



MRM conference report

2nd international MRM conference - 7 & 8 September 2017 – Ghent, Belgium

2nd international conference on microbial resource management, Ghent, Belgium, September 7-8 2017

The 2nd international MRM conference has been a great opportunity for international researchers in the field of microbial resource management to connect, exchange ideas and set up new collaborations. In this edition of the conference extra focus was put on the (molecular) toolbox available for adequate microbial resource management where the rise of microbial flow cytometry for fingerprinting was shown to be a true game-changer. Additionally, the session on spatially explicit microscopic models opened a bridge between lab/field based microbial ecologists and more mathematically-oriented microbial ecologists that focus on developing (individual-based) models of microbial co-existence.

As there were no parallel sessions the two-day conference had ample exchange along the trajectory on theory development in microbial ecology (and MRM) using synthetic communities through assemblage and analysis of those synthetic communities, the (molecular) toolbox available to microbial community ecologists, the spatially-explicit modeling of those communities and, ultimately, their applications. There was ample room for meetings and discussions during the buffet and the many poster sessions. 60 people attended the conference (organizers excluded).

The ISME funds were employed to cover part of the travel costs of our inspiring opening keynote, prof. Jim Prosser and to support participation of 5 undergraduate students that were presenting their work at the conference (either via poster but some were also selected to give an oral presentation). The conference speakers were nicely balanced between early- and late career stage researchers and the overall scientific level of the talks and posters was high.

The financial support of ISME was acknowledged on the slides and documentation material.

