



Dear Members, We hope that you are spending a wonderful summer term 2023 and are enjoying the latest conferences! We have again a couple of news to share with you!

Registration OPEN: Section Meeting in September <https://vaam.hips-wordpress.helmholtz-hzi.de/>

Date: **20th - 22nd of September 2023** at [Saarbrücken/Saarland University](#)!

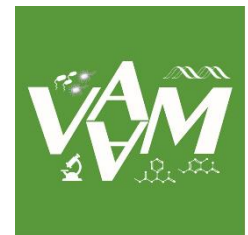
We will have many slots for PhD and Postdocs to present their research! We are also happy that we could invite excellent speakers for the different *research topics* (microbial physiology and ecology, microbial genomics and metabolomics, natural product discovery and drug discovery, and VAAM section business). At the end of the symposium, we will award prizes for the best posters and talks of the symposium!

The award ceremony for the [Hendrik Wolff Prize](#) will take place during the section meeting to honor outstanding achievements at the interface of mass-spectrometry, microbiology and natural product chemistry. Group leaders are encouraged to forward the application call to their graduates. In particular, female graduates are encouraged to apply!
=> **Extension Application Deadline: 16th of July 2023!**

We are more than happy to welcome you at the Campus of Saarland University in September!

Promote our VAAM section group! Please advertise the VAAM section to your group members or students by distributing our VAAM flyers (e.g. student members are e.g. eligible for travel grants to conferences, PhD prizes and other promotions).

Call for ideas! NEW Section Logo: The VAAM offers section groups to design their own VAAM logo based on the general VAAM logo! We came up with a first draft, but we would very much like to get your ideas for a new section logo! Please send your suggestion to natural_products@vaam.de! Your logo suggestions will be presented during the VAAM section meeting!



Publication Highlight: Section members have published many excellent papers in 2023. Here is a recent one:

[Streptomyces polyketides mediate bacteria-fungi interactions across soil environments](#) in *Nat Microbiol* 2023:

The study shows that arginine-derived polyketides (arginoketides) produced by *Streptomyces* species mediate cross-kingdom microbial interactions with fungi of the genera *Aspergillus* and *Penicillium*, and trigger the production of natural products.

Congratulations! The DECHEMA Doctoral Prize for Natural Product Research in 2023 was awarded to **Dr. Felix Trottmann** from the *Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology* in Jena.

The **DECHEMA Young Scientist Prize for Natural Product Research** was awarded to **Prof. Dr. Till Schäberle** from the *Justus-Liebig-University Giessen* (University of Giessen).



Citizen Science Platform: Wettbewerb "Auf die Plätze! Citizen Science in deiner Stadt".

The citizen science project titled "[MICROBELIX - Microbial Biodiversity in Saarland](#)" is in the online voting phase of the competition "[On your marks! Citizen science in your city](#)" until July 21st. Vote for your favourite project and help the jury to decide on the best project!

Meet A Member: Susanne Gebhard, a molecular microbiologist, received her training in Germany and New Zealand.



During her PhD, she focused on bacterial transport systems and their regulation. Later, during her first postdoctoral project, she shifted her research to the regulation of antibiotic resistance. In 2009, upon returning to Germany, Susanne merged her interests and embarked on investigating the active role of transport systems in bacterial signaling. This led her to establish an independent junior research group in Munich. In 2014, she relocated to the UK to take up an academic position in Medical Microbiology at the University of Bath, where she continued and expanded her research. As of February 2023, Susanne holds a [Professorship in Molecular Biotechnology](#) at the Johannes Gutenberg-University of Mainz in Germany. One of her primary research focuses is the study of bacterial signaling pathways and their influence on the intrinsic antibiotic resistance of Gram-positive bacteria.

Best Wishes!

Nadine Ziemert and Christine Beemelmans