



Session	Start-ups/SMEs looking for Finance: pre-seed/angel/seed funding
Title	Fungal Biocompounds: The Future of Personal Care
Company	Mycolever GmbH
Speaker	Dr. Britta Winterberg
Keywords feedstock (max. 2)	Plant oils
Keywords technology (max 2)	Fungal fermentation
Keywords End-Product (max 2)	Cosmetic ingredients
Abstract:	
At Mycolever, we discover, develop and provide sustainable fungal biocompounds. Fossil-based surfactants dominate cosmetics and home care, yet their production is resource-intensive and environmentally harmful. At Mycolever, we produce a portfolio of products based on mannosylerythritol lipids (MELs), high-value glycolipids with unique performance and sustainability benefits. They offer superior emulsification, mildness, and skin health benefits, making them ideal replacements for petrochemical surfactants in personal care. Our MEL-based product portfolio also includes a range of fermentation-enhanced beauty oils with superior sensory characteristics, antioxidative functionality and improved fatty acid profiles, making them excellent for skin and hair care. Our technology relies on scalable fungal fermentation of plant oils and renewable feedstocks. We have validated the process from lab to pilot scale (TRL 6–7) and are now preparing for industrial partnerships to scale production and enable market entry. Beyond biosurfactants, we build a biocompound discovery platform to systematically identify and evaluate novel fungal metabolites with potential as bio-based ingredients. This accelerates the path from discovery to application to application and also builds a robust pipeline of next-generation molecules. With MEL and our discovery platform, we address the growing demand for bio-based, high-performance ingredients that meet consumer and regulatory.	