

Report of the EMBO-Meeting SAME-14 (Symposium Aquatic Microbial Ecology) held in Uppsala, Sweden, 23-28 August 2015.

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ISME ambassador in Germany

The EMBO Conference “Symposium Aquatic Microbial Ecology” (SAME) is a very focused series of biannual European meetings with the aim of bringing together microbial ecologists from fresh and marine waters. The rule is that only one oral session is being held including invited plenary and contributed talks. All other contributions are posters.

This year’s meeting took place at Uppsala, Sweden, and was excellently organized by a local organizing committee headed by Prof. Stefan Bertilsson from Uppsala University and advised by an international board. Appr. 250 participants from more than 20 countries, including the Americas and Asia, attended the conference. Nine invited plenary talks and a closing lecture covered a broad range of topics and included the following speakers: Paul del Giorgio (CA), Thijs Ettema (SE), Ake Hagstrom (SE), Helmut Hillebrand (DE), Dana Hunt (US), Ramiro Logares (ES), Michaela Salcher (CZ), Andreas Schramm (DK), Ashley Shade (US), Jonathan Zehr (US). Sessions focussed on the following topics:

- Microbes of the Baltic Sea (oral+poster).
- Populations and communities across time and space: microbial biogeography (oral+poster).
- Microbes and the biogeosphere: focus on elemental cycles (oral+poster).
- Microdiversity and functional tuning to the environment (oral+poster).
- Microbial interactions in communities and food webs (oral+poster).
- (Co)evolution and symbiosis (oral+poster).
- Composition and substrates and communities: are they linked? (oral+poster).
- Aquatic microorganisms and public health (poster).

In total 67 oral contributed and 137 poster presentations were delivered and inspired intense and stimulative discussions during the entire meeting. It is particularly worth mentioning the poster sessions because every poster was displayed for two of the four 90 minutes sessions so that there were plenty of opportunities to meet the presenters and discuss the posters. There were also short guided tours through the poster topics during which the presenters had the chance and challenge to tell the most important facts of the posters in 30 seconds. In addition the presenters could award the delegates with gold stars when they felt the discussion was particularly rewarding. Several delegates received more than five gold stars and the winner of this competition even ten.

The international advisory board, supplemented by a few other senior scientists, served as a review panel to identify the winners of the ISME awards: best oral and poster presentations of young scientists (one each) and students (two each). The prizes consist of a one year membership of ISME in 2016 and cash amounting together to 250 Euro. The job of identifying the winners was not so easy because of the many very good and even excellent contributions. However, after a relatively short discussion, the review panel came to an unanimous decision on the winners (see attached table and photo). The awards, were presented as one of the highlights of the conference prior to the announcement of the next SAME meeting in Zagreb in 2017 and the closing lecture. I gave a short introduction into ISME as a society and supporter of the conference, its mission, owner of the ISME journal and advertised ISME-16 in Montreal next year.

I hope and am quite confident that this activity will further help to foster ISME as the globally most important society to support the broad field of microbial ecology.

For more detailed information on the SAME-14 conference you can visit the conference homepage: <http://akkonferens.slu.se/same14/>

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Awardees of the ISME prizes: Left to right: Sarahi Garcia, Hugo Berthelot, Clara Martínez-Pérez, Michael Baumgartner, Clara Ruiz-González. Insert: Isabell Klawonn (photo: Michaela Salcher).

SAME-14 - Award winners

Category	Last Name	First Name	Titel	Address	email
Postdoc Oral	Ruiz-González	Clara	Exploring the occurrence of a bacterial seed bank within complex aquatic networks	Département des sciences biologiques Université du Québec à Montréal 114 avenue du Président-Kennedy C.P .8888 Succ. Centre-Ville Montréal, Québec H3C 3P8	clara.ruiz.glez@gmail.com
Postdoc Poster	Garcia	Sarahi L.	The power of mixed cultures as model communities: Metabolic cooperation and genetic structure in freshwater	Department of Ecology and Genetics, Limnology Norbyv. 18 D S-75236 Uppsala, Sweden	sarilog@gmail.com
Student Oral	Klawonn	Isabell	Aquatic productivity and cyanobacteria: New insights into pelagial N ₂ fixation and nitrogen transfer in the Baltic Sea	Department of Ecology, Environment and Plant Sciences Stockholm University Frescati Backe SE-106 91 Stockholm, Sweden	isabell.klawonn@su.se
Student Oral	Baumgartner	Michael	Genome streamlining in bacteria evolving under high predation pressure	Limnological Station Institute of Plant Biology Seestrasse 187 CH-8802 Kilchberg Switzerland	baumgartner@limnol.uzh.ch
Student Poster	Martinez-Pérez	Clara	Contribution of UCYN-A and Trichodesmium to N ₂ -fixation in the tropical North Atlantic	Max-Planck-Institut für Marine Mikrobiologie Celsiusstrasse 1 D-28359 Bremen, Germany	cmartine@mpi-bremen.de
Student Poster	Berthelot	Hugo	N ₂ -fixation and dissolved organic nitrogen fuelled carbon production and export during the VAHINE mesocosms experiment (New Caledonia lagoon)	Institut Méditerranéen d'Océanologie UMR 7294 Campus de Luminy Bâtiment Méditerranée F-13288 MARSEILLE cedex 09	hugo.berthelot@mio.osupytheas.fr