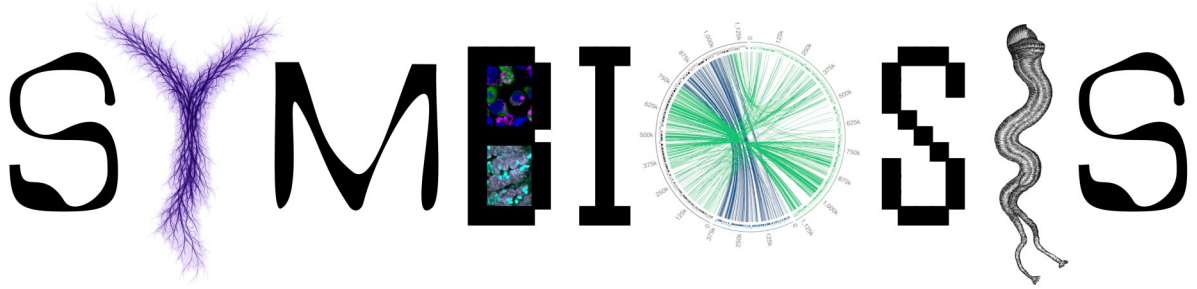


Let's talk about



April 20, 2026

Lecture Hall 2 @UBB, University of Vienna

Program

13:15 – 13:20 **Opening words**

Session 1: Keynote

Chair: Jillian Petersen

13:20 – 14:00 **Keynote speaker: Edward (Ned) Ruby**
Diverse and specific targeting of host-cell compartments by a bacterial symbiont's small RNAs

14:00 – 14:15 **Discussion**

Session 2: Marine symbioses and aquatic systems

Chair: Christina Straub

14:15 – 14:30 **Marie Rutsch**
Nitrifying symbionts in marine sponges: Diversity, host-filtering and environmental gradients

14:30 – 14:45 **Bettina Glasl**
Assimilation of branched-chain amino acids by ammonia-oxidizing archaeal symbionts of marine sponges

14:45 – 15:00 **Sarah Förster**
Insights into the Rare Biosphere of *Ianthella basta*

15:00 – 15:15 **Christopher Pree**
Opening the Black Box of *Caulerpa* Symbiosis: First Insights and Methodological Challenges

15:15 – 15:45 **Coffee Break**

Session 3: Symbiont evolution, host interactions, and microbial diversity

Chair: Alejandro Manzano-Marín

- 15:45 – 16:00 **Lukas Leibrecht**
Flexibility, fidelity, specificity – what now? New insights into the lucinid symbiosis in Guadeloupe
- 16:00 – 16:15 **Alejandro Llanos-Lizcano**
Transposable Elements and Gene Duplication Drive Genome Expansion in Chemosynthetic Lucinid Bivalves
- 16:15 – 16:30 **Sophia Ferchiou**
Let's Talk About Epigenetics: Patterns across lucinid clams and their symbionts
- 16:30 – 16:45 **Lukas Helmlinger**
The adaptations of environmental chlamydiae to social amoebae
- 16:45 – 17:00 **Hannah Sperk**
ParB is a central organizer of cell polarity in an oral symbiont
- 17:00 – 17:15 **Elina Koivisto**
Influent passengers: hidden *Spiroplasma* symbiosis with neotropical *Drosophila* hosts
- 17:15 – 17:30 **Léa Caruana**
Hunting for Novel Energy Parasites in Global Metagenomic Data
- 17:30 – 17:45 **Qi Qi**
Linking Microbial Interactions to Carbon Cycling in the Tibetan Alpine Meadow
- 17:45 – 19:00 **Social Event @UBB Cafeteria (hUBB)! → 😊**

Adjacent event

April 21, 17:00 Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften
Johannessaal Dr. Ignaz Seipel-Platz 2, 1010 Wien

Margaret McFall-Ngai

The Invisible Force Revealed: Developing New Ways to Study the Microbial World Surrounding Us

