

Prof. Frank Keppler is Managing Director of the Institute of Earth Sciences at Heidelberg University. His research group investigates the origin and biochemistry of volatile organic compounds, including methane, and their role in the biosphere with a focus on global climate-relevant reactions and lower-level interactions as well. These biologically highly important processes are studied with specific expertise in up-to-date analytical methods employing stable isotopes. They were the first to characterize the mechanisms and components of a novel chemical system that can lead to methane release in aerobic eukaryotic cells; in plants, animals and humans; the results of this work have been published in leading scientific journals (Nature, Science). Professor Keppler is not only a prominent authority on biogeochemistry, his long-lasting collaboration with the Institute of Surgical Research at the University of Szeged has extended the scope of this research into the field of medicine, towards hypoxic pathologies of diagnostic and therapeutic importance.