



PRESS RELEASE

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Positive Effect of Bacteria: Germfree Isn't Good

Prof. Christine Lang interviewed by "Brigitte" magazine

Consumers are beginning to show a more enlightened attitude to bacteria and the positive impact they have on our bodies and our health. This was referenced by Prof. Dr. Christine Lang, Vice-President of the German Association for General and Applied Microbiology (Vereinigung für Allgemeine und Angewandte Mikrobiologie, VAAM) and Managing Director of Organobalance GmbH, in an interview with "Brigitte" magazine. Excerpts taken from the interview have been published in the magazine's current issue.

In these, Prof. Lang emphasises that people felt "reasonable apprehension when it comes to bacteria", but that in general attitudes were changing. "Germfree is no longer automatically good", the magazine quotes the scientist as saying. The rise of allergies and resistances – often facilitated by a lack of contact to naturally present bacteria – had led to a rethink.

Now, the positive effect of probiotic bacteria had also been established for healthy skin, not merely for gastro-intestinal health. Hence, as the paper writes, "research and the beauty industry" work to utilise the advantages of bacteria for novel products in skin care, drugs, and pharmaceuticals.

Here, research companies such as Organobalance played a key role because they have to process different bacterial strains to make application on the skin possible. With regard to products like probiotic yoghurt, Christine Lang explains that "the specific lactic acid bacteria which do such fine work in the gut regrettably do not have the same effect on the skin". Hence, research had the task of utilising for the skin the positive effect of similar bacteria. In a research and clinical study performed by Organobalance, extracts of certain lactobacillus bacteria were identified that help stimulate beneficial bacteria on the skin in order to establish a healthy balance of the skin flora (Holz et al: Novel bioactive from Lactobacillus brevis DSM17250 to stimulate the growth of Staphylococcus epidermidis: a pilot study, in: Beneficial Microbes 2017 Feb 7;8(1):121-131).



About Organobalance:

Organobalance GmbH is a biotechnology research and development company with facilities in Berlin and Flensburg. Founded in 2001, the firm develops and markets products based on probiotic bacteria cultures as well as yeast production strains for use in industrial biotechnology. One of its best-known products is Pylopass™, a natural lactobacillus agent able to bind Helicobacter pylori, a stomach bacterium. Among the company's German and international customers are clients from the food, cosmetics, feed, agriculture, and pharmaceutical industries. The company owns an extensive collection of yeast and lactobacillus cultures, some of which date back to the 1920s. Christine Lang, the company's Managing Director, is also a Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the TU Berlin and has received several business awards. She also chairs the German Bioeconomy Council. Since September 2016, Organobalance has become a part of the Danish company Novozymes A/S.

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