



## PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, January 27, 2015

### ● **Study: Combating Helicobacter Infections with Lactic Acid Bacteria**

Treatment shows potential to replace antibiotics while protecting human gut flora

The bacterium *Helicobacter pylori*, which may cause gastritis and stomach cancer as well as inflammation of the stomach mucosa and the duodenum, can be combated naturally using lactic acid bacteria. Thus, treatment with antibiotics could become unnecessary. This is the result of a clinical study conducted by Organobalance GmbH, a biotechnology company, and directed by Prof. Dr. Christine Lang and Dr. Caterina Holz and published in the international magazine "Probiotics and Antimicrobial Proteins" (<http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12602-014-9181-3>).

Overall, some 700 lactobacillus strains from the microbial culture collection of the Berlin-based Organobalance GmbH were tested, eight of these were found to co-aggregate with the *Helicobacter pylori*-strain. The strongest binding abilities were evident in the strain *Lactobacillus reuteri* DSM17648. "By co-aggregating with the stomach bacterium, the latter loses its motility and thus its ability to enter the stomach mucosa", explains Christine Lang.

Proof of efficacy was demonstrated both in the laboratory and in a placebo-controlled study involving patients with positive *H. pylori* findings. After only two weeks of daily treatment with the lactobacillus, a significant reduction in *H. pylori* colonisation was achieved.

It has been estimated that more than half of the world's population harbours the *Helicobacter* germ, without all of those infected suffering from symptoms, painful inflammations or cancer. Current conventional treatment consists of the administration of several antibiotics.

"Our objective is to avoid antibiotics as they not merely kill harmful, but also good bacteria", Ms Christine Lang emphasises. "We prefer to counter dangerous bacteria with other, beneficial bacteria which can be found in nature." The study demonstrated successful treatment of the stomach bacterium while simultaneously preserving man's natural, beneficial microorganisms, the so-called microflora. The bacterial strain used here is marketed by the Swiss company Lonza and called Pylopass<sup>TM</sup>. It is available in several countries as part of in nutritional supplements.

For the more than a decade, Organobalance has been researching the positive effect of natural yeasts and lactobacilli on the immune system, stomach, gut, skin and mouth health. The company has a unique collection of more than 8,000 yeast strains and lactic acid bacteria. Several have been shown to have an impact on bacteria causing tooth decay. Similarly, bacteria have been identified which help to maintain the skin's natural protective barrier.



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