

Dear Members,

In this newsletter we like to take the chance to highlight one out of the many outstanding publications published by members of our section and introduce two of our young members!

Publication highlight: Collaborative efforts by members of the section led to a deeper understanding of regulatory mechanisms in cyanobacteria, which resulted in high-titer production of bioactive specialized metabolites:

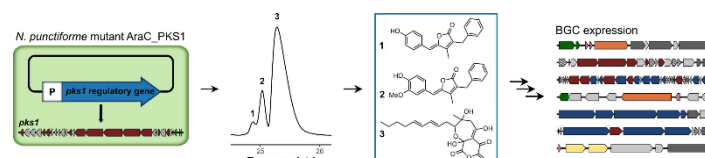
“[Deciphering Chemical Mediators Regulating Specialized Metabolism in a Symbiotic Cyanobacterium](#)”,

published in *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* 2022,

by J. Krumbholz, K. Ishida, M. Baunach,

J. E. Teikari, M. M. Rose, S. Sasso, C.

Hertweck and E. Dittmann.



Meeting of the section *Biology of natural product producing bacteria*: We are very happy that Prof. Markus Nett at the TU Dortmund agreed to host our next section meeting on the 7th to the 9th 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). For more information, visit: [TU Dortmund - VAAM](#)

Hendrik Wolff Prize for mass spectrometric methods in microbiology

During the VAAM meeting, the [Hendrik Wolff Prize](#) will be awarded for the first time! Application deadline: **30.06.2022**. Eligible are young researchers, who obtained a doctorate at a German university between **May 2020 and June 2022** and worked on mass spectrometric methods in microbiology. Please send your application (CV, list of publications and up to three selected publications as pdfs, explanations of your mass spectrometric contributions to microbial natural product research, 2 letters of reference [one of which is a supervisor/doctoral thesis]) to Prof. Dr. Bode (helge.bode@mpi-marburg.mpg.de).

Meet A Member: Julian Hegemann studied Chemistry at the Philipps-University of Marburg and completed his PhD thesis in the group of Prof. Mohamed Marahiel. In 2016, he moved to Urbana-Champaign (University of Illinois) for a postdoctoral stay in the group of Prof. Wilfred van der Donk. In 2019, he returned to Germany for a second postdoc at the Technical University of Berlin with Prof. Roderich Süßmuth and in 2021 he was appointed as a Junior Research Group leader at the Helmholtz Institute for Pharmaceutical Research Saarland (HIPS) in 2021. Throughout his career, his research focused on RiPP natural products, with a special focus on the biosynthesis and therapeutic uses of lasso and lanthipeptides.



Meet A Member: Silja Mordhorst studied Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Freiburg, where she joined the Fast-Track programme for her doctoral studies. Working in the lab of Jennifer Andexer, she implemented various modular enzyme cascades for cofactor regeneration. In 2019, she started as a Humboldt postdoc fellow in the natural product lab of Jörn Piel at ETH Zurich, where she investigated novel peptide-modifying enzymes from RiPP biosynthetic gene clusters. In 2022, she was appointed assistant professor for Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Tübingen. Her research includes studies on the discovery and biosynthesis of (mainly RiPP) natural products and the biochemical characterisation of enzymes with a special focus on their potential for peptide engineering.

Wishing you all the best!

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/>