



**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!

#### NEWS - Section Meeting 2024!

Tentative dates: **21<sup>st</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2024** in Würzburg at **The Helmholtz Institute for RNA-based Infection Research (HIRI)**. The Symposium will be held as satellite meeting of the **5<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Natural Products** (22. - 24. October 2024) at the Congress Centrum Würzburg. This year's Section Meeting will focus on providing the stage for talks by PhDs and early stage Postdocs! Registration for the Section Meeting will likely open in **June 2024 and more information can be found on our Section Meeting Webpage!**

In frame of the section meeting, we will again award prizes for the best posters and talks of the symposium! The award ceremony for the 3<sup>rd</sup> **Hendrik Wolff Prize** will also 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! => **Tentative Deadline for applications (Hendrik Wolff Prize): July 2024!**

**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).

**The VAAM Jahrestagung 2024** will be held as **7<sup>th</sup> Joint Microbiology & Infection Conference of the German Society for Hygiene and Microbiology (DGHM) and the Association of General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM)** from the 2<sup>nd</sup> -5<sup>th</sup> of June in Würzburg. Registration is now open!

**Publication Highlight:** Section members have published many excellent papers in the recent months: Here is an example of a collaborative effort of several Section Members:

**[Resurrecting ancestral antibiotics: unveiling the origins of modern lipid II targeting glycopeptides](#)** published in *Nat Comm.* 2023. The study demonstrates the synergy of computational techniques and synthetic biology approaches enabling us to journey back in time, trace the temporal evolution of antibiotics, and revive these ancestral molecules.

While not from section members, the **topic of AI - and in particular deep learning methods** have become essential and rapidly evolving technologies in our field. Here, a recent example by Wong et al. published in *Nature*:

**[Discovery of a structural class of antibiotics with explainable deep learning](#)** published in *Nature* 2023.

**Congratulations! The Doctoral Prize for Natural Product Research** of the DECHEMA Gesellschaft für Chemische Technik und Biotechnologie e.V. was awarded in 2024 to Dr. Nadya Abbood, Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main, for her excellent PhD thesis on the topic of NRPS engineering.



**The DECHEMA Young Scientist Prize for Natural Product Research** was awarded to **Dr. Max Crüsemann, Universität Bonn**. He was honored for his work on biosynthetic pathways of natural products, in particular antibiotics and G protein inhibitors.

**Meet A Member: Martin Baunach** studied biochemistry at the University of Jena and obtained his PhD at the Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology (Hans Knöll Institute) under the supervision of Christian Hertweck. During his PhD he worked on the elucidation of microbial biosynthetic pathways from mangrove endophytes. For his postdoctoral studies, he joined the group of Elke Dittmann at the University of Potsdam, where he became fascinated by the biology and chemistry of cyanobacteria. Since 2022, he has been a tenure-track professor of Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Bonn, where his group focuses on the discovery and characterization of pharmacologically active natural products and the investigation of their biosynthesis.



Best Wishes!

Nadine Ziemert and Christine Beemelmans

You want to get introduced in our Newsletter or write a note about a breakthrough publication important for the community?

Send an Email to the speakers and we are happy to include you.

<https://vaam.de/die-vaam/fachgruppen/biologie-bakterieller-naturstoffproduzenten/>

