

International Conference on Alpine and Polar Microbiology

Innsbruck, Austria, 27-30 March, 2006

Second Announcement

You are cordially invited to participate in the International Conference on Alpine and Polar Microbiology, which will be held in Innsbruck, Austria, from 27th to 30th March 2006.

The objective of this meeting is to bring together scientists and professionals to discuss all aspects of psychrophilic and cold-tolerant microorganisms, in a trans-polar and alpine context. It will be an exciting opportunity to enjoy the scientific content of the conference as well as the natural beauty of the Tyrolean Alps.

Conference Program

Arctic, antarctic, and alpine environments are characterized by low temperatures and are thus colonized by microorganisms that have evolved a series of adaptations to survive and grow successfully in these cold ecosystems. Psychrophilic and cold-tolerant microorganisms contribute essentially to the processes of nutrient turnover, biomass production and litter decomposition. Moreover, these microorganisms and their cellular constituents or products provide a large biotechnological potential.

The broad conference topics for oral and poster sessions are

- A Ecology and biodiversity of cold terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems
- B Biogeochemistry and nutrient cycling in cold ecosystems
- C Biotransformation and biodegradation of biopolymers and xenobiotics at low temperatures
- D Physiology and metabolism of psychrophiles: Biochemistry, molecular biology, structural biology and stress responses, etc.
- E Genetic approaches: Genomics, proteomics, and metabolomics of cold growth
- F Biotechnology using psychrophiles: Bioremediation of contaminated cold environments, cold-active enzymes, genetic tools, etc.
- G Astrobiology
- H Methods in alpine and polar biosciences: Sampling, sample storage, isolation and cultivation techniques, etc.

An excursion to a glacier close to the conference location will give you an impression of a typical cold alpine environment.



Venue and Accommodation

Innsbruck, the provincial capital of Tyrol (Austria), is situated in the center of the Alps in the heart of Europe (www.innsbruck.info). The conference will be held at the Hilton hotel, which is ideally situated in the center of the town and has a capacity for approx. 180 conference participants.

A block of rooms will be available at the Hilton hotel (conference venue) and other hotels in Innsbruck at a special rate for conference participants. More information can be found at www.alpine-polar-microbiology2006.at.

Registration

The registration fee includes attendance at all presentations, a copy of the abstract book, all coffee breaks and four lunches including beverages. To register, please download the registration form and payment instructions from our website. Attendance is limited to approx. 180 participants, so early registration is strongly advised.

Registration Fee (Euros)	Early Registration (by December 20, 2005)	Late Registration (after December 20, 2005)
Participant	280	330
Student	200	250

Call for Abstracts

The Call for Abstracts is now open; the deadline for abstract submission is **November 1, 2005**. To submit an abstract, please download instructions for the preparation of abstracts from our website and send a MS-Word file as attachment to info@alpine-polar-microbiology2006.at. Please specify whether you wish to give an oral or poster presentation. Presenters will be invited to submit papers to a special issue of an international peer-reviewed journal.

Young Scientists Grants

Young microbiologists and students from developing countries can apply for grants sponsored by IUMS. The deadline for application is November 1, 2005. For more information, visit our website.

Organization

Rosa Margesin (contact: rosa.margesin@uibk.ac.at) and Franz Schinner; Institute of Microbiology, Leopold Franzens University (LFU), Innsbruck, Austria;

In cooperation with Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy, and Canadian Studies Centre, LFU

Website: www.alpine-polar-microbiology2006.at

E-mail: info@alpine-polar-microbiology2006.at

International Scientific Committee and Speakers

Joan Braddock (University of Alaska, USA); Rick Cavicchioli (University of NSW Sydney, Australia); Jody Deming (University of Washington, USA); Julia Foght (University of Alberta, Canada); Charles Gerday (University of Liège, Belgium); David Gilichinsky (Academy of Sciences, Russia); Charles Greer (CNRC Montreal, Canada); Max Häggblom (Rutgers University, USA; Arctic Microbiology Research Consortium, Finland); Nick Russell (Imperial College London, UK); James Tiedje (Michigan State University, USA); Lyle Whyte (McGill University, Canada)

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