

Speakers' pictures and CV



Pr Jan M.C. Geuns

Head of the Laboratory of Functional Biology of Leuven University, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Jan M.C. Geuns studied biology at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (K.U.Leuven) and is head of the Laboratory of Functional Biology. His research interest is natural product biochemistry and he has published several papers on plant sterols and steroid hormones. Since 1993, his research has focused on the biosynthesis of sweeteners in *Stevia rebaudiana* Bertoni, as well as on toxicological studies in animals. He is a fervent advocate of the use of *Stevia* and its sweeteners as food additives. His hobby is music and he plays the violin in his own folk orchestra "Jan en Alleman". Many of his compositions and CD's have been published by Euprint – Belgium. Together with Johan Buyse he organised the first symposium on the "Safety of Stevioside" at the K.U.Leuven. He also organised the second symposium on "Steviol glycosides: technological and pharmacological effects".



Pr Marvin Edeas

President and founder of International Society of Antioxidant in Nutrition and Health (ISANH), Paris, France

- President of the Task Force Group on Antioxidants
- Member of 7 National and International Scientific Societies and Associations
- Chairman and organizer of 3rd , 4th and 5th International Conference on Polyphenols Applications, Paris Nutrigenomics 2008, Paris Obesity 2007, Tea and Health Dubai 2009

Main Interests:

Clinical interests focus on the impact of oxidative stress and antioxidants on chronic diseases such as obesity, cancer, viral infection and diabetes.



Mrs Claudia Scholten

Jungbunzlauer Austria AG, Austria

Claudia Scholten, born in 1977, holds an engineering degree in Dairy Technology from the University of Applied Sciences in Hannover/Germany.

Starting as a Project Manager in Jungbunzlauer's Application Technology Center in Ladenburg/Germany, she is now since 2009 the Group Leader of the Food Applications Group in Ladenburg.

She and her group are working on different up-to-date topics such as sugar and salt replacement, mineral fortification and the reduction of contaminants in food such as acrylamide.



Mrs Katja Obst

Technische Universität München

Katja Obst was born in 1985 in Leipzig, Germany. She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in nutritional science from the Technische Universität München, Germany. During her Master's Thesis she worked on the sensory characterization of stevia extracts. She is currently working towards her Ph.D. at the Chair of General Food Technology, Technische Universität München (Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Engel) in cooperation with Symrise, one of the 4 top flavor and fragrance houses worldwide.

Mr Christian Wiss

Founding partner of Stevia Brokers of London, United Kingdom

Christian Wiss internationally worked as a management consultant for five years before he joined Dresdner Kleinwort Bensons' high calibre investment banking unit in London. After six years in research he then joined Fox-Pitt, Kelton, a specialist investment banking firm and part of the JC Flowers private equity group. Heading Daniel Stewarts' alternative asset desk he helped a company in the Stevia business to raise equity. He worked on other start-ups in the industry and recently founded "Sweetener Brokers of London" together with a highly regarded sugar trader.



Mrs Olivia Sant'Angelo

Innova Market Insights, Netherlands

Olivia Sant'Angelo is a Senior Analyst with Innova Market Insights. She is a widely respected in the fields of food and beverage innovation. An honours graduate in accountancy and management she loves to discover trends and insights in food and beverage innovation. She has been published extensively in trade and technological journals around the world and is a regular speaker at technical seminars and marketing events around the world. Product launch is a favourite topic for her.



Dr Yaroslav Shevchenko

Institute of Food Technology and Food Chemistry, Berlin, Germany

Dr. Yaroslav Shevchenko defended his doctorate thesis at Humboldt-University of Berlin, department of Horticulture in 2008. Later, he obtained a post doctorate position at Technical University of Berlin (Technische Universität Berlin) at the department for Methods of Food Biotechnology. The primary focus of his expertise resides with biosynthesis of different secondary metabolites in higher plants, algae and bryophytes. The main task of his scientific efforts is to maximize the biosynthesis and accumulation of secondary metabolites under in vitro conditions (cell, sprout, hairy root cultures). The first experimental work with *Stevia rebaudiana Bertonii* commenced in 2008. He developed a sprout culture of *S. rebaudiana* that was capable to produce additional quantities of secondary metabolites (including sweet tasting compounds). The major task of his work now is to fulfill the scale-up process for cultivation of the sprout culture of *S. rebaudiana* in a bioreactor system.



Mr Stijn Ceunen

Laboratory of Functional Biology of Leuven University, Belgium

Stijn Ceunen received his Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry at the University of Hasselt (Belgium) in 2004. Two years later he received his Master's Degree in Biochemistry at the K.U.Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven), on a thesis about the effects of indole-3-aldehyde on the apical dominance in beans and tobacco. After this, he started my Ph.D with Prof. Jan Geuns at the Laboratory of Functional Biology (as a teaching assistant), working at first on the biosynthesis of steviol glycosides in *Stevia rebaudiana*. Now he's nearing the end of his third year, focusing on the degradation of steviol glycosides by soil bacteria on the one hand, and also on the metabolism of steviol glycosides during the onset of flowering in the plant itself.



Mr. Sourabh Agarwal

*CEO, India Stevia Association
CMD, Stevia Biotech Pvt. Ltd*

Sourabh Agarwal is CEO of India Stevia Association, New Delhi India, with a strong membership of farmers, processors, researchers, food and beverages companies, he is also Chairman and Managing Director of Stevia Biotech Pvt Ltd, New Delhi, Master of International Trade Management from IIFT, he is thorough professional, international marketer, strong promoter of community farming and high tech processing for sustainable growth. He had organized and addressed in many national and international workshops on Stevia in South Africa, China, Singapore, India. His company has credit of launching the very first consumer packs of Stevia in Sachet, Tablet and Liquid under "SteviaLife®" Brand in India.