

## Environmental Research, Technology Demonstration and Conference Project

<b>ECF Project:</b>	ECF 2018-06
<b>Project Title:</b>	Gordon Research Conference on Marine Molecular Ecology – Novel Insights into Marine Patterns and Processes
<b>Principal Investigator:</b>	Dr Zeng Qinglu, Division of Life Science, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
<b>Total Approved Grant:</b>	\$455,420 or 70% of the total actual expenditure, whichever would be the less
<b>Duration:</b>	1/3/2019 to 31/12/2019 The conference was held from 14/7/2019 to 19/7/2019
<b>Project Status/Remarks:</b>	Completed
<b>Project Scope:</b>	The purpose of this project was to organise and run the 4th Marine Molecular Ecology Gordon Research Conference at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. This conference was characterised by its breadth of topics, study organisms and spatial scales of ecological processes. Sessions were linked by the application of molecular approaches to understand marine ecological processes, such as biodiversity conservation, symbiosis, competition, larval dispersal, responses to global environmental change, and nutrient cycling. Rapid technological developments were taking place in several areas relevant to marine molecular ecology, including -omics tools, bioinformatics and advanced microscopy, providing new opportunities for understanding life in the sea. Many marine organisms could not be studied in any great detail prior to these recent technological developments. The latest findings in nine specialist areas within the field of marine molecular ecology would be presented by both established leaders in the field as well as early career researchers.
<b>Summary of the Findings/Outcomes:</b>	The Marine Molecular Ecology Gordon Research Conference was successfully held from July 14 to July 19 2019 at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. A total of 163 researchers from local universities, government sectors, and also overseas institutions attended this Conference and shared their recent scientific discoveries on marine molecular ecology. The Conference covered many topics, including eDNA in the marine environment, disease and immunology, epigenetics, microbial interactions in the ocean, novel methods in marine molecular ecology, marine viruses, dispersal and larval biology, climate change mitigation on coral reefs, and chemical ecology. The Conference also held poster sections and several social events so that attendees had more time to interact with each other. The Conference greatly enhanced the international visibility of local scientists and facilitated future collaborations.