

ABOUT THE TASK FORCE

Probiotic bacteria may be defined as 'live microorganisms that, when administered in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host' (C. Hill et al. 2014). Consumers, the scientific community, regulators and the food industry show a continuing interest in these microorganisms and related functional effects.

The objectives of this task force encompass a better comprehension of probiotic benefits and underlying mechanisms, as well as providing scientific guidelines for the substantiation of health claims.



WHAT'S NEW?

EVENTS:

The latest task force study entitled 'The Regulation of Gut Barrier Function and Potential Biomarkers' was presented at the IPC2015 conference (International Scientific Conference for Probiotics and Prebiotics) on 23-25 June 2015 in Budapest, Hungary.

The Prebiotics and Probiotics Task Forces are planning a joint dissemination activity at the IPC2016 conference (International Scientific Conference for Probiotics and Prebiotics) on 21-23 June 2016 in Budapest, Hungary.

ACTIVITIES

Mechanisms of Probiotic Action

Despite a lack of approved health claims for probiotics in human nutrition, there is general consensus in the probiotic scientific community that specific strains exert documented functional effects and that some health benefits can even be considered a general probiotic trait.

This expert group was set up to investigate what is currently

known about the mechanisms of probiotics action (direct and indirect) in relation to demonstrated (clinical) benefits, to identify gaps in the current knowledge and provide suggestions for the future. Particular areas of interest include specificity of effects, physiological sites of action and learnings for future probiotic selection, studies and application.

Probiotics: Interplay with the Intestinal Barrier Function

Intestinal barrier function and microbiota composition and activity can be affected, for example, by acute infections, antibiotic use, stress or other dietary factors. However, treatment with appropriate probiotic strains could help to restore the intestinal barrier function. An expert group was set up to determine the state-of-the-art research in intestinal barrier

function and its role in health and disease and to investigate the potential impact of probiotics (direct and indirect) on intestinal barrier function. The goal is to crystallise existing consensus, if any, in treatment modalities, to harmonise the validation of markers, and to pinpoint most relevant areas for future research.

MEMBER COMPANIES

- Arla Foods
- Chr. Hansen
- Danone
- DSM
- DuPont Nutrition and Health
- Mead Johnson Nutrition
- Merck
- Nestlé
- Yakult Europe

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

R. Albers, R. Bourdet-Sicard, D. Braun, P.C. Calder, U. Herz, C. Lambert, I. Lenoir-Wijnkoop, A. Méheust, A. Ouwehand, P. Phothirath, T. Sako, S. Salminen, A. Siemensma, H. van Loveren and U. Sack. **Monitoring Immune Modulation by Nutrition in the General Population: Identifying and Substantiating Effects on Human Health.** *British Journal of Nutrition* 2013;110(Suppl.2):S1-S30.

N. Binns. **Probiotics, Prebiotics and the Gut Microbiota.** *ILSI Europe Concise Monograph Series* 2013;1-32. Also available in Portuguese and Japanese.

J. Neu, Guest Editor. **Guidance for Assessing the Probiotics Beneficial Effects: How to Fill the Gap.** *Journal of Nutrition* 2010;140:S671-S721.

All publications commissioned by this task force are available on our website: www.ils.eu.

For more information on ILSI Europe's activities, don't forget to follow us on Twitter @ILSI_Europe and connect with us on LinkedIn.

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