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***Lactobacillus gasseri* BNR17 gets kFDA Approval as Functional Ingredient for Body Fat Reduction**

Bioneer (CEO: Han-Oh Park, Ph.D.) announced that its patented *Lactobacillus gasseri* (*Lb.*) BNR17 isolated from human breast milk was recognized by Korea FDA for its body fat reduction effect and received a certificate of functional ingredient for health and functional food. The company is now free to commercialize it in various formats of functional food or food supplements.

The company began its anti-obesity project in 1999 inspired by publications that breast-fed infants and babies demonstrated a lower incidence of metabolic diseases such as obesity and diabetes. Bioneer is the first company in Korea to isolate lactic acid bacteria from Korean mothers' milk, and the company has put a considerable amount of effort in its functional validation.

Lactobacillus gasseri BNR17 has been proven to possess typical characteristics of probiotics including acid resistance, bile tolerance, adherence to Caco-2 cell and antimicrobial activity in the lab tests. The ensuing animal tests discovered the fat oxidation mechanism of *Lb. gasseri* BNR17, and the clinical trials conducted in two medical centers, including Seoul National University Hospital, verified the human body fat reduction effect. While most probiotics are recognized for their effectiveness in gastrointestinal health and skin improvement against immune hypersensitivity, the *Lb. gasseri* BNR17 is also recognized for the functionality of body fat reduction by demonstrating its effectiveness in reducing body weight and waist circumference.

Bioneer expects that the kFDA's recognition of *Lb. gasseri* BNR17 as a functional ingredient will open up a new market for probiotic supplements and food products in helping control body fat, and the company plans to collaborate with or license out to food and/or pharmaceutical companies to have a larger global population struggling from obesity benefit from it.

Bioneer *Lb. gasseri* BNR17 has been patented as an anti-obesity probiotic in ten countries under invention titled: "Lactic acid Bacteria Isolated From Mother's Milk with Probiotic Activity and Inhibitory Activity Against Body Weight Augmentation (Registration No. 10-1108428)".

Bioneer (064550.KQ) is a South Korea-based biotechnology company with a 22 year history. The company has been offering life science products and services to academia, diagnostic market, and pharmaceutical industry. The company has platform technologies in gene based therapeutics and has a few pre-clinical programs in pipeline beside the molecular biology products. Bioneer (064550.KQ) is a public company being traded on KOSDAQ, a South Korea stock exchange market. www.bioneer.com