

Report on ISME Scholar Program Activity

Introduction

I am pleased to present this report on my participation in the "8th EBAME Workshop on Computational Microbial Ecogenomics" from October 21 to November 4, 2023. This experience was made possible through the generous support of the International Society for Microbial Ecology (ISME) Scholar Program, which provided me with a 1500 euro scholarship that covered essential expenses, including the registration fee, accommodation, plane and train tickets, and meals.

Overview of the Activity

The 8th EBAME workshop offered a two-week program immersing participants in microbial ecogenomics. The workshop introduced the Anvi'o software for customizing 'omics figures, emphasized metagenome sequencing and metagenome-assembled genomes (MAGs), and explored taxonomy cutoffs and binning methods. It also covered phylogenomics, viromes, metagenomics, functional annotation, and metabolic network reconstruction, enhancing participants' skills and understanding of microbial communities. The event even went a step back, introducing and discussing different sequencing methods and tools.



Photo 1. Participants were allocated in an auditorium with internet connection, power plugs and microphones to generate their own analysis and engage with lecturers.

The workshop also addressed more unusual topics, such as microdiversity analysis and paleogenomics, providing participants with a diverse and comprehensive learning experience. As a result, participants left with valuable skills and insights to advance their work in the field of microbial ecogenomics.

Promoting ISME and the Scholar Program

During the workshop, I actively promoted ISME and its Scholar Program:

I highlighted ISME's support by mentioning their role in making my attendance possible during a 5-minutes flash talk presentation. This was also communicated during formal discussions and informal interactions with fellow participants.



Photo 2. I've had the opportunity of talking about my work and how the workshop would help me advance it, while stressing how ISME made it possible for me to be there.

I made myself available during coffee breaks to answer questions about ISME's Scholar Program, offering insights into the program's benefits and guidance on the application process.

Leveraging my scientific Twitter account, I shared regular updates and insights from the workshop, emphasizing ISME's crucial role in facilitating my attendance. This aimed to reach a broader audience, including potential future Scholar Program applicants.

Conclusion

ISME's Scholar Program support played a pivotal role in making my participation in the "8th EBAME Workshop on Computational Microbial Ecogenomics" possible. By actively promoting ISME and the Scholar Program, I successfully generated interest among potential scholars and contributed to ISME's mission of advancing microbial ecology research and education.

This report serves as a testament to the tangible impact of the ISME Scholar Program in fostering research and knowledge exchange within the microbial ecology community. It was an immersive and comprehensive learning experience that equipped me with valuable skills, tools, and insights essential for advancing my work in microbial ecogenomics.