Claims

1. Use of an α-lactalbumin enriched whey protein extract (WPE) as a source of cholesterol in a synthetic nutritional composition for an infant or child wherein, the α-lactalbumin enriched WPE is obtained by a process comprising:
    a. acidifying a whey protein product to pH 4 or below,
    b. forming a low calcium whey protein product by concentrating the proteins in the acidified whey protein until the calcium to protein ratio is less than 0.001 and,
    c. precipitating α-lactalbumin from the low-calcium whey protein product, wherein said precipitating step includes the sub-steps of:
        (I) diluting the low-calcium whey protein product,
        (II) adjusting the pH of the diluted low-calcium whey protein product to between 4 and 5 to form a precipitate and soluble proteins, and
        (III) separating the precipitate proteins from the soluble proteins;

Wherein the WPE is added to said composition in an effective amount sufficient to ensure that said synthetic nutritional composition has a final concentration of cholesterol of at least 90 mg/L.

2. Use according to claim 1 wherein the cholesterol content in said synthetic nutritional composition ranges from 90-150 mg/L.

3. Use according to claim 1 wherein the WPE is also used to optimise the concentration of α-lactalbumin in said synthetic nutritional composition for an infant or child, and wherein said WPE is added to said composition in an effective amount sufficient to provide α-lactalbumin in a range of 1.6 to 3.8 g/L.