



## **REPORT: Poster competition for ISME-17**

### **ISME Embassy in Costa Rica**

Description: With the support of the ISME Ambassador program, the Costa Rican Ambassadors, Dr. César Rodríguez and Dr. Adrián Pinto, organized a contest among Costa Rican students attending ISME to select the 2 best poster presentations. The contest was announced through social networks, an email listserv and placing adds across the University of Costa Rica campus, helping raise awareness about ISME (see Figure 1).

We held an information meeting on May 21<sup>st</sup> with several researchers interested in attending ISME-17. We believe this strategy contributed to a high attendance of Costa Ricans: there will be more than 10 delegates from our country attending the ISME symposium for the first time in history. Additionally, this will be the first time that undergraduate students from our country will attend the ISME symposium.

Poster submissions were received until June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Four scientific posters were registered in the competition. The contest was held on July 12, 2018, at the Center for Research in Microscopic Structures. Each student presented their posters on the screen (see figure 2). Several scientists attended the event, helping raise awareness about ISME, its mission and the Bi-annual International Symposium (see figure 3).

The winners of the competition were Graduate Student **Natalia Rodríguez Hernández**, with the poster entitled “Gut bacterial communities in *Ectiton* species of La Selva Biological Station in Costa Rica”, and **Fiorella Viquez Umaña** and **Cristofer Moya Román**, two undergraduate students that teamed together to present their work entitled “Microbiota associated to brood-combs, cerumen and honey of *Tetragonisca angustula*'s (Apidae: Meliponinae) hives from Costa Rica”. As agreed with the ISME Ambassador program, each winning poster will receive 500 Euros (Viquez and Román will share the price).

Conclusion: The goals of the competition were achieved, as it helped raise awareness about ISME and its Symposia, as well as supporting Costa Rican students that otherwise could not attend the meeting.



**INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF  
MICROBIAL ECOLOGY (ISME)  
EMBAJADA COSTA RICA**

**CONGRESO  
INTERNACIONAL  
DE ECOLOGÍA  
MICROBIANA ISME17  
LEIPIZG/ALEMANIA**

La embajada de ISME en Costa Rica apoyará dos trabajos de investigadores costarricenses aceptados al Congreso con un premio de €500, el cual podrá ser utilizado para pagar la inscripción, el boleto aéreo, o la manutención durante el evento.

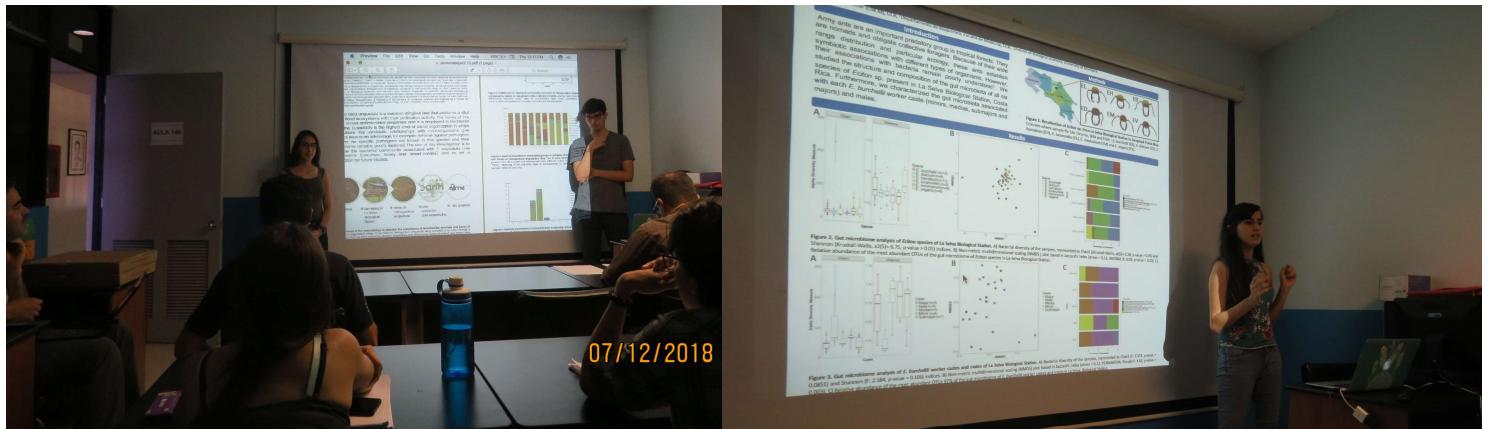
Los interesados deben haber registrado su resumen y ponencia en el sitio web de ISME17 antes del 25 de mayo (<http://isme17.isme-microbes.org/registration>). Para participar en el concurso, favor notificar el interés y enviar copia del resumen a los embajadores de ISME en Costa Rica: Dr. Adrián Pinto ([adrian.pinto@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:adrian.pinto@ucr.ac.cr)) y Dr. César Rodríguez ([cesar.rodriguezsanchez@ucr.ac.cr](mailto:cesar.rodriguezsanchez@ucr.ac.cr)) a más tardar el 23 de junio del 2018.

El lunes 21 de mayo a las 5pm se ofrecerá una sesión de orientación en el CIEMIC (Ciudad de la Investigación, UCR) para aclarar dudas sobre la inscripción al congreso, la elaboración de los afiches y el concurso.

Créditos de fotografía: Natalia Rodríguez

Más información en:  
[isme17.isme-microbes.org](http://isme17.isme-microbes.org)

**Figure 1.** Announcement of the Costa Rican ISME Embassy promoting ISME-17 and the poster competition



**Figure 2.** Winners of the poster competition presenting their work. Left panel: Fiorella Víquez and Cristofer Moya. Right Panel: Natalia Rodríguez.



**Figure 3.** Costa Rican Scientists attending the poster competition