

## BrisJAMS National Science Week 2019 ISME Report

Thanks to support from the ISME Ambassador Program, the Brisbane Joint Academic Microbiology Seminars (BrisJAMS) hosted their first National Science Week event on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019. Brisbane JAMS is organised by a small group of ECRs with the aim to bring together microbiologists from the wider Brisbane (QLD, Australia) area to celebrate the diversity of microbiological research. After brainstorming a number of ideas, the BrisJAMS organising committee decided on an evening showcasing the fascinating world of microbes (and the diversity of careers in microbiology), through the eyes of the scientists that study them. We invited five high profile local microbiologists employed within academia, industry, and by the local state government, to give a short presentation on their career and their research highlights, followed by an open Q & A session. In total, 43 delegates attended the event (13 more than we anticipated), including undergraduate and postgraduate students, and early and mid-career researchers. The support provided by ISME underpinned the success of our event, enabling us to help cover the costs of travelling to the event for our panellists, secure equipment for presentations, and to provide finger food to facilitate networking between attendees and speakers, pre- and post-event. The ISME logo was included on all advertising material, and we were able to advertise the ISME18 meeting, ISME Journal and ISME society membership on the night. The student ambassador for the Australian Society for Microbiology also attended, to further engage the local Brisbane microbiology community, and to present on another upcoming local meeting: Microbes in Moreton Bay. Overall, feedback on the night was overwhelmingly positive, with our panellists and audience members all enjoying the more relaxed and informal style of the meeting.

Quotes from our attendees:

“Excellent meeting with a great cross-section of speakers and experiences!”

“It was great to see some non-academia career options”

“What an excellent opportunity to meet some of the people you hear about but never get a chance to talk to personally”

“Meeting people in different fields has given me a better insight into where I want my future career in to be headed. There was a good mix of industry, academia and public focused microbiology careers.”



Delegates networking at the start of the first BrisJAMS National Science Week event, August 2019.



Dr Amy Jennison from Queensland Health tells BrisJAMS about her career in infectious diseases within a Public Health Microbiology laboratory.



Dr Patrick Harris describes his career pathway as a clinical microbiologist within academia.



Dr Paul Storer describes his career as a soil microbiologist in industry and his work stimulating beneficial microbes with volcanic minerals.



Dr Alena Pribyl tells delegates about her transition from academic research to industry, from marine biology to the human gut microbiome.



Prof Paul Young describes his journey down a viral rabbit hole.