

Jan Deska was born in the small town of Quierschied, Germany in 1979 and studied chemistry at the Saarland University, from where he obtained his PhD in 2007 under the supervision of Uli Kazmaier. After postdoctoral visits in the research groups of Goverdhan Mehta at the IISc Bangalore in India, and Jan-Erling Bäckvall at Stockholm University, Sweden, he started his independent academic career in 2010 as Liebig junior group leader at the University of Cologne, Germany. Following a six-year appointment as associate professor at Aalto University, Finland from 2015-2021, Jan is currently holding the professorship in Synthetic Chemistry at the University of Helsinki. His core scientific interests surround the various aspects of organic synthesis and the stereoselective preparation of complex building blocks of bioactive natural products and pharmaceuticals, and his team at the Department of Chemistry develops new solutions to these challenges in a multidisciplinary fashion combining modern catalysis, protein engineering and synthetic biology.

### **Personal data**

Name	Prof. Dr. rer nat. Jan Deska, né Groß
Date of birth	27.5.1979, in Quierschied, Germany
Nationalities	Finnish, German
Institutional address	University of Helsinki, Department of Chemistry, A.I. Virtasen aukio 1, 00560 Helsinki, Finland
Phone	+358 40 5866690
Email/website	jan.deska@helsinki.fi / www.deskalab.com
Orcid/Researcher ID	0000-0003-4622-2365 / M-2091-2013



### **Awards & Honours**

4/2022	Award of the Ruth & Erik Stenbäcks stiftelse
12/2019	ERC Consolidator grantee
7/2017	EuChemS Organic Division Young Investigator
2/2015	Bürgenstock Junior Scientist fellowship
11/2014	Research award of the Dr.-Otto-Röhm Memorial Foundation
12/2012	Thieme Chemistry Journals Award 2013
4/2010	Liebig fellow of the Fonds der Chemischen Industrie
10/2008	Dr.-Eduard-Martin dissertation award of the Saarland University



### Academic positions

since 2022	<b>University of Helsinki</b> , Finland Professor for Synthetic Chemistry
2015-2021	<b>Aalto University</b> , Espoo, Finland Assoc. Professor for Synthetic Organic Chemistry
2014 –2015	<b>RWTH Aachen University</b> , Germany Interim Professor for Organic Chemistry (teaching interim during chair vacancy)
2014	<b>University of Cologne</b> , Germany Habilitation, <i>venia legendi</i> in Organic Chemistry (docent degree equivalent)
2010 – 2015	Junior group leader within the VCI Liebig program 'Synthetic Biocatalysis'
2008 – 2010	<b>Stockholm University</b> , Sweden Postdoc w/ Prof. J.-E. Bäckvall: 'Transition metal-catalyzed racemizations'
2007	<b>Indian Institute of Science</b> , Bangalore, India Postdoc w/ Prof. G. Mehta: 'Total synthesis of phaeofuran A'
2004 – 2007	<b>Saarland University</b> , Saarbrücken, Germany Doctoral thesis under supervision of Prof. U. Kazmaier: 'Chelated peptide ester enolates in the Pd-catalyzed allylic alkylation'. (Dr. rer. nat., <i>summa cum laude</i> )
2004	Diploma in Chemistry under supervision of Prof. U. Kazmaier and Prof. R. Hempelmann: 'Immobilization of Grubbs-Hoveyda-type catalysts in ferrofluids'.
1999 – 2003	Studies in Chemistry

### Third Party Funding

4/2021	NATO Science for Peace & Security, G5713, <i>EnzIL</i>
11/2020	ERC Consolidator grant, <i>ABIONYS</i>
09/2020	Academy of Finland, research grant 331552, <i>SweetCopper</i>
01/2020	Academy of Finland, research grant 329512, <i>ExtremoForm</i>
09/2019	Academy of Finland, research grant 324854, <i>Cevalor</i>
2/2015	Novo Nordisk Foundation, research grant 17OC0025092
09/2016	Academy of Finland, research grant 298250, <i>Beyond Biosynthesis</i>
05/2013	German Research Foundation, research grant DE1599/4-1
4/2010	Fonds of the German Chemical Industry, starting grant

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