



The plan is based on a [tweet-storm](#) posted last year after #ASMicrobe2018, but modifications have been made based on the specifics of Microbe 2019 and recommendations from others.

1) IDENTIFY THE SINGLETONS

Use twitter and word of mouth and direct people to the Google Forms we've created to identify Singletons (<https://forms.gle/Xq5ev4RQNnehk5Zx6>) for ASM Microbe 2019.

2) BIN THE SINGLETONS

Using the data provided by the Singletons, we will bin Singletons together with a mentor. The mentors will be as active as they would like to be in this process. The numbers are going to depend on how many respondents we get and how many people a mentor is willing to take on.

My guess is a lot will take 3-4, but many will be more comfortable with 1-2. The information provided by both sets of parties will help with the matching.

Singletons get an email with resources for the meeting, including recommendations of people to follow on twitter, pre-meeting prep guides (perhaps including such nuggets as how to follow along with live-tweeting of talks, the etiquette of talk-hopping, etc.), and both Singletons and mentors will receive a code of conduct.

Everyone gets a #binning_singletons badge ribbon and a #microbial_imposter badge sticker.

3) HOW TO MEETING

The mentors arrange to meet up with the Singletons, perhaps as early as the Opening Session (5 PM, 6/20), but this will be up to each mentor to figure out.

One idea for those who will be there is to have the mentor take the Singletons with them to meet up for dinner or drinks with a group of colleagues. This could also be a natural place where several mentors will be in the same place because they have common networks. Mentors are asked to keep in mind when selecting a venue that Singletons are less likely than their peers to have as much disposable funds and may not be reimbursed quickly upon their return from the conference.

The first full day of the conference (6/21), the binned Singletons and mentor will meet up and stick together. Since they've been binned by track, they will likely find many of the same sessions interesting, and they will learn the value of sessions that didn't interest them on paper but are fascinating once they're in the room. The mentor might take them through the posters. We'll also provide a list of posters presented by fellow Singletons. All along the way, there will be interactions with the many people the mentor already knows, and their students/post-docs/collaborators, expanding the pool of resources for the Singletons. The mentor can discuss the value of speaking with vendors, and when to find time in one's schedule to work that in.

While this all sounds very prescriptive, it doesn't have to be restrictive, and each mentor will do things differently. Singletons need not necessarily follow the mentor around everywhere, but waypoints should be set up for meeting up later if people want to attend different sessions/posters/fireside chats/career talks.

4) QUORUM SENSING

The evening of the first day, all the mentors and the Singletons meet up at Happy Hour in the Exhibit and Poster hall from 4-5 at the QIAGEN booth. Some people have posters and talks at this time so we will support them as well. After Happy Hour, we head over to a Singletons and Mentors Mixer from 5:30-8. Snacks and refreshments will be provided. We will not be providing

alcohol. The location is 1015 Howard St., just 0.5 miles down the street from the Moscone Center.

By now they've spent a day together. Mentors can help match their Singletons up with other mentors they should meet. The Singletons will also self-sort, possibly with a little help in the way of stickers that display one's interests in terms of field, skillset, and career (for example, I might have 3 stickers: #MicrobialEcology, #MolecularBiology, #Government), but much of this can be accomplished with the ASM badge and buttons. This way the Singletons could find their way to their proper OTU.

5) CRUSH THE MEETING LIKE A PRO

On day two, the Singletons have come a long way. They know their way around the building. They know their way around the vendors. They've met a lot of people, some of whom they were intimidated by and turned out to be pretty nice. They have a pre-made bin of people they can stick with, or they can run with their newly self-sorted bins, because they now have a large cohort from the mixer the night before. They have people to grab lunch with, to say hello to in passing, the confidence to stop someone that they really admire and ask a question, and someone to go to dinner with in the evening. Now they know how to meeting.

6) FOLLOW UP

Encourage everyone come to the Tweet Up on Saturday, June 22, 4-5 at the POM Track Hub. Now some additional re-sorting can occur, and mentors can check in on their bins. This is also a great way to meet some of the scientists one sees more actively engaging in social media, and to expand networks. Many scientists aren't aware of the potential value of such engagement could bring to their careers and a lot of Singletons will find Twitter to be a great way to engage with other scientists.

After the meeting, we'll send surveys to mentors and Singletons to assess what went well, and what could be improved. We can also use the survey to recruit Singletons to be future mentors, as it will be important to have mentors with different levels of experience and areas of expertise.