

FACILIS 2014

A course organized by the US-EU Task Force on Environmental Biotechnology

Microbially-driven facilitation systems in environmental biotechnology

Milan, Italy

July 12-25, 2014

www.facilis2014.unimi.it

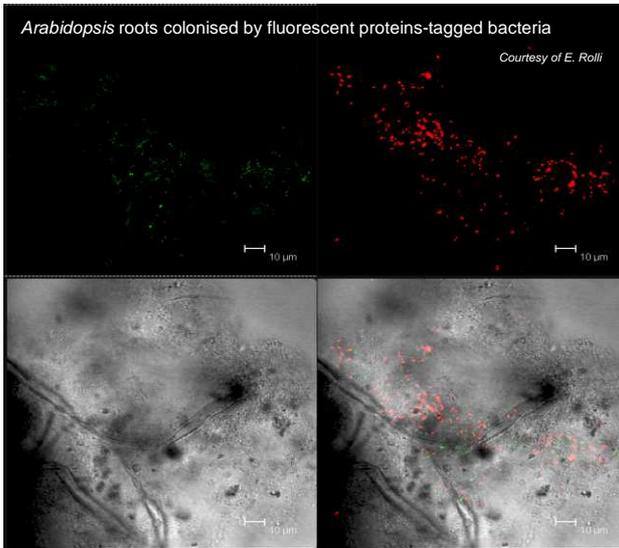
Speakers:

Gabriele Berg, Manuel Ferrer, Nicolas Kalogerakis, Teresa Lettieri, Barbara Methe, George Tsiamis, Nele Weyens, and others



Picture: Mangroves in Gazi Bay, Kenya (Photo by M. Fusl)

Mangrove ecosystems exploit the cooperation among plants, invertebrates and microbes for facilitating bioremediation of pollutants



Course venue and goal

The University of Milan will be the venue for the 2014 International Course on Environmental Biotechnology, under the auspices of the EC-US Working Group on Biotechnology for the Environment. This course will be built on the success of the four previous courses in training early career scientists in the state-of-the-art theoretical and practical aspects of microbial environmental biotechnology.

Course Program

The course program consists of two weeks of hands-on experimental work with daily lectures in environmental microbiology and biotechnology. The central topic of the course is '**Microbially-driven facilitation systems in environmental biotechnology**'. The concept is to identify microbial strains that can be harnessed for environmental purposes such as contaminant degradation or beneficial plant-microbe interactions. Course experiments will include community analyses by PCR fingerprinting, barcoding pyrosequencing and metagenomics, and tests on bacterial isolates such as growth on biphenyl, search for degradation-related genes, plant growth promotion, strain genetic labeling and in vivo colonization.

Application and selection

The course is limited to 24 students, with 12 from each side of the Atlantic. Applications can only be accepted from students working in the USA or one of the European Member States and Associated Countries at the time of application, or from students having a citizenship of one of those countries. Application should be submitted by email to facilis2014@unimi.it according to the instruction reported on the Course website. Application submission will be open until **April 15, 2014**. Course participants will be notified by **April 30, 2014** about acceptance and expense support.



Organizers:

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J. Craig Venter Foundation, MD, US

Venue:

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