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This report looks at the following areas:

- Market factors influencing the gut health industry
- Marketing strategies to watch
- New product innovations to watch
- Incidence and the underlying causes of gut issues
- Current usage and future interests in gut health management products
- Attitudes towards probiotics

Consumers aged 30-39 (26% vs 22% among total) are particularly aware of a sensitive digestive system as a sign of ageing. Furthermore, this group (52% vs 48% among total) are more likely to have taken gut health supplements and functional foods to manage gut health. This suggests that gut health is a key opportunity area for food, drink and supplement manufacturers to tap into the healthy ageing trend by promoting the long-term health benefits.

Gut issue sufferers cite a variety lifestyle factors as the root causes of their issues. Overall, COVID-19 and its subsequent concern in poor immunity is not the single most crucial cause of having gut issues. Unbalanced diet, stress/sleep problems and lack of exercise also have an impact.

Mass market consumers have a rising awareness of the holistic health benefits of probiotics. While this may sound tempting for food, drink and supplement companies to flood into the probiotics market, given that consumers do not have a clear preference on brands, product homogenisation could be a major barrier for brands to address if they are to break through the competition in the probiotics market.

The good news is that the value of probiotics - especially the use of multiple strains - is on consumers' radar. This creates new opportunities for brands to emphasise strains cleverly on marketing messages to differentiate (eg calls different strains by using a 'nickname' alongside educating consumers about their unique health benefits). Brands can also dial into the healthy diet trend by



"Gut health will evolve to be more than simply preventing physical health issues from happening in consumers' current life stage. For mass market consumers, they will have a long-term goal to achieve healthy ageing. For gut issue sufferers, this will include leading a better lifestyle but also healing important parts of the bodysignalling process." - Catherine Liu, Senior Research Analyst

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introducing gut-healing diets (eg avoid problematic ingredients such as additives), helping consumers to heal the gut and the subsequent gutsignalling pathways to other parts of the body.

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