

Max M Häggblom

Max Häggblom is Professor and Chair of Biochemistry and Microbiology at Rutgers University, New Jersey, USA. He earned a Ph.D. in General Microbiology at the University of Helsinki, Finland in 1989 and following a Post-Doctoral appointment at New York University Medical Center joined the faculty at Rutgers University. He joined the Editorial Board of *FEMS Microbiology Ecology* in 1998 and has been an Editor since 2003.



Prof. Häggblom's research interests are in microbial ecology, environmental microbiology and biotechnology, and in the bioexploration, cultivation and characterization of novel microbes. A common theme is the "unusual appetites" of bacteria, whether in the biodegradation and detoxification of new xenobiotic chemicals or natural products, respiration of relatively rare metalloids, or life in the cold. Research projects span from fundamental projects on the physiology, ecology and taxonomy of bacteria involved in biotransformation and biodegradation of natural and anthropogenic chemicals to applied research projects that address the environmental problems facing impacted industrialized sites. He has worked extensively in studying the diverse catabolic activities of microbes mediating biodegradation of anthropogenic pollutants and their natural analogues. The main focus has been on the degradation of halogenated aromatic compounds, and while unraveling underlying novel metabolic pathways also discovering new bacterial species and assessing their *in situ* microbial activity and applications in bioremediation.