



Branko Velebit, PhD

Research title: Principal Research Fellow in Food Microbiology

Position: Head of Department of Microbiology and Molecular Biology

Affiliation: Institute of Meat Hygiene and Technology – Belgrade, Serbia

Occupation field: Food Microbiology

Short biography: Branko Velebit is a food microbiologist whose interests lie in mitigating enteric virus transmission through the food chain, with a focus on human norovirus, and hepatitis A and E viruses. He is also a researcher with almost 20 years of experience working and managing in an ISO 17025 Food Microbiology research laboratory. He conceptualizes and leads creative "proof of concept" scientific programs aimed at developing novel combat strategies against emerging diseases including application of artificial intelligence. He is also an educator, both in the classroom and as a postgraduate student mentor in five and supervised thirteen doctoral dissertations in the field of food microbiology. These activities have resulted in his appointment to the ISO/CEN working groups charged with developing and validating standards for the detection and quantification of foodborne bacteria and viruses in food; he also actively participates in the activities of EU reference laboratories for foodborne viruses, Campylobacter, and coagulase-positive staphylococci. He has facilitated the joining of Serbia to NoroNET and HEVNET.