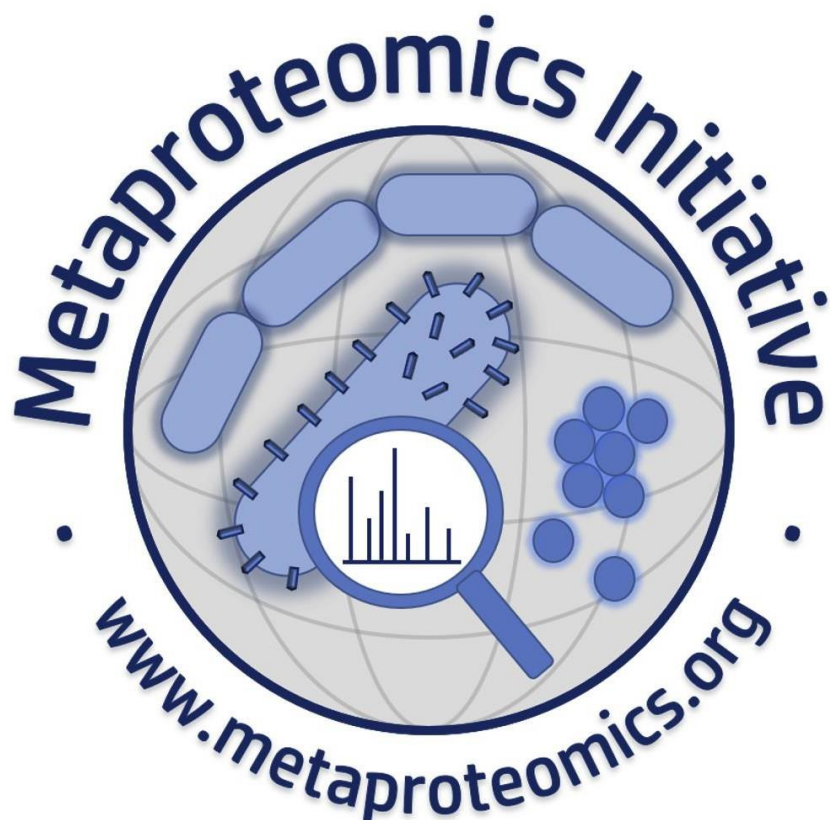




7th International Metaproteomics Symposium
Sponsorship opportunities
21 – 24 June 2026, Dessau, Germany

Contact information

Local organizers: Dirk Benndorf (dirk.benndorf@hs-anhalt.de) & FTGZ Hochschule Anhalt (sims-info@hs-anhalt.de) Metaproteomics Initiative: info@metaproteomics.org

Website symposium: <https://www.hs-anhalt.de/landingsites/symposium-prof-benndorf/subpage-1/subpage-2.html>

The What and Why of metaproteomics

In 2004, metaproteomics was introduced as “the large-scale characterization of the entire protein complement of environmental microbiota at a given point in time” [1]. This field was therefore conceived to characterize the vast myriad of proteins that microbes use in these communities, in order to elucidate the function of the microbiome. Currently, the functional profiles of microbiomes are mostly studied with either metagenomics -transcriptomics, but the presence of a gene or transcript does not necessarily imply expression at the protein level. The measurement of protein abundances in these microbial communities is therefore the most direct means to obtain accurate information on the functions of the microbiome. Indeed, while metagenomics and -transcriptomics reveal the *functional potential* of the microbiome, metaproteomics can reveal the *actual function* of the microbiome. In conclusion, we therefore believe that metaproteomics should be considered as a powerful complement of metagenomics and -transcriptomics to study and understand the microbiome and its dynamic function.

Why sponsor the International Metaproteomics Symposium?

Our symposium is an ideal platform for your company to reach out to the metaproteomics community. At the 7th symposium celebrating more than two decades of metaproteomics you will have the opportunity to brand your company through onsite and pre-event exposure, network and discuss metaproteomics with the leading experts in

the field, showcase your products and initiate sale leads, and work on a partnership with the Metaproteomics Initiative. In addition, a large fraction of our attendees consists of highly skilled (final year) PhD students and senior scientists who might be actively looking for the next step in their career. This meeting is therefore an excellent opportunity to profile your company if you are planning to recruit knowledgeable and experienced employees in the near future. Truth be told, these sponsorships allow us to seamlessly organize this symposium, while keeping the subscription fees low for early-career researchers and researchers from underrepresented areas. Any profit we have after the symposium, will be directly used to organize activities from the Metaproteomics Initiative, such as educational activities (such as online and in-person workshops), develop follow-up multi-lab benchmark studies, and provide travel grants for early-career researchers and researchers from underrepresented areas.

Where will the symposium take place?

Located in central Germany between Berlin and Leipzig, Dessau-Roßlau is known worldwide as the birthplace of the Bauhaus movement. The iconic Bauhaus Building and the Masters' Houses – both UNESCO World Heritage Sites – attract visitors from around the globe and are must-sees for anyone interested in modern architecture and design. Beyond its cultural significance, Dessau offers access to outstanding nature. The city borders the Middle Elbe Biosphere Reserve, a unique floodplain landscape ideal for walking and cycling. Just east of the city lies the Garden Kingdom of Dessau-Wörlitz, another UNESCO site that combines landscape architecture, neoclassical buildings and English-style parks. In Dessau the symposium will take place in the buildings of the Federal Environment Agency (Umweltbundesamt, UBA), Germany's central environmental authority. The UBA stands for independent research, evidence-based policy advice and decades of expertise in areas such as air pollution control, water quality, chemical safety and radiation protection.

[1] Wilmes P, Bond PL. The application of two-dimensional polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis and downstream analyses to a mixed community of prokaryotic microorganisms. 2004. *Environmental Microbiology* 6(9):911–920.



Sponsorship packages - opportunities

Sponsorship package	Bronze	Silver	Gold
Logo and link on website	Yes	Yes	Yes
Announcement on LinkedIn of this sponsorship	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsorship announced in the program of the International Symposium & other events	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sponsoring of an Award at the International Metaproteomics Symposium	-	Yes	Yes
Sponsoring of an invited talk at the International Symposium (incl. registration and invitation to social dinner for a company representative)	-	-	Yes
Cost	€1000 + add-ons	€1500 + add-ons	€2500 + add-ons

Sponsorship packages – optional add-ons

Add-on	Cost
Drinks and snacks at the poster session	€1000
Exclusive sponsor of social dinner	€3500

The symposium is organized by the Metaproteomics Initiative

The Metaproteomics Initiative is the leading scientific community for metaproteomics, and the main organizer of this symposium. The Metaproteomics Initiative promotes the dissemination of metaproteomics fundamentals, advancements, and applications through collaborative networking in microbiome research. Our aim is to be the central information hub and open meeting place where newcomers and experts interact to communicate, standardize and accelerate experimental and bioinformatic methodologies in this field. We achieve this through our website, presentations, online communication platform, collaborative projects, and symposia.

Indeed, our organization focuses on three pillars: communication and collaboration, education, and standardization. In the first pillar, we facilitate communication and collaboration in the field, because many metaproteomics researchers are scattered across (single-species) proteomics labs and multi-omics labs all over the world. To enhance their research and the field, a closer collaboration between metaproteomics researchers and an improved communication between them is necessary. We therefore organize every year the International Metaproteomics Symposium, and we bring all members together in an online platform where they can easily reach out to each other. In addition, we organize large, multi-laboratory benchmark studies, of which the first one has been published in the leading scientific journal *Nature Communications* [2], the second one was recently accepted in the journal *microbiome* [3]. In the second pillar, education, we share the capabilities and technical details of metaproteomics with interested early-career and senior researchers of closely related fields, to ease their way into the field. Recently, a MSCA Doctoral Network METAMIC (Metaproteome-based leveraged microbiome management in the context of One Health) supporting 15 doctoral candidates within the next five years was funded by European Union. In the third pillar, we increase the awareness of standardization in the field, and work on standard formats. This will improve reproducibility across metaproteomics experiments and labs, and therefore also accelerate the improvements in the field. Since our foundation in February 2021, when we became an official Initiative of the European Proteomics Association (EuPA, www.eupa.org), we have gathered over 150 metaproteomics researchers, representing almost 95 labs in 23 countries from 4 continents. More information about the Metaproteomics Initiative can be found in our white paper published in *Microbiome* [4] and on our website (www.metaproteomics.org).

If your company is interested in setting up a collaboration with the Metaproteomics Initiative (e.g. organizing a workshop, providing samples and sample distribution for a benchmark study, and testing novel equipment on metaproteomics samples in collaboration with experts in the field), please reach out to info@metaproteomics.org.

[2] Van Den Bossche T. *et al.* Critical Assessment of Metaproteome Investigation (CAMPI): a Multi-Lab Comparison of Established Workflows. 2021. *Nature Communications* 12(1):7305.

[3] Tanca A. *et al.* Critical Assessment of MetaProteome Investigation 2 (CAMPI-2): Multi-laboratory assessment of sample processing methods to stabilize fecal microbiome for functional analysis. 2025. *Microbiome* (accepted for publication).

[4] Van Den Bossche T. *et al.* The Metaproteomics Initiative: a coordinated approach for propelling the functional characterization of microbiomes. 2021. *Microbiome* 9, 243