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GORDON AND BETTY  
**MOORE**  
FOUNDATION

## Joint CIFAR–GBMF Workshops in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution

As part of a newly announced [joint venture](#), the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (GBMF) are collaborating to organize two workshops over the 2015–2017 period under the broad theme of marine microbial ecology and evolution and related disciplines. Through these workshops, the goals of the collaboration are to:

1. Enable discussions about exciting new discoveries in marine microbial ecology and evolution;
2. Foster dialogue on the conceptual, analytical, and methodological barriers that currently hinder progress for this multi-disciplinary field; and
3. Inspire new ideas and approaches for marine microbial ecology by discussing potentially relevant concepts and technologies from other fields.

CIFAR and the Marine Microbiology Initiative (MMI) at GBMF invite workshop ideas that aim to shed novel light on the roles, evolution, and ecology of marine microbial communities. We are especially interested in creative workshop proposals that increase the permeability of ideas between disciplines, including disciplines that have not traditionally interfaced with the field of marine microbial ecology. Each workshop would bring together about 30 outstanding researchers from around the globe. We expect participants to include CIFAR fellows and affiliates, MMI-supported researchers, and other experts. Outstanding trainees will also be welcome to participate.

### Selection Procedure

We are inviting CIFAR fellows and associates and GBMF-supported researchers to submit ½-page proposals for one or two of these workshops. (If submitting a proposal for a series of two workshops, the meetings should build on particular themes.) Although a CIFAR fellow/associate or GBMF-supported researcher must spearhead the proposal, we strongly encourage collaborative, multi-disciplinary teams to work together, including—but not requiring—across the CIFAR and GBMF communities. Proposals should address i) the area of focus of the workshop and a brief rationale for its importance, novelty of perspective, timeliness, and expected outcomes; ii) the leadership and proposed organizing committee and their expertise; iii) possible timeframes and venues (city or region).

Proposals are due **Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2015** and should be emailed to [mmeeworkshop@cifar.ca](mailto:mmeeworkshop@cifar.ca).

A three-person advisory committee consisting of Ursula Goodenough (Washington University), Andrew Lang (Memorial University), and Ian Joint (Marine Biological Association) will advise CIFAR and MMI on the prioritization of the proposals. We will announce decisions in early spring, 2015.

## Organization and Support

Authors of the successful proposals will act as the lead workshop organizers and shape the intellectual content and overall workshop structure. Workshop organizers will also be responsible for identifying the appropriate group of 30 participants in consultation with CIFAR and GBMF.

GBMF is supporting CIFAR to cover all workshops costs, including reimbursing participants for travel expenses as per the CIFAR travel policy. CIFAR will provide on-ground support, including organization of the venue, catering, and accommodations, while participants will be expected to make their own travel arrangements prior to reimbursement. CIFAR will also support a workshop reporter to produce an approximately 10-page summary of the workshop.

The workshop organizers are required to provide CIFAR and MMI with a brief (no more than 5 page) summary of the workshop.

For further information about CIFAR, please visit ([www.cifar.ca](http://www.cifar.ca)) and for further information about MMI, please visit (<http://www.moore.org/programs/science/marine-microbiology-initiative>).

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do workshop proposals need to align with the current focus areas, goals, and/or strategies of CIFAR and/or MMI?  
*No. We are looking broadly across the field of marine microbial ecology and related disciplines.*
2. Do workshop proposals need to focus on marine ecosystems versus other environments?  
*Workshop proposals do not need to focus exclusively on marine ecosystems but should provide insight into microbial processes in the sea. We thus encourage broad cross-disciplinary conceptualization of the workshops.*
3. Do I need to be a current GBMF-supported research or CIFAR fellow or associate to lead a workshop proposal submission?  
*Yes.*
4. Do co-submitters need to be current GBMF-supported researchers or CIFAR fellows or associates?  
*No. We encourage proposal teams to include those not currently affiliated with CIFAR or GBMF.*
5. May I submit more than one workshop proposal?  
*An individual may lead the submission of only one workshop proposal and may be a co-submitter on as many other proposals as desired.*
6. How many researchers can be on a team submitting a workshop proposal?  
*There is no limit to the number of researchers on a submission.*
7. Do I need to work at a Canadian or U.S. institution to lead or co-lead a submission?  
*No.*
8. What are the qualifications for individuals submitting a workshop proposal?  
*Individuals submitting a proposal must be have a principal investigator / group leader (or equivalent) employment status. Individuals may be employed by academic, private, or government entities.*
9. Will my workshop proposal be treated in strict confidence?  
*Yes. CIFAR, GBMF, and the advisory committee will maintain strict confidence so that the intellectual property of the proposers will be protected.*
10. Whom may I contact for further information?  
*Please direct any additional inquiries to either Lara O'Donnell ([lara.odonnell@cifar.ca](mailto:lara.odonnell@cifar.ca)) or Jon Kaye ([jon.kaye@moore.org](mailto:jon.kaye@moore.org)).*