



International Alliance for
Biological Standardization



Dr. Esther Wenzel

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Dr. Esther Wenzel is an expert in animal-free technologies. She is Co-Founder and COO of the biotech company Abcalis GmbH that is specialized on animal free antibody discovery and production, and offers consulting to find solutions for animal-origin free work in laboratories.

She gained extensive experience with diagnostic tests, cell culture and animal-free techniques of 3D cell cultures and spheroids to replace animal tissue since the early 2000s. In 2020, she developed animal-free antibodies against diphtheria toxin by phage display that can replace the current therapeutic, equine serum. These defined polyclonal human antibodies are currently under FDA review.

Esther perfected high-throughput methods for the functional testing of antibodies and co-invented Multiclonal Antibodies, an animal-free replacement for polyclonal antibodies. To bring this new product to the market, she founded Abcalis GmbH with colleagues in 2019.

Her work was acknowledged by national and international awards, including the 1st ECEAE prize for Animal-free Antibodies, the Lower Saxony Innovation Award, and the start-up award of the city of Braunschweig.