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is professor for Experimental Microbiology at the department of Microbiology and Hygiene Charité University Medicine in Berlin. His major research interests are focused on host interactions of gastrointestinal pathogens and on intestinal inflammation.

He studied Human Biology, Cell Biology and Biochemistry at the University of Kaiserslautern and received a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Heidelberg. His initial scientific training at the German-Cancer-Research-Center and the Max-Planck-Institute of Medical Research in Heidelberg was focused on mechanisms of gene regulation in embryonic cancer cells and bacterial genetics of polysaccharide synthesis, respectively. He developed assays for molecular diagnostics of various bacterial pathogens.

Accompanied by visiting collaborative work at the Universities in Calgary, Amsterdam and Rotterdam he completed his post-doctoral fellowship at the Institute of Medical Microbiology and Hygiene at the University Hospital Freiburg. For his work on mechanisms of iron metabolism, pathogenicity and molecular diagnostics of the gastric pathogen Helicobacter pylori he obtained a state doctorate and assistant professorship from the Medical Faculty at Freiburg University. Since then he was continously heading various reasearch groups in the field of gastrointestinal microbiology.

At the Charité Institute of Microbiology and Hygiene in Berlin he completed a practical training in clinical diagnostics and infection epidemiology of bacterial pathogens. His current activities include the organization of scientific meetings and he is member of editorial and scientific advisory boards.