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Dr. Ramon Massana Molera

Special Issue Guest Editor

Limnology & Oceanography

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Dear Dr. Massana Molera,

Thank you for the opportunity to revise our manuscript “Time-series metatranscriptomes reveal conserved patterns between phototrophic and heterotrophic microbes in diverse freshwater systems” for consideration in Limnology & Oceanography’s special issue on microbial metagenomics. The reviewer comments were insightful, and we incorporated many in our revisions. We have included detailed responses to the reviewers’ points below, with our responses marked in red.

A major critique of our manuscript was that we did not sufficiently explore the novelty of our dataset, specifically in regards to the time series aspect. To remedy this, we have performed new analyses focusing on the timing of expression in various functional categories, presented in the new figures 3 and 4, and we have substantially revised the text to incorporate these new results. We now present more of the nuances of this research. Additionally, we have removed all discussion of comparisons between lakes, as we agree with the reviewers that one lake of each type is not a large enough sample size to draw conclusions about differences due to trophic status. Finally, we have clarified our methods in many places, as directed by the reviewer comments.

We thank the reviewers for their work towards improving our manuscript. All co-authors have approved these revisions. Please let us know if any further revisions are required.

Sincerely,

Alexandra Linz