



PROEUHEALTH

Extensive database of probiotic bacteria documents safety

A comprehensive database of probiotic bacteria has been constructed in an EU-funded PROSAFE project. This unique database includes and combines information about identification and safety of probiotics, ensuring safer use of probiotics in the future.

The final PROSAFE strain collection comprises 907 strains collected from industry and scientists. Most common strains in the database belong to genera *Lactobacillus* and *Bifidobacterium*, of which 99% and 86% were successfully identified, respectively. Following this, in total 601 strains were tested for their **antibiotic susceptibilities** to 16 different antibiotics. The tested strains included lactobacilli, pediococci, lactococci, bifidobacteria and enterococci. Some resistance was found but in quite low levels.

Also a new method for monitoring the effect of probiotics in foods on faecal microbiota was evaluated. This information would tell us whether the probiotic consumed actually has an effect on our intestinal microbes. Based on the initial results, the method is currently further improved.

Probiotic lactic acid bacteria (LAB) have beneficial influences in the human body. LAB have a good safety record and a long history of safe use. Intensified search for new probiotic strains that can be added to human food has brought the safety issues more central. The PROSAFE-project has aimed to define the criteria, standards, guidelines and regulations for probiotic LABs to secure this good safety record.

Further information please contact
Dr. Herman Goossens
University of Antwerpen
Wilrijkstraat 10
B-2650 Edegem, Belgium
tel: +32 3821 3789, fax: +32 3825 4281
e-mail: Herman.Goossens@uza.be



More information on the PROEUHEALTH cluster can be obtained from <http://proeuhealth.vtt.fi> or by e-mail proeuhealth@vtt.fi

