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#### JOINT VENTURE

## New-trition

✚ Swiss nutrition major Nestlé has again underlined its commitment to functional food. The trust's affiliate Nestlé Health Science SA and Chinese Chi-Med have agreed to form a 50/50 joint venture. It is to be named Nutrition Science Partners Limited. The Swiss giant and the subsidiary of Hutchinson Whampoa Ltd. (Hong Kong) say they will fuse their knowledge in drug development and nutrition to develop and market nutritional healthcare products for gastrointestinal indications (GI), which can be extended to metabolic and brain health areas in the future. Under the terms of the agreement, the Nestlé subsidiary will make an initial capital investment in return for its 50% shareholding in Nutrition Science Partners. For its part, Chi-Med will provide exclusive rights to screen its botanical compound library and its botanical R&D platform. Nestlé founded its health nutrition affiliate in 2009 to screen for new technologies in the emerging sector. ◀