



GLOBAL INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS
BLADDER PAIN SOCIETY

Volume 8 Issue 2 || March 2026

GIBS NEWSLETTER

Unraveling the Gut-Bladder Connection: The Antagonistic *Erysipelatoclostridium*-*Roseburia* Axis in IC/BPS

Latest Updates

11th Annual Congress on IC/BPS - GIBS 2026

Date : 22nd & 23rd August 2026

Venue : Jaipur

Theme: Beyond the Bladder: Decoding
Subtypes, Delivering Solutions”

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Interstitial Cystitis/Bladder Pain Syndrome (IC/BPS) remains a clinical enigma, characterized by debilitating pelvic pain and urinary frequency. While its etiology has long been elusive, emerging evidence suggests a critical link between gut microbiota dysbiosis and bladder pathology. In our recent study, we integrated 16S rRNA sequencing and metabolomic profiling to decode this “gut-bladder axis”.

We identified a distinct dysbiosis signature in IC patients: an enrichment of the pathogen *Erysipelatoclostridium* and a significant depletion of the beneficial butyrate-producer *Roseburia*. Using fecal microbiota transplantation (FMT) and mono-colonization mouse models, we demonstrated that this specific microbial imbalance is causal, sufficient to induce bladder epithelial injury and pain behaviors.

Mechanistically, our research reveals that *Erysipelatoclostridium* drives the systemic accumulation of lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC). LPC acts as a damaging mediator, inducing endoplasmic reticulum (ER) stress in bladder epithelial cells via the IRE1-XBP1-CHOP axis, leading to apoptosis and barrier disruption. Conversely, *Roseburia*-derived butyrate functions as a protective shield. It activates the Nrf2 signaling pathway, effectively antagonizing LPC-induced ER stress and restoring epithelial integrity.

These findings establish a novel “antagonistic microbial axis” governing bladder health. This breakthrough shifts our therapeutic perspective from solely targeting the bladder to restoring gut homeostasis. It highlights that targeting the LPC-butyrate metabolic axis—potentially through *Roseburia*-based probiotics or dietary interventions—could offer a promising new strategy for managing IC/BPS.

Our work in urology has been defined by a commitment to solving complex functional disorders, with a specific focus on the mechanism of IC/BPS. My association with the GIBS is founded on a shared dedication to scientific excellence and patient advocacy. GIBS provides a vital international platform that empowers researchers like myself to share translational discoveries—such as our recent work on the gut-bladder axis—with a global audience.

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Vision for GIBS China

My association with GIBS is rooted in my clinical and academic role as Director of the Urology Research Institute at Jiangnan University Medical Center, where addressing complex urological conditions like IC/BPS is a key focus. Witnessing the diagnostic delays and therapeutic challenges faced by patients in our region, I was compelled to align with GIBS's global mission. In 2025, I was honored to be appointed as the Convener to officially launch and lead GIBS China, establishing a vital bridge between international expertise and local clinical practice.

My vision for GIBS China is to leverage this platform to foster tangible progress. Building on our institutional

resources, we aim to create a national network that promotes standardized diagnostic pathways and evidence-based management for IC/BPS. A core strategic goal is to initiate multicenter clinical research unique to our patient demographics, contributing valuable data to the global GIBS knowledge base. Furthermore, we will prioritize developing accredited training modules for healthcare professionals and establishing structured patient support programs, ensuring that educational and advocacy efforts lead to measurable improvements in care quality and patient outcomes. Through sustained collaboration with GIBS global, GIBS China will strive to become an integral and contributing pillar of the worldwide effort against IC/BPS.

AUTHOR



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GLOBAL INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS
BLADDER PAIN SOCIETY

MARCH 1ST | 2:00PM
HYBRID

SIXTH

GIBS INTERNATIONAL IC/BPS PATIENT'S DAY



BEYOND THE BLADDER

Decoding Subtypes, Delivering Solutions.

TIME : 2 PM - 4 PM IST | 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM CET

CONTACT : +91 9811081823

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ANNOUNCING



GLOBAL INTERSTITIAL CYSTITIS
BLADDER PAIN SOCIETY

GIBS 2026

11TH ANNUAL CONGRESS ON IC/BPS
22ND - 23RD AUGUST 2026

 **JAIPUR**

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