



## Newsletter – VAAM Focus Group Biology and Biotechnology of Fungi

Dear colleagues and members of the Focus Group,

First of all, thanks again for giving us your trust. Kai and I are very grateful to have been voted for as speakers of the group, and we are looking forward to the next few years and for the many ways to enrich and further the work of the fungal community in Germany in our new position!

We have decided that we would like to inform the group on a more or less regular basis about news and upcoming conferences etc. by way of a Newsletter. The first one you are reading now! We would like to keep them short, since there are already so many of these, but informative, and we are inviting you to send us all information that you might want to share with the community in this way and we will include it into our next letter.

Thanks, enjoy reading and stay healthy,

Kai and Philipp

### Section “Good News for Fungal Research”

April was a good month for fungal research in Germany and beyond: we congratulate particularly our focus group member, **Regine Kahmann** (MPI Marburg) for having been elected a member of the **US National Academy of Sciences** in recognition of her lifelong achievements!

<http://www.nasonline.org/news-and-multimedia/news/2021-nas-election.html>

Besides her, also **N. Louise Glass** (UC Berkeley and LBNL) and **Joe Heitman** (Duke) were elected into this prestigious circle and thus three fungal researchers who have made seminal contributions to the field and inspired many co-workers and students with their love for fungi.

### Section “Noteworthy & Miscellaneous”

- We would like to have a **LOGO for the Focus Group** and decided to crowd-source this in our community. So please, try to **be creative** and submit your self-created logo files electronically (PDF, JPEG, TIFF or PNG) to us speakers until the end of August. We will then make a pre-selection and create a voting possibility for the group to choose the best one!
- If you also think that fungi should be considered as much as plants and animals in future conservation efforts, then check out this appeal online: <https://www.faunaflorafunga.org/>

Speakers of the Focus Group:

J. Philipp Benz – Technische Universität München – [benz@hfm.tum.de](mailto:benz@hfm.tum.de)

Kai Heimel – Georg-August-Universität Göttingen – [kheimel@gwdg.de](mailto:kheimel@gwdg.de)



21. 06.2021

- Since March 2021, Sigma has discontinued selling "Lysing Enzyme", which was used by many fungal groups for protoplast generation. If you are still looking for appropriate replacement products, please contact us via email. We are happy to provide information on alternatives.

## Section "Upcoming conferences"

- **International Plant Immunity Symposium**
  - o 24.-25.08.2021
  - o many "fungal" speaker
  - o online, free registration
  - o <https://uni-goettingen.de/de/ipis+symposium+2021/633201.html>
- **Forstwissenschaftliche Tagung (FowiTa 2021)**
  - o 13. – 15.09.2021 (digital)
  - o Incl. a session on „Wood degradation by Fungi and Insects“ (hosted by Peter Biedermann (U Freiburg) and Philipp Benz (TUM))
  - o <https://www.fowita-konferenz.de/>
  - o Early bird registration until end of June
- **Neurospora Conference 2021**
  - o 17. – 20.10.2021; Navasota, TX, USA
  - o <https://neurospora.org/>
- **Annual Conference of the VAAM**
  - o 20. – 23.02.2022; Düsseldorf
  - o <https://www.vaam-kongress.de/>
  - o We plan to have a **Focus Group Minisymposium** again – stay tuned!
- **14<sup>th</sup> Symposium of the VAAM Special Group Biology and Biotechnology of Fungi**
  - o 2<sup>nd</sup> joint meeting with the GeneAG „Fungal Genetics“ of the German Genetics Society
  - o 22. – 24.09.2022; Kaiserslautern

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