



Report on SAME17, 20 - 25 of August 2023

The 17th Symposium on Aquatic Microbial Ecology (SAME17) held in Tartu, Estonia, marked a significant milestone in the field, bringing together 135 participants. Among the attendees were 43 Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who played a vital role in the symposium's success.

International Representation:

SAME17 was a testament to the global appeal of aquatic microbial ecology. Researchers, scholars, and experts from over 20 countries gathered to exchange knowledge and foster international collaboration. The theme of the conference was "From Isolation to Collaboration". This diverse representation underlined the symposium's significance on the global stage.

Main topics and keynote presentations

SAME17 featured keynote presentations that delved into critical topics in aquatic microbial ecology. These presentations, delivered by esteemed experts, provided valuable insights and set the stage for in-depth discussions:

- The quest for carbon. Keynote by Jan-Hendrik Hehemann, Max Planck Institute, Bremen, Germany
- Hoops and loops of nitrogen and phosphorus cycle. Keynote by Lasse Riemann, University of Copenhagen, Helsingør, Denmark
- Ecology of aquatic microbial eukaryotes. Keynote by Ramiro Logares, Institute of Marine Sciences, Barcelona, Spain
- Deep aquatic biosphere: below 200 m in water column, subsurface. Keynote by Anaïs Cario, Institute of Condensed Matter Chemistry of Bordeaux, France
- Microbial interactions. Plenary talk by Pei-Yuan Qian, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China
- Big data and data re-use in aquatic microbial ecology. Keynote by Lucas Paoli, ETH, Zurich, Switzerland

- Microbes in changing world, historic perspective. Keynote by Raffaele Siano, Ifremer, Brest, France
- Microbes in a changing world. Keynote by Silke Langenheder, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden
- Waterbody - land - atmosphere interaction in microbial ecology. Keynote by Thorsten Brinkhoff, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg
- Ecology of Aquatic Fungi. Keynote by Silke Van den Wyngaert, University of Turku, Turku, Finland



SAME17 participants, Photo by Dr. Kristel Panksep (SAME17 Local Team)

Empowering Early Career Researchers:

An exciting feature of SAME17 was the active participation of Early Career Researchers (ECRs). With 33 ECRs delivering compelling oral presentations, the symposium provided a platform for these emerging talents to showcase their research to the international scientific community. SAME17's commitment to nurturing ECRs was evident, as it allowed them to gain valuable experience in disseminating their research findings and engaging in scholarly discussions.

ISME support allowed to issue 3 ECR grants (à 500 €):

Attila Szabó, oral presentation: “Contrasting Response of Microeukaryotic and Bacterial Communities to the Interplay of Seasonality and Stochastic Events in Shallow Soda Lakes”;



Photo by Dr. Kristel Panksep (SAME17 Local Team)

Sofia Papadopoulou, poster presentation: “Transplant experiments to explore the potential establishment of migrating bacteria in a downstream lake”;



Photo by Dr. Kristel Panksep (SAME17 Local Team)

Paul Layoun, oral presentation: “Microdiversity in genome-streamlined freshwater ‘*Ca. Methylopusillus*’ and their marine sister lineage OM43.”



Photo by Dr. Kristel Panksep (SAME17 Local Team)

Next event in the symposium series, SAME18, will be held in Barcelona (Spain, 2025).