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To the Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks. and the attached original documents or copy thereof.

1. Name of conveying party(ies):
Olivier Balleve
Paul-Andre Finot
Denis Breuille
5-21-01
Additional names(s) of conveying party(ies) Yes No

3. Nature of conveyance:
 Assignment Merger
 Security Agreement Change of Name
 Other _____
Execution Date: **April 24 & 30 and May 7, 2001**

2. Name and address of receiving party(ies):
Name: Nestec S.A.
Internal Address: _____
Street Address: Avenue Nestle 55
CH-1800 Vevey, Switzerland
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Additional name(s) & address(es) attached? Yes No


4. Application number(s) or registration numbers(s):
If this document is being filed together with a new application, the execution date of the application is: _____
A. Patent Application No.(s)
Serial No. **09/774,814**
Atty Docket No. **112701-136**
Additional numbers attached? Yes No

B. Patent No.(s)
6. Total number of applications and patents involved: **1**
7. Total fee (37 CFR 3.41):.....\$ **40.00**
 Enclosed - Any excess or insufficiency should be credited or debited to deposit account
 Authorized to be charged to deposit account

5. Name and address of party to whom correspondence concerning document should be mailed:
Name: **Robert M. Barrett, Esq.**
Internal Address: _____
Street Address: **P.O. Box 1135**
City: **Chicago** State: **IL** ZIP: **60690**

8. Deposit account number:
02-1818

DO NOT USE THIS SPACE

9. Statement and signature.
To the best of my knowledge and belief the foregoing information is true and correct and any attached copy is a true copy of the original document.
Robert M. Barrett (Reg. No. 30,142)  **May 18, 2001**

Name of Person Signing

Signature

Date

Total number of pages including cover sheet, attachments, and document:

3

ASSIGNMENT

FOR and in consideration of One Dollar (\$1.00) to us in hand paid and other valuable considerations, the receipt and sufficiency whereof are hereby acknowledged and confessed, we, **Olivier Ballevre; Paul-Andre Finot; and Denis Breuille**, residing at **Rte. de Cojonnex 16B, 1000 Lausanne 25, Switzerland; Rte. Tirage 1A, 1806 St. Legier, Switzerland; and 4, route d'Aydat, F-63450 Saint-Saturnin, France**, respectively, and citizens of **France**, hereby sell, assign, transfer and set over unto **Nestec S.A.**, a corporation of **Switzerland**, having an office and place of business at **Avenue Nestle 55, CH-1800 Vevey, Switzerland**, the entire right, title and interest in and to our inventions in

"A METHOD FOR MAINTAINING OR IMPROVING THE SYNTHESIS OF MUCINS"

prepared by the firm of Bell, Boyd & Lloyd LLC of Chicago, Illinois, and executed of even date herewith, said application being identified in the office records of said firm as Case No. **112701-136**; and in the United States Patent and Trademark Office as Serial No. **09/774,814**; and to the United States Letters Patent therefor, when issued together with all improvements thereon and betterments thereof, all divisions, continuations and reissues thereof and substitutions of or for said application, and all foreign rights including the right to make application for Letters Patent for said inventions in any and all foreign countries and the right to claim priority as to the filing date under the International Convention on the basis for the aforesaid application for United States Letters Patent; and we hereby authorize and direct the Commissioner of Patents to issue the patent for said inventions, when granted, in accordance with this Assignment and sale.

For the same considerations, we hereby agree that we will promptly communicate to the aforesaid assignee or its assigns full and complete information concerning improvements or betterments of the inventions disclosed in said application, and we will cooperate at any time upon request of said assignee or its assigns, at its or their expense, in the procurement of patent protection to cover the inventions herein assigned and to be assigned, including the execution of new, divisional, continuing and reissue applications; we will make all rightful oaths, will testify in any proceedings in the United States Patent Office or in the Courts, and generally will do everything lawfully possible to aid said assignee, its successors, assigns, and nominees to obtain, enjoy and enforce proper patent protection for the inventions embraced within the terms of this document.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our name and affixed our seal at:

Date: April 30th, 2001 _____ (SEAL)
OLIVIER BALLEVRE

Before me personally appeared **Olivier Ballevre** known to me to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution and delivery thereof, under his seal, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, on the day and year aforesaid.

B. V. [Signature]
Witness

Date: May 7, 2001 _____ (SEAL)
PAUL-ANDRE FINOT

Before me personally appeared **Paul-Andre Finot** known to me to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution and delivery thereof, under her seal, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, on the day and year aforesaid.

P. A. Finot
Witness

Date: April 24, 2001 _____ (SEAL)
DENIS BREUILLE

Before me personally appeared **Denis Breuille** known to me to be the person who executed the foregoing instrument, and acknowledged the execution and delivery thereof, under her seal, for the uses and purposes therein set forth, on the day and year aforesaid.

Witness
[Signature]