

Martin Polz

Biographical Sketch

Martin Polz is a professor at the Center for Microbiology and Environmental System Science at the University of Vienna where he joined the faculty in 2020. He previously spent over 20 years at the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the Parsons Laboratory for Environmental Science and Engineering where he rose to the rank of full professor. His research interests are focused on the evolution and ecology of microbes with major focus on genomics and population-level processes of environmental and pathogenic bacteria. After obtaining a M.S. degree in Zoology from the University of Vienna, Polz moved to Harvard University for his Ph.D. in Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, after which he joined the faculty at MIT in 1998.

Polz has authored numerous peer reviewed publications, including 9 in *Science*, *Nature* and *Cell*, and has recently edited a book on microbial population genomics. His teaching covers courses on microbial ecology and evolution at both the undergraduate and graduate level. Service activities include membership in the search committee for Dean of Engineering at MIT, the chairing the search committee for Department Head for Civil and Environmental Engineering and for the Director of the Center for Environmental Health Sciences. Polz also served as the chair of the MIT Joint Program in Biological Oceanography and co-chair of the MIT Microbiology program. Polz has also served as editor for *Environmental Microbiology* and *Microbiology and Molecular Biology Reviews* and is on the editorial board of *Microbiome*.

Polz is a Fellow of the American Academy for Microbiology and recipient of the Eli Lilly and the Company Elanco Research Award, the oldest and most prestigious prize awarded by the American Society for Microbiology. At MIT, he received the Frank E. Perkins Award for excellence in graduate advising.