



STUDY HIGHLIGHTS CANOLA PROTEIN'S HEALTH ADVANTAGES

Vancouver, British Columbia, March 30, 2009 – Burcon NutraScience Corporation (“Burcon”) (TSX-V: BU) announced today, further to the Canola Council of Canada’s March 11th announcement of an investment into research on the role of canola in the prevention and treatment of heart disease and diabetes, that Burcon’s Supertein canola protein isolate is uniquely rich in sulfur amino acids and particularly rich in cysteine. The typical cysteine content of Burcon’s Supertein™ is nearly double that of whey protein, which is recognized for its high cysteine content.

The exceptional cysteine content of canola protein (rapeseed protein) has long been of interest to nutritional scientists. A potential link between canola protein’s high cysteine content and disease prevention has recently been reported in a study in the *British Journal of Nutrition*. The study’s aim was to determine whether rapeseed protein, described by the study’s authors as “an emergent cysteine-rich protein,” could inhibit the onset of the metabolic syndrome. [Mariotti F, Hermier D, Sarrat C, Magné J, Fénart E, Evrard J, et al, Rapeseed protein inhibits the initiation of insulin resistance by a high-saturated fat, high-sucrose diet in rats. *British Journal of Nutrition*. 2008 Nov;100(5):984-91.].

The main finding of the study “is that rapeseed protein substituted for milk protein inhibited the onset of insulin resistance in rats fed the high-saturated fat, high-sucrose diet.” The authors further declared that rapeseed protein mitigated certain factors associated with metabolic syndrome: “The study’s result highlights the importance of the type of protein as a major component of diet quality, in terms of cardiovascular and diabetic risks.” They concluded that “the quality of dietary protein may be an underestimated parameter in dietary strategies against the metabolic syndrome.”

Metabolic syndrome is a combination of medical disorders that increase the risk of developing cardiovascular disease and diabetes. It affects one in five people, and prevalence increases with age. Some studies estimate the prevalence in the USA to be up to 25% of the population. [Ford ES, Giles WH, Dietz WH. Prevalence of metabolic syndrome among US adults: findings from the third National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. *JAMA*. 2002 **287**(3):356-359.]

“We believe Supertein™ with its exciting level of cysteine poses an exceptional opportunity as a functional ingredient for use in a broad array of food and beverage applications.” stated Johann F. Tergesen, Burcon’s President & COO, who added, “Burcon is already investigating an opportunity to have similar scientific studies conducted using Supertein™ as the test material.”

Supertein™ is a highly soluble canola protein isolate with promising nutritional prospects and functional properties that include excellent solubility; the ability to form transparent and heat stable solutions in acid conditions; and foaming.

About Burcon NutraScience

Burcon is a leader in nutrition, health and wellness in the field of functional, renewable plant proteins. Since 1999, Burcon has developed a portfolio of composition, application, and process patents originating from our core protein extraction and purification technology. We are developing the world's first commercial canola proteins, Puratein® and Supertein™ with unique functional and nutritional attributes, and CLARISOY™, a revolutionary soy protein isolate which is 100% soluble and completely transparent in acidic solutions. Our team of highly specialized scientists and engineers work from our own research facility to develop and optimize environmentally sound technologies. To-date, our patent portfolio consists of 78 issued patents worldwide, including 8 issued U.S. patents, and well in excess of 200 additional pending patent applications, 54 of which are U.S. patent applications.

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ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

“Johann F. Tergesen”

Johann F. Tergesen

President and Chief Operating Officer

The TSX Venture Exchange has not reviewed and does not accept responsibility for the adequacy of the content of the information contained herein. This press release contains forward-looking statements that involve risks and uncertainties. These forward-looking statements relate to, among other things, plans and timing for the introduction or enhancement of our products, statements about future market conditions, supply and demand conditions, and other expectations, intentions and plans contained in this press release that are not historical fact. Our expectations regarding the prospect for future success depend upon our ability to develop and sell products, which we do not produce today and cannot be sold without further research and development. When used in this press release, the words “goal”, “intend”, “believes” and “potential” and similar expressions, generally identify forward-looking statements. These statements reflect our current expectations. They are subject to a number of risks and uncertainties. In light of the many risks and uncertainties surrounding the development of a source of protein from canola meal, you should understand that we cannot assure you that the forward looking statements contained in this press release will be realized.

For more information, please contact:

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