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International Conference and Exhibition on

Marine Drugs and Natural Products

July 25-27, 2016   Melbourne, Australia

Marine based ingredients for natural cosmeceuticals

Jeanine B Downie
Overlook and Mountainside Hospitals, USA

Marine compounds are currently used in antibiotics derived from fungi. These include compounds from a sponge that have been found to be useful in treating cancer. One specific neurotoxin from a sea snail has been determined to be as strong and effective as morphine. They are ubiquitous as unicellular organisms make up more than 95% of the living organisms in the ocean. These microorganisms grow where no other life forms can, very deep in the ocean. Logically, if they can survive in the ocean depths, they may be helpful in protecting our skin from environmental stressors. Ocean organisms can be sun burned and it appears that they have adapted and developed compounds/mechanisms that help repair damage from the environment. Preserving algae is the best way to keep the potency of the seaweed. This is done by cold extraction or freeze-drying. We will discuss promising marine compounds for cosmeceutical use and the new hyaluronic acid moisturizer, HA 5 which has marine micro- organism polysaccharide peptide complex in it.

Biography

Jeanine B Downie MD, MA is a board-certified Dermatologist and the Director of Image Dermatology in Montclair, NJ. She has published 37 articles in peer-reviewed journals and lectures nationally and internationally on Cosmetic Dermatology. She consults for the top-tier pharmaceutical companies and does cutting edge clinical trials for them as well. She is a medical television contributor that frequently appears on The Today Show, The Dr. Oz Show, Good Morning America and The View among other shows. She has been honored repeatedly by Castle Connolly as one of New York Metropolitan's Top Doctors. Her first book, *Beautiful Skin of Color* is a comprehensive skin care guide for Asian, Olive and Dark Skin (2004).

jeaninedownie@yahoo.com

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J Pharmacogn Nat Prod
ISSN: 2472-0992 JPNP an open access journal

Natural Products 2016
July 25-27, 2016

Volume 2, Issue 3(Suppl)

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