CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A milk-based nutritional composition comprising lactoferrin from a non-human source, wherein the lactoferrin is present at a level of 10 mg/100 kcal to 240 mg/100 kcal, and a prebiotic component comprising polydextrose and galacto-oligosaccharides, wherein the polydextrose comprises at least 20% w/w of the prebiotic component, and wherein the milk-based nutritional composition is capable of reducing the incidence of necrotizing enterocolitis in an infant.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the prebiotic component is present at a level of 0.1 g/100 kcal to 1 g/100 kcal.

3. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the lactoferrin is bovine lactoferrin.

4. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is an infant formula.

5. The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising 3 g/100 kcal to 7 g/100 kcal of a fat source.

6. The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising 1 g/100 kcal to 5 g/100 kcal of a protein source.

7. The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising at least one long chain polyunsaturated fatty acid comprising docosahexaenoic acid.

8. The composition according to claim 7, further comprising arachidonic acid.

9. The composition according to claim 8, wherein the composition comprises arachidonic acid and docosahexaenoic acid in a weight ratio between 1:3 to 9:1.

10. The composition according to claim 1, additionally comprising at least one probiotic.

11. The composition according to claim 10, wherein the at least one probiotic comprises *Lactobacillus rhamnosus GG* and is present in an amount of from 1×10^4 to 1.5×10^{10} cfu per 100 kcal.