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Wolfgang Streit received his PhD in Biology in 1994 from the University of Marburg, Germany. From 1996-1997 he was a postdoc at UC Davis, CA. From there he moved to the University of Göttingen, Germany where he did his habilitation in 2002.

He was associate professor for enzyme biotechnology at the University of Duisburg-Essen from 2004-2006. In 2006 he was appointed as chair of the department of Microbiology and Biotechnology at the University of Hamburg.

One of the main focusses on research in the lab is on functional metagenomics. Research on functional metagenomics has been centered around identifying plastic-active bacteria and enzymes in the last years. The lab has developed and applied a HMM-based search tool to identify novel PETases and related genes in combination with an intro expression pipeline in metagenomes. Further the lab was involved in the setup of the PAZy data base.

A second focus lies on the analysis of bacterial interactions in complex microbial communities (i.e. biofilms). Research is focusing on questions regarding bacterial cell-cell communication and signaling in complex consortia.

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