

# Symposium 6

---

## **Biofilms and microphytobenthos: community composition, physiology, functional aspects, interactions with bacteria**

### **Conveners**

Peter Kroth, Angela Wulff

### **Key-note speakers**

Michael Kühl, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Nicole Poulsen, University of Dresden, Germany

### **Symposium description**

The microphytobenthos as well as photoautotrophic biofilms consist of unicellular eukaryotic algae and cyanobacteria together with heterotrophic bacteria and fungi and are located within the upper several millimeters of illuminated sediments or on submersed substrata. The organisms typically are surrounded or living in a layer of extracellular polymeric substances (EPS), consisting of mostly carbohydrates. These highly interesting layers represent a zone of intense microbial and geochemical activity. Contributions on the communities found in the microphytobenthos/biofilms and their respective interactions, but also on functional aspects and the physiology of the inhabitants, are highly welcome.

