

Evonik explores benefits of anthocyanins for cognitive health

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Evonik will present its latest findings on anthocyanins at the polyphenols forum at Vitafoods 2017, a nutraceuticals trade fair held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 9th to 11th. New studies suggest that anthocyanins may benefit cognitive health. The Vitafoods organizers have selected research conducted by Evonik and Professor Dag Aarsland, a specialist in dementia and dementia research at King's College in London, as an industry success story.

Anthocyanins are naturally occurring, highly potent antioxidants. They are predominantly found in blue, purple, red or bluish-black fruits and vegetables. Evonik produces a proprietary anthocyanin-rich extract from wild Scandinavian bilberries and blackcurrants from New Zealand. The extract, marketed as an ingredient for functional foods under the name Healthberry®, is also used in MEDOX®, a highly successful nutritional supplement available in Norway to consumers via medox.no.

Numerous scientific studies suggest that anthocyanins have cardiovascular benefits. Recently, attention has turned to their potential advantages for cognitive health. A past study carried out by Professor Aarsland's team demonstrated that the anthocyanins in MEDOX® safeguard cells and cells transfected with Alzheimer mutation against neurotoxic substances. On that basis, a team of researchers at the Center of Age-Related Research at the renowned Stavanger University Hospital decided to conduct a placebo-controlled clinical trial with elderly participants having an elevated risk of dementia. Specifically, they investigated whether the anthocyanins can prevent memory dysfunction.

Dr. Anne Katrine Bergland, a specialist in geriatric medicine from Professor Aarsland's team, and Dr. Ian Grayson from Evonik will report on these promising new findings on May 9th at Vitafoods.

Moreover, at its booth, and in the *New Ingredient Zone* at the trade fair, Evonik will showcase ways to formulate Healthberry® in functional foods – for example, in effervescent tablets, energy bars and gummy bears.

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Evonik will also present its controlled release technologies for ingredients in nutritional supplements, which allow for precise dosage and bioavailability improvement.

Dr. Ludger Eilers, Director Food Segment at Evonik, explains: “Advanced formulations with controlled release characteristics are gaining importance. With our EUDRAGUARD® functional excipient platform and extensive formulation technology experience, we can help customers develop the next generation of nutraceuticals and functional foods.”

A global network of application technology laboratories enables Evonik to provide customers with local support for the development of innovative formulations – from feasibility studies to analytics, prototyping and commercial-scale manufacturing in a network of trusted partners.

Company information

Evonik, the creative industrial group from Germany, is one of the world leaders in specialty chemicals. Profitable growth and a sustained increase in the value of the company form the heart of Evonik’s corporate strategy. Evonik benefits specifically from its innovative prowess and integrated technology platforms. Evonik is active in over 100 countries around the world with more than 35,000 employees. In fiscal 2016 the enterprise generated sales of around €12,7 billion and an operating profit (adjusted EBITDA) of about €2.165 billion.

About Nutrition & Care

The Nutrition & Care segment is led by Evonik Nutrition & Care GmbH and contributes to fulfilling basic human needs. That includes applications for everyday consumer goods as well as animal nutrition and health care. This segment employed about 7,500 employees, and generated sales of around €4.3 billion in 2016.

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