Abstract: The Red Sea provides the opportunity to investigate marine prokaryotes in a very unique setting. High average temperatures year around, only limited water mixing with the Indian Ocean, nearly no freshwater import from streams and rivers (thus no import of organic and inorganic nutrients), and constant high solar radiation are some of the factors that rendered the Red Sea highly saline and nutrient-poor. In my laboratory, we are interested in how microbes adapted to these conditions. By combining novel culturing techniques and molecular methods to investigate non-culturable bacteria (flow cytometry and single-cell genomics, metagenomics, metatranscriptomics), we want to analyze structure and function of different groups of marine prokaryotes. Currently, we are working on three different topics in the Red Sea: Epipelagic waters in the Red Sea, deep-sea brine pools and intestinal microbiota of surgeonfishes. In this presentation, I will provide an overview on the status of our current projects and briefly cover possibilities for all academic levels to work at KAUST.

Biosketch: Prof. Ulrich Stingl is a microbial ecologist in the Biological and Environmental Sciences and Engineering Division at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), Saudi Arabia. Prof. Stingl obtained his PhD in Biology from the University of Konstanz, Germany, followed by postdoctoral training at Oregon State University, USA. There, Prof. Stingl worked on novel cultivation techniques as well as the physiology and genomics of oligotrophic marine bacteria. Before joining KAUST in 2009, he served as a senior scientist at Synthetic Genomic Inc. in La Jolla, California where he carried out research in the cultivation, physiology, and genomics of biofuel-producing bacteria.

Date    Thursday, 19 March 2015
Time    12:00pm – 1:00pm
Room    Queensland Bioscience Precinct, small seminar room (Bldg 80 - 3.146)

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