Bacteria are the paradigm for unicellular life, yet they also exhibit elaborate coordinated behaviors that often defy unicellularity. Research over the past decade has revealed that a wide range of bacteria can communicate by diverse mechanisms. In most cases these microbial conversations occur through the exchange of diffusible signals, although there are also clear examples of contact-dependent communication. The 5th ASM Conference on Cell-Cell Communication in Bacteria will explore the chemical and physical signaling mechanisms employed by bacteria and the communication networks that lead from these processes.

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