



Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics

BISMiS-Goodfellow Prize



The BISMiS-Goodfellow Prize is established in honour of Professor Michael Goodfellow, a founding member of the Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics (BISMiS) and a distinguished figure in prokaryotic systematics. His research not only advanced our understanding of microbial diversity but also inspired generations of scientists dedicated to exploring the microbial world.

His meticulous research led to the discovery and classification of numerous novel species, enriching scientific knowledge and setting new standards for microbial taxonomy. His contributions to Bergey's Manual of Systematic Bacteriology further solidified his influence, providing foundational knowledge for researchers worldwide. His legacy is also immortalized in the genus *Goodfellowiella* and the species *Nocardia goodfellowii*, *Pseudoleptotrichia goodfellowii*, and *Salinispora goodfellowii*—a lasting tribute to his profound impact on the field.

Professor Goodfellow's legacy extends far beyond his scientific achievements. He was a dedicated mentor who guided students and colleagues with exceptional generosity and insight. His influence reached well beyond the laboratory, nurturing a spirit of collaboration and scientific excellence that continues to thrive within the BISMiS community and beyond. Many of his former students and colleagues have gone on to make significant contributions to microbial taxonomy, carrying forward his vision of scientific discovery and integrity.

Outside of academia, Professor Goodfellow was committed to education more broadly, serving as Chair of Governors at a local school for nearly 40 years. He was also an enthusiastic Liverpool FC fan and an avid walker; his favourite places were the Lake District and the Scottish highlands. Above all, though, it was Professor Goodfellow's family who were central to his life.

The BISMiS-Goodfellow Prize serves as a tribute to his extraordinary contributions to prokaryotic systematics and his lasting impact on the field. This biennial award recognizes researchers who have demonstrated significant advancements in prokaryotic systematics, reflecting the spirit of discovery and scientific excellence that defined Professor Goodfellow's life. Through this prize, BISMiS honours his legacy and inspires future generations. The spirit of innovation, mentorship, and scientific integrity that characterized Professor Goodfellow's career will continue to inspire and guide the field for many years to come.

Introduction

The BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize is established in honour of the late Professor Michael Goodfellow, a founding member of the Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics (BISMIS), Chair of Bergey's Manual Trust, and distinguished figure in prokaryotic systematics.

This prize recognizes and celebrates outstanding contributions to prokaryotic systematics made by early-career researchers who have demonstrated excellence and innovation in the field.

By awarding this prize, BISMIS seeks to preserve Professor Michael Goodfellow's legacy and inspire future generations in microbial taxonomy.

The prize is administered by Bergey's International Society for Microbial Systematics (BISMIS) on behalf of Bergey's Manual Trust.

Objectives of the BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize

1. Honour the Legacy of Professor Michael Goodfellow – Commemorate his contributions to prokaryotic systematics and his mentorship of early career researchers.
2. Recognize Excellence in Prokaryotic Systematics – Acknowledge individuals whose research has significantly advanced the field.
3. Inspire and Support Future Researchers – Provide a platform for awardees to share their research and vision, fostering the next generation of researchers in prokaryotic systematics.



Eligibility Criteria

1. An individual cannot be awarded the BISMis-Goodfellow Prize more than once.
2. The nominator must be a full or lifetime member of BISMis.
3. A nominee must be an early-career researcher either conducting doctoral studies or within five years of obtaining their doctoral degree in prokaryotic systematics and has demonstrated significant contributions to prokaryotic systematics.
4. The awardee must attend the upcoming BISMis meeting, where they will receive the prize and deliver a lecture.

Nomination Process

1. Submission of Nomination – Nomination key dates will be announced before an upcoming BISMis meeting. Nominators must be full or lifetime BISMis members and submit a completed nomination form. Self-nominations are not allowed.
2. Review and Evaluation – The *ad hoc* BISMis-Goodfellow Prize Committee will review all eligible nominations. Nominations will be assessed based on research innovation, scientific contributions, and impact on the field of prokaryotic systematics.

Award Process

1. *Ad Hoc* BISMis-Goodfellow Prize Committee – Composed of five senior figures in prokaryotic systematics appointed by the BISMis Executive Board. The Committee will review nominations and make a final decision. Members of the Committee cannot be nominators of candidates currently under consideration and must recuse themselves in other cases of conflicts of interest.
2. Decision-Making – The final decision will be made by a majority vote of the committee.



Award Presentation and Lecture

1. Award Presentation – The award would be presented at the biennial BISMIS meeting in a dedicated session within the conference program.
2. Prize Lecture – The awardee will deliver a lecture on their research, sharing insights with the BISMIS community. This lecture will be presented both at the biennial BISMIS meeting and as part of a BISMIS Live session.

Funding and Logistics

A USD 2,500 prize will be awarded to support BISMIS meeting registration fee, travel expenses and accommodation.

Conclusion

The BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize Lecture serves as a meaningful tribute to Professor Michael Goodfellow's legacy while reinforcing BISMIS's and Bergey's Manual Trust commitment to excellence and innovation in prokaryotic systematics. By recognizing and supporting early-career researchers, this award will continue to inspire and cultivate future leaders in the field.



Funding Source and Sustainability of the BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize

The BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize is designed as a lasting tribute to the legacy of Professor Michael Goodfellow, recognizing and celebrating excellence in prokaryotic systematics. To ensure the longevity and impact of this award, the prize fund will rely on public donations, institutional contributions, and strategic financial management to maintain its sustainability.

1. Public Contributions and Institutional Support

The primary funding source for the BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize will be public donations from individuals, academic institutions, scientific societies, and corporate sponsors who share a commitment to advancing prokaryotic systematics. We invite contributions from:

- a. Colleagues, former students, collaborators and friends of Professor Michael Goodfellow who wish to honour his lasting impact on the field.
- b. Academic and research institutions that recognize the importance of acknowledging early-career researchers in prokaryotic systematics.
- c. Scientific societies and organizations with aligned missions in microbiology and taxonomy.
- d. Philanthropic donors and corporate sponsors with interests in microbial sciences, biodiversity, and systematics research.

These contributions will ensure that the BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize continues to reward outstanding researchers and inspire new generations in the field. Donors will be acknowledged on the BISMIS website and in relevant announcements, demonstrating their commitment to supporting excellence in microbial systematics.

2. Fund Management and Financial Oversight

To guarantee accountability and transparency, all contributions to the prize fund will be deposited into a dedicated BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize Fund Account, which will be:

- a. Managed by the Treasurer of BISMIS on behalf of Bergey's Manual Trust following the society's financial policies.
- b. Audited annually alongside the BISMIS financial accounts to ensure proper fund allocation and oversight.
- c. Reported to BISMIS members, with a summary of fund utilization included in the financial statement.



By integrating the prize fund within the broader financial framework of BISMIS and Bergey's Manual Trust, we ensure that donations are responsibly managed and used exclusively for their intended purpose.

3. Ensuring Long-Term Sustainability

While donations will provide the primary funding source, BISMIS aims to strategically manage the fund to ensure its long-term viability. Where possible, the fund will be invested in low-risk financial instruments or savings accounts that generate:

1. Interest to sustain the award over time.
2. Revenue and dividends to extend the fund's longevity.

These efforts will maximize the impact of each contribution, helping to sustain the award beyond its initial funding cycle.

4. Award Disbursement and Future Planning

The BISMIS-Goodfellow Prize will be awarded at the BISMIS meetings, with each awardee receiving USD 2,500 in support of their professional development. This amount is designed to cover travel costs and participation in the BISMIS meeting, ensuring that recipients can share their work with the global scientific community.

Recognizing fluctuations in currency and the rising cost of living, the award amount will be periodically reviewed by the BISMIS Treasurer on behalf of Bergey's Manual Trust. Changes to the amount awarded will be subjected to approval by the BISMIS Executive Board.

The fund will continue to support the award until the available resources are fully utilized. However, BISMIS remains committed to securing additional funding to ensure the prize can be sustained indefinitely. Potential strategies include:

- a. Establishing an endowment fund to maintain the award in perpetuity.
- b. Seeking corporate sponsorships to supplement public donations.



By combining responsible fund management with proactive fundraising efforts, the BISMis-Goodfellow Prize will remain a prestigious and enduring recognition of excellence in prokaryotic systematics.

Support the BISMis-Goodfellow Prize

We invite friends, members of the scientific community and organizations committed to microbial taxonomy to contribute to this meaningful initiative. Your support will directly impact the careers of emerging researchers and help sustain this tribute to Professor Michael Goodfellow's remarkable legacy.

Donations to support the BISMis-Goodfellow Prize may be made via bank transfer or PayPal.

Information for sending wires from the United States:

- o Receiving Bank: Synovus
- o Receiving Bank ABA/Routing Number: 061100606
- o Bank Address: 1148 Broadway, Columbus GA 31901
- o Beneficiary Name: BISMis Goodfellow Memorial Fund
- o Beneficiary Account Number: 01020526735

Information for sending wires from outside the United States (for US dollars, for other currencies contact bismis.net@gmail.com):

- o Receiving Bank: Synovus
- o Receiving Bank SWIFT BIC: FICOUS44
- o Bank Address: 800 Shades Creek Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama 35209
- o ABA Routing Number: 061100606
- o Beneficiary Name: BISMis Goodfellow Memorial Fund
- o Beneficiary Account Number: 01020526735

For transfer via PayPal:

<https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/G2M9SSCPNYQ36>





Nomination Form for the BISMiS-Goodfellow Prize

Details of the Nominator

Full Name:	
Title:	
Affiliation:	
Correspondence email:	
ORCID:	

**Nominators must be full or lifetime BISMiS members. Each member may nominate only one nominee. The nominator must not be a member of the BISMiS-Goodfellow Prize Committee.*

Details of the Nomination

The nomination should include a recommendation letter of no more than 500 words describing the nominee's outstanding contributions to prokaryotic systematics and the following information.

Full Name of nominee:	
Current affiliation:	
Doctoral details (if applicable)	Thesis title: Doctoral awarding institution: Doctoral awarding year:
Correspondence email:	
ORCID:	
Significant publications in prokaryotic systematics ¹ (Article title, year of publication, journal name, doi)	

¹No more than three of the most significant publications or preprints demonstrating the outstanding contributions to prokaryotic systematics should be included. The nominee must be the first or corresponding author in these publications or preprints. Publications or preprints must be provided.