Hot topics

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Participants

Pre-registered: 1430
Countries represented: 84
Top Ten: 1. Italy (151) 2. USA (143) 3. UK (96) 4. Australia (92) 5. Japan (72) 6. China (67) 7. Spain (66) 8. France (57) 9. Germany (52) 10. The Netherlands (40)

Fellowships

Thanks to the generosity of several agencies (Fondazione CRT, Compagnia di San Paolo, NATO, ...) 126 fellowships have been awarded. Awardees belong to the following countries: Argentina, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Bangladesh, Iran, Serbia, Benin, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Bielorussia, Kenya, Syria, Brasil, Morocco, Thailand, Camerun, Nigeria, Turkey, China, Pakistan, Venezuela, Egypt, Peru, Vietnam, Jordan, Philippines, India, Portugal.

The Rectorate of the University of Torino

The Rectorate, seat of the University of Turin, was designed in 1713 by Michelangelo Garove, architect of the Savoy dukedom, in classical Baroque style. Adapting the design to the trapezoidal lot, the architect constructed a building entirely devoted to studies which central core is a double balcony court decorated with statues by Ignazio and Filippo Collino.

Technical sponsors/1

Intesa San Paolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is a banking group resulting from the merger between Banca Intesa and Sanpaolo IMI. It has leadership in the Italian market and a strong international presence focussed on Central-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean basin.

Birra Menabrea

Founded in Biella, today Birra Menabrea, under the guidance of the fourth descendant of the founding family, produces around 100 thousand hectolitres, of which a small but increasing part is exported to around 20 countries throughout the world. Special labels for bottles (on sale) were designed by Birra Menabrea especially for the Congress.

What's up

Welcome cocktail offered by Coldiretti.

Coldiretti is the main agricultural organization in Italy and amongst the first ones at European level. With over 568,000 farms associated, it represents a social force that values agriculture as an economic, human and environmental resource. Its regional branch - Coldiretti Piemonte – will contribute to the hosting of the ICPP 2008 Welcome cocktail providing delegates a unique chance to sample the local gastronomic delights and some of Italy’s most distinctive wines, one of Piedmont’s major prides.
The Lingotto Conference Centre is a great modern structure designed specially for conventions. Once Europe's most famous car manufacturing complex, Fiat's first factory (Lingotto) was conceived and built between 1917 and 1920, after the most advanced engineering culture of the time. In the nineties it has been reconverted into a modern multifunctional space by the renowned architect and designer Renzo Piano. The Lingotto complex hosts a mall (8 Gallery), a cinema (Pathé), the gallery entitled to Giovanni and Marella Agnelli on the roof of the building (the so-called “Scrigno”), the Dental School of the University of Torino and the Laurea (1st degree and Bachelor-level of the Bologna process) in automotive engineering. The Auditorium is the hall with the highest capacity; its ceiling, stage and seats are mobile and it is fitted with an automatic system to change seat capacity from 2,090 down to 495. The Conference Centre offers all user classes logistic and technological support from advanced technology, electronic and audiovisual aids to simultaneous interpretation booths and a complete information system for visitor monitoring and service.

People

Prof. Richard E. Fallon

Prof Falloon was elected as President of the ISPP in 2002, prior to the 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2003) in Christchurch, New Zealand. His election coincided with election as President of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society. He is also a Past President (1995-1997) of the New Zealand Plant Protection Society. Prof Falloon has been working in plant pathology research since he graduated MAgrSc (Hons I) from Lincoln Agricultural College, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, in 1973. His early research was on pathogens affecting pasture plants. He completed postgraduate studies at the University College of Wales Aberystwyth (Wales, UK) in 1978, where he studied the biology of Ustilago bulbata, the pathogen causing head smut of prairie grass. In 1986 he took up a position at the Plant Diseases Division station associated with research on vegetable and arable crops. He worked particularly on pathogens of peas and potatoes, developing integrated management for important quality- and yield-limiting diseases causing problems for New Zealand's intensive cropping industries. His most recent research has focused on powdery scab of potatoes, developing very productive international collaborations, and working closely with potato breeders in New Zealand. Prof Falloon began association with the ISPP as Vice President, representing the Australasian Plant Pathology Society which hosted ICPP 2003. He was recently elected Fellow of the New Zealand Institute of Agricultural and Horticultural Science. He is currently Deputy Director of the Bio-Protection Research Centre at Lincoln University, and Plant Pathologist in the New Zealand Institute for Crop & Food Research.

Auditorium:
- Congress opening (9.30-11.00)
- The role of plant pathology in food safety and food security (11.30-13.00)
- Concepts in biological control of plant pathogens (14.30-16.30)
- Public Discussion Forum: Plant Pathology and Global Food Security (19.30-22.00)

Halls (14.30 - 16.30):
- Tropical plant pathology
- Post harvest pathology
- Vascular plant pathogens
- Climate change and plant diseases
- Scientific publications

Halls (16.30 - 18.30):
- Molecular diagnostic for plant pathology
- Disease models, epidemiology
- Genomics and proteomics
- Microbial endophytes
- Urban plant pathology

Poster viewing: 13.00 - 14.30

Partner programme:
The support to the Congress of the Italian Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea

C. Clini is General Director of the Ministry for the Environment, Land and Sea of Italy since 1990. He received his degree in medicine at Parma University - Departments of Ecology and Occupational Health in 1972, his PhD in Occupational Health at Padua University in 1975 and his PhD in Hygiene and Public Health at Ancona University in 1986. From 1990 to 2001 he had been Chairman of the Environment and Health European Committee. At present C. Clini holds a number of leadership positions and more specifically Chairman of the Board of the Regional Environment Centre of Budapest, Member of the Bureau of the European Environment Agency, Vice Chair of the Hydrogen Economy International Partnership, Chairman of the Global Bio-energy Partnership, Visiting professor at the Department for Environmental Sciences and Engineering at Tsinghua University of Beijing, Senior Research Fellow in the Sustainability Science Program at Harvard’s Centre for International Development.

“It is important to recognize the commitment of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) to the improvement of the agricultural sectors of developing countries” - he said during the Congress opening speech - “The theme of this Congress “Healthy and safe food for everybody” is very much up-to-date. Plant diseases are responsible of high losses both in industrialized as well as in developing countries [...] Plant pathology can strongly contribute to the mitigation of the effects of climate change on agriculture”.

Technical sponsors/2

Lavazza coffee
Located in Turin, Lavazza is one of the most important roasters in the world, a leader in Italy with a 48% share of the retail market (in value, source: Nielsen). It operates in over 80 countries, in the Home and Away-from-Home sectors (Foodservice, Vending and Retailing). In 2006 sales totalled € 930 million.

Sant’Anna mineral water
The natural Sant’Anna springs are situated in the heart of the Maritime Alps at a height of 1503 metres. The water is extraordinarily pure and light and now it comes in bio-bottles realized in compostable material.

Hot topics

Buffet prepared with products of “Paniere della Provincia di Torino”

The Province of Torino is much appreciated for its varied heritage of typical agricultural and food products and gastronomic excellence. In this spirit the “Basket of typical products of the Province of Torino” was created as a trademark, an umbrella logo which protects and guarantees typical agricultural and food products of the territory, produced by farms with a documented historic tradition, using strictly local ingredients.

International Congress of Plant Pathology
August 24-29 2008, Torino, Italy

WHAT’S UP

Buffet prepared with products of “Paniere della Provincia di Torino”

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In brief

• The support of the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea
• Buffet by Paniere Provincia Torino
• Introducing P. Scott and R. Zeigler
• Meeting Timothy Hall
• New journal by Springer on food security
• Tomorrow programme

UPDATE NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS: 1501
Meeting Timothy Hall

“The European Commission has been supporting trans-European and wider international scientific cooperation, both on pre-defined topics as well as on investigator-driven research activities through its multi-annual Framework Programmes (FPs). Since plant diseases and their control are important for farmers, consumers and the environment, research on plant health, pesticide usage, low-input farming, food chain issues and associated genomics and biotechnology have been important components of recent FPs and will continue to be in the 7th FP”, the Head of Unit for Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Aquaculture of the European Commission explains. Then he adds: “Increased opportunities are provided for plant health research and crop-related research in general, under the theme Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology, but also in other parts [...] in recent years there has been progress toward realising a more complete European Research Area in the plant sciences but further advances are still needed. (from the Congress Opening speech)

Auditorium
Host-pathogen interactions and molecular plant pathology (9.00-10.30)
Concepts in biological control of plant pathogens (11.00-13.00)
Molecular diagnostics for plant pathology (15.30-17.30)

Halls (15.30-17.30)
- Risk assessment (sponsored by EFSA)
- Diseases of Mediterranean crops
- Soil disinfection
- Fastidious bacteria
- Diseases of ornamentals and turfgrasses
Poster viewing: 14.00 - 15.30
Partner programme
Museums’ tour (Departure: 9.30-Return: 17.45)
Egyptian Museum: second only to the Cairo museum for its variety and completeness (30,000 items in exhibits).

National Museum of Cinema: located inside the Mole Antonelliana, the symbol of the City of Turin, conceived in 1862 by the Architect Antonelli as a synagogue. The Museum is the tallest museum in the world (167 mt. high) and one of the most exciting exhibitions of cinema, scrupulously documented and with many curious items.

A picture from yesterday's visit to the Egyptian Museum.
Host-pathogen interactions and molecular plant pathology

Genetic technology has been able to guarantee higher yields and to remove some yield impairing factors and foster the full exploitation of key practices such as fertilization, crop protection and irrigation. But that would have not been possible without the fundamental contribution of advanced plant biology (molecular biology), which in the last years has greatly contributed in the understanding of mechanisms that regulate some gene and related-characters expression and, therefore, in a new approach for studying host-pathogen interactions. All pathogens are able to deliver effector proteins directly to host plants often via specialized infection structures. Pathogen effector proteins are involved with the suppression or modulation of plant innate immunity and fundamentally control plant pathogenesis. Interestingly the same proteins that modulate pathogen virulence are also involved in triggering genotype-specific plant disease resistance (Staskawicz, KS2). Key studies were presented during KS2 about the molecular mechanisms by which plant disease resistance proteins mediate pathogen recognition (e.g. the RPS5 gene confers resistance to certain strains of Pseudomonas syringae in Arabidopsis) and about how plants and animals have evolved structurally related innate immune sensors inside cells to detect the presence of microbial molecules.

Technical sponsors/3
CUS Torino (Centro Universitario Sportivo) - It promotes many different sport activities among University students both from Italy and other EU countries. CUS has been very active during the Winter Olympics 2006 in Turin cooperating in the organization of the different events.

Fantolino eggs - Fantolino company has developed in the last 40 years becoming leader in the egg and egg based products sectors within the Piedmont area.

Madi Ventura - It results from the merger in 2000 of two of the most important italian companies in the dried fruit market, becoming a national benchmark for the quality and reliability of its products.

In brief
- Host-pathogen interactions
- EFSA sponsored session on risk assessment
- Meeting Pierre de Wit
- Introducing Gurdev Khush
- Tomorrow

What’s up - Risk assessment of plant pathogens
Special session in Hall 500 (15.30-17.30) sponsored by EFSA

What is EFSA?
The European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) was set up in January 2002 as an independent source of scientific advice and communication on risks associated with the food chain. EFSA was created as part of a comprehensive programme to improve EU food safety, ensure a high level of consumer protection and re-

STOP AND VISIT THE ICPP 2008 MERCHANDISING STAND!
You will find congress shirts, sweaters, hats, aprons, pins, mugs...
Meeting Pierre de Wit

Q: Dr. De Wit, which are the main recent findings related to host pathogen interactions?
A: During the last decade research in plant-microbe interactions has seen many breakthroughs. Pathogen avirulence genes and the cognate plant resistance genes, the two major players in the gene-for-gene based resistance, have been cloned. Research has now gone beyond this model by discovering the basic mechanisms of basal resistance.

Q: How does plant express its resistance in the light of these new achievements?
A: Most plants are resistant to microbes as they recognize non-variant molecules of microbes, also called microbe-associated molecular patterns (MAMPs) by pathogen recognition receptors (PRRs) that mediate basal defense. The primary function of pathogen avirulence factors is to suppress basal defense, whereas resistance (R) proteins recognize this activity of avirulence factors and mediate R protein-mediated resistance.

Q: Who can mainly benefit from these breakthroughs?
A: All these findings open new ways for breeders to make plants resistant to pathogens by exploiting both genes involved in both basal and gene-for-gene resistance.

People

Dr. Gurdev S. Khush
G.S. Khush was raised on a small farm in Punjab, India. He received BSc degree from Punjab Agricultural University in 1955 and a PhD in 1960 from the University of California, Davis. After serving as a faculty member of the University of California for seven years, he joined the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in the Philippines as a Plant Breeder, and was appointed as Head of Plant Breeding Department in 1972. He retired in February 2002 as Principal Plant Breeder and Head of Division of Plant Breeding Genetics and Biochemistry. During his 35 year career at IRRI he spearheaded the programme for developing high yielding and disease and insect resistant varieties of rice which ushered in green revolution in rice farming. More than 300 rice varieties developed under his leadership have been released in Asia, Africa and Latin America. IRRI bred varieties or their progenies are grown on 60% of world’s rice land. Rice production increased from 257 million tons in 1966 to 626 million tons in 2006. Dr Khush had made outstanding contributions to advancing the frontiers of rice genetics. He has written 3 books, and numerous papers in scientific journals. He has trained numerous plant breeders and served as consultant to several national rice improvement programs. For his contribution to food security he received the Japan Prize in 1987, the World Food Prize in 1996, the Rank Prize in 1998 and the Wolf Prize in Agriculture in 2000. He received honorary doctorate degrees from eleven universities and was elected to the Indian National Science Academy, Third World Academy of Sciences, US National Academy of Sciences and Royal Society of London.

Tomorrow

Auditorium
Diseases of Mediterranean crops and forests (9.00 - 12.30)
In celebration of 100 years of the American Phytopathological Society (15.00—17.30)
Halls (11.00 - 13.00)
• Knowledge transfer for plant pathology
• Plant pathogenic bacteria

Social event in the Langhe, Restaurant “La Cascata” in Verduno

Partner programme
• Basilica of Superga and park (Departure:14:30 - Return: 17:45).
• Torino historical cafes (Departure:14:30 - Return: 17:45).
• Maggiore Lake (Departure: 9.00 - Return: 19:00).
Diseases of Mediterranean crops

Dr. Khaled Makkouk, President of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union and virologist at the International Centre of Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), says to us: “Diseases are considered among the major biotic stresses that reduce crop production in all Mediterranean countries. Even though each crop is affected by a number of diseases, there are few which represent a threat for profitable crop production and require special attention. Examples of such diseases are citrus tristeza virus in citrus, Esca trunk diseases, powdery and downy mildews and leaf roll-associated viruses in grapes, Verticillium wilt in olives, Bayoud disease in date palm, whitefly-transmitted viruses in tomato, fire blight in pome fruits, plum pox virus in stone fruits, and a number of viruses which affect cucurbit crops, to mention a few. Research efforts are intensified to develop integrated control options to reduce crop losses caused by these diseases with minimal use of chemicals. The threat of introduction and spread of diseases within the Mediterranean region is real and therefore regional coordination and cooperation in research, biosecurity and information exchange is a priority”.

The following exhibitors are present at ICPP 2008:
- AGROINNOVA - Centre of Competence for the innovation in the agro-environmental sector;
- The American Phytopathological Society (APS);
- APS press;
- Bioreba - diagnostic tools;
- The British Society for Plant Pathology;
- CABI publishing;
- Decagon devices - environmental sensors;
- European Phytosanitary Research Coordination;
- Florilab - diagnostic tools;
- ICPP 2013;
- International Society for Plant Pathology;
- Springer Editor.

Hot topics

What’s up - APS centenary

APS is an international scientific organization devoted to the study of plant diseases and their control. APS advances modern concepts in plant health management in agricultural, urban and forest settings. The Society was founded in 1908 and has grown from 130 charter members to more than 5,000 plant pathologists and scientists worldwide. APS provides information on the latest developments and research advances in plant health science through its journals and its publishing arm, APS PRESS. APS advocates and participates in the exchange of plant health information with public policy makers, and the larger scientific community; and provides opportunities for scientific communication, collaboration, and professional development. The APS Centenary has been celebrated at Minneapolis at the end of July in a very successful meeting. Participants received "Memorable Milestones", a collection which includes "The 100-Year History of APS" by R. James Cook, "APS Centennial Oral History Project" by Darin M. Eastburn, and "APS Member Tributes: Past to Present".
Dr. Chakraborty, how will climate change influence agriculture in the next years?

The impact of climate change will be from rising greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, changes in temperature and rainfall and an increase in the uncertainty of seasonal conditions. For instance, the frequency and severity of drought and floods may change. Yield of crops like wheat, rice and soybean may increase but sorghum, millets and many pasture plants will not benefit from rising carbon dioxide. The growing season will be extended in middle and higher latitudes but crop yield will suffer at lower latitudes. These effects will be modified by region-specific changes in rainfall pattern. Crops in hotter areas will demand more water and yield will suffer if water is limiting. There may be less organic matter in the soil and adding more chemical fertilizers to maintain quality of a fast growing crop may have unwanted environmental consequences.

What should farmers expect from modified disease patterns due to climate change?

Rising temperature and carbon dioxide will also increase the growth and crop loss from some diseases. As rising temperature and other changes make some areas unsuitable for growing certain crops but the cropping systems do not change due to other limitations such as irrigation and other infrastructure, crops will suffer from climate stress and may become more susceptible to diseases. Pathogens may evolve more quickly to develop virulent races to overcome resistance and some varieties that are currently resistant may become unproductive. Some diseases of minor importance may become more important while others may cease to be a problem. Measures used to control plant diseases will need to keep pace with changing pattern and severity of diseases. If more plant protection chemicals need to be applied to control diseases, these can potentially harm the environment.

How can research help in mitigating influences of climate change on crop production?

We are still uncertain about the exact nature of the impact from plant diseases under a changing climate and research is vital to determine this. This is done at various levels; assessments at a regional/country level helps policymakers decide what investment is needed for decisions at the farm level. Plant breeding for disease resistance has long been recognised as an important tool in combating diseases. Breeding will need to align itself to emerging threats from new races and/or new diseases predicted under climate change. If selection under conditions mimicking a changing climate fails to find enough natural variation in crop plants, other approaches like genetic engineering will help to develop novel sources of resistance. As it takes a long time to develop and release new varieties and other management options, the time to start this research is now. Other mitigation research may examine ways to minimise factors that contribute to climate change such as rising carbon dioxide and methane from agricultural production systems.

People

Prof. James Cook

R. James Cook is best known for his research at Washington State University (WSU) on biological and ecological approaches to manage root diseases of wheat. Starting in 1998, and before retiring from WSU in 2005, he held the R. J. Cook Chair in Wheat Research, a position endowed with a $1.5-million gift to WSU from the Washington wheat growers. He was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 1993 and the US Agricultural Research Service Science Hall of Fame in 1997. He holds BSc and MSc degrees from North Dakota State University, a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley, and honorary doctorates from North Dakota State and the University of Turin. He was entitled a 140-acre experimental farm at Washington State University to study direct seed cropping and precision farming technology on a large scale. Prof. Cook, who mentored and trained hundreds of people from all over the world, is also well known for his incredible energy.

Tomorrow

Auditorium

Recent developments in disease management (h. 9.00 - 1.00)
Concepts in chemical control (h.11.00 - 13.00)
Halls (11.00 - 13.00)
• Induced resistance
• Mycotoxins
• Innovative disease control strategies
• Precision agriculture and plant pathology
• Diseases of soilless crops

Halls (14.00 - 17.30)
• Host-pathogen interactions
• Soilborne plant diseases and their control
• Diseases of Mediterranean crops
• Plant breeding and resistance strategies
• Crop and food biosecurity
• Teaching plant pathology

Agroinnova lounge (h.13.00-14.00) Presentation of the new Italian review about crop protection (“Protezione delle colture”) (upon invitation)

Partner programme

Venaria Reale and Racconigi Castle (Departure: 9.00 - Return: 19.00).

The wines of Piedmont - tour in the langhe region (Departure: 9.00 - Return: 17.45).
Crop biosecurity

"Among the many challenges to achieving a sustainable society is the protection of the plant resources that underpin public health, environmental stability, and food security. Crop biosecurity is a state of preparedness that ensures a safe, affordable, and available supply of food, feed, fiber, and fuels by protecting natural and agricultural plant systems from the threats of plant pathogens and insect pests" - Dr. J. Stack from Kansas State University explains - "The increasing awareness of the importance of plant and crop biosecurity is evident at this 9th International Congress of Plant Pathology where several sessions address these issues including, a Crop Biosecurity Symposium reporting on the results from an European Union funded collaboration among seven nations, a Biosecurity and Quarantine Symposium, and many individual contributions regarding the technologies and strategies upon which plant biosecurity will be based.

Public health is difficult to attain when a population is undernourished or starving. The diets of most poor societies are plant-based and many of the medicines used to prevent or cure diseases are plant derived. This is a global issue requiring international cooperation and collaboration. Population growth, climate change, and global trade of plants and plant products add a sense of urgency. Social unrest associated with food shortages in several nations over the past 12 months points to the critical need for crop biosecurity. We can ill afford to delay addressing this issue. Too many people are hungry and in poor health; more people will be hungry and sick if we do not secure our agricultural and natural plant systems".

Technical sponsors/4

Raineri olive oil

Founded in Imperia in 1910, Raineri produces quality extra virgin oils selecting the best olive varieties cultivated in Liguria region.

Bosca Spumante

Located in Canelli, Bosca company pursues the highest quality by means of her precious tradition and a cutting edge technology in the industry of wine based products. Bosca products are present in markets all over the world always trying to bring together innovation and tradition in wine sector.

Hot topics

Crop biosecurity

"Global food security encompass a broad range of issues related to new and emerging diseases and pests that are naturally, accidentally, or intentionally introduced. Efforts to enhance our plant resources have not always kept pace with those related to livestock and other animal products. However, two projects focusing on crop biosecurity over the past three years, coordinated by Dr. Lodovica Gulino, AGROINNOVA Director (Italy), and made possible through funding from NATO and the European Union, represent a landmark multi-national approach to enhancing global food security for all. It is only through communication, common goals for crop protection, and cross-border respect that any nation will be optimally prepared to protect its crops and mitigate damage caused by such threats. The interactions of the multi-national teams of scientists on these two projects culminated in discussions, conclusions and presentations at this Congress over the coming week. Furthermore, the Congress is facilitating discussions with representatives from many nations about continued and expanded collaborations and initiatives that will build on the accomplishments of the two initial projects".

In brief

• The crop biosecurity theme
• EU "Crop biosecurity" project
• Pictures from yesterday dinner
• Introducing Laurence V. Madden
• Tomorrow

What’s up - Special session EU

Crop and food biosecurity, Roma Hall (14.00 - 17.30)

We met Jacqueline Fletcher, regents professor at Oklahoma State University, who talked about two international projects on Crop biosecurity: “Global food security encompass a broad range of issues related to new and emerging diseases and pests that are naturally, accidentally, or intentionally introduced. Efforts to enhance our plant resources have not always kept pace with those related to livestock and other animal products. However, two projects focusing on crop biosecurity over the past three years, coordinated by Dr. Lodovica Gulino, AGROINNOVA Director (Italy), and made possible through funding from NATO and the European Union, represent a landmark multi-national approach to enhancing global food security for all. It is only through communication, common goals for crop protection, and cross-border respect that any nation will be optimally prepared to protect its crops and mitigate damage caused by such threats. The interactions of the multi-national teams of scientists on these two projects culminated in discussions, conclusions and presentations at this Congress over the coming week. Furthermore, the Congress is facilitating discussions with representatives from many nations about continued and expanded collaborations and initiatives that will build on the accomplishments of the two initial projects”.

www.cropbiosecurity.org
Dr. Laurence V. Madden
L.V. Madden is a leading international authority in plant disease epidemiology who has made numerous research contributions that have substantially increased our understanding of disease development in time and space. He has pioneered the use of many modelling approaches to: analyze, compare, and predict plant disease epidemics; characterize the spatial pattern of disease incidence, and relate spatial heterogeneity to crop, pathogen, and environmental factors; relate disease dynamics to crop losses; relate environment to disease and inoculum dynamics; and evaluate control strategies. Of major significance is his work with colleagues on development of differential-equation models for plant virus diseases with insect vectors. In this major contribution, the basic reproduction number for predicting invasion and persistence of viruses was derived. In other long-term research, he has shown how spread of diseases with rain-dispersed spores is determined by surface topography, plant canopy, and rain intensity.

Madden’s research has been extremely productive, with 200 peer-reviewed journal articles and two books on plant disease epidemiology. He has received many honors, including the Ruth Allen Award from the American Phytopathological Society (APS), the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Ohio State University, the E.C. Stakman Award from the University of Minnesota and the Jakob Eriksson Prize from ISPP during the present ICPP Congress. He is an elected Fellow of 3 scientific societies. He served as President of APS in 1996-97.

Dr. Emanuel Moses
E. Moses completed his PhD in Plant Pathology at University College (University of London) in 1997 and joined the Crops Research Institute of its native Ghana in the same year. He has occupied the positions of Head of Root and Tuber Crops Research from 2001 to 2006 in its institute and the Coordinator of Adaptive Research in the Middle Zone of Ghana in the National Root and Tuber Improvement Programme (in the same period). Some of its significant achievements include winning the P.H. Gregory Prize award of the British Society for Plant Pathology in 1996 and receiving the second prize in Scientific Presentations of the International Society of Tropical Root Crops (African Branch) in 2001. He was the recipient of the first Congress Challenge Award of the International Society for Plant Pathology in 2003.
Executive Committee of ISPP Statement

“We, the Executive Committee of the International Society for Plant Pathology, meeting in Torino, Italy at ICPP 2008, endorse and support the application of the many facets of modern plant pathology as tools to enhance food and fibre productivity and food security, to improve the lives of the fast growing world population, and to address environmental degradation, hunger and poverty. We also strongly advocate using sound science as the basis for regulatory and political decisions pertaining to biotechnology including genetic modification for plant improvement. We promote the careful, unbiased and science-based evaluation of modern technologies and products”.

President: M. Lodovica Gullino
Vice President: Wafa Khoury
Vice President: You-Liang Peng
Secretary General: Greg Johnson
Treasurer: Thomas Evans
Immediate Past President: Richard Falloon

Technical sponsors

F.lli Rabino Farmhouse
A farmhouse located near Alba which produces quality wines obtained by traditional vineyards as Nebbiolo, Barbera and Arneis. The farm belonged to the Savoia Family and its architecture is very peculiar. The Rabino Family is a very special one: AGROINNOVA carries out the experimental trials on grapevine in the farm since the early 1980s.

Restaurant La Posta
The Restaurant belongs to the Genovesio family and it is located in a XVIII century palace in Cavour (Turin province). It offers typical dishes of Piedmont tradition such as fresh hand made pasta and quality wines. It is supplier of the University of Torino since many years.

What’s up - The support of Dow Agrosciences

Dow is one of the main sponsors of ICPP Congress. We have met Dr. Bacci of Dow Agrosciences Italy. “The support of Dow to the Congress is driven by the strong interest the company has in the development of new fungicides especially on minor crops - he says - and that is true especially in Italy, a country where minor crops have a key importance from an economical point of view. Dow needs to know which are the most recent achievements gained in the plant pathology research sector in order to select and focus on the hot topics and to be able to invest in the best way”. Finally he adds: “We warmly hope to get important inputs from the Congress in order to extend our expertise and interests in new fields such as food security and crop biosecurity and to evaluate with an increased awareness fundamental issues related to crop protection such as environmental protection and worker exposure”.

Contents

Hot topics

Hot topics

What's up

Meeting Ilan Chet

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Tomorrow

In brief

• ISPP Executive Committee Statement
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• Introducing Maria Lodovica Gullino
• Post Congress Technical Excursion
Meeting Ilan Chet

Q: Dr. Chet, which recent developments in biological control of plant pathogens do you consider as the most interesting?

A: During the last years the subject of biological control attract more and more researchers. However most of the research is dedicated to study new mechanisms, signal transduction and mode of action on the molecular levels rather than a breakthrough in a commercial fungal control. It was found that beyond mycoparasitism and antibiosis the biocontrol agents like Trichoderma can change the plant metabolism and stimulate induced resistance. Many factors like jasmonic acid, ethylene, PAL and kinases are involved in this complicated process.

Q: Which other mechanisms are involved in induced resistance?

A: The biocontrol fungi and bacteria stimulate increased growth response in plants. I feel that despite of so many years of work we are just in the beginning of understanding this exciting phenomenon.

People

Maria Lodovica Gullino - The new ISPP President.

Born at Saluzzo and very proud of her home-town, she spent her all career at the University of Torino, where she is professor in Biological and Integrated Plant Disease Management, School in Biotechnology. She spent in the 1980's various long research periods in foreign Universities in the Netherlands and in the US. She is presently Past-President of the Italian Society for Crop Protection (A.I.P.P.) and of the Italian Association of the Agricultural Scientific Societies (AISSA). She has been vice-President of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) during the period 2003-2008, and has been elected President for the period 2008-2013. Her research interests focus on plant disease management, biological and integrated control of diseases, crop biosecurity, effect of climate change on plant diseases, and sustainable agriculture. Co-author of 8 books, she published over 500 scientific articles and reviews on Italian and international Journals. Since 1998 she is in charge of the International Affairs of the University of Torino and in 2002, together with Angelo Garibaldi, started AGROINNOVA, a Centre of Competence in the agro-environmental and agro-food sector, which rapidly gained national and international recognition. She is member of International Committees dealing with environmental issues and consultant of the Italian Ministry for Environment, Land and Sea since 1992, Director of International High Level Courses on Sustainable development for Chinese and eastern Europe officers at the Venice International University. Editor of Informatore Fitopatologico - La Difesa delle piante (2000-2007), in 2008 launched, together with Angelo Garibaldi, a new Italian Journal on Crop Protection (Protezione delle colture). She has coordinated and managed many national and international research projects (many in China as well as in other developing and emerging countries), and organized several national and international Congresses, including ISPP 2008. She obtained several awards form public Institutions and private companies. Although admitting to be a little workaholic, she enjoys travelling, excercising, shopping and the good Italian lifestyle.

Tomorrow

Post Congress Technical Excursions

1 - Forestry and forest pathology - Aosta Valley; full day tour.
2 - Horticulture - In the land of the Marquisate of Saluzz; full day tour.
3 - Organic agriculture, alpine botanical garden and the art of cuisine - Pellice Valley; full day tour.
4 - Viticulture and grapevine pathology - Alba, Langhe e Roero; full day tour.

All excursions depart from and return to the Lingotto Conference Centre. Report time is 15 minutes prior to departure.