

MEEHubs26 – A hub-based conference Microbial Ecology and Evolution

3rd-5th August 2026, Zurich



The Hönggerberg campus of ETH Zurich was home to the Swiss hub of MEEHubs26, a hub-based conference focusing on microbial ecology and evolution. MEEHubs is a hybrid conference, blending in-person and online activities across hubs to mitigate travel-related constraints, while providing the benefits of direct in-person interactions. MEEHubs26 hosted 711 participants across seven in-person hubs (Manchester, UK; Montreal, Canada; Irvine, USA; Ann Arbor, USA; Morelia, Mexico; Chernihiv, Ukraine) and online participants.

The MEEHubs26 Zurich hub hosted 60 participants, who presented their latest research across the three days of the conference, focusing on bacterial interactions, pathogen dynamics and antibiotic resistance. The conference was highly successful, both on a global scale, as well as a local one, with attendees expressing an overwhelmingly positive feedback and showing interest in the organization of future editions. Interactions between hubs were frequent and included not only science-related questions, but also social activities such as a microbiology-based quiz. Local participants, mostly Ph.D. students and early-career researchers, enjoyed the quality of the science from all hubs, as well as the hub-based format which allowed them to interact directly with all people present. Networking was facilitated by a friendly atmosphere and the organization of both a welcome aperitif, as well as a conference dinner.

The organizers would like to thank sincerely the sponsors of the Zurich hub: NCCR Microbiomes, the Swiss Society of Microbiology and Roche, as well as those involved in the support of this event.

The organizing committee,

Anna Weiss, Martin Sperfeld, Samuel Miravet-Verde, Marco Gabrielli