

Special Workshop Announcement

Census of Antarctic Marine Microbes Workshop

A part of the Census of Antarctic Marine Life Program

(CAML, <http://www.caml.aq>): An International Polar Year Initiative

Date: March 31

Time: 9:00 am – 5:30 pm

Location: First floor of the Hilton Innsbruck, Austria
Discounted rates in accord with the Alpine and Polar Microbiology Meeting are available at the Hilton Innsbruck

Other accomodation information can be found at
<http://www.alpine-polar-microbiology2006.at/>

Workshop Goals

- Provide introduction of the Census of Antarctic Marine Life Program
- Provide a forum for discussion of ideas and potential to develop international partnerships for CAML-microbes studies
- Recommend standardized sampling and analysis protocols to assess microbial diversity in Antarctic marine microbial habitats

Interested Participants

1. Please download and fill out the registration form that can be found at <http://www.genex2.dri.edu/> . This needs to be returned to Alison Murray by email, Alison.Murray@dri.edu.
2. There is NO registration fee. Please register by March 10.
3. Persons interested in presenting 15 minute talks describing ongoing or proposed Antarctic Marine Microbial Diversity programs and initiatives should also submit an abstract.
4. Limited funds are available for travel support (5 awards in the amount of \$1000 USD). Selection for a travel award will be based on disciplinary balance, geographical location, capacity to contribute to marine microbial diversity and/or function of microbial biodiversity in Antarctic ecosystems research, and financial need. Young investigators are encouraged to apply.



Tentative Schedule

9:00 am Introduce the CAML program and workshop participants

9:30 am Participant presentations of CAML-microbial diversity oriented proposals

10:30 am Coffee Break

11:00 am (1) Finish presentations
(2) Group discussion of priorities for microbial diversity research in Antarctic marine environments

12:30 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Discussion sessions to recommend protocols for characterization of Antarctic marine microbial diversity

- Sampling of prokaryotic and eukaryotic microorganisms from Antarctic marine environments (sediments, sea ice, plankton, host-associated) and equipment and instrumentation needed
- Physical/environmental data collection
- Fixation methods for long term preservation
- Microscopic analysis, FISH
- Cultivation-based efforts
- Molecular microbial diversity approaches - both single and multiple gene-based methods
- Genome-targeted approaches (whole genome and environmental genome)

3:30 pm Coffee break and open discussion among participants; development of future collaborations

4:30 pm Synthesis of recommendations to be put forth – designation of working group to finalize recommendations and prepare protocols

5:00 pm Adjourn

