New Dates Set For 11th International Congress On Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions

Organizers of the upcoming Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions in St. Petersburg, Russia, have reduced the Congress duration by one day in order to concentrate on the program. The new dates for the Congress meeting are July 18-26, 2003. The closing ceremony will be on Friday, July 25 and the departure day will be Saturday, July 26.

The Congress is the biggest gathering of its kind and attracts a large number of attendees. The scientific program at this year’s Congress will cover:

- Pathogenic fungi and bacteria
- Genetic colonization of plants (viruses, agrobacteria)
- Signaling and recognition
- Nodulation and mycorrhization
- Endophytes and epiphytes
- Functional and comparative genomics
- Gene expression, proteomics and metabolomics
- N2 fixation inside and outside the plant
- Genetic and metabolic integration
- Diversity and evolution
- Biocontrol and stress adaptation
- Plant ecology and sustainability
- Improvement and application

This year’s plenary speakers include:

Carol Bender (USA); Sir John Beringer (UK); Ton Bisseling (The Netherlands); Christian Boucher (France); William Broughton (Switzerland); Nick Brewin (UK); James Carrington (USA); Casey Crooks (UK); Jeff Dangl (USA); Jean Denarie (France); Yury Dyakov (Russia); Vivienne Gianinazzi-Pearson (France); Dieter Haas (Switzerland); Maria Harrison (USA); Sheng Yang He (USA); Hauke Hennecke (Switzerland); Ann Hirsch (USA); Sergey Inge-Vechtomov (Russia); Jonathan Jones (UK); Christina Kennedy (USA); Adam Kondorosi (France); Eva Kondorosi (France); Jan Leach (USA); Andrzej Legocki (Poland); Ben Lugtenberg (The Netherlands); Gregory Martin (USA); Eugene Nester (USA); Charles Opperman (USA); Anne Osbourn (UK); Martin Parniske (UK); Alfred Puhler (Germany); Barbara Reinhold-Hurek (Germany); Barry Rolfe (Australia); Paul Schulze-Lefert (Germany); Konstantin Stryakin (Russia); Stewart Smith (USA); Brian Staskawicz (USA); Jens Stougaard (Denmark); Paul Sudzynski (Germany); John Turner (UK); Carroll Vance (USA); Marc Van Montagu (Belgium); Jonathan Walton (USA); Valerie Williamson (USA); Pierre de Wit (The Netherlands)

Important Date and Deadlines:

- Preliminary online registration is continuing.
- Abstract submission: December 20, 2002
- Hotel Pribaltiyyskaya reservation: November 1, 2002
- Hotel Ohtinskaya reservations: April 1, 2003
- Transfer of payments: after May 1, 2003 - late registration.

To register online and to find out more, visit the Congress’s website at http://www.arriam.spb.ru/mpmi
Summer is the time for fun—and as I write, looking at today’s New York Times (8 July), there is the president of the United States having some. In a photograph above the fold, he is helping his daughter Jenna boat an impressively large fish. It is not named in the caption but is readily identifiable as Morone saxatilis, called striped bass by us New Englanders, though doubtless known to the White House chef by its Chesapeake name, rockfish. Everyone in the picture is having a wonderful time. But the president, without his knowledge, has just captured a fish with a message.

In my summertime reverie, I imagined that the 43rd president might have turned to no. 41, who was driving the boat, and said “Gee, Dad—did you catch ‘em like this when you were Jenna’s age?” Although tempted to employ the usual fisherman’s license to lie, former President Bush would have had to answer: “No, son. I don’t remember that we did.” In fact, when I was Jenna’s age and studying fish biology at Woods Hole, it was almost a mantra that stripers (and blue-fish, another sport-fishing favorite) were relatively scarce north of Cape Cod.

The recent northward redistribution surely delights the Bushes and other Gulf of Maine fishermen. More important, these changes in biogeography have many parallels, as the striper’s message to the president is repeated elsewhere. On the West Coast, in the intertidal at Hopkins Marine Station near Monterey, California, old transects made in John Steinbeck’s day have been reexamined, demonstrating a massive replacement of northern invertebrates by ones with a more southern distribution. On land, around the Bush estate in Kennebunkport, Maine, American cardinals, birds unknown in New England in my youth, now not only breed but even come to feeders in the dead of winter!

These observations typify a growing host of phenetic studies that have documented biological responses to global warming during the past century. The list is rich indeed: significant advances in the dates for first breeding in a number of bird species; changes in the dates at which British plants first flower; upward shifts in the distribution of Alpine flowering plants, at rates up to 4 meters of elevation per decade; and northward adjustments in the distribution of several species of North American butterflies. Such changes document the reality of global warming, though they are not necessary for that purpose, as we now have so much physical data (ranging from average global temperature to rates at which glaciers are receding or river ice breaks up) to show that it’s happening. But examining the biological impacts is useful for at least two reasons.

The first is that it tells us something about what continuing change may portend. What is clear is that natural communities will not be displaced intact as the temperature rises. Each ecosystem depends on a kind of coevolved synchrony, in which flowers and pollinators, predators and prey, herbivores and their food plants not only depend on one another but also on one another’s timing. If the flower isn’t blooming, the butterfly can’t pollinate it: result, no nectar for the insect, no seeds for the plant. Most of the studies show that different species respond at different rates, dismembering communities that once worked well together. It is something we should expect in estimating the impacts of climate change.

The second is that the biological effects tell us things directly that we can otherwise learn of only from someone else’s numbers. Anyone my age (I’m 71) can document such changes as a result of personal experience. That’s why it always surprises me when thoughtful outdoorsmen like the president don’t buy into the reality of global warming right away, without requiring persuasion from bevies of advisers.

My impression is that President Bush is coming awake to this particular problem, and he probably doesn’t need much help from me. Nevertheless, here is a suggestion.

“In the interest of informing scientists throughout the world how they can contribute to the debate on important global problems, we reprint this recent editorial by Donald Kennedy, professor of biology at Stanford University, former president of Stanford, Commissioner of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and currently editor-in-chief of Science magazine. POTUS is the Secret Service code word for the President of the United States.”
The next time he meets with a group of old friends from the oil bigness who are still in denial about climate change, he should tell them a fish story. The message from Jenna’s striped could just as well have come in a bottle from the scientific community: Climate change is real, and it’s time to do something.

Footnote: For a follow-up comment on this editorial, that illustrates that life is not always so neat, see the letter by Sidney Pierce (and response by Kennedy) in Science 297:1995.

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**NEW Post-Doc IS-MPMI Membership Now Available.**

The IS-MPMI members overwhelmingly approved a recent Bylaws Amendment ballot adding a new post-doctoral category of membership. Those in a post-doctoral position at an educational institution can now join IS-MPMI for a reduced annual membership rate of $30. The new category was created to make it possible for more individuals in post-doctoral positions (who are frequently on limited incomes) to join IS-MPMI. Members are encouraged to share the news of this new membership option with anyone who might qualify. Post-docs interested in joining IS-MPMI can find out more at IS-MPMI’s website www.ismpmi.org, or by contacting Denise Kessler at +1.651.454.7250, email: dkessler@scisoc.org

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**Biology of Plant-Microbe Interactions, Volume 3**

Partial Contents
- Keynote Address; Recognition of Pathogens by Plants
- Defense Signal Transduction; Local/Systemic Resistance
- Secretion avr/vir Factors; Plant-Virus Interactions; Plant-Rhizobium Interactions; Plant-Fungal Interactions; Plant-Nematode Interactions; Ecology and Population Biology of Plant-Associated Microbes; Novel Plant-Microbe Relationships; Cell Biology of Plant-Microbe Interactions; Functional Genomics and Biotechnology; Teaching Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions; Subject-Author Index

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**Calendar of Events**

**8th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2003)**
February 2-8, 2003, Christchurch, New Zealand
“Solving Problems in the Real World”, Contact: Helen Shrewsbury, Professional Development Group, PO Box 84, Lincoln University, Canterbury, New Zealand (shrewsbh@lincoln.ac.nz).
Registration details and other information is available on the ICPP2003 website http://www.lincoln.ac.nz/icpp2003/.

**11-th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions**
July 18-26, 2003, St. Petersburg, Russia
Contact: http://www.arriam.spb.ru/mpmi/

**Tenth Cell Wall Meeting, 2004,**
August 29 - September 3, 2004,
Sorrento, Italy
The aim of the Cell Wall Meeting is to bring together scientists whose research deals with any aspect of plant cell walls. As in the past, the meeting is completely open and there are no invited speakers. The organisers are committed to keeping the registration costs as low as possible to encourage especially students and young research scientists to attend the meeting. We also encourage industrial participation in order to establish links between cell wall research and potential downstream applications. The program will cover all aspects of cell walls from plants, as well as from algae and fungi (structure, biosynthesis, properties, relevance to industry, etc.). The meeting will be held at the “Hilton Sorrento Palace Hotel” with its Congress Center. The Conference Hall (Sala Sirene) is a comfortable and well-equipped center with a 600-seat auditorium. Sorrento is a lovely city located in Southern Italy, 30 km south of Naples. It is a traditional sea resort of about 20,000 inhabitants at the tip of the Sorrentine Peninsula. Contact: Prof. Felice Cervone, University of Rome “La Sapienza”, Dipartimento di Biologia Vegetale, P.le Aldo Moro, 5, 00185 Rome, Phone +39 (06) 49912517, Fax +39 (06) 49912446, e-mail: 2004.cellwall@uniroma1.it
Assistant Professor
The Department of Biological Sciences for The University of North Texas (www.biol.unt.edu) invites applications for a tenure track position in biochemistry beginning September 2003. Successful candidates will be expected to contribute to a strong research program and participate in instruction at the undergraduate and graduate levels. We are especially interested in candidates having expertise in eukaryotic signal transduction, although candidates with expertise in other areas will be seriously considered. Located in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, the University of North Texas is a growing institution with an enrollment of over 30,000 students. The department is growing rapidly, and has a strong research focus. Excellent research facilities, competitive salary and generous start-up funds are available. The Department offers undergraduate and graduate (M.S./Ph.D.) degrees in biology, biochemistry, molecular biology, and environmental sciences. Submit curriculum vitae, names of three references, reprints, and statement of research goals to: Dr. Rebecca Dickstein, Biochemistry Search Committee, Department of Biological Sciences, P.O. Box 305220, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76203-5220. Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2002, and continue until a suitable candidate is found. The University of North Texas is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution committed to diversity in its employment and educational programs, thereby creating a welcoming environment for everyone.

Postdoctoral Fellowship
Postdoctoral Fellowship in plant molecular biology is available at the University of Pretoria. The project concerns the improvement of maize for fungal resistance in a consortium with international partners and is funded by the European Union (see http://www.up.ac.za/academic/botany/safemaiz.html). The research will involve design and development of innovative approaches in plant biochemistry and molecular analysis of transgenic plants. Candidates should have a Ph.D. in molecular biology or a related discipline, with experience in state-of-the-art plant transformation and molecular techniques. Demonstrated laboratory expertise through recent publications in quality international journals and a high level of computer literacy are essential. This is an opportunity to join a dynamic and well-equipped laboratory within the stimulating environment of the Botany Department, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI) in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Pretoria (see http://www.up.ac.za/academic/botany/dickstein.html). The remuneration is highly competitive, and will be negotiable according to experience.

Faculty Positions
The Department of Biochemistry and Cellular and Molecular Biology and the Department of Microbiology within the Division of Biology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville are currently seeking four tenure track assistant professors. Distinguished young investigators with expertise in the particular areas outlined below are especially encouraged to apply. All positions are to begin August 2003. Interested candidates should send a resume, a description of research experience and of the proposed research program, and the names of three individuals who can provide letters of reference to the indicated contact person:

Assistant Professors (2), Molecular Cell Biology: Candidates should be using modern molecular techniques to solve current problems in cell biology. Applications from individuals with research emphases in neurobiology, cell signaling, plant biology, cell division/cell cycle and nucleic acid/chromosome dynamics would be especially welcome. However, applications from outstanding individuals in all areas of cell biology will be considered. Julia Collins, Cell Biology Search Committee, BCMB Department, M407 WLS, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0840. Review of applications will begin on December 1, 2002 and continue until the positions are filled. Assistant Professor, Microbial Ecology: Candidates should be using modern methods of molecular biology to answer basic questions about the interaction
among microorganisms and their processes in the environment. Applications from individuals with research emphases in signal transduction, quorum sensing and cell-cell communication, environmental security, engineered microbial processes, global change, biofilms, and environmental pathogens would be especially welcome, but applications from outstanding individuals in all areas of microbial ecology will be considered. Gary S. Sayler, Professor and Chair of the Microbial Ecology Search Committee, Microbiology Department, M409 WLS, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0845. Review of applications will begin on November 15, 2002 and continue until the position is filled.

Assistant Professor, Cellular Microbiology. The successful candidate is expected to establish an externally funded research program on basic questions of interactions between microbes and host cells. Research emphasis might include molecular signaling, signal transduction, cytoskeletal reorganization, intracellular trafficking, cell differentiation, and cell death as influenced by the microbe. Investigators studying the relationships between pathogenic bacteria, fungi, or protozoa and animal or plant hosts are especially encouraged to apply. David Brian, Chair, Cellular Microbiologist Search Committee, Department of Microbiology, M409 Walters Life Sciences, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN 37996-0845. Review of applications will begin November 15 and continue until the position is filled.

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, disability or veteran status in provision of educational programs and services or employment opportunities and benefits. This policy extends to employment by and admission to the University.

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**Welcome New Members**

The following members joined IS-MPMI between July 1, 2002 and October 31, 2002. Please join us in welcoming them to the Society!

- **Bonnie S. Bertolet**
  San Francisco State Univ, San Francisco, CA

- **Wen-Ling Deng**
  Cornell Univ, Ithaca, NY

- **Savithramma P. Dinesh-Kumar**
  Yale Univ, New Haven, CT

- **Eelco Gilljamse**
  Rijk Zwaan BV, De Lier, Netherlands

- **Francisco D. Goes Da Silva**
  Univ of California, Davis, CA

- **Esther M. Gonzalez**
  Univ Public De Navarra, Pamplona, Spain

- **Jagger J. W. Harvey**
  Univ of California, Davis, CA

- **Cheol H. Hwang**
  Dankook Univ, Cheonan, Chungnam, South Korea

- **Julie C. Kramer**
  PanVera Corp, Madison, WI

- **R. Todd Leister**
  Univ of California, Berkeley, CA

- **Isabel M. Lopez-Lara**
  Univ Nacional Autonoma De Mexico (UNAM), Cuernavaca, Mor., Mexico

- **Shirley A. Micallef**
  Univ of Massachusetts, Boston, MA

- **Dan Milbourne**
  TEAGASC, Carlow, Ireland

- **Kouhei Ohnishi**
  Kochi Univ, Nankoku, Kochi, Japan

- **Daniel M. Roberts**
  Univ of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN

- **Jen Sheen**
  Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA

- **Ruhang Tang**
  Duke Univ, Durham, NC

- **Lesley Torrance**
  Scottish Crop Research Inst, Dundee, United Kingdom

- **Srinivasa Rao Uppalapati**
  Oklahoma State Univ, Stillwater, OK

- **Yang Yen**
  South Dakota State Univ, Brookings, SD
November 2002 Volume 15, Number 11

Research


October 2002 Volume 15, Number 10

Research


Multiple Domains Within the *Cauliflower mosaic virus* Gene VI Product Interact with the Full-Length Protein. Y. Li and S. M. Leisner. Pages 1050-1057. Publication no. M-2002-0812-01R.


**September 2002 Volume 15, Number 9**

**Technical Advance**


**Review**


**Research**


Regulation of *Erwinia carotovora* hrpL Ecc (Sigma-L Ecc), Which Encodes an Extracytoplasmic Function (ECF) Subfamily of Sigma Factor Required for Expression of the HRP Regulon. A. Chatterjee, Y. Cui, and A. K. Chatterjee. Pages 971-980. Publication no. M-2002-0731-01R.