



Pieter-Jan Ceyssens

Unit Head 'Antibiotics and Resistance Sciensano

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I obtained a master in Bioscience Engineering, graduated cum laude in 2004 and completed my PhD in Bioscience Engineering at the department of Biosystems (University of Leuven) in 2009. This research was funded by an IWT scholarship and focused on phylogenetics of phages infecting Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Afterwards, and funded by PDM/FWO postdoctoral fellowship (2010-2013), I applied multi-omics approaches for phage-host interaction studies. During his postdoc, I spend research time at the MFPL Laboratories at the University of Vienna (Prof. Udo Bläsi) on transcriptomics, and at the University of Pittsburg (Prof. Graham Hatfull) on phage recombineering.

Since 2014, I am affiliated with Sciensano and was appointed head the Unit 'Antibiotics & Resistance' in 2015. This unit is embedded within the division of Human Bacterial Diseases, which groups National Reference Centers (NRCs) of Salmonella, Shigella, Listeria, Yersinia, Neisseria and Mycobacterial spp. Over the years, I am more and more involved in policy related to public health, antimicrobial resistance and prevention. I am One Health focal point for Antimicrobial Resistance at Sciensano (2018-2023), elected member of the board of directors of the Belgian Society of Microbiology (2021-2027), the Belgian Society of Viruses of Microbes (2022-2026), member of the Belgian Pharmacopeia submission Biology (2021-2026) and chair of the EU working group on the establishment of a General Chapter on phage therapeutics in the European Pharmacopeia.

