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WaterMicro 2017

Invitation to the 19th International Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology ; May 14 – 19, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear HRWM members

It is with great pleasure that I welcome one and all to our 2017 Health-Related Water Microbiology Conference on behalf of the Board of our group. We have the pleasure to be back to the American continent after several years, where the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will host this year's meeting. This site has been very important historically to the HRWM group, since a lot of the research on water microbiology and health was carried out at this Institution. Distinguished colleagues such as Mark Sobsey, Jamie Bartram and many others at this Institution have been great supporters of our meetings at all levels. On behalf of the Board of HRWM, I am happy to congratulate the Local and the International Committees for a great job; it was not easy, with many bumps along the way, but here we are, ready for another round of great presentations and a great venue to discuss our ideas. We hope you all have registered for this important meeting and those who attend will also have the pleasure of seeing the proposals for the next venue, which includes such wonderful places as Austria and Italy. We appreciate the efforts of those members who are willing to organize the next Conference, as we know how much work and effort this entails. We will have a very exciting program at Chapel Hill, and apart from the scientific presentations, we have also organized a series of round tables for young scientists to attend and exchange ideas with those environmental scientists who have been successful at a young age. All details will be available on the web site, and we hope all attending young scientists will participate in this endeavor that promises to be highly successful. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Board; Rosina Girones, Hiroyuki Katayama and Marion Savill, who have been the (intellectual) muscle behind all the necessary administrative work that is the intrinsic part of the Board. I do not want to forget the members of the Steering Committee who have participated in different ways and who will also have a very strong role to play at our Conference taking different roles to make our Conference a very successful one. Of course, I also want to thank Gertjan Medema who acted as the webmaster for such a long time, and who passed on the role to Daisuke Sano who has accepted this role and has been very active since then. And finally, my thanks to Maronel Steyn who has been incredibly active as our new Newsletter Editor; thanks to Rachel McNinch for her role as past Editor. Maronel has been highly successful and we have relied on her patience and dynamism to come up with a great Newsletter. We already know, from the high number of papers to be presented, that this will be a very successful Conference. I do hope you take full advantage of this opportunity, and once again, on behalf of the HRWM Board, welcome to Chapel Hill and our 2017 Conference.



Gary A. Toranzos, Ph.D.
HRWM Chair



Elections

Our group will elect and announce a new Vice Chair at the WaterMicro 2017 Symposium in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. This person will serve HRWM for 6 years total: 2 years as Vice Chair, followed by 2 years as Chair, and 2 years as Past Chair. We only have one candidate running for the Vice Chair position, Regina Sommer. We will also be electing and announcing a new secretary for the group. Daisuke Sano is the only candidate for this position. Please view their statements to the right and their profiles on our website at <http://hrwm-watermicro.com/WordPress/>

Voting will also take place at the WaterMicro 2017 Symposium for the WaterMicro 2019 destination. Vienna, Austria and Pisa, Italy both offered to host us in 2019. Please view summarised details of their bids to host on page 3 (Italy) and page 4 (Austria) and a complete proposal presentation on our website at <http://hrwm-watermicro.com/WordPress/>

Voting

You must be a registered member of IWA to cast a vote. Regular voting will take place at the HRWM Business Meeting in Chapel Hill. Absentee voting will be available for those members unable to attend the HRWM Business Meeting in Chapel Hill. Please send your votes (Vice Chair, Secretary and 2019 destination) along with name or IWA membership number* via email to rgirones@ub.edu no later than 30 April, 2017. Votes received after 30 April 2017 via email will not be counted.

Candidate Statements

Position: Vice Chair

Regina Sommer (PhD, MEng.)

The contact with the colleagues of the IWA SG HRWM was essential to me in my professional career, especially when I was a young scientist. I remember very well my first HRWM conference 1989 in Tübingen and how delighted I was about the warm welcome from the famous colleagues and the scientific as well as social support and exchange. Therefore serving for our SG HRWM would be a kind of “pay-back” for what I have positively experienced.



Position: Secretary

Daisuke Sano (PhD)

My first participation in the HRWM symposium was in Paris (2000), and since then, the research presentation in this research community has been always one of the highest goals in my academic life. It is my great honor to serve a management role as a board member of this specialist group since 2013. I have also taken an editor role for Journal of Water and Health in the last four years. From January 2017, I'm managing new website and Facebook of HRWM as webmaster. I really hope that I can contribute to this specialist group further as a secretary by enhancing communication between members from various regions and generations. There will be important events of IWA in coming several years, including World Congress 2018 at Tokyo, and it is my great pleasure to take care every aspect of the activities of HRWM specialist group in these events.





WaterMicro 2019

Proposed Location:

Pisa, Italy

Venue:

University of Pisa

Dates:

12-17 June 2019



Topics:

Water pollution and diseases: Epidemiological studies; Surveillance systems; Linking epidemiological with environmental data; Outbreaks. *Sources of water and of pollution:* Microbial survival, resistance to treatment, transport; Antibiotic-resistance; Microbial source tracking; Catchment protection; Water reuse; Water sanitation; Biofilms studies; Disasters and emergencies. *Methods:* Innovative molecular and enzymatic methods; Meaning of analytical results for risk assessment; Alternative indicators; Modelling and prediction. *Risk assessment and management:* QMRA and Water Safety Plans; Drinking water; Recreational water; Shellfish growing areas; Irrigation and food processing; Health-care settings; Workers health risks.

Organization:

University of Pisa; Italian Society of Hygiene Preventive Medicine and Public Health (SItI); National Institute of Health (ISS), Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research (ISPRA); Italian Ministry of Health; Italian Ministry of the Environment.

Social Events:

Welcome cocktail (included, with reservation): Museo dell'Opera del Duomo (under the Tower) ; Social dinner (with additional fee): Palazzo Reale: on the river Arno to see the Luminara of S. Ranieri (Patron Saint Day Event)

Tours:

Visits of beautiful landscapes in Liguria and Tuscany regions: as "Cinque Terre" ; Chianti area; art cities (Florence, Siena, Lucca) Technical-leisure tour in spas (many locations nearby).

Travels:

Pisa is easily connected by train and plane with EU and non EU destinations.

Accommodation:

A list of Hotels with special prices will be available

Fees:

Discounted fees will be available for PhD students, young researchers, Authors from developing countries.





WaterMicro 2019

Proposed Location:
Vienna, Austria

Venue:
 University of Vienna

Dates:
 15 – 20 September 2019



Workshops:

We propose workshops to the following topics: - Water quality in Health Care Facilities: water supply, water for technical purposes, water for medical purposes - Faecal source tracking: microbial and hydrological aspects .

Social events:

Numerous famous composers have lived here; music is literally in the air! In Vienna one may visit a rich heritage and latest achievements in art and architecture - from the historic city centre – a UNESCO world cultural heritage site – to modern facets like the University of Economy or the trendy Museums Quartier, one of the world’s ten largest culture complexes.

Food:

Vienna is known for its excellent food.

Accommodation and Travel:

Accommodation is available for reasonable prices, many of it within walking distance. There is a big variety of guest houses and hotels in all categories. The rate per person and night starts with EUR 40. See for an example <http://hotel-pension-astravienna.ibooked.ca/> Vienna can be reached easily; this is of benefit to all participants. The direct flight time from any European capital to Vienna does not exceed three hours. Intercity and international express trains connect the capital with all parts of Austria and with all major cities in Europe. Citizens of all countries of the European Union, Switzerland, Croatia, Israel, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, of most of the countries of North and South America, and some other countries do not need a visa; only a valid passport is required to enter Austria.

Scholarships for authors from developing countries:

Beside the special conference fees for participants from low income countries, five scholarships for students from developing countries will be donated to the authors for best submitted abstracts. The scholarship includes free registration fee and a financial support of EUR 1.000. The five best abstracts will be selected by members of the scientific committee.

HRWM Bursary Award

Health-Related Water Microbiology is pleased to announce a bursary to help students and post-doctoral associates to attend WaterMicro 2017 at The University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill from 14 – 19 May 2017. Up to three students will be funded for a maximum of \$2500 US. An additional three students will also have their registration fees waived. Only students from developing countries are eligible for the bursaries. It should be noted that this is open only to those students and post-doctoral students currently at their home institutions. Those students studying at universities in industrialized countries are not eligible to apply. All those interested please send a copy of their Curriculum Vitae, a copy of their accepted abstracts and a short personal statement. Send messages to: Dr. Gary A. Toranzos, Chair, HRWM at gary.toranzos@upr.edu

Young Professionals Career Development Session at HRWM Symposium

There will be an early career development session from 6-7:30pm on Monday, May 15. This roundtable event (think speed dating but more far more worthwhile) will be an opportunity for skilled young professionals and students to connect with experienced practitioners to discuss the transition into practice. This event is included in your registration fee, so grab a beer (or two) at the poster session and then join us for a chance to learn from your peers!

Text: Heather Pace

Joint HRWM – WHO Workshop

19 May 2017

“The microbiological quality of recycled water and how to define minimum water quality requirements”



The HRWM SG meetings usually include at least one joint HRWM-WHO session where topics of wide interest are deeply discussed. At the next International Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology in May in NC, the organizers of the symposium and the Group committee selected from the different proposals, the topic “The microbiological quality of recycled water and how to define minimum water quality requirements” suggested by Rosina Girones. The workshop has been organized together with Allegra da Silva and Sharon Nappier as a side-event for the last day of the WaterMicro 2017 conference, May 19th 2017. This topic was selected based on the increasing needs for water reuse all over the world and the fact that there is a wide diversity of guidelines in different countries and states, some of them now under review and also new regulations in preparation. Different guidelines have been suggested for the monitoring of recycled water and the needed reductions of pathogens by the treatment process to ensure minimal risk to the exposed population. It has been considered that the workshop with participation of experts, regulatory agencies and stakeholders can bring to all the attendants up to date information and a deep discussion that could be very beneficial for the harmonization, development and implementation of improved regulations.

The HRWM-WHO workshop starts at 8:30 and finish at 12:30. The program includes an update on microbial hazards in wastewater and reclaimed water including a discussion on antibiotic resistant bacteria; approaches to define Minimum Quality Requirements for water reuse including information on current and upcoming guidelines on water reuse and the Quantitative Microbial Risk Assessment Approach for Direct Potable Reuse Applications; a session on practical experiences and a Panel Discussion with the participation of all interested attendants.

Some of the talks you can look forward to include work on the microbial hazards involved in recycled water. Allegra da Silva will provide an introduction to water reuse. Rosina Girones will tell us more about pathogens and reference pathogens in WWTP and recycled water. The WHO will present on DALY’s and the upcoming water reuse guidelines. A third and final session will look at practical experiences, which will be followed by a panel discussion.



IWA YWP 8th International Conference – Cape Town, South Africa

10 – 13 December, 2017

The call for abstracts for the upcoming 8th International IWA YWP Conference to be held in Cape Town, South Africa is still open. For abstract submissions, and more information please visit:

<http://www.iwaywpcconference.org>

8th International Young Water Professionals Conference



Organised by:



New website for HRWM launched



You can find updated information of upcoming events, featured publications, projects, and water-related diseases on the new website.

Please visit:

<http://hrwm-watermicro.com/WordPress/>

You can post your comments in this website directly or just send it to the following e-mail address:

webmaster@hrwm-watermicro.com

The contents of the new website are also linked to HRWM Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Health-Related-Water-Microbiology-284985878191676/>



Become an IWA member

Not yet a member and interested in joining IWA and specifically HRWM ? Then click on the link below and see how you can become a member of this family. <http://www.iwa-network.org/membership.php>



Research Spotlight

Metawater is an European collaborative project (Water-JPI), involving 7 research European countries (University of Barcelona (UB), Technical University of Denmark (DTU), Technische Universität München (TUM), The Bavarian Health and Food Safety Authority (LGL), Technical University of Valencia (UPV), University of Rovira and Virgili (URV) from Reus, General State Laboratory of Cyprus (SGL)), led by Prof. Rosina Girones of University of Barcelona.



The overall aim of the project is to develop European scale tools for the rapid evaluation of the role that irrigation water has in the transmission of pathogenic microorganisms, to study the more useful treatments for removing microbial pathogens from reclaimed water and therefore giving guidance on how to improve reclaimed water management.

Metawater is developing mass sequencing techniques to provide a knowledge resource on existent, emerging and new pathogens, including viruses, bacteria and antibiotic resistant bacteria, protozoa, cyanobacteria toxins in different kinds of water. Irrigation water may be the source of contamination of fresh vegetables and it has been associated to important food-borne epidemics of gastroenteritis, acute hepatitis and other diseases.

The Metawater project may contribute to reducing public health risks and producing scientific bases to support the development of European/national regulations for irrigation water uses.



Source: Prof R Girones

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Maronel Steyn

Banner photos credit : Maronel Steyn

Editors note

We would like to make this newsletter relevant, with a balance of news and technical input from all SG members. If you have news or contributions that may be relevant or feedback to improve the newsletter, please mail your information to msteyn@csir.co.za The next newsletter is earmarked for September 2017.