What is claimed is:

1. A mouthwash comprising an aqueous solution of
    a. an effective amount of a basic amino acid, in free or salt form;
    b. an effective amount of a preservative selected from methylisothiazolinone (MIT), benzyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, and combinations thereof.
2. The mouthwash of claim 1 wherein the basic amino acid is arginine or a salt thereof.
3. The mouthwash of any of the preceding claims wherein the basic amino acid is present in an amount corresponding to 0.01 to 2 wt. % of the total composition weight, the weight of the basic amino acid being calculated as free base form.
4. The mouthwash of any of the preceding claims wherein the preservatives are present, separately or in combination, in amounts as follows:
    a. MIT: 0.0005 – 0.03 wt. %
    b. benzyl alcohol: 0.05 – 0.25 wt.%
    c. phenoxyethanol: 0.1 – 0.7 wt.%.
5. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a pyrophosphate.
6. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a synthetic anionic polymeric polycarboxylate.
7. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a fluoride ion source.
8. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims wherein the mouthwash is ethanol-free.
9. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising one or more of humectants, flavorings, and surfactants.
10. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims wherein the preservative comprises an amount effective to provide microbial control.
11. Use of the mouthwash of any of the preceding claims in the manufacture of a medicament for
    a. reducing or inhibiting formation of dental caries,

b. reducing, repairing or inhibiting early enamel lesions,

c. reducing or inhibiting demineralization and promoting remineralization of the teeth,

d. reducing hypersensitivity of the teeth,

e. reducing or inhibiting gingivitis,

f. promoting healing of sores or cuts in the mouth,

g. reducing levels of acid producing bacteria,

h. increasing relative levels of arginolytic bacteria,

i. inhibiting microbial biofilm formation in the oral cavity,

j. raising and/or maintaining plaque pH at levels of at least pH 5.5 following sugar challenge,

k. reducing plaque accumulation,

l. treating, relieving or reducing dry mouth,

m. whitening teeth,

n. enhancing systemic health, including cardiovascular health,

o. reducing erosion of the teeth,

p. immunizing the teeth against cariogenic bacteria and their effects, and/or

q. cleaning the teeth and oral cavity.

12. A mouthwash according to any of claims 1 to 10, for use in:

a. reducing or inhibiting formation of dental caries,

b. reducing, repairing or inhibiting early enamel lesions,

c. reducing or inhibiting demineralization and promoting remineralization of the teeth,

d. reducing hypersensitivity of the teeth,

e. reducing or inhibiting gingivitis,

f. promoting healing of sores or cuts in the mouth,

g. reducing levels of acid producing bacteria,

h. increasing relative levels of arginolytic bacteria,

i. inhibiting microbial biofilm formation in the oral cavity,

j. raising and/or maintaining plaque pH at levels of at least pH 5.5 following sugar challenge,

k. reducing plaque accumulation,

l. treating, relieving or reducing dry mouth,

m. whitening teeth,

n. enhancing systemic health, including cardiovascular health,

o. reducing erosion of the teeth,

p. immunizing the teeth against cariogenic bacteria and their effects, and/or

q. cleaning the teeth and oral cavity.

REPLACEMENT SHEET Attorney Docket No.: 9225-00-WO-OC

What is claimed is:

1. A mouthwash comprising an aqueous solution of
    a. an effective amount of a basic amino acid, in free or salt form;
    b. an effective amount of a preservative selected from methylisothiazolinone (MIT), benzyl alcohol, phenoxyethanol, and combinations thereof.
2. The mouthwash of claim 1 wherein the basic amino acid is arginine or a salt thereof.
3. The mouthwash of any of the preceding claims wherein the basic amino acid is present in an amount corresponding to 0.01 to 2 wt. % of the total composition weight, the weight of the basic amino acid being calculated as free base form.
4. The mouthwash of any of the preceding claims wherein the preservatives are present, separately or in combination, in amounts as follows:
    a. MIT: 0.0005 – 0.03 wt. %
    b. benzyl alcohol: 0.05 – 0.25 wt.%
    c. phenoxyethanol: 0.1 – 0.7 wt.%.
5. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a pyrophosphate.
6. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a synthetic anionic polymeric polycarboxylate.
7. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising a fluoride ion source.
8. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims wherein the mouthwash is ethanol-free.
9. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims further comprising one or more of humectants, flavorings, and surfactants.
10. A mouthwash according to any of the preceding claims wherein the preservative comprises an amount effective to provide microbial control.
11. A method to improve oral health comprising applying an effective amount of the mouthwash of any of the preceding claims to the oral cavity of a subject in need thereof to

)8.2012 16:21:02 - 28.08.2012 16:31:01 This page 13 of AMENDED SHEET 2012 16:28:46
d at the EPO on Aug 28, 2012 16:31:01. Page 13 of 17

REPLACEMENT SHEET Attorney Docket No.: 9225-00-WO-OC

a. reduce or inhibit formation of dental caries,
b. reduce, repair or inhibit early enamel lesions,
c. reduce or inhibit demineralization and promote remineralization of the teeth,
d. reduce hypersensitivity of the teeth,
e. reduce or inhibit gingivitis,
f. promote healing of sores or cuts in the mouth,
g. reduce levels of acid producing bacteria,
h. to increase relative levels of arginolytic bacteria,
i. inhibit microbial biofilm formation in the oral cavity,
j. raise and/or maintain plaque pH at levels of at least pH 5.5 following sugar challenge,
k. reduce plaque accumulation,
l. treat, relieve or reduce dry mouth,
m. whiten teeth,
n. enhance systemic health, including cardiovascular health,
o. reduce erosion of the teeth,
p. to immunize the teeth against cariogenic bacteria and their effects, and/or
q. clean the teeth and oral cavity.

12. A mouthwash according to any of claims 1 to 10, for use in:

a. reducing or inhibiting formation of dental caries,
b. reducing, repairing or inhibiting early enamel lesions,
c. reducing or inhibiting demineralization and promoting remineralization of the teeth,
d. reducing hypersensitivity of the teeth,
e. reducing or inhibiting gingivitis,

8.2012 16:21:02 - 28.08.2012 16:31:01. This page 14 of AMENDED SHEET 2012 16:29:07
d at the EPO on Aug 28, 2012 16:31:01. Page 14 of 17
28/08/2012

f. promoting healing of sores or cuts in the mouth,

g. reducing levels of acid producing bacteria,

h. increasing relative levels of arginolytic bacteria,

i. inhibiting microbial biofilm formation in the oral cavity,

j. raising and/or maintaining plaque pH at levels of at least pH 5.5 following sugar challenge,

k. reducing plaque accumulation,

l. treating, relieving or reducing dry mouth,

m. whitening teeth,

n. enhancing systemic health, including cardiovascular health,

o. reducing erosion of the teeth,

p. immunizing the teeth against cariogenic bacteria and their effects, and/or

q. cleaning the teeth and oral cavity.