

Microbiology & Applied Microbiology

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Supranational assessment of the quality of probiotics: Collaborative initiative between independent accredited testing laboratories

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Recent acquisitions about the role of the microbiota in the functioning of the human body make it possible to envisage an increasing use of beneficial microbes, and more particularly of probiotics as well as their metabolites, as nutritional supplements. National and EU authorities are engaged in assuring the safety and quality of food supplements and in defining rules to assess and communicate their efficacy on human health. The quality of probiotics, intended as strains' identification, viability, and stability over time, is a crucial factor of credibility with consumers and health professionals. Analytical technologies for the quality control of probiotics must also be adapted to new preparations, such as those including new multistrains complex combinations. Accredited laboratories face this relevant challenge on a daily basis. Through its close collaboration with the laboratory commissioned to produce the specifications for its ESLP quality label (identification and quantitative analyses) together with its scientific committee, the ESLP has been focusing on this issue for 10 years. Recently, as part of the internationalization of the ESLP quality label, a new and unique initiative in Europe for the evaluation of the quality of probiotic preparations has been carried out. The collaboration between two accredited

laboratories in Belgium and in Italy represented a concrete example of supranational collaboration in the assessment of the quality of probiotic preparations. Results show that both laboratories are in line as expected in terms of performance. Common approaches to the qualitative assessment of probiotic preparations, especially for complex and composite recipes, in terms of number of strains and included substances, should be encouraged and promoted all over the EU.

Speaker Biography

With more than 20 years experience in the microbiota and microbiotics, Jean-Pol Warzée, medical doctor has participated to many research and development projects in this area in human health in collaboration with European Research Centers and Universities. Jean-Pol has collaborated to the development of new microbiotics solutions and is author, co-author of many publications. Co-Founder 10 years ago of the ESLP - European scientific league for probiotics for 2012, Jean-Pol is also the nominated President of ESLP. Member of several international scientific associations, he has been vice-president of the PRI - Pharmabiotics research institute from 2015 – 2017. Jean-Pol participates regularly to international congresses as speaker related to “probiotics quality control” and also “microbiotics in human health”.

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