

15th International Rotifer Symposium
Crossing disciplinary borders in rotifer research
2nd Circular
June 3-9, 2018
University of Texas at El Paso



**INTERNATIONAL
ROTIFER XV**

S Y M P O S I U M

Since 1976, an International Rotifer Symposium has taken place every three years, providing a unique opportunity for researchers, students, and other rotifer enthusiasts from around the globe to gather together for scientific exchange and friendship. The International Rotifer Symposium is the largest scientific forum that provides an up-to-date perspective on all aspects of rotifer biology.

- Those interested in attending the 15th IRS are encouraged to contact rotifer15@gmail.com so that we can send you future circulars.

ABOUT UTEP & EL PASO: Located on the culturally vibrant US-Mexico border, the University of Texas at El Paso is a national research university with more than 24,000 students. The University's rapidly growing research portfolio includes science, engineering and health, and brings in more than \$83 million per year. El Paso is a bicultural community of 800,000 people, and the safest large city within the United States. The city is adjacent to the state of New Mexico and the country of Mexico, making it the nation's leading area for cultural diversity and border health research. El Paso is the sixth largest city in Texas and 19th largest city in the US. The 9,700 ha Franklin Mountains State Park, the largest urban park in the United States, lies entirely within the city of El Paso. The Rio Grande River flows through the Rio Grande Rift. This river defines the border between El Paso and Ciudad Juárez to the south and west until it turns north of the border with Mexico, separating El Paso from New Mexico.

CLIMATE: Shielded by mountains on three sides, El Paso experiences >300 days of sunshine annually. The city's elevation is 1,200 m (3,800 ft), with North Franklin Mountain being the highest peak in the city at 2,192 m (7,192 ft). Temperatures in June can be warm (>35°C; 90-100°F) and there is the chance of occasional rain as the summer monsoon season begins.

SYMPOSIUM SITE & ACCOMMODATION: The conference will be held on the campus of the University of Texas at El Paso. Accommodation costs depend on single or double occupancy and range

from \$25 (UTEP dormitories) to \$140 US dollars per person per night. The most convenient accommodation is the [Hilton Garden Inn El Paso University](#), located at the entrance to campus. Accommodation costs depend on single or double occupancy and range from \$95 to \$140 US Dollars plus tax per person, per night (book early for cheapest rates).

INTERNET: Available in conference rooms and on campus.

FOOD: Continental and traditional Mexican dishes are available for breakfast, lunch and dinner at \$10 to 20 US Dollars (alcoholic beverages not included) per person. Less expensive options are available at the University cafeteria, food outlets, and local restaurants (including American, Thai, Middle Eastern); coffee/tea houses and grocery stores are within walking distance of campus.

CURRENCY: The US Dollar is the official currency. Places such as the El Paso Airport provide money exchange facilities for international visitors. On 22 August 2017, the current exchange rate (per US Dollar) for widely used currencies was as follows:

| | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 0.789 British Pound | 110.3 Japanese Yen | 0.89 Euro |
| 6.80 Chinese Yuan | 64.39 Indian Rupee | 18.17 Mexican Peso |

REACHING EL PASO: El Paso International Airport is approximately 6 miles (10 km) from the UTEP campus. Shuttle information will be provided in the 3rd circular. Most airlines from Canada, Europe, Mexico, and Central and South American countries have regular flights to El Paso. For those who would prefer to drive to El Paso, information will be available in the 3rd circular.

ELECTRICITY: Domestic supply is 110 volts. Those who would like to use laptop computers are advised to bring appropriate adaptors. Electrical adaptors are also available locally.

INVITATION LETTERS: Letter of invitation can be provided; please request one when you register for the Symposium.

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO US: If necessary, please go to the following link to review information on how to obtain a Tourist Visa to the USA:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/visit.html>

VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL TO MEXICO: Travelers from most countries (e.g., USA, Canada, Japan, USA, and European Union Member States) do not need a visa to enter Mexico. Also, persons holding a valid US visa can travel to Mexico without an additional Mexican Visa. However, we advise that you check visa requirements yourself, before you travel.

SESSION THEMES WITH INVITED REVIEW TOPICS:

- 1. Biogeography – dispersal in space and time, phylogeography, biodiversity patterns**
Invited review: Status of rotifer biodiversity: past, present, and future - Diego Fontaneto
- 2. Long-term ecological studies – decadal or more – pending**
- 3. Experimental ecology and evolution**
Invited review: Invertebrate predators on rotifer – S. Nandini
- 4. Genomic approaches at any level**
Invited reviews: Genome size evolution - Claus-Peter Stelzer; Comparative genomics of monogonont rotifers - Jae-Song Lee
- 5. Theme: Evolutionary biology**
Invited review: Age-related gene expression and maternal effects - Kristin Gribble
- 6. Theme: Examining the border between acanthocephalans and rotifers**
Invited review: Highly specialized rotifers: The inner and outer morphology of endoparasitic Acanthocephala - Holger Herlyn
- 7. Theme: Applied research**
*Invited reviews: Using non-brachionid rotifers in larviculture - Atsushi Hagiwara
Bioconcentration of toxicants in rotifers - Roberto Rico-Martinez*

KEYNOTE CONTRIBUTIONS: Topics of these special contributions will be given in the 3rd circular.

WORKSHOPS: Up to three two-hour workshops are planned. Your suggestions for these are welcome. Also, we are considering holding a workshop on Laser Micro-dissection, and establishing a working group to correct misidentifications of rotifer on the internet.

IMAGE CONTEST: Following the success of the contest in the Czech Republic, an image contest will be organized during the poster sessions. You will be able to upload your images onto the website anonymously, no more than 5 images per participant. A vote of participants will determine the winners of the contest, and these will be announced at the closing dinner event.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE: The official language of the conference is English. All manuscripts submitted for potential publication, and all posters and oral presentations, must also be in English.

REGISTRATION COSTS: COSTS ARE IN US DOLLARS

| CATEGORY | EARLY REGISTRATION SEPT 30, 2017 | REGULAR REGISTRATION JAN 31, 2017 |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| REGULAR | \$425 | \$500 |
| STUDENT: US | \$375 | \$450 |
| STUDENT: INTERNATIONAL *SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE | \$250* | |
| ON-SITE (during event): | --- | \$575 |
| ACCOMPANYING PERSON(S) | \$150 | \$225 (ON-SITE:\$400) |

Information on daily cultural events, mid-conference excursion, post-conference tours, and local sightseeing for accompanying person will be given in the 3rd Circular.

DEADLINES: *Information on payment of registration fees and abstract submission will be given in the 3rd Circular. (NB: all banking charges must be paid by the participant.)*

- Early registration opens: 30 September 2017
- Regular registration opens: 31 January 2018
- Registration closes: 13 May 2018
- Submission of abstracts closes: 31 January 2018
- Notification of abstract acceptance: 3 March 2018
- Submission of manuscript: no later than 15 July 2018

ABSTRACTS: Abstracts (≤300 words) may be submitted via the website until 31 January 2018. Please use the 'Word Count' function in Word to check the length of your abstract before submission. Abstracts will be reviewed prior to acceptance; notification of acceptance will be made by 3 March 2018. *Limited to one presentation per person.*

ORAL CONTRIBUTIONS: Speakers should provide their presentation file on a USB memory - flash drive. Presentations should be compatible with MS PowerPoint, Apple, or PDF; please ensure that your USB drive is virus free. Your presentation will be loaded onto the conference computer before your session and will be removed afterwards. A projector and laptop/computer will be provided for presentations. It will not be possible to use your own computer.

POSTER FLASH TALKS: Posters will be introduced at the beginning of each poster session by a 2-minute flash talk of no more than 2 slides. (Presentations must be compatible with MS PowerPoint, Apple, or PDF; please ensure that your USB drive is virus free).

POSTER PRINTING: Posters can be printed on-site for ~\$35 US Dollars. Please send them to the organizers in PDF form at an appropriate resolution. Organizers are not responsible for the quality and resolution of posters created from electronic files provided by authors. You may print your poster at registration. Size limits and additional information will be given in the 3rd circular.

PROCEEDINGS: The proceedings of the conference will be published as a special issue of *Hydrobiologia*, following the editorial policies of the journal. The main aim of the journal is to publish high quality papers, with significant novelty, and that are relevant to a wide and international scientific audience.

FULL TEXT OF THE MANUSCRIPT: Deadline for submission July 15, 2018 (*without exception*)

LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

Liz Walsh (UTEP, USA)
Carl Lieb (UTEP, USA)

Judith V. Rios Arana (UACJ, Mexico)
Robert L. Wallace (Ripon, USA)

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE: * denotes Editorial Committee, which will also include Diego Fontaneto (Associate Editor of *Hydrobiologia*)

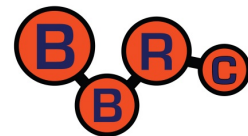
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CORRESPONDENCE: For conference correspondence, please use rotifer15@gmail.com

WEBSITE: <http://www.utep.edu/science/rotiferaXVI/>

SPONSORS:



Questions?

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