

Report of the ISME session Marine Microbiology at the joint annual meeting of the German Association for General and Applied Microbiology (VAAM) and the Royal Netherlands Society for Microbiology (KNVM) in Bremen, 10 to 13 March, 2013.

Meinhard Simon,
ISME ambassador in Germany

The ISME session on Marine Microbiology at the annual meeting of VAAM and KNVM was a great success and had an overwhelming response. It was already the second ISME session during an annual VAAM conference after the first one two years ago at the meeting in Karlsruhe. It was very promising that each participant was provided with a flyer on ISME with his registration material. One reason for the great success of the session might have been that microbial ecology in the north western region of Germany is very strong and that marine microbiology was one of the main topics of this meeting. The meeting was attended by approx. 1700 participants and thus was one of the largest VAAM annual conferences of the last decade. Because of the anticipated great interest in marine microbiology the ISME session got allocated in the second largest meeting room with 300 seats. The oral session on March 11, 8:30 to 10:30 am, was attended by roughly 150 participants and thus very well as compared to seven other sessions going on in parallel. Because of the great response another session on marine and polar microbes followed on Tuesday, March 12, with another 8 oral contributions. In addition, 48 poster contributions followed in the poster sessions. Thanks to the generous support by ISME I was able to invite Dr. Roman Stocker from MIT, Cambridge, USA, for a key note. He is the world expert in behavioral studies on marine bacteria and was also a key note speaker at the ISME-14 symposium in Copenhagen. I started the session with a short introduction into ISME, highlighting its aims, member benefits, potentials and including an invitation to the next Symposium ISME-15 in Korea. After Roman Stocker's presentation, six other oral contributions followed and provided a very good and broad overview on various aspects of marine Bacteria and Archaea in the water column and sediment. The response I received during the meeting for this session was very positive. I hope that with this session we have further strengthened microbial ecology in Germany (and the Netherlands) and made ISME more visible as the key society in this field worldwide. I am quite confident that the session will also help for a very good attendance of ISME-15 in Korea.

Meinhard Simon