

Beyond the Elevator Pitch: Inside Start-up Stories

asked by **DCZ**  **HeadhunterAngels**

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protect the health
of children from
potentially harmful
chemicals.

*Silke Beaucamp,
Managing Director of DNTOX*



Spotlight on

SILKE BEAUCAMP

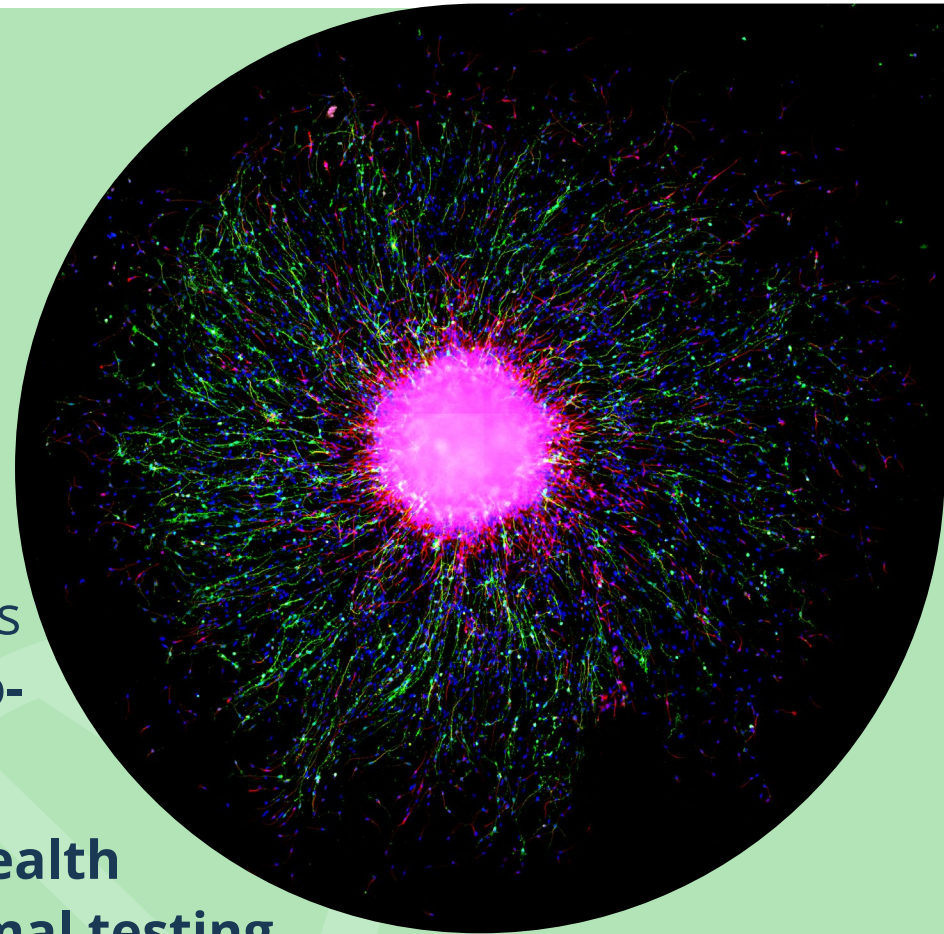
Co-Founder &
Managing Director

1. What key issue does your company tackle, and what impact will it have on the world?

” Most environmental chemicals have not been tested for their potential to harm the developing brain of unborn and young children.

DNTOX offers human-relevant, **animal experiment-free in vitro tests** for chemicals, pharmaceuticals and cosmetics to assess their **neuro-developmental toxicity**.

We thereby **contribute to public health** while simultaneously **reducing animal testing**.



2. What special skills or innovations make your company stand out?

” Our animal experiment-free test system is the result of over 15 years of research and development.



Analysis of the large amounts of generated data is powered by our **state-of-the-art machine learning** technology. This revolution in the **hazard assessment of chemicals** at **DNTOX** is only possible due to the combined efforts of a **dedicated team of interdisciplinary talents**.

3. What inspired you to found this company?



” We founded **DNTOX** out of a desire to **protect the health of children** from potentially harmful chemicals in the environment.

Testing the safety of chemicals in animals has several problems. By using **human cells** instead, we can **replicate key processes of early human brain development more accurately** and in a more **cost- and time-effective** manner.

4. What makes your company attractive to investors?



” Given the strong push to phase out animal experiments in favor of more human-relevant alternatives, **DNTOX** is in the right place at the right time. Our innovative technology bridges **ethical responsibility and commercial opportunity**. Our customers can protect their investments by identifying hazardous chemicals early during development.

A recent OECD recommendation to use our test system for screening, prioritization, and hazard assessment of chemicals sets the stage for a growing market.

5. Why is your company a great place to work and attract top talent?

” Our team is **united by a common purpose** to protect public health and reduce animal testing.



We foster the **unique skill-sets** that make every team member indispensable in achieving our mission. We not only offer **competitive compensation** but also value a **healthy work life balance** and provide opportunities for **professional growth** in fields that our team members are interested in.

The opportunity to shape the future of our company feels especially fulfilling.

6. What advice would you give your past self at the start of your startup journey?

” The typical startup journey is thrilling but rarely goes as planned. For example, longer sales cycles and delayed regulatory processes were unexpected challenges. However, **setbacks spur creativity and evolution.**



Looking back, **setbacks offer growth opportunities and can lead to remarkable achievements.**

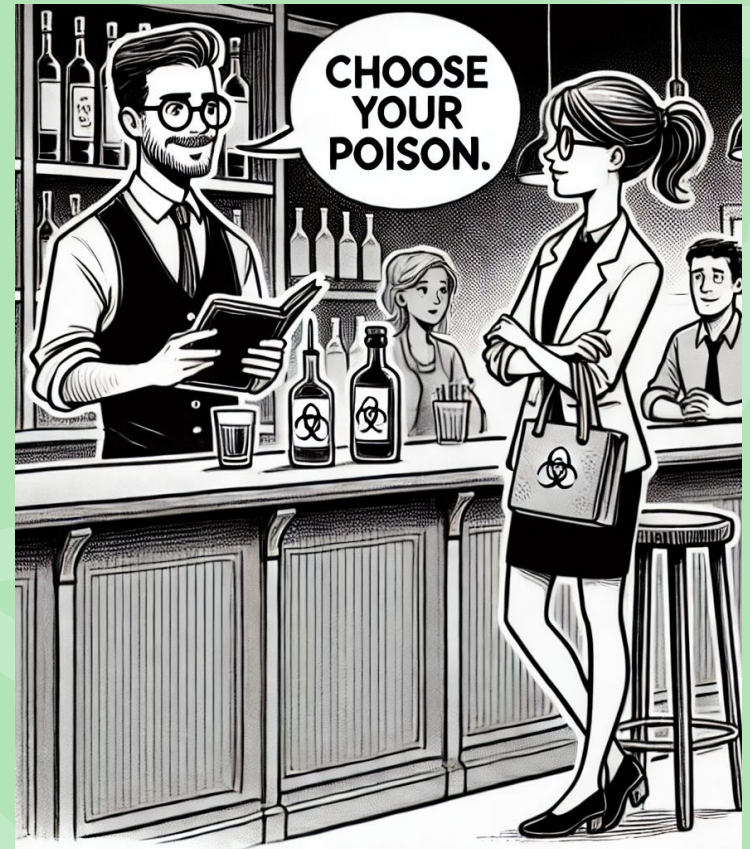
7. Can you share a fun fact or running gag in your team?

” We thought about taking a more lighthearted approach to our company presentations by telling our founding story as a comedy routine:

“A toxicologist walks into a bar. The bartender looks at her and says: **‘Choose your poison.’**”

The next day, the toxicologist wakes up with a hangover, wondering what caused her headache. She teams up with two biologists, a business economist and two experts in computational biology to found **DNTOX.**”

Evidently, as a German company, we are notoriously bad at humor, but at least we are **good at in vitro neurotoxicity testing.** 😊



In a Nutshell



 Location: **Düsseldorf, Germany**

 Foundation: **2022**

 Financing: **Seed**

 Team: **11**

 Web: **<https://dntox.de/>**

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