

## Christoph Funk

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Dr. Funk studied Biology at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zürich, Switzerland in the early eighties. After the diploma (1985), a thesis followed at the same University investigating the metabolism of several natural products in plants and plant tissue cultures. As a post doctoral fellow at the Institute of Biological Chemistry at Washington State University in Pullman, USA (1990 to 1993), research focused on the metabolism of several mono- and diterpenoids in plants, including the characterization of Cytochrome P450 monooxygenases and other metabolic enzymes involved in secondary product formation.

In 1994 Dr. Funk started as Drug Metabolism lab head in Non-Clinical Drug Development at F. Hoffmann-La Roche in Basel. Besides the metabolic characterization of many new drug molecules, research was focused on the setup of in vitro drug-transport assays and their characterization aiming at understanding the relevant steps involved in drug absorption, distribution and elimination. Today Dr. Funk is responsible for a section with roughly 35 co-workers within Global Pharmaceutical Sciences focusing on mechanisms involved in drug metabolism, distribution and elimination, bringing different disciplines from drug metabolism, drug transport, pharmacokinetics and drug safety together. The over-arching aim is to understand the key ADMET mechanisms of potential new drugs and thereby predict their behaviour and liabilities in man.