

International Conference on Microbiome research (ICMR 2018)

Organized by

National Centre for Microbial Resource (NCMR),
National Centre for Cell Science (NCCS), Pune, India

The field of Microbiome is fast gaining pace with many new fundamental discoveries coming in the last decade. The entire understanding of the contribution of these tiny microbes to host physiology has been revolutionized with the advances in Microbiome Research. In leading the path for better exchange of ideas in the Microbiome field, the YSS Lab and NCMR took the onus of organizing one of the largest congregation of Microbiome researchers in Asia with more than 300 researchers and students with global experts. The scientific sessions of ICMR-2018 brought a unique opportunity to meet and develop connections with world leaders along with early and mid-career scientists involved in microbiome research.

Microbiome research in India, while at its nascent stage, is fast emerging as one of the frontiers in biological sciences. While initially restricted to the interest of microbiologists and microbial taxonomists, there is a paradigm shift in the understanding of physiological processes from the Microbiome angle and researchers from diverse backgrounds wish to explore the Microbiome in much depth. India provides for a unique scenario for Microbiome research with more than 4500 ethnic groups residing within its vast biogeography and presence of two global Biodiversity hotspots (Himalayan range and the Western Ghats). This high heterogeneity in diversity provides for interesting opportunities to explore and harness the benefits of microbiome research in different aspects of human health and ecosystem service to achieve long term goals of sustainable development.

With detailed planning and relentless work of student volunteers and faculty over 12 months, ICMR 2018 saw participation from 270 students and industry professionals and 30 eminent speakers across the globe. The four day conference consisted of an intensive day schedule which included close to 10-12 talks each day, poster-networking sessions and oral presentations by early-career researchers. The talks were well organized into sessions covering various aspects of Microbiome research viz. Human Microbiome, Environmental Microbiome, Plant-Microbe interactions, Probiotics and functional foods and latest advances in computational approaches in the field of microbiome research. The oral presentations by early-career scientists and poster networking sessions saw an over-whelming response with leading labs across the country participating in huge numbers. The schedule also provided dedicated time for open interactions with global experts to discuss and take guidance for their individual experiments.

The Scientific Program of the conference was spread over 4 days (19-22nd Nov 2018) starting from the Inaugural ceremony in NCCS Auditorium on 19th Nov evening. Dr. Shekhar Mande (DG-CSIR) presided over the inaugural function as the chief guest. The conference began with a Key Note address by Prof. Julian Marchesi (Imperial College & Cardiff Univ., UK) on what needs to be done to truly make Microbiome research a disruptive idea. The Keynote address was followed by a classical ensemble performance by renowned Pune-based artistes and the day concluded with a sumptuous dinner in the open lawns at the Pune University Guest House. The Inaugural ceremony was attended by eminent scientists and collaborators including Prof. Dr. Jayant Narlikar (eminent Astrophysicist), Prof. Nitin Kalmalkar (VC-

S.P.Pune Univ.), Directors of various institutes and faculty from various departments. The next three days from 20-22nd Nov saw the conference in Hyatt Regency Pune.

The conference was generously supported by sponsors representing various companies engaged in instrumentation and services required for this field. To elevate the spirits of the participants during the conference, the evening of 21st Nov saw an elegant contemporary music performance by artistes.

The conference concluded with a unique Panel discussion which saw all participating speakers sharing their wisdom with the gathered researchers. The speakers gave a poignant view of where the field stands today, some eminent pitfalls and areas where deliberations will be needed and the impact this field shall have on the human and ecosystem health. While huge amount of data is generated via various –omics technologies, it is also equally important to support these studies with classical experiments in microbiology and biochemistry to isolate the key micro-organisms and understand their physiological role in the eco-system. It was also felt that certain areas like Preterm health, Translational studies in agriculture and AMR can be some of the key areas of focus for the Indian scenario. Open data policy and greater role of Indian scientists in global microbiome initiatives were also some of the key take-home messages to the gathering from the speakers.

The interactions, talks, presentations and discussions were quite enriching and has generated a positive atmosphere to catapult this field in many leaps and bounds in India.

Distribution of ISME Sponsorship Amount

For meritorious participants, it was decided by the organizing team, that the sponsorship amount of 1000 Euros from The International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) shall be distributed as Travel awards. For application of Travel grants, participants were requested to upload their Abstract for the conference, CV, List of publications and letter of recommendation. Based on the applications received, the Abstract selection team finalized the following participants as recipients of the ISME Travel Grant.

Nationality	Ph.D/PDF	Amount	No. of Awards	Name of the Participant	Affiliation	Country
International	PDF	400 €	1	Dr.Himel Mallick	Harvard University	United States of America
National (India)	PDF	100 €	1	Dr.G.Velmurugan	IIT-Madras	India
International	PhD	400 €	1	Sudarshan Shetty	Wageningen University	Netherlands
National (India)	PhD	100 €	1	L.Paikhomba Singha	Assam University	India
Total		1000 €	4			

Additionally, ISME Logo was used in all publicity material viz. Program Book, stage backdrop during seminars and website (www.icmr2018.com).

List of Speakers at ICMR 2018 and affiliation

Sr.No	Name	Affiliation	Country
1	Dr. Manimozhiyan Arumugam	Copenhagen University	Denmark
2	Prof. Dr. Jörg Overmann	German Culture Collection (DSMZ)	Germany
3	Prof. Dr. Peter Young	University of York	United Kingdom
4	Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Grohmann	University of Applied Sciences	Germany
5	Prof.Dr.Julian Marchesi	Imperial College London	United Kingdom
6	Dr. Justin L.Sonnenberg	Stanford University	United States of America
7	Dr. Erica Sonnenberg	Stanford University	United States of America
8	Dr. Lesley Hoyles	Nottingham Trent University	United Kingdom
9	Dr. Susan Holmes	Stanford University	United States of America
10	Prof. Dr. Brajesh Singh	Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment	Australia
11	Dr. Christoph Tebbe	Johann Heinrich von Thünen Institute	Germany
12	Dr. Leo Lahti	University of Turku	Finland
13	Dr. Jonathan Clayton	University of Minnesota	United States of America
14	Dr. Anne Salonen	University of Helsinki	Finland
15	Dr. Hryhoriy Stryhanyuk	Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research – UFZ, Germany	Germany
16	Prof.Dr.Karsten Kristiansen	University of Copenhagen	Denmark
17	Dr. Victor Schmidt	Max Plank Institute for Development Biology	Germany
18	Dr. Lindsay Hall	Quadram Institute	United Kingdom
19	Dr. Pankaj Trivedi	Colorado State University	United States of America
20	Dr.Sanjay Swarup	National University of Singapore	Singapore
21	Dr.Christopher Dupont	J.Craig Venter Institute	United States of America
22	Dr.Kasthuri Venkateshwaran	JPL-NASA, Caltech-USA	United States of America
23	Dr. Sharmila Mande	TCS Research, Pune	India
24	Dr. Yogesh Shouche	NCMR-NCCS, Pune	India
25	Dr. S.Shivaji	LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad	India
26	Dr. Bhabatosh Das	THSTI, Delhi	India
27	Dr. Hemant Purohit	NEERI, Nagpur	India
28	Dr. Vineet Ahuja	AIIMS, Delhi	India
29	Dr. Chaitanya Joshi	Anand Agricultural University, Anand	India
30	Dr.Rakesh Sharma	CSIR-IGIB, Delhi	India



1. Key Note Address by Prof.Dr.Julian Marchesi on 19th Nov 2018



2. Panel Discussion by Speakers at the concluding ceremony of ICMR 2018 at Hyatt Regency Pune (22nd Nov 2018)



3. Mr.Sudarshan Shetty receiving the International Travel Award (ISME) in PhD category from Prof.Dr.Jörg Overmann and Prof.Dr.Susan Holmes

Day 1 - 19th Nov 2018 – NCCS Campus			
Particulars	Start	End	Venue
Registration	14:00	16:00	NCCS Main Lobby
Opening Remarks	16:00	16:30	NCCS Auditorium
Inaugural Talk – Prof.Dr.Julian Marchesi	16:30	17:30	
Tea Break			
Cultural Evening	18:30	19:30	NCCS Auditorium
Welcome Dinner	20:00	22:00	SPPU Guest House Lawns

Day 2 - 20th Nov 2018- Hyatt Regency Pune							
Session I - Human Microbiome (HM)				Session II - Environmental Microbiome (EVM)			
Particulars	Start	End	Venue	Particulars	Start	End	Venue
T1 - Dr.Yogesh Shouche	9:00	9:45	Hall A+B	T2- Dr. Kasthuri Venkateshwaran	9:00	9:45	Hall C
T3 - Dr. Justin Sonnenberg	9:45	10:30	Hall A+B	T4 - Prof.Dr. Elisabeth Grohmann	9:45	10:30	Hall C
Tea/coffee break							
T5 - Dr.Manimoziyan Arumugam	11:00	11:45	Hall A+B	T6 - Dr.Rakesh Sharma	11:00	11:45	Hall C
T7 - Technical Talk - Himedia	11:45	12:15	Hall A+B				
T8 - Technical Talk - HTBS	12:15	12:45	Hall A+B				
Lunch Break							
Oral presentations (HM & CMM)	14:00	15:15	Hall A+B	Oral presentations (EVM)	14:00	15:15	Hall C
Poster & Networking Session, Tea/Coffee							
T9 - Dr.Lindsay Hall	16:30	17:15	Hall A+B	T10- Dr.Hryhoriy Stryhanyuk	16:30	17:15	Hall C

Day 3 - 21st Nov 2018 – Hyatt Regency Pune								
Session III - Human Microbiome (HM)				Session IV - Environmental & Computational Microbiome (EVM & CMM)				
Particulars	Start	End	Venue	Particulars	Start	End	Venue	
T11 – Dr.Avinash Sharma	9:00	9:45	Hall A	T12- Prof.Dr. Peter Young	9:00	9:45	Hall B	
T13 - Dr.Anne Salonen	9:45	10:30	Hall A	T14- Dr. Sanjay Swarup	9:45	10:30	Hall B	
Tea/coffee								
T15 - Dr. S Shivaji	11:00	11:45	Hall A	T16 - Dr. Leo Lahti	11:00	11:45	Hall B	
T17 - Dr. Victor Schmidt	11:45	12:30	Hall A	T18 - Dr. Susan Holmes	11:45	12:30	Hall B	
T19 - Dr. Erica Sonnenberg	12:30	13:15	Hall A	T20 - Dr. Sharmila Mande	12:30	13:15	Hall B	
Lunch Break								
Oral presentations (HM & CMM)	14:15	15:15	Hall A	Oral presentations	14:15	15:15	Hall B	
Poster & Networking Session, Tea/Coffee								
T21 - Dr. Bhabatosh Das	16:30	17:15	Hall A	T22 - Dr. Pankaj Trivedi	16:30	17:15	Hall B	
Cultural event	18:30	20:00	Hall A+B+C					
Dinner	20:00	22:00	Hall A+B+C					

Day 4 - 22nd Nov 2018- Hyatt Regency Pune								
Session V - Human Microbiome (HM)				Session VI - Environmental Microbiome (EVM)				
Particulars	Start Time	End Time	Venue	Particulars	Start Time	End Time	Venue	
T23 - Prof.Dr. Jorg Overmann	9:00	9:45	Hall A+B	T24 -Prof.Dr. Brajesh Singh	9:00	9:45	Hall C	
T25 - Dr. Lesley Hoyles	9:45	10:30	Hall A+B	T26 -Dr. Hemant Purohit	9:45	10:30	Hall C	
Tea/coffee								
T27 - Dr. Christopher Dupont	11:00	11:45	Hall A+B	T28 - Prof.Dr. Christoph Tebbe	11:00	11:45	Hall C	
T29 - Dr. Vineet Ahuja	11:45	12:30	Hall A+B	T30 - Dr. Chaitanya Joshi	11:45	12:30	Hall C	
T31 - Prof.Dr. Julian Marchesi	12:30	13:15	Hall A+B	T32 - Dr. Jonathan Clayton	12:30	13:15	Hall C	
Lunch Break								
Panel Discussion	14:15	15:00	Hall A+B+C					
Closing Remarks & Award Ceremony	15:00	15:45	Hall A+B+C					
High Tea	16:00							