

ISPP- SMS Postharvest Pathology

Report about activities - 2018-2022

Active Postharvest pathology Committee members:

Prof. Samir Droby – Chairperson

Prof. Davide Spadaro – Secretary

ISPP-SMC postharvest pathology committee has been actively involved in organizing an International symposium on a biannual basis since 2013. This symposium has been held in cooperation with ISHS working group on biological control of postharvest diseases.

The following are the activities in which the SMC postharvest pathology committee was involved:

V International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology, Liege Belgium, May 19-24 2019

The V international Symposium on Postharvest Pathology: sustainable approaches to managing postharvest pathogens was held in Liege, Belgium, May 19-24, 2019. The symposium was organized by Postharvest pathology subject matter committee of International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP) and the International Society for Horticultural Sciences (ISHS). The symposium in liege explored a wide-range of advances in postharvest pathology and disease control. The symposium was planned to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, methods, technologies, and ideas among scientists, industry, producers, and retailers in order to develop effective, appropriate, and commercially-viable approaches to postharvest disease management of fruit and vegetables that will help to prevent the loss of vital food resources in all of the vastly different types of production chains and markets

The themes to be included in the symposium are:

- Consumer demand, Food losses and Marketing strategies.
- Postharvest disease management: Conventional control strategies.
- Alternative methods and new advances to control postharvest diseases.
- Innovative technologies related to postharvest pathology.
- Elucidation of host pathogen interactions/Molecular exploration of host-pathogen interactions.
- Microbiota community in postharvest
- Advances and applied research in handling, packaging, transport, and distribution to reduce postharvest losses.

Symposium convener: Prof. Haissam Jijakli, University of Liege, Belgium,

2. VI International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology, Limassol, Cyprus, May 29 – June 2

The symposium was held under the aegis of the ISPP SMC postharvest pathology, ISPP and the Quality of Postharvest Horticulture Commission, ISHS. The symposium brought together 140 postharvest pathology researchers from 30 countries across the globe. In particular, it was encouraging to see many new young scientists and students participating along with the experienced colleagues and exchanging knowledge of postharvest pathology, developing new collaborations, and working towards postharvest innovations.

The theme of the VI international symposium on postharvest pathology was "Innovation and advanced technologies for managing postharvest pathogens" organized by the convener, Nikolaos Tzortzakis of the Cyprus University of Technology. The Scientific program of the symposium during the four days included invited lectures, contributed oral presentations, round table discussion sessions and poster sessions. The sessions were: 1) Management of postharvest – Industry perspective; 2) Detection and monitoring of postharvest pathogens and their toxic metabolites; 3) Interactions of postharvest pathogens with the host and its microbiome; 4) Innovative and sustainable technologies to manage postharvest pathogens; 5) Alternative control strategies – non-residual treatments; 6) Advances in applied research along the supply chain to reduce postharvest losses. Two round table discussions were held. The first was on "Industry perspective and consumer demands – quality vs. safety" moderated by Geoffroy de Chabot (Janssen, PMP), and the second was on "Research directions in postharvest pathology" moderated by Samir Droby (ARO, the Volcani Center).

On the third day of the symposium, the delegates participated in a field tour where they visited archeological sites outside of Limassol, beautiful ancient villages in the mountains and a family owned firm for production of essential oils.

A joint business meeting of the ISPP SMC on postharvest pathology and the ISHS Postharvest Biocontrol working group was held in the last day to discuss future activities and select the location and the host of the 2024 symposium. Kerry Everett (Bioprotection, The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research) will be the convener of the next Postharvest Pathology Symposium, which will be held in conjunction with the International Postharvest Congress to be held in November 2024 in Rotorua, New Zealand.



Participants of the VI International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology, Liege Belgium, May 19-24 2019 (Left) and Samir Droby, ISPP-SMC chair, welcoming the participants



Participants of the VI International Symposium on Postharvest Pathology, Limassol, Cyprus, May 29 – June 2, 2022