

ISME Conference Sponsorship Report - PAM 2019

Eighth International Conference on Polar and Alpine Microbiology (PAM) and Workshop

4-8 February, 2019
University of Waikato



The 8th International Conference on Polar and Arctic Microbiology (PAM) was held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton on 4-8 February, 2019. The PAM meetings are held to facilitate the dissemination of research related to the microbial ecology the cryobiosphere, spanning multiple ecosystems including the high alpine, glacial and arctic/Antarctic ecosystems, to marine sediments, deep ocean and permafrost soil ecosystems.

The Hamilton (University of Waikato) meeting was the first PAM conference has been held in the Southern Hemisphere since the meetings inception and a total of 80 registered participants were in attendance.





The conference was held over five days and included a field trip (to geothermal hotspring environment or the world-renowned Waitomo caves, and also included genomics and metagenomics workshops immediately following the conclusion of the PAM conference.

ISME sponsored the Microbial Ecology session (see [programme](#)) on Day 2 of the conference, which included talks on aeolian microorganisms found in Antarctica (Katie King-Miaow – Auckland University of Technology, Auckland New Zealand), viruses found in a diverse spectrum of Antarctic soils (Pedro Lebre, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa), an assessment of ice cave microbial communities (Cristina Purcarea, Institute of Biology, Bucharest, Romania), and a fascinating talk about microbial communities in brine pockets encased in permafrost (cryopegs) (Zachary Cooper, University of Washington, USA). The plenary speaker of the session was Dr Alison Murray (University of Nevada and The Desert Research Institute, USA). ISME was acknowledged as a sponsor of the session and as a conference sponsor at the commencement of the conference and also on the final day. A plug was made for the up-and-coming Cape Town (and Auckland) ISME conferences in 2020 and 2022 respectively.

A copy of the Conference programme is appended to this report can be found on this [link](#). The Conference was a great success and we appreciate the support of ISME to hold this conference.