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Stephan Köhler is a trained bacteriologist who was awarded his PhD in 1991 by the University of Würzburg/Germany on virulence mechanisms of *Listeria monocytogenes*. Following a post-doc period at the INSERM U-431 laboratory in Montpellier/France, during which he set up a research project on the study of *Brucella* factors and mechanisms related to host-pathogen interaction, he obtained tenure as a scientist at the INSERM research organization. He is an INSERM Research Director, group leader and Deputy Director of the CNRS laboratory "Center for the Study of Pathogens and Health Biotechnologies" in Montpellier. The research interests of his group are focused on virulence factors of *Brucella suis* and newly described *Brucella* species and strains, the adaptation of the pathogens to environmental stress such as low pH and oxygen deficiency, as well as on the development of novel anti-bacterial agents.