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**Mercè Berlanga.** Ph.D. in Microbiology, UB. Professor of Microbiology at the Faculty of Pharmacy and Food Science, UB. Her research has studied the formation of biofilms, mechanisms of antibiotic resistance in nosocomial pathogens and in environmental microorganisms. She has developed several post-doctoral stages in different centres of Germany and the United States. She currently works on the ecophysiology and diversity of complex ecosystems, such as microbial mats (Ebro Delta and La Camargue) and intestinal tract of xylophagus (wood-eating) insects, focusing on the metabolic cooperation among different species and the functional eco-evo of symbiosis.

Mercè will speak on how the book *Origin of the Eukaryotic Cells* represented a change of paradigm in biology. Fifty years later, Lynn Margulis' visionary proposal about the role of symbiosis in eukaryogenesis and evolution is still considered highly remarkable. The endosymbiotic origin of membrane-bound organelles, such as the mitochondrion and the chloroplast, became mainstream science, and it is now well established how their bacterial ancestors had evolved from alphaproteobacteria and cyanobacteria, respectively.

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Partners of the AE-BKH:

