



SlgA Protein as Health Supplement for Animals, Humans

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Inventors: Mark Cook, Jordan Sand

The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is seeking commercial partners interested in developing a commercial source of secretory immunoglobulin A to boost animal growth, fight gastrointestinal inflammation and treat other disorders related to deficiency.

Overview

Secretory immunoglobulin A (slgA) plays a critical role in immunity. The protein is found in breast milk and secreted in the gastrointestinal system during development and adulthood. Research suggests that animals and humans deprived of slgA due to early weaning or health defect are at higher risk for disorders like celiac disease, skin allergy and inflammatory bowel disease.

At present there is no method for harvesting large quantities of slgA. To be useful as a commercial health supplement, the protein must be directly obtained from an animal source at high purity and low cost.

The Invention

UW-Madison researchers have developed a method for producing large quantities of animal- and human-grade slgA. The protein is isolated from the intestinal fluid/lining of swine or cows, enriched and purified. The process is similar to how heparin, the common anticoagulant, is produced.

Applications

- New source of slgA for health applications
- Could be administered to animals to increase growth rate, improve feed efficiency and fight gastrointestinal inflammation
- Could be administered to humans to correct slgA deficiency or treat disease (e.g., atopic dermatitis, sepsis)

Key Benefits

- First known method of its kind
- Yields large quantities of pure slgA
- Cost effective
- Commercially viable

Stage of Development

The researchers are optimizing the extraction process and have demonstrated increased animal weight gain and feed efficiencies at commercially relevant levels. Researchers have also demonstrated uses in the prevention and treatment of dermatological lesions in rodents and dogs.

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WARF
Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation

| info@warf.org | 608.960.9850

Additional Information

Related Intellectual Property

- [View Divisional Patent in PDF format.](#)

Tech Fields

- [Animals, Agriculture & Food : Animal nutrition](#)
- [Therapeutics & Vaccines : Inflammation](#)

For current licensing status, please contact Emily Bauer at emily@warf.org or 608-960-9842

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