



New Patent-pending Indications for Natural Vitamin K2 Announced by PL Thomas in Strategic Alliance with Natto Pharma and VitaK BV

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PL Thomas & Company (PLT) of Morristown, NJ today announced new patent-pending indications for its Natural Vitamin K2 marketed under the trademark MenaQ7™. The role of Natural Vitamin K2 in bone health is well established, and recent research has shown that of the group of K vitamins, only K2 is linked to cardiovascular health. The alliance between PLT, Natto Pharma, Norway and VitaK BV now allows MenaQ7 to be offered for cardiovascular benefits with proprietary research and US patents pending.

PLT is the exclusive North American representative for Natto Pharma, Norway, the supplier of MenaQ7. Natto Pharma, as part of the Strategic Alliance, has acquired three US patents pending from VitaK, which is closely associated with the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands. Further, Natto Pharma has committed to a five-year, multimillion dollar research initiative with VitaK, whereby the proprietary research and subsequent intellectual property developed will be owned by Natto Pharma.

According to Professor Cees Vermeer, PhD, CEO of VitaK, "We have reached full agreement with NattoPharma regarding the purchase of our three patents in the K2-nutrition area. The most important claims are the use of K2 in nutraceuticals, the use of K2 regarding cardiovascular disease/mortality and regression of arterial calcification, and the combinations of K2 and important nutrients including Omega-3 fatty acids."

"These patents support Natto Pharma's natural vitamin K2," Professor Vermeer continued, "the natural vitamin K2 stability, absorption, activity and efficacy have only been tested (at least in our lab) with the material marketed by NattoPharma and PL Thomas."

PL Thomas President Paul Flowerman commented, "we are delighted to present to our clients what we firmly believe is the most viable Vitamin K2 opportunity in all respects. MenaQ7 directly addresses important bone and cardiovascular wellness issues. It is manufactured under cGMP conditions, reliably supplied, and is supported by a total commitment to the best existing and ongoing research and intellectual property development. "

About MenaQ7

MenaQ7 provides Natural Vitamin K2 as an extract of natto, a fermented soy food from Japan. Natto is particularly rich in the highly bio-available form of vitamin K2 called menaquinone-7 (MK-7). Studies of Natto consumption in Japan have linked menaquinone-7 to greater bone health and reduction in risk factors.

Natural Vitamin K2 also may provide significant benefit to cardiovascular health due to its roles in calcium utilization and promoting matrix Gla-protein, a potent inhibitor of vascular calcification. For example, in a study published in The Journal of Nutrition with over 4,700 participants, those with the highest natural K2 consumption had a 50% reduction in risk of cardiovascular events.

About PL Thomas

PL Thomas, a New Jersey-based ingredient supplier, offers fifty years of innovation in securing reliable, high quality raw materials for the food/functional food and nutrition industries. PLT is a one-stop resource for application solutions, current industry information and technical service, and specializes in water-soluble gums and clinically-supported botanical extracts.

For more information, please visit our website or contact Eric Anderson at 973-984-0900, x215 or eric@plthomas.com.

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