



*“All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered;
the point is to discover them.”*

Galileo Galilei, Italian polymath and father of modern science

The World through the Eyes of IPA

IPA is coming to a country near you, eventually!

George Paraskevacos, IPA Executive Director



Reflections of a Pandemic Detainee...

Grounded and at my desk in my home office I pondered on the inception of what, in a very short timeframe will end up as one of IPA's upcoming big initiatives. How many times have we heard that probiotics are an unregulated market? In fact, I truly believe it is a broad stroke statement which critics use more often than not to revert attention away from the truly beneficial powers of this unique ingredient.

While there are a variety of approaches globally to regulate probiotics, all these approaches have a minimum of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) requirements to ensure quality and consistency of products which applies to probiotics as part of the category into which they fit, based on their intended use. For example, probiotics sold in the USA would fall into one of a few major categories of product; this can be food including medical food, dietary supplement, or as a drug. Each of these product categories are marketed towards different consumers with different needs. Each product category has very different regulatory requirements matching with their level of risk to each group of people who are taking them. Similar regulatory approaches exist in Europe. While there certainly are regulatory areas that need improvement and adaptation to probiotics, broadly saying that the probiotic market is “relatively unregulated” is factually incorrect and serves as nothing more than “click-bait”. In fact one of the reasons for the Codex initiative for a harmonized approach to global probiotic regulations which now has been taken

up by Argentina and Malaysia is because of the amount of global regulatory divergence that exists.

Our association (IPA) and its members are always ensuring that they are in compliance with regulatory systems used in each territory for probiotics. Moreover IPA is always interested in offering technical expertise to authorities to collaborate and better assist them to properly regulate this quickly evolving area which crosses nutrition and medicine.

Hearing this 'broad stroke' statement one too many times, IPA has decided to produce a Global Regulatory Overview manuscript for probiotic regulations. We have begun with an analysis of 28 countries and should add another 10 for next year. This manuscript will serve as testament to the regulations that companies need to comply with if they are to commercialize product, but more importantly will be a quick reference tool and serve our members with a quick overview of different country regulations for probiotic products. Oh and did I mention this is one of the values of IPA membership as the tool will be for IPA members only.

Don't miss out if you are not a member yet, you can fill the application by clicking this [link](#)

Sincerely,



George



FREE WEBINAR

Trials and Tribulations of a Pandemic: there is a Probiotic for That!

This third webinar in the IPA 2020 series will feature the changed attitudes and lessons learned as we adapt to new realities.

[Register now](#) to learn how the global pandemic forced the world to make changes; lessons learned and what has changed, updates in the e-commerce world and possible situations for a preventative approach with probiotic applications will be featured.

Here are our distinguished speakers:

Dr. Paul Wischmeyer, M.D., E.D.I.C., FASPEN, FCCM

Professor of Anesthesiology and Surgery, Associate Vice Chair for Clinical Research, Dept. of Anesthesiology, Physician Director, TPN/Nutrition Support Service, DUH

Duke University School of Medicine

Professor Robert-Jan M. Brummers, MD, PhD.

Professor of Gastroenterology and Clinical Nutrition

Örebro University

Ewa Hudson

Director of Insights

Lumina Intelligence

Learn more and register [HERE!](#)

This webinar series is a free service produced and funded by the International Probiotics Association and provided by William Reed Business Media Ltd.

Criteria to ensure the proper use of the word probiotic

For a [microorganism to be considered probiotic](#), it must, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) be "live microorganisms that, when administered

in adequate amounts, confer a health benefit on the host.”

Now a new paper has translated this general definition into “*four simple and pragmatic criteria allowing one to conclude if specific strains of microorganisms qualify as a probiotic for use in foods and dietary supplements.*”

Chair of IPA’s Scientific Committee Arthur C. Ouwehand PhD along with seven foremost probiotic experts — Sylvie Binda PhD, David Obis PhD and Bruno Pot PhD are also on the IPA Scientific Committee — have collaborated with scientists from the International Scientific Association for Probiotics and Prebiotics (ISAPP) and published these criteria as well as how the specific conditions or standards can be assessed. [Criteria to qualify microorganisms as ‘probiotic’ in foods and dietary supplements](#) appeared in *Frontiers in Microbiology* online in July 2020.

Read this important paper for extensive details on each criterion and an explanation on why industry, scientific publications, regulatory bodies and the public will benefit from heeding this framework.

Scientific parasites: stay informed and alert!

One of the weak points in science’s armor is the reward and recognition system. Roughly encapsulated, a scientist grows their career by getting their work known and cited, allowing them to get more money to finance additional research to answer the ‘big questions’. Key elements of success are peer-reviewed publications, grant money, and opportunities to disseminate research. It can be a vicious or rewarding cycle, hence the “publish or perish” adage.

So if you can get lots of (high impact!) publications under your belt, present your work at many events, and overall have a nice digital footprint for your research, you are on the right track as a scientist. Luck and timing have a lot to do with how trendy your research topic is, but that is an aside. Add smart people with nefarious intentions and a specific skill set to this ecological system and you have predators. Their prey? Unknowing scientists.

For those of you that don’t know about predatory journals or conferences, take a look [here](#) and [here](#). There are also some living lists of known predatory journals or conferences (such as [here](#) and [here](#)), but perhaps even more utilitarian are explanations aimed to help recognition of such predators (here is [one](#) and [another example](#)). In these times, you should also stay alert for predatory webinars, advisory boards, and blogs, alongside conferences, and journals. It might be a worthwhile exercise to google yourself periodically to see what type of digital and scientific parasites you might be unknowingly supporting.

Until September and stay healthy!



Jesse



More from IPA

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Have you noticed the newest section on our Website: Global Presence?

IPA Global is a non – profit association which has been in existence since 2001. Over time, the association has evolved building its membership to what is today over 110 member companies originating from close to 30 countries. IPA has become and is recognized as “The Global Voice of Probiotics” ®

As the probiotic industry grew so has the importance to have a voice and ear close to the ground in all regions of the world. The IPA board of directors recognized the need for such a structure and nothing was more important to set something up in Europe promptly because of the regulatory environment.

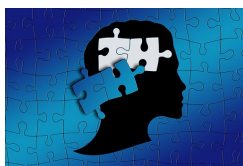
To learn more and for membership details follow this [link...](#)

Global analysis of clinical trials with probiotics

This [new study](#) was funded by the IPA and co-written by [IPA Scientific Committee](#) Chair Arthur Ouwehand



(of DuPont Nutrition and BioSciences) along with researchers Ger Rijkers (also on IPA's Scientific Advisory Board) and Tessa Dronkers of University College Roosevelt in the Netherlands.



Probiotics Seed Hope in Autism

Gut microbes may offer clues to a potentially devastating and confounding disorder named autism.

A [new IPA blog](#) looks at the current state of the science.



A Role for Probiotics in Multiple Sclerosis?

Researchers are exploring the role of altering the gut microbiome in managing multiple sclerosis.

A new [IPA blog](#) reports how probiotics as well as FMT are promising candidates.



COVID-19: A Role for Probiotics in Immunity?

And in case you missed it, another recent article by IPA dives into the evidence for probiotic benefit in viruses, predominantly influenza.



In light of the ongoing uncertainty around the COVID-19 public health crisis, the IPA World Congress + Probiota Americas 2020 has been cancelled, but will return June 16-18, 2021 in Washington, D.C.

George Paraskevagos, IPA's Executive Director, commented:

"Until then, IPA will continue to be the Global Voice of Probiotics® during these challenging times and wish our members and industry friend's good health."

For more information, please click [HERE](#).

Coming Up?

Nothing is certain in these times, but we can do digital for sure.

Conferences, Events & Shows

Food ingredients + Natural ingredients Europe

December 1-3, 2020

Frankfurt, Germany

<https://www.figlobal.com/fieurope/>

Probiota Americas + World Congress

June 16-18, 2021

Washington DC, United States

<https://www.probiotaamericas.com/>

Digital Events

Vitafoods Virtual Expo

NEW interactive event for the entire nutraceuticals community

September 7-11, 2020

<https://bit.ly/3fUswPm>

IPA Third FREE Webinar

September 15, 2020 11 AM EDT

Registration [HERE](#)

IPA ECC Webinar

101 Probiotics

October, 2020

Registration link : coming soon !

IPA Fourth & Final FREE Webinar
December 2, 2020 11 AM EDT
Registration link : coming soon !

IPA World Congress + Probiota Americas:
Digital Summit
November 10-12, 2020
<https://www.probiotaamericas.com/>

IPA invites you to join our global network. Learn the [10 Key Reasons to Join the IPA Community](#): In addition to meeting interesting people, you gain a stake in standards, regulations, IPA elections, and promotion of synbiotics across the globe. And as a bonus, IPA's logo is yours to splash out your website with excellence.



One last thing

In the historical sweep of discovery, probiotics are relative newcomers.
Researchers are working hard to sort out their place in human health and disease.
Meanwhile, controversy and naysayers may cloud these early days.
But then this is how science works.

Join today!

[We'd love to hear from you.](#)



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