



Newsletter – VAAM Focus Group Biology and Biotechnology of Fungi

Dear colleagues and members of the Focus Group,

we hope you all had a relaxing summer that was not too much interrupted by grant deadlines ;-)

In this newsletter, we would like to focus your attention mainly on the upcoming conferences. Please note that for example the abstract submission deadline for the VAAM annual meeting next February is already approaching (Nov. 5th)!

Thanks, enjoy reading and stay healthy,

Kai and Philipp

Section “Good News for Fungal Research”

After >1,5 years of pandemic and countless conferences being cancelled or online, it will be nice to attend some in person again. As it looks now, this will, for example, be possible for the upcoming VAAM annual meeting as well as for the #Fungal22 in Asilomar!

Section “Noteworthy & Miscellaneous”

- **LOGO for the Focus Group:** The number of creative ideas for a new logo so far is ... increasable. So, we extend our call and invite all young researchers (and those that still feel young) again to draft logos for our focus group and submit them to us. There is a good chance to become recognized and create something that will be lasting for a long time!
- **Dicodon Optimization:** A small online tool for context-dependent optimization of codon usage has been set up by Florian Finkernagel (IMT Marburg). The tool allows to adapt the dicodon usage of heterologous genes for expression in your model organism of choice. Feel free to test and boost protein expression of synthesized genes in your favorite fungus.

https://tyberiusprime.github.io/dicodon_optimizer_wasm/

Section “Upcoming conferences”

- **Annual Conference of the VAAM**
 - o 20. – 23.02.2022; Düsseldorf
 - o <https://www.vaam-kongress.de/>
 - o The plan is to also feature a **Fungal Biology session!**
 - o **Abstract Deadline coming up! (Nov. 5th, 2021)**
 - o **Importantly:** We will have a **Mini-Symposium** organized by Daniela Nordzieke (U Göttingen) & Arne Weiberg (LMU Mü) → **please see extra invitation attached!**
- **31st Fungal Genetics Conference, Asilomar (#Fungal22)**
 - o 15.-20.03.2022; Pacific Grove, CA
 - o <https://genetics-gsa.org/fungal-2022>

Speakers of the Focus Group:

J. Philipp Benz – Technische Universität München – benz@hfm.tum.de

Kai Heimel – Georg-August-Universität Göttingen – kheimel@gwdg.de



- **14th Symposium of the VAAM Special Group Biology and Biotechnology of Fungi**
 - o 2nd joint meeting with the GeneAG „Fungal Genetics“ of the German Genetics Society
 - o 22. – 24.09.2022; Kaiserslautern