Report on the UK MMEG meeting, December 14-15th 2017

The annual UK Molecular Microbial Ecology Group (MMEG) meeting was held at the University of Warwick on 14-15th December, 2017. The event is a two-day symposium for postgraduate students and early career postdoctoral researchers to present their research in an informal setting. The MMEG meeting provides an opportunity for networking and discussion of research in the fields of microbial ecology and was attended by 120 delegates, including PhD researchers (62), MSc students (4), postdoctoral researchers (25), research scientists (5), group leaders (18) and representatives from 8 sponsors (6).

There were 37 oral presentations by early career researchers on a wide range of topics in microbial ecology, in addition to a keynote address from The Editor in Chief of *The ISME Journal*, Professor Ian Head (Newcastle University) entitled "To infinity and beyond or back to the future: microbial ecology in a high throughput world".

The standard of presentations was exceptional, and four ISME-sponsored prises were awarded by ISME president Prof. Colin Murrell and Dr. James McDonald (ISME ambassador) to the following speakers (see pictures enclosed):

- Nasmi Mejia, University of East Anglia "From soils to leaves: Broadening our knowledge on terrestrial isoprene-degrading bacteria"
- Sarah Worsley, University of East Anglia "The chemical ecology of Streptomyces-plant root interactions"
- Amy Newman, University of Warwick "Getting to the root of the issue: circadian rhythms in the rhizosphere microbiome"
- Jake Newitt, University of East Anglia "Investigating the molecular mechanisms of plant root colonisation by Streptomyces spp."

We are grateful to ISME for sponsoring the event by providing prizes for these outstanding early career researchers. Prior to the conference dinner, many delegates visited the ISME stand during the drinks reception, where information on ISME membership, *The ISME Journal* and ISME 17 in Leipzig was provided.


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