | 2.625     | .786    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0      | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -9.939 | -16.223   | -3.654    | .002    | ***          |
| Other Ethnicities   | -2.518 | -7.31     | 2.275     | .302    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.128  | -.342     | .086      | .24     |              |
| <b>Motor Scores at 2 Years</b>  | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -1.783 | -4.265    | .698      | .158    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0      | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -.443  | -5.417    | 4.531     | .861    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | .014   | -3.896    | 3.924     | .994    |              |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks  | -.158  | -.332     | .016      | .075    | *            |
| <b>Socio-emotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | .27    | -4.076    | 4.616     | .903    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0      | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -3.907 | -12.841   | 5.027     | .39     |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | -1.207 | -8.154    | 5.74      | .733    |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.309  | -.615     | -.003     | .047    | **           |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Combined Maternal Atopy – Male Infants</b> |        |           |           |         |              |
| <b>Cognitive Scores at 2 Years</b>                                      | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -3.636 | -8.447    | 1.175     | .137    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0      | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -5.107 | -19.79    | 9.576     | .492    |              |
| Other Ethnicities   | -4.246 | -10.875   | 2.382     | .207    |              |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks  | -.306  | -.692     | .08       | .119    |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 2 Years</b>                                       | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Significance |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 1.568  | -2.451    | 5.587     | .441    |              |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0      | .         | .         | .       |              |
| Asian Moms  | -9.709 | -16.518   | -2.901    | .006    | ***          |

|   |               |                  |                  |                |                     |
|---|---------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| Other Ethnicities   | -1.352        | -9.099           | 6.394            | .73            |                     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.057         | -.313            | .199             | .661           |                     |
| <b>Motor Scores at 2 Years</b>  | <b>Coef.</b>  | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Significance</b> |
| <b>Combined Maternal Atopy</b>  | <b>-4.035</b> | <b>-7.6</b>      | <b>-.47</b>      | <b>.027</b>    | <b>**</b>           |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0             | .                | .                | .              |                     |
| Asian Moms  | -3.545        | -14.426          | 7.335            | .52            |                     |
| Other Ethnicities   | .82           | -4.092           | 5.731            | .742           |                     |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks  | -.373         | -.658            | -.087            | .011           | **                  |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                   | <b>Coef.</b>  | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Significance</b> |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -1.306        | -6.721           | 4.11             | .634           |                     |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0             | .                | .                | .              |                     |
| Asian Moms  | -10.54        | -19.696          | -1.383           | .024           | **                  |
| Other Ethnicities   | -7.943        | -18.369          | 2.483            | .134           |                     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.268         | -.612            | .076             | .126           |                     |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Combined Maternal Atopy – Female Infants</b> |               |                  |                  |                |                     |
| <b>Cognitive Scores at 2 Years</b>  | <b>Coef.</b>  | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Significance</b> |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 2.603         | -2.217           | 7.424            | .287           |                     |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0             | .                | .                | .              |                     |
| Asian Moms  | -4.461        | -12.36           | 3.439            | .266           |                     |
| Other Ethnicities   | -6.837        | -16.142          | 2.469            | .148           |                     |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks  | -.096         | -.402            | .21              | .536           |                     |
| <b>Language Scores at 2 Years</b>   | <b>Coef.</b>  | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Significance</b> |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | 1.568         | -2.451           | 5.587            | .441           |                     |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0             | .                | .                | .              |                     |
| Asian Moms  | -9.709        | -16.518          | -2.901           | .006           | ***                 |
| Other Ethnicities   | -1.352        | -9.099           | 6.394            | .73            |                     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.057         | -.313            | .199             | .661           |                     |
| <b>Motor Scores at 2 Years</b>  | <b>Coef.</b>  | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Significance</b> |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | .641          | -2.788           | 4.071            | .712           |                     |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0             | .                | .                | .              |                     |
| Asian Moms  | .309          | -5.311           | 5.929            | .914           |                     |
| Other Ethnicities   | -.084         | -6.705           | 6.537            | .98            |                     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.049         | -.267            | .169             | .656           |                     |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                   | <b>Coef.</b>  | <b>[95% Conf</b> | <b>Interval]</b> | <b>p-value</b> | <b>Significance</b> |
| Combined Maternal Atopy   | -1.306        | -6.721           | 4.11             | .634           |                     |
| White Moms <sup>a</sup>   | 0             | .                | .                | .              |                     |
| Asian Moms  | -10.54        | -19.696          | -1.383           | .024           | **                  |
| Other Ethnicities   | -7.943        | -18.369          | 2.483            | .134           |                     |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks  | -.268         | -.612            | .076             | .126           |                     |

<sup>a</sup>Reference group; \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$

**Table 3.7. Fully adjusted model results for the association between maternal asthma and neurodevelopmental scores including maternal ethnicity and prenatal depression at 36 weeks as covariates.**

| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Maternal Asthma – All Infants at 1 Year</b> |              |              |               |             |              |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Language Scores at 1 Year</b>   | Coef.        | [95% Conf    | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma  | 2.718        | -.741        | 6.176         | .123        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks   | -.002        | -.217        | .214          | .988        |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                  | Coef.        | [95% Conf    | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma  | -3.703       | -8.046       | .64           | .094        | *            |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks   | -.096        | -.365        | .173          | .482        |              |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Maternal Asthma – Male Infants</b>          |              |              |               |             |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 1 Year</b>   | Coef.        | [95% Conf    | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>   | <b>6.561</b> | <b>1.758</b> | <b>11.365</b> | <b>.008</b> | <b>***</b>   |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks   | -.177        | -.537        | .183          | .332        |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                  | Coef.        | [95% Conf    | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma  | -3.681       | -9.799       | 2.438         | .236        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks   | -.373        | -.826        | .08           | .106        |              |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Maternal Asthma – Female Infants</b>        |              |              |               |             |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 1 Year</b>   | Coef.        | [95% Conf    | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma  | -1.546       | -6.327       | 3.234         | .523        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks   | .069         | -.19         | .327          | .602        |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                                  | Coef.        | [95% Conf    | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma  | -3.944       | -10.127      | 2.239         | .209        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks   | .026         | -.309        | .361          | .88         |              |

*Note:* Only models that resulted in significant associations in the crude, univariate analysis are included in the above multivariate table. <sup>a</sup>Reference group; \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$

**Table 3.8. Fully adjusted model results for the association between maternal asthma and neurodevelopmental scores including maternal ethnicity and prenatal depression at 18 weeks as covariates.**

| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Maternal Asthma – All Infants</b>    |               |                |               |             |              |
|---|---------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| <b>Language Scores at 1 Year</b>                                  | Coef.         | [95% Conf      | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma   | 1.953         | -1.66          | 5.567         | .288        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks                                      | -.071         | -.292          | .151          | .531        |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                           | Coef.         | [95% Conf      | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>  | <b>-6.141</b> | <b>-11.043</b> | <b>-1.239</b> | <b>.014</b> | <b>**</b>    |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks                                      | -.301         | -.601          | -.001         | .049        | **           |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Maternal Asthma – Male Infants</b>   |               |                |               |             |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 1 Year</b>                                  | Coef.         | [95% Conf      | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>  | <b>5.385</b>  | <b>.482</b>    | <b>10.287</b> | <b>.032</b> | <b>**</b>    |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks                                      | -.043         | -.399          | .313          | .81         |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                           | Coef.         | [95% Conf      | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma   | -6.595        | -14.065        | .876          | .083        | *            |
| Prenatal depression 18 weeks                                      | -.388         | -.93           | .154          | .159        |              |
| <b>Fully-Adjusted Models for Maternal Asthma – Female Infants</b> |               |                |               |             |              |
| <b>Language Scores at 1 Year</b>                                  | Coef.         | [95% Conf      | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma   | -1.285        | -6.506         | 3.936         | .627        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks                                      | -.136         | -.413          | .141          | .333        |              |
| <b>Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years</b>                           | Coef.         | [95% Conf      | Interval]     | p-value     | Significance |
| Maternal Asthma   | -5.091        | -11.59         | 1.409         | .124        |              |
| Prenatal depression 36 weeks                                      | -.264         | -.61           | .081          | .132        |              |

Note: Only models that resulted in significant associations in the crude, univariate analysis are included in the above multivariate table. <sup>a</sup>Reference group; \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .10$

**Table 3.9 Linear regression results assessing *X to M* and *M to Y* associations with maternal atopy as the exposure (X), individual male infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (M), and male infant cognitive scores at 2 years as the outcome (Y).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Combined Maternal Atopy (X) and each Metabolite (M) |              |           |         |                |    | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite (M) and Male Infant Cognitive Scores at 2 Years |              |           |         |                |    |
|----------------------|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----|
|                      | <i>X -&gt; M</i>   |              |           |         |                |    | <i>M -&gt; Y</i>   |              |           |         |                |    |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N  | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N  |
| formate              | -2.035e-01   | -1.534e+00   | 1.127e+00 | 0.761   | 0.002          | 58 | 9.426e-02  | -6.112e-02   | 2.496e-01 | 0.229   | 0.030          | 50 |
| acetate              | 1.140e+01  | -1.511e+01   | 3.790e+01 | 0.394   | 0.010          | 73 | 1.372e+00  | 1.490e-01    | 2.595e+00 | 0.029   | 0.080          | 60 |
| butyrate             | -1.284e+00   | -5.473e+00   | 2.905e+00 | 0.543   | 0.005          | 73 | -1.022e-01   | -2.591e-01   | 5.467e-02 | 0.197   | 0.028          | 60 |
| propionate           | 3.137e+00  | -4.460e+00   | 1.073e+01 | 0.413   | 0.009          | 73 | -5.413e-02   | -3.410e-01   | 2.328e-01 | 0.707   | 0.002          | 60 |
| valerate             | 2.118e-01  | -6.809e-01   | 1.104e+00 | 0.638   | 0.003          | 73 | -1.214e-02   | -5.319e-02   | 2.891e-02 | 0.556   | 0.006          | 60 |
| isobutyrate          | 2.002e-01  | -3.283e-01   | 7.286e-01 | 0.453   | 0.008          | 73 | -5.316e-03   | -2.482e-02   | 1.419e-02 | 0.587   | 0.005          | 60 |
| isovalerate          | 2.158e-01  | -4.660e-01   | 8.976e-01 | 0.530   | 0.006          | 73 | -1.508e-02   | -4.592e-02   | 1.575e-02 | 0.332   | 0.016          | 60 |
| lactate              | -4.110e+00   | -9.293e+00   | 1.074e+00 | 0.118   | 0.038          | 66 | 3.843e-01  | 2.274e-02    | 7.459e-01 | 0.038   | 0.078          | 56 |
| succinate            | -2.760e-01   | -1.060e+01   | 1.005e+01 | 0.958   | 0.000          | 73 | 6.167e-01  | 2.201e-02    | 1.211e+00 | 0.042   | 0.069          | 60 |
| hydroxyglutarate     | 3.417e+00  | 1.026e+00    | 5.808e+00 | 0.012   | 0.000          | 8  | -1.974e-01   | -1.464e+00   | 1.069e+00 | 0.298   | 0.797          | 3  |
| aminobutyrate        | 2.132e-01  | -6.934e-01   | 1.120e+00 | 0.628   | 0.013          | 21 | 1.122e-01  | 3.295e-03    | 2.210e-01 | 0.044   | 0.137          | 30 |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 1.717e-02  | -3.988e-01   | 4.331e-01 | 0.933   | 0.000          | 29 | -8.658e-03   | -2.361e-02   | 6.295e-03 | 0.247   | 0.042          | 34 |
| aminopentanoate      | 3.819e-01  | -3.033e+00   | 3.797e+00 | 0.820   | 0.002          | 27 | -5.567e-02   | -1.937e-01   | 8.233e-02 | 0.415   | 0.026          | 28 |
| acetoin              | 3.674e-01  | -7.958e-01   | 1.531e+00 | 0.515   | 0.024          | 20 | 2.612e-02  | -5.334e-02   | 1.056e-01 | 0.504   | 0.019          | 26 |
| alanine              | 3.258e+00  | -1.235e+00   | 7.751e+00 | 0.152   | 0.036          | 58 | 1.046e-01  | -2.598e-02   | 2.351e-01 | 0.114   | 0.051          | 50 |
| aspartate            | 1.125e+00  | -6.898e-01   | 2.940e+00 | 0.219   | 0.027          | 57 | 1.788e-02  | -4.754e-02   | 8.330e-02 | 0.585   | 0.006          | 49 |
| betaalanine          | 5.686e-01  | -2.894e-01   | 1.427e+00 | 0.165   | 0.226          | 10 | -1.779e-02   | -9.292e-02   | 5.734e-02 | 0.583   | 0.053          | 8  |
| cadaverine           | -2.614e-01   | -3.499e+00   | 2.976e+00 | 0.870   | 0.001          | 33 | -1.198e-01   | -2.793e-01   | 3.971e-02 | 0.136   | 0.068          | 34 |
| choline              | 1.105e-02  | -2.750e-01   | 2.971e-01 | 0.939   | 0.000          | 56 | 2.627e-02  | 1.581e-02    | 3.674e-02 | 0.000   | 0.362          | 47 |
| creatine             | 1.165e-01  | -2.008e-01   | 4.338e-01 | 0.465   | 0.010          | 56 | 1.324e-02  | -8.576e-04   | 2.733e-02 | 0.065   | 0.075          | 46 |
| creatinine           | -9.876e-02   | -3.987e-01   | 2.012e-01 | 0.512   | 0.008          | 57 | 1.376e-02  | 3.238e-03    | 2.428e-02 | 0.011   | 0.128          | 49 |
| dimethylamine        | 3.230e-02  | -5.124e-02   | 1.158e-01 | 0.436   | 0.020          | 32 | -2.561e-03   | -5.832e-03   | 7.091e-04 | 0.120   | 0.076          | 33 |
| ethanol              | -2.611e+00   | -5.779e+00   | 5.576e-01 | 0.104   | 0.052          | 52 | 1.329e-01  | 3.860e-02    | 2.273e-01 | 0.007   | 0.158          | 45 |
| fucose               | -7.763e-01   | -4.430e+00   | 2.877e+00 | 0.667   | 0.007          | 30 | 2.239e-01  | -3.782e-01   | 8.261e-01 | 0.454   | 0.018          | 34 |
| fumarate             | 1.168e-01  | -2.575e-01   | 4.912e-01 | 0.534   | 0.007          | 57 | 3.049e-03  | -7.677e-03   | 1.377e-02 | 0.570   | 0.007          | 49 |
| galactose            | 7.896e-01  | -2.700e+00   | 4.279e+00 | 0.648   | 0.007          | 34 | 2.066e-01  | -1.887e-02   | 4.321e-01 | 0.071   | 0.090          | 37 |
| glucose              | 1.398e+00  | -1.662e+00   | 4.458e+00 | 0.364   | 0.015          | 58 | 2.917e-01  | 1.270e-01    | 4.565e-01 | 0.001   | 0.209          | 50 |
| glutamate            | 2.982e+00  | -4.924e+00   | 1.089e+01 | 0.453   | 0.010          | 57 | 1.223e-01  | -2.764e-01   | 5.210e-01 | 0.540   | 0.008          | 47 |
| glycerol             | -2.559e-01   | -2.423e+00   | 1.911e+00 | 0.811   | 0.002          | 34 | 2.269e-02  | -1.937e-02   | 6.474e-02 | 0.281   | 0.033          | 37 |
| glycine              | 4.370e-01  | -2.027e+00   | 2.902e+00 | 0.724   | 0.002          | 57 | 1.069e-02  | -8.755e-02   | 1.089e-01 | 0.828   | 0.001          | 49 |



|                 |            |            |            |       |       |    |            |            |            |       |       |    |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|----|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|----|
| histidine       | 3.732e-01  | -3.721e-01 | 1.119e+00  | 0.317 | 0.028 | 38 | -1.541e-02 | -4.626e-02 | 1.545e-02  | 0.311 | 0.049 | 23 |
| hypoxanthine    | -1.475e-02 | -1.117e+00 | 1.087e+00  | 0.978 | 0.000 | 23 | -2.258e-02 | -9.001e-02 | 4.484e-02  | 0.476 | 0.047 | 13 |
| isoleucine      | 4.718e-01  | -5.854e-01 | 1.529e+00  | 0.375 | 0.014 | 58 | 5.910e-03  | -4.269e-02 | 5.451e-02  | 0.808 | 0.001 | 50 |
| leucine         | 1.195e+00  | -3.658e-01 | 2.755e+00  | 0.131 | 0.040 | 58 | -1.957e-02 | -9.581e-02 | 5.666e-02  | 0.608 | 0.006 | 50 |
| lysine          | 2.634e-01  | -5.345e+00 | 5.871e+00  | 0.925 | 0.000 | 46 | -1.454e-02 | -2.610e-01 | 2.319e-01  | 0.905 | 0.001 | 30 |
| malonate        | 6.403e-02  | -1.874e+00 | 2.002e+00  | 0.947 | 0.000 | 58 | 4.950e-02  | -8.140e-03 | 1.071e-01  | 0.091 | 0.058 | 50 |
| methanol        | 3.735e-01  | -5.368e-01 | 1.284e+00  | 0.415 | 0.012 | 58 | -2.108e-02 | -4.899e-02 | 6.827e-03  | 0.135 | 0.046 | 50 |
| methionine      | 3.967e-01  | -2.795e-01 | 1.073e+00  | 0.245 | 0.024 | 58 | 3.033e-03  | -2.460e-02 | 3.066e-02  | 0.826 | 0.001 | 50 |
| methylamine     | 1.360e-02  | -1.365e-01 | 1.637e-01  | 0.855 | 0.001 | 33 | -3.907e-03 | -8.240e-03 | 4.258e-04  | 0.075 | 0.098 | 33 |
| methylhistidine | 2.787e-01  | -2.695e-01 | 8.270e-01  | 0.309 | 0.029 | 38 | -2.183e-03 | -2.292e-02 | 1.856e-02  | 0.829 | 0.002 | 23 |
| myoinositol     | 3.678e+00  | -1.397e+00 | 8.754e+00  | 0.137 | 0.207 | 12 | 1.912e-01  | 2.585e-02  | 3.566e-01  | 0.027 | 0.324 | 15 |
| pcresol         | -6.843e-02 | -1.865e-01 | 4.968e-02  | 0.222 | 0.160 | 11 | -2.183e-03 | -1.326e-02 | 8.892e-03  | 0.575 | 0.116 | 5  |
| phenylacetate   | 2.234e-01  | -5.807e-01 | 1.027e+00  | 0.570 | 0.016 | 23 | -3.089e-02 | -5.505e-02 | -6.723e-03 | 0.017 | 0.418 | 13 |
| phenylalanine   | 8.285e-01  | -2.363e-01 | 1.893e+00  | 0.125 | 0.042 | 58 | 8.874e-03  | -2.496e-02 | 4.271e-02  | 0.600 | 0.006 | 49 |
| proline         | -6.258e+00 | -1.120e+01 | -1.312e+00 | 0.019 | 0.516 | 10 | 5.317e-02  | -6.900e-02 | 1.753e-01  | 0.345 | 0.112 | 10 |
| propyleneglycol | -7.793e-01 | -2.473e+00 | 9.140e-01  | 0.360 | 0.016 | 56 | 1.528e-01  | 1.799e-02  | 2.876e-01  | 0.027 | 0.104 | 47 |
| putrescine      | -3.272e-01 | -9.277e-01 | 2.732e-01  | 0.271 | 0.052 | 25 | -6.876e-03 | -4.318e-02 | 2.943e-02  | 0.698 | 0.007 | 24 |
| pyroglutamate   | 1.646e+00  | -1.827e+00 | 5.118e+00  | 0.312 | 0.113 | 11 | 2.831e-04  | -7.601e-02 | 7.658e-02  | 0.994 | 0.000 | 16 |
| pyruvate        | 5.186e-01  | -8.584e-01 | 1.896e+00  | 0.454 | 0.010 | 58 | 8.664e-02  | 8.372e-03  | 1.649e-01  | 0.031 | 0.095 | 49 |
| serine          | 7.821e-01  | -1.723e+00 | 3.287e+00  | 0.531 | 0.011 | 38 | 6.074e-02  | -2.291e-02 | 1.444e-01  | 0.147 | 0.089 | 25 |
| taurine         | -4.608e-01 | -1.299e+00 | 3.769e-01  | 0.269 | 0.043 | 30 | 7.228e-03  | -3.272e-02 | 4.717e-02  | 0.713 | 0.005 | 29 |
| threonine       | 6.243e-01  | -8.660e-01 | 2.115e+00  | 0.404 | 0.014 | 51 | -6.672e-03 | -7.381e-02 | 6.047e-02  | 0.842 | 0.001 | 48 |
| trimethylamine  | 8.081e-02  | -7.851e-02 | 2.401e-01  | 0.313 | 0.022 | 49 | 9.351e-04  | -4.524e-03 | 6.394e-03  | 0.732 | 0.003 | 47 |
| tryptophan      | 3.690e-02  | -5.711e-02 | 1.309e-01  | 0.436 | 0.009 | 70 | -3.308e-03 | -7.007e-03 | 3.916e-04  | 0.079 | 0.053 | 59 |
| tyrosine        | 6.215e-01  | -3.456e-01 | 1.589e+00  | 0.203 | 0.029 | 58 | 1.050e-02  | -2.833e-02 | 4.933e-02  | 0.589 | 0.006 | 49 |
| uracil          | 2.606e-01  | -4.967e-01 | 1.018e+00  | 0.493 | 0.009 | 57 | 7.402e-03  | -1.745e-02 | 3.225e-02  | 0.552 | 0.008 | 47 |
| valine          | 1.044e+00  | -5.421e-01 | 2.629e+00  | 0.193 | 0.030 | 58 | 1.397e-02  | -5.605e-02 | 8.399e-02  | 0.690 | 0.003 | 50 |
| xanthine        | 4.437e-02  | -1.868e-01 | 2.755e-01  | 0.698 | 0.005 | 32 | -5.608e-05 | -1.030e-02 | 1.019e-02  | 0.991 | 0.000 | 36 |
| lactate         | -4.110e+00 | -9.293e+00 | 1.074e+00  | 0.118 | 0.038 | 66 | 3.843e-01  | 2.274e-02  | 7.459e-01  | 0.038 | 0.078 | 56 |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by 10<sup>-1</sup> or 1.23 X 10<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table 3.10 Linear regression results assessing *X to M* and *M to Y* associations with maternal atopy as the exposure (X), individual male infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (M), and male infant motor scores at 2 years as the outcome (Y).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Combined Maternal Atopy (X) and each Metabolite (M) |              |           |         |                |    | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite (M) and Male Infant Motor Scores at 2 Years |              |           |         |                |     |
|----------------------|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|-----|
|                      | <i>X -&gt; M</i>   |              |           |         |                |    | <i>M -&gt; Y</i>   |              |           |         |                |     |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N  | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   |
| formate              | -2.035e-01   | -1.534e+00   | 1.127e+00 | 0.761   | 0.002          | 58 | 2.960e-02  | -7.291e-02   | 1.321e-01 | 0.568   | 0.003          | 108 |
| acetate              | 1.140e+01  | -1.511e+01   | 3.790e+01 | 0.394   | 0.010          | 73 | 6.085e-01  | -4.351e-01   | 1.652e+00 | 0.251   | 0.010          | 133 |
| butyrate             | -1.284e+00   | -5.473e+00   | 2.905e+00 | 0.543   | 0.005          | 73 | -6.835e-02   | -2.162e-01   | 7.951e-02 | 0.362   | 0.006          | 133 |
| propionate           | 3.137e+00  | -4.460e+00   | 1.073e+01 | 0.413   | 0.009          | 73 | 1.022e-01  | -1.636e-01   | 3.680e-01 | 0.448   | 0.004          | 133 |
| valerate             | 2.118e-01  | -6.809e-01   | 1.104e+00 | 0.638   | 0.003          | 73 | 1.402e-02  | -2.033e-02   | 4.838e-02 | 0.421   | 0.005          | 133 |
| isobutyrate          | 2.002e-01  | -3.283e-01   | 7.286e-01 | 0.453   | 0.008          | 73 | -4.337e-03   | -2.273e-02   | 1.406e-02 | 0.642   | 0.002          | 133 |
| isovalerate          | 2.158e-01  | -4.660e-01   | 8.976e-01 | 0.530   | 0.006          | 73 | -1.926e-03   | -2.814e-02   | 2.429e-02 | 0.885   | 0.000          | 133 |
| lactate              | -4.110e+00   | -9.293e+00   | 1.074e+00 | 0.118   | 0.038          | 66 | 1.239e-01  | -1.485e-01   | 3.964e-01 | 0.370   | 0.007          | 122 |
| succinate            | -2.760e-01   | -1.060e+01   | 1.005e+01 | 0.958   | 0.000          | 73 | 4.294e-01  | -3.484e-02   | 8.936e-01 | 0.070   | 0.025          | 133 |
| hydroxyglutarate     | 3.417e+00  | 1.026e+00    | 5.808e+00 | 0.012   | 0.000          | 8  | 3.896e-02  | -2.382e-01   | 3.161e-01 | 0.758   | 0.011          | 11  |
| aminobutyrate        | 2.132e-01  | -6.934e-01   | 1.120e+00 | 0.628   | 0.013          | 21 | 7.999e-02  | -7.979e-03   | 1.680e-01 | 0.074   | 0.064          | 51  |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 1.717e-02  | -3.988e-01   | 4.331e-01 | 0.933   | 0.000          | 29 | -8.379e-03   | -2.113e-02   | 4.367e-03 | 0.194   | 0.028          | 63  |
| aminopentanoate      | 3.819e-01  | -3.033e+00   | 3.797e+00 | 0.820   | 0.002          | 27 | -6.887e-02   | -1.816e-01   | 4.384e-02 | 0.226   | 0.028          | 55  |
| acetoin              | 3.674e-01  | -7.958e-01   | 1.531e+00 | 0.515   | 0.024          | 20 | 2.605e-02  | -3.385e-02   | 8.596e-02 | 0.386   | 0.017          | 46  |
| alanine              | 3.258e+00  | -1.235e+00   | 7.751e+00 | 0.152   | 0.036          | 58 | 8.093e-02  | -5.511e-02   | 2.170e-01 | 0.241   | 0.013          | 108 |
| aspartate            | 1.125e+00  | -6.898e-01   | 2.940e+00 | 0.219   | 0.027          | 57 | 1.862e-02  | -4.165e-02   | 7.888e-02 | 0.541   | 0.004          | 106 |
| betaalanine          | 5.686e-01  | -2.894e-01   | 1.427e+00 | 0.165   | 0.226          | 10 | -2.567e-02   | -7.087e-02   | 1.952e-02 | 0.246   | 0.083          | 18  |
| cadaverine           | -2.614e-01   | -3.499e+00   | 2.976e+00 | 0.870   | 0.001          | 33 | -3.225e-02   | -1.575e-01   | 9.304e-02 | 0.609   | 0.004          | 67  |
| choline              | 1.105e-02  | -2.750e-01   | 2.971e-01 | 0.939   | 0.000          | 56 | 7.965e-03  | -2.099e-03   | 1.803e-02 | 0.120   | 0.024          | 103 |
| creatine             | 1.165e-01  | -2.008e-01   | 4.338e-01 | 0.465   | 0.010          | 56 | 7.822e-03  | -3.702e-03   | 1.935e-02 | 0.181   | 0.018          | 102 |
| creatinine           | -9.876e-02   | -3.987e-01   | 2.012e-01 | 0.512   | 0.008          | 57 | 2.882e-03  | -7.241e-03   | 1.300e-02 | 0.574   | 0.003          | 106 |
| dimethylamine        | 3.230e-02  | -5.124e-02   | 1.158e-01 | 0.436   | 0.020          | 32 | -1.154e-03   | -3.985e-03   | 1.677e-03 | 0.418   | 0.010          | 65  |
| ethanol              | -2.611e+00   | -5.779e+00   | 5.576e-01 | 0.104   | 0.052          | 52 | 1.095e-01  | 6.601e-03    | 2.125e-01 | 0.037   | 0.045          | 97  |
| fucose               | -7.763e-01   | -4.430e+00   | 2.877e+00 | 0.667   | 0.007          | 30 | 2.327e-01  | -1.546e-01   | 6.200e-01 | 0.234   | 0.023          | 64  |
| fumarate             | 1.168e-01  | -2.575e-01   | 4.912e-01 | 0.534   | 0.007          | 57 | -5.038e-04   | -1.166e-02   | 1.065e-02 | 0.929   | 0.000          | 106 |
| galactose            | 7.896e-01  | -2.700e+00   | 4.279e+00 | 0.648   | 0.007          | 34 | 1.435e-01  | -2.033e-02   | 3.073e-01 | 0.085   | 0.042          | 71  |
| glucose              | 1.398e+00  | -1.662e+00   | 4.458e+00 | 0.364   | 0.015          | 58 | 6.279e-02  | -7.167e-02   | 1.973e-01 | 0.357   | 0.008          | 108 |
| glutamate            | 2.982e+00  | -4.924e+00   | 1.089e+01 | 0.453   | 0.010          | 57 | 1.897e-01  | -1.223e-01   | 5.018e-01 | 0.231   | 0.014          | 104 |
| glycerol             | -2.559e-01   | -2.423e+00   | 1.911e+00 | 0.811   | 0.002          | 34 | 4.818e-02  | -7.369e-03   | 1.037e-01 | 0.088   | 0.042          | 71  |
| glycine              | 4.370e-01  | -2.027e+00   | 2.902e+00 | 0.724   | 0.002          | 57 | -3.208e-03   | -8.782e-02   | 8.141e-02 | 0.940   | 0.000          | 106 |

|                 |            |            |            |       |       |    |            |            |            |       |       |     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|----|------------|------------|------------|-------|-------|-----|
| histidine       | 3.732e-01  | -3.721e-01 | 1.119e+00  | 0.317 | 0.028 | 38 | 2.801e-02  | 1.657e-03  | 5.436e-02  | 0.038 | 0.071 | 61  |
| hypoxanthine    | -1.475e-02 | -1.117e+00 | 1.087e+00  | 0.978 | 0.000 | 23 | 2.266e-02  | -1.589e-02 | 6.120e-02  | 0.241 | 0.040 | 36  |
| isoleucine      | 4.718e-01  | -5.854e-01 | 1.529e+00  | 0.375 | 0.014 | 58 | -3.780e-03 | -4.285e-02 | 3.529e-02  | 0.848 | 0.000 | 108 |
| leucine         | 1.195e+00  | -3.658e-01 | 2.755e+00  | 0.131 | 0.040 | 58 | -6.688e-03 | -6.685e-02 | 5.348e-02  | 0.826 | 0.000 | 108 |
| lysine          | 2.634e-01  | -5.345e+00 | 5.871e+00  | 0.925 | 0.000 | 46 | -7.145e-02 | -2.925e-01 | 1.496e-01  | 0.522 | 0.006 | 76  |
| malonate        | 6.403e-02  | -1.874e+00 | 2.002e+00  | 0.947 | 0.000 | 58 | -1.302e-03 | -6.035e-02 | 5.774e-02  | 0.965 | 0.000 | 108 |
| methanol        | 3.735e-01  | -5.368e-01 | 1.284e+00  | 0.415 | 0.012 | 58 | -2.691e-02 | -5.445e-02 | 6.324e-04  | 0.055 | 0.034 | 108 |
| methionine      | 3.967e-01  | -2.795e-01 | 1.073e+00  | 0.245 | 0.024 | 58 | -3.037e-03 | -2.659e-02 | 2.052e-02  | 0.799 | 0.001 | 108 |
| methylamine     | 1.360e-02  | -1.365e-01 | 1.637e-01  | 0.855 | 0.001 | 33 | -6.268e-03 | -1.048e-02 | -2.060e-03 | 0.004 | 0.122 | 66  |
| methylhistidine | 2.787e-01  | -2.695e-01 | 8.270e-01  | 0.309 | 0.029 | 38 | -9.409e-03 | -2.858e-02 | 9.762e-03  | 0.330 | 0.016 | 61  |
| myoinositol     | 3.678e+00  | -1.397e+00 | 8.754e+00  | 0.137 | 0.207 | 12 | 8.926e-02  | -4.544e-02 | 2.240e-01  | 0.184 | 0.069 | 27  |
| pcresol         | -6.843e-02 | -1.865e-01 | 4.968e-02  | 0.222 | 0.160 | 11 | -7.982e-04 | -6.064e-03 | 4.468e-03  | 0.750 | 0.007 | 16  |
| phenylacetate   | 2.234e-01  | -5.807e-01 | 1.027e+00  | 0.570 | 0.016 | 23 | -2.125e-07 | -2.353e-02 | 2.353e-02  | 1.000 | 0.000 | 36  |
| phenylalanine   | 8.285e-01  | -2.363e-01 | 1.893e+00  | 0.125 | 0.042 | 58 | -4.288e-03 | -3.826e-02 | 2.969e-02  | 0.803 | 0.001 | 107 |
| proline         | -6.258e+00 | -1.120e+01 | -1.312e+00 | 0.019 | 0.516 | 10 | 3.407e-02  | -1.190e-01 | 1.872e-01  | 0.646 | 0.012 | 20  |
| propyleneglycol | -7.793e-01 | -2.473e+00 | 9.140e-01  | 0.360 | 0.016 | 56 | 9.541e-02  | -3.087e-03 | 1.939e-01  | 0.057 | 0.035 | 103 |
| putrescine      | -3.272e-01 | -9.277e-01 | 2.732e-01  | 0.271 | 0.052 | 25 | 1.001e-02  | -1.623e-02 | 3.625e-02  | 0.447 | 0.012 | 49  |
| pyroglutamate   | 1.646e+00  | -1.827e+00 | 5.118e+00  | 0.312 | 0.113 | 11 | -6.157e-02 | -1.368e-01 | 1.362e-02  | 0.104 | 0.102 | 27  |
| pyruvate        | 5.186e-01  | -8.584e-01 | 1.896e+00  | 0.454 | 0.010 | 58 | 3.360e-02  | -2.623e-02 | 9.343e-02  | 0.268 | 0.012 | 107 |
| serine          | 7.821e-01  | -1.723e+00 | 3.287e+00  | 0.531 | 0.011 | 38 | 2.261e-02  | -5.606e-02 | 1.013e-01  | 0.568 | 0.005 | 63  |
| taurine         | -4.608e-01 | -1.299e+00 | 3.769e-01  | 0.269 | 0.043 | 30 | -1.027e-02 | -4.633e-02 | 2.578e-02  | 0.571 | 0.006 | 59  |
| threonine       | 6.243e-01  | -8.660e-01 | 2.115e+00  | 0.404 | 0.014 | 51 | -1.658e-02 | -7.256e-02 | 3.941e-02  | 0.558 | 0.004 | 99  |
| trimethylamine  | 8.081e-02  | -7.851e-02 | 2.401e-01  | 0.313 | 0.022 | 49 | 2.988e-03  | -2.283e-03 | 8.260e-03  | 0.263 | 0.013 | 96  |
| tryptophan      | 3.690e-02  | -5.711e-02 | 1.309e-01  | 0.436 | 0.009 | 70 | -4.276e-03 | -7.567e-03 | -9.854e-04 | 0.011 | 0.049 | 129 |
| tyrosine        | 6.215e-01  | -3.456e-01 | 1.589e+00  | 0.203 | 0.029 | 58 | -4.532e-03 | -3.846e-02 | 2.939e-02  | 0.792 | 0.001 | 107 |
| uracil          | 2.606e-01  | -4.967e-01 | 1.018e+00  | 0.493 | 0.009 | 57 | 1.865e-03  | -2.179e-02 | 2.552e-02  | 0.876 | 0.000 | 104 |
| valine          | 1.044e+00  | -5.421e-01 | 2.629e+00  | 0.193 | 0.030 | 58 | 1.480e-02  | -4.268e-02 | 7.228e-02  | 0.611 | 0.002 | 108 |
| xanthine        | 4.437e-02  | -1.868e-01 | 2.755e-01  | 0.698 | 0.005 | 32 | -2.496e-03 | -1.075e-02 | 5.755e-03  | 0.548 | 0.005 | 68  |
| lactate         | -4.110e+00 | -9.293e+00 | 1.074e+00  | 0.118 | 0.038 | 66 | 1.239e-01  | -1.485e-01 | 3.964e-01  | 0.370 | 0.007 | 122 |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by 10<sup>-1</sup> or 1.23 X 10<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table 3.11 Linear regression results assessing *X to M* and *M to Y* associations with maternal atopy as the exposure (X), individual female infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (M), and female infant socio-emotional scores at 1 year as the outcome (Y).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Combined Maternal Atopy (X) and each Metabolite (M) |              |           |         |                |    | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite (M) and Female Infant Socio-emotional Scores at 1 Year |              |           |         |                |     |
|----------------------|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----|---|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|-----|
|                      | <i>X -&gt; M</i>   |              |           |         |                |    | <i>M -&gt; Y</i>  |              |           |         |                |     |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N  | $\beta$ -coefficient  | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   |
| formate              | -3.506e+00   | -8.009e+00   | 9.962e-01 | 0.124   | 0.049          | 50 | 4.392e-02   | -3.804e-02   | 1.259e-01 | 0.290   | 0.011          | 102 |
| acetate              | 3.724e+01  | 1.439e+00    | 7.304e+01 | 0.042   | 0.070          | 60 | 3.958e-01   | -4.113e-01   | 1.203e+00 | 0.334   | 0.007          | 127 |
| butyrate             | 3.303e+00  | -1.248e+00   | 7.854e+00 | 0.152   | 0.035          | 60 | 3.146e-02   | -8.106e-02   | 1.440e-01 | 0.581   | 0.002          | 127 |
| propionate           | 6.147e+00  | -2.057e+00   | 1.435e+01 | 0.139   | 0.037          | 60 | 7.087e-02   | -1.337e-01   | 2.754e-01 | 0.494   | 0.004          | 127 |
| valerate             | 6.875e-01  | -4.973e-01   | 1.872e+00 | 0.250   | 0.023          | 60 | -1.501e-02  | -4.151e-02   | 1.149e-02 | 0.264   | 0.010          | 127 |
| isobutyrate          | 4.202e-01  | -1.381e-01   | 9.785e-01 | 0.137   | 0.038          | 60 | 1.205e-03   | -1.305e-02   | 1.546e-02 | 0.867   | 0.000          | 127 |
| isovalerate          | 7.670e-01  | -1.151e-01   | 1.649e+00 | 0.087   | 0.050          | 60 | -5.594e-03  | -2.584e-02   | 1.465e-02 | 0.585   | 0.002          | 127 |
| lactate              | -5.986e-01   | -1.139e+01   | 1.019e+01 | 0.912   | 0.000          | 56 | 1.987e-01   | -4.408e-03   | 4.018e-01 | 0.055   | 0.032          | 117 |
| succinate            | -4.268e+00   | -2.217e+01   | 1.364e+01 | 0.635   | 0.004          | 60 | -9.254e-02  | -4.361e-01   | 2.511e-01 | 0.595   | 0.002          | 127 |
| hydroxyglutarate     | 4.009e+00  | -3.535e+01   | 4.337e+01 | 0.419   | 0.626          | 3  | -2.743e-02  | -2.728e-01   | 2.180e-01 | 0.803   | 0.008          | 10  |
| aminobutyrate        | 9.195e-01  | -2.062e+00   | 3.901e+00 | 0.533   | 0.014          | 30 | 3.295e-02   | -3.643e-02   | 1.023e-01 | 0.344   | 0.019          | 48  |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 7.132e-02  | -2.742e-01   | 4.168e-01 | 0.677   | 0.005          | 34 | -7.428e-03  | -1.843e-02   | 3.573e-03 | 0.182   | 0.031          | 59  |
| aminopentanoate      | 6.610e-01  | -2.870e+00   | 4.192e+00 | 0.704   | 0.006          | 28 | 4.657e-02   | -3.795e-02   | 1.311e-01 | 0.274   | 0.024          | 51  |
| acetoin              | 1.101e+00  | -8.387e-01   | 3.041e+00 | 0.253   | 0.054          | 26 | 2.615e-02   | -1.941e-02   | 7.171e-02 | 0.253   | 0.030          | 45  |
| alanine              | 1.567e+00  | -2.328e+00   | 5.462e+00 | 0.423   | 0.013          | 50 | 6.334e-02   | -4.544e-02   | 1.721e-01 | 0.251   | 0.013          | 102 |
| aspartate            | 1.551e+00  | -3.199e-01   | 3.422e+00 | 0.102   | 0.056          | 49 | 1.222e-02   | -3.543e-02   | 5.988e-02 | 0.612   | 0.003          | 100 |
| betaalanine          | 2.634e-01  | -2.124e+00   | 2.651e+00 | 0.796   | 0.012          | 8  | -1.857e-02  | -6.440e-02   | 2.726e-02 | 0.401   | 0.047          | 17  |
| cadaverine           | -2.279e+00   | -5.943e+00   | 1.385e+00 | 0.214   | 0.048          | 34 | 6.409e-02   | -2.797e-02   | 1.562e-01 | 0.169   | 0.031          | 63  |
| choline              | -1.756e-01   | -5.535e-01   | 2.022e-01 | 0.354   | 0.019          | 47 | 1.034e-02   | 2.191e-03    | 1.848e-02 | 0.013   | 0.063          | 97  |
| creatine             | 1.224e-01  | -2.936e-01   | 5.384e-01 | 0.556   | 0.008          | 46 | 6.530e-04   | -8.457e-03   | 9.763e-03 | 0.887   | 0.000          | 96  |
| creatinine           | 6.272e-02  | -2.552e-01   | 3.807e-01 | 0.693   | 0.003          | 49 | 4.741e-03   | -2.821e-03   | 1.230e-02 | 0.216   | 0.016          | 100 |
| dimethylamine        | 6.412e-03  | -8.253e-02   | 9.535e-02 | 0.884   | 0.001          | 33 | 1.758e-03   | -4.523e-04   | 3.969e-03 | 0.117   | 0.040          | 62  |
| ethanol              | 5.814e-01  | -2.446e+00   | 3.608e+00 | 0.700   | 0.003          | 45 | 4.805e-02   | -2.954e-02   | 1.256e-01 | 0.222   | 0.017          | 91  |
| fucose               | 3.084e+00  | -1.300e+01   | 1.916e+01 | 0.699   | 0.005          | 34 | 1.051e-02   | -3.080e-01   | 3.290e-01 | 0.948   | 0.000          | 60  |
| fumarate             | 2.112e-01  | -9.929e-02   | 5.217e-01 | 0.178   | 0.038          | 49 | -7.221e-04  | -9.583e-03   | 8.139e-03 | 0.872   | 0.000          | 100 |
| galactose            | 2.586e+00  | -3.293e+00   | 8.466e+00 | 0.378   | 0.022          | 37 | -2.793e-02  | -1.629e-01   | 1.070e-01 | 0.681   | 0.003          | 67  |
| glucose              | 3.741e+00  | -1.568e+00   | 9.050e+00 | 0.163   | 0.040          | 50 | 8.060e-02   | -2.605e-02   | 1.873e-01 | 0.137   | 0.022          | 102 |
| glutamate            | -3.551e+00   | -1.539e+01   | 8.290e+00 | 0.549   | 0.008          | 47 | -1.882e-01  | -4.354e-01   | 5.891e-02 | 0.134   | 0.023          | 98  |
| glycerol             | -1.009e+00   | -2.028e+00   | 9.487e-03 | 0.052   | 0.104          | 37 | -1.615e-02  | -6.196e-02   | 2.967e-02 | 0.484   | 0.008          | 67  |
| glycine              | -1.073e+00   | -3.939e+00   | 1.794e+00 | 0.455   | 0.012          | 49 | 3.150e-02   | -3.442e-02   | 9.742e-02 | 0.345   | 0.009          | 100 |

|                 |            |            |           |       |        |    |            |            |           |       |       |     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|--------|----|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| histidine       | 3.354e-01  | -6.944e-01 | 1.365e+00 | 0.506 | 0.021  | 23 | -1.737e-02 | -3.697e-02 | 2.224e-03 | 0.081 | 0.052 | 59  |
| hypoxanthine    | 1.781e+00  | -2.021e-01 | 3.763e+00 | 0.074 | 0.262  | 13 | 1.394e-03  | -2.952e-02 | 3.231e-02 | 0.927 | 0.000 | 34  |
| isoleucine      | 1.183e+00  | -1.975e-01 | 2.564e+00 | 0.091 | 0.058  | 50 | 2.607e-04  | -3.046e-02 | 3.098e-02 | 0.987 | 0.000 | 102 |
| leucine         | 1.722e+00  | -4.579e-01 | 3.902e+00 | 0.119 | 0.050  | 50 | -7.810e-03 | -5.593e-02 | 4.031e-02 | 0.748 | 0.001 | 102 |
| lysine          | 4.207e+00  | -3.400e+00 | 1.181e+01 | 0.267 | 0.044  | 30 | -5.860e-02 | -2.081e-01 | 9.091e-02 | 0.437 | 0.009 | 71  |
| malonate        | 1.642e+00  | -2.980e-02 | 3.313e+00 | 0.054 | 0.075  | 50 | 1.308e-02  | -3.382e-02 | 5.998e-02 | 0.581 | 0.003 | 102 |
| methanol        | -3.447e-01 | -1.175e+00 | 4.853e-01 | 0.408 | 0.014  | 50 | -1.377e-02 | -3.595e-02 | 8.418e-03 | 0.221 | 0.015 | 102 |
| methionine      | 8.509e-01  | 8.070e-02  | 1.621e+00 | 0.031 | 0.093  | 50 | 7.843e-03  | -1.031e-02 | 2.600e-02 | 0.394 | 0.007 | 102 |
| methylamine     | 9.349e-02  | -3.637e-03 | 1.906e-01 | 0.059 | 0.111  | 33 | -1.998e-04 | -3.728e-03 | 3.328e-03 | 0.910 | 0.000 | 62  |
| methylhistidine | -5.165e-01 | -1.158e+00 | 1.252e-01 | 0.109 | 0.118  | 23 | -3.149e-03 | -1.734e-02 | 1.104e-02 | 0.659 | 0.003 | 59  |
| myoinositol     | 6.275e-01  | -3.827e+00 | 5.082e+00 | 0.766 | 0.007  | 15 | -2.240e-02 | -1.236e-01 | 7.883e-02 | 0.652 | 0.009 | 26  |
| pcresol         | 8.620e-02  | 1.528e-02  | 1.571e-01 | 0.028 | -0.000 | 5  | 1.487e-03  | -2.832e-03 | 5.806e-03 | 0.470 | 0.041 | 15  |
| phenylacetate   | 3.252e-01  | -7.114e-01 | 1.362e+00 | 0.504 | 0.042  | 13 | -1.462e-02 | -3.244e-02 | 3.191e-03 | 0.104 | 0.080 | 34  |
| phenylalanine   | 6.326e-01  | -3.611e-01 | 1.626e+00 | 0.207 | 0.034  | 49 | 1.544e-02  | -1.150e-02 | 4.239e-02 | 0.258 | 0.013 | 101 |
| proline         | -1.945e+00 | -5.997e+00 | 2.106e+00 | 0.300 | 0.133  | 10 | 6.304e-02  | -5.797e-02 | 1.841e-01 | 0.288 | 0.062 | 20  |
| propyleneglycol | -1.519e+00 | -5.751e+00 | 2.713e+00 | 0.474 | 0.011  | 47 | 1.614e-02  | -6.123e-02 | 9.351e-02 | 0.680 | 0.002 | 99  |
| putrescine      | -3.414e-01 | -1.293e+00 | 6.102e-01 | 0.465 | 0.025  | 24 | 1.016e-02  | -1.118e-02 | 3.150e-02 | 0.342 | 0.021 | 45  |
| pyroglutamate   | 9.414e-02  | -1.399e+00 | 1.588e+00 | 0.894 | 0.001  | 16 | 1.116e-02  | -5.852e-02 | 8.084e-02 | 0.742 | 0.005 | 23  |
| pyruvate        | -1.385e+00 | -3.803e+00 | 1.033e+00 | 0.255 | 0.027  | 49 | 5.063e-03  | -4.303e-02 | 5.315e-02 | 0.835 | 0.000 | 101 |
| serine          | 1.956e-01  | -2.714e+00 | 3.105e+00 | 0.891 | 0.001  | 25 | -4.462e-02 | -1.078e-01 | 1.851e-02 | 0.163 | 0.033 | 61  |
| taurine         | 4.460e-01  | -6.107e-01 | 1.503e+00 | 0.394 | 0.027  | 29 | 3.975e-04  | -2.648e-02 | 2.727e-02 | 0.976 | 0.000 | 55  |
| threonine       | -5.166e-01 | -2.502e+00 | 1.469e+00 | 0.603 | 0.006  | 48 | 3.171e-03  | -4.314e-02 | 4.948e-02 | 0.892 | 0.000 | 93  |
| trimethylamine  | 6.871e-02  | -9.693e-02 | 2.343e-01 | 0.408 | 0.015  | 47 | -1.202e-03 | -5.325e-03 | 2.920e-03 | 0.564 | 0.004 | 90  |
| tryptophan      | 4.047e-02  | -7.020e-02 | 1.512e-01 | 0.467 | 0.009  | 59 | -6.666e-05 | -2.699e-03 | 2.566e-03 | 0.960 | 0.000 | 123 |
| tyrosine        | 9.168e-01  | -2.121e-01 | 2.046e+00 | 0.109 | 0.054  | 49 | 9.459e-03  | -1.760e-02 | 3.652e-02 | 0.490 | 0.005 | 101 |
| uracil          | 3.504e-01  | -3.760e-01 | 1.077e+00 | 0.336 | 0.021  | 47 | 5.816e-03  | -1.327e-02 | 2.490e-02 | 0.547 | 0.004 | 98  |
| valine          | 1.667e+00  | -3.273e-01 | 3.661e+00 | 0.099 | 0.056  | 50 | 4.666e-04  | -4.529e-02 | 4.622e-02 | 0.984 | 0.000 | 102 |
| xanthine        | 1.231e-01  | -1.333e-01 | 3.795e-01 | 0.336 | 0.027  | 36 | 4.818e-03  | -1.636e-03 | 1.127e-02 | 0.141 | 0.035 | 64  |
| lactate         | -5.986e-01 | -1.139e+01 | 1.019e+01 | 0.912 | 0.000  | 56 | 1.987e-01  | -4.408e-03 | 4.018e-01 | 0.055 | 0.032 | 117 |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by  $10^{-1}$  or  $1.23 \times 10^{-1}$ ).

**Table 3.12 Linear regression results assessing *X to M* and *M to Y* associations with maternal atopy as the exposure (X), individual female infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (M), and female infant socio-emotional scores at 2 years as the outcome (Y).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Combined Maternal Atopy (X) and each Metabolite (M) |              |           |         |                |    | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite (M) and Female Infant Socio-emotional Scores at 2 Years |              |           |         |                |     |
|----------------------|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|-----|
|                      | <i>X -&gt; M</i>   |              |           |         |                |    | <i>M -&gt; Y</i>   |              |           |         |                |     |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N  | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   |
| formate              | -3.506e+00   | -8.009e+00   | 9.962e-01 | 0.124   | 0.049          | 50 | 5.827e-02  | -9.795e-03   | 1.263e-01 | 0.093   | 0.027          | 106 |
| acetate              | 3.724e+01  | 1.439e+00    | 7.304e+01 | 0.042   | 0.070          | 60 | 2.098e-01  | -4.563e-01   | 8.760e-01 | 0.534   | 0.003          | 130 |
| butyrate             | 3.303e+00  | -1.248e+00   | 7.854e+00 | 0.152   | 0.035          | 60 | -3.333e-03   | -9.894e-02   | 9.227e-02 | 0.945   | 0.000          | 130 |
| propionate           | 6.147e+00  | -2.057e+00   | 1.435e+01 | 0.139   | 0.037          | 60 | -2.573e-02   | -1.978e-01   | 1.463e-01 | 0.768   | 0.001          | 130 |
| valerate             | 6.875e-01  | -4.973e-01   | 1.872e+00 | 0.250   | 0.023          | 60 | 4.746e-03  | -1.747e-02   | 2.697e-02 | 0.673   | 0.001          | 130 |
| isobutyrate          | 4.202e-01  | -1.381e-01   | 9.785e-01 | 0.137   | 0.038          | 60 | -5.899e-03   | -1.773e-02   | 5.927e-03 | 0.326   | 0.008          | 130 |
| isovalerate          | 7.670e-01  | -1.151e-01   | 1.649e+00 | 0.087   | 0.050          | 60 | -7.719e-03   | -2.453e-02   | 9.088e-03 | 0.365   | 0.006          | 130 |
| lactate              | -5.986e-01   | -1.139e+01   | 1.019e+01 | 0.912   | 0.000          | 56 | 1.801e-01  | 4.419e-03    | 3.559e-01 | 0.045   | 0.034          | 119 |
| succinate            | -4.268e+00   | -2.217e+01   | 1.364e+01 | 0.635   | 0.004          | 60 | 1.266e-01  | -1.758e-01   | 4.290e-01 | 0.409   | 0.005          | 130 |
| hydroxyglutarate     | 4.009e+00  | -3.535e+01   | 4.337e+01 | 0.419   | 0.626          | 3  | 6.575e-03  | -1.801e-01   | 1.933e-01 | 0.937   | 0.001          | 10  |
| aminobutyrate        | 9.195e-01  | -2.062e+00   | 3.901e+00 | 0.533   | 0.014          | 30 | 3.262e-02  | -2.409e-02   | 8.932e-02 | 0.253   | 0.027          | 50  |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 7.132e-02  | -2.742e-01   | 4.168e-01 | 0.677   | 0.005          | 34 | -1.467e-03   | -9.879e-03   | 6.944e-03 | 0.728   | 0.002          | 62  |
| aminopentanoate      | 6.610e-01  | -2.870e+00   | 4.192e+00 | 0.704   | 0.006          | 28 | 1.040e-02  | -6.018e-02   | 8.097e-02 | 0.769   | 0.002          | 54  |
| acetoin              | 1.101e+00  | -8.387e-01   | 3.041e+00 | 0.253   | 0.054          | 26 | 3.867e-02  | 1.077e-03    | 7.627e-02 | 0.044   | 0.091          | 45  |
| alanine              | 1.567e+00  | -2.328e+00   | 5.462e+00 | 0.423   | 0.013          | 50 | 8.113e-02  | -8.144e-03   | 1.704e-01 | 0.074   | 0.030          | 106 |
| aspartate            | 1.551e+00  | -3.199e-01   | 3.422e+00 | 0.102   | 0.056          | 49 | 1.838e-02  | -2.168e-02   | 5.845e-02 | 0.365   | 0.008          | 104 |
| betaalanine          | 2.634e-01  | -2.124e+00   | 2.651e+00 | 0.796   | 0.012          | 8  | 2.990e-04  | -2.795e-02   | 2.855e-02 | 0.982   | 0.000          | 17  |
| cadaverine           | -2.279e+00   | -5.943e+00   | 1.385e+00 | 0.214   | 0.048          | 34 | 3.888e-02  | -3.245e-02   | 1.102e-01 | 0.280   | 0.018          | 66  |
| choline              | -1.756e-01   | -5.535e-01   | 2.022e-01 | 0.354   | 0.019          | 47 | 3.919e-03  | -2.941e-03   | 1.078e-02 | 0.260   | 0.013          | 101 |
| creatine             | 1.224e-01  | -2.936e-01   | 5.384e-01 | 0.556   | 0.008          | 46 | 5.583e-03  | -1.994e-03   | 1.316e-02 | 0.147   | 0.021          | 100 |
| creatinine           | 6.272e-02  | -2.552e-01   | 3.807e-01 | 0.693   | 0.003          | 49 | 5.362e-03  | -1.229e-03   | 1.195e-02 | 0.110   | 0.025          | 104 |
| dimethylamine        | 6.412e-03  | -8.253e-02   | 9.535e-02 | 0.884   | 0.001          | 33 | 9.555e-04  | -8.315e-04   | 2.742e-03 | 0.289   | 0.018          | 64  |
| ethanol              | 5.814e-01  | -2.446e+00   | 3.608e+00 | 0.700   | 0.003          | 45 | 5.758e-02  | -7.611e-03   | 1.228e-01 | 0.083   | 0.032          | 95  |
| fucose               | 3.084e+00  | -1.300e+01   | 1.916e+01 | 0.699   | 0.005          | 34 | 3.079e-01  | 6.836e-02    | 5.475e-01 | 0.013   | 0.098          | 63  |
| fumarate             | 2.112e-01  | -9.929e-02   | 5.217e-01 | 0.178   | 0.038          | 49 | 1.052e-03  | -6.459e-03   | 8.562e-03 | 0.782   | 0.001          | 104 |
| galactose            | 2.586e+00  | -3.293e+00   | 8.466e+00 | 0.378   | 0.022          | 37 | 1.092e-01  | 4.231e-03    | 2.143e-01 | 0.042   | 0.060          | 70  |
| glucose              | 3.741e+00  | -1.568e+00   | 9.050e+00 | 0.163   | 0.040          | 50 | 6.563e-02  | -2.411e-02   | 1.554e-01 | 0.150   | 0.020          | 106 |
| glutamate            | -3.551e+00   | -1.539e+01   | 8.290e+00 | 0.549   | 0.008          | 47 | 6.823e-02  | -1.451e-01   | 2.816e-01 | 0.527   | 0.004          | 102 |
| glycerol             | -1.009e+00   | -2.028e+00   | 9.487e-03 | 0.052   | 0.104          | 37 | -2.276e-02   | -5.880e-02   | 1.328e-02 | 0.212   | 0.023          | 70  |
| glycine              | -1.073e+00   | -3.939e+00   | 1.794e+00 | 0.455   | 0.012          | 49 | 3.488e-02  | -2.062e-02   | 9.038e-02 | 0.215   | 0.015          | 104 |

|                 |            |            |           |       |        |    |            |            |           |       |       |     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|--------|----|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| histidine       | 3.354e-01  | -6.944e-01 | 1.365e+00 | 0.506 | 0.021  | 23 | -1.036e-02 | -2.667e-02 | 5.950e-03 | 0.209 | 0.028 | 59  |
| hypoxanthine    | 1.781e+00  | -2.021e-01 | 3.763e+00 | 0.074 | 0.262  | 13 | 9.666e-03  | -1.848e-02 | 3.782e-02 | 0.490 | 0.015 | 35  |
| isoleucine      | 1.183e+00  | -1.975e-01 | 2.564e+00 | 0.091 | 0.058  | 50 | 4.022e-03  | -2.063e-02 | 2.867e-02 | 0.747 | 0.001 | 106 |
| leucine         | 1.722e+00  | -4.579e-01 | 3.902e+00 | 0.119 | 0.050  | 50 | -7.568e-03 | -4.610e-02 | 3.096e-02 | 0.698 | 0.001 | 106 |
| lysine          | 4.207e+00  | -3.400e+00 | 1.181e+01 | 0.267 | 0.044  | 30 | -1.967e-02 | -1.631e-01 | 1.238e-01 | 0.785 | 0.001 | 74  |
| malonate        | 1.642e+00  | -2.980e-02 | 3.313e+00 | 0.054 | 0.075  | 50 | 1.684e-02  | -2.273e-02 | 5.640e-02 | 0.401 | 0.007 | 106 |
| methanol        | -3.447e-01 | -1.175e+00 | 4.853e-01 | 0.408 | 0.014  | 50 | 4.443e-03  | -1.434e-02 | 2.322e-02 | 0.640 | 0.002 | 106 |
| methionine      | 8.509e-01  | 8.070e-02  | 1.621e+00 | 0.031 | 0.093  | 50 | 5.447e-03  | -1.020e-02 | 2.110e-02 | 0.492 | 0.005 | 106 |
| methylamine     | 9.349e-02  | -3.637e-03 | 1.906e-01 | 0.059 | 0.111  | 33 | -2.003e-03 | -4.782e-03 | 7.753e-04 | 0.155 | 0.032 | 65  |
| methylhistidine | -5.165e-01 | -1.158e+00 | 1.252e-01 | 0.109 | 0.118  | 23 | -3.885e-03 | -1.612e-02 | 8.354e-03 | 0.528 | 0.007 | 59  |
| myoinositol     | 6.275e-01  | -3.827e+00 | 5.082e+00 | 0.766 | 0.007  | 15 | -1.783e-02 | -9.813e-02 | 6.248e-02 | 0.651 | 0.009 | 26  |
| pcresol         | 8.620e-02  | 1.528e-02  | 1.571e-01 | 0.028 | -0.000 | 5  | 3.201e-04  | -2.737e-03 | 3.377e-03 | 0.826 | 0.004 | 16  |
| phenylacetate   | 3.252e-01  | -7.114e-01 | 1.362e+00 | 0.504 | 0.042  | 13 | -1.577e-02 | -3.191e-02 | 3.757e-04 | 0.055 | 0.107 | 35  |
| phenylalanine   | 6.326e-01  | -3.611e-01 | 1.626e+00 | 0.207 | 0.034  | 49 | 1.118e-02  | -1.067e-02 | 3.304e-02 | 0.313 | 0.010 | 105 |
| proline         | -1.945e+00 | -5.997e+00 | 2.106e+00 | 0.300 | 0.133  | 10 | 7.059e-02  | -4.692e-02 | 1.881e-01 | 0.223 | 0.081 | 20  |
| propyleneglycol | -1.519e+00 | -5.751e+00 | 2.713e+00 | 0.474 | 0.011  | 47 | 2.811e-02  | -3.835e-02 | 9.458e-02 | 0.403 | 0.007 | 100 |
| putrescine      | -3.414e-01 | -1.293e+00 | 6.102e-01 | 0.465 | 0.025  | 24 | 3.045e-03  | -1.428e-02 | 2.037e-02 | 0.725 | 0.003 | 48  |
| pyroglutamate   | 9.414e-02  | -1.399e+00 | 1.588e+00 | 0.894 | 0.001  | 16 | -1.124e-02 | -5.952e-02 | 3.703e-02 | 0.635 | 0.010 | 26  |
| pyruvate        | -1.385e+00 | -3.803e+00 | 1.033e+00 | 0.255 | 0.027  | 49 | 1.096e-02  | -2.935e-02 | 5.128e-02 | 0.591 | 0.003 | 105 |
| serine          | 1.956e-01  | -2.714e+00 | 3.105e+00 | 0.891 | 0.001  | 25 | -2.400e-02 | -8.097e-02 | 3.297e-02 | 0.403 | 0.012 | 62  |
| taurine         | 4.460e-01  | -6.107e-01 | 1.503e+00 | 0.394 | 0.027  | 29 | 1.229e-02  | -8.142e-03 | 3.272e-02 | 0.233 | 0.025 | 58  |
| threonine       | -5.166e-01 | -2.502e+00 | 1.469e+00 | 0.603 | 0.006  | 48 | 9.455e-03  | -2.931e-02 | 4.822e-02 | 0.629 | 0.002 | 97  |
| trimethylamine  | 6.871e-02  | -9.693e-02 | 2.343e-01 | 0.408 | 0.015  | 47 | -2.564e-03 | -6.178e-03 | 1.050e-03 | 0.162 | 0.021 | 94  |
| tryptophan      | 4.047e-02  | -7.020e-02 | 1.512e-01 | 0.467 | 0.009  | 59 | -1.122e-03 | -3.319e-03 | 1.074e-03 | 0.314 | 0.008 | 126 |
| tyrosine        | 9.168e-01  | -2.121e-01 | 2.046e+00 | 0.109 | 0.054  | 49 | 3.266e-03  | -1.931e-02 | 2.585e-02 | 0.775 | 0.001 | 105 |
| uracil          | 3.504e-01  | -3.760e-01 | 1.077e+00 | 0.336 | 0.021  | 47 | 7.567e-03  | -8.635e-03 | 2.377e-02 | 0.356 | 0.009 | 102 |
| valine          | 1.667e+00  | -3.273e-01 | 3.661e+00 | 0.099 | 0.056  | 50 | 1.094e-02  | -2.477e-02 | 4.666e-02 | 0.545 | 0.004 | 106 |
| xanthine        | 1.231e-01  | -1.333e-01 | 3.795e-01 | 0.336 | 0.027  | 36 | 1.516e-03  | -3.814e-03 | 6.846e-03 | 0.572 | 0.005 | 67  |
| lactate         | -5.986e-01 | -1.139e+01 | 1.019e+01 | 0.912 | 0.000  | 56 | 1.801e-01  | 4.419e-03  | 3.559e-01 | 0.045 | 0.034 | 119 |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by 10<sup>-1</sup> or 1.23 X 10<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table 3.13 Linear regression results assessing *X* to *M* and *M* to *Y* associations with maternal asthma as the exposure (*X*), infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (*M*), and infant socio-emotional scores at 2 years as the outcome (*Y*).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Maternal Asthma ( <i>X</i> ) and each Metabolite ( <i>M</i> ) |              |           |         |                |     | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite ( <i>M</i> ) and Infant Socio-emotional Scores at 2 Years |              |           |         |                |     |
|----------------------|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|-----|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|-----|
|                      | <i>X</i> -> <i>M</i>   |              |           |         |                |     | <i>M</i> -> <i>Y</i>   |              |           |         |                |     |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   |
| formate              | -1.074e+00   | -3.570e+00   | 1.423e+00 | 0.396   | 0.007          | 108 | 5.827e-02  | -9.795e-03   | 1.263e-01 | 0.093   | 0.027          | 106 |
| acetate              | 6.473e+00  | -1.861e+01   | 3.156e+01 | 0.611   | 0.002          | 133 | 2.098e-01  | -4.563e-01   | 8.760e-01 | 0.534   | 0.003          | 130 |
| butyrate             | 1.518e+00  | -2.023e+00   | 5.060e+00 | 0.398   | 0.005          | 133 | -3.333e-03   | -9.894e-02   | 9.227e-02 | 0.945   | 0.000          | 130 |
| propionate           | 2.308e+00  | -4.057e+00   | 8.673e+00 | 0.475   | 0.004          | 133 | -2.573e-02   | -1.978e-01   | 1.463e-01 | 0.768   | 0.001          | 130 |
| valerate             | -3.264e-01   | -1.149e+00   | 4.962e-01 | 0.434   | 0.005          | 133 | 4.746e-03  | -1.747e-02   | 2.697e-02 | 0.673   | 0.001          | 130 |
| isobutyrate          | 3.251e-02  | -4.082e-01   | 4.732e-01 | 0.884   | 0.000          | 133 | -5.899e-03   | -1.773e-02   | 5.927e-03 | 0.326   | 0.008          | 130 |
| isovalerate          | -2.163e-02   | -6.493e-01   | 6.061e-01 | 0.946   | 0.000          | 133 | -7.719e-03   | -2.453e-02   | 9.088e-03 | 0.365   | 0.006          | 130 |
| lactate              | -2.041e+00   | -8.388e+00   | 4.305e+00 | 0.525   | 0.003          | 122 | 1.801e-01  | 4.419e-03    | 3.559e-01 | 0.045   | 0.034          | 119 |
| succinate            | -8.779e-01   | -1.213e+01   | 1.038e+01 | 0.878   | 0.000          | 133 | 1.266e-01  | -1.758e-01   | 4.290e-01 | 0.409   | 0.005          | 130 |
| hydroxyglutarate     | -1.538e+00   | -8.863e+00   | 5.788e+00 | 0.646   | 0.024          | 11  | 6.575e-03  | -1.801e-01   | 1.933e-01 | 0.937   | 0.001          | 10  |
| aminobutyrate        | 2.575e+00  | 6.165e-01    | 4.534e+00 | 0.011   | 0.125          | 51  | 3.262e-02  | -2.409e-02   | 8.932e-02 | 0.253   | 0.027          | 50  |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 2.289e-02  | -2.650e-01   | 3.107e-01 | 0.874   | 0.000          | 63  | -1.467e-03   | -9.879e-03   | 6.944e-03 | 0.728   | 0.002          | 62  |
| aminopentanoate      | 6.157e-01  | -1.923e+00   | 3.155e+00 | 0.629   | 0.004          | 55  | 1.040e-02  | -6.018e-02   | 8.097e-02 | 0.769   | 0.002          | 54  |
| acetoin              | 4.142e-02  | -1.248e+00   | 1.331e+00 | 0.949   | 0.000          | 46  | 3.867e-02  | 1.077e-03    | 7.627e-02 | 0.044   | 0.091          | 45  |
| alanine              | 3.113e-01  | -3.030e+00   | 3.653e+00 | 0.854   | 0.000          | 108 | 8.113e-02  | -8.144e-03   | 1.704e-01 | 0.074   | 0.030          | 106 |
| aspartate            | 1.396e-01  | -1.326e+00   | 1.606e+00 | 0.851   | 0.000          | 106 | 1.838e-02  | -2.168e-02   | 5.845e-02 | 0.365   | 0.008          | 104 |
| betaalanine          | -3.645e-01   | -1.177e+00   | 4.485e-01 | 0.356   | 0.053          | 18  | 2.990e-04  | -2.795e-02   | 2.855e-02 | 0.982   | 0.000          | 17  |
| cadaverine           | -2.036e+00   | -4.732e+00   | 6.605e-01 | 0.136   | 0.034          | 67  | 3.888e-02  | -3.245e-02   | 1.102e-01 | 0.280   | 0.018          | 66  |
| choline              | -2.011e-01   | -4.499e-01   | 4.773e-02 | 0.112   | 0.025          | 103 | 3.919e-03  | -2.941e-03   | 1.078e-02 | 0.260   | 0.013          | 101 |
| creatine             | -1.062e-01   | -3.830e-01   | 1.705e-01 | 0.448   | 0.006          | 102 | 5.583e-03  | -1.994e-03   | 1.316e-02 | 0.147   | 0.021          | 100 |
| creatinine           | -1.082e-01   | -3.490e-01   | 1.327e-01 | 0.375   | 0.008          | 106 | 5.362e-03  | -1.229e-03   | 1.195e-02 | 0.110   | 0.025          | 104 |
| dimethylamine        | 6.531e-02  | 1.042e-03    | 1.296e-01 | 0.047   | 0.061          | 65  | 9.555e-04  | -8.315e-04   | 2.742e-03 | 0.289   | 0.018          | 64  |
| ethanol              | -6.448e-01   | -3.064e+00   | 1.774e+00 | 0.598   | 0.003          | 97  | 5.758e-02  | -7.611e-03   | 1.228e-01 | 0.083   | 0.032          | 95  |
| fucose               | -2.620e+00   | -1.206e+01   | 6.822e+00 | 0.581   | 0.005          | 64  | 3.079e-01  | 6.836e-02    | 5.475e-01 | 0.013   | 0.098          | 63  |
| fumarate             | 2.934e-02  | -2.436e-01   | 3.023e-01 | 0.832   | 0.000          | 106 | 1.052e-03  | -6.459e-03   | 8.562e-03 | 0.782   | 0.001          | 104 |
| galactose            | -8.113e-01   | -4.696e+00   | 3.074e+00 | 0.678   | 0.003          | 71  | 1.092e-01  | 4.231e-03    | 2.143e-01 | 0.042   | 0.060          | 70  |
| glucose              | -2.736e-01   | -3.568e+00   | 3.021e+00 | 0.870   | 0.000          | 108 | 6.563e-02  | -2.411e-02   | 1.554e-01 | 0.150   | 0.020          | 106 |
| glutamate            | 1.850e+00  | -5.996e+00   | 9.696e+00 | 0.641   | 0.002          | 104 | 6.823e-02  | -1.451e-01   | 2.816e-01 | 0.527   | 0.004          | 102 |
| glycerol             | 2.429e-01  | -1.077e+00   | 1.563e+00 | 0.715   | 0.002          | 71  | -2.276e-02   | -5.880e-02   | 1.328e-02 | 0.212   | 0.023          | 70  |
| glycine              | 2.024e-01  | -1.864e+00   | 2.268e+00 | 0.846   | 0.000          | 106 | 3.488e-02  | -2.062e-02   | 9.038e-02 | 0.215   | 0.015          | 104 |



|                 |            |            |           |       |       |     |            |            |           |       |       |     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| histidine       | 1.917e-01  | -4.809e-01 | 8.644e-01 | 0.571 | 0.005 | 61  | -1.036e-02 | -2.667e-02 | 5.950e-03 | 0.209 | 0.028 | 59  |
| hypoxanthine    | 1.650e-01  | -8.724e-01 | 1.202e+00 | 0.748 | 0.003 | 36  | 9.666e-03  | -1.848e-02 | 3.782e-02 | 0.490 | 0.015 | 35  |
| isoleucine      | -2.180e-01 | -1.171e+00 | 7.347e-01 | 0.651 | 0.002 | 108 | 4.022e-03  | -2.063e-02 | 2.867e-02 | 0.747 | 0.001 | 106 |
| leucine         | -4.329e-01 | -1.899e+00 | 1.033e+00 | 0.560 | 0.003 | 108 | -7.568e-03 | -4.610e-02 | 3.096e-02 | 0.698 | 0.001 | 106 |
| lysine          | 1.666e+00  | -3.161e+00 | 6.494e+00 | 0.494 | 0.006 | 76  | -1.967e-02 | -1.631e-01 | 1.238e-01 | 0.785 | 0.001 | 74  |
| malonate        | 4.796e-01  | -9.584e-01 | 1.918e+00 | 0.510 | 0.004 | 108 | 1.684e-02  | -2.273e-02 | 5.640e-02 | 0.401 | 0.007 | 106 |
| methanol        | 5.979e-01  | -7.617e-02 | 1.272e+00 | 0.082 | 0.028 | 108 | 4.443e-03  | -1.434e-02 | 2.322e-02 | 0.640 | 0.002 | 106 |
| methionine      | -4.883e-02 | -6.237e-01 | 5.261e-01 | 0.867 | 0.000 | 108 | 5.447e-03  | -1.020e-02 | 2.110e-02 | 0.492 | 0.005 | 106 |
| methylamine     | 2.134e-02  | -7.882e-02 | 1.215e-01 | 0.672 | 0.003 | 66  | -2.003e-03 | -4.782e-03 | 7.753e-04 | 0.155 | 0.032 | 65  |
| methylhistidine | 1.613e-01  | -3.135e-01 | 6.362e-01 | 0.499 | 0.008 | 61  | -3.885e-03 | -1.612e-02 | 8.354e-03 | 0.528 | 0.007 | 59  |
| myoinositol     | 1.305e+00  | -2.247e+00 | 4.858e+00 | 0.456 | 0.022 | 27  | -1.783e-02 | -9.813e-02 | 6.248e-02 | 0.651 | 0.009 | 26  |
| pcresol         | -6.723e-02 | -1.989e-01 | 6.447e-02 | 0.292 | 0.079 | 16  | 3.201e-04  | -2.737e-03 | 3.377e-03 | 0.826 | 0.004 | 16  |
| phenylacetate   | 2.889e-01  | -3.243e-01 | 9.021e-01 | 0.345 | 0.026 | 36  | -1.577e-02 | -3.191e-02 | 3.757e-04 | 0.055 | 0.107 | 35  |
| phenylalanine   | 3.910e-01  | -4.262e-01 | 1.208e+00 | 0.345 | 0.008 | 107 | 1.118e-02  | -1.067e-02 | 3.304e-02 | 0.313 | 0.010 | 105 |
| proline         | -1.052e+00 | -4.679e+00 | 2.575e+00 | 0.550 | 0.020 | 20  | 7.059e-02  | -4.692e-02 | 1.881e-01 | 0.223 | 0.081 | 20  |
| propyleneglycol | 1.677e-01  | -2.287e+00 | 2.623e+00 | 0.892 | 0.000 | 103 | 2.811e-02  | -3.835e-02 | 9.458e-02 | 0.403 | 0.007 | 100 |
| putrescine      | -2.474e-01 | -8.409e-01 | 3.461e-01 | 0.406 | 0.015 | 49  | 3.045e-03  | -1.428e-02 | 2.037e-02 | 0.725 | 0.003 | 48  |
| pyroglutamate   | -4.428e-01 | -2.588e+00 | 1.703e+00 | 0.674 | 0.007 | 27  | -1.124e-02 | -5.952e-02 | 3.703e-02 | 0.635 | 0.010 | 26  |
| pyruvate        | -3.862e-01 | -1.854e+00 | 1.082e+00 | 0.603 | 0.003 | 107 | 1.096e-02  | -2.935e-02 | 5.128e-02 | 0.591 | 0.003 | 105 |
| serine          | 1.041e-01  | -1.956e+00 | 2.165e+00 | 0.920 | 0.000 | 63  | -2.400e-02 | -8.097e-02 | 3.297e-02 | 0.403 | 0.012 | 62  |
| taurine         | -6.365e-01 | -1.393e+00 | 1.198e-01 | 0.097 | 0.047 | 59  | 1.229e-02  | -8.142e-03 | 3.272e-02 | 0.233 | 0.025 | 58  |
| threonine       | 4.737e-01  | -8.979e-01 | 1.845e+00 | 0.495 | 0.005 | 99  | 9.455e-03  | -2.931e-02 | 4.822e-02 | 0.629 | 0.002 | 97  |
| trimethylamine  | 1.954e-02  | -1.055e-01 | 1.445e-01 | 0.757 | 0.001 | 96  | -2.564e-03 | -6.178e-03 | 1.050e-03 | 0.162 | 0.021 | 94  |
| tryptophan      | -4.370e-03 | -8.754e-02 | 7.880e-02 | 0.917 | 0.000 | 129 | -1.122e-03 | -3.319e-03 | 1.074e-03 | 0.314 | 0.008 | 126 |
| tyrosine        | 2.793e-01  | -5.384e-01 | 1.097e+00 | 0.500 | 0.004 | 107 | 3.266e-03  | -1.931e-02 | 2.585e-02 | 0.775 | 0.001 | 105 |
| uracil          | 2.515e-01  | -3.266e-01 | 8.296e-01 | 0.390 | 0.007 | 104 | 7.567e-03  | -8.635e-03 | 2.377e-02 | 0.356 | 0.009 | 102 |
| valine          | -2.556e-02 | -1.430e+00 | 1.379e+00 | 0.971 | 0.000 | 108 | 1.094e-02  | -2.477e-02 | 4.666e-02 | 0.545 | 0.004 | 106 |
| xanthine        | 1.092e-01  | -8.443e-02 | 3.029e-01 | 0.264 | 0.019 | 68  | 1.516e-03  | -3.814e-03 | 6.846e-03 | 0.572 | 0.005 | 67  |
| lactate         | -2.041e+00 | -8.388e+00 | 4.305e+00 | 0.525 | 0.003 | 122 | 1.801e-01  | 4.419e-03  | 3.559e-01 | 0.045 | 0.034 | 119 |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by  $10^{-1}$  or  $1.23 \times 10^{-1}$ ).

**Table 3.14 Linear regression results assessing *X to M* and *M to Y* associations with maternal asthma as the exposure (X), individual male infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (M), and male infant language scores at 1 year as the outcome (Y).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Maternal Asthma (X) and each Metabolite (M) |                  |                  |              |                |           | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite (M) and Male Infant Language Scores at 1 Year |                  |                  |              |                |           |
|----------------------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|--|------------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
|                      | <i>X -&gt; M</i>   |                  |                  |              |                |           | <i>M -&gt; Y</i>   |                  |                  |              |                |           |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ]     |                  | p-value      | R <sup>2</sup> | N         | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ]     |                  | p-value      | R <sup>2</sup> | N         |
| formate              | -6.654e-01   | -2.045e+00       | 7.138e-01        | 0.338        | 0.016          | 58        | -7.057e-04   | -9.139e-02       | 8.998e-02        | 0.988        | 0.000          | 108       |
| acetate              | 2.059e+01  | -8.071e+00       | 4.926e+01        | 0.156        | 0.028          | 73        | 7.563e-01  | -8.836e-02       | 1.601e+00        | 0.079        | 0.023          | 133       |
| butyrate             | 1.652e+00  | -2.915e+00       | 6.219e+00        | 0.473        | 0.007          | 73        | 8.193e-03  | -1.127e-01       | 1.291e-01        | 0.894        | 0.000          | 133       |
| propionate           | 7.212e+00  | -9.415e-01       | 1.537e+01        | 0.082        | 0.042          | 73        | 5.708e-02  | -1.598e-01       | 2.739e-01        | 0.603        | 0.002          | 133       |
| valerate             | -5.974e-02   | -1.035e+00       | 9.159e-01        | 0.903        | 0.000          | 73        | 1.308e-02  | -1.489e-02       | 4.105e-02        | 0.357        | 0.006          | 133       |
| isobutyrate          | 2.146e-01  | -3.622e-01       | 7.914e-01        | 0.461        | 0.008          | 73        | -5.313e-03   | -2.029e-02       | 9.659e-03        | 0.484        | 0.004          | 133       |
| isovalerate          | 4.663e-01  | -2.717e-01       | 1.204e+00        | 0.212        | 0.022          | 73        | 5.331e-03  | -1.601e-02       | 2.668e-02        | 0.622        | 0.002          | 133       |
| lactate              | -1.918e+00   | -7.399e+00       | 3.562e+00        | 0.487        | 0.008          | 66        | 9.732e-02  | -1.252e-01       | 3.199e-01        | 0.388        | 0.006          | 122       |
| succinate            | 6.317e+00  | -4.850e+00       | 1.748e+01        | 0.263        | 0.018          | 73        | 2.486e-01  | -1.320e-01       | 6.293e-01        | 0.199        | 0.013          | 133       |
| hydroxyglutarate     | -2.079e+00   | -1.257e+01       | 8.407e+00        | 0.645        | 0.038          | 8         | 4.823e-02  | -2.521e-01       | 3.485e-01        | 0.725        | 0.014          | 11        |
| aminobutyrate        | 5.647e-01  | -4.396e-01       | 1.569e+00        | 0.254        | 0.068          | 21        | 2.570e-04  | -7.289e-02       | 7.341e-02        | 0.994        | 0.000          | 51        |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 2.323e-01  | -2.376e-01       | 7.023e-01        | 0.319        | 0.037          | 29        | 1.097e-02  | 4.148e-04        | 2.153e-02        | 0.042        | 0.066          | 63        |
| aminopentanoate      | -1.948e+00   | -5.385e+00       | 1.489e+00        | 0.254        | 0.052          | 27        | 7.908e-02  | -1.038e-02       | 1.685e-01        | 0.082        | 0.056          | 55        |
| acetoin              | -1.446e-01   | -1.585e+00       | 1.296e+00        | 0.835        | 0.002          | 20        | -5.704e-03   | -6.274e-02       | 5.133e-02        | 0.841        | 0.001          | 46        |
| alanine              | 2.208e+00  | -2.534e+00       | 6.951e+00        | 0.355        | 0.015          | 58        | -1.002e-01   | -2.196e-01       | 1.919e-02        | 0.099        | 0.025          | 108       |
| aspartate            | 1.077e+00  | -8.210e-01       | 2.974e+00        | 0.260        | 0.023          | 57        | -4.086e-03   | -5.753e-02       | 4.936e-02        | 0.880        | 0.000          | 106       |
| betaalanine          | 1.096e-01  | -1.106e+00       | 1.325e+00        | 0.840        | 0.005          | 10        | 5.805e-03  | -2.603e-02       | 3.764e-02        | 0.704        | 0.009          | 18        |
| cadaverine           | -1.995e+00   | -5.658e+00       | 1.669e+00        | 0.275        | 0.038          | 33        | 7.846e-02  | -1.766e-02       | 1.746e-01        | 0.108        | 0.039          | 67        |
| choline              | -1.633e-01   | -4.598e-01       | 1.331e-01        | 0.274        | 0.022          | 56        | -1.442e-03   | -1.041e-02       | 7.526e-03        | 0.750        | 0.001          | 103       |
| creatine             | 8.509e-02  | -2.380e-01       | 4.081e-01        | 0.600        | 0.005          | 56        | 4.234e-03  | -5.752e-03       | 1.422e-02        | 0.402        | 0.007          | 102       |
| creatinine           | 3.661e-02  | -2.773e-01       | 3.506e-01        | 0.816        | 0.001          | 57        | -3.027e-03   | -1.178e-02       | 5.726e-03        | 0.494        | 0.005          | 106       |
| <b>dimethylamine</b> | <b>1.074e-01</b>   | <b>1.941e-02</b> | <b>1.954e-01</b> | <b>0.018</b> | <b>0.172</b>   | <b>32</b> | <b>4.216e-01</b>   | <b>1.958e-03</b> | <b>6.474e-03</b> | <b>0.000</b> | <b>0.181</b>   | <b>65</b> |
| ethanol              | -8.530e-01   | -4.151e+00       | 2.445e+00        | 0.606        | 0.005          | 52        | 5.906e-03  | -8.154e-02       | 9.336e-02        | 0.894        | 0.000          | 97        |
| fucose               | -1.378e-01   | -4.627e+00       | 4.352e+00        | 0.950        | 0.000          | 30        | -8.484e-02   | -4.300e-01       | 2.603e-01        | 0.625        | 0.004          | 64        |
| fumarate             | 1.498e-01  | -2.400e-01       | 5.396e-01        | 0.444        | 0.011          | 57        | 2.215e-03  | -7.727e-03       | 1.216e-02        | 0.660        | 0.002          | 106       |
| galactose            | -1.847e+00   | -5.803e+00       | 2.109e+00        | 0.349        | 0.027          | 34        | -1.019e-01   | -2.417e-01       | 3.792e-02        | 0.151        | 0.030          | 71        |
| glucose              | 1.004e+00  | -2.204e+00       | 4.211e+00        | 0.533        | 0.007          | 58        | 1.327e-02  | -1.059e-01       | 1.325e-01        | 0.826        | 0.000          | 108       |
| glutamate            | 6.313e+00  | -1.799e+00       | 1.443e+01        | 0.125        | 0.042          | 57        | -2.421e-02   | -3.000e-01       | 2.515e-01        | 0.862        | 0.000          | 104       |
| glycerol             | 9.812e-01  | -1.478e+00       | 3.441e+00        | 0.422        | 0.020          | 34        | -1.470e-02   | -6.286e-02       | 3.346e-02        | 0.545        | 0.005          | 71        |

|                      |                  |                  |                  |              |              |           |                   |                   |                  |              |              |            |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------|--------------|------------|
| glycine              | 1.781e+00        | -7.948e-01       | 4.357e+00        | 0.171        | 0.034        | 57        | 4.007e-03         | -7.069e-02        | 7.871e-02        | 0.915        | 0.000        | 106        |
| histidine            | 3.262e-01        | -4.407e-01       | 1.093e+00        | 0.394        | 0.020        | 38        | 5.547e-03         | -1.583e-02        | 2.693e-02        | 0.606        | 0.005        | 61         |
| hypoxanthine         | 3.218e-01        | -6.590e-01       | 1.303e+00        | 0.502        | 0.022        | 23        | 2.355e-02         | -1.293e-02        | 6.002e-02        | 0.198        | 0.048        | 36         |
| isoleucine           | 6.318e-01        | -4.670e-01       | 1.731e+00        | 0.254        | 0.023        | 58        | -1.511e-02        | -4.951e-02        | 1.928e-02        | 0.386        | 0.007        | 108        |
| leucine              | 6.563e-01        | -9.977e-01       | 2.310e+00        | 0.430        | 0.011        | 58        | -1.490e-02        | -6.798e-02        | 3.818e-02        | 0.579        | 0.003        | 108        |
| lysine               | 2.989e+00        | -2.456e+00       | 8.434e+00        | 0.275        | 0.027        | 46        | 4.234e-02         | -1.226e-01        | 2.073e-01        | 0.611        | 0.004        | 76         |
| malonate             | 7.649e-01        | -1.249e+00       | 2.779e+00        | 0.450        | 0.010        | 58        | 7.233e-03         | -4.490e-02        | 5.937e-02        | 0.784        | 0.001        | 108        |
| methanol             | 7.296e-01        | -2.066e-01       | 1.666e+00        | 0.124        | 0.042        | 58        | 1.157e-02         | -1.308e-02        | 3.623e-02        | 0.354        | 0.008        | 108        |
| methionine           | 4.302e-01        | -2.752e-01       | 1.136e+00        | 0.227        | 0.026        | 58        | -5.941e-03        | -2.672e-02        | 1.484e-02        | 0.572        | 0.003        | 108        |
| methylamine          | 2.672e-02        | -1.462e-01       | 1.996e-01        | 0.755        | 0.003        | 33        | 1.624e-03         | -2.097e-03        | 5.346e-03        | 0.386        | 0.012        | 66         |
| methylhistidine      | 2.125e-01        | -3.532e-01       | 7.781e-01        | 0.451        | 0.016        | 38        | -3.551e-03        | -1.867e-02        | 1.157e-02        | 0.640        | 0.004        | 61         |
| myoinositol          | -2.760e+00       | -9.089e+00       | 3.569e+00        | 0.354        | 0.086        | 12        | -1.067e-01        | -2.295e-01        | 1.603e-02        | 0.085        | 0.114        | 27         |
| pcesol               | 3.660e-02        | -1.849e-01       | 2.581e-01        | 0.717        | 0.015        | 11        | -6.260e-04        | -6.076e-03        | 4.824e-03        | 0.809        | 0.004        | 16         |
| phenylacetate        | 4.617e-01        | -2.367e-01       | 1.160e+00        | 0.184        | 0.083        | 23        | -2.281e-03        | -2.463e-02        | 2.006e-02        | 0.837        | 0.001        | 36         |
| <b>phenylalanine</b> | <b>1.187e+00</b> | <b>9.617e-02</b> | <b>2.277e+00</b> | <b>0.033</b> | <b>0.078</b> | <b>58</b> | <b>-2.717e-02</b> | <b>-2.170e-00</b> | <b>2.029e-03</b> | <b>0.068</b> | <b>0.031</b> | <b>107</b> |
| proline              | -2.602e+00       | -9.383e+00       | 4.178e+00        | 0.402        | 0.089        | 10        | -1.050e-01        | -2.554e-01        | 4.547e-02        | 0.160        | 0.107        | 20         |
| propyleneglycol      | -1.143e+00       | -2.916e+00       | 6.294e-01        | 0.202        | 0.030        | 56        | 2.918e-02         | -5.222e-02        | 1.106e-01        | 0.479        | 0.005        | 103        |
| putrescine           | 1.076e-01        | -5.638e-01       | 7.790e-01        | 0.743        | 0.005        | 25        | 9.885e-03         | -1.216e-02        | 3.193e-02        | 0.372        | 0.017        | 49         |
| pyroglutamate        | -5.158e-01       | -5.099e+00       | 4.067e+00        | 0.805        | 0.007        | 11        | -3.884e-02        | -9.737e-02        | 1.970e-02        | 0.184        | 0.070        | 27         |
| pyruvate             | -4.224e-01       | -1.863e+00       | 1.018e+00        | 0.559        | 0.006        | 58        | -1.391e-02        | -6.702e-02        | 3.920e-02        | 0.605        | 0.003        | 107        |
| serine               | 6.685e-01        | -1.936e+00       | 3.273e+00        | 0.606        | 0.007        | 38        | -1.549e-02        | -8.921e-02        | 5.823e-02        | 0.676        | 0.003        | 63         |
| taurine              | -7.069e-01       | -1.660e+00       | 2.467e-01        | 0.140        | 0.076        | 30        | 1.301e-03         | -2.558e-02        | 2.819e-02        | 0.923        | 0.000        | 59         |
| threonine            | 1.465e+00        | -5.236e-02       | 2.982e+00        | 0.058        | 0.071        | 51        | -3.274e-03        | -5.230e-02        | 4.575e-02        | 0.895        | 0.000        | 99         |
| trimethylamine       | 6.935e-02        | -9.790e-02       | 2.366e-01        | 0.408        | 0.015        | 49        | 6.286e-05         | -4.504e-03        | 4.629e-03        | 0.978        | 0.000        | 96         |
| tryptophan           | 4.098e-02        | -6.294e-02       | 1.449e-01        | 0.434        | 0.009        | 70        | 8.963e-04         | -1.861e-03        | 3.654e-03        | 0.521        | 0.003        | 129        |
| tyrosine             | 1.101e+00        | 1.201e-01        | 2.083e+00        | 0.029        | 0.083        | 58        | -3.192e-03        | -3.281e-02        | 2.643e-02        | 0.831        | 0.000        | 107        |
| uracil               | 7.340e-01        | -3.426e-02       | 1.502e+00        | 0.061        | 0.062        | 57        | 2.231e-03         | -1.910e-02        | 2.357e-02        | 0.836        | 0.000        | 104        |
| valine               | 1.258e+00        | -3.894e-01       | 2.905e+00        | 0.132        | 0.040        | 58        | -3.345e-02        | -8.388e-02        | 1.697e-02        | 0.191        | 0.016        | 108        |
| xanthine             | 6.871e-02        | -1.929e-01       | 3.303e-01        | 0.596        | 0.009        | 32        | 7.882e-04         | -6.188e-03        | 7.765e-03        | 0.822        | 0.001        | 68         |
| lactate              | -1.918e+00       | -7.399e+00       | 3.562e+00        | 0.487        | 0.008        | 66        | 9.732e-02         | -1.252e-01        | 3.199e-01        | 0.388        | 0.006        | 122        |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by 10<sup>-1</sup> or 1.23 X 10<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table 3.15 Linear regression results assessing *X* to *M* and *M* to *Y* associations with maternal asthma as the exposure (*X*), individual male infant gut metabolites as potential mediators (*M*), and male infant socio-emotional scores at 2 years as the outcome (*Y*).**

| Metabolites          | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Maternal Asthma ( <i>X</i> ) and each Metabolite ( <i>M</i> ) |              |           |         |                |    | Linear Regression Results of the Association between each Metabolite ( <i>M</i> ) and Male Infant Socio-emotional Scores at 2 Years |              |           |         |                |     |
|----------------------|--|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|----|---|--------------|-----------|---------|----------------|-----|
|                      | <i>X</i> -> <i>M</i>   |              |           |         |                |    | <i>M</i> -> <i>Y</i>  |              |           |         |                |     |
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N  | $\beta$ -coefficient  | [ 95% C.I. ] |           | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   |
| formate              | -6.654e-01   | -2.045e+00   | 7.138e-01 | 0.338   | 0.016          | 58 | 5.827e-02   | -9.795e-03   | 1.263e-01 | 0.093   | 0.027          | 106 |
| acetate              | 2.059e+01  | -8.071e+00   | 4.926e+01 | 0.156   | 0.028          | 73 | 2.098e-01   | -4.563e-01   | 8.760e-01 | 0.534   | 0.003          | 130 |
| butyrate             | 1.652e+00  | -2.915e+00   | 6.219e+00 | 0.473   | 0.007          | 73 | -3.333e-03  | -9.894e-02   | 9.227e-02 | 0.945   | 0.000          | 130 |
| propionate           | 7.212e+00  | -9.415e-01   | 1.537e+01 | 0.082   | 0.042          | 73 | -2.573e-02  | -1.978e-01   | 1.463e-01 | 0.768   | 0.001          | 130 |
| valerate             | -5.974e-02   | -1.035e+00   | 9.159e-01 | 0.903   | 0.000          | 73 | 4.746e-03   | -1.747e-02   | 2.697e-02 | 0.673   | 0.001          | 130 |
| isobutyrate          | 2.146e-01  | -3.622e-01   | 7.914e-01 | 0.461   | 0.008          | 73 | -5.899e-03  | -1.773e-02   | 5.927e-03 | 0.326   | 0.008          | 130 |
| isovalerate          | 4.663e-01  | -2.717e-01   | 1.204e+00 | 0.212   | 0.022          | 73 | -7.719e-03  | -2.453e-02   | 9.088e-03 | 0.365   | 0.006          | 130 |
| lactate              | -1.918e+00   | -7.399e+00   | 3.562e+00 | 0.487   | 0.008          | 66 | 1.801e-01   | 4.419e-03    | 3.559e-01 | 0.045   | 0.034          | 119 |
| succinate            | 6.317e+00  | -4.850e+00   | 1.748e+01 | 0.263   | 0.018          | 73 | 1.266e-01   | -1.758e-01   | 4.290e-01 | 0.409   | 0.005          | 130 |
| hydroxyglutarate     | -2.079e+00   | -1.257e+01   | 8.407e+00 | 0.645   | 0.038          | 8  | 6.575e-03   | -1.801e-01   | 1.933e-01 | 0.937   | 0.001          | 10  |
| aminobutyrate        | 5.647e-01  | -4.396e-01   | 1.569e+00 | 0.254   | 0.068          | 21 | 3.262e-02   | -2.409e-02   | 8.932e-02 | 0.253   | 0.027          | 50  |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 2.323e-01  | -2.376e-01   | 7.023e-01 | 0.319   | 0.037          | 29 | -1.467e-03  | -9.879e-03   | 6.944e-03 | 0.728   | 0.002          | 62  |
| aminopentanoate      | -1.948e+00   | -5.385e+00   | 1.489e+00 | 0.254   | 0.052          | 27 | 1.040e-02   | -6.018e-02   | 8.097e-02 | 0.769   | 0.002          | 54  |
| acetoin              | -1.446e-01   | -1.585e+00   | 1.296e+00 | 0.835   | 0.002          | 20 | 3.867e-02   | 1.077e-03    | 7.627e-02 | 0.044   | 0.091          | 45  |
| alanine              | 2.208e+00  | -2.534e+00   | 6.951e+00 | 0.355   | 0.015          | 58 | 8.113e-02   | -8.144e-03   | 1.704e-01 | 0.074   | 0.030          | 106 |
| aspartate            | 1.077e+00  | -8.210e-01   | 2.974e+00 | 0.260   | 0.023          | 57 | 1.838e-02   | -2.168e-02   | 5.845e-02 | 0.365   | 0.008          | 104 |
| betaalanine          | 1.096e-01  | -1.106e+00   | 1.325e+00 | 0.840   | 0.005          | 10 | 2.990e-04   | -2.795e-02   | 2.855e-02 | 0.982   | 0.000          | 17  |
| cadaverine           | -1.995e+00   | -5.658e+00   | 1.669e+00 | 0.275   | 0.038          | 33 | 3.888e-02   | -3.245e-02   | 1.102e-01 | 0.280   | 0.018          | 66  |
| choline              | -1.633e-01   | -4.598e-01   | 1.331e-01 | 0.274   | 0.022          | 56 | 3.919e-03   | -2.941e-03   | 1.078e-02 | 0.260   | 0.013          | 101 |
| creatine             | 8.509e-02  | -2.380e-01   | 4.081e-01 | 0.600   | 0.005          | 56 | 5.583e-03   | -1.994e-03   | 1.316e-02 | 0.147   | 0.021          | 100 |
| creatinine           | 3.661e-02  | -2.773e-01   | 3.506e-01 | 0.816   | 0.001          | 57 | 5.362e-03   | -1.229e-03   | 1.195e-02 | 0.110   | 0.025          | 104 |
| dimethylamine        | 1.074e-01  | 1.941e-02    | 1.954e-01 | 0.018   | 0.172          | 32 | 9.555e-04   | -8.315e-04   | 2.742e-03 | 0.289   | 0.018          | 64  |
| ethanol              | -8.530e-01   | -4.151e+00   | 2.445e+00 | 0.606   | 0.005          | 52 | 5.758e-02   | -7.611e-03   | 1.228e-01 | 0.083   | 0.032          | 95  |
| fucose               | -1.378e-01   | -4.627e+00   | 4.352e+00 | 0.950   | 0.000          | 30 | 3.079e-01   | 6.836e-02    | 5.475e-01 | 0.013   | 0.098          | 63  |
| fumarate             | 1.498e-01  | -2.400e-01   | 5.396e-01 | 0.444   | 0.011          | 57 | 1.052e-03   | -6.459e-03   | 8.562e-03 | 0.782   | 0.001          | 104 |
| galactose            | -1.847e+00   | -5.803e+00   | 2.109e+00 | 0.349   | 0.027          | 34 | 1.092e-01   | 4.231e-03    | 2.143e-01 | 0.042   | 0.060          | 70  |
| glucose              | 1.004e+00  | -2.204e+00   | 4.211e+00 | 0.533   | 0.007          | 58 | 6.563e-02   | -2.411e-02   | 1.554e-01 | 0.150   | 0.020          | 106 |
| glutamate            | 6.313e+00  | -1.799e+00   | 1.443e+01 | 0.125   | 0.042          | 57 | 6.823e-02   | -1.451e-01   | 2.816e-01 | 0.527   | 0.004          | 102 |
| glycerol             | 9.812e-01  | -1.478e+00   | 3.441e+00 | 0.422   | 0.020          | 34 | -2.276e-02  | -5.880e-02   | 1.328e-02 | 0.212   | 0.023          | 70  |
| glycine              | 1.781e+00  | -7.948e-01   | 4.357e+00 | 0.171   | 0.034          | 57 | 3.488e-02   | -2.062e-02   | 9.038e-02 | 0.215   | 0.015          | 104 |

|                 |            |            |           |       |       |    |            |            |           |       |       |     |
|-----------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|----|------------|------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----|
| histidine       | 3.262e-01  | -4.407e-01 | 1.093e+00 | 0.394 | 0.020 | 38 | -1.036e-02 | -2.667e-02 | 5.950e-03 | 0.209 | 0.028 | 59  |
| hypoxanthine    | 3.218e-01  | -6.590e-01 | 1.303e+00 | 0.502 | 0.022 | 23 | 9.666e-03  | -1.848e-02 | 3.782e-02 | 0.490 | 0.015 | 35  |
| isoleucine      | 6.318e-01  | -4.670e-01 | 1.731e+00 | 0.254 | 0.023 | 58 | 4.022e-03  | -2.063e-02 | 2.867e-02 | 0.747 | 0.001 | 106 |
| leucine         | 6.563e-01  | -9.977e-01 | 2.310e+00 | 0.430 | 0.011 | 58 | -7.568e-03 | -4.610e-02 | 3.096e-02 | 0.698 | 0.001 | 106 |
| lysine          | 2.989e+00  | -2.456e+00 | 8.434e+00 | 0.275 | 0.027 | 46 | -1.967e-02 | -1.631e-01 | 1.238e-01 | 0.785 | 0.001 | 74  |
| malonate        | 7.649e-01  | -1.249e+00 | 2.779e+00 | 0.450 | 0.010 | 58 | 1.684e-02  | -2.273e-02 | 5.640e-02 | 0.401 | 0.007 | 106 |
| methanol        | 7.296e-01  | -2.066e-01 | 1.666e+00 | 0.124 | 0.042 | 58 | 4.443e-03  | -1.434e-02 | 2.322e-02 | 0.640 | 0.002 | 106 |
| methionine      | 4.302e-01  | -2.752e-01 | 1.136e+00 | 0.227 | 0.026 | 58 | 5.447e-03  | -1.020e-02 | 2.110e-02 | 0.492 | 0.005 | 106 |
| methylamine     | 2.672e-02  | -1.462e-01 | 1.996e-01 | 0.755 | 0.003 | 33 | -2.003e-03 | -4.782e-03 | 7.753e-04 | 0.155 | 0.032 | 65  |
| methylhistidine | 2.125e-01  | -3.532e-01 | 7.781e-01 | 0.451 | 0.016 | 38 | -3.885e-03 | -1.612e-02 | 8.354e-03 | 0.528 | 0.007 | 59  |
| myoinositol     | -2.760e+00 | -9.089e+00 | 3.569e+00 | 0.354 | 0.086 | 12 | -1.783e-02 | -9.813e-02 | 6.248e-02 | 0.651 | 0.009 | 26  |
| pcresol         | 3.660e-02  | -1.849e-01 | 2.581e-01 | 0.717 | 0.015 | 11 | 3.201e-04  | -2.737e-03 | 3.377e-03 | 0.826 | 0.004 | 16  |
| phenylacetate   | 4.617e-01  | -2.367e-01 | 1.160e+00 | 0.184 | 0.083 | 23 | -1.577e-02 | -3.191e-02 | 3.757e-04 | 0.055 | 0.107 | 35  |
| phenylalanine   | 1.187e+00  | 9.617e-02  | 2.277e+00 | 0.033 | 0.078 | 58 | 1.118e-02  | -1.067e-02 | 3.304e-02 | 0.313 | 0.010 | 105 |
| proline         | -2.602e+00 | -9.383e+00 | 4.178e+00 | 0.402 | 0.089 | 10 | 7.059e-02  | -4.692e-02 | 1.881e-01 | 0.223 | 0.081 | 20  |
| propyleneglycol | -1.143e+00 | -2.916e+00 | 6.294e-01 | 0.202 | 0.030 | 56 | 2.811e-02  | -3.835e-02 | 9.458e-02 | 0.403 | 0.007 | 100 |
| putrescine      | 1.076e-01  | -5.638e-01 | 7.790e-01 | 0.743 | 0.005 | 25 | 3.045e-03  | -1.428e-02 | 2.037e-02 | 0.725 | 0.003 | 48  |
| pyroglutamate   | -5.158e-01 | -5.099e+00 | 4.067e+00 | 0.805 | 0.007 | 11 | -1.124e-02 | -5.952e-02 | 3.703e-02 | 0.635 | 0.010 | 26  |
| pyruvate        | -4.224e-01 | -1.863e+00 | 1.018e+00 | 0.559 | 0.006 | 58 | 1.096e-02  | -2.935e-02 | 5.128e-02 | 0.591 | 0.003 | 105 |
| serine          | 6.685e-01  | -1.936e+00 | 3.273e+00 | 0.606 | 0.007 | 38 | -2.400e-02 | -8.097e-02 | 3.297e-02 | 0.403 | 0.012 | 62  |
| taurine         | -7.069e-01 | -1.660e+00 | 2.467e-01 | 0.140 | 0.076 | 30 | 1.229e-02  | -8.142e-03 | 3.272e-02 | 0.233 | 0.025 | 58  |
| threonine       | 1.465e+00  | -5.236e-02 | 2.982e+00 | 0.058 | 0.071 | 51 | 9.455e-03  | -2.931e-02 | 4.822e-02 | 0.629 | 0.002 | 97  |
| trimethylamine  | 6.935e-02  | -9.790e-02 | 2.366e-01 | 0.408 | 0.015 | 49 | -2.564e-03 | -6.178e-03 | 1.050e-03 | 0.162 | 0.021 | 94  |
| tryptophan      | 4.098e-02  | -6.294e-02 | 1.449e-01 | 0.434 | 0.009 | 70 | -1.122e-03 | -3.319e-03 | 1.074e-03 | 0.314 | 0.008 | 126 |
| tyrosine        | 1.101e+00  | 1.201e-01  | 2.083e+00 | 0.029 | 0.083 | 58 | 3.266e-03  | -1.931e-02 | 2.585e-02 | 0.775 | 0.001 | 105 |
| uracil          | 7.340e-01  | -3.426e-02 | 1.502e+00 | 0.061 | 0.062 | 57 | 7.567e-03  | -8.635e-03 | 2.377e-02 | 0.356 | 0.009 | 102 |
| valine          | 1.258e+00  | -3.894e-01 | 2.905e+00 | 0.132 | 0.040 | 58 | 1.094e-02  | -2.477e-02 | 4.666e-02 | 0.545 | 0.004 | 106 |
| xanthine        | 6.871e-02  | -1.929e-01 | 3.303e-01 | 0.596 | 0.009 | 32 | 1.516e-03  | -3.814e-03 | 6.846e-03 | 0.572 | 0.005 | 67  |
| lactate         | -1.918e+00 | -7.399e+00 | 3.562e+00 | 0.487 | 0.008 | 66 | 1.801e-01  | 4.419e-03  | 3.559e-01 | 0.045 | 0.034 | 119 |

Note: Bolded rows in red text are metabolites that passed the X to M and M to Y criteria for mediation. In each cell, the letter "e" denotes powers of 10 (for example, 1.23e-01 means 1.23 multiplied by 10<sup>-1</sup> or 1.23 X 10<sup>-1</sup>).

**Table 3.19. Identifying mediators from infant gut microbiome at 4 months data, that mediate the association between (i) maternal atopy and male infant gut microbes (M) and (ii) male infant gut microbes (M) and male infant motor scores at 2 years of age (Y).**

| Infant Gut Bacteria        | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Maternal Atopy (X) and Infant Gut Microbiome (M)<br><i>X -&gt; M</i> |                  |                 |              |                |            | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Infant Gut Microbiome (M) and Male Infant Motor Score at 2 Years (Y)<br><i>M -&gt; Y</i> |                  |                  |                |                |            |
|----------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|------------|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|                            | $\beta$ -coefficient  | [95% CI]         |                 | p-value      | R <sup>2</sup> | N          | $\beta$ -coefficient  | [95% CI]         |                  | p-value        | R <sup>2</sup> | N          |
|                            | p_Actinobacteriac_A   | 1.24E-02         | -4.17E-02       | 6.66E-02     | 0.651          | 0.001      | 172   | 3.38E-04         | -2.30E-03        | 2.98E-03       | 0.801          | 0          |
| p_Actinobacteriac_C        | 9.10E-04  | -6.18E-03        | 8.00E-03        | 0.8          | 0              | 172        | -1.02E-04   | -4.47E-04        | 2.44E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| p_Bacteroidetesc_Ba        | -3.87E-02   | -1.39E-01        | 6.18E-02        | 0.448        | 0.003          | 172        | 2.56E-03  | -2.34E-03        | 7.45E-03         | 0.303          | 0.006          | 172        |
| p_Firmicutesc_Bacil        | -3.47E-03   | -1.91E-02        | 1.21E-02        | 0.661        | 0.001          | 172        | -2.26E-04   | -9.86E-04        | 5.34E-04         | 0.558          | 0.002          | 172        |
| <b>p_Firmicutesc_Clost</b> | <b>-1.60E-02</b>  | <b>-9.17E-02</b> | <b>5.98E-02</b> | <b>0.677</b> | <b>0.001</b>   | <b>172</b> | <b>-3.64E-03</b>  | <b>-7.29E-03</b> | <b>1.10E-05</b>  | <b>0.041**</b> | <b>0.022</b>   | <b>172</b> |
| p_Firmicutesc_Erysi        | -8.16E-03   | -1.98E-02        | 3.49E-03        | 0.169        | 0.011          | 172        | 1.68E-04  | -4.03E-04        | 7.38E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_B        | 1.26E-03  | -8.13E-03        | 1.06E-02        | 0.792        | 0              | 172        | -1.79E-04   | -6.36E-04        | 2.78E-04         | 0.44           | 0.004          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_D        | 9.73E-04  | -3.46E-03        | 5.40E-03        | 0.665        | 0.001          | 172        | 7.56E-05  | -1.40E-04        | 2.91E-04         | 0.49           | 0.003          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_E        | 8.17E-06  | -1.02E-03        | 1.04E-03        | 0.987        | 0              | 172        | -1.45E-05   | -6.45E-05        | 3.56E-05         | 0.568          | 0.002          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_G        | 3.50E-02  | -3.64E-02        | 1.07E-01        | 0.335        | 0.005          | 172        | -4.73E-04   | -3.97E-03        | 3.02E-03         | 0.79           | 0              | 172        |
| p_Verrucomicrobiac_        | 1.30E-02  | -2.72E-02        | 5.32E-02        | 0.525        | 0.002          | 172        | 1.44E-03  | -5.05E-04        | 3.39E-03         | 0.145          | 0.012          | 172        |
| o_Actinomycetales          | 3.32E-03  | -2.96E-03        | 9.60E-03        | 0.298        | 0.006          | 172        | -1.48E-04   | -4.54E-04        | 1.58E-04         | 0.342          | 0.005          | 172        |
| o_Bifidobacteriales        | 9.10E-03  | -4.33E-02        | 6.15E-02        | 0.732        | 0.001          | 172        | 4.86E-04  | -2.07E-03        | 3.04E-03         | 0.708          | 0.001          | 172        |
| o_Coriobacteriales         | 9.10E-04  | -6.18E-03        | 8.00E-03        | 0.8          | 0              | 172        | -1.02E-04   | -4.47E-04        | 2.44E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Bacteroidales            | -3.87E-02   | -1.39E-01        | 6.18E-02        | 0.448        | 0.003          | 172        | 2.56E-03  | -2.34E-03        | 7.45E-03         | 0.303          | 0.006          | 172        |
| o_Bacillales               | 2.65E-04  | -8.79E-04        | 1.41E-03        | 0.648        | 0.001          | 172        | 2.66E-05  | -2.91E-05        | 8.22E-05         | 0.347          | 0.005          | 172        |
| o_Gemellales               | -2.96E-05   | -3.44E-04        | 2.85E-04        | 0.853        | 0              | 172        | 6.36E-06  | -8.92E-06        | 2.16E-05         | 0.413          | 0.004          | 172        |
| o_Lactobacillales          | -3.72E-03   | -1.89E-02        | 1.15E-02        | 0.631        | 0.001          | 172        | -2.59E-04   | -1.00E-03        | 4.83E-04         | 0.492          | 0.003          | 172        |
| <b>o_Clostridiales</b>     | <b>-1.60E-02</b>  | <b>-9.17E-02</b> | <b>5.98E-02</b> | <b>0.677</b> | <b>0.001</b>   | <b>172</b> | <b>-3.64E-03</b>  | <b>-7.29E-03</b> | <b>1.10E-05</b>  | <b>0.018**</b> | <b>0.022</b>   | <b>172</b> |
| o_Erysipelotrichales       | -8.16E-03   | -1.98E-02        | 3.49E-03        | 0.169        | 0.011          | 172        | 1.68E-04  | -4.03E-04        | 7.38E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Fusobacteriales          | 1.31E-04  | -2.29E-04        | 4.91E-04        | 0.475        | 0.003          | 172        | 4.83E-06  | -1.27E-05        | 2.24E-05         | 0.588          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Burkholderiales          | 1.25E-03  | -8.14E-03        | 1.06E-02        | 0.793        | 0              | 172        | -1.81E-04   | -6.38E-04        | 2.76E-04         | 0.435          | 0.004          | 172        |
| o_Desulfovibrionales       | 9.73E-04  | -3.46E-03        | 5.40E-03        | 0.665        | 0.001          | 172        | 7.56E-05  | -1.40E-04        | 2.91E-04         | 0.49           | 0.003          | 172        |
| o_Campylobacteriales       | 8.17E-06  | -1.02E-03        | 1.04E-03        | 0.987        | 0              | 172        | -1.45E-05   | -6.45E-05        | 3.56E-05         | 0.568          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Enterobacteriales        | 3.81E-02  | -3.31E-02        | 1.09E-01        | 0.292        | 0.007          | 172        | -5.19E-04   | -4.00E-03        | 2.96E-03         | 0.769          | 0.001          | 172        |
| <b>cdifflog_3m</b>         | <b>4.01E-01</b>   | <b>-6.61E-01</b> | <b>1.46E+00</b> | <b>0.457</b> | <b>0.004</b>   | <b>158</b> | <b>-4.10E-02</b>  | <b>-9.00E-02</b> | <b>8.10E-03</b>  | <b>0.024**</b> | <b>0.017</b>   | <b>158</b> |
| <b>cdifflog_1y</b>         | <b>1.45E-01</b>   | <b>-1.34E+00</b> | <b>1.63E+00</b> | <b>0.847</b> | <b>0</b>       | <b>133</b> | <b>-8.14E-02</b>  | <b>-1.49E-01</b> | <b>-1.37E-02</b> | <b>0.019**</b> | <b>0.041</b>   | <b>133</b> |
| g_Bacteroides_3_12_mos     | -1.55E-02   | -1.07E-01        | 7.63E-02        | 0.74         | 0.001          | 172        | 2.12E-03  | -2.35E-03        | 6.58E-03         | 0.35           | 0.005          | 172        |
| g_Bac_1yr                  | -2.17E-02   | -1.07E-01        | 6.40E-02        | 0.618        | 0.002          | 133        | 4.82E-04  | -3.51E-03        | 4.47E-03         | 0.811          | 0              | 133        |

Note: Bolded rows are pathways that have statistically significant association; \*\* =  $p < 0.05$

**Table 3.20. Identifying mediators from infant gut microbiome at 4 months data, that mediate the association between (i) maternal asthma and male infant gut microbes (M) and (ii) male infant gut microbes (M) and male infant motor scores at 2 years of age (Y).**

| Infant Gut Bacteria        | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Maternal Asthma (X) and Infant Gut Microbiome (M)<br><i>X -&gt; M</i> |           |          |         |                |     | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Infant Gut Microbiome (M) and Male Infant Motor Score at 2 Years (Y)<br><i>M -&gt; Y</i> |                  |                  |                |                |            |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------|---------|----------------|-----|---|------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
|                            | $\beta$ -coefficient   | [95% CI]  |          | p-value | R <sup>2</sup> | N   | $\beta$ -coefficient  | [95% CI]         |                  | p-value        | R <sup>2</sup> | N          |
| p_Actinobacteriac_A        | 1.03E-02   | -4.88E-02 | 6.95E-02 | 0.73    | 0.001          | 172 | 3.38E-04  | -2.30E-03        | 2.98E-03         | 0.801          | 0              | 172        |
| p_Actinobacteriac_C        | 1.24E-03   | -6.50E-03 | 8.98E-03 | 0.751   | 0.001          | 172 | -1.02E-04   | -4.47E-04        | 2.44E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| p_Bacteroidetesc_Ba        | -3.24E-02  | -1.42E-01 | 7.74E-02 | 0.561   | 0.002          | 172 | 2.56E-03  | -2.34E-03        | 7.45E-03         | 0.303          | 0.006          | 172        |
| p_Firmicutesc_Bacil        | -4.80E-03  | -2.18E-02 | 1.22E-02 | 0.579   | 0.002          | 172 | -2.26E-04   | -9.86E-04        | 5.34E-04         | 0.558          | 0.002          | 172        |
| <b>p_Firmicutesc_Clost</b> | 3.77E-02   | -4.49E-02 | 1.20E-01 | 0.369   | 0.005          | 172 | <b>-3.64E-03</b>  | <b>-7.29E-03</b> | <b>1.10E-05</b>  | <b>0.041**</b> | <b>0.022</b>   | <b>172</b> |
| p_Firmicutesc_Erysi        | -4.47E-03  | -1.72E-02 | 8.30E-03 | 0.49    | 0.003          | 172 | 1.68E-04  | -4.03E-04        | 7.38E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_B        | 8.68E-03   | -1.49E-03 | 1.88E-02 | 0.094   | 0.016          | 172 | -1.79E-04   | -6.36E-04        | 2.78E-04         | 0.44           | 0.004          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_D        | -1.31E-03  | -6.15E-03 | 3.53E-03 | 0.593   | 0.002          | 172 | 7.56E-05  | -1.40E-04        | 2.91E-04         | 0.49           | 0.003          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_E        | 8.04E-04   | -3.11E-04 | 1.92E-03 | 0.156   | 0.012          | 172 | -1.45E-05   | -6.45E-05        | 3.56E-05         | 0.568          | 0.002          | 172        |
| p_Proteobacteriac_G        | -1.19E-02  | -9.01E-02 | 6.64E-02 | 0.765   | 0.001          | 172 | -4.73E-04   | -3.97E-03        | 3.02E-03         | 0.79           | 0              | 172        |
| p_Verrucomicrobiac_        | -1.11E-02  | -5.50E-02 | 3.28E-02 | 0.618   | 0.001          | 172 | 1.44E-03  | -5.05E-04        | 3.39E-03         | 0.145          | 0.012          | 172        |
| o_Actinomycetales          | 4.72E-04   | -6.40E-03 | 7.35E-03 | 0.892   | 0              | 172 | -1.48E-04   | -4.54E-04        | 1.58E-04         | 0.342          | 0.005          | 172        |
| o_Bifidobacteriales        | 9.87E-03   | -4.73E-02 | 6.71E-02 | 0.734   | 0.001          | 172 | 4.86E-04  | -2.07E-03        | 3.04E-03         | 0.708          | 0.001          | 172        |
| o_Coriobacteriales         | 1.24E-03   | -6.50E-03 | 8.98E-03 | 0.751   | 0.001          | 172 | -1.02E-04   | -4.47E-04        | 2.44E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Bacteroidales            | -3.24E-02  | -1.42E-01 | 7.74E-02 | 0.561   | 0.002          | 172 | 2.56E-03  | -2.34E-03        | 7.45E-03         | 0.303          | 0.006          | 172        |
| o_Bacillales               | -3.89E-04  | -1.64E-03 | 8.59E-04 | 0.539   | 0.002          | 172 | 2.66E-05  | -2.91E-05        | 8.22E-05         | 0.347          | 0.005          | 172        |
| o_Gemellales               | -6.38E-05  | -4.07E-04 | 2.79E-04 | 0.714   | 0.001          | 172 | 6.36E-06  | -8.92E-06        | 2.16E-05         | 0.413          | 0.004          | 172        |
| o_Lactobacillales          | -4.34E-03  | -2.10E-02 | 1.23E-02 | 0.607   | 0.002          | 172 | -2.59E-04   | -1.00E-03        | 4.83E-04         | 0.492          | 0.003          | 172        |
| <b>o_Clostridiales</b>     | 3.77E-02   | -4.49E-02 | 1.20E-01 | 0.369   | 0.005          | 172 | <b>-3.64E-03</b>  | <b>-7.29E-03</b> | <b>1.10E-05</b>  | <b>0.018**</b> | <b>0.022</b>   | <b>172</b> |
| o_Erysipelotrichales       | -4.47E-03  | -1.72E-02 | 8.30E-03 | 0.49    | 0.003          | 172 | 1.68E-04  | -4.03E-04        | 7.38E-04         | 0.562          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Fusobacteriales          | 1.15E-04   | -2.78E-04 | 5.08E-04 | 0.564   | 0.002          | 172 | 4.83E-06  | -1.27E-05        | 2.24E-05         | 0.588          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Burkholderiales          | 8.64E-03   | -1.52E-03 | 1.88E-02 | 0.095   | 0.016          | 172 | -1.81E-04   | -6.38E-04        | 2.76E-04         | 0.435          | 0.004          | 172        |
| o_Desulfovibrionales       | -1.31E-03  | -6.15E-03 | 3.53E-03 | 0.593   | 0.002          | 172 | 7.56E-05  | -1.40E-04        | 2.91E-04         | 0.49           | 0.003          | 172        |
| o_Campylobacteriales       | 8.04E-04   | -3.11E-04 | 1.92E-03 | 0.156   | 0.012          | 172 | -1.45E-05   | -6.45E-05        | 3.56E-05         | 0.568          | 0.002          | 172        |
| o_Enterobacteriales        | -1.91E-02  | -9.70E-02 | 5.88E-02 | 0.629   | 0.001          | 172 | -5.19E-04   | -4.00E-03        | 2.96E-03         | 0.769          | 0.001          | 172        |
| <b>cdifflog_3m</b>         | 3.96E-01   | -7.16E-01 | 1.51E+00 | 0.483   | 0.003          | 158 | <b>-4.10E-02</b>  | <b>-9.00E-02</b> | <b>8.10E-03</b>  | <b>0.024**</b> | <b>0.017</b>   | <b>158</b> |
| <b>cdifflog_1y</b>         | -3.96E-01  | -2.02E+00 | 1.23E+00 | 0.63    | 0.002          | 133 | <b>-8.14E-02</b>  | <b>-1.49E-01</b> | <b>-1.37E-02</b> | <b>0.019**</b> | <b>0.041</b>   | <b>133</b> |
| g_Bacteroides_3_12_mos     | -1.86E-02  | -1.19E-01 | 8.16E-02 | 0.715   | 0.001          | 172 | 2.12E-03  | -2.35E-03        | 6.58E-03         | 0.35           | 0.005          | 172        |
| g_Bac_1yr                  | -4.26E-02  | -1.36E-01 | 5.10E-02 | 0.37    | 0.006          | 133 | 4.82E-04  | -3.51E-03        | 4.47E-03         | 0.811          | 0              | 133        |

Note: Bolded rows are pathways that have statistically significant association; \*\* =  $p < 0.05$

**Table 3.21 Interaction term results between maternal atopy status and infant sex**

| Motor Scores at 2 Years          |                   | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Sig |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----|
| <b>Interaction</b>               |                   |        |           |           |         |     |
| <b>Combined atopy</b>            | <b>infant sex</b> | 0      | .         | .         | .       |     |
| None                             | Female            | .016   | -3.541    | 3.573     | .993    |     |
| Present                          | Male              | -3.168 | -6.182    | -.153     | .04     | **  |
| Present                          | Female            | .507   | -2.531    | 3.545     | .743    |     |
| Cognitive Scores at 2 Years      |                   | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Sig |
| <b>Interaction</b>               |                   |        |           |           |         |     |
| <b>Combined atopy</b>            | <b>infant sex</b> | 0      | .         | .         | .       |     |
| None                             | Female            | -.066  | -5.082    | 4.951     | .98     |     |
| Present                          | Male              | -3.789 | -8.04     | .462      | .08     | *   |
| Present                          | Female            | 4.149  | -.135     | 8.434     | .058    | *   |
| Socioemotional Scores at 2 Years |                   | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Sig |
| <b>Interaction</b>               |                   |        |           |           |         |     |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>           | <b>infant sex</b> | 0      | .         | .         | .       |     |
| None                             | Female            | 3.117  | -.72      | 6.953     | .111    |     |
| Present                          | Male              | -5.826 | -11.294   | -.357     | .037    | **  |
| Present                          | Female            | -1.25  | -7.328    | 4.828     | .686    |     |
| Language Scores at 1 Year        |                   | Coef.  | [95% Conf | Interval] | p-value | Sig |
| <b>Interaction</b>               |                   |        |           |           |         |     |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>           | <b>infant sex</b> | 0      | .         | .         | .       |     |
| None                             | Female            | 6.847  | 3.921     | 9.773     | .0      | *** |
| Present                          | Male              | 5.039  | .892      | 9.185     | .017    | **  |
| Present                          | Female            | 5.265  | .614      | 9.915     | .027    | **  |

Note: \*\*\*  $p < .01$ , \*\*  $p < .05$ , \*  $p < .1$



## CHAPTER 4: Conclusions

The purpose of this thesis is to investigate the associations between both infant and maternal sensitization and infant neurodevelopmental outcomes at 1 and 2 years of age. Chapter 2 describes the association between infant atopic sensitization at 1 year and infant neurodevelopmental outcomes at 1 and 2 years. Chapter 3 covers maternal atopic status and asthma and its impact on infant neurodevelopmental scores at 1 and 2 years. The major findings for each chapter will be summarized, followed by a discussion of the strengths and limitations of the CHILD Cohort Study. The final section of Chapter 4 will cover the implications and future directions for future research.

### *4.1 Key findings and general conclusions*

**Research Study I:** The main finding of the first research study is the cross-sectional and sex-specific associations found between infant atopic sensitization at 1 year and subsequent decrease in socioemotional scores at 1 year of infant age. Specifically, this decrease in socio-emotional scores at 1 year was observed in the male infant group. Although temporal associations were analyzed, neither infant food nor atopic sensitization at 1 year predicted infant neurodevelopmental scores at 2 years of age. Mounting research evidence supports that immune dysregulation and inflammation as an effect of IgE-mediated sensitization arises in parallel with infant neurodevelopmental challenges (45). However, since none of our study covariates were associated with these effects, we believe the association we found possibly acted through covariates we were not able to measure in the CHILD study. The first potential explanation has to do with parental stress associated with raising children living with food challenges, as parents often need to more vigilant in closely monitoring their infant's diet. Stressful post-pregnancy experiences harm the bond between mothers and babies, affecting their ability to form secure attachments, which in turn may impair the socio-emotional development of the child. On the other hand, we also propose the idea of a "reverse causation" hypothesis wherein socio-emotional

impairment may be in the pathway to atopic or food sensitization. For example, when mothers experience a stressful post-pregnancy, it may lead to consequences including reduced breastfeeding duration which limits the child's access to essential nutrients during this critical period of their development. Therefore, the stress experienced by the child impairs their connection with their mothers and decreases their socio-emotional scores. Lastly, literature supports that an infant's socio-emotional impairments in response to a stressful environment may enhance existing inflammatory signals and stimulate immune-related conditions including atopic and food sensitization.

**Research Study II:** The main finding of research study II consists of three parts. First, maternal atopy is associated with a decrease in male motor scores at 2 years. Second, maternal asthma is associated with decreased socio-emotional scores at 2 years in all infants, and an increase in male language scores at 1 year. Third, phenylalanine and dimethylamine are key metabolites that mediate the pathway between maternal asthma and its associations with infant neurodevelopmental score. We proposed that our research reflects strong research evidence regarding the maternal immune activation (MIA) hypothesis that suggests maternal immune cells have the ability to cross the placental barrier, influence fetal brain programming which may include adverse effects on the developing infant brain. Furthermore, both phenylalanine and dimethylamine have been identified in the literature as metabolites suggested to interfere with normal development of infant brain. Phenylalanine was shown to have a strong effect on offspring cognitive outcomes at 1 year of age, and dimethylamine was identified as one of the potential biomarkers elevated in mothers exhibiting depressive disorders (39).

#### ***4.2 Study Strengths and Sources of Bias***

The prospective and longitudinal nature of the CHILd Study, in addition to its high retention rate (92% retention rate), allows us access to extensive documented data on maternal and early childhood factors and covariates (55). Additionally, our large sample size was sufficient to be able to uncover and detect meaningful results in our fully-adjusted models. We were also able to further existing studies by

not only testing cross-sectional, but also temporal associations between infant and maternal atopy and neurodevelopmental scores. However, we also recognize that there are potential sources of bias in our study:

### *Selection Bias*

Our sample size consists of participants who are mostly White Caucasian and moderate-to-high income parents who live in urban centers in Canada. We recognize that this limits the generalizability of our studies to other population groups. Excluding infants from low income families may greatly reduce the sample size of infants with atopic sensitization and/or neurodevelopment impairment, leading to a biased comparison. However, the main justification of recruiting from urban centers is since 80% of the Canadian population is urban (75). Furthermore, compared to other historical birth cohorts, the recruited population of the CHILD study is more ethnically varied and diverse and children represented mixed ethnic populations to a greater degree compared to other studies (75).

### *Measurement Bias*

Measurement bias happens when there are discrepancies in how certain variables were measured or collected between comparison groups. Infant atopic sensitization in research study I was measured using a standardized skin prick test (SPT); while maternal atopic sensitization and asthma were measured from self-report questionnaires in research study II. Although self-reported questionnaires may reduce systemic inconsistencies among mothers, the difference in how sensitization was assessed between infants and mothers may contribute to less validity in our comparison of the effect of sensitization to neurodevelopmental scores in mothers versus infants.

Despite this limitation, the CHILD study strived to minimize bias through standard operating procedures that uses the same recruitment and selection methods at all sites. Furthermore, the self-

reported questionnaires that indicated maternal atopy and asthma status has been thoroughly validated in previous studies.

### *Confounding Bias*

Our study also aimed to reduce confounding bias by using a Directed Acyclic Graph (DAG) to determine direct associations between covariates and their relationship with infant and maternal atopic status and neurodevelopmental scores. The DAG is a robust covariate selection method used in many epidemiological research studies that helps determine causal-relationships and properly identify a minimally sufficient adjustment set. This use of DAG, followed by additional statistical verification of true confounds using a 15% change in estimate method consisted our robust approach to model adjustment that helped us avoid over or under adjustment of our models.

### ***4.3 Implications for future research***

In conclusion, both research studies emphasize the importance of further research in exploring early antecedents that shape infant neurodevelopmental outcomes, as impact during this critical window may have lasting effects on infants that persist until later years and impair the quality of life of children and their families. In both of our research studies, finding an association between infant and maternal atopic status and infant neurodevelopment adds support to research evidence highlighting the role of infant and maternal immune-related conditions and its potential ability to program fetal development. Moreover, the emergence of the potential role of metabolites points to promising future research that may uncover more mechanistic pathways that will provide us with insights on how infant and maternal atopy impact child neurodevelopmental outcomes. Furthermore, sex-specific associations in our study encourages additional research that further investigates the role of certain biological sex differences in infant brain development.

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## Appendix A

**Table B1. Unique adjustment sets for each multivariable regression model.**

| <b>Atopic Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments</b> |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
|--|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| Cognitive Covariate  | Language 1-Year | Motor 1-Year | Social-Emotional 1-Year | Cognitive 2-Year | Language 2-Year | Motor 2-Year | Social-Emotional 2-Year |  |
| Maternal Age   |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Maternal Ethnicity   |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Maternal Prenatal Diet Fruit Intake                        |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Maternal Prenatal Smoking                                  |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Maternal Prenatal Depression                               |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Maternal Asthma  |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Siblings   |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Infant Diet (Solids)                                       |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Breastfeeding Duration                                     |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Mode of Birth  |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |
| Gestational Age  |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |  |

**Food Sensitization Multivariate Model Adjustments**

| Cognitive Covariate                 | Language 1-Year | Motor 1-Year | Social-Emotional 1-Year | Cognitive 2-Year | Language 2-Year | Motor 2-Year | Social-Emotional 2-Year |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| Maternal Age                        |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Maternal Ethnicity                  |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Maternal Prenatal Diet Fruit Intake |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Maternal Prenatal Smoking           |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Maternal Prenatal Depression        |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Maternal Asthma                     |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Siblings                            |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Infant Diet (Solids)                |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Breastfeeding Duration              |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Mode of Birth                       |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |
| Gestational Age                     |                 |              |                         |                  |                 |              |                         |

*Note:* Variables identified as potential covariates from the DAG (Figure 1) were individually tested for a greater than 15% change to the estimate. Only covariates that were identified in both the DAG and caused a greater than 10% change to the estimate (shown in pink) were added to the minimal adjustment set for the corresponding multivariable model.

**Table B2. Frequency characteristics for categorical variables in the study sample of infants with atopic and food sensitization at 1 year and neurodevelopmental data at 1 and 2 years of age (n=537)**

| <b>Maternal characteristics</b> | Total N | n (%)  | <b>Infant characteristics</b> | Total N | n (%)  |
|---------------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|--------|
| <b>Family Income</b>            | 488     |        | <b>Atopic Sensitization</b>   | 537     |        |
| Less than 39,999                | 26      | (5.3)  | Yes                           | 88      | (16.4) |
| 40,000 to 79,999                | 121     | (24.8) | No                            | 449     | (83.6) |
| 80,000 to 99,999                | 79      | (16.2) | <b>Food Sensitization</b>     | 537     |        |
| Exceeds 100,000                 | 262     | (53.7) | Yes                           | 72      | (13.4) |
| <b>Maternal Education</b>       | 515     |        | No                            | 456     | (86.6) |
| Some/finished high school       | 36      | (7.0)  | <b>Child Sex</b>              | 537     |        |
| Some university/college         | 193     | (37.5) | Boys                          | 279     | (52.0) |
| University degree               | 286     | (55.5) | Girls                         | 258     | (48.0) |
| <b>Maternal Asthma</b>          | 519     |        | <b>Breastfeeding 3 Months</b> | 535     |        |
| Yes                             | 123     | (23.7) | None                          | 77      | (14.4) |
| No                              | 396     | (76.7) | Partial                       | 146     | (27.3) |
| <b>Prenatal Smoking</b>         | 519     |        | Exclusive                     | 312     | (58.4) |
| Yes                             | 19      | (3.7)  | <b>Birthmode</b>              | 532     |        |
| No                              | 500     | (96.3) | Vaginal no IAP                | 277     | (52.1) |
| <b>Maternal Depression</b>      | 483     |        | Vaginal IAP                   | 127     | (23.9) |
| Yes                             | 96      | (19.9) | CS-Elective                   | 58      | (10.9) |
| No                              | 387     | (80.1) | CS-Emergency                  | 70      | (13.2) |
| <b>Maternal Age</b>             | 537     |        | <b>Gestational Age</b>        | 537     |        |
| 18-29                           | 150     | (27.9) | 37 weeks+                     | 506     | (5.8)  |
| 30-39                           | 366     | (68.2) | 34-36 weeks                   | 31      | (5.6)  |
| 40+                             | 21      | (3.9)  | <b>Siblings</b>               | 535     |        |
| <b>Maternal Ethnicity</b>       | 533     |        | Yes                           | 302     | (56.5) |
| White Caucasian                 | 420     | (78.8) | No                            | 233     | (43.5) |
| Asian                           | 51      | (9.6)  |                               |         |        |
| Other                           | 62      | (11.6) |                               |         |        |

**Table B3. Frequency characteristics for continuous variables in the study sample of infants with atopic and food sensitization at 1 year and neurodevelopmental data at 1 and 2 years of age (n=537)**

| Continuous variables                    | Total N    | Mean (SD)     | Min  | Max  |
|---|------------|---------------|------|------|
| <b>BSID-III Cognitive 1 Year</b>        | 537        | 110.04 (10.3) | 75   | 145  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0)      |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Language 1 Year</b>         | 536        | 107.9 (11.9)  | 65   | 147  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 1 (0.2)    |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Motor 1 Year</b>            | 535        | 102.8 (13.6)  | 70   | 154  |
| missing, n (%)                          | 2 (0.4)    |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Social-Emotional 1 Year</b> | 519        | 102.6 (13.8)  | 60   | 145  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 18 (3)     |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Cognitive 2 Year</b>        | 537        | 105.7 (14.3)  | 70   | 145  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0)      |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Language 2 Year</b>         | 536        | 100.2 (12.0)  | 68   | 135  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 1 (0.2)    |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Motor 2 Year</b>            | 537        | 98.9 (9.5)    | 67   | 127  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0.0)    |               |      |      |
| <b>BSID-III Social-Emotional 2 Year</b> | 527        | 108.7 (15.7)  | 60   | 145  |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 10 (1.9)   |               |      |      |
| <b>Maternal Pregnancy Fruit Intake</b>  | 508        | 3.2 (2.0)     | 0.14 | 13.4 |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 29 (5.4)   |               |      |      |
| <b>Breastfeeding Duration</b>           | 517        | 10.2 (6.7)    | 0    | 25   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 10.2 (6.7) |               |      |      |

**Table B4.** Percentage distribution of food and atopic sensitization at 1 year across candidate covariates (n=537)

| Categorical variables           | Atopic Sensitization<br>1YR (YES)<br>(16.4% overall)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | Atopic Sensitizationon<br>1YR (NO)<br>(83.6% overall)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | p-value            | Food sensitization(YES)<br>(13.4% overall)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | Sensitization on 1YR<br>(NO)<br>(86.6%)<br>N <sup>c</sup> (%) | p-value            |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--------------------|--|---|--------------------|
| <b>Maternal Characteristics</b> |  |   |                    |  |   |                    |
| <b>CESD</b>                     |  |   | 0.386 <sup>a</sup> |  |   | 0.553 <sup>a</sup> |
| Never                           | 77 (16.8)  | 382 (83.2)  |                    | 64 (13.9)  | 395 (86.1)  |                    |
| Prenatal                        | 7 (23.6)   | 24 (77.4)   |                    | 5 (16.1)   | 26 (83.9)   |                    |
| Postnatal                       | 4 (10.3)   | 35 (89.7)   |                    | 3 (7.7)  | 36 (92.3)   |                    |
| Persistent                      | 0 (0.0)  | 8 (100)   |                    | 0 (0.0)  | 8 (100.0)   |                    |
| <b>Maternal age</b>             |  |   | 0.638 <sup>a</sup> |  |   | 0.294 <sup>a</sup> |
| 18 to 29                        | 21 (14.0)  | 129 (86.0)  |                    | 15 (10.0)  | 135 (90.0)  |                    |
| 30 to 39                        | 64 (17.6)  | 302 (82.5)  |                    | 55 (15.0)  | 311 (85.0)  |                    |
| Over 40                         | 3 (14.3)   | 18 (85.7)   |                    | 2 (9.5)  | 19 (90.5)   |                    |
| <b>Maternal education</b>       |  |   | 0.038 <sup>a</sup> |  |   | 0.010 <sup>a</sup> |
| Some/finished high school       | 4 (11.1)   | 32 (88.9)   |                    | 3 (8.3)  | 33 (91.7)   |                    |
| Some university/college         | 23 (11.9)  | 170 (88.1)  |                    | 16 (8.3)   | 177 (91.7)  |                    |
| University degree               | 58 (20.3)  | 228 (79.7)  |                    | 50 (17.5)  | 236 (82.5)  |                    |
| <b>Prenatal smoking</b>         |  |   | 0.223 <sup>a</sup> |  |   | 0.091 <sup>a</sup> |
| Yes                             | 1 (5.3)  | 18 (94.7)   |                    | 0 (0.0)  | 19 (100.0)  |                    |
| No                              | 86 (17.2)  | 414 (82.8)  |                    | 71 (14.2)  | 429 (85.8)  |                    |
| <b>Maternal ethnicity</b>       |  |   | <0.001             |  |   | <0.001             |
| White Caucasian                 | 53 (12.6)  | 367 (87.4)  |                    | 43 (10.2)  | 377 (89.8)  |                    |
| Asian                           | 19 (37.3)  | 32 (62.8)   |                    | 15 (29.4)  | 36 (70.6)   |                    |
| Other                           | 15 (24.2)  | 47 (75.8)   |                    | 13 (21.0)  | 49 (79.0)   |                    |
| <b>Maternal asthma</b>          |  |   | 0.838              |  |   | 0.822              |
| Yes                             | 20 (23.0)  | 95 (22.0)   |                    | 15 (13.0)  | 100 (87.0)  |                    |
| No                              | 67 (77.0)  | 337 (83.4)  |                    | 56 (12.9)  | 348 (86.1)  |                    |
| <b>Infant characteristics</b>   |  |   |                    |  |   |                    |
| <b>Child sex</b>                |  |   | 0.595              |  |   | 0.095              |
| Boys                            | 48 (17.2)  | 231 (82.8)  |                    | 44 (15.8)  | 235 (84.2)  |                    |
| Girls                           | 40 (15.5)  | 218 (84.5)  |                    | 28 (10.9)  | 230 (89.2)  |                    |
| <b>Older siblings</b>           |  |   | 0.529              |  |   | 0.236              |

|   |           |              |           |             |              |                    |
|---|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Yes   | 47 (53.4) | 255 (57.1)   |           | 36 (15.5)   | 266 (88.1)   |                    |
| No  | 41 (46.6) | 192 (82.4)   |           | 36 (11.9)   | 197 (84.6)   |                    |
| <b>Birth mode</b>                             |           |              | 0.593     |             |              | 0.958              |
| Vaginal-noIAP                                 | 43 (15.5) | 234 (84.5)   |           | 37 (13.4)   | 240 (86.6)   |                    |
| Vaginal-IAP                                   | 19 (15.0) | 108 (85.0)   |           | 15 (11.8)   | 112 (88.2)   |                    |
| CS-elective                                   | 13 (22.4) | 45 (77.6)    |           | 8 (13.8)    | 50 (86.2)    |                    |
| CS-emergency                                  | 11 (15.7) | 59 (84.3)    |           | 10 (14.3)   | 60 (85.7)    |                    |
| <b>Infant diet - solids at 3M</b>             |           |              | 0.704     |             |              | 1.000 <sup>a</sup> |
| Yes   | 1 (7.7)   | 12 (92.3)    | 1 (7.7)   |             | 12 (92.3)    |                    |
| No  | 86 (16.6) | 432 (83.4)   | 70 (13.5) |             | 448 (86.5)   |                    |
| <b>Infant breastfeeding duration (months)</b> |           |              | 0.220     |             |              | 0.200              |
| 85(16.4%)                                     |           | 432 (83.6%)  |           | 70 (13.54%) | 447 (86.46%) |                    |
| <b>Maternal prenatal fruit intake</b>         |           |              | 0.086     |             |              | 0.059              |
| 83 (16.34%)                                   |           | 425 (83.66%) |           | 68 (13.39%) | 440 (86.61%) |                    |
| <b>Gestational age (in weeks)</b>             |           |              |           |             |              |                    |
| 88 (16.54%)                                   |           | 444 (83.46%) | 0.097     | 72 (13.53%) | 460 (86.47%) | 0.1713             |

<sup>a</sup>Fisher's exact test

<sup>b</sup>Bold values are statistically significant

<sup>c</sup>Total number of observations (N) is based per column per atopy/food sensitization yes/no

**Table B5. Distribution of 1-year BSID-III neurodevelopment subscale scores across candidate study covariates (N=537).**

| Neurodevelopmental Scores at 1 YR   |                           |                              |         |                             |         |                          |         |                                    |         |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------|------------------------------------|---------|
| Covariates  | N (%)                     | Cognitive Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value | Language Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value | Motor Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value | Socio Emotional Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value |
| <b>Maternal Categorical Factors – Mean (SD)<sup>a</sup></b>                     |                           |                              |         |                             |         |                          |         |                                    |         |
| <b>CESD</b>   |                           |                              | 0.463   |                             | 0.739   |                          | 0.470   |                                    | 0.409   |
| Never   | 459 (85.5)                | 110.03(10.20)                |         | 107.85 (12.18)              |         | 102.64 (14.71)           |         | 102.99 (13.96)                     |         |
| Prenatal  | 31 (5.8)                  | 108.23 (11.07)               |         | 106.10 (10.59)              |         | 99.13 (13.40)            |         | 99.35 (10.23)                      |         |
| Postnatal   | 39 (7.3)                  | 110.77 (9.97)                |         | 109.33 (10.95)              |         | 104.38 (15.82)           |         | 101.43 (14.78)                     |         |
| Persistent  | 8 (1.5)                   | 114.38 (14.50)               |         | 107.88 (10.26)              |         | 105 (9.09)               |         | 98.57 (15.20)                      |         |
| <b>Maternal Age</b>   |                           |                              | 0.595   |                             | 0.118   |                          | 0.118   |                                    | 0.595   |
| 18 to 29  | 150 (27.9)                | 109.35 (9.79)                |         | 107.94 (12.16)              |         | 103.74 (13.52)           |         | 103.60 (14.65)                     |         |
| 30 to 39  | 366 (68.2)                | 110.40 (10.46)               |         | 107.90 (11.93)              |         | 101.85 (15.20)           |         | 102.22 (13.54)                     |         |
| Over 40   | 21 (3.9)                  | 108.67 (11.24)               |         | 106.43 (11.71)              |         | 107.57 (11.45)           |         | 102.25 (13.33)                     |         |
| <b>Prenatal Smoking</b>   |                           |                              | 0.783   |                             | 0.039   |                          | 0.275   |                                    | 0.748   |
| Yes   | 19 (3.7)                  | 110.79 (9.02)                |         | 113.53 (11.03)              |         | 106.05 (13.75)           |         | 101.39 (10.12)                     |         |
| No  | 500 (96.3)                | 110.12 (10.36)               |         | 107.69 (12.13)              |         | 102.32 (14.66)           |         | 102.45 (13.87)                     |         |
| <b>Maternal ethnicity</b>   |                           |                              | 0.001   |                             | 0.001   |                          | 0.137   |                                    | 0.007   |
| White Caucasian   | 420 (78.8)                | 110.47 (9.99)                |         | 108.71 (11.80)              |         | 103.13 (13.64)           |         |                                    |         |
| Asian   | 51 (9.6)                  | 105.10 (11.02)               |         | 101.94 (13.01)              |         | 99.29 (13.50)            |         | 99.26 (16.05)                      |         |
| Other   | 62 (11.6)                 | 111.21 (11.08)               |         | 106.92 (11.31)              |         | 104.81 (12.06)           |         | 101.55 (13.19)                     |         |
| <b>Infant Categorical Factors – Mean (SD)<sup>a</sup></b>                       |                           |                              |         |                             |         |                          |         |                                    |         |
| <b>Child Sex</b>  |                           |                              | 0.217   |                             | 0.000   |                          | 0.436   |                                    | 0.406   |
| Males   | 279 (52.0)                | 109.51 (10.73)               |         | 106.08 (12.04)              |         | 102.13 (14.25)           |         | 103.09 (14.29)                     |         |
| Females   | 258 (48.0)                | 110.61 (9.78)                |         | 109.76 (11.62)              |         | 103.12 (15.09)           |         | 102.08 (13.34)                     |         |
| <b>Breastfeeding at 3 months</b>  |                           |                              | 0.549   |                             | 0.278   |                          | 0.265   |                                    | 0.503   |
| Exclusive   | 312 (58.3)                | 109.29 (9.79)                |         | 107.25 (11.78)              |         | 101.49 (11.71)           |         | 100.97 (14.88)                     |         |
| Partial   | 146 (27.3)                | 109.60 (11.34)               |         | 106.74 (13.28)              |         | 101.32 (17.52)           |         | 102.53 (13.27)                     |         |
| None  | 77 (14.4)                 | 110.46 (9.94)                |         | 108.57 (11.37)              |         | 103.47 (13.84)           |         | 103.07 (13.86)                     |         |
| <b>Birth mode</b>   |                           |                              | 0.342   |                             | 0.881   |                          | 0.099   |                                    | 0.943   |
| Vaginal-no IAP  | 277 (52.1)                | 110.56 (10.58)               |         | 107.98 (12.50)              |         | 101.79 (15.74)           |         | 102.90 (13.88)                     |         |
| Vaginal-IAP   | 127 (23.9)                | 110.16 (10.35)               |         | 107.83 (10.57)              |         | 102.61 (13.58)           |         | 101.97 (13.12)                     |         |
| CS-elective   | 58 (10.9)                 | 108.79 (8.90)                |         | 106.71 (13.21)              |         | 100.78 (13.73)           |         | 102.68 (15.43)                     |         |
| CS-emergency  | 70 (13.2)                 | 108.39 (10.36)               |         | 108.31 (11.35)              |         | 106.33 (11.85)           |         | 102.46 (14.00)                     |         |
| <b>Introduced to Solids</b>   |                           |                              | 0.144   |                             | 0.115   |                          | 0.864   |                                    | 0.111   |
| No  | 518 (97.6)                | 109.40 (10.36)               |         | 108.33 (11.76)              |         | 102.79 (14.39)           |         | 100.85 (13.01)                     |         |
| Yes   | 13 (2.4)                  | 110.50 (10.27)               |         | 107.53 (12.13)              |         | 102.43 (14.91)           |         | 103.91 (14.34)                     |         |
| <b>Older siblings</b>   |                           |                              | 0.220   |                             | 0.443   |                          | 0.779   |                                    | 0.012   |
| No  | 233 (43.6)                | 109.40 (10.36)               |         | 107.53 (12.13)              |         | 102.79 (14.39)           |         | 100.85 (13.01)                     |         |
| Yes   | 302 (56.4)                | 110.50 (10.27)               |         | 108.13 (12.25)              |         | 102.43 (14.91)           |         | 103.91 (14.34)                     |         |
| <b>Neurodevelopmental Outcomes – or <math>\beta</math> (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> |                           |                              |         |                             |         |                          |         |                                    |         |
| <b>Breastfeeding duration</b>   | 10.16 (6.69) <sup>c</sup> | 0.18 (0.05, 0.31)            | 0.007   | 0.08 (-0.069, 0.24)         | 0.281   | 0.14 (-0.05, 0.32)       | 0.157   | 0.21 (0.03, 0.39)                  | 0.023   |
| <b>Maternal fruit intake</b>  | 3.16 (1.99) <sup>c</sup>  | 0.14 (-0.30, 0.59)           | 0.531   | 0.263 (-0.26, 0.79)         | 0.326   | 0.03(-0.61, 0.67)        | 0.924   | 0.57(-0.04, 1.17)                  | 0.068   |
| <b>Gestational age (in weeks)</b>   | 39.11 (1.39) <sup>c</sup> | 1.13 (0.50, 1.76)            | 0.000   | 0.67 (-0.05, 1.42)          | 0.067   | 1.05 (0.15,1.95)         | 0.022   | 0.59(-0.28, 1.46)                  | 0.182   |

Note: BISSD-III=Bayley Infant Scales of Development Third Edition; SD=standard deviation;  $\beta$ =Coefficient. Total number of observations (N) is based per column covariate and it's corresponding categories

<sup>a</sup>Analyzed by *t*test or one-way analysis of variance, <sup>b</sup>Analyzed by linear regression, <sup>c</sup> Reported in means (standard deviation). Gestational age is measured in weeks and maternal

**Table B6. Distribution of 2-year BSID-III neurodevelopment subscale scores across candidate study covariates (N=537).**

| Neurodevelopmental Scores at 2 YRs  |                           |                              |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
|---|---------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Covariates  | N (%)                     | Cognitive Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value        | Language Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value        | Motor Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value                   | Socio Emotional Score<br>Mean (SD) | P Value        |
| <b>Maternal Categorical Factors – Mean (SD)<sup>a</sup></b>                     |                           |                              |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| <b>CESD</b>   | 459 (85.5)                | 106.09 (14.42)               | 0.364          | 100.40 (11.86)              | 0.105          | 99.03 (9.45)             | 0.915                     | 109.34(15.73)                      | 0.015          |
| Never   | 31 (5.8)                  | 104.52 (13.87)               |                | 100.84 (12.88)              |                | 98.13 (10.64)            |                           | 102.67 (14.49)                     |                |
| Prenatal  | 39 (7.3)                  | 104.23 (14.80)               |                | 98.90 (13.22)               |                | 98.26 (8.77)             |                           | 108.29 (15.65)                     |                |
| Postnatal   | 8 (1.5)                   | 98.13                        |                | 90.25 (9.45)                |                | 98.13 (11.89)            |                           | 95.01 (11.55)                      |                |
| Persistent  |                           | (5.94)                       |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| <b>Maternal Age</b>   |                           |                              |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| 18 to 29  | 150 (27.9)                | 107.33 (15.12)               | 0.226          | 101.52 (11.35)              | 0.153          | 99.65 (9.27)             | 0.512                     | 109.18 (15.18)                     | 0.856          |
| 30 to 39  | 366 (68.2)                | 105.02 (13.94)               |                | 99.48 (12.24)               |                | 98.59 (9.64)             |                           | 108.57 (16.04)                     |                |
| Over 40   | 21 (3.9)                  | 107.14 (15.13)               |                | 102.33 (12.60)              |                | 99.10 (8.50)             |                           | 107.38 (14.72)                     |                |
| <b>Prenatal Smoking</b>   |                           |                              | 0.135          |                             | 0.358          |                          | 0.664                     |                                    | 0.274          |
| Yes   | 19 (3.7)                  | 100.79 (13.15)               | 97.63 (9.62)   | 98 (8.02)                   | 104.74 (16.79) |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| No  | 500 (96.3)                | 105.77 (14.30)               | 100.23 (12.15) | 98.98 (9.66)                | 108.76 (15.67) |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| <b>Maternal ethnicity</b>   |                           |                              |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| White Caucasian   | 420 (78.8)                | 106.90 (14.41)               | 0.002          | 101.45 (11.39)              | 0.000          | 98.98 (9.33)             | 0.528                     | 109.40 (15.77)                     | 0.201          |
| Asian   | 51 (9.6)                  | 101.27 (13.30)               | 93.02 (13.31)  | 97.53 (10.35)               | 105.60 (15.41) |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| Other   | 62 (11.6)                 | 101.81 (13.77)               | 97.63 (12.93)  | 99.44 (10.19)               | 107.25 (15.42) |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| <b>Infant Categorical Factors – Mean (SD)<sup>a</sup></b>                       |                           |                              |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| <b>Child Sex</b>  | 279 (52.0)                | 103.36 (13.41)               | 0.000          | 97.18 (11.86)               | 0.000          | 98.02 (9.45)             | 279 (52.0)                | 103.36 (13.41)                     | 0.000          |
| Males   | 258 (48.0)                | 108.33 (14.88)               |                | 103.41 (11.38)              |                | 99.87 (9.46)             | 258 (48.0)                | 108.33 (14.88)                     |                |
| Females   |                           |                              | 0.018          |                             | 0.002          |                          |                           |                                    | 0.018          |
| <b>Breastfeeding at 3 months</b>  | 312 (58.1)                | 102.86 (10.71)               |                | 98.05 (10.48)               |                | 97.66(8.29)              | 312 (58.1)                | 102.86 (10.71)                     |                |
| Exclusive   | 146 (27.2)                | 104.25 (13.23)               |                | 97.94 (11.13)               |                | 98.4 (9.45)              | 146 (27.2)                | 104.25 (13.23)                     |                |
| Partial   | 77 (14.3)                 | 107.23 (15.45)               |                | 101.71 (12.56)              |                | 99.4 (9.80)              | 77 (14.3)                 | 107.23 (15.45)                     |                |
| None  |                           |                              | 0.068          |                             | 0.082          |                          |                           |                                    | 0.068          |
| <b>Birth mode</b>   | 277 (52.1)                | 107.03 (15.14)               |                | 101.12 (11.16)              |                | 99.58 (9.01)             | 277 (52.1)                | 107.03 (15.14)                     |                |
| Vaginal-no IAP  | 127 (23.9)                | 104.53 (12.35)               | 100.08 (12.67) | 98.29 (9.14)                |                |                          | 127 (23.9)                | 104.53 (12.35)                     | 100.08 (12.67) |
| Vaginal-IAP   | 58 (10.9)                 | 101.98 (14.23)               | 96.78 (13.18)  | 97.05 (10.87)               |                |                          | 58 (10.9)                 | 101.98 (14.23)                     | 96.78 (13.18)  |
| CS-elective   | 70 (13.2)                 | 105.86 (14.17)               | 99.26 (12.99)  | 98.91 (10.49)               |                |                          | 70 (13.2)                 | 105.86 (14.17)                     | 99.26 (12.99)  |
| CS-emergency  |                           |                              | 0.423          |                             | 0.386          |                          |                           |                                    | 0.423          |
| <b>Introduced to Solids</b>   | 518 (97.6)                | 105.93 (14.47)               |                | 100.31 (11.93)              |                | 98.97 (9.42)             | 518 (97.6)                | 105.93 (14.47)                     |                |
| No  | 13 (2.4)                  | 102.69 (9.04)                |                | 97.38 (15.63)               |                | 97.77 (12.62)            | 13 (2.4)                  | 102.69 (9.04)                      |                |
| Yes   |                           |                              | 0.931          |                             | 0.596          |                          |                           |                                    | 0.931          |
| <b>Older siblings</b>   | 233 (43.6)                | 105.64 (14.73)               | 100.44 (12.00) | 97.58 (9.33)                |                |                          | 233 (43.6)                | 105.64 (14.73)                     | 100.44 (12.00) |
| No  | 302 (56.4)                | 105.75 (14.05)               | 99.88 (12.08)  | 99.91 (9.51)                |                |                          | 302 (56.4)                | 105.75 (14.05)                     | 99.88 (12.08)  |
| Yes   | 279 (52.0)                | 103.36 (13.41)               | 0.000          | 97.18 (11.86)               | 0.000          | 98.02 (9.45)             | 279 (52.0)                | 103.36 (13.41)                     | 0.000          |
| <b>Neurodevelopmental Outcomes – or <math>\beta</math> (95% CI)<sup>b</sup></b> |                           |                              |                |                             |                |                          |                           |                                    |                |
| <b>Breastfeeding duration</b>   | 10.16 (6.69) <sup>c</sup> | 0.26 (0.08, 0.44)            | 0.006          | 0.30 (0.14, 0.45)           | 0.000          | 0.07 (-0.05, 0.20)       | 10.16 (6.69) <sup>c</sup> | 0.26 (0.08, 0.44)                  | 0.006          |
| <b>Maternal fruit intake</b>  | 3.16 (1.99) <sup>c</sup>  | -0.39 (-1.01, 0.23)          | 0.217          | 0.39 (-0.13, 0.92)          | 0.144          | 0.17 (-0.25, 0.59)       | 3.16 (1.99) <sup>c</sup>  | -0.39                              | 0.217          |
| <b>Gestational age (in weeks)</b>   | 39.11 (1.39) <sup>c</sup> | 1.12 (0.25, 2.00)            | 0.012          | 1.13 (0.40, 1.86)           | 0.002          | 0.82(0.24, 1.40)         | 39.11 (1.39) <sup>c</sup> | 1.12                               | 0.012          |



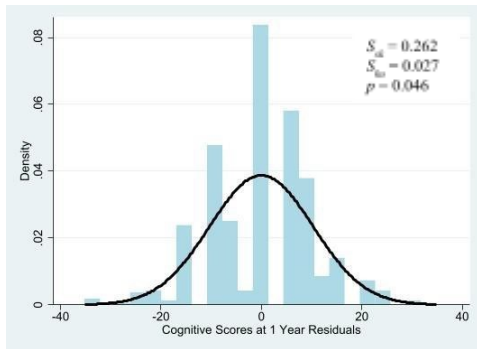
Note: BISD-III=Bayley Infant Scales of Development Third Edition; SD=standard deviation;  $\beta$ =Coefficient. Total number of observations (N) is based per column covariate and it's corresponding categories

<sup>a</sup>Analyzed by *t*test or one-way analysis of variance, <sup>b</sup>Analyzed by linear regression, <sup>c</sup> Reported in means (standard deviation). Gestational age is measured in weeks and maternal prenatal fruit intake assessed using the Healthy Eating Index (HEI)

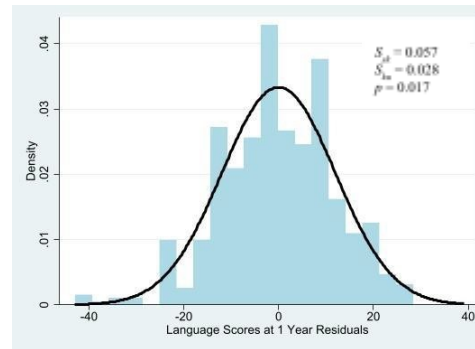
**Figure B1. Residuals resulting from regressing neurodevelopmental scores at 1 year (A-D) and 2 years (E-H) of infant age against infant atopic sensitization status.**

Note:  $S_{kw}$  = skewness;  $S_{ku}$  = kurtosis;  $p$  = p value

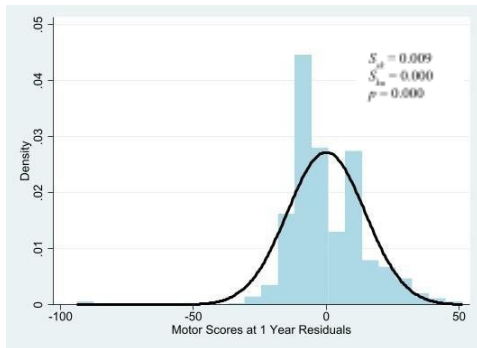
**A.**



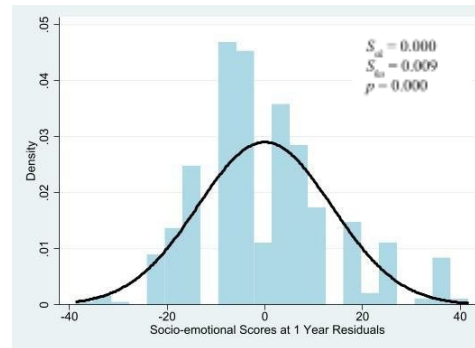
**B.**

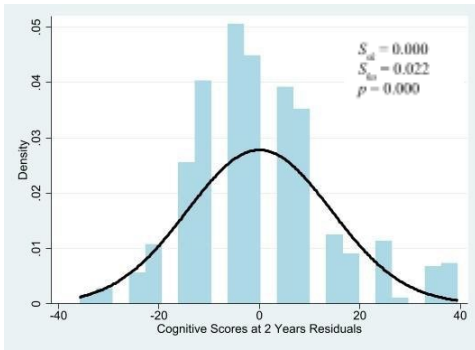
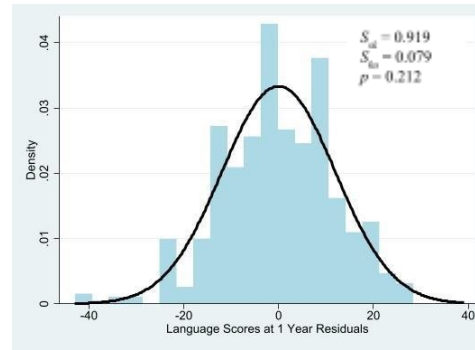
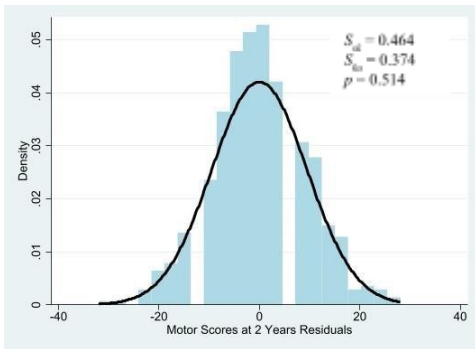
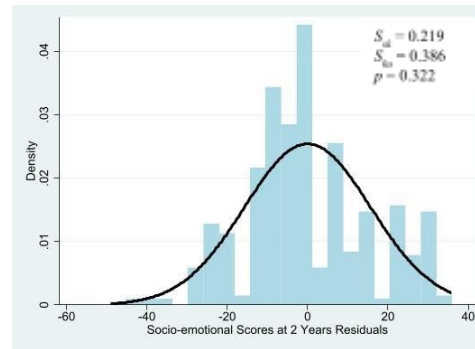


**C.**



**D.**

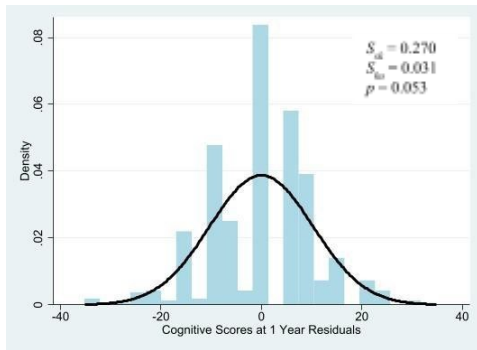


**E.****F.****G.****H.**

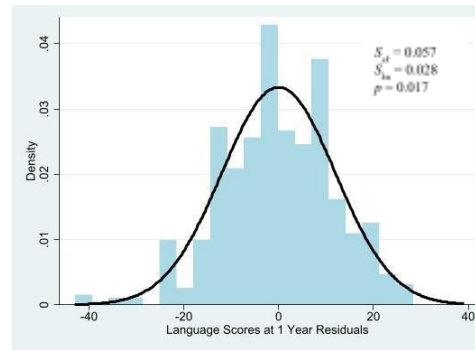
**Figure B2. Residuals resulting from regressing neurodevelopmental scores at 1 year (A-D) and 2 years (E-H) of infant age against infant food sensitization status.**

Note:  $S_{kw}$  = skewness;  $S_{ku}$  = kurtosis;  $p$  = p value

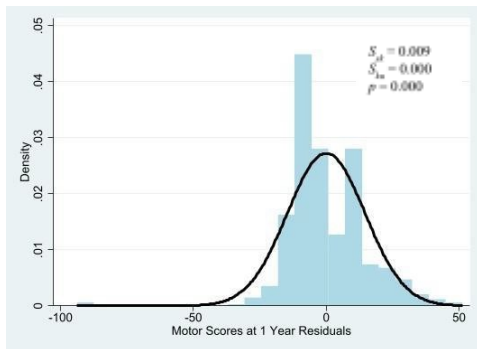
**A.**



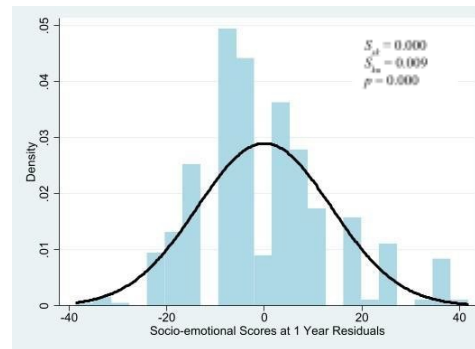
**B.**



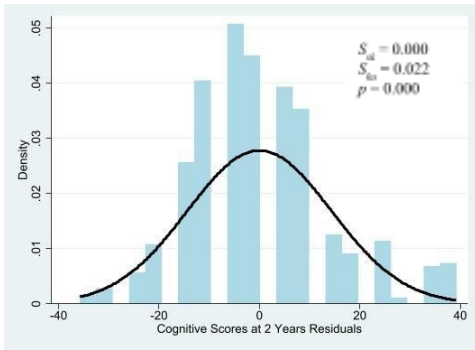
**C.**



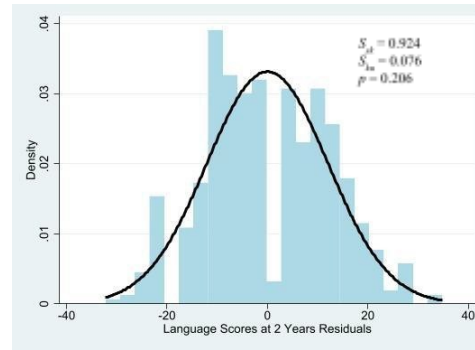
**D.**



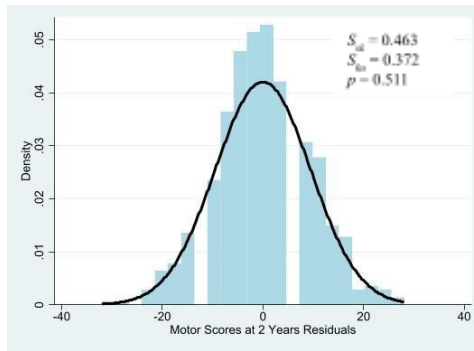
**E.**



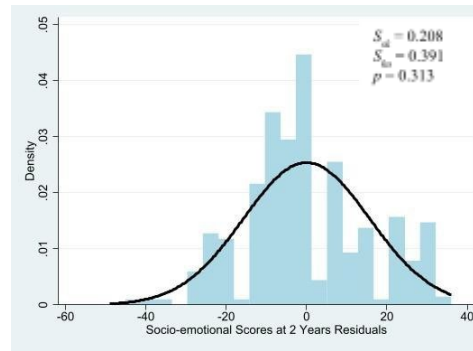
**F.**



**G.**



**H.**



**Table B1. Frequency characteristics for continuous variables in the study sample of maternal atopic status at 1 year and neurodevelopmental data at 1 and 2 years of age (n=335)**

| Continuous variables                    | Total N   | Mean (SD)      | Min  | Max   |
|---|-----------|----------------|------|-------|
| <b>BSID-III Cognitive 1 Year</b>        | 335       | 110.58 (10.51) | 75   | 145   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0)     |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Language 1 Year</b>         | 334       | 108.71 (12.31) | 68   | 147   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 1 (0.2)   |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Motor 1 Year</b>            | 335       | 103.02 (15.97) | 9    | 154   |
| missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0)     |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Social-Emotional 1 Year</b> | 324       | 102.22 (13.31) | 70   | 140   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 11 (0.03) |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Cognitive 2 Year</b>        | 335       | 105.30 (13.80) | 70   | 145   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0)     |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Language 2 Year</b>         | 334       | 100.19 (11.71) | 74   | 129   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 1 (0.2)   |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Motor 2 Year</b>            | 335       | 98.56 (9.65)   | 70   | 127   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 0 (0.0)   |                |      |       |
| <b>BSID-III Social-Emotional 2 Year</b> | 331       | 108.32 (15.82) | 60   | 145   |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 4 (1.2)   |                |      |       |
| <b>Maternal Pregnancy Fruit Intake</b>  | 325       | 3.2 (2.14)     | 0.44 | 13.42 |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 10 (3.0)  |                |      |       |
| <b>Breastfeeding Duration</b>           | 327       | 9.56 (6.79)    | 0    | 24    |
| Missing, n (%)                          | 8 (2.4)   |                |      |       |

**Table B2. Linear regression results assessing the association between the exposure (X) or combined maternal atopy and the potential mediator (M) or infant gut microbiome abundance at 4 months of infant age.**

| Infant gut microbe at 4 months of infant age | Testing X -> M Association in All Infants |                           |        |              |
|--|---|---------------------------|--------|--------------|
|  | $\beta$ -coefficient                      | [95% Confidence Interval] |        | p-value      |
| p__Firmicutesc__Erysi                        | -0.009                                    | -0.016                    | -0.002 | <b>0.018</b> |
| o__Erysipelotrichales                        | -0.009                                    | -0.016                    | -0.002 | <b>0.018</b> |
| p__Actinobacteriac~A                         | -0.001                                    | -0.04                     | 0.038  | 0.969        |
| p__Actinobacteriac~C                         | -0.003                                    | -0.01                     | 0.003  | 0.344        |
| p__Bacteroidetesc__~a                        | -0.013                                    | -0.086                    | 0.059  | 0.715        |
| p__Firmicutesc__Ba-l                         | -0.012                                    | -0.01                     | 0.01   | 0.992        |
| p__Firmicutesc__Cl-t                         | 0.01                                      | -0.045                    | 0.065  | 0.727        |
| p__Proteobacteriac~B                         | 0   | -0.009                    | 0.009  | 0.955        |
| p__Proteobacteriac~D                         | 0.001                                     | -0.002                    | 0.004  | 0.579        |
| p__Proteobacteriac~E                         | 0   | 0                         | 0.001  | 0.845        |
| p__Proteobacteriac~G                         | -0.004                                    | -0.054                    | 0.047  | 0.892        |
| p__Verrucomicrobia~_                         | 0.018                                     | -0.01                     | 0.046  | 0.212        |
| o__Actinomycetales__                         | 0.001                                     | -0.002                    | 0.005  | 0.48         |
| o__Bifidobacteriales                         | -0.002                                    | -0.04                     | 0.036  | 0.912        |
| o__Coriobacteriales                          | -0.003                                    | -0.01                     | 0.003  | 0.344        |
| o__Bacteroidales                             | -0.013                                    | -0.086                    | 0.059  | 0.715        |
| o__Bacillales                                | 0   | -0.001                    | 0.001  | 0.869        |
| o__Gemellales                                | 0   | 0                         | 0      | 0.963        |
| o__Lactobacillales                           | 0   | -0.01                     | 0.01   | 1            |
| o__Clostridiales                             | 0.01                                      | -0.045                    | 0.065  | 0.727        |
| o__Fusobacteriales                           | 0   | -0.001                    | 0      | 0.4          |
| o__Burkholderiales                           | 0   | -0.008                    | 0.009  | 0.949        |
| o__Desulfovibrionas                          | 0.001                                     | -0.002                    | 0.004  | 0.579        |
| o__Campylobacteriales                        | 0   | 0                         | 0.001  | 0.845        |
| o__Enterobacteriales                         | 0.005                                     | -0.046                    | 0.055  | 0.852        |
| cdifflog_3m                                  | 0.4                                       | -0.367                    | 1.167  | 0.306        |
| cdifflog_1y                                  | 0.323                                     | -0.649                    | 1.296  | 0.513        |

Note: Bolded p-values indicate statistical significance

**Table B3 Linear regression results assessing the association between the exposure (X) or maternal asthma and the potential mediator (M) or infant gut metabolite abundance at 4 months of infant age.**

| Metabolite           | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Combined Maternal Atopy (X) and Metabolite (M) |                  |                 |                |             |                      | Linear Regression Results of the Association between Metabolite (M) and Female Infant Cognitive Scores at 2 Years |                 |                |              |             |           |
|----------------------|---|------------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------|---|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|-----------|
|                      | $\beta$ -coefficient  | <i>X -&gt; M</i> |                 |                |             |                      | <i>M -&gt; Y</i>  |                 |                |              |             |           |
|                      |   | [95% CI]         | p-value         | R <sup>2</sup> | N           | $\beta$ -coefficient | [95% CI]  | p-value         | R <sup>2</sup> | N            |             |           |
| formate              | -3.51E+00   | -8.01E+00        | 9.96E-01        | 0.124          | 0.049       | 50                   | 9.43E-02  | -6.11E-02       | 2.50E-01       | 0.229        | 0.03        | 50        |
| <b>acetate</b>       | <b>3.69E+01</b>   | <b>5.67E+00</b>  | <b>6.82E+01</b> | <b>0.021</b>   | <b>0.07</b> | <b>60</b>            | <b>5.37E-02</b>   | <b>6.89E-03</b> | <b>1.0E-01</b> | <b>0.023</b> | <b>0.08</b> | <b>60</b> |
| butyrate             | 3.30E+00  | -1.25E+00        | 7.85E+00        | 0.152          | 0.035       | 60                   | -1.02E-01   | -2.59E-01       | 5.47E-02       | 0.197        | 0.028       | 60        |
| propionate           | 6.15E+00  | -2.06E+00        | 1.44E+01        | 0.139          | 0.037       | 60                   | -5.41E-02   | -3.41E-01       | 2.33E-01       | 0.707        | 0.002       | 60        |
| valerate             | 6.88E-01  | -4.97E-01        | 1.87E+00        | 0.25           | 0.023       | 60                   | -1.21E-02   | -5.32E-02       | 2.89E-02       | 0.556        | 0.006       | 60        |
| isobutyrate          | 4.20E-01  | -1.38E-01        | 9.79E-01        | 0.137          | 0.038       | 60                   | -5.32E-03   | -2.48E-02       | 1.42E-02       | 0.587        | 0.005       | 60        |
| isovalerate          | 7.67E-01  | -1.15E-01        | 1.65E+00        | 0.087          | 0.05        | 60                   | -1.51E-02   | -4.59E-02       | 1.58E-02       | 0.332        | 0.016       | 60        |
| lactate              | -5.99E-01   | -1.14E+01        | 1.02E+01        | 0.912          | 0           | 56                   | 3.84E-01  | 2.27E-02        | 7.46E-01       | 0.038        | 0.078       | 56        |
| succinate            | -4.27E+00   | -2.22E+01        | 1.36E+01        | 0.635          | 0.004       | 60                   | 6.17E-01  | 2.20E-02        | 1.21E+00       | 0.042        | 0.069       | 60        |
| hydroxyglutarate     | 4.01E+00  | -3.54E+01        | 4.34E+01        | 0.419          | 0.626       | 3                    | -1.97E-01   | -1.46E+00       | 1.07E+00       | 0.298        | 0.797       | 3         |
| aminobutyrate        | 9.20E-01  | -2.06E+00        | 3.90E+00        | 0.533          | 0.014       | 30                   | 1.12E-01  | 3.30E-03        | 2.21E-01       | 0.044        | 0.137       | 30        |
| hydroxyphenylacetate | 7.13E-02  | -2.74E-01        | 4.17E-01        | 0.677          | 0.005       | 34                   | -8.66E-03   | -2.36E-02       | 6.30E-03       | 0.247        | 0.042       | 34        |
| aminopentanoate      | 6.61E-01  | -2.87E+00        | 4.19E+00        | 0.704          | 0.006       | 28                   | -5.57E-02   | -1.94E-01       | 8.23E-02       | 0.415        | 0.026       | 28        |
| acetoin              | 1.10E+00  | -8.39E-01        | 3.04E+00        | 0.253          | 0.054       | 26                   | 2.61E-02  | -5.33E-02       | 1.06E-01       | 0.504        | 0.019       | 26        |
| alanine              | 1.57E+00  | -2.33E+00        | 5.46E+00        | 0.423          | 0.013       | 50                   | 1.05E-01  | -2.60E-02       | 2.35E-01       | 0.114        | 0.051       | 50        |
| aspartate            | 1.55E+00  | -3.20E-01        | 3.42E+00        | 0.102          | 0.056       | 49                   | 1.79E-02  | -4.75E-02       | 8.33E-02       | 0.585        | 0.006       | 49        |
| betaalanine          | 2.63E-01  | -2.12E+00        | 2.65E+00        | 0.796          | 0.012       | 8                    | -1.78E-02   | -9.29E-02       | 5.73E-02       | 0.583        | 0.053       | 8         |
| cadaverine           | -2.28E+00   | -5.94E+00        | 1.39E+00        | 0.214          | 0.048       | 34                   | -1.20E-01   | -2.79E-01       | 3.97E-02       | 0.136        | 0.068       | 34        |
| choline              | -1.76E-01   | -5.54E-01        | 2.02E-01        | 0.354          | 0.019       | 47                   | 2.63E-02  | 1.58E-02        | 3.67E-02       | 0            | 0.362       | 47        |



|                    |                 |                  |                 |              |              |           |                  |                  |                 |              |              |           |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| creatine           | 1.22E-01        | -2.94E-01        | 5.38E-01        | 0.556        | 0.008        | 46        | 1.32E-02         | -8.58E-04        | 2.73E-02        | 0.065        | 0.075        | 46        |
| creatinine         | 6.27E-02        | -2.55E-01        | 3.81E-01        | 0.693        | 0.003        | 49        | 1.38E-02         | 3.24E-03         | 2.43E-02        | 0.011        | 0.128        | 49        |
| dimethylamine      | 6.41E-03        | -8.25E-02        | 9.54E-02        | 0.884        | 0.001        | 33        | -2.56E-03        | -5.83E-03        | 7.09E-04        | 0.12         | 0.076        | 33        |
| ethanol            | 5.81E-01        | -2.45E+00        | 3.61E+00        | 0.7          | 0.003        | 45        | 1.33E-01         | 3.86E-02         | 2.27E-01        | 0.007        | 0.158        | 45        |
| fucose             | 3.08E+00        | -1.30E+01        | 1.92E+01        | 0.699        | 0.005        | 34        | 2.24E-01         | -3.78E-01        | 8.26E-01        | 0.454        | 0.018        | 34        |
| fumarate           | 2.11E-01        | -9.93E-02        | 5.22E-01        | 0.178        | 0.038        | 49        | 3.05E-03         | -7.68E-03        | 1.38E-02        | 0.57         | 0.007        | 49        |
| galactose          | 2.59E+00        | -3.29E+00        | 8.47E+00        | 0.378        | 0.022        | 37        | 2.07E-01         | -1.89E-02        | 4.32E-01        | 0.071        | 0.09         | 37        |
| glucose            | 3.74E+00        | -1.57E+00        | 9.05E+00        | 0.163        | 0.04         | 50        | 2.92E-01         | 1.27E-01         | 4.57E-01        | 0.001        | 0.209        | 50        |
| glutamate          | -3.55E+00       | -1.54E+01        | 8.29E+00        | 0.549        | 0.008        | 47        | 1.22E-01         | -2.76E-01        | 5.21E-01        | 0.54         | 0.008        | 47        |
| glycerol           | -1.01E+00       | -2.03E+00        | 9.49E-03        | 0.052        | 0.104        | 37        | 2.27E-02         | -1.94E-02        | 6.47E-02        | 0.281        | 0.033        | 37        |
| glycine            | -1.07E+00       | -3.94E+00        | 1.79E+00        | 0.455        | 0.012        | 49        | 1.07E-02         | -8.76E-02        | 1.09E-01        | 0.828        | 0.001        | 49        |
| histidine          | 3.35E-01        | -6.94E-01        | 1.37E+00        | 0.506        | 0.021        | 23        | -1.54E-02        | -4.63E-02        | 1.55E-02        | 0.311        | 0.049        | 23        |
| hypoxanthine       | 1.78E+00        | -2.02E-01        | 3.76E+00        | 0.074        | 0.262        | 13        | -2.26E-02        | -9.00E-02        | 4.48E-02        | 0.476        | 0.047        | 13        |
| isoleucine         | 1.18E+00        | -1.98E-01        | 2.56E+00        | 0.091        | 0.058        | 50        | 5.91E-03         | -4.27E-02        | 5.45E-02        | 0.808        | 0.001        | 50        |
| leucine            | 1.72E+00        | -4.58E-01        | 3.90E+00        | 0.119        | 0.05         | 50        | -1.96E-02        | -9.58E-02        | 5.67E-02        | 0.608        | 0.006        | 50        |
| lysine             | 4.21E+00        | -3.40E+00        | 1.18E+01        | 0.267        | 0.044        | 30        | -1.45E-02        | -2.61E-01        | 2.32E-01        | 0.905        | 0.001        | 30        |
| <b>malonate</b>    | <b>1.64E+00</b> | <b>-2.98E-02</b> | <b>3.31E+00</b> | <b>0.054</b> | <b>0.075</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>4.95E-02</b>  | <b>-8.14E-03</b> | <b>1.07E-01</b> | <b>0.091</b> | <b>0.058</b> | <b>50</b> |
| methanol           | -3.45E-01       | -1.18E+00        | 4.85E-01        | 0.408        | 0.014        | 50        | -2.11E-02        | -4.90E-02        | 6.83E-03        | 0.135        | 0.046        | 50        |
| methionine         | 8.51E-01        | 8.07E-02         | 1.62E+00        | 0.031        | 0.093        | 50        | 3.03E-03         | -2.46E-02        | 3.07E-02        | 0.826        | 0.001        | 50        |
| <b>methylamine</b> | <b>9.35E-02</b> | <b>-3.64E-03</b> | <b>1.91E-01</b> | <b>0.059</b> | <b>0.111</b> | <b>33</b> | <b>-3.91E-03</b> | <b>-8.24E-03</b> | <b>4.26E-04</b> | <b>0.075</b> | <b>0.098</b> | <b>33</b> |
| methylhistidine    | -5.17E-01       | -1.16E+00        | 1.25E-01        | 0.109        | 0.118        | 23        | -2.18E-03        | -2.29E-02        | 1.86E-02        | 0.829        | 0.002        | 23        |
| myoinositol        | 6.28E-01        | -3.83E+00        | 5.08E+00        | 0.766        | 0.007        | 15        | 1.91E-01         | 2.59E-02         | 3.57E-01        | 0.027        | 0.324        | 15        |
| pcresol            | 8.62E-02        | 1.53E-02         | 1.57E-01        | 0.028        | 0            | 5         | -2.18E-03        | -1.33E-02        | 8.89E-03        | 0.575        | 0.116        | 5         |
| phenylacetate      | 3.25E-01        | -7.11E-01        | 1.36E+00        | 0.504        | 0.042        | 13        | -3.09E-02        | -5.51E-02        | -6.72E-03       | 0.017        | 0.418        | 13        |
| phenylalanine      | 6.33E-01        | -3.61E-01        | 1.63E+00        | 0.207        | 0.034        | 49        | 8.87E-03         | -2.50E-02        | 4.27E-02        | 0.6          | 0.006        | 49        |

|                 |           |           |          |       |       |    |           |           |          |       |       |    |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|----|-----------|-----------|----------|-------|-------|----|
| proline         | -1.95E+00 | -6.00E+00 | 2.11E+00 | 0.3   | 0.133 | 10 | 5.32E-02  | -6.90E-02 | 1.75E-01 | 0.345 | 0.112 | 10 |
| propyleneglycol | -1.52E+00 | -5.75E+00 | 2.71E+00 | 0.474 | 0.011 | 47 | 1.53E-01  | 1.80E-02  | 2.88E-01 | 0.027 | 0.104 | 47 |
| putrescine      | -3.41E-01 | -1.29E+00 | 6.10E-01 | 0.465 | 0.025 | 24 | -6.88E-03 | -4.32E-02 | 2.94E-02 | 0.698 | 0.007 | 24 |
| pyroglutamate   | 9.41E-02  | -1.40E+00 | 1.59E+00 | 0.894 | 0.001 | 16 | 2.83E-04  | -7.60E-02 | 7.66E-02 | 0.994 | 0     | 16 |
| pyruvate        | -1.39E+00 | -3.80E+00 | 1.03E+00 | 0.255 | 0.027 | 49 | 8.66E-02  | 8.37E-03  | 1.65E-01 | 0.031 | 0.095 | 49 |
| serine          | 1.96E-01  | -2.71E+00 | 3.11E+00 | 0.891 | 0.001 | 25 | 6.07E-02  | -2.29E-02 | 1.44E-01 | 0.147 | 0.089 | 25 |
| taurine         | 4.46E-01  | -6.11E-01 | 1.50E+00 | 0.394 | 0.027 | 29 | 7.23E-03  | -3.27E-02 | 4.72E-02 | 0.713 | 0.005 | 29 |
| threonine       | -5.17E-01 | -2.50E+00 | 1.47E+00 | 0.603 | 0.006 | 48 | -6.67E-03 | -7.38E-02 | 6.05E-02 | 0.842 | 0.001 | 48 |
| trimethylamine  | 6.87E-02  | -9.69E-02 | 2.34E-01 | 0.408 | 0.015 | 47 | 9.35E-04  | -4.52E-03 | 6.39E-03 | 0.732 | 0.003 | 47 |
| tryptophan      | 4.05E-02  | -7.02E-02 | 1.51E-01 | 0.467 | 0.009 | 59 | -3.31E-03 | -7.01E-03 | 3.92E-04 | 0.079 | 0.053 | 59 |
| tyrosine        | 9.17E-01  | -2.12E-01 | 2.05E+00 | 0.109 | 0.054 | 49 | 1.05E-02  | -2.83E-02 | 4.93E-02 | 0.589 | 0.006 | 49 |
| uracil          | 3.50E-01  | -3.76E-01 | 1.08E+00 | 0.336 | 0.021 | 47 | 7.40E-03  | -1.75E-02 | 3.23E-02 | 0.552 | 0.008 | 47 |
| valine          | 1.67E+00  | -3.27E-01 | 3.66E+00 | 0.099 | 0.056 | 50 | 1.40E-02  | -5.61E-02 | 8.40E-02 | 0.69  | 0.003 | 50 |
| xanthine        | 1.23E-01  | -1.33E-01 | 3.80E-01 | 0.336 | 0.027 | 36 | -5.61E-05 | -1.03E-02 | 1.02E-02 | 0.991 | 0     | 36 |
| lactate         | -5.99E-01 | -1.14E+01 | 1.02E+01 | 0.912 | 0     | 56 | 3.84E-01  | 2.27E-02  | 7.46E-01 | 0.038 | 0.078 | 56 |

*Note: Bolded rows are metabolites that passed the criteria for mediation.*