



Olivia Masseck

Professor

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In October 2018, Olivia Masseck was appointed by the University of Bremen as professor of Synthetic Biology in the Faculty of Biology and Chemistry.

Following her studies in biology and mathematics, she received a doctorate in neuroscience from the International Graduate School of Neuroscience at Ruhr-Universität Bochum. After a research stay at the laboratory of neurobiology of sensorimotor networks (“Laboratoire de Neurobiologie des Reseaux Sensorimoteurs”) at Université Paris Descartes (France), she worked as a research assistant and working group leader at the Department of General Zoology and Neurobiology at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, which was one of the first research groups worldwide to establish optogenetic methods.

From 2016 to 2018, she held the junior professorship for high-resolution fluorescence microscopy at Ruhr-University Bochum. Her research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of serotonin, which is involved in anxiety, depression, decision making, learning and memory. The main focus is how serotonin is modulating behavior. In Bremen, she is now working on setting up a working group that will use modern methods, such as optogenetics, to investigate the serotonergic system.