

Program of the 4th GCC marine biotechnology conference

Day 1 (4 November)

Time	Activity
8:00-9:00	Registration
9:00-9:10	National Anthem and Holy Quran
9:10 – 9:15	Video about SQU
9:15 – 9:20	Welcome speech Dr. Ahmed
9:20 – 9:35	Keynote speech UNESCO Chair, Prof. Sergey Dobretsov “Marine biotechnology in Oman: Gifts to sponsors
9:35- 9:40	Gifts to sponsors
9:40-10:00	Poster session opening

Coffee break and a poster session 10:00-10:20

Theme: Biodiversity and genetics

Chair Dr. Ahmed Elawad

Time	Activity
10:20-10:45	Keynote presentation: Prof. Michael Berumen: “Why is the Arabian Region Home to So Many Unique Marine Species?”
10:45-11:00	Presentation 1: Dr. Ali Nasrolahi “Enhancing marine biodiversity through coastal eco-engineering”
11:00-11:15:	Presentation 2: Dr. Oliver “The Arabian Gulf as a natural laboratory to study adaptation to climate change using genetic and genomic approaches”
11:15-11:30	Presentation 3 Ms. Harshika Sharma “Identification and molecular characterisation of a marine copepod (<i>Tigriopus</i> sp.) from the east coast of the UAE”
11:30-11:45	Presentation 4 Prof. Sourav “Revisiting the copepod diversity of Indian Sundarbans through estimation of carcasses”
11:45- 12:00	Presentation 5 Dr. Eva Aylagas “Species-specific dPCR assay for environmental DNA detection of Crown-of-Thorns Starfish in the Red Sea”

Lunch 12:00-13:00

Theme: Biodiversity and genetics**Chair Dr. Mohamed Al-Wahaibi**

Time	Activity
13:00-13:15	Presentation 6 Dr. Ahmed Elaswad “Genetic Diversity and Evolutionary Patterns in Four Emperor Fish (<i>Lethrinus</i>) Species from Oman Using Mitochondrial DNA Barcodes”
13:15-13:30	Presentation 7 Dr. Lakshmi “Genetic differentiation of the Indo-Pacific finless porpoise (<i>Neophocaena phocaenoides</i>)”
13:30-13:45	Presentation 8 Dr. Mohammad Alavi-Yeganeh “Cryptic species: a challenge for fish taxonomy in the Oman Sea and the Persian Gulf”
13:45-14:00	Presentation 9 Ms. Bushra Al-Kindi “Human-wildlife interactions and potential stress in green sea turtles (<i>Chelonia mydas</i>)”
14:00-14:15	Presentation 10 Mr. Shahin Behtash “Macrobenthic functional diversity in mangrove ecosystem: the role of habitat complexity and monsoonal changes”
14:15-14:30	Presentation 11 Ms. Hala “Microplastic abundance and characterization in Omani coral reefs”
14:30-14:45	Presentation 12 Dr. Thinesh “Assessment of Coral Diseases along Oman’s Northern Coast: Growth Anomalies are the Dominant Lesion”
14:45-15:00	Presentation 13 Dr. Melissa “Using water-landing, fixed-wing UAVs and computer vision to assess seabird nutrient subsidy effects on sharks and rays”
15:00-15:15	Presentation 14 Dr. Sara Asadi “A non-invasive video-based platform for analyzing marine megafauna movement and swimming behavior”

Coffee break 15:15-15:30**Theme: Biofouling and antifouling****Chair Prof. Sergey Dobretsov**

Time	Activity
15:30-15:45	Presentation 1 Dr. Lihua “Unveiling the inducer within biofilms that triggers larval settlement in <i>Mytilus coruscus</i> ”

15:45-16:00	Presentation 2 Ms. YuYi “Bacteriophage-mediated bacterial biofilm lysis drives mussel settlement and metamorphosis”
16:00-16:15	Presentation 3 Mr. Lian “Induction of triploid <i>Mytilus coruscus</i> using cytochalasin B”
16:15-16:30	Presentation 4 Mr. Mohammed Al-Belushi “Chemical Cleaning Techniques for Fouled RO Membranes: Enhancing Fouling Removal and Assessing Microbial Composition”
16:30-16:45	Presentation 5 Ms. Azhar Al-Busaidi “Anti-biofouling properties of ZnO NPs coating with Micropatterned Polymers”
16:45-17:00	Presentation 6 Dr Maysoon Awadh “The application of bio-filming and influenced biocorrosion activities by <i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> mysag for bioremediation in marine simulated environment”
17:00-17:15	Presentation 7 Dr. Hafsa Kattatheyil “Biochemical Purification and Characterization of a Cold-Active Lipase: Evaluating Its Role in Biofilm Degradation and Gene Expression”

Conference gala dinner 19:30-22:00 - additional payment is required

Day 2 (5 November)

Theme: Aquaculture and fisheries

Chair: Dr. Sachinandan Dutta

Time	Activity
8:00-8:30	Registration
8:30-8:55	Keynote presentation Dr. Dawood Al-Yahyai "Aquaculture in Oman: past, present and future"
8:55-9:10	Presentation 1: Dr Victor Rosas "Biofloc meal inclusion in pacific shrimp diet as a mean to increase resistance in oligoaline waters"
9:10-9:25	Presentation 2 Dr. Said Al-Abri "Design and implementation of an intelligent system for real-time fish biomass estimation"
9:25-9:40	Presentation 3 Ms. Shahad Humaid "Assessing Policy Impacts on Fish Stock Dynamics for Sustainable Management in Oman"
9:40-9:55	Presentation 4 Ms. Njoud AL Hattali "Assessment of Stock Status of Six Commercial Tuna Species in the Sultanate of Oman"
9:55-10:10	Presentation 5 Dr. Antoine LeDuc Uncovering offshore coral reefs and a refuge habitat for the endangered bowmouth guitar fish (<i>Rhina ancylostoma</i>) on Al Batinah seamounts, Oman

Coffee break 10:10-10:25

Theme Aquaculture/Micro- and macro-algae

Chair Dr. Khalid Al-Subhi

Time	Activity
10:25-10:40	Presentation 6. Ms. Amanpreet Behl "Site-Specific Differences in Heavy Metal Accumulation in Black-Spot Snapper in the Arabian Gulf"
10:40-10:55	Presentation 7. Ms. Moaheda Eissa "Application of Nanotechnology in Aqua Feed Production Using Some Insects and Their Products"
10:55-11:20	Keynote presentation Prof. Roberto Abdala "Marine Algae as a Source of Bioactive Compounds with Antitumor,

	Antioxidant, and Immunomodulatory Potential"
11:20-11:35	Presentation 1 Dr. Majid "Diverse inorganic carbon uptake strategies in seaweeds of Oman sea: a powerful tool in algal biotechnology"
11:35-11:50	Presentation 2 Ms Ayesha Ali "Indigenous Microalgae Species for Phycoremediation of Textile Effluent"
11:50-12:05	Presentation 3 Dr. Igor "Identifying latent risks to aquaculture in the Gulf region: microalgae as a double-edged sword"
12:05-12:20	Presentation 4 Dr. Nadia Kettell "Inter-seasonal phytoplankton dynamics in the UAE coastal waters"
Lunch 12:20-13:20	
Theme Algae and marine bioactive compounds Chair Dr. Nader Al Abri	
Time	Activity
13:20-13:35	Presentation 5 Mr. Abdulwahab "Nutrient Dynamics and Harmful Algal Blooms Near Barka Desalination Plant, Sea of Oman"
13:35-13:50	Presentation 6 Prof. Abdolmajid "Stochastic machine learning models for red tide risk prediction in the coastal ecosystem of Qeshm island"
13:50-14:15	Keynote presentation Prof. Siva "Marine Pigments as Sustainable Bioresources: Biotechnological Advances for a Greener Bioeconomy"
14:15-14:30	Presentation 1 Ms. Aya MAALLOUL "Ulvan Polysaccharides from Ulva spp. Exhibit Wound Healing and Anticancer Properties In Vitro"
14:30-14:45	Presentation 2 Ms. Sadaf Shirani "Using the mangrove (Avicennia marina) herbal ointment for treating subclinical mastitis in cows"
14:45-15:00	Presentation 3 Ms. Shika Hanif "Malformin A1 disrupts key oncogenic signaling pathways in cisplatin-sensitive and resistant ovarian cancer cell lines"
15:00-15:15	Presentation 4 Prof. Amani "Therapeutic potential of spirulina"

platensis microalgae in managing diabetes-induced metabolic and organ dysfunction in rats”

Coffee break 15:15-15:30

Theme Marine bioactive compounds

Chair Dr. Gerd Bruss

Time	Activity
15:30-15:45	Presentation 5 Dr. Mehdi Tabarsa “Smart Extraction and Tailored Degradation of Fucoindans: Unlocking Immunostimulatory and Antioxidant Power for Marine Biotech”
15:45-16:00	Presentation 6 Dr. Umaima “A prospective study on the biodegradation of petroleum hydrocarbons mediated by selected marine bacterial isolates”
16:00 – 16:15	Presentation 7 Prof. Fuad Ameen “Biodegradation of engine oil by mangrove sediment fungi from Red Sea Coast of Saudi Arabia”
16:15-16:30	Closing remarks and awards

City Tour excursion 17:00-21:00 free for all