

Speakers International Week « Molecular Gene Technology « 2022

Kristel Sniegowski



Kristel Sniegowski graduated at the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering KU Leuven and obtained her PhD degree in 2010 in the field of environmental microbiology. She lectures at the Faculty of Engineering Technology KU Leuven at the campus in Diepenbeek, Belgium and is a guest professor at the University of Hasselt. She coaches students in industrial research projects regarding microbiology, molecular biology and/or food technology.
iiw.kuleuven.be/diepenbeek

Sofie Pieraets



Sofie Pieraets is lecturer in the Biomedical Laboratory Science and Chemistry programs of the University College Leuven-Limburg, Belgium. She mainly teaches molecular biology, biotechnology and human genetics. Sofie studied Biomedical Sciences at the KU Leuven. In 2014, she obtained her PhD in the field of the molecular oncology.

Julia Weiss



Julia Weiss is associate professor and researcher at the School of Agricultural Engineering and Institute for Plant Biotechnology of the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Spain. She studied Agricultural Engineering at Bonn University, Germany and obtained her PhD from Ben-Gurion University, Israel. Research fields include: genetic programs under circadian regulation of plant organ development with emphasis on volatile production,
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Marcos Egea Gutiérrez-Cortines



Marcos Egea Gutiérrez-Cortines is full professor and researcher at the School of Agricultural Engineering and Institute for Plant Biotechnology of the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Spain. He obtained a degree in Biology from University of Murcia, Spain and a PhD Ben-Gurion

University, Israel. He is the director of the Institute for Plant Biotechnology (IBV-UPCT).
Research fields include: plant biotechnology, flower development.

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Željko Simić is lecturer and researcher at the Merseburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany. His research interest includes molecular biotechnology and protein engineering.



Vesna Jerkovic is the research manager for the biotechnology unit. She started her academic career as a chemical and bioindustry engineer. She obtained a degree in oenology at the Ecole Supérieure Nationale d'Agronomie de Montpellier and finally a PhD at the UCLouvain in the field of food chemistry and more particularly in the study of resveratrol present in hops. After an experience in the industry, she worked for UCLouvain and for HELHa before concentrating only on her work as research manager and teacher in the technical field of HELHa.

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Charlotte Saussez has been working in the biotechnology research unit of HELHa since 2011. After studying industrial engineering in biochemistry at the HELHa engineering school, she first worked as a researcher on projects related to the brewing industry. In particular, the development of analytical methods to detect traces of detergents in beer or in the integration of plant extracts in beer and the study of their aging. For the past six years, she has been dividing her time between her activities at the research center and her activities as teacher in the technical field of the HELHa.

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Alexia Genco obtained her Master's degree in Analytical Engineering at HELHa. She is working in the research center on a project aiming at the implementation and optimization of a PCR method for sexing birds of commercial interest.

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Eva Armero Ibáñez

PhD in Agricultural Engineering, Animal Science by Universidad Politécnica de Valencia, Spain. Associate Professor in Animal Production at the Universidad Politécnica de Cartagena, Spain. The main aim of her research is focused on animal genetics and aquaculture, where several breeding programmes have been developed in gilthead seabream and meagre. Currently, she is guest editor of the special issue Aquatic Animals: New Horizons for Blue Growth of “Animals” Journal. Finally, she has worked in preserving endangered species and sustainability and she is the Technical Director of Breeding Program for local breed chicken. She is the Researcher in charge of the Animal Production Group of the UPCT. Orcid code 0000-0002-6106-3991



Antonio Vallecillos is an agricultural engineer from the University of Cartagena, where he is currently finishing his PhD program in aquaculture. His research focuses on animal genetic improvement in aquaculture species such as meagre and gilthead seabream. He is also involved in a project for the recovery of a local breed of hens. Orcid code 0000-0003-0457-8814.

