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EBNet Travel Bursary Support  
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(TB202410)



# International Symposium on Microbial Ecology (ISME19) 18-23 August 2024, Cape Town, South Africa

## Increased hydrogen production from *E. coli* and their use within biocoatings

Kathleen Dunbar

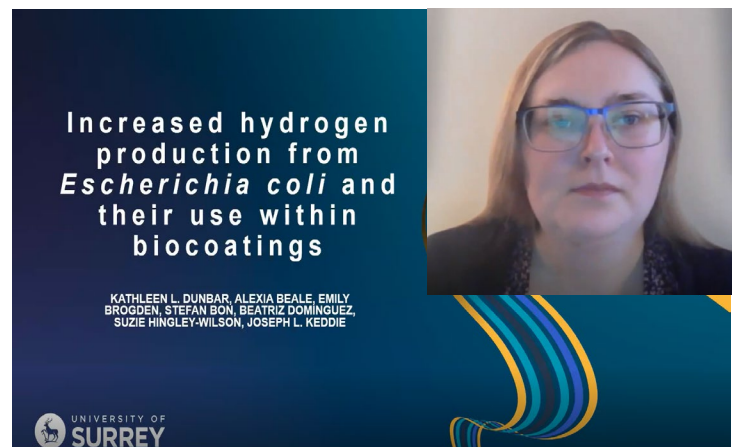
Thanks to the support of EBNet, in August I was able to attend ISME19 in Cape Town, South Africa.

This international conference on microbial ecology was the first international conference that I have attended, and I was fortunate enough to have been selected to present a short presentation during the 'Axes of microbial ecology and climate change: progress and priorities' session.

My research is about using *Escherichia coli* to produce hydrogen and their use within biocoatings, which you can think of as a 'living paint'.

The conference was a great opportunity to introduce my research to a wider global community (many of whom had never heard of biocoatings) and I was honoured when biocoatings were actually mentioned in the introduction to the session by the session chair.

Thank you to EBNet for giving me the opportunity to attend ISME19. Attending the conference has enabled me to improve my presentation skills, expand my academic network and has already opened doors for new collaborations.



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*'As I come towards the end of my PhD, the conference also was a great opportunity to learn about an academic career. As an Early Career Researcher, we were assigned mentors for the week who we met on the first day. My mentor was actually Michael Manefield, who had presented the keynote speech at the EBNet ECR Conference in 2023. It was great to catch up and discuss my work with him, especially the progress I had made since I presented at EBNet in Edinburgh. Having Michael as a mentor was great because I was able to discuss different career options with him and the best options for publishing my work.'*

### [Microbial Production of Hydrogen](#)

By: Kathleen L. Dunbar, Suzanne Hingley-Wilson and Joseph L. Keddie. In: Johnson Matthey Technology Review, Volume 67, Issue 4, Oct 2023, p. 402 – 413