

## PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, April 28<sup>th</sup> 2009

### **The combination of selected probiotic strains is able to reduce the risk on eczema**

Today the European Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology has announced the results of a large double-blind randomized controlled trial (Probiotic AND Allergy, PANDA, study). Results of the PANDA study show that a multispecies probiotic food supplement (Ecologic<sup>®</sup> PANDA) is able to significantly reduce the incidence of eczema at the age of three months and sustain this preventive effect after two years.

A quarter of all babies that are born in Western Society these days develop allergy. Prevention of the development of allergy by the early administration of probiotics is an innovative way to conquer this major problem. For that reason, Winlove Bio Industries has developed the multispecies probiotic Ecologic<sup>®</sup> PANDA for the prevention of the development of allergy. The study started was concluded in 2007.

The hygiene hypothesis suggests that reduced exposure to microbial components early in life may be associated with this increased prevalence of allergic disease in children. This is supported by the facts that the immunological basis for the development of allergy is founded at a very young age and that atopic babies have a less diverse microbiota composition in comparison with healthy babies. Ecologic<sup>®</sup> PANDA is therefore specifically developed to manage the intestinal disturbance early in life. The bacterial strains in Ecologic<sup>®</sup> PANDA, *Lactococcus lactis*, *Bifidobacterium bifidum* and *Bifidobacterium lactis*, are selected on their capacity to increase microbial diversity and on their capacity to reduce Th1 cells and enhancing regulatory T cells.

In the large double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled trial (n=157) PANDA study, multispecies probiotics was prenatally administered to mothers and subsequently to their babies for the first 12 months of their life. Results show a risk reduction of the developing of eczema of 58% after three months. This effect seemed to be sustained until the age of two years. Results also show a decreased *in vitro* production of IL-5, and to a lesser extend IL-13, at the age of three months in the treatment group. In addition, babies in the treatment group showed a more frequent colonization of both *Lactococcus lactis* and *Bifidobacterium bifidum*. Both results support the observed decrease in incidence of eczema.

## **Winlove Bio Industries B.V.**

Winlove has more than 15 years experience in the development and production of probiotic food supplements for the business to business market. Winlove's evidence based formulations are designed in collaboration with leading University hospitals. Applications have been developed in the area of antibiotic-associated side effects, constipation, IBD, traveller's diarrhea, allergy and vaginal infections.

### **Note for editor, not for publication**

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Meet us 5-7 May 2009 at Vitafoods, Geneva, Stand 429

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### **Publications PANDA study:**

Niers et al. The effects of selected probiotic strains on the development of eczema (The PANDA study). *Allergy*. 2009; [Epub ahead of print]

Niers LE, Timmerman HM, Rijkers GT, van Bleek GM, van Uden NO, Knol EF et al. Identification of strong interleukin-10 inducing lactic acid bacteria which down-regulate T helper type 2 cytokines. *Clin Exp Allergy* 2005; 35(11):1481-9.

Niers LE, Hoekstra MO, Timmerman HM, van Uden NO, de Graaf PM, Smits HH et al. Selection of probiotic bacteria for prevention of allergic diseases: immunomodulation of neonatal dendritic cells. *Clin Exp Immunol* 2007; 149(2):344-52.

Ecologic® products are marketed by Spencer Food Industrial BV in Amsterdam. For information about market opportunities, please contact Mrs. Paula Sijbrandij, [sijbrandij@spencerfood.com](mailto:sijbrandij@spencerfood.com)

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