CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A nutritional composition comprising:

a carbohydrate source;

a protein source;

a lipid source; and

at least one ceramide, wherein the at least one ceramide is derived from a plant-based source.

2. The nutritional composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one nutrient selected from the group consisting of galactose, sialic acid, and cholesterol.

3. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one ceramide is selected from the group consisting of galatosyl-ceramide and glucosyl-ceramide.

4. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one ceramide is present in an amount of from about 15 µg/100kcal to about 3 mg/100kcal of nutritional composition.

5. The nutritional composition of claim 4, wherein the at least one ceramide is present in an amount of from about 500 µg/100 kcal to about 2 mg/100kcal of nutritional composition

6. Then nutritional composition of claim 2, wherein galactose is present in an amount of from about 15 mg/100kcal to about 450 mg/100 kcal of nutritional composition.

7. The nutritional composition of claim 2, wherein sialic acid is present in the nutritional composition in an amount of from about 1.5 mg/100kcal to about 75 mg/100kcal of nutritional composition.

8. The nutritional composition of claim 2, wherein cholesterol is present in the nutritional composition in an amount of from about 50 mg/100 kcal to about 400 mg/100 kcal.

9. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises β-glucan.

10. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the protein source of the nutritional composition comprises hydrolyzed proteins.

11. The nutritional composition of claim 1, further comprising DHA.

12. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition is an infant formula.

13. A nutritional composition, comprising per 100 kcal:

(i) between about 6 g and about 22 g of a carbohydrate source;

(ii) between about 1 g and about 7 g of a protein source;

(iii) between about 1 g and about 10.3 g of a lipid source;

(iv) between about 15µg and about 3 mg of at least one ceramide;

(v) between about 15 mg and about 450 mg of galactose;

(vi) between about 1.5 mg and about 75 mg of sialic acid; and

(vii) between about 50 mg and about 400 mg of cholesterol;

wherein the at least one ceramide and galactose are derived from a plant-based source, and further wherein the cholesterol is derived from lanolin sheep's wool.

14. The nutritional composition of claim 13, further comprising a source of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids.

15. The nutritional composition of claim 13, further comprising a source of lactoferrin.

16. A method of reducing the incidence of skin rash associated with a food allergy in a pediatric subject comprising providing a nutritional composition comprising a carbohydrate source, a protein source, a lipid source, at least one ceramide, wherein the at least one ceramide is provided by a plant-based source.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the nutritional composition further includes at least one nutrient selected from the group consisting of galactose, sialic acid, and cholesterol.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the protein source comprises hydrolyzed protein.

19. The method of claim 16, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a source of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids.

20. The method of claim 16, wherein the nutritional composition is an infant formula.

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What is claimed is:

1. A nutritional composition comprising:

a carbohydrate source;

a protein source;

a lipid source; and

at least one ceramide, wherein the at least one ceramide is derived from a plant-based source.

2. The nutritional composition of claim 1, further comprising at least one nutrient selected from the group consisting of galactose, sialic acid, and cholesterol.

3. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one ceramide is selected from the group consisting of galatosyl-ceramide and glucosyl-ceramide.

4. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one ceramide is present in an amount of from about 15 µg/100kcal to about 3 mg/100kcal of nutritional composition.

5. The nutritional composition of claim 4, wherein the at least one ceramide is present in an amount of from about 500 µg/100 kcal to about 2 mg/100kcal of nutritional composition

6. Then nutritional composition of claim 2, wherein galactose is present in an amount of from about 15 mg/100kcal to about 450 mg/100 kcal of nutritional composition.

7. The nutritional composition of claim 2, wherein sialic acid is present in the nutritional composition in an amount of from about 1.5 mg/100kcal to about 75 mg/100kcal of nutritional composition.

8. The nutritional composition of claim 2, wherein cholesterol is present in the nutritional composition in an amount of from about 50 mg/100 kcal to about 400 mg/100 kcal.

9. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises β-glucan.

10. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the protein source of the nutritional composition comprises hydrolyzed proteins.

11. The nutritional composition of claim 1, further comprising DHA.

12. The nutritional composition of claim 1, wherein the nutritional composition is an infant formula.

13. A nutritional composition, comprising per 100 kcal:

(i) between about 6 g and about 22 g of a carbohydrate source;

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(iv) between about 15μg and about 3 mg of at least one ceramide;

(v) between about 15 mg and about 450 mg of galactose;

(vi) between about 1.5 mg and about 75 mg of sialic acid; and

(vii) between about 50 mg and about 400 mg of cholesterol;

wherein the at least one ceramide and galactose are derived from a plant-based source, and further wherein the cholesterol is derived from lanolin sheep's wool.

14. The nutritional composition of claim 13, further comprising a source of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids.

15. The nutritional composition of claim 13, further comprising a source of lactoferrin.

16. Use of a nutritional composition comprising a carbohydrate source, a protein source, a lipid source, at least one ceramide, wherein the at least one ceramide is provided by a plant-based source, in the manufacture of a composition for reducing the incidence of skin rash associated with a food allergy in a pediatric subject.

17. The use of claim 16, wherein the nutritional composition further includes at least one nutrient selected from the group consisting of galactose, sialic acid, and cholesterol.

18. The use of claim 16, wherein the protein source comprises hydrolyzed protein.

19. The use of claim 16, wherein the nutritional composition further comprises a source of long chain polyunsaturated fatty acids.

20. The use of claim 16, wherein the nutritional composition is an infant formula.