



HEADLINES

- U.S COOL generates lot of heat, food coalition flays rule
- Ads embroil KFC in fresh controversy
- USDA determines shrimpers in 3 states eligible for TAA
- Philippines rolls out plan to expand U.S and E.U market for milkfish
- Australian prawn farm becomes first in world to get ISO 14001
- USFDA seafood quality rejections slow down by Sep 03
- U.S bill fuels debate on calorie count in restaurant menus
- U.S organic food body joins issue with FDA on cloned animals
- U.K research questions evidence of risk from mercury in fish
- Seafish studies kids' view of seafood to promote consumption
- Australia proposes plan to take illegal fishing head on
- NGOs move court to close California long line fishery
- UKFSA issues food alert on a batch of smoked mackerel
- Food alliance calls for simple food allergens labelling law
- Canadian co. extracts safe pain killer from puffer fish toxin
- Philippines urges exporters to register under Bioterrorism law
- USFDA takes cloned animals a step closer to food chain
- U.S clears decks to resume beef imports from Canada
- New Zealand to refund NZ\$24.6 million to seafood industry
- Mozambique to adopt TED law from Jan 2005

Canadian co. extracts safe pain killer from puffer fish toxin

(Posted on 3rd November 2003)

The puffer fish toxin turns to a non-addictive painkiller, thanks to the trials by International Wex Technologies Inc.

The Vancouver based neuro-bioscience company has recently announced the completion of an interim analysis trial with a purified extract from the toxin on patients with advanced cancer who had not obtained adequate pain relief by relying on current established drug therapies.

Puffer fish, also known as globefish and blowfish for its ability to bloat its body by gulping water when disturbed, is legendary - certain parts of this otherwise delicious fish are poisonous and its preparation requires special skills.

Fugu, as it is called in Japanese, is a prized delicacy in Japan for hundreds of years and has become a sort of legend worldwide, though China is said to be consuming it for a thousand or more years.

In Japan, Fugu is prepared and sold in special restaurants where trained and licensed individuals carefully prepare them.

Puffer fish's toxicity is due to tetrodotoxin, a neurotoxin that may occur in the liver, reproductive organs, kidneys, eyes, intestines, and skin.

The company's lead compound, Tetrodotoxin, a sodium channel blocker, is the platform for the development of a portfolio of proprietary products in the field of analgesia, drug addiction withdrawal treatment, and local anaesthesia.

The tetrodotoxin is 3000 times more powerful than Morphine, non-addictive and is without known side effects according to Wex.

Based on the results of the interim analysis and in line with the recommendation of its clinical advisors and investigators, the Company will file a Clinical Trial Application (CTA) with Health Canada to begin next phase of pivotal trial.

The CTA application for the pivotal trial is anticipated to be filed within the next 30 days. Wex plans to publish the results of this phase of trial in a peer-reviewed journal.

For more information visit:

www.wextech.ca

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