

## LETTERS: Was omega-3 research study burdened by pharma support?

May 23, 2008 | Henry Olders

Re: [Omega-3 no help for Crohn's](#) (the Medical Post, [May 6](#))

This article did not report on potential conflicts of interest: The research was paid for by a pharmaceutical company with, we assume, an interest in reducing the likelihood that its customers will use alternative treatments. In addition, most if not all of the researchers reported income from pharmaceutical firms marketing Crohn's disease treatments.

The report of the research referred to, by lead investigator Dr. Brian Feagan, reaches the conclusion that an earlier and smaller study by Beluzzi et al. was incorrect in concluding that treatment with omega-3s is beneficial.

However, Dr. Feagan's report fails to mention the possibility that dietary intakes of pro-inflammatory omega-6 fatty acids might have counteracted the anti-inflammatory effects of the omega-3 supplements in his studies.

For example, dietary consumption of the omega-6 linoleic acid (LA), found in seed oils, is considerably higher in the U.S., Canada, and Israel (where many of the sites in the Feagan study were located) than in Italy, the location of the Beluzzi study. As Hibbeln et al. point out, "It is likely that the success and failure of different clinical trials using similar doses of n-3 LCFAs were influenced by differing background intakes of the n-6 fatty acids LA and AA (arachidonic acid)." —*Dr. Henry Olders, Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec.*

**Copyright: "Copyright 2006. MedicalPost.com All Rights Reserved"**

Close