Veerle Vanheudsden

Veerle Vanheusden holds a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences (medicinal chemistry) from the University of Ghent (Belgium), where she graduated in 1999 as a Pharmacist.

Before joining the European Commission she worked in the private pharmaceutical sector (organic chemistry and analytical chemistry).

Veerle Vanheusden joined the European Commission in 2013, where she worked for 4 years as a policy officer in the Unit "Pesticides and Biocides" of the Directorate General for Health and Consumers. Since September 2017 she moved to the DG SANTE unit dealing with Food processing technologies and novel foods, where her main areas of activity are the EU policy and legislation on contaminants in food.

Werner Bosmans

Werner Bosmans, a Belgian national, graduated as a bio-engineer at Ghent University, Belgium, and obtained a Ph.D. in international economics in Montpellier, France. He also holds a degree in Public Management. After some years in research, he worked as assistant to the heads of the Belgian and Flemish Ministry of Agriculture. He is also part-time professor at the ULB (Université Libre de Bruxelles).

In 2005, he joined the Directorate-General Environment of the European Commission. He helped setting up the International Resource Panel with UNEP, co-authored the Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe and initiated the work around the Circular Economy. The last years, he developed the Plastics Strategy, the Directive on single use plastics and a legal proposal on pellets. He is now the team leader for several follow-up actions on plastics, including on microplastics.

Shan Zou

Dr. Zou is a Senior Research Officer and Team Leader for the Nanoscale Measurement Team at the Metrology Research Centre of the National Research Council Canada. She is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Carleton University. Her research primarily focuses on developing nanoscale standards and measurement methods that support various applications in nanoscience. Additionally, she works on integrated multimodal techniques for characterizing nanomaterials, quantitatively detecting cancer cells, and assessing cellular mechanical responses to drug treatments. Dr. Zou has expertise in nanomechanics, surface functionalization, cytotoxicity measurements of nanomaterials, nanocomposite materials, and nanoscale plastics. Her goal is to contribute to a better understanding of how nanomaterials impact the environment and living systems and to advocate for the safe and responsible use of nanotechnology tools and nanomaterials.

Dr. Zou serves as the Vice Chair for the ASTM International E56 Nanotechnology Committee and is a Member of the BIPM-CCQM Cell Analysis Working Group. She also holds the position of the Canadian Society for Chemistry President.

Andrea Mario Giovannozzi

Andrea Mario Giovannozzi (PhD) is a permanent researcher in the "Physical Chemistry and Nanotechnology" group at INRIM. He has led several tasks in various European metrological projects, including Chemical metrology tools for the manufacture of advanced biomaterials in the medical device industry (IND56 Q-AIMDS), Traceable Quantitative Surface Chemical Analysis for Industrial Applications (SurfChem), MetvsBadBugs and FP7 SetNanoMetro.

He coordinates the EMP project 21GRD07 PlasticTrace, dedicated to developing international metrological capacity for the traceable measurement and characterization of micro- and nanoplastics in environmental and food samples, as well as the production of suitable reference materials according to metrological requirements.

Additionally, he is part of the management team of The National Metrological Infrastructure for Food Safety (IMPreSA) and The European Metrology Network on Food Safety (Food-MetNet).

He is a member of the Organic Analysis Working Group (CCQM) at BIPM and serves as Chair of VAMAS TWA45 "Micro and Nano Plastics in the Environment" and LRE for ISO 147/SC2/JWG1 (Plastics, including microplastics, in waters and related matrices).

Enrica Alasonati

Enrica Alasonati (PhD) is a senior scientist in the Environment and Climate Change Department at LNE (French National Metrology Institute). She obtained her PhD in Environmental Chemistry in 2009 at EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne), Switzerland. She is an expert in nanoparticle fractionation and characterization across diverse complex media, encompassing natural and manufactured nanoparticles, nanomaterials and micro/nano-plastics, with focus on environmental, biological samples and consumer products, to aid regulatory compliance and assess nanoparticle fate in the environment.

She was responsible for several tasks in several EURAMET research projects including ENV08 WFD, ENV51 MeTra and METVES II, she coordinated SapHTies project, dedicated to establishing metrological tools for seawater pHT measurement in support of international and European climate change, and she is workpackage leader in the EMP project 21GRD07 PlasticTrace "Metrological traceability of measurement data from nano to small-microplastics for a greener environment and food safety" and in the MetrINo project "Metrology for Innovative NanoTherapeutics".

She is co-chair of the CCQM-TG-NMMS, vice-chairman of the G4F, French group bringing together the scientific community working with fractionation techniques within the French Separative Science Association (Afsep), and engaged in VAMAS TWA45, international platform for micro/nano plastics research, facilitating reliable protocol development for pollutant measurement.

Håkan Emteborg

Håkan Emteborg has a PhD in analytical chemistry from Umeå University, Sweden (1995). As of 1996 onwards, he gained experience from both academia and research institutes following postdocs in Belgium and Spain. He also worked for LECO Corporation and ABB Corporate Research in Sweden for a number of years. In 2003, he joined the Reference Material Unit at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in Geel, Belgium on a permanent basis. Since 2005, he is managing the reference material processing facility and since 2018 the Reference Material Production Laboratory. His main research interests are focused on the development of new innovative types of reference materials and process analytical techniques. During the last years, microplastic Reference Materials have been among such innovative material developments encompassing both processing techniques and measurement techniques.

Dr. Emteborg is author/ co-author of more than 80 scientific publications.

On the picture he is holding an RM-bottle and an RM-certificate. The combination of material and certificate allows a specific trueness check, hence the slogan "The Truth in a Bottle".

Marie-France Dignac

Dr Marie-France Dignac is a research director at INRAE (Institute of Ecology and Environmental Sciences of Paris). Her research focuses on the influence of microplastics on soil biodiversity and biochemical cycles. She coordinates several projects on the sources, behaviour and impacts of microplastics in soils (e-DIP, financed by ANR, Plastisol financed by ADEME), using pyrolysis/GC/MS to quantify and characterize microplastics in complex matrices containing natural organic matter. She is a member of the Steering Committee of the Scientists' Coalition for an Effective Plastics Treaty.

Phoebe Lewis

Dr Phoebe Lewis has expertise in persistent organic pollutants (POPs) and emerging contaminants in the environment, including both new and current-use flame retardants and microplastics. Her PhD was focussed on the impacts of POPs and emerging contaminants in Antarctic seabird populations, as well as understanding the long-term ecological consequences of bioaccumulation in individual species and populations. She has undertaken field work in remote environments including Antarctica and the deep sea, gathering critical data on the global distribution and fate of these contaminants. Her professional career has spanned both Australian state and federal government organisations, and her research has contributed not only to the scientific community, but informed policymakers and effective environmental management strategies aimed at minimising the impact of pollutants on vulnerable ecosystems.

Jie Jiang

Professor Jie Jiang is now the of Harbin Institute of Technology, the Dean of College of Marine Science and Technology, member of State Key Laboratory of Urban Water Resources and Water Environment. He obtained the bachelor, master and doctorate degree at Jilin University. He did postdoctoral research at Carnegie Mellon University, and also was visiting scholar at Stanford University. His research of interest mainly includes development of mass spectrometry instrument and its application. Recently, pyrolysis mass spectrometry was developed for rapid analysis of micro/nano-plastics. The total analysis time is shorted to 3 min, and has been applied in the field of environment, food, biological sample. The development of the pyrolysis mass spectrometry instrument and its application is also supported by the 14th Five-Year National Key Research and Development Plan project. He has published more than 100 papers, including N*at. Ecol. & Evol., Angew. chem. Int. Ed., J. Am. Chem. Soc., Chem. Sci., Anal. Chem.*, etc.

Ulrike Braun

PhD Ulrike Braun is the head of section “Waste Water Analysis, Monitoring Methods” at Federal Environment Agency, Germany.

She studied chemistry in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, and was employed from 2001 to 2020 at the Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing with various topics on the characterization and durability of polymeric materials. Since 2015 she is involved in various projects related to microplastics in environment, her area of specialization was the development of thermo-analytic methods for the detection of microplastics.

Now she is strongly active as conveinor of various standardization committees at DIN, CEN or ISO level in the field of “plastics” and “water quality”.

Caterina Minelli

Caterina Minelli is Science Area Leader at NPL and leads NPL's research into the metrology underpinning the industrial exploitation of particle systems, with focus on development and manufacturing of nanomedicines. Caterina drives related international standardisation efforts and acts as an expert in a number of standard technical committees, including the ISO TC229 (Nanotechnologies), ASTM E56.08 (Nano-enabled materials) and the NANO working group at EDQM. Caterina is chair of the Particle Metrology Task Group at the International Bureau of Weights and measures (BIPM) and a Fellow of the Institute of Physics.

Caterina Minelli studied physics in Florence, Italy, and obtained a PhD in Nanotechnology from the École Polytechnique Fédérale of Lausanne, Switzerland, in 2004. Between 2001 and 2004, Caterina gained industry-focused experience working at the Swiss Center for Electronic and Microtechnology. Caterina was awarded the International Fellowship for Young Scientists to work at the Biomaterials Center of the Japanese National Institute for Materials Science between 2005 and 2006 where she investigated blood coagulation mechanism on nanostructured surfaces. Afterwards, she moved to the UK to work at Imperial College London, where she was awarded the competitive EU Marie Curie Fellowship to work on peptide-based nanoscale systems for cancer therapy and diagnostics. Caterina joined NPL in July 2010. In 2014, she was seconded to the former Department of Business, Innovation and Skills to work at the development of the Science and Innovation Strategy published by the UK Government in December 2014.

Konstantina Vasilatou

Dr Konstantina Vasilatou is leading the Laboratory of Particles and Aerosols at the Swiss Federal Institute of Metrology (METAS). Dr Vasilatou has received her PhD in Laser Spectroscopy from the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich (ETHZ). Her research in the last 10 years is focused on developing novel primary standards, aerosol generators and measurement procedures in the field of aerosol sciences. She is a member of several international and national working groups promoting standardisation of air quality monitoring and emission control, including the ISO committee for particle characterisation (ISO/TC 24/SC 4) and CEN committee for Air Quality (CEN/TC 264). She is currently chairing the Task Group on Aerosol Metrology within CCQM GAWG and is a member of the organising committee of the ETH Nanoparticle Conference which is held annually at ETH Zurich in Switzerland.