



Invitation to support the establishment of a new VAAM Fachgruppe “Microbiome”

The study of the (human) microbiome is one of the most dynamically developing areas of research since the beginning of this century. Beyond basic science, there is hope that understanding microbiomes and according functions will lead to a large number of new applications in medicine, agriculture and biotechnology. .

Large US-American and European consortia have driven microbiome research in the past (e.g. Human Microbiome Project, MetaHit Project, MicrobiomeSupport). In the last decade also researchers, who are members of the VAAM, developed remarkable projects and set up consortia to improve our understanding on microbiomes and their contribution to health, including the SFB 1182 “Origin and Function of Metaorganisms” in Kiel, the SFB 1371 “Microbial Signatures” in Munich or the SPP 1656 “Intestinal Microbiota”. In addition, numerous ERC recipients and individual, highly successful research groups support the international visibility of microbiome research far beyond German speaking countries.

The establishment of a new Fachgruppe “Microbiome” under the umbrella of the VAAM is the logic consequence of this development. The major goals of such an initiative are to bundle Microbiome Research in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, to increase the visibility, and to develop a platform for the development of future strategies to implement (human) microbiome research into basic and applied sciences. A new Fachgruppe “Microbiome” could be further a crystal point for joint research proposals including microbiologists from different disciplines. We are aiming to closely collaborate with the DGHM. Moreover, by targeting this “hot topic” of microbiology research areas, we aim to recruit novel VAAM members and to attract additional public interest.

In order to establish the new Fachgruppe “Microbiome” we are asking you for support. In total, we need at least 25 signatures from VAAM members; if you are interested to support the FG “Microbiome” and become a member, please do so by signing below and sending the scanned form (pdf) back to (until the end of February):

schloter@helmholtz-muenchen.de or christine.moissl-eichinger@medunigraz.at.

I herewith support the establishment of a new VAAM Fachgruppe “Microbiome”:

Name:

VAAM Mitgliedsnummer:

City, date:

Signature: