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## Archaeal type IV prepilin-like signal peptidases

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## **Dankwoord**

In January 2001 I first came to the Biological Center, to my very first "real" job interview, at the Molecular Microbiology group. Unusually, I was well on time and was also prepared to answer all the classic where-do-you-see-yourself-in-five-years-style questions. Instead I found myself in a little office together with Arnold and Sonja and a cup of coffee, discussing their (at first impression) somewhat wild ideas about an archaeon that uses a fishing rod to catch the sugar molecules it wants to eat. This made the decision easy to accept the offered Ph.D. position.

Dear Arnold, thank you for this opportunity to do my Ph.D. studies in your group. Thanks also for giving me a lot of freedom to develop ideas and "do my thing". Sorry for notoriously missing all possible deadlines; I've been grateful for the occasional (virtual) kick in the butt when things were going way too slow once again (it helped).

Sonja, you have been a wonderful supervisor and deserved co-promotor. I enjoyed being treated as an equal scientist from the very beginning, to not only get advice but also be asked for it. It's been fun to "fantasize" about the Bindosome, it's been great to see the fantasy turn more and more into reality. Thanks for the continuous encouragement and support (Sounds cliché, but it's true (-: ).

Mecky, your idea to develop Flafind (and to ask our help) came in the best possible moment, it's been my first real collaboration and the most exciting project of my thesis. It's been great fun to work together, I extremely enjoyed our e-mail and telephone conversations and now that the paper (Chapter 5) is as good as accepted, we also got the happy end of the story (to be continued?).

I'd also like to thank all former and current members of the Extremophiles group for fun and discussions: Albert, Asia, Benham, Sonja Koning, Monika (it'll be great to be colleagues again!), Titia (onze geadopteerde extermofiele die met andere interessante dingen bezig was) and Oscar. Our group meetings with Bitterkoekjescake or cookies are unforgettable.

Paolo and Carmen, I really miss our gezellige lunches and other activities together in the "old times"!

"My" students Maarten (thanks for your substantial contribution to Chapter 4) and Michał, you guys taught me probably more about supervising than I could teach you by supervising.

Musa, thanks for your efforts & creativity, you made some beautiful flagellum-pictures!

Of course I also thank all people at the Molecular Microbiology group, sorry for not listing more names.

I'm grateful to Marga, Manon and Bea for help with paperwork. Special thanks to Bea for turning some seemingly hopeless bureaucratic procedures into "appeltje eitje"!

Drága Anyu, Apu és Dorka, rátok mindig számíhattam és számíthatok, nemcsak a segítségetekre, de feltétlen szeretetekre is. Ez utóbbi számomra mindennél többet jelent.

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## List of publications

**Szabó, Z., M. Tönnis, H. Kessler, and M. Feldbrügge.** 2002. Structure-function analysis of lipopeptide pheromones from the plant pathogen *Ustilago maydis*. *Mol. Genet. Genomics* **268**:362-370.

**Albers, S. V., Z. Szabo, and A. J. M. Driessen.** 2003. Archaeal homolog of bacterial type IV prepilin signal peptidases with broad substrate specificity. *J. Bacteriol.* **185**:3918-3925.

**Szabó, Z., S. V. Albers, and A. J. M. Driessen.** 2006. Active-Site Residues in the Type IV Prepilin Peptidase Homologue PibD from the Archaeon *Sulfolobus solfataricus*. *J. Bacteriol.* **188**:1437-1443.

**Albers, S. V., Z. Szabó, and A. J. M. Driessen.** 2006. Protein secretion in the Archaea: multiple paths towards a unique cell surface. *Nat. Rev. Microbiol.* **4**:537-547.

**Szabó, Z., A. Oliveira Stahl, S.-V. Albers, J. C. Kissinger, A. J. M. Driessen and M. Pohlschröder.** 2006. Identification of diverse archaeal proteins with class III signal peptides cleaved by distinct archaeal prepilin peptidases. (*accepted for publication*)

**Szabó, Z., M. Sani, M. Groeneveld, B. Zolghadr, J. Schelert, S.-V. Albers, P. Blum, E. J. Boekema and A. J. M. Driessen.** 2006. Flagellar motility and structure in the hyperthermoacidophilic archaeon *Sulfolobus solfataricus* (*submitted for publication*)

