

DuPont to supply Probiotics for International Pediatric Sepsis research

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New, large-scale research study to focus on microbiome and severe infections in infants

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DuPont was selected by scientists at SickKids to provide probiotics for a new, large-scale research study in Bangladesh, which will focus on the microbiome and severe infections in infants. The research is funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and will be conducted in collaboration with the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research, Bangladesh and the Child Health Research Foundation, both based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

DuPont will offer its scientific expertise with a comprehensive analysis of the safety and characteristics of the probiotic strain used in the clinical study. DuPont also will develop a validated molecular method for specific detection of the strain.

This will support clinical research aimed at determining if a precise probiotic/prebiotic combination can effectively colonize an infant's developing microbiome, reduce the incidence of sepsis, and improve other health outcomes in early life.

The study comes in the wake of a previous clinical trial in rural India, the largest infant trial to date, which showed promise in reducing the risk of neonatal sepsis using the same combination of probiotic and prebiotic. That trial, which did not involve DuPont or investigators from SickKids or its collaborators, also showed a significant reduction in lower respiratory tract infections. The findings suggested a potential beneficial effect on the development of infants' immune systems. This same probiotic strain also has been demonstrated to increase colonization of beneficial bacteria in infants.

“We are honored to be able to provide our probiotic expertise for this important research,” said Buffy Stahl, Global Business Development Leader at DuPont Nutrition & Biosciences, Probiotics. “This nutritional intervention holds great potential for supporting health in some of the most vulnerable people of all – babies.”

DuPont is committed to sustainability efforts in alignment with and support of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). This latest initiative with SickKids supports SDG 3 to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages. The goal aims to end preventable deaths of newborns and children under five years of age, more specifically to reduce neonatal mortality to 12 per 1,000 live births or lower and mortality of children under five to 25 per 1,000 live births or lower by 2030.