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New Scientific Publication Explains How Genes Influence Folic Acid (Vitamin B9)

Salugen researchers publish nutrigenetics paper in peer-reviewed journal, Drug Metabolism Letters, on how genetic discoveries can customize folic acid to help prevent leading health problems

/24-7PressRelease/ - SAN DIEGO, CA, June 09, 2008 - Salugen, Inc. (www.salugen.com), a life sciences company, announces today a publication in the peer-reviewed scientific journal, Drug Metabolism Letters, entitled, "Folate Nutrigenetics: A Convergence of Dietary Folate Metabolism, Folic Acid Supplementation, and Folate Antagonist Pharmacogenetics." In this scientific publication, Salugen researchers explain the published research demonstrating the role of genes on the metabolism of Vitamin B9, commonly called folic acid.

"Having studied how genes affect Vitamin B9 related to chemotherapies that remove it from a very sick person's body, it makes sense to explore how we could apply the same understanding to Vitamin B9 in a healthy person's body to keep them healthy in the first place," states author Brian Meshkin. Mr. Meshkin goes on to state, "This peer-reviewed journal publication supports Salugen's commitment to advance the field of nutrigenetics. As explained in this publication, this technology provides insights into potential ways to prevent the leading cause of disease and death in the United States."

Folate and folic acid (FA) are forms of water-soluble vitamin B9. Folate occurs naturally in food and FA is the synthetic form of this vitamin that is found in supplements and fortified foods. Folate is essential for the life-sustaining processes of DNA replication and repair. Folate is present in foods such as dried beans, peas, lentils, oranges, whole-wheat products, liver, asparagus, beets, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, and spinach. Unfortunately, the typical diet does not supply appropriate amounts of folate. In 1998, the U.S. government began requiring food manufacturers to add folic acid to enriched breads, cereals, flours, corn meals, pastas, rice, and other grain products. Studies show that close to 3/4's of neural tube defects can be prevented with adequate dietary intake of folic acid. Yet, over half of Americans have a genetic variation that reduces their ability to gain benefits from their intake folic acid.

According to the U.S. National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities (NCBDDD), a family with a child with neural tube defects can expect the average costs of carrying for that child to exceed \$1,000,000. The two most common forms of NTDs are spina bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect in the United States, and anencephaly, which usually results in still birth or death. In addition to birth defects, inadequate folate intake is also attributed to elevated homocysteine levels which are a risk factor for coronary artery disease (atherosclerosis) which is the leading cause of disease and death in the United States.

Salugen includes nutrigenetic testing related to folic acid in its products to not only support heart health, but also to support important brain functions. By supplementing with a customized complex of B vitamins, Salugen products are able to also support proper brain chemical balance which leads to improve feelings of wellbeing, as well as reductions in cravings and stress.* To read the actual publication, please visit <http://www.bentham.org/dml/samples/dml1-1/Blum.pdf>.

About Salugen

Salugen is a life sciences company offering nutritional ingredients and gene testing to help reduce excessive cravings involved in smoking, weight problems, and alcohol and drug abuse. Salugen has a patent-protected, clinically proven nutritional formulation to reduce stress and cravings, as well as patent-protected gene tests to help identify these persons and customize their treatment. Simply, Salugen's goal is to reduce or eliminate the illness, costs, and deaths associated with these preventable disorders. The company has headquarters in San Diego, CA. For additional information about the company, please visit <http://www.salugen.com>.

*These statements have not been evaluated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure or prevent any disease.