

# Views from Work

Women in Research and Innovation Introduce Themselves



economic impulses of women in research and innovation



[www.w-fforte.at](http://www.w-fforte.at)



Umsetzung FFG | eine Initiative des BMWA im Rahmen von FORTE

# Imprint

## Views from Work – Women in Research and Innovation Introduce Themselves

A w-ffORTE project –

Economic Impulses from Women in Science and Technology.

w-ffORTE is a programme of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour and is taking place within the fFORTE initiative.

**Texts:** Teresa Arrieta and project participants

**Photos:** project participants, Nora Friedel, Katharina Gossow, Lisa Holzer

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broschuere@w-fforte.at

www.w-fforte.at

## w-ffORTE: Women at the Focus of Business and Research

The w-ffORTE promotion programme supports the careers of women working in male-dominated professions in science and technology. It intensifies contacts between companies and female scientists, finances initiatives by research centres managed by women and commissions studies on gender and technology.

### Diversity as an Impulse for Innovation

w-ffORTE shows the innovative power of female scientists, engineers and businesswomen and increases public awareness of the work situation of highly qualified female experts. They still come up against obstacles in their careers, are under-represented at management level and find less public recognition for their achievements than men, meaning that Austria is missing out on a significant part of its human resources. w-ffORTE supports diversity in science and gives new impulses to Austria's research dynamics.

### State Impulses for Women

w-ffORTE stands for "Wirtschaftsimpulse von Frauen in Forschung und Technologie" ("Economic Impulses from Women in Science and Technology"). It is a programme of the Austrian Federal Ministry of Economics and Labour and it is implemented within the framework of the Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG) – the national promotion office for application-oriented research in Austria. w-ffORTE is part of the women's promotion initiative fFORTE, funded by the four ministries BMUKK, BMVIT, BMWF and BMWA.

## Views from Work

### On Desk Landscapes and Gem Prospectors

The workplaces of researchers can be found in the most unbelievable locations: in the Antarctic at minus 30 degrees, equipped with pliers and laptop in the innards of huge industrial machines, in the National Elephant Park in Kenya, in front of a computer, at conferences and in the laboratory. Science is a wide field and research is carried out both above and below the ground, on a fast-flowing river prospecting for stones as well as at the computer on the top floor of an office building with a view over the roofs. The project "Views from Work" playfully gives insights into the world of work of women in science and technology. For two years female scientists have been participating in "Views from Work" in the framework of the project conceived by Paul Weihs. The w-ffORTE team invited women to send in pictures of their everyday creative work: by mobile phone, by camera, by email and by post. These insights were first published on the w-ffORTE website and now also in this publication. The aim of the project was to confront the isolated and monotonous public images of scientific activity with the lively variety of the work involved.

### Humorous Participation

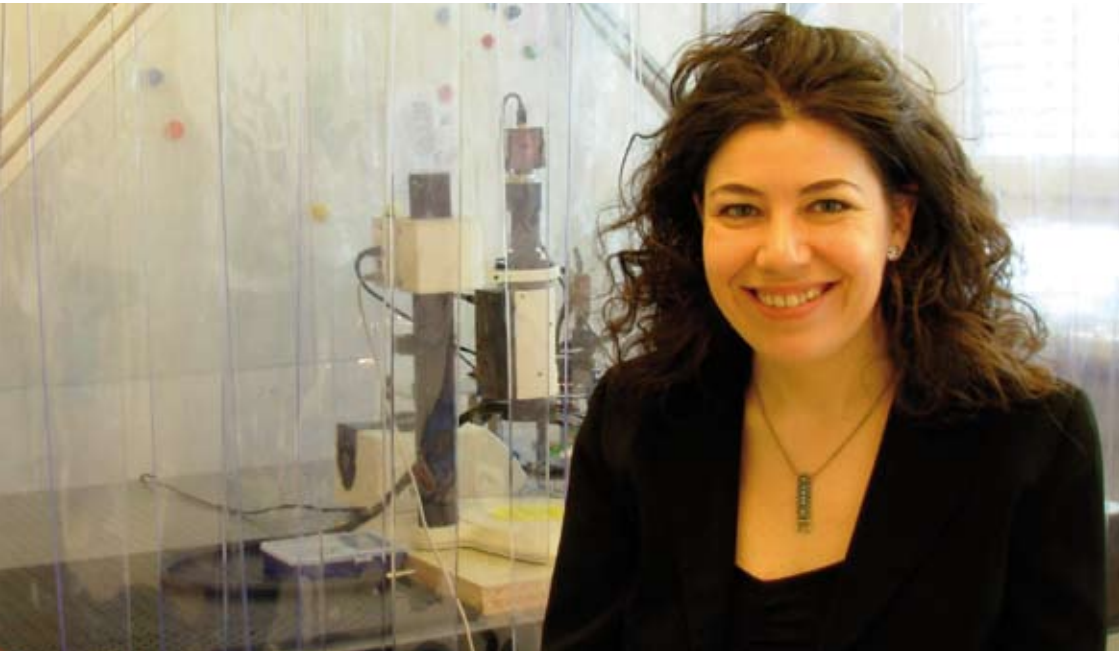
It is a matter of fact that the idea of a solitary boffin in a white lab coat no longer corresponds to reality. Today, science and technology also mean interaction, communication, teamwork, an exchange of ideas and fun. This is reflected in the humorous picture documentation which has now been produced: the wide spectrum of visual subjects invites amazement. Self-portraits, landscapes of bureaucracy on a desk, photos of botanical test set-ups trundled in alongside poetic views along the skyscraper of Cambridge or snapshots of tinkering with tiny mobile phone chips on a workbench. The artistic intervention "Views from Work" brings science and technology close to people. Sterile technology becomes work to grasp and to smile about. The project is raising public awareness of the exciting activities of female scientists. The project includes the actors in a participative way and makes it possible to experience their associative worlds. The end product is this book as a contribution to the de-stereotyping of images of jobs in science and technology.

## Participants

Ana Almansa  
Kerstin Arbter  
Martina Beiml  
Birgit Birnstingl-Gottinger  
Andrea Breitfuss  
Ana P. Costa-Pereira  
Elke Dall  
Ika Darnhofer  
Bevin P. Engelward  
Dorothea Erharter  
Christine M. Foreman  
Gabriele Gailhart  
Ille C. Gebeshuber  
Sabine Grupe  
Doris Gstach  
Elisabeth Haid  
Vera Hammer  
Laurie K. Harmon  
Margit Hofer  
Jutta Isopp  
Erika Jensen-Jarolim  
Sabine Kern  
Barbara Kieslinger  
Bente Knoll  
Pinar Kondu Akalin  
Irina Korschineck  
Barbara Krammer  
Ursula Kriebisch-Satori  
Lilli Licka

Andrea Maier  
Elisabeth Mandl  
Marina Mather  
Ortrun Mittelsten Scheid  
Karin Möstl  
Lucia Novello  
Isabella Pali  
Silvia Payer  
Ida di Pietro Leupold-Loewenthal  
Elsa Prochazka  
Lisa Purker  
Eva Rohde  
Renate Rosengarten  
Evelin Rottke  
Birgit Sattler  
Sigrid Scharf  
Ingrid Schmidt  
Dagmar Schoder  
Beatrice Senn  
Angela Stöger-Horwath  
Elke Szalai  
Krisztina Szalai  
Christiane Takacs  
Martina Umlauf  
Sanja Vranes  
Brigitte Weiss  
Susanne Windischberger  
Michaela Zeiner

This laboratory was designed and equipped with great help from our first group members Silvia Bou and Domnita Fratila. The photo brings back nice memories of the creation, establishment and the first successful achievements of our microhandling group.



PROFACTOR GmbH, Mikro-/Nanohandling and Integration, Steyr-Gleink | Austria

**Ana Almansa**

I facilitate and mediate team processes and public participation processes, where people work together for a better environment and for sustainable development. I try to support them as a “process manager” and therefore I often work outside my office, as you can see from the pictures. Back home again in my office I develop innovative procedures and settings for public participation and cooperation at strategic planning levels. I also do some research into how processes could be designed/developed in order to integrate environmental and sustainability issues into decision-making effectively.



Büro Arbter, Technisches Büro für Landschaftsplanung, Vienna | Austria

**Kerstin Arbter**



AKREMI Consulting für Erneuerbare Energie und Kreislaufwirtschaften Ökocluster Et ARGE, Graz | Austria

**Birgit Birnstingl-Gottinger**



We are part of the kon-text team and our field of research/work is urban management and social science. Our workplaces are opposite each other, we share our thoughts, laugh a lot and feel forced to work as if we did not need money, but we enjoy it.



Kon-text, Raumbezogenes Management & Sozialwissenschaftliche Beratung, Vienna | Austria

**Andrea Breitfuss, Lisa Purker**

I have chosen to photograph this particular centrifuge in my lab, because it reflects the way we see science and the environment in the lab: we are passionate about science and pursue knowledge to the best of our abilities, but we have chosen to do that in a joyful, optimistic and friendly environment.

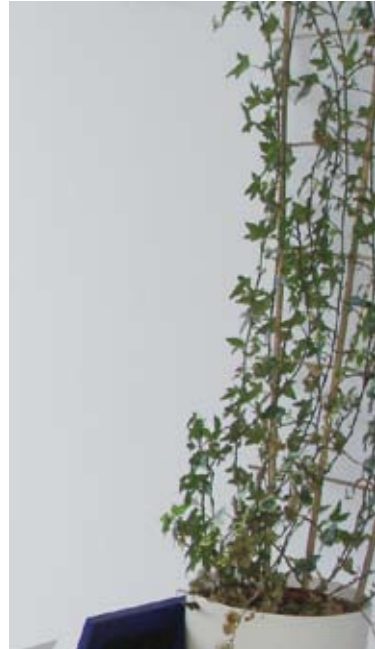


Imperial College London, Faculty of Medicine - Department of Oncology, Division of SORA, London | UK

# Ana P. Costa-Pereira

Field of research: decision-making by farmers

Put more bluntly: why on earth do not (all) farmers convert to organic farming?



Institute of Agricultural and Forestry Economics, Vienna | Austria

**Ika Darnhofer**

Here are two pictures - one of my lab, and the other of my office. I chose these because they are what things really look like - and because these are the places where ideas are born and developed. Our work is focused primarily on understanding the underlying causes of mutations - this is of central importance to cancer, since cancer is caused by the accumulation of mutations in aberrant cells. We think a lot about what it is that makes some people more at risk of cancer than others, and we are particularly interested in developing better ways to figure out which things in our environment really are the biggest health hazards. We are passionate about two things: understanding biology (a fascinating and elegant world full of surprises and delight) and applying knowledge to improve the human condition.



MIT, Faculty of Engineering - Department of Biological Engineering, Cambridge, MA | USA

# Bevin P. Engelward



ZIMD Center for Interaction, Media & social Diversity, Vienna | Austria

**Dorothea Erharter**

I have attached two pictures – one of Lake Fryxell and the other looking out from our tents onto Lake Hoare and the Canada Glacier in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica. Both Dr. Sattler and I (Dr. Christine Foreman) spend a few months of the year working in this beautiful area studying the microbial ecology of the dry valley ecosystem.



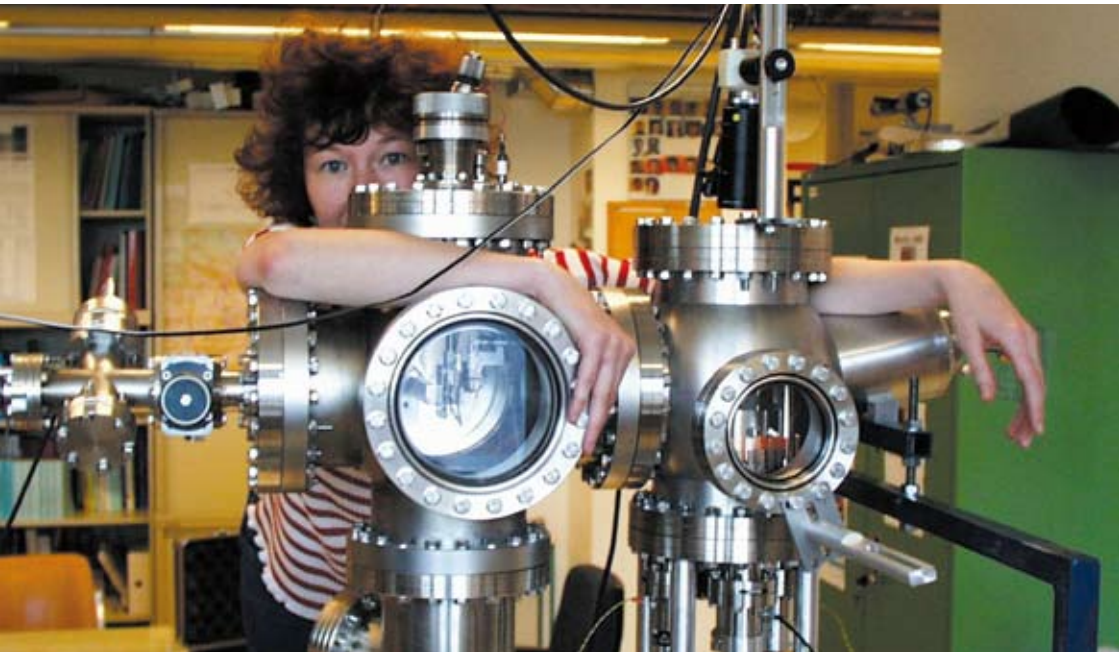
Center for Biofilm Engineering & Dept. of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Montana State University,  
Montana | USA

**Christine M. Foreman**



DIW Instandhaltung GmbH, Vienna | Austria

**Gabriele Gailhart, Martina Beiml**



Institut für Allgemeine Physik & Austrian Center of Competence for Tribology, Vienna | Austria

**Ilse C. Gebeshuber**





Head of the special division geology in an engineering office | Austria

**Sabine Grupe**



Open space planning, University of Kassel | Germany

**Doris Gstach**

Attached are pictures of my workplace which I also regularly present at FIT events. My workplace is unspectacular and looks like any other office workplace :). I work for the research body of the federal state of Salzburg, "Salzburg Research", in the research line "Mobile and Web-Based Information Systems" in the application field of e-tourism.



Forschungsgesellschaft des Landes Salzburg "Salzburg Research", Salzburg | Austria

**Elisabeth Haid**



Mineralogist, Natural History Museum, Vienna | Austria

# Vera Hammer

As an Assistant Professor in Outdoor Recreation, my favourite workplace is outdoors. My "office" is wherever I'm conducting research at the time (e.g. Isle Royale National Park, Lakes Michigan & Superior) and where I get to teach my students the value of spending time and pursuing activities in natural environments.



Assistant Professor – Parks, Recreation, and Leisure Studies, George Mason University, Manassas | USA

**Laurie K. Harmon**

We are a research team of women (Mag. Elke Dall, Mag. Barbara Kieslinger, Dr. Margit Hofer) in the field of Technology Enhanced Learning (eLearning) involved in several different EU-funded research projects (PROLEARN, iCamp). Since our working environment is international and cross-cultural, we use different online tools (Hexagon, Flashmeeting, Skype etc.) for communication in our day-to-day work. Thus standard equipment for us to perform our research is really webcam, head-set and internet connection.



Centre for Social Innovation, Vienna | Austria

# M. Hofer, B. Kieslinger, E. Dall



Messfeld GesmbH, Klagenfurt | Austria

**Jutta Isopp**

The various colourful and diversified aspects of scientific work are represented. These also include talks and chairing discussions.



Institute for Pathophysiology, Medical University of Vienna | Austria

# Erika Jensen-Jarolim





Interlingua Language Services - ILS GmbH, Vienna | Austria

**Sabine Kern**

KnollSzalai is engaged in gender issues, diversity management and gender mainstreaming concerning landscape, urban and regional planning, environmental consulting, sustainability and technical science. The expert knowledge in the field of planning and technical science is supplemented by the systemic approach and well-established scientific research. KnollSzalai integrates a gender perspective into regional planning policies and scientific systems. KnollSzalai's approach is interdisciplinary as well as process and action-orientated.



Knoll & Szalai oeg, Technisches Büro für Landschaftsplanung Unternehmensberatung, Vienna | Austria

**Bente Knoll, Elke Szalai**

Here is a corner of my workplace. I am one of the vice presidents of a small biotechnology company located in Istanbul, providing services in DNA sequencing, synthesising and manufacturing reagent kits for molecular biology. Me and my buddies on the photo are now working on an expert system in bioinformatics for mutation analysis in genetic diseases. We hope to end up with a diagnostic tool that will be used widely for genetic diseases throughout the world.



iontek, Istanbul | Turkey

**Pinar Kondu Akalin**



Ingenitex GmbH, Vienna | Austria

**Irina Korschineck**

We are mainly concerned with photodynamic therapy for tumours and non-malignant diseases. We are attempting to clarify the modes of action on molecular, cellular and immunological levels. One of our focuses is the investigation of apoptosis ("programmed cell death" or "cell suicide").



Department of Molecular Biology, University of Salzburg | Austria

**Barbara Krammer**



Satori Business Engineering, Haslach | Austria

# Ursula Kriebisch-Satori

This is how my workplace looks once a year after clean-desking before holidays.



Institute of Landscape Architecture, BOKU, Vienna | Austria

**Lilli Licka**



maier CTM, Consulting / Management, Graz | Austria

**Andrea Maier**





Selbstständige Ingenieurskonsultentin, Vienna | Austria

**Elisabeth Mandl**

brainSpace

Field of research: knowledge generation as a cause and consequence of space production  
"between synapse and concentration"



Architecture, project development, research, Vienna | Austria

# Marina Mather

The office photo contains some very important elements of my work: the door of my office open to my colleagues most of the time, the coffee machine used here more than at home, the colourful announcements of conferences and teaching activities and the never melting pile of paper on the table, waiting to be read, processed, discussed, written or reviewed. The other photo shows the facilities where we grow our experimental plants, called *Arabidopsis thaliana*, a small weed that a great prototype for plants in general.



Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology, Vienna | Austria

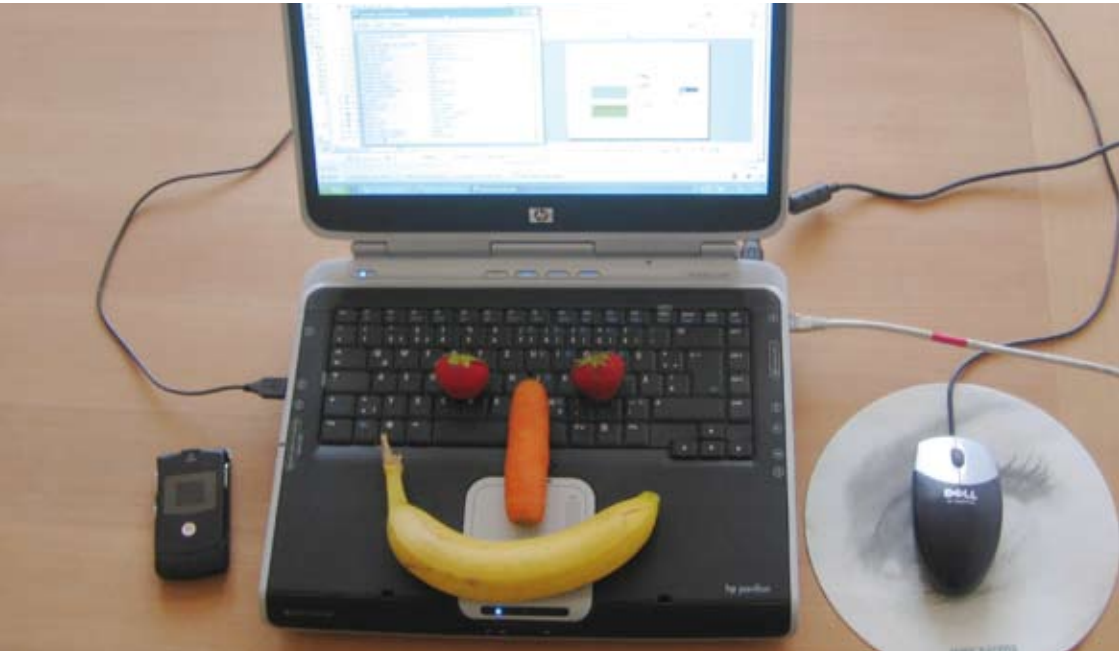
**Ortrun Mittelsten Scheid**



Department für Bildgebende Diagnostik, Infektions- und Laboratoriumsmedizin, University of Vienna | Austria

**Karin Möstl**

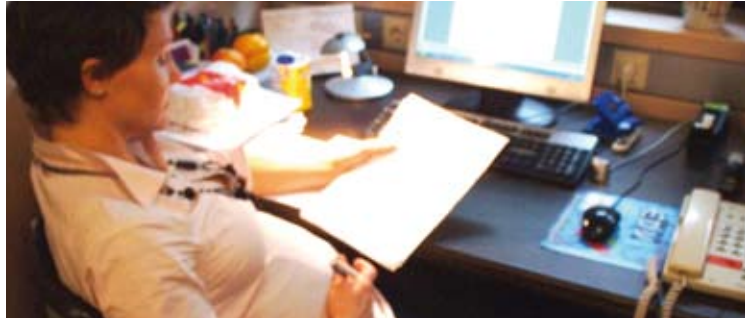
My field of work is "data version management applied to software and integrated circuits design".



Infineon Technologies Austria AG, Klagenfurt | Austria

**Lucia Novello**

The pictures show me at my workplace before and during pregnancy. Our research focus lies on the revelation of mechanisms of allergy, especially food allergy. In addition, we investigate factors for sensitisation in pregnancy and the impact on the immune response in the progeny. Although I am a very dedicated researcher, the reason for my own pregnancy is not "applied research", but for sure it is no counterproductive fact either.



Department of Pathophysiology Center of Physiology, Medical University of Vienna | Austria

# Isabella Pali

This view over Seattle with Mount Rainier in the background was taken on an assignment there. It is characteristic of my job as managing head of the company and consultant in mostly technical environments to have an eye for everything and to re-assemble many pictures, standpoints and views to one whole unit. co.systems accompanies processes of change, in terms of organisational changes as well as the employees when adapting to new guidelines.



co.systems consulting GmbH, Vienna | Austria

**Silvia Payer**

My workplace is our workplace. Within the framework of the organisation where I work (UNIDO), we are part of the team dealing with Multilateral Environmental Agreements. Our main task is the identification and transfer of environment-friendly technology. I put emphasis on team work, particularly when it comes to women, and on a multicultural environment. Here, apart from myself standing in the middle, are my assistant, Dolores from Mauritius, my intern, Maria from Spain and my colleague, Rana from Lebanon.



UNIDO, PTC/Multilateral Environmental Agreements Branch(MEA), Vienna | Austria

# Ida di Pietro Leupold-Loewenthal



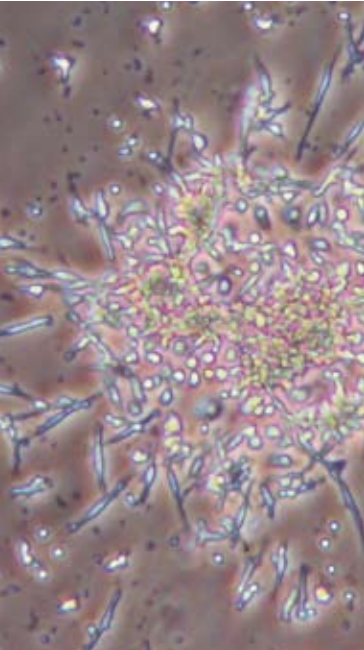
Photo: Architecture office, Vienna



space & designstrategies, University of Art and Industrial Design, Linz | Austria

**Elsa Prochazka**

I appreciate working with very nice colleagues in the SC research team in Graz. The pictures provide you with an impression of me at our workplace at the Center of Medical Research and they also show the beautiful views of cells through the microscope which we are allowed to gaze at. This highly aesthetic microcosm is rewarding us for somehow intense but really fascinating work.



Eva Rohde, Stem Cell Research Unit, Medical University of Graz | Austria

# Eva Rohde



Institute of Bacteriology, Mycology and Hygiene, VMU, Vienna | Austria

**Renate Rosengarten**

Field of research: bamboo construction in architecture



Faculty of Architecture, RWTH, Aachen | Germany

**Evelin Rottke**

Since my workplace is kind of cool (literally), like  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  or less, I'd like to send you some pictures of my outdoor workplace. I am working at the Institute of Ecology in Innsbruck and mainly out in the field to study life in various ice forms like glacial ice in Antarctica. It is inhabited by micro-organisms which are the kings of life since they can survive subzero temperatures. Besides, doing research in Antarctica for months is a perfect school for life. Pictures are taken mainly in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica.



Center for Biofilm Engineering & Dept. of Land Resources and Environmental Sciences, Montana State University,  
Montana | USA

**Birgit Sattler**

The accredited testing laboratory for Environmental, GMO and Fuel Analysis at the Umweltbundesamt follows the motto "tracking pollutants". Our key competence is in the analysis of specific parameters, also aside from conventional routine tests. Pollutant analysis includes sampling and analysis, as well as method development for all environmental media, consumer goods and food and feedstuffs. We also organise training sessions and topical events and carry out inter-laboratory comparisons. One of my key tasks is the development and realisation of applied research (pilot) projects concerned with environmental analysis. Our cooperation partners are in Austrian, EU and international networks.



Umweltbundesamt, Vienna | Austria

**Sigrid Scharf**



Fraunhofer IPSI Computational Linguistics, Darmstadt | Germany

**Ingrid Schmidt**

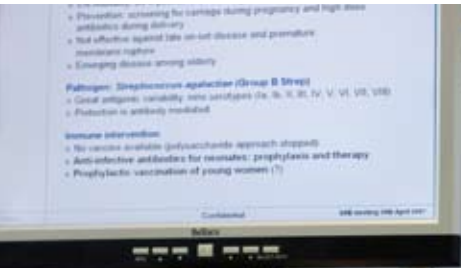
I am a veterinarian, a researcher in the field of public health and the president of Vétérinaires sans Frontières Austria (VSF-Austria). Vétérinaires sans Frontières Austria is a non-profit organisation working for the reduction in poverty and increase in food security and safety. "Development needs science": that is our main belief. Food-borne diseases take a major toll on health. Thousands of millions of people fall ill and many die as a result of consuming unsafe food and water. Scientific and technological knowledge today plays an important part in society, industry and trade.



Vétérinaires sans Frontières Austria (VSF-Austria), Vienna | Austria

# Dagmar Schoder





Intercell AG, Vienna | Austria

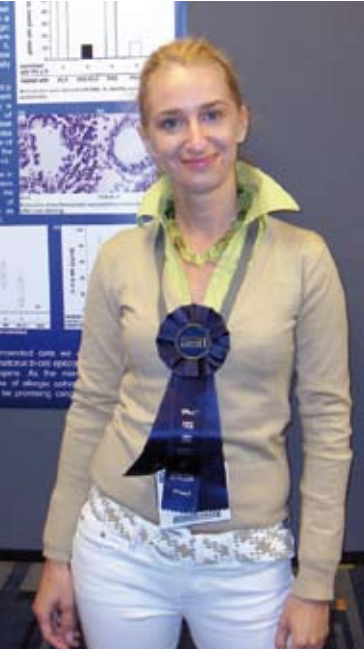
**Beatrice Senn**



Mammal Communication Lab, Department of Evolutionary Biology, University of Vienna | Austria

**Angela Stöger-Horwath**

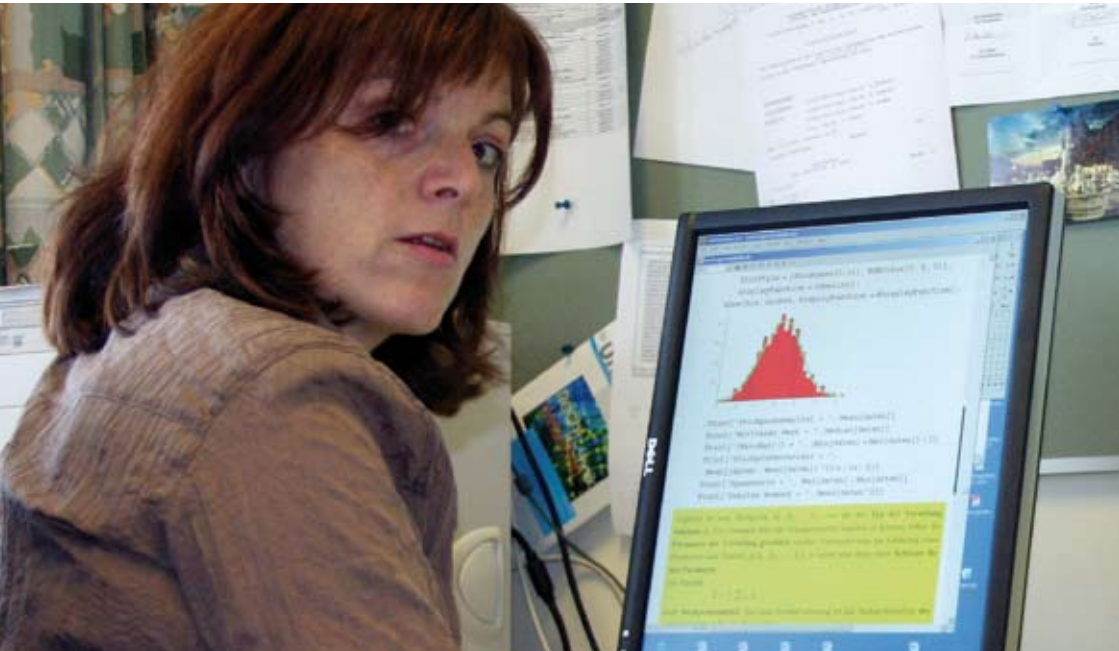
My name is Krisztina Szalai. I work as a researcher at the Institute of Pathophysiology (Medical University of Vienna). My focus is on allergy research - development of new therapy for asthma and atopic dermatitis. In the picture I sent you, I'm sensitising Balb/c mice via the skin to induce atopic dermatitis and then we apply the therapy for these animals.



Center of Physiology and Pathophysiology Medical University of Vienna | Austria

**Krisztina Szalai**

Mathematician - modelling, computing, proving, interpreting, teaching; chairwoman of the "Arbeitskreis für Gleichbehandlungsfragen" - promoting equal opportunities for women, participating in committees and supporting women in technology.



Institute of Stochastics, Johannes Kepler University of Linz | Austria

# Christiane Takacs

The photo shows the most important part of my workplace: my primary interface for interaction with my simulation computer (and my left hand). In the background a jug and glass of water are visible - important accessories for keeping healthy with an otherwise quite sedentary lifestyle.



WIT - Wissenschaftlerinnenkolleg Internettechnologien, Institute of Software Technology and Interactive Systems, University of Technology, Vienna | Austria

**Martina Umlauf**

I am a female researcher in computer science (see a short bio-sketch below). As a scientific director of the major R&D institute for information and communication technologies in Serbia, I am in charge of 250 researchers. I also teach computer science at the University of Belgrade. My photo with my rather untidy desk is attached with this message. I will invite several other female colleagues of mine to take part in your initiative.



The Mihailo Pupin Institute, Belgrade | Republic of Serbia

**Sanja Vranes**



Professorin i.R. Grundlagenforschung für Physik, Vienna | Austria

**Brigitte Weiss**



Philips Sound Systems, Vienna | Austria

**Susanne Windischberger**



My Croatian colleague Iva Režić and I are watching the dissolution process of a textile dye in water. During the course of a bilateral project on the impact on human health of heavy metals present in and on textile materials, among other things we studied dyes.



Department of Analytical Chemistry and Food Chemistry, University of Vienna | Austria

**Michaela Zeiner**

The w-fORTE team would like to thank everyone for their lively participation in the project and the invitation is still open to others to send in "Views from Work" to be published online.

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