Biography Hans Steenackers (www.micalab.be)

Hans Steenackers graduated as a Bioscience Engineer at the KU Leuven (Belgium) in 2006. He obtained his PhD at the same university in 2011 for work on the structure-activity relationship and mode-of-action of small molecule inhibitors of bacterial biofilm formation. During his postdoctoral fellowship, he studied different fundamental and applied aspects of biofilms with a main focus on Salmonella. In 2015-2016, he spent 2 years as a visiting researcher at the laboratory of prof. K. Foster at the University of Oxford, where he studied evolution of social microbial behaviour. In October 2016, he became a tenure track professor at KU Leuven.

His current research group (MICA Lab – www.micalab.be) aims to develop novel antimicrobial strategies targeting microbial community behaviour. The goal is to obtain a better understanding of molecular, ecological and evolutionary aspects of microbial communities that contribute to their virulence and resistance, in order to develop novel anti-virulence and anti-resistance strategies. Special attention is paid to the evolution-proof character of the proposed antimicrobial approaches. The research spans from fundamental investigations of innovative antimicrobial targets, over compound identification and synthesis, to in situ and in vivo testing of novel antimicrobials and strategies for their delivery. This research has been published in >40 peer-reviewed publications in respected journals for (medicinal) chemistry and molecular (micro)biology and ecology. It has been orally presented at several international conferences including the ASM Conference on Mechanisms of Interbacterial Cooperation and Competition in Washington DC (2017), 2nd ASM Conference on Experimental Microbial Evolution in Washington DC (2016), 7th ASM Conference on Biofilms in Chicago (2015), VAAM Conference on Microbiology (Bremen, 2013), Eurobiofilms 2013 (Gent), and 4th ASM conference on Salmonella (Boston, 2013).

Selected publications


