

Newsletter

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ISSUE 4 - May 2009

Invitation to WaterMicro 2009

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Dear HRWM colleagues and friends,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee of the 15th International Symposium on Health-Related Water Microbiology, we are delighted to invite you to Naxos, Greece from May 31 to June 5, 2009. This is part of the series of international symposia organized biennially by the IWA Study Group on Health-Related Water Microbiology. The Symposium will cover all aspects of waterborne infectious disease.

Experts from various fields are welcome, including:

- environmental and clinical virology, bacteriology and parasitology;
- infectious diseases and epidemiology;
- risk assessment; and
- water treatment engineering and environmental health practice.

A special session will be held to consider "Can the classic pollution indicators for drinking water guarantee protection of public health?" related to the revision of the European Union directive on drinking water quality.

Parallel events

1. Environment and water (on World Environment Day, June 5th) focusing on water re-use
2. Microbiological Quality of Drinking Water in Greece: a special session for Greek water-monitoring laboratories

Social events

During the symposium period we will help you make the most of your stay in Naxos by offering you various excursions:

- A technical tour to the ancient aqueduct of Naxos
- A walking tour of the old town, the Venetian castle and the museums
- A visit to the sites of ancient temples
- A visit to Byzantine Naxos focusing on the medieval profile of the island, with its castles and old churches
- A half-day sightseeing tour of Naxos most picturesque villages
- An excursion to Delos and Mykonos.

We invite you to Naxos and hope that you enjoy the research discussions. We shall also endeavour to make your stay in Naxos as pleasant as possible with our specially-arranged social program.

Sincerely,

Athena Mavridou, Professor, TEI Athens

Apostolos Vantarakis, Associate Professor, University of Patras
Symposium organizers

WaterMicro 2009

May 31 - June 5, 2009
Naxos, Greece

www.watermicro2009.gr



Important Dates

May 15, 2009

WaterMicro 2009 Registration Closes

May 22, 2009

Absentee Voting Closes

May 31 - June 5, 2009

WaterMicro 2009 Symposium in Naxos

May 31, 2009

Symposium Welcome Reception

June 2, 2009

WST Journal Business Meeting

June 3, 2009

HRWM Board Meeting

June 4, 2009

HWRM Group Business Meeting
Symposium Gala Dinner

WaterMicro 2009: Special Meetings

Appropriate Microbial Methods for Water Safety Planning Wednesday June 3rd, 2009

Water safety planning (WSP) is a risk management approach for ensuring consistently safe drinking water. The approach is described by key steps, seven of which include microbial monitoring to inform planning decisions and actions - from source water assessment, operational process control, WSP validation, WSP verification, disease surveillance, to outbreak investigation, and recreational water quality assessment. Members of the HRWM group and the WHO have started to explore "appropriate microbial methods for water safety planning". To achieve this, the goals of each of these seven WSP steps (listed above) need to be assessed to determine the information requirements; such as level, type and likely sources of contamination, evidence that the treatment is working, and compliance with health based targets.

To meet these information requirements, specific methodological requirements need to be determined to generate the type of microbial method required. In addition, information and methodological requirements of developed and developing countries will differ and this information must be taken into consideration. This allows identification of the needs of future microbial methods required in these seven aspects of a WSP in both developed and developing countries. This meeting will build on information currently generated by members of this group and develop a path forward.

International Collaboratory for Sewage (IC Sewage) Wednesday June 3rd, 2009

Global progress toward household coverage of sanitation is severely limited and the current measure of water safety used throughout the world (*Escherichia coli*) does not provide the resolution needed for hazard and source characterization. Given these challenges and needs of both the developed and developing regions of the world, IC Sewage has been formed as part of the IWA's HRWM Specialty Group.

The mission of the IC Sewage is to advance our understanding of the impact of wastewater on water quality throughout the world and to set the stage to meet and document improved sanitation, sewerage, and wastewater treatment for the global community. This project will develop monitoring and assessment technologies to diagnose the sewage contamination problem, deliver these techniques to those who need them and assist in the discovery through development of a 'Global Map of Pollution' the spatial and temporal distribution of health threat levels, leading in turn to increasing effectiveness of programs to interrupt waterborne infectious diseases. At our first meeting, held at WaterMicro 2009 in Naxos, we will discuss the web site and year 1 goals.

Travel Information

Lodging:

A complete list of hotels can be found on the conference website under the 'Accommodations' link at www.watermicro2009.gr.

Please note that as the conference is taking place on a small island, there are many smaller places and few large hotels to choose from, hence the extensive list of options. Hotels in Naxos Town and St. George beach are within walking distance of the Conference Centre. Hotels in Stelida, St. Prokopios and St. Anna areas are further away and require arrangement for transportation.

Flights/Ferries:

Naxos can be reached either by plane or ferry from Athens, Greece. The ferry port from the mainland is located outside of Athens in Pireaus which can be reached by the metro, bus, or cab. Ferry schedules and bookings can be made online through Blue Star Ferries, Hellenic Seaways, or through a travel agent.

For bookings contact Naxos Tours at 22850-25290 or by e-mail to Anna Armadorou anna@naxostours.net, stating it is about the WaterMicro 2009 conference. Other reliable travel agencies that deal with air and boat tickets, hotel and car rentals, excursions, etc. are: Grotta Tours, Naxos Travel Agency, Kamari Tours, and Zas Travel.

Registration

Registration for the conference is open through **May 15, 2009** online. Please note that student registration fee DOES NOT cover the cost of the Gala Dinner (June 4th). Students may purchase these tickets separately at the registration table in Naxos. Please visit the 'Registration' link on WaterMicro 2009 website at www.watermicro2009.gr.



www.travel-to-naxos.com

Announcements

Award to Honor Dr. Willie Grabow

We are pleased to announce the inception of the IWA-HRWM Willie Grabow Young Investigator Award in honor of Dr. Willie Grabow. Dr. Grabow was instrumental in the foundation of the IWA and specialist group concept and continues to inspire emerging scientists to date. The objective of the award is to assist and encourage young scientists, especially those from developing countries, who are doing outstanding research in the field of health-related water microbiology. The official announcement will be made at the HRWM WaterMicro 2009 Symposium Gala Dinner in Naxos, Greece, on June 4th, 2009. The award will then be presented at future HRWM Symposia, starting in 2011. It should also be noted that IDEXX has agreed to sponsor the award indefinitely, allowing our group to continue honoring emerging young professionals and Dr. Grabow, in the years to come.

Bursary Awards

At the WaterMicro 2009 meeting we will be honoring several students and scientists going to school and/or working in a developing country/region with bursary awards. These individuals were selected from a pool of thirty-one (31) eligible bursary applications, representing seventeen (17) different countries. The awardees include: Matilde Galván Garcia (Mexico), Regina Keller (Brazil), Nicholas Kiulia (Kenya), Thammarat Kootatep (Thailand), Pinpin Lu (China), Janet Mans (South Africa), Neelima Afroz Molla (Bangladesh), Douglas Mushi (Tanzania), Monica Mwiche (Zambia), Vusi Ntema (South Africa), Aline Daiane Schlindwein (Brazil), Masoud Yavarmanesh (Iran), and Stacey Foong Yee Yong (Malaysia). Please look for their presentations at WaterMicro 2009 and commend them on their work.

Candidate Statements

**Hiroyuki
Katayama**
(Secretary Position)



I attended the HRWM group meeting for the first time in Mallorca, Spain in 1996. I have been studying viruses in water and having a lot of benefit from the HRWM group since then, I really like to thank the HRWM community. It was my pleasure that last year in 2007, I could contribute to the HRWM group by helping the International Symposium on HRWM (WaterMicro 2007) in Tokyo as a member of the local organizing committee. Should I be elected as a secretary of the HRWM group, I would like to maintain the traditional virtue of our group, attract young members and enhance international variety.

Governance and Voting Procedures

At the WaterMicro 2007 business meeting HRWM approved changes to the by-laws to include a Vice Chair position. Two positions will be voted on at the next HRWM business meeting at WaterMicro 2009: the new Vice Chair position and Secretary position. The Vice Chair position will be held for 2 years, then that person will become HRWM Chair for 2 years, followed by 2 years as Post Chair (serving 6 years total). The Secretary will serve HRWM for 4 years.

Nicholas Ashbolt and Gertjan Medema are running for the Vice Chair position, while Hiro Katayama is the only candidate running for the Secretary position. Please take a moment to read the candidate statements printed in this Newsletter as well as on the HRWM website at www.iwa-microbiology.org.

Also, at the business meeting HRWM members will vote on the location for WaterMicro 2011. Florianopolis, Brazil and Rotorua, New Zealand are the two destination options. Brief summaries of the locations are included here in the Newsletter. Complete proposal presentations are available to view on the HRWM website.

All results of voting will be announced at the Gala Dinner following the Business Meeting in Naxos.

Regular Voting

will take place at the HRWM Business Meeting in Naxos on **Thursday June 4th, 2009** starting at **4:30pm**.

Absentee Voting

will be available **through May 22nd, 2009** only for those members who *cannot* attend the Business Meeting in Naxos. Please send your votes (Vice Chair, Secretary and 2011 Destination) and IWA membership # to the HRWM email account at hrwm@msu.edu.*

*IWA #s and votes will be kept confidential and solely used for the purposes of voting and preventing duplicate casting of votes.

Candidate Statements cont.

**Nicholas J.
Ashbolt**

(Vice-Chair Position)



Dear Colleagues,

Like so many of our SIG group members, I have worked on health-related environmental microbiology issues across the globe; and also like many of you I suspect, I have had a strong focus on environmental sample assay methods, feeling that is what environmental microbiologists should do. However, also being an active researcher in related fields associated with sustainable water services – I would like to challenge our group to think a little more outside of our comfort zone. We have tremendous human resources across our various members, but we have even more challenging needs to fight back against core global pathogen issues resulting from peri-urban settlements, loss of ecological services and emerging issues from climate change. As vice-chair I would like to stimulate our members to lead through various activities that will make our group seem even more relevant to mainstream global issues. I believe this requires a better fundamental understanding of the ecological context of waterborne pathogens as well as targeting practical ways to check on their management. As such I would like our SIG to foster international interactions, training and the development of novel approaches to the age-old problem of how to monitor for faecal indicators versus pathogens – particularly within the context of water safety plans.



**Gertjan
Medema**
(Vice-Chair Position)

Dear colleagues and friends,

My main reason for putting myself forward as vice-chair is that I cherish the group. The group was a forum for me to exchange scientific knowledge from the moment I started my career in health-related water microbiology. Our conferences were the place where I got to know the people behind the publications. Our conferences were and are the place where you can experience that the group does good science in an area that is very relevant to the world and have fun at the same time. This appealed to me and continues to attract young scientists. I am proud to see how successful the group is with the launch of our own Journal of Water & Health with IWA(P) and the WHO.

My objectives as vice-chair? Mainly: to keep up the good work! My special emphasis? Promote good science and good scientific exchange, expand the possibilities for travel bursaries for scientists from countries with small resources and promoting exchange between our group and the WHO and IWA specialist groups in related science areas, such as water reuse.

HRWM Logo Contest

In the process of looking for a new and more eye-catching symbol to represent our field of work we recently issued a logo contest. We had a submission pool of 20 logos which were voted on by our members. The logo designed by HRWM member Helen Risebro, received the most votes. As a result, Helen will receive free registration to the WaterMicro 2009 meeting in Naxos, Greece.

As we had several high scoring logo designs, we will hold a second round of voting. Helen's design, along with other top scoring designs will now be submitted to a professional artist to be developed further. Once these designs are completed we will notify the HRWM group for final voting.

The original submissions are still available for viewing on the HRWM website at www.iwa-microbiology.org.

Top Scoring Logo Ideas:



(Top Scoring Design)



WaterMicro 2011: Proposed Locations

Please visit the HRWM Website at www.iwa-microbiology.org to view full powerpoint presentations of the proposals.

Florianopolis, Brazil



Venue:

Federal University of Santa Catarina or Majestic Palace Hotel

Dates:

August 28 - September 2, 2011

Topics:

Water pollution and diseases; Microbial source tracking; Catchment protection; Water reuse and health concerns, Biofilms studies; Water and sanitation in developing countries; Climate change and water quality; Recreational water and health; Epidemiology of waterborne diseases; Microbial risk assessment; Microbial quality of shellfish growing areas.

Organization:

CETESB, Federal University of Santa Catarina, University of São Paulo, University Mackenzie, and AIDIS

Rotorua, New Zealand



Venue:

Kingsgate Hotel

Dates:

September or October, 2011

Topics:

Water pollution and diseases; Microbial source tracking; Catchment protection; Biofilm studies; Water and sanitation in developing country; Climate change and water quality; Recreational water and health; Epidemiology of waterborne diseases; Microbial risk assessment; Microbial quality of shellfish growing areas, Applications of nanotechnology; Water and energy; Zoonoses.

Organization:

Institute of Environmental Science (ESR), National Institute of Water and atmospheric Research (NIWA), Agricultural Research (AgResearch), Ministry for the Environment (MfE), Ministry of Fisheries (MAF), and Agriculture Research

Call to Host WaterMicro 2013

Members, please begin to prepare an application to host WaterMicro 2013. Members should begin to plan to declare their interest at our WaterMicro 2009 Meeting in Naxos, Greece. Information to think about includes:

- City/Country
- Venue Location
- Dates
- Topics
- Tours/Social Events
- Accommodations

Recommended Reading

Water safety plan manual: step-by-step risk management for drinking-water suppliers. Bartram J, Corrales L, Davison A, Deere D, Drury D, Gordon B, Howard G, Rinehold A, Stevens M. World Health Organization. Geneva, 2009. ISBN: 978 92 4 156263 8

Posting

PhD positions available at Vienna Technical University

There are available PhD positions at the Vienna Doctoral Programme on Water Resource Systems at the Vienna University of Technology (recently established and funded by the National Science Foundation of Austria. Applications are due **May 15, 2009**. Please visit their website at <http://waterresources.at/> for further details.

HRWM Newsletter

Editors: Rachel M. McNinch and Joan B. Rose
Design: Audrey Tan

Look for the next HRWM Newsletter in November 2009

For further information regarding HRWM please visit the website:
www.iwa-microbiology.org