WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Use of a nutritional composition comprising a human milk oligosaccharide in the manufacture of a medicament for stimulating healing of the gastrointestinal tract of an individual identified as having an injured gastrointestinal tract.

2. The use of claim 1 wherein the gastrointestinal tract is injured as the result of at least one of enteric infection, inflammatory bowel disease, colitis and bowel obstruction.

3. The use of claim 1 wherein the human milk oligosaccharide comprises at least one of 3'-Sialyllactose, 6'-Sialyllactose, 2'-Fucosyllactose, 3'-Fucosyllactose, Lacto-N-neotetraose, and Disialyllacto-N-tetraose.

4. The use of claim 3 wherein the human milk oligosaccharide comprises 2'-Fucosyllactose.

5. The use of claim 1 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one probiotic.

6. Use of a nutritional composition comprising a human milk oligosaccharide in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the incidence of intestinal mucosa injury in an individual identified as susceptible to an intestinal mucosa injury.

7. The use of claim 6 wherein the human milk oligosaccharide comprises at least one of 3'-Sialyllactose, 6'-Sialyllactose, 2'-Fucosyllactose, 3'-Fucosyllactose, Lacto-N-neotetraose, and Disialyllacto-N-tetraose.

8. The use of claim 7 wherein the human milk oligosaccharide comprises 2'-Fucosyllactose.

9. The use of claim 6 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one probiotic.

10. The use of claim 6 wherein the nutritional composition is selected from the group consisting of a human milk fortifier, an infant formula, a pediatric formula, a follow on formula, and an adult nutritional composition.

11. Use of a nutritional composition comprising a human milk oligosaccharide in the manufacture of a medicament for improving the barrier function in the gastrointestinal tract of an individual identified as being in need of an increased barrier function of the gastrointestinal tract.

12. The use of claim 11 wherein the human milk oligosaccharide comprises at least one of 3'-Sialyllactose, 6'-Sialyllactose, 2'-Fucosyllactose, 3'-Fucosyllactose, Lacto-N-neotetraose, and Disialyllacto-N-tetraose.

13. The use of claim 12 wherein the human milk oligosaccharide comprises 2'-Fucosyllactose.

14. The use of claim 11 wherein the nutritional composition further comprises at least one probiotic.

15. Use of a nutritional composition comprising a human milk oligosaccharide in the manufacture of a medicament for reducing the incidence of inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract of an individual identified as being susceptible to inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract.