

Work Experience:

Independent expert for Life Science technologies

Since March 2024 in Berlin, Germany

Current activities:

- Technology expert Life Sciences for InvestEU project ‘Ecosystem Development Activities for EU Strategic Technology Sectors’ in support of the EIB, [Homepage | European Investment Bank \(eib.org\)](#)
- Business development to support BioChina 2025 conference [Enmore BIOBIOCHINA\(EBC\) Largest Biotech Convention in Asia \(biocn.cn\)](#)
- Expert reviewer for EIT Health ([EIT Health | Promoting innovation in health](#))

Head of Science Operations

2023 – 2024, European Science Foundation ([ESF - Science Connect](#)), Strasbourg, France

- Management of all scientific operations at ESF
 - Scientific platforms, EU-funded projects
 - Focus on research infrastructures, open and inclusive science
- Programme management of translational research and clinical trial projects in the framework of the ‘FightKidsCancer’ (www.fightkidscancer.eu) initiative
- Business development for science clusters and grant evaluation missions

Director General

2018 – 2023, EU-OPENSREEN ERIC ([EU-OPENSREEN: Home](#)), Berlin, Germany

- Leading a team of 12 scientific project managers, analytical chemists and administrators
- Ensuring quality of project management, open research databases, scientific training and compound management services
- Developing strategic plans, work programs and annual budgets
- Writing of Horizon Europe grant proposals, coordinator of EU project EU-OPENSREEN DRIVE, work package leader in EU project ISIDORE
- Executive Board member of the ERIC Forum 2019 - 2021, Chair of European Life Sciences Research Infrastructure Strategy Board 2021 – 2022

Expert Scientist Discovery Biology

2015 - 2018, VIB Discovery Sciences ([VIB.BE - Discovery Sciences](#)), Leuven, Belgium

- Collaborations with PIs from academic groups at universities in Leuven, Gent, Brussels and Antwerp.
- Project leader for drug discovery programs in the areas of cancer metabolism and diabetes.

Group Leader Primary Pharmacology

2013 – 2015, UCB (www.ucb.com/worldwide/uk), Slough, UK

- Project leader for GPCR target validation program in fibrosis
- Development of high content screening assays with human primary cells and of cellular screening assays for inhibitors of protein: protein interactions

- Project member and support with biochemical, cellular and biophysical assays for projects in CNS (AD and PD), immunology, fibrosis, and cardiovascular disease areas
- Management of Biacore label-free assay platform for antibodies and small molecule compounds, management of automation platforms in Primary Pharmacology department

Head of R&D and Project Leader

2012, HansaBioMed (www.hansabiomed.eu) in Tallinn, Estonia & Exosomics Siena (www.exosomics.eu) in Siena, Italy

- Development of novel exosome-based biomarkers and diagnostic kits for oncology and neurodegenerative disease applications
- Management of the Eurostars-funded project CIRTUMAN

Group Leader Biomolecular Screening

2003 – 2012, Siena Biotech, Siena, Italy

- Development of plate-based assays and screening cascades for enzymes, GPCR and ion channel target classes, protein-protein interactions and signaling pathways
- Chemical target validation in the areas of neurodegeneration and brain cancer
- Work package leader in the EU FP 6 programs for target and hit identification in Alzheimer's disease (ADIT) and Huntington's disease (TAMAHUD)
- Biology leader for collaborative projects in Alzheimer's disease and Huntington's disease with external partners

Group Leader Biomolecular Screening

2000 - 2002, CallistoGen, Hennigsdorf near Berlin, Germany

- Molecular and cellular screening assays for proteases, oxidase and GPCR protein targets, toxicity assays, flow cytometry, phage display

Laboratory Head

1996 - 2000, Imutran Ltd (a Novartis Pharma AG company), Cambridge, England

- Development of complement proteins and small molecule modulators as therapeutics
- Target identification in xenotransplant rejection. Basic research on role of complement in xenograft rejection.
- Recombinant protein expression in insect and mammalian cell systems, generation of stable cell lines, site-directed mutagenesis, ELISAs and enzymatic tests, flow cytometry, gene expression profiling

Postdoctoral Fellow

1994 - 1996, Department of Biological Sciences, Columbia University, New York, USA

PhD

1991 - 1994, Department of Biochemistry, Heinrich-Heine-University Düsseldorf, Germany