Excipient Foods Company (name TBD)

Business development firm Kayon Partners is forming a new company to commercialize a unique food technology developed in the laboratory of Prof. D. Julian McClements. It is well known that some foods, e.g., grape juice, can interfere with the body’s ability to absorb certain drugs and vitamins. Surprisingly, Dr. McClements has found ways to make foods that do the opposite: they enhance the body’s ability to absorb drugs and vitamins. Materials that enhance drug absorption are known as “excipients,” so these new foods are called “excipient foods.” The benefit of excipient foods are two-fold: for some drugs and vitamins, the excipient food will allow the body to better absorb and benefit from them; and for some drugs, the excipient food will allow a patient to get the same benefit from a lower dose of the drug, which may mean there will be lower side effects from the drug.

The new company, which will be led by Kayon Partners (www.kayonpartners.com) principals Stephen Garrow and David Vogel, will work with Dr. McClements and with companies in the food and drug industries, to custom-develop excipient foods to be used along with a variety of drugs and vitamins. The company has taken an option to license the UMA patent applications on this technology. These patent applications describe a wide range of specialized modifications to physical, chemical and biological attributes of foods to make them become excipients. The excipient foods can also be tailored to be solids, liquids or soft foods, and to have a variety of flavors and textures.

Products

Someday, when your doctor prescribes a particular antibiotic or other drug, he or she may also provide instructions that the medicine should be taken with a particular excipient food such as a drug-enhancing cookie, pudding or beverage that is made and marketed by this new company. And when you buy vitamins at the pharmacy or specialty store, you may have the option of buying a companion excipient food product from this new company, to make sure you get the maximum benefit from the vitamin. Medicine for your baby may even come along with an excipient baby food or formula. The new company is being formed in the hope that such products can have a profound effect on the safety of medicines used in modern healthcare.