



THORNE
RESEARCH

PRESS RELEASE

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Thorne Research Partners with Indena to Introduce a Breakthrough in Curcumin Absorption

Sandpoint, Idaho (July 29, 2009) – Thorne Research, Inc., one of the most respected, privately-owned marketers of therapeutic dietary supplements for the practitioner industry, and Indena S.p.A, a worldwide supplier and developer of active principals derived from plants, have partnered to introduce Meriva,[®] a highly bioavailable form of curcumin delivered by the patented phytosome[™] technology.

Turmeric is an herbal ingredient widely utilized in the dietary supplement industry. Turmeric's major active constituent is the yellow pigment curcumin, for which numerous health benefits have been reported in the technical literature. However, it is generally recognized that the absorption of curcumin in the body is difficult.

Meriva is a unique, highly bioavailable form of curcumin that uses Indena's phytosome technology to significantly increase curcumin's absorption. Phytosomes are a precise linkage of a plant flavonoid molecule (in this case, curcumin) with a phospholipid molecule (in this case, phosphatidylcholine). In Meriva, a bond is formed between these two molecules to create a hybrid molecule, with the results being superior absorption and better utilization of curcumin.

In a recently published study, Meriva demonstrated superior bioavailability compared to a standardized curcumin extract. The result indicated peak plasma levels and area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC) were five times higher for Meriva than for the standardized curcumin extract. In addition, curcumin concentrations in the gastrointestinal mucosa after ingestion of Meriva were lower than the standardized curcumin extract.

Another smaller study demonstrated in a single-dose trial that the same amount of curcumin was absorbed from 450mg of Meriva bound curcumin as was absorbed from four grams of unbound *Curcuma longa* (95% curcumin), reflecting a significant increase in curcumin bioavailability from the Meriva complex.

With exclusive rights to the practitioner marketplace, Thorne Research is introducing several products featuring Meriva. The first product combines Meriva with Thorne's patented sustained-release technology in a single-dose 250-mg capsule. The second product is called MediClear Plus, which builds upon the industry-leading MediClear detoxification program currently being dispensed by thousands of health-care practitioners.

About Thorne Research

For 25 years, Thorne Research has set the standard for exceptional formulations, quality, and purity in the nutritional supplement industry. Since its beginning in 1984 with just two employees (Al and Kelly Czap, the owners of the company), Thorne Research's philosophy has been the same – provide the finest, purest, highest quality dietary supplements possible at a reasonable price. Although the industry has changed dramatically over the years, the Thorne philosophy has stayed the same. Thorne Research's manufacturing, warehouse, and shipping facility in Sandpoint, Idaho, comprise 76,000 square feet and the company employs over 140 people. People's lives depend on Thorne Research products and that responsibility is taken very seriously.

About Indena S.p.A

Indena is a privately-owned life science company dedicated to the identification, development, and production of active principals derived from plants, for use in the pharmaceutical, health-food, dietary supplement, and cosmetics industries. The company employs 700 people, with 10 percent of the workforce being dedicated to full-time research. Indena oversees cultivation, manufacturing, and distribution operations in more than 35 countries throughout the world. Crucial to Indena's business is its research effort: screening medicinal plants for pharmacological benefits; identifying new active principals; and developing extraction and purification systems at the forefront of industrial application.

REFERENCES:

1 Marczylo T., Verschoyle R., Cooke D., Morazzoni P., Steward W., Gescher A. Comparison of systemic availability of curcumin with that of curcumin formulated with phosphatidylcholine. *Cancer Chemother Pharmacol.* 2006.



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