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The Genetic Basis of Microbial Sociality

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Deadline for manuscript submissions:

closed (20 August 2023)

Message from the Guest Editors

Microorganisms, including bacteria, are often thought of as solitary organisms; however, they generally live in groups and often have sophisticated social lives. Examples of sociomicrobial conflict and cooperation include the rapid evolution of cheaters in clonal groups of iron-scavenging *Pseudomonas* strains and the spectacular multicellular structures produced by group-coordinated development in myxobacteria and *Dictyostelium* slime molds.

With this Special Issue, we aim to highlight recent experimental, genomic and computational research efforts focusing on microbial sociality in both population and community contexts, that is, the microbial social interactome. By default, we describe sociality as a trait that can influence the fitness of interacting, conspecific individuals. This, therefore, encompasses both synergistic and antagonistic interactions between individual cells and includes the evolution and maintenance of altruistic and mutualistic behavior.

Invited papers can be original work as well as summary reviews designed to demonstrate why and how both abiotic and biotic environments matter for social evolution in the microbial world.



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Special Issue



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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Genes are central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fastmoving field. There is a need for good quality, open access journals in this area, and the *Genes* team aims to provide expert manuscript handling, serious peer review, and rapid publication across the whole discipline of genetics. Starting in 2010, the journal is now well established and recognised.

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