



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Gut Flora's Influence on the Brain: Expert Conference in Berlin** Reports on the current status of science in health and medicine

What is the influence of gut bacteria on human brain development? On how we think, feel and act? The so-called gut-brain axis has come to the fore in recent months; first results of recent research have been followed with interest worldwide. Prof. Ted Dinan of the University College Cork, Ireland, will report on the 'state of play' at the Beneficial Microbes Symposium on January 27 in Berlin.

The programme also includes a presentation on gut flora transplantation (faecal bacteriotherapy), i.e. treating patients with the gut bacteria of healthy individuals. A topical presentation will be provided by Dr. Maria Vehreschild of the University Hospital Cologne, who studied the influence of the human microbiome on diseases such as *Clostridium difficile* colitis (severe diarrheal infections) and successfully treated two patients using bacteria from a healthy intestinal flora last year.

Dr. Carsten Sieden, Senior Vice President White Biotechnology Research at BASF corporation, will present current trends and products in industrial biotechnology. And on the eve of the symposium, Prof. Dr. Lucia Reisch of Copenhagen Business School will report on how consumer decision-making when it comes to new products.

Since 2011, the symposium has been held at regular intervals by the Berlin-based biotechnology company Organobalance. Speakers from the business and scientific communities provide first-hand information on microbiome research and its translation into medical, pharmaceutical and health management products.

#### **About Organobalance GmbH:**

ORGANOBALANCE is a biotechnology research and development company. Founded in 2001, the firm develops and sells products based on probiotic bacteria cultures and yeast production strains for use in industrial biotechnology. The company owns a unique strain collection of yeast and lactobacillus cultures, some of which date back to the 1920s. At its offices in Berlin and Flensburg, some 35 employees work for multinational clients from the food, cosmetics, feed, agriculture and pharmaceutical industries. Christine Lang, the company's Managing Director, is also a Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the TU Berlin and have already received several business awards.



● **For further information:**  
ORGANOBALANCE GmbH  
Gustav-Meyer-Allee 25  
13355 Berlin  
Fon (030) 46307 200  
Fax (030) 46307 210  
[www.organobalance.de](http://www.organobalance.de)