



May 3, 2017

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are delighted you will be joining us for SyngBio 2017. It promises to be a highly interesting and productive week in Tampa, with a wonderful array of syngnathid people coming from far and wide.

This email includes information for arrival, registration, housing, program, workshop/field trip registration, and other information to prepare you for the meeting. We will also be updating the website with this information. For packing, know that temperatures in May in Tampa can be quite warm, between 21-32 C (70-89 F), but meeting spaces will be quite air conditioned.

1. **Address for immigration forms.** You will be staying at McKay Hall, 401 West Kennedy Blvd, The University of Tampa, Tampa FL 33606, in the specific rooms that you will find on the attached excel spreadsheet (unless you have booked housing separately). If you still need housing in the area, we still have rooms, so please let us know.
2. **Information for nametags.** Please check the attached spreadsheet and notify us if there are any errors in your "Preferred name on badge", "Country", or "Affiliation" so that we can be sure your nametags are correct.
3. **Getting to campus.** The University of Tampa is only 7 miles (14.3 kms) from the Tampa Airport (TPA), with both Uber and taxis available to transport you to campus (Address: 401 West Kennedy Blvd, Tampa FL 33606). The cost should be about \$28 USD (including a 15% tip) for a taxi and \$12 USD for an Uber or Lyft and you can pay with either cash or credit card (but ask the driver on pickup about credit options). If arriving from Orlando, the airport is 86 miles (140 kms) from campus, but public transit is poor on that route. There are buses that can get you close (<http://www.thefloridaexpressbus.com/>, \$120 USD) but very few options we would recommend.
4. **Housing for the meeting** will be in McKay Hall (Building # 20 on the attached map), with room numbers and roommate information in the attached spreadsheet (but keep in mind that room numbers may shift based on the University and rooms they may take offline after our term ends this coming weekend). We will have meeting staff on call in the McKay Community Room (#20) for room check in from 10am to 4pm on Sunday 14 May, and after 4pm you can pick up your keys at the Sunday registration desk (see below). If you plan to (or do!) arrive after 9 pm on Sunday or on Saturday the 13th, please contact Emily Rose ([erose@ut.edu](mailto:erose@ut.edu); (347) 524-2291) or Heather Masonjones ([hmasonjones@ut.edu](mailto:hmasonjones@ut.edu); (813) 787-6703) to coordinate access to keys to your room and your registration materials. We will be staying on campus those nights (and throughout the meeting) to help with these types of issues.

5. **Local resources.** The nearest ATM/bank machine is in the Vaughn Center, ground floor (building #44 on map), and if that one is closed, there is another just south of campus (Wells Fargo, 214 S HYDE PARK AVE, TAMPA, FL, 33606; 0.3 miles (550m) south of campus with S. Hyde Park Ave indicated on UT map). The nearest café is at Oxford Exchange (420 W Kennedy Blvd, Tampa, FL 33602) directly across Kennedy Blvd from the Vaughn Center (#44 on map), in addition to many restaurants/ cafés to the east of campus directly across the river along Ashley Drive and North Tampa Street (reach by walking across either the Cass Street or Kennedy Boulevard bridges). The campus itself is quite safe at all hours with actively patrolling security personnel, as are most areas to the east and just south of campus. Areas directly north and northwest of campus are less secure, and I would recommend not walking in these areas at night.
6. **Registration. You can register** on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> from 4-9pm in the Grand Salon (#51 on the attached map), Plant Hall, University of Tampa (see attached campus map), or on Monday morning May 15<sup>th</sup> from 8-9 am in the Vaughn Center, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor (#40 on map, registration desk in Presidents Conference Room from Monday 8am through Thursday morning at 8:30am).
7. **Sunday evening, 14 May.** You will be on your own for dinner your first evening, with a range of options available at <https://syngbio.squarespace.com/visitor/> (see the bottom of the page for restaurants). We will have our opening reception on Sunday Evening from 7-9 in the Grand Salon (#51 on the attached map), Plant Hall, University of Tampa (see attached campus map) which will have light refreshments.
8. **Recreation.** Unfortunately the pool will be closed for renovation during the meeting as will the gym. However, we are fortunate to be just off of the Tampa Riverwalk (<http://www.thetampariverwalk.com/plan-your-day.aspx>), offering a safe and well-lit path that winds through the city for walking and running. The path can be reached by crossing either the Cass Street or Kennedy Blvd. bridges and runs along the east side of the Hillsborough River.
9. **Meeting events.** Please see the attached schedule for the overall structure of the meeting, talks and events. If you see an error or have a concern, please contact SyngBio team at [syngbio2017@ut.edu](mailto:syngbio2017@ut.edu).
10. **Presentation details and deadlines.**
  - a. Posters should be no larger than 92 by 122 cm (36 x48 in, horizontal) and will be displayed for the entire meeting.
  - b. Powerpoint **presentations will be collected during the check-in process** so please bring your \*.pptx files on a flash drive when you check-in so that we can have presentations ready and tested for any issues. Use the following format in naming your file "LastNameFirstInitial.DayofPresentation.pptx". Standard talks must NOT exceed 12 minutes and lightning talks must NOT exceed 5 minutes. Regretfully, we need to insist that you wrap up at those time limits, in fairness to other speakers and the audience. We really are serious about this, so plan accordingly.
11. **Meeting T-shirts.** If you did not purchase a t-shirt in advance, we will have some for sale (\$12 USD) at the meeting at the registration desk.
12. **Field trips and Workshops.** The attached spreadsheet shows participants and their field trips and workshops. Let us know of any errors, changes, or additions at [syngbio2017@ut.edu](mailto:syngbio2017@ut.edu) (keeping in mind that the BioBlitz field trip and Husbandry/Aquaculture workshop are full).

Some field trips have early start times (Birding, BioBlitz), so please plan accordingly. We are afraid that we cannot wait for stragglers.

For the two field trips that depart early (Birding, BioBlitz), we will have a continental breakfast available for participants in the McKay Community Room (building 20) from 6:30-7:00am where you can also pick up lunch. All other meeting participants can have breakfast in the cafeteria (Ultimate Dining, Building 44).

For field trip participants ONLY, we will be providing boxed lunches to expedite the day. We will offer Turkey, Ham, Vegetable, or Cheese sandwiches in lunches with chips/crisps and fruit. If you have a strong preference/requirement, please let us know asap at [syngbio2017@ut.edu](mailto:syngbio2017@ut.edu). Otherwise, you can just take your chances.

Trips departing at 08h35 on Wed May 17<sup>th</sup>.

- a. **Mote Marine Lab** – This field trip will depart from the front of the Vaughn Center Building promptly at **8:45am** on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> to travel by van to Mote (60-minute drive). Good walking shoes are recommended, in addition to sunscreen, water bottle, and a sunhat (some of the exhibits are outside). **Boxed lunches will be available from your field trip leaders when you meet the van at the Vaughn Center (Alana Boyles and Emily Craft)**
- b. **The Florida Aquarium** – This field trip will depart from the front of the Vaughn Center Building promptly at **8:00am** (time has **CHANGED** since original email) on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> to travel by van to the Florida Aquarium. Good walking shoes are recommended, in addition to sunscreen, water bottle, and a sunhat (some of the exhibits are outside). **Boxed lunches will be available from your field trip leaders when you meet the van at the Vaughn Center (Katie-Lynn Roberts and Emily Williams).**

Trips departing at 07h on Wed May 17<sup>th</sup> (to match biological rhythms)

- c. **Birding for Spring Migration at a local hotspot for both resident and migrant birds** – This field trip will depart from the front of the Vaughn Center Building promptly at **7am** on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> to travel by van to Ft. DeSoto. Binoculars are highly recommended, in addition to good walking shoes, water bottle, bug spray, sunscreen and a sunhat. Some of the habitats may be wet in Ft. DeSoto, so plan accordingly for footwear. If you have a specific Florida bird you would like to see, let us know! **You will need to eat a continental breakfast and collect your boxed lunch in the McKay Community Room (Building 20).**
- d. **BioBlitz out of UT Marine Lab** – This field trip will depart from the front of the Vaughn Center Building promptly at 7:00 am on Wednesday May 17<sup>th</sup> to travel by van to the UT Marine lab (15-minute drive). **You will need to eat a continental breakfast and collect your boxed lunch in the McKay Community Room (Building 20).**

**For the BioBlitz excursion only**, we will be conducting a rapid assessment protocol developed by the Masonjones-Rose Lab. **We will all be in the shallow water (mean depth 3.5 ft/1 m) for about 2 hours**, either (i) walking while using push nets or seines, or (ii) swimming/snorkeling (if you wish and bring your own snorkel gear). It will not be possible to stay on the small boats that transport us to/from the study site. We will have a range of

wetsuit sizes on hand for those who might be chilly in the water (usually around 78°F/26°C).  
You will need to bring:

- i. Footwear (e.g. dive booties, old sneakers, water shoes) that can get wet and mucky, have good soles, and are enclosed to protect feet from oysters.
- ii. Swimsuit or clothes that can get wet and mucky.
- iii. A change of clothes for afterward, with towel
- iv. Sunhat, sunscreen, water bottle
- v. Snorkel gear (optional)

Thank you so much for your participation and contributions. We heartily look forward to seeing you very soon. Let us know how else we can help. Travel safely.

Warmest good wishes,

Your SyngBio Planning Team