Challenges and Opportunities in Marine Biotechnology Research and Development in Europe - 17.-18.12.2015

Confirmed Speakers

Prof. Dr. Marcel Jaspers, University Aberdeen, UK

Professor Jaspars was educated in Cambridge UK; Dublin, Eire and studied with Prof Phil Crews at the University of California Santa Cruz where he co-authored the textbook 'Organic Structure Analysis'. His group focuses on the functions and applications of marine natural products. The goal of the work is to determine their biological role as well as using them as pharmaceuticals and tools for biomedical research. In 2010 Marcel founded the Marine Biodiscovery Centre, a €3.1M investment focusing on marine bioresources for novel pharmaceuticals, and to investigate fundamental questions in chemical ecology and biosynthesis. Marcel leads the PharmaSea EU FP7 consortium which aims to make the use of marine microbial derived compounds a more attractive proposition to the pharmaceutical industry. The microbes are obtained from extreme environments, in particular hadal trenches, cryogenic environments and thermal vents. In 2015 Prof Jaspars was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Dr. Phil Gribbon, Fraunhofer IME ScreeningPort, Hamburg, Germany

Philip is responsible for science and operations at the Fraunhofer IME ScreeningPort and Coordinator of the EU-OPENSCREEN ESFRI Infrastructure. The IME SP direct its efforts onto the development of biological assay systems, high-throughput drug discovery (i.e. high-throughput screening, high-content screening, toxicological profiling and virtual screening), and the identification of diagnostic biomarkers (including those used for companion diagnostics in preclinical/clinical studies) and pharmacological bioinformatics. Previously, Philip worked at Pfizer Global Research on hit discovery using HTS technologies and gained considerable experience in drug discovery across several target classes. Later, at GSK, Dr. Gribbon led a team of physicists with the remit of increasing the impact of biophysical of methods on the pharmaceutical R&D process. He did his undergraduate and PhD studies at Imperial College, London and served as a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Manchester, working on how the biophysical properties of proteoglycans help define the mechanical properties of cartilage in health and disease.

Prof. Dr. Claire Hellio, Université de Bretagne Occidentale, Brest, France

Claire Hellio is professor in Marine Biotechnology at the European Institute of Marine Sciences (Brest, France) and has 20 years' experience in the field of biomimetics approaches for the research of new antifouling solutions. She has been working on several EU projects and has a strong link with industry. She is vice-president of the European Society for Marine Biotechnology and International Editor of Marine Biotechnology. Claire is the director of a bioprospecting core facility, Biodimar, and thus liaise with industries in the field of marine bioactive ingredients and R&D. She is the co-author of 60 papers and one book.

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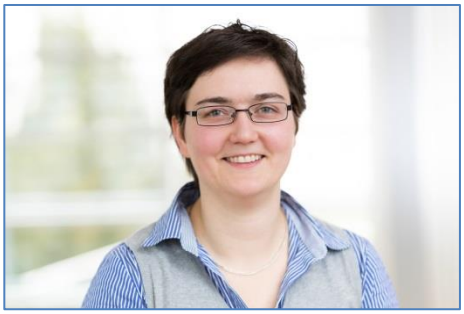
Dr. Christine Beemelmanns, Hans Knöll Institute, Jena, Germany



Christine Beemelmanns received her diploma in chemistry at the RWTH Aachen in 2006. After a one-year research stay in the group of Prof. Mikiko Sodeoka at RIKEN (Wako-shi, Japan) she subsequently started her PhD under the supervision of Prof. Hans-Ulrich Reissig at the Freie Universität Berlin (Germany). After a postdoctoral stay with Prof. Jon Clardy at Harvard Medical School (Boston, USA), she took a position as a junior research group leader at the Leibniz Institut for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology in Jena. Her research interests include natural product isolation and synthesis as well as aspects of chemical ecology and chemical biology. She rceived several awards, stipends and third party funding, including the Daimler und Benz fellowship, and postdoctoral fellowships from the Leopoldina – Academy of Science, DAAD, VCI and the Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes.

Dr. Jean-Paul Cadoret, GREENSEA, Meze, France

Jean-Paul Cadoret is Managing Director of the private Marine Biotech Company GREENSEA. He has a Master degree in Marine Biology and a PhD in Applied Molecular Biology with an accreditation to supervise PhDs from the University of Nantes.

Since 1988, he has been successively Researcher, Team leader, Lab Director and Unit Director in the governmental Institute IFREMER (French Research Institute for Exploitation of the Sea). Jean-Paul is co-founder of the company Algenics, its specialties in the general frame of marine biotechnology focus on the biology of mollusks and the physiology/biotechnological valorization of microalgae.

Dr. Udo Friedrich, DuPont Nutrition & Health, Niebüll, Germany

Udo Friedrich is Global Portfolio Leader Technology & Innovation of DuPont Nutrition & Health, a premier specialty food ingredient and food safety leader. He has been with the company for the last 13 years in various management positions in Research & Development and New Business Development. He obtained his PhD in Microbiology from the University of Osnabrück, his MA from the former and the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology and his Dipl. Science from Otago University, New Zealand. Udo speaks German and English. He is married and has two daughters.

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Prof. Dr. Vera Meyer, Berlin University of Technology, Berlin, Germany

Vera Meyer studied biotechnology at the Sofia University (Bulgaria) and the TUB (Berlin University of Technology, Germany). After obtaining a PhD degree (2001) and habilitation (2008) at the TUB, she worked as Assistant Professor at Leiden University (2008-2011). She has been visiting scientist at the Imperial College London (2003) and at Leiden University (2005-2006). In 2011, she became Full Professor of Applied and Molecular Microbiology at the TUB. Vera Meyer has research interests on fungal biotechnology with main emphasis on systems biology, genetic engineering and antifungal drug development.

Prof. Dr. Mark Brönstrup. Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Braunschweig, Germany

Mark Brönstrup studied chemistry and obtained his PhD from the TU Berlin in 1999. He joined Aventis in 2000 as a lab head for mass spectrometry and spent a research sabbatical with S. P. Gygi at Harvard Medical School in 2003. Between 2005 and 2010, he was leading the Natural Products Science section at Sanofi Aventis in Frankfurt. Between 2010 and 2013, he was managing sections dealing with biomarkers, bioimaging & biological assays. Since December 2013, he has been head of the Chemical Biology Department at the Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research in Braunschweig and W3 Professor at the University of Hannover. His research is focused on the discovery, the characterization and the optimization of novel antiinfective drugs.

Prof. Dr. Torger Børresen, President of European Society of Marine Biotechnology and Technical University of Denmark

Torger Børresen holds a position as Senior Executive Officer at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU). He graduated at Department of Biotechnology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and has held various research positions in USA, Norway and Denmark. He has been Research Director and Professor HC at DTU. Among his leadership positions are the management of a marine biotechnology research centre and coordination the EU supported research project SEAFOODplus. He served as a member of the Collaborative Working Group on Marine Biotechnology appointed by the KBBE-NET and participated in the CSA-MarineBiotech as a follow-up activity. In parallel to this work he was a member of the Marine Board-ESF ad hoc group for drafting Position Paper 15 ‘Marine Biotechnology: A new vision and strategy for Europe’. He is presently the Deputy Coordinator of the ERA-NET Marine Biotechnology, and the president of European Society for Marine Biotechnology.