

**Dear Members,**

We wish you all a happy and healthy new year 2022. We are very happy to present our first section newsletter, which we would like to provide every two-three months from now. With this we hope to provide a way of communication also within the section, introduce some of our members, and inform about section specific events, news and recent breakthrough publications of the community. This time, we would also like to take the chance to shortly introduce ourselves to all members.



**Nadine Ziemert** studied Biology at the Humboldt University in Berlin. She completed her PhD in molecular biology with Elke Dittmann working on the biosynthesis of cyanobacterial secondary metabolites. After that, she joined the group of Paul Jensen as a Postdoc at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in California, followed by a joint appointment as a research scientist with Bradley Moore and Paul Jensen. In 2015 she was appointed as an Associate Professor for Applied Genome Mining at the University of Tuebingen, where she became a full professor in 2019. Her group studies the evolution and distribution of secondary metabolite gene clusters in bacteria and develops bioinformatic tools for natural product discovery.

**Christine Beemelmans** studied Chemistry at the RWTH Aachen after which she spent a year research stay in the group of Prof. Sodeoka at RIKEN. Back in Germany she completed her PhD in Organic Chemistry at the FU Berlin with Prof. Reißig. After a short research stay at the University of Tokyo, she joined the group of Prof. Clardy at Harvard Medical School in Boston. End of 2013, she became Junior Research Group leader at the Hans-Knöll Institute (HKI). In 2022 she was appointed university professor for Biochemistry of Microbial Metabolism at Leipzig University. Her research includes studies on natural product and biochemical studies of biosynthetic enzymes to study chemical ecological research questions.

**NEWS: The VAAM Biology of natural product producing bacteria – Meeting 2022**

We are very happy that Prof. Markus Nett at the TU Dortmund agreed to host our next section meeting. The meeting will take place from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. Keynote lectures will be given by Emily Balskus (Harvard University, Boston/USA), Greg Challis, (Warwick/UK) and Alessandra Eustaquio (UIC, Chicago/USA).



**Meet A Member: Prof. Leonard Kaysser**

Leo Kaysser studied Technical Biology at the University of Stuttgart and ETH Zurich. For his PhD he joined the Pharmaceutical Biology in Tübingen with Bertolt Gust and Lutz Heide. In 2010 he went as a postdoc to the lab of Bradley S. Moore at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego. Leo was appointed assistant professor at the University of Tübingen in 2013 and became a Junior Research Group Leader with the German Centre for Infection Research. In 2020 he was appointed Professor for Pharmaceutical Biology at Leipzig University. His research is focused on the discovery, genetics and biosynthesis of natural products with a special interest in protease inhibitors.

Wishing you all the best for 2022!

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/>