ISME
International Society for Microbial Ecology

Symposium Fact Sheet

About ISME

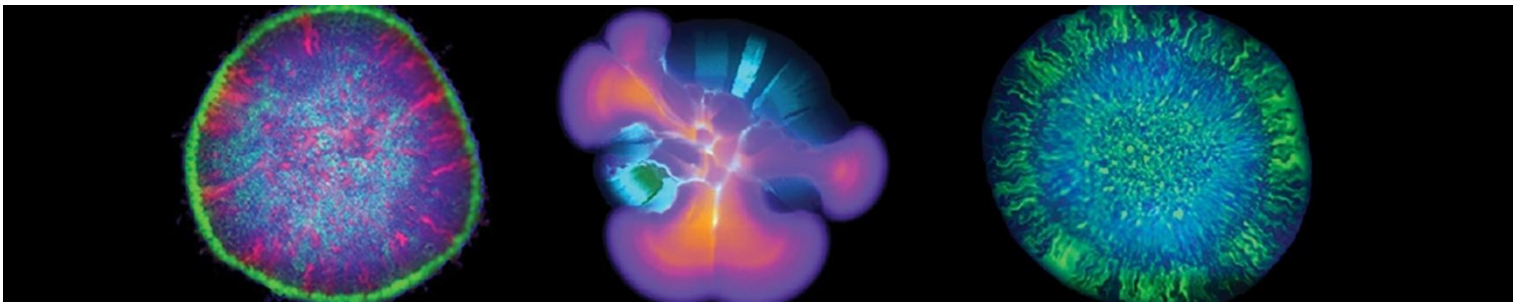
The International Society for Microbial Ecology is a non-profit scientific society dedicated to advancing microbial ecology worldwide. We connect researchers, support scientific exchange, fund initiatives and organise events that strengthen the international microbial ecology community. ISME is also the proud owner of three leading scientific journals published by Oxford University Press.

The International Symposium on Microbial Ecology is the world's largest international gathering in its field. Held every two years in a different location around the world, the Symposium typically attracts more than 2,000 delegates, from early-career researchers to established scientists, representing over 50 countries.

Renowned for its scientific excellence, vibrant international community, high organisational standards, ISME Symposia offer an outstanding experience for delegates and provide host destinations with an opportunity to welcome a diverse, highly educated and internationally connected audience.

Key Numbers

2000	Delegates
55	Countries represented
2100	Abstracts
8	Keynotes
112	Invited Speakers
8	Round Table Sessions
200	Oral Presentations
200	Short Presentations
1800	Poster presentations
10	Poster Awards
5	Society Awards
200	Travel Awards



Expression of Interest (EOI)

An Expression of Interest (EOI) to host ISME23 must be submitted using the online EOI form. The form should provide a brief overview of the proposed host city and venue and must be completed by the bid chair. The ISME Executive Board will review the submissions and, following its assessment, invite selected bidding organisations or consortia to submit a full proposal.

Full Proposal

Full proposals are submitted **by invitation only**. Detailed guidelines will be provided to the invited bidders. Representatives of the ISME Executive Board and the ISME Team will conduct venue site visits to the two or three highest-ranked proposals. The bidding organisation or consortium is responsible for covering the accommodation and travel costs of the site visit.

Selection and Announcement

The ISME Board will select the host organisation and location following its consideration of the full proposals and presentation of the site visits. The selected host organisation and location will be announced at the ISME Symposium held four years before the event. For example, the host of ISME23 will be announced at ISME21.

Bidding takes place four years prior to the actual event.

Eligibility

Bids must be led by senior scientists active in the field of microbial ecology.

Contact

International Society for Microbial Ecology www.isme-microbes.org
ISME Events – Sabine van Wegen events@isme-microbes.org | 0031 6 12675086

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Requirements to host

Conference Centre

Plenary Hall: min 2000 pax
8 session rooms: varying between 300 - 700 pax
Poster/Exhibitor/Catering area: at least 6000m^2
Registration area
2 offices: speaker prep & board meeting room

Symposium dates

The symposium always takes place in even-numbered years around the 3rd week of August, preferably somewhere between 15 - 25 August.

- Sun: Opening
- Mon & Tue: Sessions
- Wed: Free day (tours)
- Thu & Fri: Sessions & Closing

A more comprehensive schedule of the symposium is available upon request.

Social activities

- Tuesday evening Social Gathering: Propose 2-3 venues outside of the conference centre for 2000 people to eat, drink and dance.
- Wednesday excursions: propose tour options in various price and experience ranges

Hotels

List different star categories, close to and/or easy to reach the conference centre. Please focus on budget accommodation for the early-career scientists.

Location

ISME rotates regions (Europe, North America, Asia, Oceania, and South America/Africa). Depending on the bid, the aim is to organise the conference in the region that is due or has not had an ISME in 6 years' time (or longer). An overview of past symposia can be found on the ISME website.

Who

The local organising committee (LOC) is responsible for the bid. Tourist agencies, Convention Bureaus and conference centres can work with the LOC to create the bid, but the bid itself must come from the local scientific community. The proposed host city and venue should be internationally accessible. ISME will also consider the scientific standing, research contributions and gender balance of the LOC when evaluating bids.
The ISME Office and Board will work closely with the successful LOC in planning and organising the conference.

Catering

ISME Symposia generally does not include lunch, so ideally there would be plenty of lunch/dinner options close to or within the conference centre and hotels for reasonable pricing.

Green

We will look carefully at the green and sustainability policy of a venue and ask for data.

Confirmed Future Conferences

ISME21 - Vancouver, Canada, August 2028
ISME22 - Rotterdam, the Netherlands, August 2030
ISME23 - Open call for the Asia and South American regions. Event to be held in August 2032.

Important to ISME:

Venue suitability and costs, green/recycling policies, catering, access and attractiveness of the region, available funding & sponsorship, safety and the capabilities and scientific ideas of the local organizing committee.

Deadlines:

Deadline Expression of Interest (EOI): 15 February 2027
Due date Full Bid: 23 April 2027

More info: https://www.isme-microbes.org

Note

ISME retains full ownership of the conference and is legally and financially responsible for the event. ISME is also the official organiser, with the ISME Office and its in-house events team providing overall leadership. Specific elements of the conference may be outsourced but must remain under ISME's direction and in close collaboration with the events team. The ISME Office is responsible for selecting any external partner (PCO or DMC); this does not need to be included in the bid.