

## Vera Weihs

After a first professional education as technical chemical assistant she studied biology at the universities of Bremen and Aachen to finish with a specialization in microbiology with Prof. Schlegel in Göttingen (Germany). With her diploma in hands she turned to the doctoral thesis (Dr. rer. nat.) about *Bacillus polymyxa* and other nitrogen-fixing bacteria from the rhizosphere of cereals and grasses at the Technical University Braunschweig, Germany.

In 1989 she started employment at the DSMZ-Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen und Zellkulturen GmbH in Braunschweig. Since 1990, after a short period of postdoctoral fellowship and interim curatorship of the plasmid collection she is committed to the activities of the DSMZ patent depository. As IDA representative (IDA = International Depository Authority) she is the responsible curator of biological material deposited for patent purposes according to the *Budapest Treaty on The International Recognition of the Deposit of Microorganisms for the Purposes of Patent Procedure*. In addition she cares for safe deposits of microorganisms. The handling of the biological material implicates additional qualifications as biological safety officer and trained shipper according to IATA regulations. About 8.000 cultures of archaea, bacteria, plasmid DNAs, fungi, yeasts, plant viruses, animal, human and plant cell cultures have been deposited so far for patent and safe deposit purposes.

Since 2007 she is Member of the WFCC Executive Board and in this function contributes to the scientific organizing committee of ICC 12.

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