

News Release

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ImmunogenX™

Detection of gluten in probiotics

Many probiotics tested had gluten content, including some labeled gluten-free

Significant focus has been given to recent findings presented at the Digestive Disease Week held from May 16th to 19th in Washington, DC. As reported by many news outlets including the NY Times and Time magazine, a study led by Peter Green, MD and Benjamin Lebwohl, MD, professors of medicine at the Celiac Disease Center at the Columbia University Medical Center in New York City, found that 12 of 22 top-selling probiotics (55%) had detectable gluten content. Three of the probiotics with gluten-free labels did not meet FDA standards for being gluten-free, according to the research team.

The gluten analysis was conducted in the laboratory of Dr. Jennifer A. Sealey-Voyksner of ImmunogenX, working with Dr. Robert Voyksner. Dr. Sealey-Voyksner has pioneered the detection of a wide range of gluten proteins based on proteomics analysis using novel new methods of liquid chromatography – mass spectrometry (LC-MS). Dr. Sealey-Voyksner states, “As a celiac sufferer myself I’m troubled by the mislabeling of food products as gluten-free, inadvertent or not. Unfortunately current assay technologies are not sufficiently accurate to ensure that food products are meeting FDA standards. It is a major objective of ImmunogenX to greatly improve on quantitation accuracy using LC-MS. I am pleased that our work has shed light on the problem of gluten content in order to ensure a safe supply of food.”

Dr. Green says “We were surprised at our findings. The study was prompted by our observations that many patients taking dietary supplements had symptoms. Although we are dismayed by the prevalence of gluten in products labelled gluten-free, we are gratified that widespread attention has been given to our revelations. We are indebted to ImmunogenX for their collaboration and in particular providing the crucial assays based on their advanced LC-MS technology. We advise patients to avoid probiotics and other dietary supplements because of these findings.”

About ImmunogenX

“ImmunogenX” (a subsidiary of Immunogenics LLC) was founded in 2013 and is supported by a team of world-renowned clinicians, scientists and advisors. ImmunogenX is developing new advanced diagnostic screening methods to help individuals with suspected gluten sensitivities and/or diagnosed with celiac disease. For disease management we are extending and commercializing a successful clinical study for a metabolic marker compound that can measure the state of recovery of a celiac patient undergoing dietary or non-dietary treatment. This is a unique capability for which there are no other effective diagnostics. For food safety we are pioneering advanced methods to identify new physiologically relevant gluten peptide sequences in wheat, barley, and rye grain to greatly improve on the capability to screen for the full range of gluten proteins in food products.

www.Immunogenx.com

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