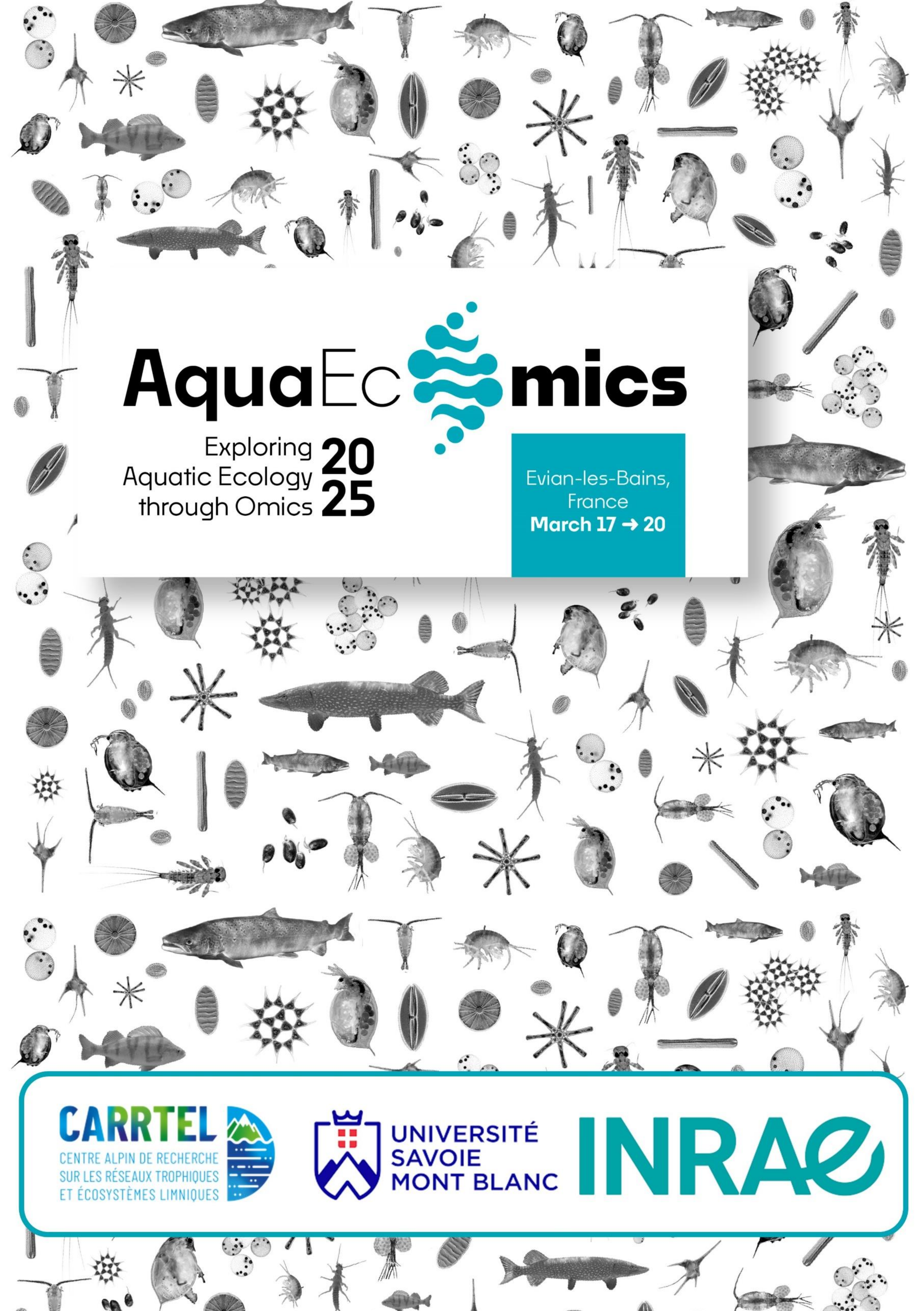

AquaEcomics

Exploring Aquatic Ecology through Omics

2025

Evian-les-Bains,
France
March 17 → 20

CARRTEL
CENTRE ALPIN DE RECHERCHE
SUR LES RÉSEAUX TROPHIQUES
ET ÉCOSYSTÈMES LIMNIQUES

UNIVERSITÉ
SAVOIE
MONT BLANC

INRAE

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8:45										
9:00		Opening Word		Keynote lecture **Florian Altermatt**		Keynote lecture **Silvia Acinas**		Table Ronde		CEN Standardisation Technical Committee meeting
9:15		Presentation of Sponsors								
9:30		Keynote Lecture **Karoline Faust**								
9:45				Coffee Break		Coffee Break				
10:00									Physalia Course	
10:15		Coffee Break		Session 7 part 2	Session 3 Validation of Omics Tools	Session 5 Implementation & Standardisation	Session 3 Anthropogenic Impacts part 1			
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12:45		Lunch		Lunch		Lunch				
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14:15		Session 2 Functional Diversity	Session 6 Macro- & Micro-organismal Interactions	Session 3 Bioindicators	Session 2 Quantification & Intraspecific Diversity	Session 3 Anthropogenic Impacts part 2	Session 4 Reference Databases			
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17:15						Session 4 Technical Advancements	Session 5 Biotic & Abiotic Drivers of Biodiversity			
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18:00	Registration & Welcome Drink	Wine & Cheese								
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TUESDAY (18.03.2025)

1. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Karoline Faust is an Associate Professor at KU Leuven who heads the Lab of Microbial Systems Biology, which focuses on investigating microbial community dynamics in silico and in vitro. In particular, her team is studying interactions between human gut bacteria and the resulting dynamics with synthetic communities in controlled conditions. In addition, the team develops new tools for the analysis of microbiome data, specifically the analysis of microbial networks. The group's work is thus situated at the intersection of bioinformatics, systems biology, and microbial ecology.

Microbetag: a reverse-ecology tool for microbial network interpretation

Ecological interactions are important drivers of microbial community composition and dynamics but are difficult to resolve experimentally. Microbial association networks inferred from abundance data do not predict microbial interactions reliably and are therefore difficult to interpret. In this context, it is helpful to work with genomes that are already known or assembled from metagenomic sequencing data, since they allow applying reverse ecology methods to predict traits and ecological interactions from genes. Here, I will present a new tool, microbetag, that makes use of such methods to help interpret microbial networks.

2. DETAILED PROGRAM

Tuesday 18.03.2025

Time	Auditorium	Parallel room
8:00	Registration	
8:15		
9:00	Opening Word	
9:15	Presentation of Sponsors	
9:30	Keynote Lecture **Karoline Faust**	
9:45		
10:00		
10:15	Coffee Break	
10:30		
10:45	**Fidji Sandré** Passive eDNA Sampling for Enhanced Species Detection	**Leo Barbut** Using Lagrangian transport model in support of eDNA monitoring in Belgian part of the North Sea
11:00	**Ryo Iwamoto** QuickConc: A Novel Cationic-Assisted eDNA Capture Method for Enhanced Biodiversity Monitoring	**Vincent Prié** Field sampling of eDNA under complex hydrological conditions
11:15	**Sofie Derycke** eDNA collection by the Belgian fishing fleet: a new gateway towards high resolution marine biodiversity data collection	**Lana Grizancic** Net or Niskin: sampling method most suitable for the northern Adriatic phytoplankton monitoring
11:30	**Lauren Rodriguez** From Whale Watching to Marine Biodiversity Monitoring: Enhancing eDNA Sampling with Citizen Science	**Manuel Lopes-Lima** Unlocking Africa's Biodiversity: Advancing Surveys with Cutting-Edge eDNA Techniques
11:45	**Valérie S. Langlois** Towards revolutionizing conservation efforts in Canada	**Joana Veríssimo** Navigating methodological trade-offs in eDNA biodiversity monitoring: insights from a Mediterranean watershed
12:00	**Bettina Thalinger** Studying bird and fish biodiversity in Canada by engaging local communities in environmental DNA based monitoring	**Philipp M. Rehsen** Improving biomass and abundance assessment of aquatic indicator taxa by combining semi-automated imaging and DNA megabarcoding
12:15	**Yuki Minegishi** ANEMONE Global: establishment of a global network of eDNA-based aquatic biodiversity monitoring.	**Bastien Macé** Finding NeMO: A Bayesian adventure in detecting elusive species with environmental DNA
12:30	**Kirsty Deiner** Are lake accumulators of biodiversity information from environmental DNA?	**Gledis Guri** Predicting trawl catches using environmental DNA
12:45	Lunch	
-		
14:00		
14:15	**Pierre Foucault** Temporal dynamics of microbiomes and life strategies in peri-urban lakes	**Léa Combes** Diversity and long-term temporal dynamics of Microsporidia in Lake Aydat using a paleogenomic approach
14:30	**Arthur Monjot** Metatranscriptomes-based sequence similarity networks uncover genetic signatures within parasitic freshwater microbial eukaryotes	**Kamil Hupalo** Having IMPACT on monitoring aquatic diversity: first experimental results evaluating eDNA as an integrative tool for studying parasites

Tuesday 18.03.2025		
Time	**Auditorium**	**Parallel room**
14:45	**Stéphane Vuilleumier** Bacterial players of the chloromethane cycle in aquatic environments	**Sébastien Duperron** Impact of cyanobacterial blooms on fish gut microbiota : from ecotoxicology to biological invasions?
15:00	**Theodor Sperlea** Detecting Semi-Annual Oscillations in the Biotic Community of Aquatic Habitats Worldwide using Metabarcoding and Machine Learning	**Benoît Paix** Ecology and evolution of chemical interactions between the brown algae Dictyotales and their epibacterial communities
15:15	**Marlen I. Vasquez** Limiting similarity in temporary streams based on diatom eDNA	**Samuel Orgeas-Gobin** Saving the best for the last : Late apoptosis as a mechanism to preserve symbiosis in the thiotrophic bivalve Lucinoma borealis ?
15:30	**Nathalie Joli** Transcriptomic and epigenomic insights into gene and transposable element regulation in a polar diatom during prolonged darkness and re-illumination	**Erwan Quéméré** Diving deep into kelp forest food webs using dietary DNA
15:45	**Marie-Lee Castonguay** Influence of pollutants, temperature and density on the production and persistence of environmental DNA and RNA (eDNA and eRNA) in aquatic environments	**Giulia Mariani** Interspecific interactions of the local population of Bottlenose dolphins in the south-west of Ireland: evidence revealed by eDNA metabarcoding analysis
16:00	**Teun Everts** An omics-based spatial prioritization framework to counter widespread aquatic invaders	
16:15	Coffee Break	
16:30		
16:45	**Rafael I. Ponce-Toledo** Modeling the evolution of microbial networks	**Rimet Frédéric** Biogeography of microalgae in freshwaters: new contributions from metabarcoding?
17:00	**Binta Diémé** CROSS-FEEDING INTERACTION WITHIN MICROCYSTIS PHYCOSPHERE : New perspectives from the combination of metagenomics and metametabolomics approaches	**Paula Mendoza** Exploring diatom diversity and biogeography in Canary Island watercourses: insights from DNA Metabarcoding
17:15	**Pascal I. Hablützel** Leveraging metagenomics and metatranscriptomics to gain novel insights in the ecological dynamics of microeukaryotic plankton communities	**Briand Jean-françois** Geographic genetic divergence in tychoplanktonic taxa dominating diatom communities in the marine plastisphere
17:30	**Shan Pushpajom Thomas** Co-occurrence networks reveal interactions between aquatic prokaryotes and protists	**Emma Jamon** Divergent Prokaryotic Communities Across Mangrove Sediment Bioregions: Insights from 16S rDNA Metabarcoding Data
17:45		**Maurine Vilcot** Revealing a diversity continuum in tropical fishes: simultaneous eDNA assessment of populations and communities
18:00	Wine & Cheese	
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19:15		

WEDNESDAY (19.03.2025)

1. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Prof. Florian Altermatt supervises a team of about 30 people, who address fundamental and applied questions in ecology, with a focus on spatial ecology, biodiversity and ecosystem processes. His work aims to understand how species occur in space and time, how they interact, and how processes such as invasions, dispersal or global change affect natural communities. He uses both experimental and comparative approaches, integrate novel tools such as eDNA, and parallel it with theoretical models. He uses a variety of study systems suited to address broad-ranging questions in ecology. His group is part of the Department of Evolutionary Biology and Environmental Studies at University of Zurich and the Department of Aquatic Ecology at Eawag.

Utilising aquatic environmental DNA to address local to global biodiversity targets

Adequate data on aquatic biodiversity are a necessary prerequisite for biodiversity science. Assessing and attributing the state and change of biodiversity is also essential for bending the curve of biodiversity loss and guiding necessary policy action. Since the mid 2010s, analysis of environmental DNA (eDNA) has become established as a novel and highly powerful approach to assess the state and functioning of aquatic ecosystems and is becoming increasingly implemented by stakeholders, yet its potential is not yet fully tapped. I will present current state in aquatic eDNA research with a particular focus on the policy-relevance of eDNA and its utility in contributing towards the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). I will then summarise key technological developments in eDNA science to assess organismal diversity across the full tree of life, to establish ecological indicator analyses in aquatic systems, and its potential for spatial and temporal upscaling as a key reference for local to global biodiversity action. Technological advances in laboratory and sequencing techniques have enabled rapid uptake of the method, yet current challenges remain in the need for adequate reference databases, commonly agreed quality standards (including FAIR principles), and overcoming methodological constraints in retrofitting novel eDNA-based approaches to existing biodiversity monitoring approaches. I will outline the next steps needed to effectively implement eDNA for decision making and addressing global biodiversity targets.

2. DETAILED PROGRAM

Wednesday 19.03.2025		
Time	**Auditorium**	**Parallel room**
8:00	Registration	
8:15		
9:00	Keynote Lecture **Florian Altermatt**	
9:15		
9:30		
9:45	Coffee Break	
10:00		
10:15	**Tristan Cordier** Combining modern surface-to-seafloor eDNA datasets to unlock the potential of sedimentary ancient DNA.	**Coci Manuela** New omics observatory for marine biodiversity in the Adriatic: a case study
10:30	**Benjamin Marie** More than just disorder - metabolite diversity of Microcystis strains shows tight correspondence to genotype and may contribute to ecotype specificities	**Xavier Benito** DNA metabarcoding in highly dynamic coastal ecosystems: a preliminary assessment of a Mediterranean delta
10:45	**Rosa Trobajo** Diatom metabarcoding for good ecological status assessment and beyond	**Bassam Abubaker** Environmental Drivers of Diatom Diversity: Insights from DNA Metabarcoding
11:00	**Antonija Kulaš** Diatoms genetic diversity across different climate zones	**Lena Brouwir** Methodology for creating a freshwater bioindicator using periphyton genomics
11:15	**Anastasija Zaiko** Kelp in the climate equation: leveraging 'omics' approaches to unveil the role of giant kelp habitats as a blue carbon sinks.	**Thomas Reinhart** How do eDNA monitoring methods compare to traditional bryophyte surveys in rivers?
11:30	**Susheel Bhanu Busi** National scale bacterial biogeography and function of river biofilms	**Nieves López Rodríguez** From marine to freshwater: Using fish eDNA to assess community dynamics across salinity gradients
11:45	**Andrea Burfeid Castellanos** Changed succession patterns in the Arctic Sea observed through metabarcoding	**Pedro Beja** Metabarcoding across the tree of life reveals conservation significance and biodiversity patterns in a tropical river (Corubal, Guinea Bissau)
12:00	**Sergio González-Motos** GENE SYNCHRONY AND RHYTHMICITY IN NEIGHBOURING MARINE MICROBIOMES GENERATES INSIGHTS ON FUNCTIONAL REDUNDANCY	**Amy Thorpe** Using lake sedimentary DNA to reconstruct past microbial community dynamics
12:15	**Ramiro Logares** Integrating short- and long-read metagenomics to reveal local and global macroecological patterns in marine microbial populations	**Yvonne Schadewell** Harnessing the Power of eDNA Biodiversity Assessment to Enhance Subsurface Water Flow Pathway Reconstruction
12:30	**Mechthild Schmitt-Jansen** A comparative metagenomics approach reveals a common functional potential of plastisphere microbiomes across oceans	**Hannah Rau** New perspectives on the community composition of groundwater ecosystems using eDNA metabarcoding
12:45	Lunch	
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14:00		

Wednesday 19.03.2025		
Time	**Auditorium**	**Parallel room**
14:15	**Till-Hendrik Macher** Fit for purpose? Evaluating benthic invertebrate DNA metabarcoding for ecological status class assessment in streams under the Water Framework Directive	**Jonas Bylemans** From anarchy to clarity, data pre-processing and statistical choices influence quantitative environmental DNA (eDNA) analyses.
14:30	**Cristiana Cravo-Laureau** Bioindicators of littoral and retro-littoral wetlands ecosystem functioning	**Mohamed Yosri Zanni** Modeling the interactions between decay and dispersion of eDNA in the Bay of Biscay
14:45	**Jono Warren** Microbial biofilms as indicators of environmental change in English rivers.	**Céline Condachou** Linking metabarcoding quantitative information to fish environmental DNA concentration in Neotropical rivers
15:00	**Sara Beier** Artificial intelligence assisted modelling reveals that species properties rather than species diversity determine community responses to environmental change	**Marie-Pier Brochu** Three-year monitoring of lake sturgeon (Acipenser fulvescens) occurrence in a spawning ground using environmental DNA
15:15	**Benjamin Alric** Graph theory at the service of assessing the ecological status of lake ecosystems based on phytoplankton communities	**Micaela Hellström** Reproductive and migratory patterns in fish revealed by MBC analyses of monthly samples.
15:30	**Leire Garate** Sediment microbial communities and their association networks differed depending on their disturbance level	**Emilie A. Didaskalou** Unlocking demography: Developing an eDNA-based toolkit to measure sex ratios.
15:45	**Erik Zschaubitz** Machine Learning-Driven Analysis of Metabarcoding Data to Identify Anthropogenic Trace Substances in Aquatic Ecosystems	**Tamas Malkocs** Species-level detection and population genetic inference of small cetaceans from environmental samples, using mitochondrial and RADseq-derived markers
16:00	**Anders Lanzén** Estuarine microbenthos as ecosystem health indicators, from the Basque estuaries to the whole Bay of Biscay, the world, and beyond	**Marie-Thérése Werner** Population genetic analyses of a key invertebrate species using mitochondrial and nuclear DNA markers
16:15	**Luisa Orsini** Biodiversity Time Machine: a holistic approach to monitoring and forecasting freshwater ecosystems	**Daniel Zumel** Hybrid horizons: Detecting hybridization in natural populations using a novel eDNA toolkit
16:30	**Niamh Eastwood** Exploring the landscape-level drivers of lake biodiversity using data-driven analysis of environmental DNA	**Els De Keyzer** Repeated river–lake introgression in the adaptive radiation of Sailfin silverside fishes in Lake Matano, Sulawesi
16:45	Coffee Break	
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17:30	Poster Session	
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19:00	Conference Dinner	
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THURSDAY (20.03.2025)

1. KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Silvia Acinas is a researcher at the Department of Marine Biology and Oceanography at the ICM (Institut de Ciències del Mar), CSIC in Barcelona. Her research focuses on linking microbial genetic diversity with functional capacities of ecologically relevant marine microbial taxa using metagenomics, metranscriptomics, single cell genomics, and isolation. These approaches are used to gain insights into the evolutionary mechanisms underlying diversification processes. She now focuses on polar marine ecosystems (Arctic and Antarctic), which are threatened by climate change but also blue-biotechnology research.

Unlocking the Ocean Microbiome: From Ecology to Blue Bioprospecting

The planet's greatest diversity lies within the invisible world of planktonic microorganisms. With an estimated 10^{29} prokaryotic cells and at least 10^{11} microbial species (Locey and Lennon, 2016), these organisms harbour immense genetic and metabolic potential and enable the degradation of numerous natural and human-introduced (allochthonous) substances, highlighting their adaptability and potential for innovation. Advances in marine biodiversity research have increasingly revealed microorganisms with molecules and genes of significant commercial and scientific value. Our research group investigates marine microbes' ecology, functional diversity and genetic capacities of marine microbes for Blue Bioprospecting. This presentation highlights several studies based on large-scale metagenomic surveys (Tara Oceans and Malaspina) providing as well examples of blue bioprospecting related to (1) bacteria from the ocean and marine sediments capable of degrading methylmercury, a neurotoxin, and (2) the discovery of novel CRISPR-Cas9 systems from the deep ocean.

2. DETAILED PROGRAM

Thursday 20.03.2025		
Time	**Auditorium**	**Parallel room**
8:00	Registration	
8:15		
9:00	Keynote Lecture **Silvia Acinas**	
9:15		
9:30		
9:45	Coffee Break	
10:00		
10:15	**Tiina Laamanen** Technology Readiness Level of biodiversity monitoring with molecular methods - where are we on the road to routine implementation?	**Martijn Callens** Local accumulation of organic matter in marine sand extraction areas drives changes in sediment prokaryotic communities with potential consequences for nitrogen cycling
10:30	**Ana Ramon-Laca** Prospects of environmental nucleic acids as a multipurpose biomonitoring tool for fisheries management	**Valentin Ambroise** Impact of 10 years of deforestation and population growth on biodiversity seen through the lens of metabarcoding
10:45	**Christina Pavloudi** Preliminary results from the European Marine Omics Biodiversity Observation Network (EMO BON): long-term genomic monitoring and FAIR stakeholder reporting	**Rein Brys** The power, challenges and integration of Omics-based ecological insights as a cornerstone for invasive species management in aquatic environments
11:00	**Sandra Garcés-Pastor** Taxonomy-free approach to diatom indicators based on three eukaryotic markers	**Lawrence Victor D. Vitug** Future proofing on using OMIC approaches in South East Asia: A Case analysis of using eDNA in Biomonitoring Philippines Inland Waters
11:15	**Kálmán Tapolczai** A novel framework for phytoplankton biomonitoring: Trait assignment of 23S rRNA sequences	**Ana Baricevic** Omics in the service of characterising the eukaryotic plankton community in the Adriatic Sea
11:30	**Laurine Viollaz** Environmental DNA approach to assess phytoplankton communities in lake environments	**Eeva Eronen-Rasimus** Under-ice methanotrophy may offset Baltic sea ice methane fluxes
11:45	**Jelger Herder** Exploring the Potential of eDNA-Metabarcoding as an Alternative to Conventional Fish Monitoring under the Water Framework Directive	**Anastasija Zaiko** Understanding emerging ecosystems: tracing biodiversity and ecological change in a periglacial Arctic lagoon using eDNA
12:00	**Valentin Vasselon** The Fellowship of the Ring Test confronting a method to rule them all: testing the transferability and comparability of diatom DNA metabarcoding protocols for biomonitoring	**Flora Mottet** Using multi-omics to illuminate responses of sediment microbial communities to hydrological changes in lotic systems and their consequences on carbon cycling
12:15	**Hanneloor Heynderickx** Optimizing MSFD pelagic habitat indicator workflows to accommodate genetic monitoring data	**Kiemel Katrin** Uncovering Effects of Environmental Change through eDNA Metabarcoding: A Long-Term Perspective
12:30	**Olivier Monnier** The carbon footprint of diatom molecular research	**Nicolas Tromas** Predicting cyanotoxins concentrations in lakes and reservoirs using microbial community information
12:45	Lunch	
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14:00		

Thursday 20.03.2025		
Time	**Auditorium**	**Parallel room**
14:15	**Nicolas Creusot** Multiomics approach to characterize the link between the structural biodiversity and the microbial activity along the natural dynamic of freshwater periphytic biofilms and its response to the chemical stress : Main Outcomes from the MICROBIOMIQ project	**François Keck** Navigating the seven challenges of taxonomic reference databases
14:30	**Tayebeh Soltanighias** Occurrence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in household plumbing system	**Arne J. Beermann** dbDNA - A phylogeny- and expert identifier-driven grading system for reliable taxonomic annotation of (meta)barcoding data
14:45	**Chakresh Kumar** Metagenomic insights into the functional microbial diversity of the lower stretch of the River Ganga: mapping antibiotic and metal resistance genes	**Pratyasha Nayak** Unlocking the Potential of DNA Metabarcoding in ecological assessment: Assessing the congruence of diatom metabarcoding and morphology in tropical rivers
15:00	**Pedro A. Inostroza** Multi-compartment impact of micropollutants and particularly antibiotics on bacterial communities using environmental DNA at river basin-level	**Ljubica Vlaović** Challenges in the investigation of the diatom community of saline habitats: A case study of Plava Banja (Serbia)
15:15	**Gaëtan Burgaud** A comprehensive pan-European exploration of fungal plastisphere dynamics along river-to-sea continuums	**Kristina Petrović** eDNA-based assessment of phytoplankton community structure and dynamics in a saline lake in Serbia: comparison with microscopy-based method
15:30	**Nina Röder** Genome-wide responses to chronic Bti and copper exposure in a laboratory culture of Chironomus riparius	**Nergiz Dukan** MSFD and impact monitoring with eDNA: Insights from case studies in the Belgian Part of the North Sea and Avlékété Beach, Benin
15:45	**Lise Klunder** Making the invisible visible: molecular methods to trace the success of the restoration of river Emscher	**Chloé Fernandez** Using environmental DNA metabarcoding to asses marine vertebrate diversity from a controlled environment
16:00	**Réalis-Doyelle Emilie** From ice to heat: variation in phenotypic and transcriptomic response of Arctic Charr populations from contrasted environments	**Liliana Ballesteros-Mejia** Laying the foundations of a national genetic baseline for species identification in support of biodiversity research and public policies in France.
16:15	**Mahshid Oladi** Environmental DNA-based profiling of benthic microbial communities along a crude oil spill gradient in a coral reef in the Persian Gulf	**Vincent Haÿ** A molecular reference database of mitochondrial genomes for freshwater fish in France.
16:30	**Lou-Anne Jannel** Aquatic biodiversity on Reunion Island: Responses of biological communities to environmental and anthropogenic pressures using environmental DNA	**David Mann** Metabarcoding "by-catch" is precious
16:45	Coffee Break	
17:00		

Thursday 20.03.2025		
Time	**Auditorium**	**Parallel room**
17:15	**Jim Birch** FIDO: A new type of autonomous aquatic sampling instrument for ‘omics studies	**Baudry Thomas** eDNA optimization for regular monitorings of white-clawed crayfish (Austropotamobius pallipes species complex): from lab testings to large-scale field validation
17:30	**Armando Espinosa Prieto** Leveraging hybridisation capture for detecting rare events and as a PCR-free metabarcoding approach for vegetation surveys	**Marina Chauvet** Seeking for microbial bioindicators of river run-off inputs: new insights from eDNA data sets
17:45	**Hiroki Yamananaka** Enhancing eDNA Metabarcoding Accuracy: Mitigating PCR Bias with Droplet PCR	**Haderlé Rachel** Environmental DNA metabarcoding for the assessment of vertebrate biodiversity along the estuarine gradient of the Rance river (Brittany, France)
18:00	**Patrick Łypaczewski** Unrestricted metabarcoding with Nanopore long-read sequencing	**Héloïse Verdier** eDNA outperforms traditional methods for detecting organic pollution in a non-perennial river
18:15	**Daniel Wewer** Overcoming Limitations in eDNA Metabarcoding with Nanopore Sequencing of Whole Mitogenomes	**Ole Bjørn Brodnicke** Innovating biodiversity monitoring: Translating eDNA research and democratizing data to empower stakeholders and the public
18:30	**Fabrice Not** Aquatic diversity of microbial eukaryotes assess by Oxford Nanopore Technology and Illumina sequencing	**Daniël van Berkel** eDNA-based assessment of species diversity and its temporal development in a Dutch offshore wind farm
18:45	**Alba M. Losa** Addressing workflow challenges of ONT sequencing approaches for Riverine Microbial Communities: Long-Read vs Short-Read Sequencing	**Auriel Sumner-Hempel** Monitoring Elasmobranch diversity using eDNA in Offshore Wind Farms
19:00	**Olivier Collard** Nanopore eDNA Long-Read Metagenomics: An Holistic Window for eDNA Analysis	
19:15		
19:30	Closing Ceremony	
19:45		