



The Chinese University of Hong Kong Non-confidential Abstract of Technology Disclosure

Title:

NOVEL BIOACTIVE FOOD SUPPLEMENT WITH ANTI-MICROBIAL, ANTI-INFLAMMATORY AND ANTI-CANCER ACTIONS IN THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT

CUHK Ref. No.:

09/MED/316

Patent Status:

US Patent Pending

Licensing Status:

Available for licensing

Inventor(s):

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Non-confidential abstract:

A newly discovered substance known as TCP-2 has been found to be effective against gastrointestinal disorders including cancer and ulcers. TCP-2, a peptide that occurs naturally in the gastrointestinal tract, can be delivered by incorporating it into benign micro-organisms, just like the probiotic bacteria in yogurt drinks.

Helping the Body's Natural Defences

TCP-2 was discovered by researchers at The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK). They found it to be naturally active against a remarkable range of conditions, including inflammation, gastritis, and even cancer of the stomach and colon. It also helps to promote healing of stomach ulcers by encouraging the growth of new tissue and blood vessels. Since it already occurs naturally in the body, the risk of side effects is low compared with conventional drugs.

Point of Delivery

Peptide drugs normally cannot be taken orally, as they would be digested before taking effect. CUHK's researchers have developed a unique and innovative solution: they have demonstrated that TCP-2 can be incorporated into a benign micro-organism, which carries it to the target site and releases it at the point of need. This means that the beneficial effects of TCP-2 can be obtained through a health drink or other oral preparation. In fact, TCP-2 could find a wider market as a prophylactic — that is, a preventive measure to reduce the risk of developing disorders of the digestive system.

Healthy Opportunity

The many advantages of TCP-2 — its natural occurrence in the body, multiple potential benefits, and innovative, user-friendly means of delivery — represent a significant opportunity for clinical development of this promising substance. Its potential for marketing as a prophylactic as well as a therapy—that is, both preventing and treating disease — offer the scope of a wide range of products with a substantial target user base.

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