
ISME Funding Report

The 40th International Conference of the Polish Phycological Society entitled “*Time of changes: taxonomy and ecology of algae in theory and practice*” was held May 23-26, 2023. The conference was co-financed under the "Excellent Science" programme of the Ministry of Education and Science, "Support for scientific conferences" module. The conference was organized by the Department of Microbiology and Immunobiology of the Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz (Poland) and attended by 80 participants from 4 countries, who prepared 22 oral and 42 poster presentations. During the plenary session on the first day of the conference, lectures were delivered by the following guests:

1. Beata Messyasz (Poland) – Phycological discourse - the history of Polish Phycologists focused on taxonomy, ecology and interdisciplinary processes.
2. Judit Padišák (Hungary) – Ecosystem services provided by algae (phytoplankton, diatoms, silica-scaled flagellates).
3. Jeffrey R. Johansen (USA) – Classification of cyanobacterial species utilizing the 16S-23S ITS region: progress and problems using *Stenomitos* (Leptolyngbyaceae) as an example.

In the following days, four oral sessions were held: *Taxonomy & ecology of Cyanobacteria*, *Diatoms diversity*, *Diversity of Euglenophyceae*, *Time of change in aquatic environments*. There was also a contest for Young Scientists in two categories: the best oral and the best poster. Prizes for the winners included books on microbiology and ecology of microorganisms, financed from the ISME fund.

Due to ISME's financial support, the Society's logo was placed on the conference website, posters and in the book of abstracts, which also includes an abstract on ISME activity. In addition, during the conference, Dr. Łukasz Kubera, Young Ambassador of ISME for Poland, gave a 10-minute speech on the activities of the International Society for Microbial Ecology.



Participants of the 40th International Conference of the Polish Phycological Society



Dr. Łukasz Kubera – ISME Young Ambassador for Poland, during his presentation of ISME activity.