

Prof. Massimiliano Fenice

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Massimiliano Fenice is a microbiologist working in various fields of industrial and applied microbiology, microbial ecology and microbial bio-treatment of wastes and wastewater. He has more than fifteen year of experience in the production, purification and characterization of microbial chitinolytic enzymes. Its activity has been devoted in particular to microorganisms from extreme environments. In addition, he studied the potential application of cold tolerant chitinases and chitinolytic microorganisms in various fields such as food technology and bio control of plant pathogens. In 1998 he was co-inventor of a patent (Chitinolytic enzyme production by *Penicillium janthinellum*. European Patent Application, EP 0 885 954 A1) developed in collaboration with NESTEC (Centre de Recherche Nestle), CH. In 2001 He was responsible (Italian partnership), together with the late Prof. G. Gooday, of a bilateral project financed by the Italian National Research Council and the British Council dealing with “Molecular and physiological aspects of the chitinolytic enzyme products by the fungus *Verticillium lecanii*”. He has supervised various PhD and Master thesis dealing with chitinolytic enzymes and microorganisms. From 2006 to 2011 he was member of the board of the European Chitin Society (EUCHIS). In recent years, together with ENEA the Italian institution for alternative energies, he started a very promising research programme to study the reuse of chitin-rich wastes for the production of energy (bio-hydrogen and bio-methane).