

## An Eye on the Future

**V**DF FutureCeuticals, Inc. is a vertically integrated functional food ingredient, product development, and bioanalytical research and discovery company. A sister company of Van Drunen Farms (VDF, Momence, IL), one of the largest food ingredient suppliers in the world, FutureCeuticals has 700 conventional and 500 certified organic acres of farmland and facilities in Illinois, Wisconsin, California and Europe. The company's processing capabilities include fermentation, refining, freeze drying, spray drying, extraction, synthesis and milling, among others.

FutureCeuticals offers an extensive line of probiotic, nutritional supplement, food-based antioxidant, soy isoflavone and beverage ingredients. Among the company's branded ingredients are FruiteX-B® Calcium Fructoborate, a patented plant mineral complex that is a significant nutritional breakthrough for joint and bone support, and CoffeeBerry®, a registered trademark suggestive of a line of proprietary, patented antioxidant-rich products derived from the whole fruit of the coffee plant, *Coffea arabica*. In 2010, an independent expert panel declared FutureCeuticals' CoffeeBerry product line GRAS (generally recognized as safe) status for use in food products.

"FutureCeuticals' goal, as expressed in our corporate name, is to remain at the cutting edge, both scientifically and from a production and new product standpoint," said General Manager John M. Hunter. "Today, more than ever before, the nutritional industry is in a state of growth and flux. Although the frontiers of science related to supplements are expanding in very exciting and meaningful ways, we are also facing waves of increased government regulation pertaining to identity, origin, GMP, quality control, safety and activity of ingredients, as well as the messaging and claims associated with the products that are being developed."

### Expansion

In the past few years, FutureCeuticals

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has set its sights on expanding. In 2011, a new global headquarters was opened in Momence, IL. The new building features more than 40,000 square feet of offices, chemistry and quality control laboratories, a custom-formulation laboratory and presentation kitchen, conference rooms, and outdoor lounge and patio areas. Additionally, the company incorporated a well-equipped workout facility to complement its wellness program. Employees are offered fitness classes and custom-tailored training and personalized diet plans.

FutureCeuticals also opened the bio-clinical research facility Applied BioClinical, Inc. (ABC) in Irvine, CA. Utilizing some of the most advanced clinical research tools and equipment available, ABC is able to measure the acute and single-dose effect of products on a wide-range of biologically relevant targets including a host of biomarkers associated with inflammation, aging, cardio-

vascular conditions and metabolic conditions, cytokine and chemokine panels, oxidatative panels, mitochondrial function, gene-specific effects and serum diagnostics. According to the company, the ABC testing paradigm allows for the time-efficient, affordable and publishable discoveries of new functions and mechanisms of action for tested products.

"The establishment of Applied BioClinical, Inc. and our state-of-the-art facilities and clinical discovery research capabilities again demonstrates ongoing investment in and commitment to delivering unique, potent, market-leading, ethical products and services," said Zbigniew Pietrzowski, PhD.

Pietrzowski now leads the research efforts at ABC as chief science officer after having serving as FutureCeuticals' vice president of research and development for 11 years.

### Quality

To ensure that everything is the highest quality possible at FutureCeuticals, the company receives annual audits by British Retail Consortium (BRC); all facilities are GMP compliant, HACCP (hazard analysis and critical control points) compliant, kosher certified and are certified as organic processing plants by QAI (Quality Assurance International) and the State of California. Further, the company's quality control programs include self-inspections, sanitation, pest control, employee training, as well as environmental monitoring (air sampling and bioluminescence).

"At FutureCeuticals, quality is truly 'job one,'" concluded Hunter. "We believe that, overall, the dietary supplement industry is a sophisticated, highly-developed and truly well-intentioned industry. Our customers demand only the finest ingredients that are supported by empirical data and validated testing. FutureCeuticals is committed to exceeding expectations, and to lead, in order to help move human nutrition into a new era of safety, efficacy and, ultimately, real freedom of informed choice for tomorrow's consumer."