



Press Release

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Marine Fungi – Talented source of new drugs from the sea? Kiel welcomes the world's leading marine fungal natural product experts

28 June 2017/Kiel. Fungi from marine environments are emerging as excellent theme for cutting edge research and many applications. The world's top marine fungal natural product experts gather at the 2nd International Conference of Marine Fungal Natural Products (MaFNaP_2017) in Kiel, Germany to exchange their most exciting research results. Another major aim is to foster strong international collaborations for more intensive and innovative research to unlock the real capacity of marine fungi. The conference is organized by GEOMAR Centre for Marine Biotechnology (GEOMAR-Biotech) as part of the MaFNaP Consortium. Scientists from 13 different countries, including Canada, Australia and China are participating.

Fungi have played an important role in both ancient and modern biotechnology. Not only products such as the blockbuster antibiotics (e.g. penicillin) or anticancer drugs, alcohols, enzymes, organic acids, also processes such as baking or brewing use fungi. More recently the attention has shifted to fungi from marine environments as excellent theme for cutting edge research and endless applications.

Leading international experts on marine fungi research and their chemical constituents meet at the 2nd International Conference of Marine Natural Fungal Products, which takes place from 27-29 June at the Wissenschaftszentrum in Kiel, Germany. Organized by GEOMAR-Biotech, the integral part of the Research Unit Marine Natural Products Chemistry of GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research, the conference focuses on various aspects of marine fungal research, such as biodiversity, cultivability, chemodiversity, genetics and genomics, microbe-microbe interactions, epigenetics, ecology, analytics and metabolomics, as well as the applied topics such as biotechnology and biodiscovery.

The conference stems from the initiative of the MaFNaP Consortium aiming for more systematic research on marine fungi worldwide. Established in 2014, the first inaugural MaFNaP conference was held in 2015 and hosted by the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Nantes (France). Now, the 2nd MaFNaP conference in Kiel hosted by GEOMAR-Biotech aims to promote intensively the scientific exchange initiated in the inaugural conference in Nantes.

“Marine fungi are rising as a great treasure in the forefront of blue biotechnology. They have already played a historical role in medicine. With ever increasing technology and knowledge we have today, they will reshape medicine, agriculture and many other areas critical for human health and life standard. GEOMAR-Biotech is committed to perform world-class research on marine fungi and evaluate their contemporary commercial applications”, says Prof. Dr. Deniz Tasdemir, the organizer of the conference.

“I am delighted to welcome a great scientific community here in Kiel and showcase our capacity and state-of-the-art research activity on marine fungi to the most prominent experts in the field”, Prof. Tasdemir continues. “I expect that the conference will strongly fuel future research collaborations and joint funding applications. It will also evoke interest and networking among young, next generation scientists”.

Links:

www.geomar.de GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel

www.geomarbiotech.de GEOMAR Centre for Marine Biotechnology

Images:

Images are available for download at www.geomar.de/n5289-e

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