

Editorial

International Journal of Probiotics and Prebiotics: Birth of a much-needed journal

This issue marks the launch of a new journal entitled "International Journal of Probiotics and Prebiotics." This journal is an interdisciplinary broad based peer reviewed scientific publication for critical evaluation of research on prebiotics, probiotics and synbiotics. The major goal of this journal is to provide peer reviewed unbiased scientific data to students, researchers, healthcare providers, and the decision makers in the nutraceutical industry to help make informed choices about prebiotics, probiotics and synbiotics.

A medline survey shows that more than two-thirds of all the manuscripts published on probiotics to date have been published during the last five years. This shows that rate at which interest in the enquiry of the science of probiotics is increasing. This growth is fueled by two fundamental sources. First, several clinical studies have unequivocally proven that certain probiotics may be useful in treating a variety of diarrheal disorders, including rotavirus diarrhea, antibiotic-associated diarrhea, *Clostridium difficile* diarrhea, and traveler's diarrhea. New data also suggests that probiotics might be useful in controlling inflammatory diseases, treating and preventing allergic diseases, preventing cancer, and stimulating the immune system, which may reduce the incidence of respiratory disease. Second, there has been a rapid growth in probiotics and probiotics business worldwide that is reflected by the appearance of new products in the market place on a regular basis. The thirst of the public to find nutritional modalities for disease prevention based on proven science and ever readiness of companies to provide products to do the job is certain to grow more rapidly in the future. This in turn will necessitate the need for common forum for all those interested in prebiotics and probiotic to publish their observations, discuss their opinions and views. An examination of the literature reveals that publications on prebiotics and probiotics are scattered throughout journals

represented by many disciplines such as nutrition, microbiology, pediatrics, gastroenterology, food science and biotechnology and many more.

This new journal, International Journal of Probiotics and Prebiotics, will provide a common forum for nutritionists, healthcare providers, microbiologists, gastroenterologists, food scientists, and others interested in prebiotics and probiotics. The journal will publish original research articles, short communications, letters to the editor, product news from the industry, and review articles. First, we will publish a review of preclinical research data coming largely from animal, cell culture and other experimental models. Such data will provide basis for future product development and/or human research initiatives. Second, we will publish a critical evaluation of current human experimental data to help deliver products with medically proven use. Some of the topics that journal plans to cover will include, Health benefits (e.g., antimicrobial, anticarcinogenic, immunomodulatory, antidiarrheal, antiallergenic, hypolipidemic and hypoglycemic) of regulating activities of intestinal bacteria, impact of the gut microflora on host nutrition and host physiology, intestinal bacteriology / microbial community in the GI tract, gut microflora and atopic disease, intestinal microflora and homeostasis of the mucosal immune response, prebiotic oligosaccharides, prebiotics and colonic absorption of calcium and magnesium, the possible role of probiotic therapy in inflammatory bowel disease, and the role of probiotics in female urogenital healthcare.

The editorial board of the journal is made up of thirty members represented by 4 continents and 20 countries. The expertise of the members includes microbiology, nutrition, and food science, biotechnology to clinical research. The members of the board will work to ensure the publication of high quality manuscripts in their area of expertise. I am confident that the caliber of the editorial board will precipitate a great deal of respect and rapid growth of the journal. As Editor-in Chief, I welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have to improve the journal and I encourage readers to submit original manuscripts for publication.

Milan
April 14, 2006

Francesco Marotta MD, PhD
Editor-in-Chief