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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY** [US/US]; One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, OH 45202 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **DAVIS, Catherine, Cornick** [US/US]; 9910 Bennington Drive, Cincinnati, OH 45241 (US). **OSBORN, Thomas, Ward, III** [US/US]; 640 Windings Lane, Cincinnati, OH 45220 (US). **MILLER, Kenneth, Wallace** [US/US]; 7296 Steppingstone Place, Middletown, OH 45044 (US). **JONES, Bruce, Elliott** [US/US]; 8554 High Trail Court, Mason, OH 45040 (US).

(74) Common Representative: **THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY**; REED, T., David, The Procter & Gamble Company, Winton Hill Business Center, 6110 Center Hill Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224 (US).

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(54) Title: LACTOBACILLUS AND ATOPOBIMUM COMPOSITIONS FOR MAINTAINING AND RESTORING NORMAL GASTROINTESTINAL FLORA

(57) Abstract: A composition and method for maintaining and restoring normal gastrointestinal flora in humans. The composition includes one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus iners*, all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp.*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp.* as determined by sequences from 16S rRNA genes. The method for maintaining and restoring includes administering a safe and effective amount of the composition.

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## LACTOBACILLUS AND ATOPOBIUM COMPOSITIONS FOR MAINTAINING AND RESTORING NORMAL GASTROINTESTINAL FLORA

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### FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to bacterial compositions and methods for maintaining and restoring normal indigenous gastrointestinal flora in a human. These compositions and methods may be employed to treat or prevent gastrointestinal diseases and infections.

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### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is well known that indigenous, non-pathogenic bacteria predominate on epithelial cells and associated mucus in the healthy state, and that pathogenic organisms predominate in the stages leading to and during infections. The possibility that indigenous bacteria have a role in preventing infection has been postulated for many years, but few studies have been carried out to identify specific bacteria and their properties required for such an effect.

Bacteria are the predominate type of microorganisms present in the gastrointestinal system. Most humans harbor about  $10^{10}$  -  $10^{11}$  bacteria per gram of mucosal sample, dental plaque or feces. The bacterial flora of this system is comprised of both aerobic and anaerobic bacteria, but is predominated by anaerobic bacteria

The oral cavity is not simply the entrance to the gastrointestinal tract but consists of a complex system of tissues. This site is suitable for the intake and processing of food. The predominant genera detected in the oral cavity includes but is not limited to *Streptococcus*, *Actinomyces*, *Veillonella*, *Fusobacterium*, *Porphyromonas*, *Prevotella*, *Treponema*, *Neisseria*, *Haemophilus*, *Eubacterium*, *Lactobacillus*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Capnocytophaga*, *Eikenella*, *Leptotrichia*, *Peptostreptococcus*, *Staphylococcus*, and *Propriobacterium*. Oral streptococci are among the dominant members of the oral microbiota and are important primary colonizers of mucosal and dental surfaces. It has been estimated that more than 600 different species may be found in the mouth, many of which can not be cultivated.

Oral bacteria may coaggregate and form dental plaque. This structure is a host-associated biofilm and has been associated with dental caries, gingivitis, and periodontal disease.

Dental caries is a disease characterized by localized destruction of the dental structures. This is caused by microbial metabolism and fermentation of dietary sugars and the subsequent production of organic acids that demineralize the teeth.

Periodontal health can be considered to be a state of balance in which the bacterial population coexists with the host, and no irreparable damage occurs to either the bacteria or host tissues. When this balance has been perturbed, gingivitis and/or periodontal disease may develop. Gingivitis is a term describing the inflammatory conditions when only the gingivae are involved. Periodontal disease or "periodontitis" is an inflammatory disease affecting the tooth-supporting tissues and may include the gingival structures.

It has been proposed that probiotics may have a role in dentistry. Results from certain randomized controlled trials have shown that certain gut bacteria, in particular species of *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, may exert beneficial effects in the oral cavity by inhibiting cariogenic streptococci and *Candida* spp. They also appear to alleviate symptoms of allergy. The mechanisms of probiotic action appear to link with colonization resistance and immune modulations. Lactic acid bacteria can produce different antimicrobial components such as organic acids, hydrogen peroxide, carbon peroxide, low molecular weight antimicrobial substances, bacteriocins, and adhesion inhibitors, which also affect other microflora.

The organisms most frequently isolated from the gastrointestinal tract include, but are not limited to members belonging to the genera *Bacteroides*, *Eubacterium*, *Clostridium*, *Bifidobacterium*, *Streptococcus*, *Lactobacillus*, *Peptostreptococcus*, *Peptococcus*, *Ruminococcus*, *Fusobacterium*, *Veillonella*, *Enterococcus*, *Propionibacterium*, *Actinomyces*, *Methanobrevibacter*, *Desulphovibrio*, *Helicobacter*, *Porphyromonas*, *Prevotella*, *Escherichia*, *Enterobacter*, *Citrobacter*, *Serratia*, *Candida*, *Gemella*, and *Proteus*.

The mucosal surface of the human gastrointestinal tract is about 300m<sup>2</sup> and is colonized by more than 400 species. The autochthonous (indigenous) flora colonize particular habitats. Most pathogens are allochthonous (transient) flora. The prevalence

of bacteria in different parts of the gastrointestinal tract appears to be dependent on several factors such as pH, peristalsis, bacterial adhesion, mucin, diet and bacterial antagonism. Because of the low pH of the stomach and the relatively swift peristalsis through the stomach and small bowel, the stomach, duodenum, and jejunum may only  
5 contain low cell densities of organisms ( $10^3$  to  $10^4$  cfu/ml of gastric or intestinal contents). In the ileum, the microflora begin to resemble the colon. The colon is usually the primary site of microbial colonization in humans due to slow intestinal motility and very low oxidation-reduction potentials.

This invention relates to bacterial compositions and methods for maintaining and  
10 restoring normal indigenous gastrointestinal flora in a human. These compositions and methods may be employed to treat or prevent gastrointestinal diseases and infections.

#### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a composition and method for maintaining and  
15 restoring normal indigenous gastrointestinal flora in a human. The composition comprises one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus iners*, all clones also referred to as isolates with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp* as determined by sequences from 16S rRNA genes. The method for  
20 maintaining and restoring comprises administering one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus iners*, all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp* as determined by sequences from 16S rRNA genes.

#### 25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As used herein “**applicator**” refers to a device or implement that facilitates the insertion of a tampon, medicament, treatment device, visualization aid, or other into an external orifice of a human, such as the esophagus, rectum, ear canal, nasal canal, mouth or throat. Non-limiting specific examples of such include any known hygienically  
30 designed applicator that is capable of receiving a tampon may be used for insertion of a tampon, including the so-called telescoping, tube and plunger, and the compact

applicators, an applicator for providing medicament to an area for prophylaxis or treatment of disease, a spectroscope containing a microcamera in the tip connected via fiber optics, a speculum of any design, a tongue depressor, a tube for examining the ear canal, a narrow hollow pipe for guiding surgical instruments, and the like. Applicator  
5 devices such as a toothbrush, cotton and/or Dacron applicator, or a tongue depressor may also be used.

As used herein, the term “**suppository**” means a small plug of medication in a delivery vehicle designed for insertion into the rectum or other body cavity where it melts.

10 As used herein, the term “**deactivation**” means to make less toxic or nontoxic.

As used herein, the term “**density**” is used with its common technical meaning with units of  $\text{g/cm}^3$  or  $\text{g/cc}$ . The density may refer specifically to that of a specific region or feature of the tampon as noted. The density will be measured, unless otherwise noted, but taking the weight divided by the geometric volume described by the shape. Unless noted,  
15 density refers to that of the overall structure and not the individual components, and will include in the measurement void volume of small pores and voids within the overall structure.

As used herein, the term “**encapsulation**” means the surrounding off or “caging” of a compound using a physical or chemical component.

20 As used herein, the term “**inhibit**” to prevent the normal growth of an organism or the activity of an enzyme or protein. As follows. “inhibitor” is any agent that prevents the normal growth of an organism or the activity of an enzyme or a protein.

The term “**perineal pad**” refers to an absorbent product intended for the absorption of feces from the perineal area an/or delivery of a medicament or other  
25 composition by placement within the outer opening of the anus. The perineal pad comprises a liquid pervious topsheet, liquid impervious backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

The term “**interlabial pad**” refers to an absorbent product intended for the absorption of menstrual fluid or urine from the vaginal area by placement within the outer  
30 opening of the vagina. The interlabial pad comprises a liquid pervious topsheet, liquid impervious backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the

backsheet. Examples of such devices are described in U.S. Patent 2,917,049 issued to Delaney on December 15, 1959, U.S. Patent 3,420,235 issued to Harmon on January 7, 1969, U.S. Patent 4,595,392 issued to Johnson, et al. on June 17, 1986, and U.S. Patent 5,484,429 issued to Vukos, et al. on January 16, 1996. A commercially available  
5 interlabial device is the INSYNC Miniform interlabial pad which is marketed by A-Fem of Portland, OR and described in U.S. Patents 3,983,873 and 4,175,561 issued to Hirschman on October 5, 1976 and November 27, 1979, respectively.

The term "**joined**" or "**attached**," as used herein, encompasses configurations in which a first element is directly secured to a second element by affixing the first element  
10 directly to the second element; configurations in which the first element is indirectly secured to the second element by affixing the first element to intermediate member(s) which in turn are affixed to the second element; and configurations in which the first element is integral with the second element; i.e., the first element is essentially part of the second element.

15 The term "**overwrap**" refers to the external surface of a disposable article such as a sanitary napkin, pantiliner, interlabial device, tampon, disposable diapers, and the like. In tampon embodiments, the overwrap typically comprises a fluid permeable layer that surrounds the absorbent tampon's absorbent structure and is the portion, which is direct contact with the vaginal lining during use.

20 As used herein, the terms "**pantiliner**," and "**sanitary napkin**," refers to absorbent articles worn external about the pudendal region for the absorption of fluid therefrom, to aid in wound healing, or for the delivery of active materials, such as medicaments, or moisture. Sanitary napkins typically comprise a liquid pervious topsheet, liquid impervious backsheet and an absorbent core disposed between the  
25 topsheet and the backsheet. The sanitary napkin, as well as each layer or component thereof can be described as having a "body facing" surface and a "garment facing" surface. Pantliners and sanitary napkin may have side extensions commonly referred to as "wings," designed to wrap the sides of the crotch region of the panties of the user of sanitary napkin that may be extension of the topsheet and/or the backsheet. Such devices  
30 are disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,463,045 issued to Ahr et al., 4,556,146 issued to

Swanson et al., U.S. 4,950,264 issued to Osborn III, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4,687,478 issued to Van Tillburg.

By "**pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier**" as used herein is meant one or more compatible solid or liquid filler diluents, or encapsulating substances. By "compatible" as  
5 used herein is meant that the components of the composition are capable of being commingled without interacting in a manner which would substantially decrease the pharmaceutical efficacy of the total composition under ordinary use situations. Some examples of substances which can serve as pharmaceutical carriers are sugars, such as lactose, glucose and sucrose; starches such as corn starch and potato starch; cellulose and  
10 its derivatives such as sodium carboxymethylcellulose, ethylcellulose and cellulose acetates; powdered tragacanth; malt; gelatin; talc; stearic acids; magnesium stearate; calcium sulfate; vegetable oils, such as peanut oils, cotton seed oil, sesame oil, olive oil, corn oil and oil of theobroma; polyols such as propylene glycol, glycerine, sorbitol, manitol, and polyethylene glycol; agar; alginic acids; pyrogen-free water; isotonic saline;  
15 and phosphate buffer solution; skim milk powder; as well as other non-toxic compatible substances used in pharmaceutical formulations. Wetting agents and lubricants such as sodium lauryl sulfate, as well as colouring agents, flavouring agents, lubricants, excipients, tableting agents, stabilizers, anti-oxidants such as ascorbic acid and vitamin E and preservatives, can also be present.

20 By "**safe and effective amount**" as used herein is meant a concentration high enough to significantly-positively modify the condition to be treated but low enough to avoid serious side effects (at a reasonable benefit/risk ratio), within the scope of sound medical judgment. A safe and effective amount of lactobacillus will vary with the particular condition being treated, the age and physical condition of the patient being  
25 treated, the severity of the condition, the duration of treatment, and the nature of concurrent therapy.

As used herein, a tampon has a "**self-sustaining shape**" when a tampon pledget has been compressed and/or shaped such that it assumes a general shape and size, which is vaginally insertable, absent external forces. It will be understood by one of skill in the  
30 art that this self-sustaining shape need not, and preferably does not persist during actual

use of the tampon. That is, once the tampon is inserted and begins to acquire fluid, the tampon may begin to expand and may lose its self-sustaining form.

As used herein, the term “**tampon**,” refers to any type of absorbent structure that is inserted into the vaginal canal or other body cavities for the absorption of fluid  
5 therefrom, to aid in wound healing, or for the delivery of active materials, such as medicaments, or moisture. The tampon may be compressed into a generally cylindrical configuration in the radial direction, axially along the longitudinal axis or in both the radial and axial directions. While the tampon may be compressed into a substantially cylindrical configuration, other shapes are possible. These may include shapes having a  
10 cross section that may be described as rectangular, triangular, trapezoidal, semi-circular, hourglass, serpentine, or other suitable shapes. Tampons have an insertion end, withdrawal end, a length, a width, a longitudinal axis, a radial axis and an outer surface. The tampon’s length can be measured from the insertion end to the withdrawal end along the longitudinal axis. A typical compressed tampon for human use is 30-60 mm in  
15 length. A tampon may be straight or non-linear in shape, such as curved along the longitudinal axis. A typical compressed tampon is 8-20 mm wide. The width of a tampon, unless otherwise stated in the specification, corresponds to the length across the largest cylindrical cross-section, along the length of the tampon.

The term “**urogenital**” as used herein, are intended to be synonymous and refer to  
20 the perineum, vulva, labial majora, all tissues enclosed by the labia majora including the labia minora, clitoris, introitus, fourchette, hymenal remnants, the vestibule and all major (e.g. Bartholin’s) and minor vestibular glands, all sebaceous glands, the urethra and periurethral glands (e.g. Skene’s glands) and internal organs including the urethra, ureters, and bladder.

25 The term “**cfu**” as used herein, are intended to refer to its common technical meaning as number of microbial colony forming units.

The term “**gastrointestinal**” as used herein, are intended to be synonymous and refer to the oral cavity, esophagus, stomach, small intestines, large intestines, colon, anus and perianal region.

30 The term “**nasal**” as used herein, are intended to be synonymous and refer to the nose, sinus and connecting cavities.

The term “wipes” as used herein refers to a substrate used for the absorption of fluid from the body, to aid in wound healing, or for the delivery of active materials, such as medicaments, or moisture.

The present invention relates to a composition and method for maintaining and restoring normal indigenous gastrointestinal flora in a human. The composition and method comprise one or more species of bacteria.

The composition for maintaining and restoring normal indigenous gastrointestinal flora in a human is selected from *Lactobacillus iners*, all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp.*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp.* The degree of similarity is determined by sequence similarity of the 16S rRNA genes. Methods for determining the sequences and the degree of similarity are described by Pavlova SI et. al. in J. Appl. Microbiol. 202;202;92(3)451-9 and by Zhou et. al. Microbiology. 203 Aug;150(pt 8):2565-73. The composition may comprises any species of *Atopobium* but *Atopobium vaginae* and all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Atopobium vaginae* is typically used. The composition may further comprise *Lactobacillus crispatus*. The composition may also further comprise one or more species of bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus gasseri*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus amylolyticus*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus casei subs. pseudoplantarum*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus jensenii*, *Lactobacillus coleohominis*, *Lactobacillus vaginas*, *Anaerococcus spp.*, *Clostridium spp.*, *Dialister spp.*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Fingoldia magna*, *Gemella palaticanis*, *Lachnospiraceae spp.*, *Leptotrichia spp.*, *Megasphaera spp.*, *Streptococcus spp.*, *Hydrogenophaga palleronii*, *Comamonas spp.*, *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*, *Peptostreptococcus, spp.*, *Aerococcus, spp.*, *Veillonella, spp.*, *Mycoplasma spp.*, *Micromonas spp.*, and *Bifidobacterium spp.*

The composition can comprise a safe and effective amount of one or more of the aforementioned bacteria with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

This invention is not intended to be limited to any particular mode of application. Therefore oral, intravaginal, intraurethral or periurethral applications of the compositions can be used. The composition can be administered or applied in the form selected from

the group consisting of a cream, paste, gum, a suppository, douche, mucoadhesive, liquid dental transport medium, moist wipe, microspheres, an ointments, an oral tablet, a liquid, a drink, a gel, and nasal spray.

One vehicle for delivery of beneficial bacteria may be microspheres comprised of poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide)(PLGA) and poly(D,L-lactide)(PLA) microspheres as described in Goodman, et al, Microspheres Under In Vitro Release Conditions, APPS PharmSciTech, 2003: 4(4) article 50. Other methods for delivery or other mucoadhesives are described in U.S. Patent No., 6,509,028 issued to Williams, et. al on January 21, 2003. Another vehicle for delivery of a beneficial bacteria is an anaerobic dental transport medium available commercially from Anaerobe Systems, Morgan Hill, CA.

Some forms of the composition may comprise one or more bacteria in a jelly base, preferably a K-Y jelly base. Another application involves the preparation of a freeze-dried capsule comprising the composition of the present invention. Effective dosages may range from  $10^3$  to  $10^{13}$  cfu per daily dose and more preferably from  $10^5$  to  $10^{10}$  cfu/ml per daily dose. Typically effective dosages are in the range of  $10^9$  cfu/ml.

The treatment method may vary according to the individual condition of the subject. For example, one regimen involves the subject taking a continuous self administered dose one or more times a day. Another regimen involves the subject self administering a single dose at least once per week on an on-going basis. Yet another regiment involves the subject self administering one or more doses for a period of 1 to 120 days.

The method for maintaining and restoring comprises administering one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus iners*, and all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp.*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp.* The degree of similarity is determined by sequence similarity of the 16S rRNA genes.

The composition used in the method may comprise a composition comprising *Lactobacillus iners* and *Atopobium spp.* The composition may include any species of *Atopobium* including *Atopobium vaginae* and all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Atopobium vaginae*. The composition may further comprise *Lactobacillus*

*crispatus*. The composition may comprise one or one species of bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus gasseri*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus amylolyticus*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus casei subs.pseudoplatantarum*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus jensenii*, *Lactobacillus coleohominis*, *Lactobacillus vaginas*, *Anaerococcus spp.*, *Clostridium spp.*, *Dialister spp.*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Fingoldia magna*, *Bacteriodes thetaiotaomicron*, *Bifidobacterium spp.*, *Gardernella vagianlis*, *Gemella palaticanis*, *Lachnospiraceae spp.*, *Leptotrichia spp.*, *Meagsphaera spp.*, *Streptococcus spp.*, *Hydrogenophaga palleronil*, *Comamonas spp.*, *Peptostreptococcus spp.*, *Aerococcus, spp.*, *Veillonella, spp.*, *Mycoplasma spp.*, and *Micromonas spp.*

The method may comprise applying the composition directly to the gastrointestinal region of a human with a device selecting from the group consisting of ,tongue depressors, toothbrushes, applicators, ovules, tables, perineal pads, wipes, and suppositories.

Although the present invention is not bound by any one theory or mode of operation, it is believed that, at least to some degree, that the inclusion of *Lactobacillus iners* with other lactobacillus species provide the opportunity for the body to re-establish a healthy flora by reducing or excluding the population of pathogenic bacteria in the gastrointestinal tract. A combination of *Lactobacillus* with *Atopobium* may be similarly effective for some individuals. From the standpoint of physical exclusion, the attachment of *Lactobacillus* acts as a block to uropathogens by preventing access to receptor sites. Coaggregation is an important element as it allows lactobacilli to form a gastrointestinal mixed flora present in healthy patients. This mixed flora is preferably dominated by lactobacilli and other indigenous gram positive bacteria. It is hypothesized that the lactobacilli of the present invention and some uropathogens coaggregate (Reid et al. 1988, Can. J. Microbiol. 34:344-351, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference), in a way that interferes with the pathogenic process.

The compositions of the present invention may include a growth factor for facilitating the growth of lactic acid bacteria. The phrase "a growth factor for facilitating the growth of lactic acid bacteria," as used herein is meant a nutrient source or media

which supplies a necessary source of food and/or energy for facilitating the growth of lactic acid producing bacteria. The growth factor is preferably selective for establishing and maintaining the growth of lactic acid bacteria, preferably *Lactobacillus* and/or *Bifidobacterium*, without facilitating extreme growth of pathogenic bacteria. The various nutritional requirements essential for bacterial and/or colony growth are normally met when the growth factor contain fermentable carbohydrate, peptone, meat and yeast extract. Supplementations with tomato juice, manganese, acetate and oleic acid esters, especially Tween 80, are stimulatory or even essential for most species and are, therefore, included in most MRS medium. Lactic acid bacteria adapted to very particular substrates may require special growth factors.

Examples of suitable growth factors include, but are not limited to, yeast extracts; gangliosides; salicin; mono-, di- and polysaccharide sugars such as glycogen, glucose, fructose, rhamnose, lactulose, methyl- $\alpha$ -D-mannoside, p-nitrophenol- $\alpha$ -D-mannoside, maltose, maltodextrin, dextrin, dextran, levan, sialic acid and acetylglucosamine as well as oligosaccharides such as, but not limited to, fructooligosaccharides, galactooligosaccharides and soybean oligosaccharides. Fiber or fermentable substrates such as psyllium may be used in the present compositions as may gums such as guar gum and xanthum gum. Similarly, proteinacious materials such as, peptone, keratin; vegetable; soy and unsaturated fatty acids such as lauric acid and teichoic acids such as lipoteichoic acid and esters such as glycerophosphates or P-glycerophosphates are also useful as growth factors. The growth factor is preferably selected for establishing and maintaining the growth of lactic acid bacteria, most preferably *Lactobacillus* and/or *Bifidobacterium* species. Growth factors preferable for use in the compositions of the present invention include lactose, lactulose, rhamnose, oligosaccharides and glycogen. Mixtures of these 15 nutrients may also be used.

More preferably the growth factor of the present invention is an oligosaccharide such as, but not limited to, galactooligosaccharides, soybean oligosaccharides and fructooligosaccharides. Oligosaccharides possess bioadhesive properties which help fix the location of these growth factors for easier access by lactic acid bacteria. Most preferred for use herein are fructooligosaccharides. Lactic acid bacteria, such as *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, partially utilize fructooligosaccharides as an energy

source by converting it, via fermentation, to lactic acid or a mixture of lactic acid, acetic acid, and CO<sub>2</sub>. The lactic acid and other fatty acids produced by this carbohydrate fermentation contribute to the maintenance of low pH which is an important control mechanism for preventing colonization of pathogens.

5 Chemically, oligofructose is the oligosaccharide fraction of inulin. It is composed of the GF<sub>n</sub> and F<sub>n</sub> type [G = glucose; F = fructose; n = number of fructose moieties linked by 0 (2, 1) linkages in a ratio of about 2: 1, with n = 2-6, and an average degree of polymerization of 4. Inulin is prepared by hot water extraction of chicory roots and is composed of molecules of the GF<sub>n</sub> type, n ranging as high as 60 with an average degree  
10 of polymerization of 10. Fructooligosaccharides suitable for use herein may or may not have non-fructosyl units in place of fructosyl end units. The same is true for other oligosaccharides with respect to their osyl end units. Non-fructosyl units may include, but are not limited to, polyalcohols such as xylitol, mannitol, and sorbitol.

Fructooligosaccharides most preferred for use in the present Compositions are  
15 inulin or oligofructose. Mixtures of these nutrients may also be used.

The present invention may also be useful in maintaining and restoring normal flora of the gastrointestinal tract, nasal passages and urogenital region of men and women and help treat or prevent gastrointestinal upsets including halitosis, and reduce the risk of infection associated with nasal packings.

20 All documents cited in the Detailed Description of the Invention are, in relevant part, incorporated herein by reference; the citation of any document is not to be construed as an admission that it is prior art with respect to the present invention. To the extent that any meaning or definition of a term in this written document conflicts with any meaning or definition of the term in a document incorporated by reference, the meaning or  
25 definition assigned to the term in this written document shall govern.

While particular embodiments of the present invention have been illustrated and described, it would be obvious to those skilled in the art that various other changes and modifications can be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention. It is therefore intended to cover in the appended claims all such changes and  
30 modifications that are within the scope of this invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A composition for maintaining and restoring normal indigenous gastrointestinal flora in a human comprising one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus iners*, all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp* as determined by sequences from 16S rRNA genes.
2. The composition according to Claim 1 wherein the species of *Atopobium spp* is *Atopobium vaginae* and all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Atopobium vaginae*.
3. The composition according to either Claim 1 or 2, wherein said composition further comprises *Lactobacillus crispatus*.
4. The composition according to any of the proceeding Claims, wherein said composition further comprises one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus casei*, *Lactobacillus gasseri*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus amylolyticus*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus casei subs. pseudoplanarum*, *Lactobacillus brevis*, *Lactobacillus salivarius*, *Lactobacillus acidophilus*, *Lactobacillus plantarum*, *Lactobacillus fermentum*, *Lactobacillus jensenii*, *Lactobacillus crispatus*, *Lactobacillus vaginalis*, *Lactobacillus mucosae*, *Lactobacillus paracasei*, *Lactobacillus rhamnosus*, *Lactobacillus coleohominis*, *Lactobacillus vaginas*, *Anaerococcus spp.*, *Clostridium spp.*, *Dialister spp.*, *Enterococcus faecalis*, *Fingoldia magna*, *Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron*, *Bifidobacterium spp.*, *Gardnerella vaginalis*, *Gemella palaticanis*, *Lachnospiraceae spp.*, *Leptotrichia spp.*, *Megasphaera spp.*, *Streptococcus spp.*, *Hydrogenophaga palleronii*, *Comamonas spp.*, *Peptostreptococcus, spp.*, *Aerococcus, spp.*, *Veillonella, spp.*, *Mycoplasma spp.*, *Micromonas spp.*

5. The composition according to any of the proceeding Claims may be administered as a suppository, douche, mouth wash, oral tablet, capsule, drink, gum, nasal spray, pad, liner, interlabial device, wipe, pessary, tampon or nasal packing.
- 5 6. The composition according to any of the proceeding Claims wherein said composition is in the form selected from the group consisting of a cream, paste, gum, a suppository, mucoadhesive, liquid dental transport medium, microspheres, an ointment, an oral tablet, a liquid, and a gel.
- 10 7. The compositions according to any of the proceeding Claims further comprising a growth factor.
8. A method for maintaining and restoring normal indigenous flora to a human's gastrointestinal tract comprising administering a safe and effective amount of one or more bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Lactobacillus iners*, all clones with at least 97% sequence similarity to *Lactobacillus iners*, *Atopobium spp*, and all clones with at least 90% sequence similarity to *Atopobium spp* as determined by sequences from 16S rRNA genes.
- 15 9. The method of Claim 8 wherein each bacteria is administered in a dose of from about  $10^3$  to about  $10^{13}$  cfu/ml.
- 20 10. The method according to Claim 8, wherein said composition further comprises *Lactobacillus crispatus*.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2005/032870

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER  
A61K35/74 A61P1/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
A61K A61P

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ, MEDLINE, EMBASE, BIOSIS, CHEM ABS Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                                         | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| X         | WO 03/082306 A (REID, GREGOR; BURTON, JEREMY) 9 October 2003 (2003-10-09)<br>page 5<br>page 7, paragraph 4 - page 8, paragraph 1<br>page 9 - page 12; claims 1-19<br>----- | 1,3-10                |
| A         | WO 00/35465 A (UREX BIOTECH INC)<br>22 June 2000 (2000-06-22)<br>page 5 - page 12; claims 1-24<br>-----<br>-/--                                                            | 1-10                  |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents:

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 January 2006

Date of mailing of the international search report

10/02/2006

Name and mailing address of the ISA/  
European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Markopoulos, E

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No  
PCT/US2005/032870

C(Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| A         | <p>RODRIGUEZ JOVITA M ET AL:<br/> "Characterization of a novel Atopobium<br/> isolate from the human vagina: description<br/> of Atopobium vaginae sp. nov."<br/> INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SYSTEMATIC<br/> BACTERIOLOGY. OCT 1999,<br/> vol. 49 Pt 4, October 1999 (1999-10),<br/> pages 1573-1576, XP002364426<br/> ISSN: 0020-7713<br/> the whole document</p> <p>-----</p> | 1-10                  |

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2005/032870

### Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☒ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:  
Although claims 8-10 are directed to a method of treatment of the human/animal body, the search has been carried out and based on the alleged effects of the compound/composition.
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

### Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers allsearchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fees, this Authority did not invite payment of additional fees.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

#### Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No

PCT/US2005/032870

| Patent document<br>cited in search report |   | Publication<br>date | Patent family<br>member(s) | Publication<br>date |
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