

USP Virtual Symposium

# Emerging technologies

in **probiotic, live biotherapeutic product**  
and **microbiome analysis**

Oct. 6-7, 8:30-11:30am ET



## Speaker Biographies

(Listed in speaking order)  
as of October 6, 2022

### DAY ONE PRESENTERS



#### **VIRGINIA (KIT) S. GOLDMAN, Ph.D.**

**Senior Director, Dietary Supplements and Herbal Medicines**

Virginia (Kit) S. Goldman, Ph.D. is Director of Dietary Supplements and Herbal Medicines at the U.S. Pharmacopeia, responsible for leading the Dietary Supplement and Herbal Medicine Science team, which is responsible for developing documentary standards for dietary supplements including probiotics, proteins, botanicals including Cannabis/Hemp, herbal medicines, vitamins and minerals, oils, and small molecules. Kit began her career in the division of Agricultural Research at Eli Lilly/DowElanco.

Since that time, she has worked in basic research, new product development, commercialization, and technical support for such consumer OTC brands as Neosporin®, Purell®, Bengay®, Cortizone®, and Desitin®. She has also developed and supported Class I and Class II medical devices for wound healing. Her experience includes manufacturing operations and supply chain. In addition to these activities, Kit conducted basic research and technical support on RSDL®, used internationally to decontaminate chemical warfare agents on the skin.

Kit received her B.S. in Botany from Duke University and her Ph.D. from The University of Michigan and conducted postdoctoral research on photosynthesis at the University of Illinois.



#### **JEAN L. SCHOENI, Ph.D.**

**Non-Botanical Dietary Supplements Expert Committee**

Dr. Jean Schoeni, a microbiologist with over 40 years of experience, uses the science and skills she has gathered from the University of Wisconsin – Madison, employers ranging from research laboratories to start-ups and international companies, and from visiting manufacturing plants to help clients resolve their questions and concerns about probiotics and foodborne pathogens. Her work falls within the safety, enumeration, and product development categories. Jean works with Eurofins as a scientific fellow and is an independent consultant. At USP, she is the vice-chair of the Probiotics Expert Panel, the Enumeration sub-team lead, and a member of the Non-

Botanical Dietary Supplements Expert Committee



**ANDRZEJ BENKOWSKI, B.Sc.**  
**Senior Technical Leader**

Andrzej Benkowski is a Senior Technical Leader and subject matter expert in probiotics based out of the Eurofins Center of Excellence for Probiotics in Madison, WI. He has over 15 years of experience in microbiology, specializing in contract R&D, flow cytometry, genomic applications for probiotics, and method development. Andrzej is the Chair of the International Probiotic Association Technical & Standards Committee.



**MICKAËL BOYER, Ph.D.**  
**Head of Discovery Lead Nutrition & Health Science**

With a scientific background specializing in microbiology, Mickaël has carried out R&D missions in the nutrition, health, and environment sectors. Mickaël started his research career at the University of Lyon to understand how microorganisms could be used as natural biological fertilizers for plants. Mickaël then moved to virology at the CNRS to contribute to a pioneering project seeking to identify new viruses responsible for human infectious diseases. Mickaël then chose the food industry to combine his expertise in microbiology with the health and food issues of the Danone Group.

He led an R&D team at Danone Nutricia Research involved in prototyping new generations of probiotics and fermented foods. Then, Mickaël joined the Lesaffre Group, in charge of an R&D department dedicated to exploring new scientific and technological concepts based on fermentation and microorganisms to meet the Group's long-term growth challenges. His team leads an ecosystem of private, academic, and institutional partners to identify future breakthrough innovations.



**MICHAEL GEIMER**  
**Lead Biologist**

Mike Geimer, B.S., is a Lead Biologist in the Manufacturing Science & Technology (MSAT) department at American Type Culture Collection (ATCC). With over 27 years of industry experience in molecular and microbiology, Mike's unique background laid the foundation for his significant contributions to the Assay Development Core and MSAT Molecular teams over the last 11 years at ATCC. His accomplishments include designing and optimizing almost all ddPCR assays currently being used in the production of ATCC's quantitative native nucleic acids product line and improving the production process for ATCC's quantitative synthetic and native standards product lines. Mike is considered the subject matter expert for ATCC's quantitative synthetic standards product line and ddPCR/qPCR testing performed at ATCC.



### **ANTHONY KIEFER**

#### **Probiotic Development team at International Flavors and Fragrances**

Anthony Kiefer is a leader on the Probiotic Development team at International Flavors and Fragrances (IFF) with over ten years of biotech experience. He earned his Bachelor of Science at the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, where he studied biology with a cellular physiology emphasis.

In his current role in Madison, WI, he manages a team of scientists in basic and method development research on lactic acid bacteria, bifidobacteria, and postbiotics for dietary supplement and food industries. His team specializes in genomics, data management, PCR- and flow cytometry-based method development, and in-vitro analyses focusing on probiotics throughout screening, development, manufacturing, and product shelf-life.



### **ANTONIO DEL CASALE**

#### **Biotechnologist, CEO & Co-founder at Microbion**

Antonio Del Casale is a biotechnologist who graduated from Verona University (Italy), where he also served as a research fellow, and with research experiences in the field of industrial microbiology at the Queen's University Belfast (QUB), the Italian National Agency for Energy and Environment (ENEA) and the University College Cork (UCC).

He is co-founder and CEO of MICROBION, a contract research organization specializing in microbiology applied to agri-food and nutraceutical sectors. MICROBION provides R&D services, including genetic, genomics, and metagenomics, to a wide range of industries that develop and/or manufacture microbes for many different applications, as well as industries that use microbes for fermentation and/or product formulation.

Microbion offers solutions for strain selection, genetic/phenotypic characterization and bio-banking, support in manufacturing start-up & scale-up and clinical trials, as well as technical data for marketing, business intelligence, protection of intellectual property rights and regulatory compliance.



### **SCOTT JACKSON**

#### **Leader, Complex Microbial Systems Group**

Scott Jackson joined The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in May 2014. At NIST, Scott is currently the leader of the Complex Microbial Systems Group in the Biosystems and Biomaterials Division. In this current role, Scott is leading international efforts to improve microbiome and metagenomic measurements by organizing inter-lab studies, developing reference materials and reference methods, and developing in vitro tools that allow us to better understand

microbial community resilience and evolution

Prior to joining NIST in 2014, Scott spent 11 years as a principal investigator with the FDA. At FDA, his research focused on characterizing the global genomic diversity of enteric pathogens, with applications for food safety, bioforensics and public health.

Scott performed his Ph.D. research in biochemistry and biophysics at The University of Maryland and Johns Hopkins University, respectfully, where he focused on the evolution of mobile genetic elements using yeast as a model genetic organism. Scott performed his undergraduate studies in Chemistry and Geology at the University of South Carolina

## DAY TWO PRESENTERS



### **PIERRE BURGUIÈRE, Ph.D.**

**Microbiologist - Deputy Managing Director at GenoScreen**

A microbiologist by training, Dr. Pierre Burguière is an innovation-driven leader with international experience in probiotics, live biotherapeutics & microbiomes.

He is now acting as Deputy Managing Director at GenoScreen, a French biotech with cutting-edge expertise in microbial genomics and bioinformatics. He has previously worked for global leaders, from avant-garde biotech start-ups to

major multinational groups.

Dr. Burguière is a member of the U.S. Pharmacopeia Expert Panel on Probiotics and a part-time lecturer at French and Canadian universities. He earned a Ph.D. in Microbiology & Molecular Biology from the University of Paris and Institut Pasteur.



### **PETER LÜTTGE JORDAL, Ph.D.**

**SBT Instruments**

I have a background in biotech engineering and hold a Ph.D. from the University of Aarhus. I developed a deep fascination of bacterial adaption and lifestyle from my initial exploration of functional bacterial amyloid. After working for several years assisting companies to get rid of unwanted microorganisms and improving the diagnostics of infections, I have now turned to improving the tools to monitor production of bacteria with benefits for human health.

My role as an application specialist at SBT Instruments is to optimize sample treatment and maximize the understanding of the gathered data. Counting bacteria should not be tedious, with days of waiting for colonies to appear on an agar plate, and it should be fast, enjoyable, and reliable. Therefore, one of my key aspirations is that everyone should be able to measure bacteria everywhere.



**MARCO PANE, Ph.D.**  
**R&D Director, Probiotic Research**

Dr. Pane has a master's degree in microbiology and began his career as a researcher at Biolab laboratory in Novara, Italy, where he focused on research for the dietary supplement industry. At Probiotal, he works with external innovation partners to drive new probiotic product development, supports worldwide sales, and collaborates on research projects. He regularly comments on the technology, efficacy, and consumer benefits of probiotic supplementation and healthy gut microbiota.

He is part of the International Probiotic Association (IPA) Scientific Committee, a Pharmabiotic Research Institute (PRI) member, and an expert Panel on probiotics at the U.S. Pharmacopoeia. He's currently enrolled in a Ph.D. program on "Food, Health, and Longevity."



**VINCENT THOMAS, Pharm.D., Ph.D.**  
**Head of the Microbiome Program**

Vincent is a PharmD by training and holds a Ph.D. in microbial ecology. He has held several positions in the public and private sectors, during which he explored various fields of applied and environmental microbiology. His interests ranged from interactions between Free-Living Amoebae with bacteria and viruses to infection control and metagenomics for gut microbiota analysis.

He is currently working at the Bioaster Technology Research Institute, where he is responsible for defining strategy and conducting collaborative R&D programs, with a particular interest in the development of flow cytometry for microbiome monitoring and targeted culturomics of selected species.



**MARTA VESES GARCIA, Ph.D.**  
**Principal Scientist**

Marta Veses Garcia is the Principal Scientist at Symcel. Her background is in phage biology and microbial physiology, having conducted postdoctoral research at the University of Liverpool and the Karolinska Institute. Now at Symcel, she works to understand what fluctuations in metabolic activity can tell us about hidden microbial physiology, especially in complex communities. Current areas of interest include microbial detection and identification in complex samples, biofilm monitoring and eradication, and microbiomes.