

Biography (short CV) Jürg Gertsch, University of Bern, Switzerland

Jürg Gertsch studied cultural anthropology at the Universidad Central de Venezuela (UCV) and Neurosciences and Biochemistry at Sussex University (UK) and the Biozentrum Basel. He received his M.Sc. in Biochemistry (1997) and his Dr.sc.nat. in pharmacognosy, ethnobotany and natural product chemistry from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich in 2002 under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Otto Sticher and Prof. Dr. Sir Ghillean Prance (Kew Gardens, London). Between 2003 and 2009 he was postdoc and then group leader at the Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences in the laboratory of Prof. Karl-Heinz Altmann at ETH Zurich. He has taught pharmaceutical biology and ethnopharmacology at ETH and the University of Zurich. Since 2019 he is the professor of Biochemistry and Pharmaceutical Biology at the medical faculty of the University of Bern. Dr. Gertsch has carried out fieldwork among the Yanomami Amerindians in Venezuela and carried out ethnopharmacological expeditions in Mexico, Bolivia and Sarawak.

Dr. Gertsch's research focuses on molecular pharmacology of the endocannabinoid system and general drug discovery, cannabinoid pharmacology and translational research. His research group works on projects related to chemical biology, neuropharmacology and biochemical pharmacology of lipids, with a focus on translation. Since 2014 he is deputy and co-director of the Institute of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at the University of Bern. He is a co-founder of Synendos Therapeutics. Currently, he is directing two big interdisciplinary research projects funded by the SNFS: 1. The Food-Medicine Continuum in Vervet Monkeys: Investigations on the Interplay between Diet Quality, Stress Coping, and the Endocannabinoid System and 2. [Targeting Trypanosoma cruzi host cell interactions by small molecules to treat Chagas disease: The role of redox metabolism and the endocannabinoid system.](#)