

# Highlights 2017

## Focus on Cable Bacteria

From being completely unknown until 2012, the cable bacteria got their own research center on 15 October 2017, when Center for Electromicrobiology started up. The massive attention is the result of the fundamental biological questions this unique form of life raises. The filamentous, centimeter-long cable bacteria use electric current for a peculiar form of respiration, where electrons are sent from one end to the other through built-in electrical wires. In this way, the cable bacteria thrive in the sea floor and in other oxygen-free environments just as long as one end is in contact with oxygen.

## Inauguration

Right from the beginning, the Center for Electromicrobiology was met with great interest, and the inauguration on 1 December, 2017 brought together 100 participants for an exciting and enjoyable day with both academic, historical and inspiring speeches by university officials and leading local and international scientists. Many current and potential associates attended together with curious colleagues and friends.



## CEM Retreat

Center for Electromicrobiology will study three large and closely linked mysteries about cable bacteria. How the unbelievably effective biological wires work, how metabolism looks like when it is divided among thousands of electrically linked cells, and why cable bacteria affect so many other micro-organisms and processes around them. This requires many different areas of specialization, and the purpose of the first retreat in December 2017 was to learn from each other about the many useful methods and concepts. More than 30 participants came from Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany who were all involved in the

Center's work - students, laboratory technicians, as well as members of the academic staff. The retreat ended with extensive discussions of project plans, priorities and needs for further clarification of the concept, method development and synergies.

