

# SIgA Protein as Health Supplement for Animals, Humans

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## Technology description

Secretory immunoglobulin A (sIgA) plays a critical role in immunity. The protein is found in breast milk and secreted in the gastrointestinal system during development and adulthood. Research suggests that animals and humans deprived of sIgA due to early weaning or health defect are at higher risk for disorders like celiac disease, skin allergy and inflammatory bowel disease.

At present there is no method for harvesting large quantities of sIgA. To be useful as a commercial health supplement, the protein must be directly obtained from an animal source at high purity and low cost. UW–Madison researchers have developed a method for producing large quantities of animal- and human-grade sIgA. The protein is isolated from the intestinal fluid/lining of swine or cows, enriched and purified. The process is similar to how heparin, the common anticoagulant, is produced. The Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation (WARF) is seeking commercial partners interested in developing a commercial source of secretory immunoglobulin A to boost animal growth, fight gastrointestinal inflammation and treat other disorders related to deficiency.

## Application area

New source of sIgA for health applications

Could be administered to animals to increase growth rate, improve feed efficiency and fight gastrointestinal inflammation

Could be administered to humans to correct sIgA deficiency or treat disease (e.g., atopic dermatitis, sepsis)

## Advantages

First known method of its kind

Yields large quantities of pure sIgA

Cost effective

Commercially viable

Institution

[Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation](#)

Inventors

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