



PRESS RELEASE

Berlin, 20 March 2017

Christine Lang Voted First Vice-President of the Microbiology Association VAAM aims to turn microbiology research into products which benefit society

The founder and CEO of Organobalance GmbH, Prof. Dr. Christine Lang, is the new first vice president of the Association for General and Applied Microbiology (Vereinigung für Allgemeine und Angewandte Mikrobiologie, VAAM). The entrepreneur and scientist was elected at a general meeting to succeed Prof. Dr. Ruth Schmitz-Streit (University of Kiel), who was elected the VAAM's new president. Since 2013, Christine Lang had already been a member of the VAAM's advisory board as a representative of industrial microbiology.

Members of the VAAM (www.vaam.de) are more than 3,500 microbiologists from the academic and industry community. Established in 1985, the organisation promotes the exchange of information and collaboration among its members. Its aim is to use scientific findings in microbiology for the benefit of society and nature – a strategy which also motivates the microbiologist Christine Lang: "I want to implement ideas and develop market-oriented products", she stated before election. "Our research aims to find solutions for health challenges, for instance". One example of these problems was the worldwide growth of antibiotic resistance.

Christine Lang majored in biology at the Ruhr-University Bochum and at the University of Sussex. After completing her doctorate, she worked in industrial research before transferring to the Technische Universität Berlin where she became Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics. In 2001, she founded Organobalance, a biotechnology company. Lang is a member of several management and advisory boards in trade organisations and associations and has been Chairperson of the German Bioeconomy Council since 2012. She has won several business and science awards.

About Organobalance:

Organobalance GmbH is a biotechnology research and development company with facilities in Berlin and Flensburg. Founded in 2001, the firm develops and markets products based on probiotic bacteria cultures as well as yeast production strains for use in industrial biotechnology. One of its best-known products is Pylopass™, a natural lactobacillus agent against *Helicobacter pylori*, a stomach bacterium. Among the company's German and international customers are clients from the food, cosmetics, feed, agriculture, and pharmaceutical industries. The company owns an extensive collection of yeast and lactobacillus cultures, some of which date back to the 1920s. Christine Lang, the company's Managing Director, is also a Professor of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at the TU Berlin and has received several business awards. She also chairs the German Bioeconomy Council. In September 2016, Organobalance was acquired by the Danish company Novozymes A/S.



For further information:
ORGANOBALANCE GmbH
Gustav-Meyer-Allee 25
13355 Berlin, Germany
Fon +49 (0) 30 46307 200
Fax +49 (0) 30 46307 210
www.organobalance.com