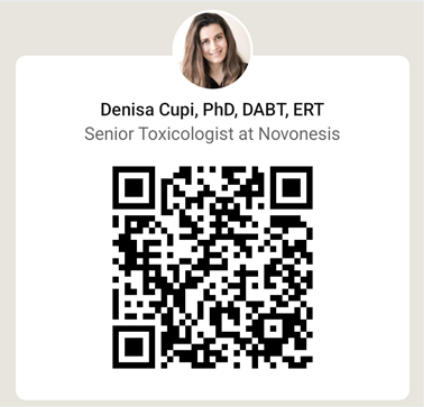
EUROTOX 2024
COPENHAGEN | DENMARK
8-11 SEPTEMBER 2024

EUROTOX Early Career Networking Event

Monday 9 September 2024, 18.00

DENISA CUPI



Current title: Senior Toxicologist

Current affiliation: Novonesis (legacy Novozymes)

Toxicological certifications (ERT, etc.): ERT, DABT

Your career path (in short, e.g. point-by-point):

B.S. Biochemistry, MSc. Environmental Chemistry and Health, PhD Ecotoxicology/Toxicology

Work experience in between educations: BASF, US EPA. After PhD: LEO Pharma, Novozymes.

What specific areas of toxicology have you specialized in?

Have been involved in covering all aspects of toxicology/ecotoxicology depending on the industry needs: in-vitro and in-vivo testing, aquatic ecotox, environmental fate, ecotox and risk assessment of PPPs, human and environmental risk assessment of biological and non-biological materials.

What steps have been pivotal in your career development and why?

Getting a diverse set of skills, networking with people in the company I wanted to work for, hard work and persistence in completing tasks, board certifications.

Describe your current role and main responsibilities:

Coordinating toxicological and ecotoxicological investigations and acting as a study monitor for different in-vitro and in-vivo studies conducted mostly at CROs. Environmental and safety assessment of different products. Providing tox/ecotox advice to the whole organization. Communicating with regulatory authorities and attending pre-submission meetings.

What advice would you give to an early career researcher in the field and what skills do you think will be most valuable in the future?

Network with people at the company you want to work at, and potentially find a student job or internship there. Board certifications can boost your career later on.

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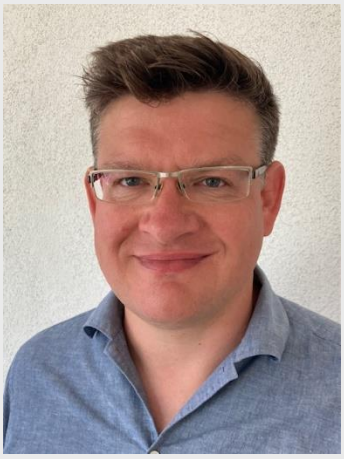
Esben Østrup



Current title: Primary Toxicologist

Current affiliation: H. Lundbeck A/S

Toxicological certifications (ERT, etc.): None

Your career path (in short, e.g. point-by-point):

2021- : Primary toxicologist at Lundbeck
2015-2021: Associate Prof. in Biochemistry and Vet. Anatomy, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
2011-2021: PostDoc in Stem Cells and Tissue Engineering, University of Oslo, Norway
2010-2011: General Veterinary Practitioner, Small Animals.
2006-2009: PhD in Veterinary Embryology, University of Copenhagen
2006: Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM), University of Copenhagen

What specific areas of toxicology have you specialized in?

Regulatory toxicology of small molecule drugs and new modalities

What steps have been pivotal in your career development and why?

1) To have a broad educational and scientific background 2) Being flexible and open for opportunities 3) Working abroad and in multi-disciplinary environments.

Describe your current role and main responsibilities:

I am planning the safety-pharmacology and toxicology part of the non-clinical development package of small molecule drugs. I am monitoring the regulatory studies (GLP), which are run at Contract Research Organisations (CRO), and I am participating in the preparation of regulatory documents and applications for submission to the regulatory authorities.

What advice would you give to an early career researcher in the field and what skills do you think will be most valuable in the future?

I believe it is very important to develop a strong personal and professional network through collaborations. It's crucial not to remain stagnant in one place for too long during the early stages of a career, even if it seems convenient. If possible, consider going abroad for a postdoc position, or at least change your research environment. In my opinion, some of the most important skills for now and the future are adaptability and flexibility.

Additional information:

linkedin.com/in/esben-østrup-01956b1a

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Dr. Helena Kandarova

Current title & affiliation:
Director, Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology at CEM SAS
Senior Lecturer, Institute of Biochemistry and Microbiology at FCHFT STU
President of ESTIV, European Society of Toxicology in Vitro
CEO, InVitroTox Consulting, s.r.o.

Toxicological certifications (ERT, etc.): ERT (in renewal)

Your career path (in short, e.g. point-by-point):
2023 - Director of IEPT at CEM SAS, Bratislava, Slovakia
2020 - Senior Lecturer at FCHFT STU, Bratislava, Slovakia
2019 - Senior Scientist and Head of SK-NETVAL Laboratory, IEPT CEM SAS
2019 - 2023 Senior Scientists at NRL for Experimental Immunotoxicology. NIPH Prague, Part-time
2009 - 2018 Executive director MatTek In Vitro Life Science Laboratories
2007-2018 Senior Scientist and General Acting Manager for the EU Market
2003 -2006 Ph.D. Biology, Chemistry, Pharmacy (2006). FU Berlin and ZEBET at the BfR, Berlin, Germany
2001-2003 Ph.D. candidate FCHFT STU – not completed due to the change of subject.
M.Sc. Food Technology (2001) and B.Sc. Food and Biochemistry (1999), FCHFT STU, Bratislava, Slovakia

What specific areas of toxicology have you specialized in? Topical toxicity testing, validation of NAMs for use in hazard identification, OECD TGs and ISO standards, Safety assessment of cosmetic products

What steps have been pivotal in your career development and why?
In 2003 - I changed from a PhD in Slovakia to PhD in Germany, with almost unlimited research possibilities, networking, and a research role in an EU-funded project on the validation of skin irritation tests;
in 2006 - I switched from academia to US-based company MatTek, which introduced me to industrial environment, work on commercial projects, but also some work of the SBIR NIH grants.
In 2009 - I returned back to EU, and established MatTek In Vitro Life Science Laboratories, focused on building up the EU facility and the production team with the aim to commercialising the reconstructed 3D tissues for EU and part of the Asian market. In parallel to that I continued in the scientific work on validating protocols for topical toxicity testing (eye irritation, medical devices protocols, phototoxicity).
In 2019 - I switched to academia, starting a GLP-compliant SK-NETVAL laboratory at CEM SAS focusing on in vitro toxicology and becoming a member of the Executive Board of CEM SAS. In the same year, I also established InVitroTox Consulting, s.r.o.
In 2023 - I become Director of the IEPT at CEM SAS and am co-steering of significant changes in the Institute and Centre

Describe your current role and main responsibilities:
As Director of the IEPT at the CEM and Executive member of CEM - Top management role, shaping the future of the Institute and contributing to the reorganisation of the Institute and Centre
As Associate professor at IBM STU - teaching Cell and tissue culture course, leading master and PhD students.
ESTIV President – increasing the collaboration amongst the various societies contributing to NAMs; developing educational and mentoring programmes for early career scientists; organising congresses with a focus on NAMs

What advice would you give to an early career researcher in the field and what skills do you think will be most valuable in the future?
Nothing is a problem, everything is a possibility

Additional information:
Website & LinkedIn

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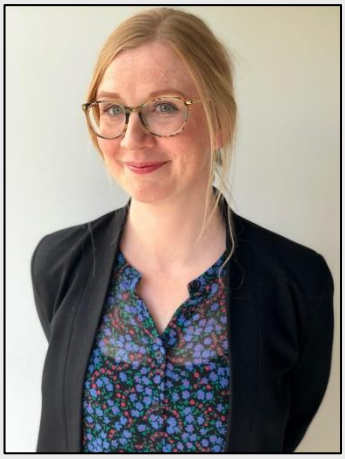

Elisabeth Bojsen-Møller Secher

- Ph.D. and DVM -

Current title: Non-clinical Assessor.

Current affiliation: Danish Medicines Agency, section of Toxicology, Pharmacokinetics & Biologics.

Toxicological certifications (ERT, etc.): None.

Your career path (in short, e.g. point-by-point):

- 2019-current: Non-clinical Assessor in the Danish Medicines Agency.
- 2017-2018: Laboratory Animal Veterinarian, Lund University, Sweden.
- 2012-2017: Diagnostic Pathologist (Laboratory Veterinary Officer), The National Veterinary Institute (SVA), Uppsala, Sweden.
- 2015: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from University of Copenhagen.
- 2009-2012: Ph.D. position at Section of Pathology, University of Copenhagen.
- 2008: Doctor of Veterinary Medicines (DVM) from University of Copenhagen, Bio-medicine differentiation.

What specific areas of toxicology have you specialized in?
General non-clinical expertise within the regulatory framework with respect to assessment of pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic and toxicology studies in accordance to ICH guidelines.

What steps have been pivotal in your career development and why?
My educational background and solid pathophysiological understanding enable me to relate changes on organ and cellular level to progression of toxicity or disease on a full body level.

Describe your current role and main responsibilities:
I primarily work with assessments of non-clinical data for marketing authorisation applications (MAA) for central, decentral and national procedures as well as scientific advices for all type of products (e.g. small molecules, biological products, advanced therapy medicinal products (ATMP's)). Additionally, I am part of the New Approach Methodologies European Specialized Expert Community (NAM ESEC) and the 3R group in the Danish Medicines Agency.

What advice would you give to an early career researcher in the field and what skills do you think will be most valuable in the future?
Always be curious and seek out new knowledge to develop your toxicological skills.

Additional information:
(24) Elisabeth (Sørensen) Bojsen-Møller Secher | LinkedIn

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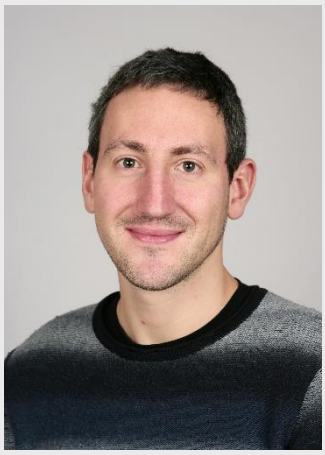
Danilo Basili



Current title: Senior Specialist in Computational Toxicology

Current affiliation: Nestlé

Toxicological certifications (ERT, etc.): None

Your career path (in short, e.g. point-by-point):

- Bachelor in Biological Science (Rome, Italy),
- Master in Marine Biology (Ancona, Italy),
- Master's thesis at UCSD (USA),
- PhD in Biological Sciences (Liverpool, UK),
- Post-doc in Computational Biology (Ancona, Italy),
- Post-doc in Computational Toxicology (Cambridge, UK),
- Computational Toxicologist position at Unilever (UK),
- Senior Specialist in Computational Toxicology at Nestlè (Lausanne, Switzerland)

What specific areas of toxicology have you specialized in? Human and environmental toxicology, Computational toxicology, NAMs, Hazard identification and characterization

What steps have been pivotal in your career development and why?
1) Studying abroad and not sticking to the same place increased my professional network and speed up my growth as a scientist,
2) moving from wet lab to computational toxicology has opened a lot of opportunities being it an emerging field,
3) being flexible and open to different topics increased the range of jobs I could apply, hence my professional opportunities

Describe your current role and main responsibilities: I'm leading a project aiming to establish a framework for Next Generation Risk Assessment of Food relevant molecules. Being NGRA a multi-disciplinary approach, my role involves connecting the different teams (internal to the company and external partners) to work together towards the same goal. On top of managing the work, I will be the responsible of carrying out the data analyses on the chemical hazard characterization. In addition, I'm involved in different European initiatives to speed up the regulatory acceptance of NAMs.

What advice would you give to an early career researcher in the field and what skills do you think will be most valuable in the future?
Advice 1: pick a boss, not a project. This is your best chance to grow.
Advice 2: Pick a post-doc that is half academia and half with industry.
The skills one should invest on, are in the area of data analysis, especially the field of artificial intelligence, as those will become key in most of the jobs.

Additional information: https://www.linkedin.com/in/danilobasili/