THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A composition comprising killed *H. pylori* cells or a cell lysate thereof, wherein said composition is formulated to be administered to a subject for interrupting or slowing or arresting or preventing an atopic march or progression of an atopic march in a subject, wherein said composition is formulated as a foodstuff or dietary supplement.

2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition comprises *H. pylori* whole cell lysate.

3. The composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the *H. pylori* cells or a cell lysate thereof are killed by sonication, freeze-drying, heat, chemical means or irradiation.

4. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the composition comprises *H. pylori* cells.

5. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 4 comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

6. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 5 formulated for mucosal delivery or ingestion or inhalation.

7. The composition according to any one of claims 1 – 6, wherein the foodstuff comprises an infant formula.

8. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the formulation is in a tablet form, powder form or liquid form.

9. The composition according to any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein a daily dosage of said composition comprises an amount of bacteria or lysate thereof in a range corresponding to between about 10^6 cells to about 10^{12} cells, or about 10^7 cells to about 10^{11} cells, or about 10^8 cells to about 10^{10} cells, or about 10^9 cells to about 10^{10} cells.

10. Use of the composition according to any one of claims 1 to 9 for the manufacture of a medicament for interrupting or slowing or arresting or preventing an atopic march or progression of an atopic march in the subject.

11. Use of a therapeutically effective amount of killed *H. pylori* cells or a cell lysate thereof for the manufacture of a medicament for preventing an allergic immune response to an allergen in a subject or reducing severity or incidence of an allergic immune response to an allergen in a subject.

12. The use according to claim 11, wherein *H. pylori* whole cell lysate is used.

13. The use according to claim 11 or 12, wherein *H. pylori* cells are used.

14. The use according to any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein a daily dosage of said medicament comprises an amount of bacteria or lysate thereof in a range corresponding to between about 10^6 cells to about 10^{12} cells.

15. The use according to any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein said medicament is for administration to a juvenile subject to prevent eczema in the juvenile or a subsequent onset of allergy or asthma in later life.

16. The use according to any one of claims 11 to 15, wherein said medicament is for administration over a period of at least about 2 weeks or at least about 4 weeks or at least about 6 weeks or at least about 8 weeks or at least about 10 weeks or at least about 12 weeks.

17. The use according to any one of claims 11 to 16, wherein said medicament is for preventing or delaying an increase in a serum level of allergen-specific IgE antibody and/or preventing or delaying an increase in a level of one or more inflammatory cytokines in bronchioalveolar lavage (BAL) and/or preventing or delaying an increase in a level of cell infiltrate in lung in a subject exposed to an allergen.