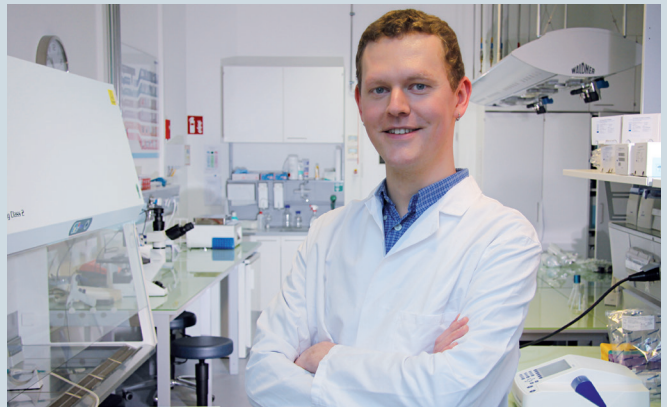


Client Interview

Introduction

The company Eppendorf knows its clients and their specific needs very well. In the following interview, we would like to introduce our valued client Mr. Michael Dreifke, where he will answer some questions, both personal and pertaining to his work. Mr. Dreifke works at the University of Hamburg's Institute of Inorganic and Applied Chemistry, where he studies the function of enzymes immobilized to silica matrices. For functional enzyme tests he employs the BioSpectrometer kinetic by Eppendorf.



What activities do you enjoy outside of work?

I spend my spare time on miniature railroad as both example and model. Working on my model trains helps me disconnect from work and find relaxation. Even if my thoughts are far from chemistry, tinkering has provided me with the occasional idea for the lab. Well, both are very creative processes, aren't they? Authentic re-creation of a model railroad often requires me to do literature searches which can be very relaxing after work.

Why did you decide to major in Chemistry?

All my life I have been interested in issues that many others may take for granted. I have always been curious to know why things in nature are the way they are, and in order to understand this, studying chemistry seemed the logical thing to do. At the same time I was intrigued by the juxtaposition of the theoretical facts of chemistry presented during the lectures and practical hands-on work in the laboratory.

What do you particularly like about your work?

I especially value the academic freedom granted to me by my doctoral supervisor. The topic and the goal of my work were defined at the outset, but I have been able to forge my own path. This is something I really appreciate. That being said, despite my independence, my supervisor is always available for support, which is reassuring.

How did the Eppendorf BioSpectrometer® help you in your work, and what do you particularly like about the instrument?

A major advantage of the Eppendorf BioSpectrometer is the temperature-regulated cuvette shaft. This enables me to carry out kinetic studies at different temperatures. The instrument further features a very good user interface; many standard methods are pre-programmed by the manufacturer, which simplifies the workflow. Measurement results are saved as an Excel file which contains all measurement parameter selections as well as screenshots of the measurement process. Importantly, previous measurements can be recalled using the memory function and retroactively saved on a USB. This sophisticated software provides a clear advantage compared to competitors' instruments.

What do you consider your biggest challenge in your work?

In my opinion, the biggest challenge in any scientific endeavor is not to lose sight of the main goal of one's own research. On my journey I often encounter interesting subplots which could potentially be very fascinating and appealing to explore. However, after due consideration it is important to return to the original goal of one's work, incorporating the additional knowledge gained and possibly including it in future discussions.

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