

## MEMBER STORIES

### TRAVEL GRANT AWARDEES - JSMC MEETS THE WORLD: TIM AT THE CANDIDA AND CANDIDIASIS IN BERLIN

Text and Photos by Tim Schille

In October, I had the great opportunity to attend the Candida and Candidiasis 2025 conference, organized by the Microbiology Society in Berlin. This meeting covered a wide range of topics related to Candida physiology, epidemiology, colonization, immune responses, infection, and therapeutics. Researchers from



around the world presented their latest findings, with a special focus on the achievements of early-career scientists. The conference aimed to promote diversity, encourage interdisciplinary exchange, and foster collaborations across the Candida research community.

I was thrilled that my abstract was selected for an oral presentation, giving me the chance to share the results of my PhD project with an experienced and engaged audience. The constructive feedback I received was both encouraging and inspiring. In addition, the poster sessions and informal discussions during breaks offered many opportunities for stimulating conversations, broadening my scientific perspective and opening the door to potential collaborations.



Coinciding with the conference, Berlin hosted the annual Festival of Lights – a wonderful occasion to explore the city's landmarks beautifully illuminated after the day's scientific program.

I sincerely thank the JSMC for supporting my participation through a travel grant, which made it possible for me to attend this exciting and inspiring event.



## JOIN THE JSMC NEWSLETTER TEAM!

Some of our members are leaving the JSMC so there's open positions. If you enjoy reading the newsletter, we would love it if you considered joining us!

- Collect **fun stories** from the JSMC community
- Gather **highlights** and **cool lab moments**
- Shape the newsletter **layout and visual style**
- **No previous experience** required

E-mail us [here!](#)



## JSMC GRADUATES - A PHD JOURNEY

### HARIKUMAR SUMA

#### UNDERSTANDING POLYMICROBIAL INTERACTIONS ON STRUCTURED SURFACES



#### How did the JSMC help you during your PhD?

When I came to Germany in 2020, it was during the pandemic, and JSMC (especially Katja Präfckel!) really helped me settle in Jena. Once I began my PhD, the JSMC



provided support in finding and offering me various graduate courses and other training opportunities. At the same time, I was able to establish and integrate into Jena's research community, thereby building collaborations with other researchers within the JSMC. Being part of JSMC encouraged me to attend international conferences like EMBO and MiCom, further strengthening my interpersonal and communication skills. I truly believe JSMC is an excellent platform for researchers coming to Jena to establish themselves, become part of a community, and grow as scientists.

#### What are your next steps?

I have accepted a postdoctoral position in the Department of Bioengineering at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) in Copenhagen, and will be moving there early next year.

#### Any words of wisdom for your fellow JSMC doctoral students?

"Here it is, valeat quantum. Do not undertake a scientific career in quest of fame or money. Your reward will be the widening of the horizon as you climb. And if you achieve that reward, you will ask no other."

— Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin

## JSMC SOCIAL EVENTS

### COME POTTERY PAINTING WITH US!

**When?** November 28th from 6-8 pm

#### How can I join?

registration link coming soon

(only 6 spots available)



### VISIT TO THE CHRISTMAS MARKET

**When?** December 12th at 5 pm

#### How can I join?

registration link coming soon

(or just come by!)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 21, 2 PM, LECTURE HALL ERBERTSTRASSE 1  
**ECRE SEMINAR**

NOVEMBER 24, 5 PM, VIA ZOOM, LOGIN DETAILS VIA MAIL

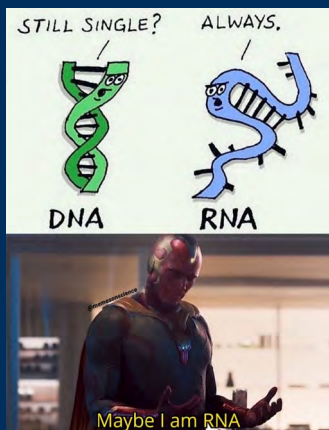
**GOOD SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE  
MODULE: USING AI IN SCIENCE**  
DR. ILONA LIPP

NOVEMBER 26, 12 - 6 PM  
CENTER FOR APPLIED RESEARCH (ZAF)

**LIFE SYMPOSIUM**  
DR. DANIA ROSE-SPERLING

More information on all events  
in the [JSMC EVENT CALENDAR](#)

## MEME OF THE MONTH



Do you also have  
**meme-worthy content** to share?

Send it to us [here!](#)

## ECRE SEMINARS 2026

JANUARY 23 (1 PM)

JUNE 19 (1 PM)

FEBRUARY 20 (1 PM)

SEPTEMBER 18 (1 PM)

MARCH 20 (1 PM)

OCTOBER 23 (1 PM)

APRIL 17 (1 PM)

NOVEMBER 20 (1 PM)

MAY 22 (1 PM)



## NEW LINK TO THE [JSMC CLOUD FOLDER](#)

It contains recent news,  
information on mental  
health services, PhD training,  
postdoc career program,  
grants, etc.



Regular updates to come!



## BE PART OF THE NEWSLETTER!

WE WANT TO  
KNOW ABOUT

- Your publications
- Awards and prizes
- Your graduations
- Your research stays abroad
- Anything fun happening in our JSMC labs

E-mail us [here!](#)

