

PRESS RELEASE

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Promoting safe and sustainable poultry farming in India can have lasting impact on human & environmental health: New Innovative solution offers hope

Professor Jarosław Dastyh, leading scientist and Founder CEO of Proteon Pharmaceuticals discusses his pioneering biological solution for safe poultry farming in Mumbai

The technology uses ‘bacteriophages’ as a preventative antibacterial solution to improve animal and human health

The sustainable alternative to bacterial disease prevention promises to have long term benefits for human health and environment

Mumbai, July 10, 2019: Rising demand for meat and eggs and a resultant turn towards intensive poultry production has in recent decades given rise to a number of health and environmental concerns that pose a challenge to the poultry industry. Bacterial disease causes huge economic losses while resulting in environmental waste and threat to human health. The solution lies in innovation to promote safe and sustainable animal farming.

As one of the largest producers of poultry and eggs, India has often faced concerns over safety of its chicken stock and eggs, with the poultry industry often facing the brunt.

To address the health and environmental challenges emanating from current animal farming practices, Proteon Pharmaceuticals, a Poland-based innovative biotechnology company has pioneered a revolutionary new approach to enable healthy growth of chicken and other livestock.

Professor Jarosław Dastyh, the Founder CEO of Proteon Pharmaceuticals was in Mumbai today to discuss the game-changing potential of the new preventative antibacterial solutions pioneered by him and its positive impact on animal and human health.

While widespread bacterial disease among livestock causes huge economic losses for the industry, it also generates environmental waste and risks to long term human health. By revolutionizing the approach to bacterial control, Proteon’s products completely change the way diseases are currently treated or prevented in animal stock.



The innovative solution uses naturally occurring microorganisms ‘bacteriophages’ to eliminate pathogenic bacteria without causing any harm to the microbiome or gut flora of the animals.

“Bacteriophages are microorganisms that are a natural element of our environment. Phages are everywhere, i.e. on human hands, skin, in the animal gut and in the soil. They are the oldest and most numerous organisms on Earth – and have been protecting humans and animals from bacteria for the last 3.5 billion years. Because lytic phages eliminate only their selected bacteria (they are unable to interact with animal or human cells), they are completely safe to animals or humans and they eliminate the bacteria without any damage to the microbiome, whose diversity is crucial to efficient feed conversion and to animal immunity,” **explained Professor Jarosław Dastych.**

Prof. Dastych is the author of over 40 publications in international scientific journals and has co-authored 4 biotechnology-related patents. His research interests range from immunology, toxicology and molecular biology to the development of novel diagnostic tools and bacteriophage-based or related treatment of disease.

Proteon’s innovation has been possible thanks to the development of an advanced phage-technology platform. The platform is based on precision biology, combining genomics, bioinformatics, materials engineering and molecular biology to identify, test and select appropriate bacteriophages. Using Artificial intelligence, the technology selects phages that can be developed for industrial production which are then delivered to the industrial farming environment in the form of feed additives.

“The word bacteriophage actually means ‘bacteria eater’. These microorganisms destroy their host cells through a natural process without interacting with human or animal cells. Neither do they contaminate the soil or the waters, nor do they leave residue in the meat. This makes them environmentally sustainable and healthy as well. Because they do not damage the microbiome, they help support growing naturally more healthy animals, which require fewer artificial and/or damaging solutions to prevent bacterial contamination,” **adds Dr Bhushan Bhavsar, Managing Director - Vetphage Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.**

Vetphage Pharmaceuticals is a subsidiary Company of Proteon Pharmaceuticals SA. Vetphage handles all operations for the APEC territory.

The products containing the multiple bacteriophage formula are 100% natural and biodegradable and are used as feed additives for poultry and aquaculture. They reduce pathogenic bacteria without side effects, without leaving any residue and without creating antibacterial resistant strains of bacteria.

India is the third-largest egg producer in the world after China and the USA and the fourth-largest chicken producer in the world after China, Brazil and the USA. In India, the per capita consumption of eggs has gone up from 30 eggs per annum to 68 eggs per annum, and that of chicken from 400 gms per annum, to 2.5 kg per annum between 2012 and 2017.