Special Issue

Developmental Biology in Cyanobacteria

Message from the Guest Editors

Filamentous, heterocyst-forming cyanobacteria constitute a genuine example of bacterial multicellularity. During cell division, the resulting daughter cells do not separate as in unicellular bacteria, but they remain bound by an unsplit outer membrane, which determines the presence of a continuous shared periplasm, and by proteinaceous structures—Septal juntions—that in addition to adhesion provide conduits for intercellular exchange of metabolites and regulatory molecules. Additionally, these cyanobacteria can undertake different developmental paths in response to diverse environmental cues. One of them is the differentiation of some cells of the filament into heterocysts, cells specialized in the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, that takes place under conditions of nitrogen scarcity. This Special Issue of *Life* includes review and original research articles dealing with the complexity of heterocyst-forming cyanobacteria, gene expression regulation during heterocyst differentiation, heterocyst patterning and intercellular communication.

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Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (30 September 2018)

Life

an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Impact Factor 3.4
CiteScore 6.0
Indexed in PubMed

mdpi.com/si/15186

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Life (ISSN 2075-1729) is an international, peer-reviewed open access journal that publishes scientific studies related to fundamental themes in life sciences. Some papers are published individually, while others are submitted for inclusion in special issues with guest editors. You are invited to contribute a research article, essay, or a review to be considered for publication.

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