



ISME20
AUCKLAND

20th International Symposium
on Microbial Ecology

Auckland, New Zealand

16 - 21 August 2026

Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus





Kia ora!

We are delighted to invite you to partner with us as a sponsor or exhibitor at the 20th International Symposium on Microbial Ecology (ISME20) in Auckland, New Zealand, which will take place from 16-21 August 2026.

ISME is the premier global conference focusing on microbial ecology in the environmental, medical and biotechnological fields and, with an expected attendance of around 1600 delegates, ISME20 will be the largest microbiology event ever hosted in Aotearoa New Zealand. Our upcoming symposium holds special significance, as it marks the return of ISME to New Zealand for the first time since our inaugural meeting (ISME1) in Dunedin in 1977. Plans for ISME20 are well advanced, with a range of leading international and local speakers. You can find more details about the conference on our [website](#).

The conference is expected to bring together around 1600 scientists from all continents, many of them being research directors and decision makers in their home institutions. They will share and advance their scientific knowledge, by presenting their latest findings and enhancing their collaborations on a global scale.

The symposium and its associated outreach events offers partners unique exposure. The brand new NZICC venue offers incredible space for sponsors and exhibitors, maximising opportunities for interacting with delegates, by for instance making use of the (smart)screens available throughout the venue.

If you're interested in learning more, please don't hesitate to reach out to us. There will be a variety of options to fit your specific needs and ensure your required level of visibility at ISME20. We look forward to the opportunity to collaborate and hope to hear from you soon.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you at ISME20 in Auckland.

Kind regards,
ISME20 Sponsorship Team



Prof. Mike Taylor
ISME20 Chair



Dr Kristi Biswas
ISME20 Organising Committee Member



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About ISME

The International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) seeks to advance the field of microbial ecology by supporting scientists and practitioners to further develop their knowledge and skills.

ISME is a membership organisation dedicated to microbial ecologists that provides opportunities to share knowledge, connect with peers, and build partnerships. Our main objectives are to facilitate interaction amongst researchers, stimulate education and research activities, promote the exchange of scientific information, and publish the latest research findings in the field of microbial ecology. In addition to communicating the importance of microbial ecology widely to scientists, policymakers, and the general public.

The main activities to achieve its objectives are as followed:

- **Biennial ISME Symposium** - Microbial ecologists from around the world present their latest research either orally or in a poster format. Connections made at the ISME conference have led to new collaborations, such as projects and journal articles. ISME supports specific delegate groups with grants to attend the Symposium.
- **ISME Publications** - ISME has two journals, namely “The ISME Journal” and “ISME Communications” that are produced in cooperation with our publisher Oxford University Press. These journals publish peer-reviewed articles on the latest scientific developments in the field of microbial ecology.
- **Ambassador Program**: ISME Ambassadors promote the development of the field of microbial ecology at the national level by organizing events and activities, and promoting the ISME Journals. This program is financially supported through the ISME Ambassador Fund. In 2025, ISME had approximately 140 Ambassadors.
- **Regional events**: ISME Ambassadors collaborate to organise events dedicated to microbial ecology at the regional level. ISME financially supports these events through the Regional Meeting fund to ensure the latest science is accessible to as many scientists as possible.
- **Early Career Scientists (ECS)**: With the ISME Scholar Mobility Fund, ISME provides financial support to early-career microbial ecology scientists to further develop their academic knowledge and skills at hosting Institutions. Additionally, the ISME Early Career Scientist Committee organises events for their specific community.
- **Community building**: By informing the ISME community of opportunities to apply for funding, to nominate people for awards and board positions, to bid for the next ISME Symposium and of job vacancies, we are creating more momentum in the field. Additionally, ISME announces winners of awards, events, changes to the ISME society and relevant calls, all to create strong connections within the community.
- **Policy and Societal Impact**: ISME fosters the integration of microbial ecology into global environmental and public policy by supporting strategic initiatives and committees (e.g., the ISME Climate Change Committee) and creating major effort such as calls to action and international collaborations (e.g., co-leading the IUCN SSC Microbial Conservation Specialist Group). These actions promote the active engagement of microbial ecologists in addressing societal challenges, enhance the visibility of microbial ecology in decision-making processes, and ensure microbial perspectives contribute to sustainable solutions.



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What can you expect?

- ISME20 will take place in Auckland, in the newly completed New Zealand International Convention Centre (NZICC), centrally located in downtown Auckland, from 16 - 21 August 2026.
- Approximately 1600+ microbial ecologists are expected to attend. The majority of delegates are researchers and staff connected to fields of microbial ecology from Universities and Research Institutes, both governmental and private.
- ISME20 will showcase the most recent developments in the field of microbial ecology, addressing current global challenges.. There will be sessions addressing topics such as terrestrial systems, ancient microbial DNA, animal and human microbiome, tropical diseases, extreme environments, agriculture and climate.
- The opportunity to be noticed by a diverse audience of microbiological ecologists: to build your brand awareness, to connect with researchers and to raise your company's or institute's visibility in the field.
- When exhibiting, > 8 hours of daily non-stop visibility in our exhibition area, where all catering and poster sessions will also take place. You can create new partnerships, share new ideas and experiences, promote and sell your products and expertise.
- Sponsors and exhibitors of previous ISME symposia include the Moore Foundation, the Simons Foundation, Nestlé, Novozymes, Qiagen, Unisense, Cameca, Chunlab, Oxford University Press, Pyro Science, Wiley, as well as various universities and institutes.





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ISME20 Scientific Programme

Keynote Speakers

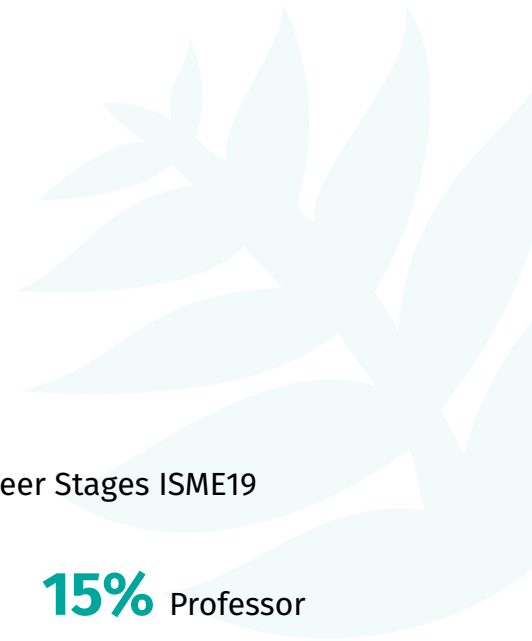
Peer Bork, EMBL, Germany
Noah Fierer, University of Colorado Boulder, USA
Janet Jansson, USA
Isabelle LaForest-Lapointe, Université de Sherbrooke, Canada
Wanda Markotter, University of Pretoria, South Africa
Margaret McFall-Ngai, CalTech, USA
Maureen O'Malley, University of Sydney, Australia
Matthew Stott, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Sessions

Agricultural microbiology
AI-based tools to predict key microbiome traits
Animal microbiomes
Antimicrobial resistance in the environment
Biodegradation & biotechnology
Biogeochemical cycles
Built environment
Computational approaches in microbial ecology
Cultivation
Evolution
Extreme environments
Freshwater microbial ecology
Geomicrobiology
Human microbiome
Indigenous knowledge in microbial ecology
Interconnected microbiome
Marine microbiology
Microbial consortia - natural to synthetic
Microbial dispersal / biogeography & The global microbial atlas
Microbial literacy and engagement
Microbiome based products
Microbiomes in conservation
Novel techniques
Plant-microbe interactions
Soil microbiology
Theoretical microbial ecology
Tree of Life



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Facts and Figures

Career Stages ISME19

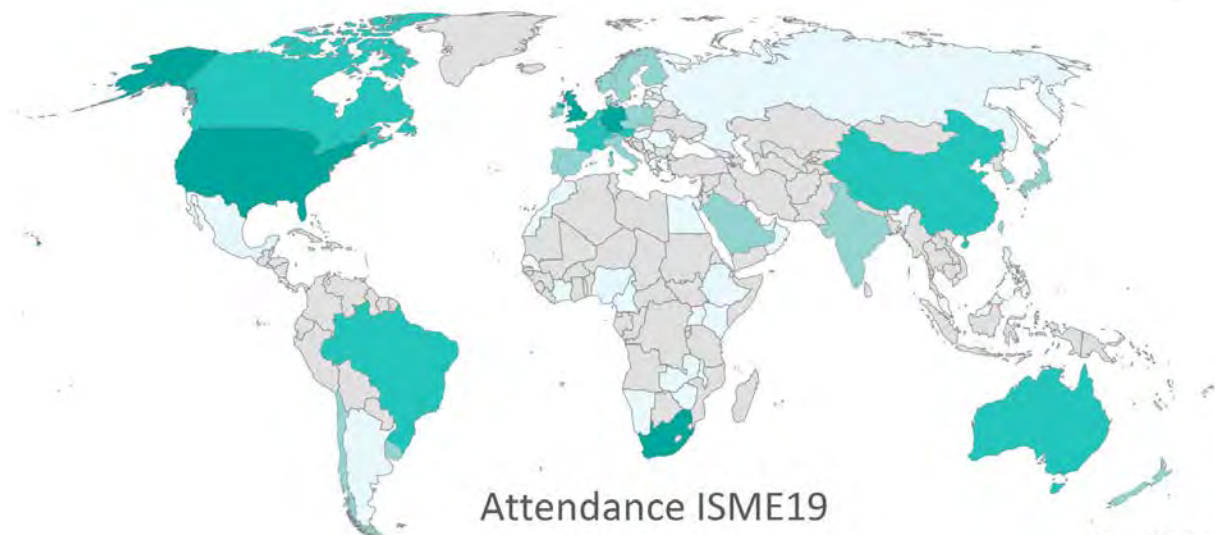
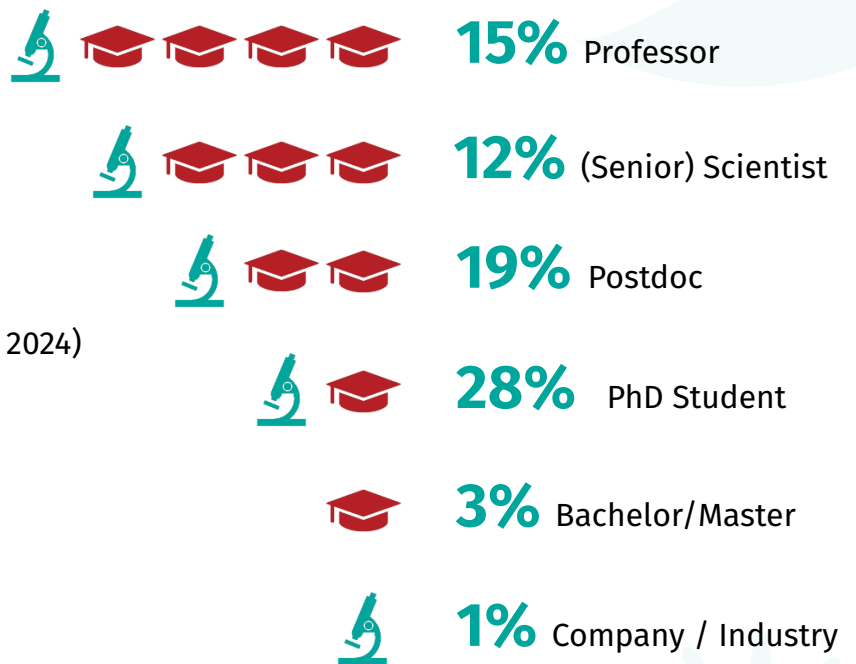
Keynote Presentations: 8
Invited Presentations: 104
Round Table Sessions: 8
Poster Awards: 11
Society Awards: 7
Travel Awards: 80

Average Number of Delegates (2016 - 2024)

1993

Average countries represented:

52



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Sponsorship Opportunities

GENERAL SPONSORSHIP

Depending on your financial commitment, you may like to opt for one of our Gold, Silver, or Bronze packages, which can be found on the next page. However, you may like to consider a fully tailor-made package to reach your marketing objectives.

We will be happy to design a bespoke package for you, based on your preferred way to support and engage with the ISME community at large. Please contact us to learn more about the possibilities.

ISME will have an extensive marketing campaign to promote the symposium and ensure maximum exposure for your organization:

- A website devoted to ISME20 is live and is updated continuously in the lead up to the event providing all current information on the program, speakers, networking functions and a section dedicated to sponsors and exhibitors.
- Active social media campaigns using #isme20
- Regular email campaigns (newsletter) in the lead up to the event with updates such as program announcements, registration opening, networking functions, newly confirmed sponsors, exhibitors and more.





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Sponsorship packages

Prices

| | Gold € 10,000 | Silver € 5,000 | Bronze € 2,500 |
|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Acknowledgement on the sponsor board | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Logo, hyperlink and biography on the conference website and in the delegate app | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Logo displayed on the holding slides in session rooms | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Logo displayed on the lectern in the plenary room | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Complimentary delegate registrations | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| Exhibition booth including 2 exhibitor registrations | ✓ | | |
| Advertisement in the delegate app | ✓ | | |
| Dedicated news item on the ISME website and social media post | 2 | 1 | |
| Inclusion of logo in ISME conference newsletters | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Opportunity to display stand-alone banner at a particular event/ room | ✓ | | |
| Opportunity to use venue's video screens in common areas | video | logo | |



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Sponsorship Opportunities

Sessions

KEYNOTE LECTURES

€ 7,500

All keynote lectures are available for sponsorship.

Sponsorship covers speakers' expenses including accommodation and travel costs (economy class).

Inclusions in this sponsorship are:

- Sponsor's logo will be displayed on the lectern in the session hall
- Sponsor's support will be acknowledged in the Final Program alongside the session information as "Sponsored by"
- Sponsor's logo with hyperlink on the Symposium website and in the mobile app
- Acknowledgement in the Sponsors' List in the delegate mobile app and applicable signage.

INVITED SESSIONS

€ 5,000

Sessions at ISME20 are available for sponsorship.

Included in this sponsorship is:

- Sponsor's logo will be displayed on the lectern in the session hall
- Sponsor's support will be acknowledged in the Final Program alongside the session information as "Sponsored by"
- Sponsor's logo with hyperlink on the Symposium website and in the mobile app
- Acknowledgement in the Sponsors' List in the delegate mobile app and applicable signage.

POSTER SESSION

€ 5,000

includes all Poster Sessions at the Symposium

- Sponsor acknowledgement at the entrance to the poster area
- Sponsor's logo will be displayed on the poster boards
- Sponsor's logo with hyperlink on the Symposium website and in the mobile app
- Acknowledgement in the Sponsors' List in the Final Program
- Acknowledgement on Sponsors' Board on-site.



Opportunities

Grants

TRAVEL GRANTS

UNDEFINED

ISME20 provides travel grants for young scientists to attend the meeting. This sponsorship will be put directly into the travel grant scheme with no administration charge.

As a travel grant sponsor you will receive:

- Acknowledgement as a travel grant sponsor on the conference website, in the Sponsors List on site and in the delegate mobile app
- Report on the procedure and selection process
- Contact details of award recipients if consent has been given.

Branding

ISME20 PROGRAM APP

€ 5,000

The ISME20 Program Mobile Application is available for sponsorship. During the conference, delegates are able to download our ISME20 app to be up to date with the most current program changes.

Inclusions in this sponsorship are:

- Sponsor's support will be acknowledged in the ISME20 App as "Sponsored by" on the home page.

CHARGING STATION or LOUNGE AREA

€ 4,500

This is an opportunity to support the delegates by sponsoring an area for them to recharge their electronic devices, or to relax and quietly chat with their peers. We will provide approximately 12m² of space with branding. The area also includes comfortable sofas, desks, and power and equipment.

Inclusions in this sponsorship are:

- Digital advert on the app
- Logo on signage related to Lounge / Charging Station Partnership
- Logo & company biography on the app
- Opportunity to display stand-alone banner at a particular event/ room



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Opportunities

Networking Events

OUTREACH EVENT

€ 1,000

ISME and the Local Organizing Committee will host an special evening aimed at the general public of the city of Auckland. As a sponsor, you may be part of this special event:

- Acknowledgement as the official sponsor on all relevant materials.
- Sponsor's logo on display in the venue

WELCOME RECEPTION

€ 5,000

- Sponsorship of the welcome reception in the exhibition hall
- Logo and company description on the ISME20 website and in the conference programme
- Opportunity to display stand-alone banners at the event (to be supplied by partner)
- Inclusion of a digital promotional item in the app
- Your company logo on available paraphernalia (e.g., Menus / Digital signage)
- Complimentary for 2 delegates for Sunday 16 August

REFRESHMENT BREAK

exclusive per break € 2,000

- Exclusive sponsorship of tea and coffee break
- Logo and company description on the ISME20 website and in the conference programme
- Recognised on all digital signage and a dedicated holding slide within the preceding session
- Inclusion of a digital promotional item in the app
- Your company logo on available paraphernalia (e.g. Menus / Digital signage)
- Opportunity to display stand-alone banners at the event (to be supplied by partner)

ISME20 SOCIAL GATHERING

€ 7,500

An opportunity to have high profile branding at the main social event of the conference, taking place in the Auckland Viaduct Events Centre on Tuesday 18 August.

- Exclusive sponsorship of the ISM20 Social Gathering
- Logo and company description on the ISME20 website and in the conference programme
- Advertisement in the ISME20 Mobile App and programme
- 5 invitations to the Conference Dinner
- Opportunity to give a brief welcome speech
- Inclusion of a digital promotional item in the app
- Your company logo on available paraphernalia (e.g. Menus / Digital signage)
- Opportunity to display stand-alone banners at the event (to be supplied by partner)
- Opportunity to provide small gift for each guest (to be supplied by partner)



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Exhibitor Opportunities

Having a booth at ISME20 allows companies and organisations to demonstrate their programs and services, exhibit their products and brochures and speak with delegates during lunch and refreshment breaks and during poster sessions by having an exhibition booth.

ISME symposia tend to have a small, but well-visited exhibition area, with typically around 10 - 15 booths. Morning and afternoon refreshment breaks will be served in the exhibition area. In addition, the Opening Reception on Sunday 16 August and the Awards Reception on Thursday 20 August will also take place in this area.

Exhibitor package

€ 2,500

Exhibition package includes:

- 2 Exhibitor badges
- 9 m² modular shell scheme exhibition booth - including 1 table and 2 chairs, carpet, light and power.
- Inclusion on the exhibitor listing on the conference website
- Contact details and short profile in the delegate mobile application.

Exhibition space allocation

When the exhibition floor plan is finalized, exhibitors will be sent a copy of the floor plan to select their preferred position. Please note that all exhibition space will be allocated by ISME after the exhibitor has paid the fees due.

Exhibitors may also choose to host a presentation or demonstration at their booth. This presentation will be officially part of the program, and delegates will be notified that the presentation will start through the official ISME20 app. The presentation will take place during the morning coffee break and has a maximum duration of 20 minutes. (limited availability)

Exhibitor Presentation

€ 1,000



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Contact Details

The sponsorship coordinators are Mike Taylor, University of Auckland, and Kristi Biswas, University of Auckland, who will make first contact for commitment of sponsorship.

To contact them:

Mike Taylor
Professor
Faculty of Science
Biological Sciences
University of Auckland
E-mail: mw.taylor@auckland.ac.nz

Kristi Biswas
Senior Research Fellow
Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences
University of Auckland
E-mail: k.biswas@auckland.ac.nz

Completion of sponsorship contract and payment (either wire transfer or creditcard) will be arranged by Sabine van Wegen at the ISME Office.

After agreeing to the sponsorship, you will be e-mailed an agreement and invoice via events@isme-microbes.org.

Full payment is due within one month after signing the agreement and at least one week before the Symposium.

The International Society for Microbial Ecology is registered as a non-profit association at the Chamber of Commerce in Arnhem, the Netherlands, with registration number 09191073. The association is located in Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Disclaimer: ISME holds the right to alter or update the information provided in this document at any time without notice, including changes in the packages, pricing or programme described in this brochure.



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Committees

ISME Executive Board

Raquel Peixoto, Saudi Arabia
Gabriele Berg, Austria
Phil Hugenholtz, Australia
Joana Falcao Salles, Netherlands

ISME International Board

Tom Curtis, UK
Debbie Lindell, Israel
Jillian Petersen, Austria
David Walsh, Canada
Fengping Wang, China
Kelly Wrighton, USA

ISME20 Local Organising Committee

Mike Taylor, University of Auckland (Chair)
Gavin Lear, University of Auckland (Co-Chair)
Stephen Archer, AgResearch
Kristi Biswas, University of Auckland
Julie Deslippe, Victoria University of Wellington
Ashley Dungan, University of Melbourne, Australia
Kim Handley, University of Auckland
Phil Hugenholtz, University of Queensland, Australia
Rup Lal, University of Delhi, India
Ian McDonald, University of Waikato
Maureen O'Callaghan, AgResearch
Md. Tanvir Rahman, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh
Paul Rainey, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Biology, Germany
Justin Seymour, University of Technology Sydney, Australia
Matthew Stott, University of Canterbury
Gene Tyson, Queensland University of Technology, Australia
Madeleine van Oppen, University of Melbourne, Australia
Bevan Weir, Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research

ISME Office

Linda Scholten, Executive Director, the Netherlands
Sabine van Wegen, Event Coordinator, the Netherlands

Conference and venue details

| | |
|----------|--|
| Date | 16 - 21 August 2026 |
| Location | Auckland, New Zealand |
| Venue | New Zealand International Convention Center (NZICC) 101 Hobson Street, Auckland 1010, New Zealand |