

Singapore-based startup TurtleTree to commercialize human lactoferrin product

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Milk is a very complex evolutionary fluid with millions of different molecules in it. While it will take several years before cell-based whole milk passes regulatory requirements, TurtleTree has chosen to be commercially focused by exploring deeper into the field of milk ingredients. There are highly beneficial and valuable proteins and complex sugars in milk that can be scaled into existing nutritional products much sooner.

Max Rye, Chief Strategist of TurtleTree shares "We have been able to identify early commercial ingredient targets due to our frequent conversations with prominent performance nutrition and infant formula companies. We've since seen tremendous interest from global partners in our portfolio of human and bovine milk products. It is going to be an exciting year for us."

Lactoferrin has been gaining significant traction recently in studies showing its value in boosting resistance to infections from blocking the COVID-19 virus to fighting off bad bacteria in the gut and viral infections. Lactoferrin is an important compound for babies' early protection, with its concentration in human milk is 5 times higher than in cow milk, while human colostrum has the highest amount of 5-6g/L.

Besides providing protection, lactoferrin also plays an important role in brain development and inflammation responses. Gaining traction for adult and senior health, today it is used for treating stomach and intestinal ulcers, diarrhea, hepatitis C and regulating the way the body processes iron.

Today's lactoferrin is derived from cow milk, now TurtleTree's cell based technology has recreated the human-optimized protein from the blueprint of human milk and makes it more accessible to everyone.