

Anke Becker is head of the *Department for Comparative Genomics* and director of the *LOEWE-Center for Synthetic Microbiology (SYNMIKRO)*, and is a full professor of microbiology at the *Philipps-Universität Marburg*.

After receiving her Ph.D. in microbial genetics at *Bielefeld University*, she headed an independent research group at the *Center for Biotechnology (Bielefeld University)* and was appointed adjunct professor in 2007. Before joining SYNMIKRO in 2011, she was a professor of microbial genetics and systems biology and member of the *Center for Biological Systems Analysis (ZBSA)* at the *University of Freiburg* (2008 to 2011).

Becker is vice speaker of the *Collaborative Research Center SFB 987 "Microbial diversity in environmental signal response"*, member of the *Permanent Senate Commission on Genetic Research* of the *German Research Foundation* and chair of the scientific advisory board of the *Warwick Integrative Synthetic Biology Centre*. She served as associate editor of *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions* (2003 to 2007) and as an editor of the *Journal of Biotechnology* since 2013. She was member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Bacteriology* for 5 years and has been an editor since 2015.

She has authored more than 140 research articles and received a *Lise-Meitner fellowship (Ministry for Sciences and Research, NRW, Germany)* in 1998 and a *Heisenberg fellowship (German Research Foundation)* in 2002.

Her research aims at a systems-level understanding of plant-symbiotic rhizobacteria. She is best known for her work on regulatory networks in *Sinorhizobium meliloti* entering a root nodule symbiosis with leguminous host plants. Her current research expands on studying the functional basis and evolution of the symbiotic properties of root nodule bacteria as well as rhizobial multipartite genome architectures and maintenance. Synthetic biology concepts are applied to reprogram regulatory modules and reorganize genomes in bacteria.