The Pharmanex Biophotonic Scanner
and Blakeslea Trispora

The Pharmanex Biophotonic Scanner is a device that is said to measure the levels of beta carotene in the skin on the palm of the hand.

Pharmanex claims that through the use of light spectrum analysis, the Biophotonic Scanner can measure the amount of beta carotene in one's skin. Based on that reading they claim to be able to rate a person's overall level of antioxidant protection.

Though the machine may measure the level of beta carotene in skin cells of the palm of the hand, we do not believe this can be equated to overall antioxidant status, or even overall dietary carotenoid status. The basis of our opinion is the fact that there are many important dietary antioxidants besides carotenoids. Some, like vitamin-C or flavonoids, are water soluble and can't be measured by such analysis. Others, like vitamin-E, could not be detected by such analysis of palm skin cells. It does appear however that the machine can detect beta carotene in skin cells. But that in itself is not an accurate reflection of dietary carotenoid status.

There are many carotenoids besides beta carotene that are vital to optimal health. The carotenoids leutin and lycopene, proven to play important roles in eye health and prostate health respectively, (amongst other benefits) could not even be measured by such a devise. What's more, the machine can be "fooled" into giving a false positive for dietary carotenoid status if a person is taking even moderate doses of synthetic beta carotene.

In addition, we find no scientific basis for the "Body Defense Score" nor data to substantiate the machines use in determining the presence, level, status or value of other vitamins, minerals or food factors.

But let's set the issue of the viability of the machine aside for the moment.

Indeed, let's assume it's got some value at pointing to a persons need for carotenoids. That's a good thing. We've been saying for more than a decade that carotenoids are fundamental to good health. So let's assume their machine is right and people do need more carotenoids. Whose should they choose?

Well, let's start by looking at the Pharmanex product. What sources do they say the carotenoids in their Life Packs come from?

BLAKESLEA TRISPORA! If you've never heard of this material, don't be surprised. It is doubtful you have ever eaten it, at least not intentionally. Probably no one has. It's not part of nature's blueprint for human nutrition. It's probably not part of any animal's natural food supply. It is a fungus.

According to the manufacturer's own information, beta carotene is produced with Blakeslea trispora by co-fermentation of the two sexual types of the fungus in specific proportions. On top of that, the supplier's information further explains that a benefit of B. trispora is that the beta carotene it produces is 95% identical to the synthetic (all trans) form of beta carotene.

So, again, if we assume their machine is correct in its ability to show a need for carotenoids, whose should a person choose? One that's fungus-derived, same-as-synthetic, mostly just beta carotene? *Or GNLD Carotenoid Complex with its whole food, human food chain, nature's blueprint, USDA proven, peer-review published ability to deliver a broad spectrum of natural carotenoids and protect your heart, defend your cells and boost your immune system?*

We think the answer is obvious. It's Carotenoid Complex!