

Press release

Natural Bacteria to Fight Skin Diseases and Atopic Dermatitis

Bayreuth/Berlin, 5 November 2013 – Pathogens, e.g. bacteria which impair health, can be defeated by other bacteria, making it possible to naturally treat or even entirely prevent diseases. This is the result of biotechnological research presented by Prof. Dr. Christine Lang during a collaborative forum of “Bayern Innovativ” held at the University of Bayreuth. One active agent of a specific lactic acid bacterium (lactobacillus), for instance, stimulated the growth of a healthy skin flora, i.e. of bacteria which promote a natural skin-pH value and thus improve defense against pathogens and germs.

Ms. Christine Lang is the managing director of the Berlin-based biotechnology company Organobalance GmbH, which has a collection of more than 8,000 strains of yeast and lactic acid bacteria. The company has already identified strains which act against bacterial infections or tooth decay. “Nature offers so many means of treating or preventing diseases”, says Ms. Lang. “Biotechnology has the task of researching and utilizing these positive characteristics of biological resources”.

Suitable bacterial strains offer the possibility of preventing diseases such as atopic dermatitis, which are currently treated only after onset and often using drugs such as cortisone. “Our bio-actives are not pharmaceutical agents which can only be employed once a disease has developed”, explains Ms. Lang. “They can be used prophylactically as a part of a normal lifestyle.” Possible applications are a shower gel containing “beneficial bacteria” which protect the skin, and which could be used by anybody.

This is a novel approach which goes unrecognized in today’s cosmetics. Hence, the company is pursuing collaborations to use and establish its own products based on bacterial bio-actives. Currently, a dermatological study is evaluated for this purpose.

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