

SYMPOSIUM FACT SHEET



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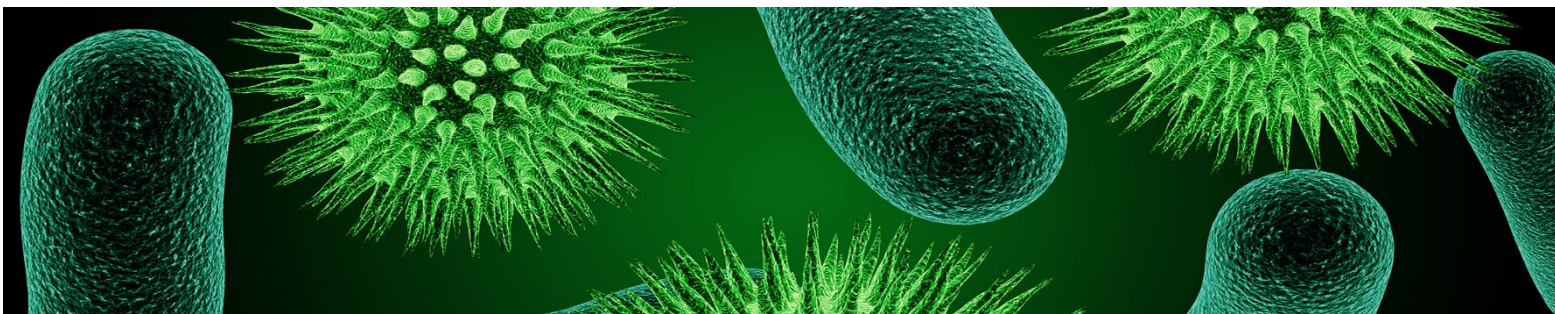
About ISME

The **International Society for Microbial Ecology** is a non-profit association in the field of ecology. We connect, sponsor, provide platforms & information, organize events and are the proud owner of The ISME Journal - a scientific journal published by Springer Nature.

The **International Symposium on Microbial Ecology** is the world's largest non-profit symposium in its field. The symposium typically attracts over 2000 delegates (senior and junior) who represent over 50 countries. ISME symposia are known for their high values and standards and show a very high satisfactory rate in delegate surveys.

Key Numbers

2200 Delegates
52 Countries represented
2100 Abstracts
8 Keynotes
1 Bird's Eye View
115 Invited Sessions
9 Round Table Sessions
230 Oral Presentations
2000 Poster presentations
9 Poster Awards
7 Society Awards
80 Travel Awards
20 Exhibitors



Proposals

An **expression of interest** (EOI) must be completed using the EOI online form. This form is just a brief look at the city as a venue and should be completed by the bid chair. The ISME Executive will then consider these submissions. If successful the ISME Executive will invite the organization or collective to submit a full proposal.

The preparation of this **full proposal** is by **invitation only**. Guidelines for this proposal will be sent with the invitation. Representatives of the ISME Executive and the ISME Office do **venue site visits** to the 2 or 3 highest ranked proposals. The bidding organization or collective must sponsor this site visit. A report of the site visit will be prepared by the Site Visit attendees and this will be submitted to the ISME Board for deliberation. The announcement of the host organization and location will occur at the penultimate symposium. **Bids are only accepted from senior scientists in the field of microbial ecology**. Please see chapter LOC at the other side of this paper.

Selection and Announcement A report of the site visit will be prepared by the Site Visit attendees and this will be submitted to the ISME Board for deliberation. The Announcement of the host organization and location will occur at the penultimate symposium (i.e ISME19 will be announced at ISME17).

Bidding takes place 4 years prior to the actual event.

Note

The ISME Society will, at all times, be owner of the conference (thus legally & financially responsible). Besides being the owner of the event, ISME is also the official organizer of the event. Elements of the conference can be outsourced but always in close collaboration (and under the leadership of) the in-house events team of ISME.

Conference Center

Plenary hall 2000 pax
8 session rooms (200-1000 pax)
Poster/Exhibitor area (6000m²)
Registration area
3 offices (speaker prep/secretariat/board room)

Symposium dates

The symposium always takes place in the even numbered years around the 3rd week of August (preferably somewhere between 15-25 August)

- Sun: Opening
- Mon & Tue: Sessions
- Wed: Free day (tours)
- Thu & Fri: Sessions & closing

A typical schedule of the symposium can be found online.

Social

- Tuesday evening Party. A venue outside of the conference center for 2000 people to eat, drink and dance.
- Tour options in various price and experience range

Hotels

Different star categories and close to the conference center (or easy to reach).

Location

ISME rotates regions (Europe, North America, Asia/Oceania, and South America/Africa). Depending on the bid, the aim is to organize the conference in the region that is due or has not had an ISME in 6 years' time (or longer). An overview of past the symposia can be found online.

Who

The LOC is responsible for the bid. Tourist agencies, Convention Bureaus and conference centers can work with the LOC to create the bid but the bid itself must come from the local scientific community. The host city/venue should be international accessible. The caliber, scientific output and gender balance of the LOC is important to ISME. The ISME Office & Executives will collaborate with the winning LOC and organize the conference.

Food

ISME generally does not include lunch on conference days so ideally there would be plenty of lunch/dinner options close to/within the conference center and hotels for reasonable pricing.

Green

We will look carefully at the green policy of a venue and ask for data

Confirmed Future Conferences

ISME18 (August 2020) will be held in Cape Town, South Africa.

ISME19 (August 2022) will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

ISME20 (August 2024): to be announced at ISME18. Preferred Region: **Europe**

Upcoming Round

Open for Expression of Interest (EOI): 1 April 2019

Deadline Expression of Interest (EOI): 11 October 2019

Invitations sent out by ISME for full Bid: 2 November 2019

Due date Full Bid: 28 January 2020

Site Visits by ISME: February-March-April 2020

Announcement winner: August 2020 (during ISME18)

Important to ISME:

Venue costs, inclusion of Wi-Fi, green/recycling policies, catering, childcare services, available funding & sponsorship, average climate, safety