

# INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER ON PLANT PATHOLOGY

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News and announcements from all on any aspect of Plant Pathology are invited for the Newsletter. Contributions from the ISPP Executive, Council and Subject Matter Committees, Associated Societies and Supporting Organisations are requested.

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## World Food Preservation Center

The idea that a World Food Preservation Center is needed arose from the argument that there is a food crisis and that insufficient food is being produced.

A leading advocate is Charles Lindsay Wilson.

See: < <http://worldfoodpreservationcenter.com/> >.

## Annual Reviews

It is timely to consider contributing and to reading the volumes in the Annual Review series. See: < <http://www.annualreviews.org> >, where several volumes relevant to plant pathology will be found.

## Bacterial adhesion to plant surfaces

This subject has been introduced several times in the ISPP Newsletter in the context of food-poisoning by *E. coli* and similar organisms. It is covered here because there is new evidence about adhesion of these bacteria to plant surfaces.

Researchers from the James Hutton Institute in Scotland have identified that *E. coli* O157:H7 uses its whip-link flagellae to penetrate the plant cell walls.

The team showed that purified flagella were able to directly interact with lipid molecules found in the membranes of plant cells. *E. coli* bacteria lacking flagella were unable to bind to the plant cells. Once attached, the *E. coli* are able to grow on, and colonize, the surface of the plant. At this point, they can be removed by washing, although the researchers showed that a small number of bacteria are able to invade inside the plant, where they become protected from washing. The group have shown that *E. coli* O157:H7 is able to colonize the roots of both spinach and lettuce.

While outbreaks of vegetable-associated *E. coli* outbreaks are rare in the UK as a result of strict control measures at all stages of the food chain from plough to plate, they do occur, as in 2013 when contaminated watercress entered the food chain resulting in seven people being hospitalized. By understanding the mechanism, the researchers are hoping to find targeted ways to stop the binding, reducing the risk of food contamination.

See: < <http://www.hutton.ac.uk/news> >

## The Diverse World of Fungi

See: < <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/name-fungus> > for a remarkable insight into mycology, naming of fungi and the wonderful variety of shapes and life-cycles among the fungi. Much of this follows the recommended naming of fungi and the attempt to avoid the several names for one organism, which have become major issues in the past few years.

## Review of PestNet

Grahame Jackson and his fellow moderators have had a review done of PestNet by Graham Norton of the University of Queensland. The review can be seen at < [www.pestnet.org](http://www.pestnet.org) > and then click on the heading second from the bottom in the list.

### **14th Mediterranean Phytopathological Union (MPU) Congress**

An event for plant pathologists and mycotoxicologists in the Mediterranean region. The "14th Mediterranean Phytopathological Union (MPU) Congress" will be organized together with the "International Society of Mycotoxicology (ISM) Congress" for the first time in Istanbul between 25-29 August, 2014. We believe that the Joint International Congress will attract top scientists, decision and policy makers, high-tech companies, start-up companies entrepreneurs, researchers and students from all around the region. pesticides and mycotoxins will be covered during the congress. Contaminants of biological and chemical origin alongside climate change and the impact of global warming on plant growth, storage and preservation of agricultural products will be addressed by national and international experts. The purpose of this Joint International Congress is to address global and regional issues related to production processes of agricultural products and to develop solution-based strategies. Professor Dr Dilek Heperkan (Chair).

See: < <http://www.mpu2014.itu.edu.tr/> >.

### **Lignin 2014 conference**

This conference in August 24-28, 2014 in Umeå, Sweden aims to strengthen our knowledge of the various aspects of lignin. It will gather researchers working with both biological and technological aspects of lignin. Twenty one persons working with both biological and technological aspects of lignin. They are Peter Axegård, Wout Boerjan, Clint Chapple, Richard Dixon, Carl Douglas, Niko Geldner, Hans Grundberg, Claire Halpin, Lise Jouanin, Catherine Lapierre, Martin Lersch, Norman Lewis, Art Ragauskas, John Ralph, Lacey Samuels, Lacey Samuels, Teemu Teeri, Simo Sarkanen, Noritsugu Terashima, Gerald A. Tuskan, Wilfred Vermerris  
See: < <http://www.trippus.se/web/presentation/web.aspx?> > for further information and registration.

### **Acknowledgements**

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