

**Darwin Celebration Year 2009**  
**Symposium on Microbial Genome Dynamics and Evolution**  
**Oslo, May 7-8, 2009**

**Final program:**

**Thursday May 7th**

Coffee and registration from 10.00

Moderator: *Anne-Brit Kolstø*.

- kl. 10.30      **Welcome by Anne-Brit Kolstø**, University of Oslo, Norway  
Introduction by **Nils Christian Stenseth**, University of Oslo, Norway.  
*“Micro-organisms and evolutionary biology”*
- kl. 10.50      **Frederick Cohan**, University of Wesleyan, CT, USA.  
*“The origin of bacterial species”*
- kl. 11.50      **Nils-Kåre Birkeland**, University of Bergen, Norway.  
*“The genome of Thermosiphon africanus: lateral genetic connections to Firmicutes and Archaea”*
- kl. 12.30      **Henning Sørum**, Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Oslo, Norway.  
*“Transition of marine cold- and salt-loving vibrios to furious fish pathogens”*
- kl. 13.10      Lunch
- kl. 14.00      **Mark Achtman**, University College Cork, Ireland.  
*“Population genetics and evolutionary patterns in genetically monomorphic pathogens”*
- kl. 15.00      **Nicolas J. Tourasse and Ole Andreas Økstad**, University of Oslo, Norway.  
*“Genome dynamics in the Bacillus cereus group of bacteria: introns and repeats”*
- kl. 15.50      Coffee
- kl. 16.10      **Leiv Sigve Håvarstein**, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Ås, Norway.  
*“Natural genetic transformation in streptococci: lateral gene transfer by a predatory mechanism”*
- kl. 16.50      **Tone Tønjum**, University of Oslo and Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway.  
*“Meningococcal genome dynamics”*
- kl. 17.30      **Kaare M. Nielsen**, University of Tromsø, Norway.  
*“Interspecies gene transfer and introgression in bacteria”*
- kl. 18.10      **Kirsten Skarstad**, The Norwegian Radium Hospital, Oslo, Norway.  
*“Initiation of bacterial chromosome replication: evolutionary conservation of mechanism but not regulation”*
- kl. 19.00      DINNER

## Friday May 8th

Coffee from 8.30

- kl. 9.00        **Xavier Didelot**, University of Warwick, Coventry, UK.  
                  *"Inferring patterns of recombination in bacteria using multilocus sequence data"*
- kl. 10.00      **Kjetill S. Jakobsen**, University of Oslo, Norway.  
                  *"Evolutionary genomics of secondary metabolites in cyanobacteria: a key to bacterial population processes?"*
- kl. 10.40      **Sergey B. Zotchev**, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway.  
                  *"Evolution of secondary metabolite biosynthesis in actinobacteria: insights from genetics and biochemistry"*
- kl. 11.10      Lunch
- kl. 11.40      **Magnar Bjørås**, University of Oslo and Rikshospitalet, Oslo, Norway.  
                  *"Small regulatory peptides in the SOS response"*
- kl. 12.20      **Steinar Johansen**, University of Tromsø, Norway.  
                  *"Structural and functional diversity of group I introns in eukaryotic microbes"*
- kl. 13.00      **Kamran Shalchian-Tabrizi**, University of Oslo, Norway.  
                  *"Plastid organelles and genomes - origins and evolution"*
- kl. 13.45 – 14.30 DISCUSSION. Moderator: **Mike Koomey**, University of Oslo, Norway.