

Report on the 5th JAMS Annual Symposium and Poster Competition 2016

Prepared by Mike Manefield

The 5th JAMS Annual Symposium and Poster Competition 2016 and TOAST Workshop were held 14-16 March 2016 at the Australian Museum, Sydney, Australia. TOAST Workshop numbers were up on 2015. JAMS appreciates the contributions of Thomas Jefferies and others (Simon Gladman, Andrew Bissett, Torsten Seeman, Dieter Bulach, Aaron Darling, Mathieu Fourment). For the first time the Symposium sold out (120 tickets available) suggesting we may need to move to a bigger venue in the near future.

The Symposium was a great success with five presentations by internationally acclaimed speakers. **Gene Tyson** (University of Queensland) presented his latest work on extracting near complete genomes from methanogenic coal seams greatly expanding the extent of methanogenesis within the Archaea. **Amelia-Elena Rotaru** (University of Southern Denmark) presented her work on direct electron transfer to Methanosaeta species. Mark Schembri (University of Queensland) presented on the proliferation pathogenic Escherichia coli. **Diane McDougald** (University of Technology Sydney and Nanyang Technical University) presented on the selection for virulence factors under grazing pressure from protozoa. **Jonathon Zehr** (University of California) ended formal proceedings with a presentation on nitrogen fixation in the marine environment.

The ISME student poster prize was awarded to Hasinika Gamage from the University of Sydney. ISME sponsorship funds are used to fund the cash prize. The ISME logo was used throughout the event on screens and the 16th International Symposium on Microbial Ecology was specifically advertised in the opening address.

The event was rounded off with the two course symposium dinner in the Australian Museum's dinosaur room.



Photos from the Australian Museum theatre during the 5th JAMS Annual Symposium and Poster Competition. The 120 strong audience (left) and Prof Jonathon Zehr presenting (right).