

Dear members of the "Fachgruppe" Microbial Viruses,

viruses keep us busy - and we are looking very forward to meeting you soon to appreciate them as part of the microbial universe. We would again like to invite you to join us at our Special Interest Group Minisymposium at the VAAM conference:

February 21st, 2022, 17:00 h -18:30 h, , Zoom Room 4: "Novel microbial viral defense systems beyond CRISPR"

(<https://www.vaam-kongress.de/programm/scientific-programme>) - You can also find the program at the end of this mail.

Following the scientific symposium our annual Special Interest Group meeting ("Fachgruppen-Meeting") will take place in a separate Zoom room:

February 21st, 2022, 18:30 h: Jährliches Meeting der gemeinsamen VAAM/DGHM-Fachgruppe "Mikrobielle Viren"

<https://uni-potsdam.zoom.us/j/69391784683> (Meeting-ID: 693 9178 4683, Kenncode: 54711664)

Officially, after two years, the term of office of the speakers of the "Fachgruppe" ends. However, as we had a full pandemic period since the "Fachgruppe" was founded, we suggest that we postpone the election of new speakers by one year to an in-presence meeting in 2023. Meanwhile, we offer to continue our work as speakers and would ask you for confirmation during our Zoom-Fachgruppen-Meeting on February 21st. As an alternative, you may suggest candidates and we will then elect new speakers already this year. What do you think? We are looking forward to your feedback.

If you have further suggestions for our meeting or issues to discuss also do not hesitate to contact us.

See you soon at VAAM!

Best regards

Tessa Quax and Stefanie Barbirz

### **Program Minisymposium *Novel microbial viral defense systems beyond CRISPR***

K. Maxwell (Toronto) *Quorum sensing anti-activation in the phage-host evolutionary arms race*

L. Kever (Jülich) *Molecular multitasking – Aminoglycoside antibiotics protect bacteria from phage infection*

F. Englert (Würzburg) *Interrogating the *Thoeris* novel anti-phage defense system in its native bacterial host*

G. Smyrlis (Jena) *Harnessing synthetic sRNAs to unravel phage resistance mechanisms*

S. Schwarzer (Freiburg) *Interaction between haloarchaeal virus HFTV1 and its *Haloferax* host*

E. Pfeifer (Paris) *Prevalence, traits and fate of phage-plasmids*

U. Rochas (Leipzig) *Viruses' potential roles in carbon and nitrogen cycling during benzene degradation under nitrate-reducing conditions*