



## GORDON RESEARCH CONFERENCES

**FINAL PROGRESS REPORT**  
**ISME**  
**Marine Molecular Ecology GRS**

### Operational Summary

The Gordon Research Conference (GRC) and Gordon Research Seminar (GRS) on Marine Molecular Ecology were held at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology from July 13<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The meeting covered a variety of scientific topics and the content presented was highly rated by participants.



### Seminar Participants

The Seminar was well-attended with 33 participants. Scientists from academia represented 100% of the participants. Students and post docs combined accounted for 82% of all attendees. Approximately 66% of the participants at the 2019 seminar were women.

### Conference Program

#### **Saturday**

2:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Arrival and Check-in
3:30 pm - 3:45 pm	Introductory Comments by GRC Site Staff / Welcome from the GRS Chair
3:45 pm - 4:30 pm	<b>Keynote Session: Overcoming Challenges in Marine Sciences</b> Discussion Leader: <b>Shashank Keshavmurthy</b> (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)
3:45 pm - 4:15 pm	<b>Patricia Schulte</b> (University of British Columbia, Canada) "The Publication Process: Insights from a Journal Editor"
4:15 pm - 4:30 pm	Discussion
4:30 pm - 6:00 pm	<b>Poster Session</b>
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner
7:30 pm - 9:30 pm	<b>Environmental Change: A Molecular Perspective</b> Discussion Leader: <b>Yingdong Li</b> (The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR China)
7:30 pm - 7:45 pm	<b>Syrmalena Kotronaki</b> (Senckenberg am Meer, Germany) "Exploring Genetic Connectivity Between Abyssal Populations of the Deep-Sea Ophiuroid <i>Ophiacantha pacifica</i> (Ophiuroidea: Ophiacanthidae) Across the Kuril-Kamchatka Trench, Northwest Pacific Using a 2b-RAD Approach"
7:45 pm - 7:50 pm	Discussion
7:50 pm - 8:05 pm	<b>Nicole Dames</b> (University of Cape Town, South Africa) "Characterising Short-Term Microbial Plankton Community Dynamics in Post-Upwelling St Helena Bay Through Ecogenomics"
8:05 pm - 8:15 pm	Discussion

8:15 pm - 8:30 pm	<b>Archana Anand</b> (University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR China) "The Hidden Cost of Marine Sediment Eutrophication"
8:30 pm - 8:40 pm	Discussion
8:40 pm - 8:55 pm	<b>Rebecca Maher</b> (Oregon State University, USA) "Multiple Stressors Interact Primarily Through Antagonism to Drive Changes in the Coral Microbiome"
8:55 pm - 9:05 pm	Discussion
9:05 pm - 9:20 pm	<b>Jose Montalvo-Proano</b> (AIMS / ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies / James Cook University, Australia) "Acclimation Responses of Corals to Future Environmental Conditions"
9:20 pm - 9:30 pm	Discussion
<b>Sunday</b>	
7:30 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am - 11:00 am	<b>Molecular Ecology of Biological Interactions</b> Discussion Leader: <b>Michael Ochsenkuehn</b> (New York University Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates)
9:00 am - 9:15 am	<b>Isis Guibert</b> (Swire Institute of Marine Science, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong SAR China) "Metagenomics Reveals Distinct Microbiotypes in the Giant Clams <i>Tridacna maxima</i> "
9:15 am - 9:20 am	Discussion
9:20 am - 9:35 am	<b>Leila Ezzat</b> (University of California, Santa Barbara, USA) "Surgeonfish Feces Increase Microbial Opportunism in Reef-Building Corals"
9:35 am - 9:45 am	Discussion
9:45 am - 10:00 am	<b>Ty Roach</b> (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology / Biosphere 2, USA) "Competition Between Two Holobionts: A Multi-Omic Analysis of <i>In Situ</i> Coral-Algal Interactions"
10:00 am - 10:10 am	Discussion
10:10 am - 10:25 am	<b>Mark Little</b> (San Diego State University, USA) "Prophages in Host-Associated Microbes: The Most Abundant Symbiosis on Earth and Its Relevance in Marine Holobionts"
10:25 am - 10:35 am	Discussion
10:35 am - 10:50 am	<b>Donald Pan</b> (Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology, Japan) "Pushing the Boundaries of the Virosphere in Deep Subseafloor Sediment"
10:50 am - 11:00 am	Discussion
11:00 am - 12:30 pm	<b>Poster Session</b> <i>Coffee will be served in the poster area from 11:00 am - 11:30 am</i>
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Mentorship Component: Developing a Scientific Career in Marine Sciences</b> Discussion Leader: <b>Ni Kadek Cahyani</b> (University of California, Los Angeles, USA)
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	<b>Debbie Lindell</b> (Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, Israel)

"Building a Career Combining Microbes, Family and Self"

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Discussion

2:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**Evaluation Period**  
*Fill in GRS Evaluation Forms*

3:00 pm

Seminar Concludes

**Conference Budget**

Funding provided by ISME supported registration and travel reimbursements for 2 postdocs, 2 graduate students, and 1 research scientist at the GRS.

**Conference Feedback**

Participants had an opportunity to provide feedback at the end of the Conference. The feedback collected from the meeting was extremely positive. Evaluations from the GRS included positive comments regarding the networking during poster sessions, seminar mentorship panel, and high-quality presentations.

GRC would like to thank ISME for its continued support of the meetings. The contributions received have been critical to the success of the conferences and are having a measurable impact in advancing the frontiers of science worldwide.

Sheila Roitman, GRS Chair  
Technion – Israel Institute of Technology

Dr. Gideon Mordecai, GRS Chair  
University of British Columbia

Dr. Nancy Ryan Gray  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Gordon Research Conferences