



PRESS RELEASE



EFFCA and LABIP host a workshop on probiotics and health claims

In the context of Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods, EFFCA and LABIP members have been actively involved since 2007 in submitting all the information requested by the authorities for evaluating and approving health claims for probiotics under Articles 13.1, 13.5 and 14.

Following the first and the second of EFSA's opinions published in October 2009 and March 2010, respectively, EFFCA expressed its concerns over the lack of guidance regarding the data, which must be provided to EFSA for the evaluation of the probiotic claims under Article 13.1.

In this context, a workshop on **Probiotics and the basis for the substantiation of gut and immune health claims** with a panel of recognised academic experts was held on 24 March 2010 in Brussels, Belgium.

This workshop, hosted jointly by EFFCA (the European Food & Feed Cultures Association) and LABIP (the Lactic Acid Bacteria Industrial Platform), aimed to open discussions among scientists with a core expertise in the field of probiotics on which scientific documentation it would be possible to get approval of claims related to gut and immune health.

Keynote speakers gave their opinion on some of the success factors for substantiating a specific gut or immune health claim. The next step is clearly to forward and discuss our views with EFSA on which biomarkers are correlated to clinical end points, which clinical end points are relevant to health, how many clinical trials should be performed, what should be the target population and what should be their statistical power.

EFFCA and LABIP urge EFSA to explicit their view in a technical guidance addressing the design of the efficacy studies to be reported in an immune or gut health claims dossier to be submitted under Regulation (EC) No. 1924/2006. We hope that DG SANCO will support this initiative, which will provide the industry with a valuable tool to compile successful dossiers.

Workshop panel: Pr Ger Rijkers, Pr Lorenzo Morelli, Pr Robert-Jan Brummer and Eric Claassen

Moderator: Dr Jan Sikkema

If you would like more information on this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact:

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE

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EFFCA represents 16 manufacturing companies accounting for more than 95% of the microbial food cultures, including probiotics, sold in Europe. Visit our website: www.fffca.com

LABIP represents 25 manufacturing companies. It is an organisation of industrial member industries involved in the manufacture of products using lactic acid bacteria. LABIP mainly focuses on research, development, legislation, production and industrial exploitation of lactic acid bacteria (LAB). Visit our website: www.labip.com