

The Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology is sponsoring a Fermentation Webinar

Wednesday, April 29, 2020

1:00 – 2:00 pm



Nir Keren

Dept. of Environmental Plant Physiology
The Hebrew University in Jerusalem

“Photosynthetic life in extreme environments: How desert sand crust cyanobacteria survive hydration/desiccation cycles”

Meeting link:

<https://huji.zoom.us/j/99223176723?pwd=Y3I3YS9iN3IxVCTlL3p3R2oxaDZpZz09>

Meeting ID: 992 2317 6723

Password: 029447

Summary: High light and dehydration are a combination of stress conditions that is relevant to all terrestrial photosynthetic organisms, in both natural and manmade habitats. However, among photosynthetic organisms there is only a small group that can effectively counteract these stresses. These microorganisms make their home in some of the harshest, most fluctuating, terrestrial environments; including deserts, intertidal zones and exposed rock surfaces. In my talk I will focus on the adaptation of the photosynthetic apparatus to these conditions.

Bio: Nir Keren is a Professor of Environmental Plant Physiology at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem since 2005. His research group deals with the interaction of photosynthetic organisms with natural environmental conditions. His lab is currently working on two aspects of this problem; the transport, storage and assembly of transition metals into photosynthetic catalysts, and elucidating biophysical principles of energy and electron transport in biological systems.



Nir studied for his Ph.D. under the supervision of Prof. Itzhak Ohad in the Hebrew University (graduated in 2000). He then continued for a postdoctoral position in the laboratory of Prof. Himadri Pakrasi in Washington University in Saint Louis. Up until a few weeks ago he was enjoying a short Sabbatical in the Department of Marine and Coastal Sciences. Now he's back home....