

Special Issue

Molecular Genetics of Finfish and Shellfish Microbiota

Message from the Guest Editors

Molecular genetic technologies for studying host–microorganism interactions have provided a wealth of information about the roles of microorganisms in animal physiology and development. The microbiomes of the finfish and shellfish have only recently been the focus of these studies, they are an important group for understanding host–microbiota interactions from ecological, evolutionary and genetic perspectives. Understanding the relationships between finfish and shellfish hosts and their resident microbial communities as well as the interactions within the microbial community provides insight into important biological characteristics ranging from development to systems biology. Their microbiomes are shaped by the hosts' environments and the microenvironments provided by the hosts, e.g., the gastrointestinal tract and gills. In addition, colonization by members possessing new genetic characteristics can alter the community structure to either the benefit or detriment of the host. This Special Issue will focus on the molecular genetic factors that shape the microbiomes of finfish and shellfish and how those factors affect the host.

Guest Editors

Dr. Harold J. Schreier

Department of Marine Biotechnology, Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, and Department of Biological Sciences, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD, USA

Dr. Eric J. Schott

Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Studies, Baltimore, MD, USA

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Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
genes@mdpi.com

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Genes is central to our understanding of biology, and modern advances such as genomics and genome editing have maintained genetics as a vibrant, diverse and fast-moving 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. Why not consider *Genes* for your next genetics paper?

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Selvarangan Ponnazhagan
Department of Pathology, The University of Alabama at Birmingham,
1825 University Blvd, SHEL 814, Birmingham, AL 35294-2182, USA

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