

IS-MPMI Reporter

International Society for
Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions

IN THIS ISSUE

New MPMI Editorial Board.....	1
Improvements to the <i>MPMI</i> Online Journal.....	1
President's Message.....	2
MPMI Introduces New Policies.....	3
See You in Sorrento.....	8
13th Congress Preliminary Program.....	9
Meet IS-MPMI Members.....	10
Welcome New Members.....	12
MPMI Journal Articles.....	15
People.....	17
Employment.....	18
IS-MPMI Membership Directory.....	19
Coming Events.....	39
IS-MPMI Leadership.....	40

Look Inside for Directory

Turn to page 17 to find colleagues in the molecular plant-microbe interaction field. Use the 2007 IS-MPMI Directory as a tool to reach experts in your field and make contacts throughout the world.

IS-MPMI Reporter DEADLINE Deadline for submitting items for the next issue is **August 20, 2007.**

Submission of materials as electronic files, on disk or as e-mail attachments, will speed processing. For information on submitting electronic images contact Joel Berg at jberg@scisoc.org.

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MPMI Installs New Editorial Board

In January 2007, the new editorial board of *MPMI* began its 3-year term. **Jonathan Walton** replaces **Jens Stougaard** as editor-in-chief and is joined by 16 senior editors. To acquaint IS-MPMI members with the new board, brief biographies are presented.



Jonathan Walton

Jonathan Walton is a professor of plant biology in the DOE-Plant Research Lab at Michigan State University. Walton received his B.A. degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz, his M.S. degree in plant pathology with Olen Yoder at Cornell University, and his Ph.D. degree with **Peter Ray** at Stanford University. He held post-doctoral positions at Cornell University and the University of Rome and worked in the biotech sector in California before joining Michigan State University in 1987. His laboratory studies the molecular mechanisms of virulence in filamentous fungi and of resistance in plants. He has worked on cell wall-degrading enzymes,

regulatory protein kinases and transcription factors, histone deacetylases, and host-selective toxins. His current work focuses on proteomics of the interaction between *Fusarium graminearum* and wheat and the function and structure of surface genes with hypervariable DNA repeats. His lab has a particular interest in the ecological and virulence roles of microbial secondary metabolites: their chemistry, biosynthesis, molecular genetics, and modes of action. He has served on the editorial boards of *Eukaryotic Cell* and the *Annual Review of Phytopathology*. He was a senior editor of *MPMI* from 1995 to 1997, editor of the *IS-MPMI Reporter* from 2000 to 2003, a member of the Board of Directors of IS-MPMI from 2001 to 2005, and president of IS-MPMI in 2005–2006. As editor of *MPMI*, he also serves on the APS Publications Board and APS Executive Council.

New Editorial Board continued on page 2

Improvements to the *MPMI* Online Journal Increase the Visibility of Our Science and Add Benefits for Researchers



MPMI Online has dozens of new features for authors, readers, and librarians. Sign up for your free profile at <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org>

In April, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (MPMI)* Online received a major upgrade that gives it the electronic benefits and features of the other major science and medical journals. IS-MPMI members using

the online journal will notice that *MPMI* now shares a portal with *Phytopathology* and *Plant Disease*, published by The American Phytopathological Society (APS). Together, these three journals provide dozens of new features that will help scientists find key research results quickly and filter that research to fit their needs.

MPMI Online now offers personalized search and alert capabilities. “**What’s your MPMI profile?**” is a question you may have been asked recently in an e-mail from society

Improvements to the *MPMI* Online Journal continued on page 16

A Message from the President



Pierre de Wit

IS-MPMI is blooming again. Nearly 2 years ago in Mexico, **Federico Sanchez** and his local scientific organizing committee were very busy preparing for the 12th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (IC-MPMI) to be held in Cancun. At that time, they were all very motivated and could never have expected that their big endeavor would be battled by two hurricanes. However, his team survived the hurricanes and, with financial support from IS-MPMI, the preparations for the 12th IC-MPMI could continue and the congress could finally be held in Merida. Although the number of participants dropped significantly, his team and IS-MPMI showed strength and endurance. All participants who eventually made it to Merida were very enthusiastic and they all graded the quality of the congress excellent. We are all very grateful to Sanchez and his team for this big effort, since our biennial congresses form the heart of our society.

It was at this historic meeting that I was chosen as your next president. Although IS-MPMI faced difficult times, we never panicked and, together with the extended Board of Directors (BOD) and the IS-MPMI team at headquarters in St. Paul, we continued and set new targets.

1. Keep our society journal, *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*, at a high standard.

Editors-in-Chief **Jens Stougaard** (2004–2006) and **Jonathan Walton** (2007), along with their teams of senior editors, have been working very hard to keep *MPMI* at the highest standard possible. In January, a complete new team of senior editors was installed. Their strategy is to get articles reviewed and published in a short time frame. *MPMI* is doing very well and IS-MPMI should be proud of its members, who run *MPMI* in a competitive way. This is evident from its impact.

2. Keep our *IS-MPMI Reporter* up-to-date to communicate with our members.

Sophien Kamoun has become editor of the *IS-MPMI Reporter* and, together with **Karen Deusche** at headquarters, has done a very good job in putting together a lively medium that attracts young scientists. He started a section on “interviewing the BOD,” asking for stories on how the board members became motivated to choose a career in science. The *IS-MPMI Reporter* was also used in an efficient way to inform its members about

President's Message continued on page 7

New Editorial Board continued from page 1



James R. Alfano

James R. Alfano grew up in southern California. He attended Moorpark Junior College for 2 years before transferring to San Diego State University, where he received a B.S. degree in microbiology in 1986. Alfano worked with **Michael Kahn** at Washington State University, studying the symbiotic nitrogen-fixing relationship occurring between *Sinorhizobium* and receiving his Ph.D. degree in microbiology in 1993. His post-doctoral research was with **Alan Collmer** at Cornell University, studying bacterial pathogens and their protein secretion systems. In 1997, Alfano joined the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, as an assistant professor. He moved to the Plant Science Initiative and the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Nebraska in 2000 and was promoted to associate professor in 2002. Alfano's research has focused mainly on the bacterial pathogen *Pseudomonas syringae* and the type III protein secretion system that it uses to inject bacterial effector proteins into plant cells. Past research focused on how effectors were being delivered into plant cells by the *P. syringae*'s type III system. Another focus of his research group is the secretion signals of type III effectors and type III chaperones, accessory proteins required by many type III-secreted proteins. His research group has identified many type III-secreted proteins from *P. syringae* and determined that many type III effectors suppress plant innate immunity. Currently, several projects are focused on the plant targets of specific type III effectors.



John Carr

John Carr is a senior lecturer in molecular plant pathology in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Cambridge. He conducted his Ph.D. research on pathogenesis-related (PR) proteins at Rothamsted Experimental Station (supervisors: **John Antoniw** and **Ray White**) and the Biochemistry Department of Liverpool University (supervisor: **Mike Wilson**). He carried out post-doctoral work with **Dan Klessig** at the Medical School in Salt Lake City, UT, and subsequently at the Waksman Institute (Rutgers) on light-regulated gene expression, PR proteins, and the role of salicylic acid (SA) in the induction of resistance to plant viruses. He then worked as a research associate in **Milt Zaitlin**'s laboratory in the Plant Pathology Department at Cornell University, working on transgenic resistance to viruses. He started his own research group at the University of Cambridge in 1993. The group works on the mechanisms underlying SA-induced resistance and on viral evasion of induced resistance. Further details on the work of the group can be found at www.plantsci.cam.ac.uk/research/johncarr.html.

New Editorial Board continued on page 4

MPMI Introduces New Policies



In February, APS, as the publisher of *MPMI*, approved two new policies for *MPMI*. Both are effective immediately. One will make all articles in *MPMI* open access after 12 months instead of after the current 24 months. The other will allow authors (or their representatives) to purchase immediate open access.

The price is admittedly high but is competitive with other journals that have a similar policy, and we hope to be able to reduce the price in the near future. It is expected that both policies will improve the visibility of *MPMI* to readers and authors. Big thanks are owed to **Margo Daub** and the APS Publications Board for their support of these changes.

The following will appear soon on the *MPMI* website and in the Author Guidelines.

MPMI Policy on Open Access and Option for Author-Purchase Open Access.

All content of *MPMI* is open access without restriction 12 months after publication. Immediate open access can be purchased for any article in *MPMI*. The cost is \$2,400, reduced to \$1,900 if the corresponding author's institution has an online subscription to *MPMI*. Anyone can pay the charge on behalf of the author. This charge is in addition to the normal charges for manuscript handling, color illustrations, page charges, and reprints.

MPMI has also now implemented an official policy on large data sets. This policy is based on that of other leading plant science journals and was developed with the help of the *MPMI* senior editors.

MPMI Policy on Large-Scale Data Sets.

MPMI encourages the publication of papers using genome-wide approaches to answer important questions in plant-microbe interactions. All data generated from transcriptional profiling experiments must be deposited in a public database, such as GEO (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo), ArrayExpress (www.ebi.ac.uk/arrayexpress), PathoPlant ([www.pathoplant.de](http://pathoplant.de)), Genevestigator (www.genevestigator.ethz.ch/at/), or NASCarrays (<http://arabidopsis.info/>). Gene expression profiling experiments must include replicates of the biological samples being assayed and utilize statistically sound methods of data analysis. Data must follow MIAME guidelines (www.mged.org/Workgroups/MIAME/miame.html). References: Brazma et al. 2001. Minimum information about a microarray experiment (MIAME)—Toward standards for microarray data. *Nature Genetics* 29:365-371; Zimmermann et al. 2006. MIAME/Plant—Adding value to plant microarray experiments. *Plant Methods* 2:1 (www.plantmethods.com/content/2/1/1).

For large-scale experiments other than transcriptional profiling, authors are expected to provide all necessary supplementary data so that members of the general scientific community can access this information after publication. For guidelines, refer to the statement from the Society for General Microbiology (<http://mic.sgmjournals.org/cgi/reprint/150/11/3521.pdf>).

Jonathan Walton
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Giulia De Lorenzo

Giulia De Lorenzo received her Ph.D. degree in evolutionary biology at the University of Rome Sapienza in 1987; her thesis focused on the role of pectic enzymes in pathogenesis and plant defense. At the beginning of her career, she was awarded fellowships from the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei and from NATO and worked as a post-doctoral fellow at the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center (University of Georgia, U.S.A.). In 1989, she was a researcher at ENICHEM Agricoltura and later at the Department of Energy (ENEA-Casaccia, Rome). In 1991, she was appointed associate professor of plant biochemistry at the University of Bari, Italy. In 1995, she moved to the University of Rome Sapienza, where she became a full professor in 2001. Her scientific activity has focused on the molecular basis of recognition between plants and pathogenic fungi leading to the activation of plant defense responses. Her work showed that the interaction between a pathogen-associated molecular pattern (the polygalacturonase) and a ubiquitous apoplastic plant leucine-rich repeat protein (the PGIP) is important for defense against necrotrophic pathogens. Since the interaction between polygalacturonases and PGIP may favor the formation of elicitor-active oligogalacturonides, she has been working also on the mode of action of these oligosaccharides; in particular, she showed an antagonism between oligogalacturonides and auxin. For her contributions, she received the FESPP (Federation of European Societies of Plant Physiology) Award in 1990, the SIVF (Società Italiana di Fisiologia Vegetale) "Baccarini Melandri" Award in 1994, and the Giovanni Armenise-Harvard Foundation Grant in 1997.



Philipp Franken

Philipp Franken studied biology in Aachen and Cologne. He did his diploma and Ph.D. thesis at the MPI for Plant Breeding Research on the molecular regulation of anthocyanin biosynthesis in maize. In 1991, he switched to the field of arbuscular mycorrhiza. He analyzed the expression of defense-related plant genes during fungal colonization of parsley and potato roots. From 1993 to 1995, he developed methods at the INRA in Dijon to study RNA accumulation patterns in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi and used nontargeted approaches in order to identify symbiosis-related genes in *Pisum sativum*. In 1995, he obtained a position at the MPI for Terrestrial Microbiology in Marburg, where he established a group working on the molecular biology of the arbuscular mycorrhiza. He used mainly the model organism *Medicago truncatula* for the analysis of the symbiotic transcriptome but also studied the molecular basis of arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal development. In 1999, he habilitated in microbiology and botany at the Philipps University in Marburg. Since 2002, he has been head of the Plant Nutrition Department at the Leibniz Institute of Vegetable and Ornamental Crops, conducting projects that cover basic research and applied aspects of interactions between plant roots and beneficial microorganisms.



Stephane Genin

Stephane Genin is a principal researcher at the Plant-Microbe Interaction Laboratory (INRA-CNRS) in Toulouse, France. He received his M.S. degree in plant pathology and Ph.D. degree in microbiology in 1993 from the University Paris XI. His thesis work in the lab of **Christian Boucher** involved studies on the characterization and regulation of *hrp* genes from the plant pathogen *Ralstonia solanacearum*. Moving into plant-fungi interactions, he studied the corn smut fungus, *Ustilago maydis*, in **Regine Kahmann**'s laboratory at the University of Munich as an EMBO post-doctoral fellow. Research in his group focuses on the pathogenicity determinants of *R. solanacearum*. Current projects include genomics of *R. solanacearum*, studies on the regulation of type III secretion system determinants, and functional analysis of type III-dependent effectors.



Godelieve Gheysen

Godelieve Gheysen received an M.S. degree in zoology and a Ph.D. degree in plant molecular biology at Ghent University, Belgium. In 1991, she started her own research group on the molecular analysis of plant-nematode interactions. This research focused on 1) the plant response in the compatible interaction at the molecular and cytological level, 2) characterization of the parasitism genes of nematodes, 3) unraveling the signal transduction pathway in the formation of nematode feeding sites, and 4) using this knowledge to engineer nematode resistance in plants. From 1996 until 2000, she coordinated a European project involving 12 labs that used *Arabidopsis thaliana* as a model system to study the compatible plant-nematode interaction. She is now a professor in molecular genetics at Ghent University and teaches molecular biology and plant biotechnology. Since March 2002, she is also director of the Institute of Plant Biotechnology for Developing Countries at Ghent University. In addition to her role as senior editor of *MPMI*, she is an associate editor for *Molecular Plant Pathology*. She is an ad hoc reviewer for many other journals, such as *The EMBO Journal*, *Nematology*, *Physiological and Molecular Plant Pathology*, *Plant Cell*, *Plant Journal*, *Plant Physiology*, *PNAS*, and *Science*.



Mark Gijzen

Mark Gijzen is a research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in London, Ontario. He completed his Ph.D. studies in biochemistry at the Institute of Biological Chemistry, Washington State University, in the laboratory of **Rodney Croteau**. As a graduate student, he was primarily interested in the biosynthesis of plant natural products and phytoalexins. He joined Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in 1992 and shortly thereafter began research on stem and root rot disease of soybean caused by the oomycete *Phytophthora*.

sojae. Since then, he has developed a deep interest in molecular plant pathology. The purpose of his research on *Phytophthora* is to define the determinants of virulence and pathogenicity. His work includes the construction and sampling of cDNA libraries for expressed sequence tags, transcript profiling using microarrays, identification of avirulence genes by map-based approaches, and biochemical characterization of protein toxins and elicitors. Classic genetic techniques used to map genes in diploid organisms are combined with modern methods of gene analysis. He is an adjunct professor at the University of Western Ontario and contributes to the teaching and supervision of graduate and undergraduate students.



Steven Lindow

Steven Lindow is a professor in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, University of California, Berkeley. He joined the faculty in 1978 after attaining his B.S. degree in botany at Oregon State University and his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison (1977). Research in his laboratory is broadly categorized as "molecular microbial ecology" and addresses the epiphytic fitness of bacteria, including *Pseudomonas syringae* and *Pantoea agglomerans*. Included in such studies is work that addresses the role of quorum sensing in controlling density-dependent behaviors of *P. syringae* in various aggregate sizes on leaves, the contribution of IAA to epiphytic fitness, and factors that make nutrients available to leaf-associated bacteria. His work also addresses Pierce's disease of grape caused by the endophytic bacterium *Xylella fastidiosa*. He is exploring a regulatory system that involves the production of a diffusible fatty acid signal molecule that suppresses the virulence of this pathogen at high cell densities and various methods of disease control based on "pathogen confusion" that alter signal molecule availability in plants.



Rosemary Loria

Rosemary Loria is a professor, and former chair, of the Plant Pathology Department at Cornell University. In the 1990s, her lab initiated research on the molecular genetic analysis of the plant-pathogenic phenotype in the genus *Streptomyces*. These gram-positive plant pathogens are economically important and possess novel mechanisms for manipulation of plant cells. Cloning of the highly conserved virulence gene *nec1* led to the discovery of a large, mobile pathogenicity island (PAI). Mobilization of the PAI was demonstrated in a newly emerged pathogen, *S. turgidiscabies*. Characterization of the biosynthetic pathway for the phytotoxin, thaxtomin, led to the discovery that a nric oxide synthase is involved in nitration of this dipeptide. The 10-Mb *S. scabies* genome is now available, and the lab is participating in genomic and proteomic analyses of pathogenicity, with several collaborators. Loria received her Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from Michigan State University some time ago.



Jean-Pierre Métraux

Jean-Pierre Métraux holds a chair in biology at the Faculty of Sciences, University of Fribourg, Switzerland. He obtained his Ph.D. degree in plant biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, in 1979; was awarded a Miller Fellowship at the University of California in Berkeley, where he worked with **R. L. Jones**; and finished his formative years with the late **Hans Kende** at the Plant Research Laboratory, East Lansing, MI. In 1983, he moved to the Agricultural Department of CIBA in Basel, Switzerland, and headed a team working on resistance of plants to pathogens. During this period, his group discovered salicylic acid as well as the first synthetic inducers of resistance, one of which was later commercialized. In 1991, he returned to academia at the University of Fribourg, where he has continued to study various aspects of induced resistance in plants with his graduate students and post-doctoral fellows. The current research focuses on signaling for disease resistance in response to biotic and abiotic stress.



Clive Ronson

Clive Ronson holds the Chair in Genetics at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1979 from the University of Warwick, England, where he used mutant analysis to investigate the carbon nutrition of symbiotic rhizobia. This work subsequently led to the identification of the key role of C4-dicarboxylates in symbiotic nitrogen fixation and to the genetic analysis of the *dct* system, one of the first characterized two-component regulatory systems and a system that requires the alternative sigma factor *rpoN* for expression. Ronson has been at the University of Otago since 1991, and his current research focuses on the interaction between *Mesorhizobium loti* and *Lotus* species. His group discovered the *M. loti* symbiosis island, a transferable chromosomally located 502-kb genetic element that confers symbiotic ability on nonsymbiotic soil mesorhizobia. His current research includes several aspects of the symbiotic interaction and also the genetic regulation of symbiosis island transfer.



Christopher L. Schardl

Christopher L. Schardl holds a B.S. degree in biochemistry from Cornell University (1978), where he focused on soil chemistry and plant biochemistry. He received his Ph.D. degree in biochemistry from the University of California, Davis (1983), where he worked with **Clarence I. Kado** on nopaline catabolism by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*. His post-doctoral research, with **David M. Lonsdale** at the Plant Breeding Institute, Cambridge, England, concerned organellar genome structure and dynamics in maize. Joining the University of Kentucky in 1985, he began a program in

New Editorial Board *continued on page 6*

New Editorial Board continued from page 5

fungal molecular biology and quickly became infatuated by the grass endophytes. Applying molecular genetic and biochemical techniques to a collection of hundreds of grass endophyte symbiota, his group has studied genes and pathway steps for ergot and loline alkaloid biosynthesis, evolutionary and coevolutionary processes in the endophyte grass system, and most recently, endophyte and host genomics. Currently, Schardl holds the Harry E. Wheeler Chair in Plant Mycology and directs the University of Kentucky Advanced Genetic Technologies Center. He is a fellow of The American Phytopathological Society and the Mycological Society of America.



Pietro Spanu

Pietro Spanu has been researching the interaction between plants and microbes ever since he began working in a lab. It all started with an undergraduate project in **Paola Bonfante**'s group in Turin (Italy), investigating host responses to arbuscular mycorrhizal infections (1985–1987). What was supposed to be a short, 3-day visit to Basel,

Switzerland, to deliver infected leek roots to **Thomas Boller** unexpectedly morphed into an opportunity to do Ph.D. research with him there (1987–1991). During those years, he continued working with plants and spent 4 years investigating pathogen- and elicitor-induced ethylene biosynthesis in tomatoes. After a short post-doctoral spell in Boller's lab at the Friedrich Miescher Institute, he left to take an independent research fellowship at Oxford University funded by the Royal Society (1992–1999). Here, he turned his attention to fungi, focusing first on aspects of basic pathogenicity in *Cladosporium fulvum* and then working on *Blumeria graminis*. He has now been at Imperial College London for 8 years, where he has continued and developed further the projects started in Oxford. At present, the main focuses of his activities are genomics and transcriptomics in *Blumeria*, where he continues to pursue his long-term interest in understanding how fungi and plants manage to enter into exquisitely intimate and highly compatible associations.



Krzysztof

Krzysztof Szczyglowski received his Ph.D. degree in 1989 from the Institute of Bioorganic Chemistry, Polish Academy of Sciences, where he studied nitrogen-fixing root symbiosis with **Andrzej Legocki**. In 1990, he was the recipient of a long-term Max-Planck Fellowship in the Jeff Schell Department at the Max-Planck Institute for Plant Genetics in Cologne, Germany. In 1991, Szczyglowski assumed a position as senior post-doctoral research associate in **Frans deBrujin**'s laboratory in the Department of Energy–Plant Research Laboratory at Michigan State University and in 1996 as research assistant professor position (nontenure) in the same department. In 2000, he moved to his current position as a research scientist at Agriculture and Agri-

Food Canada, where his work focuses on understanding how plant regulatory pathways are modified in response to *Rhizobium* signaling in order to house the bacteria and establish a functional root symbiosis. Using *Lotus japonicus* as an experimental organism, his group has been studying the genetic determinants of nitrogen-fixing symbiosis by performing functional analyses of the host plant genome. Complementary work on selected aspects of root development in Szczyglowski's laboratory aims at contributing to basic knowledge of the regulatory circuits that govern root plasticity, an important agronomic trait. Szczyglowski is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Western Ontario.



Bart Thomma

Bart Thomma is an assistant professor at the Laboratory of Phytopathology in the Department of Plant Sciences of Wageningen University, the Netherlands. He received his M.S. degree in plant pathology at Wageningen University and subsequently obtained his Ph.D. degree in agricultural and applied biological sciences at the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium, in 2000. His thesis work in the laboratory of **Willem Broekaert** concerned innate immunity signaling in *Arabidopsis* and the role of the phytohormones ethylene and jasmonic acid in *Arabidopsis* basal defense against necrotrophic pathogens. Since 2003, he has been at the Laboratory of Phytopathology at Wageningen University, where he is establishing his own research group. His research group focuses on 1) characterizing pathogenicity factors of the tomato fungal pathogens *Cladosporium fulvum* and *Verticillium dahliae*, making use of *Arabidopsis* as a model; 2) investigating the role of receptor-like proteins in *Arabidopsis*; 3) investigating Verticillium wilt diseases on *Arabidopsis* and solanaceous plant species; and 4) molecular detection and quantification of plant pathogens.



Linda Walling

Linda Walling obtained her Ph.D. degree at the University of Rochester Medical School, Rochester, NY, in 1980, studying the interactions of bacteriophage T1 and *Escherichia coli*. Her first post-doctoral fellowship was in the laboratory of **James Darnell** at the Rockefeller University, New York, where she investigated the role of transcriptional control in mouse liver gene expression. She transitioned into the field of plant molecular biology upon joining **Robert Goldberg**'s laboratory (University of California, Los Angeles) in 1981, where she studied the role of transcriptional and posttranscriptional processes in soybean seed protein gene expression. In 1984, she joined the University of California at Riverside as an assistant professor. She is currently a professor there and is also a member of the university's Center for Plant Cell Biology and is associate dean for the

Biological Sciences in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. She has served on the executive committee for the American Society of Plant Biology (2003–2006) and is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. Her laboratory studies plant molecular and cellular responses to phloem-feeding whiteflies, tissue-damaging herbivores, and mechanical

wounding. In addition, her laboratory is dissecting the role of aminopeptidases in plant growth, development, and defense to biotic and abiotic stress. Genetics, genomics, chemical genetics, and biochemical methods are used to dissect the roles of proteolysis in plant responses to its environment and the complex signal networks that link pathogen, wound, and herbivore responses.

President's Message continued from page 2

the progress made in the 13th IC-MPMI. The chair of the local scientific organizing committee, **Matteo Lorito**, will be interviewed about his experience with organizing the 13th IC-MPMI in Sorrento.

3. Keep our biennial congresses at a very high standard.

Lorito, his local organizing committee in Sorrento, and the international scientific advisory board have worked in very close collaboration to select the best keynote and plenary speakers. They will also make a great effort, together with the chairs of the concurrent sessions, to select the best speakers from the submitted abstracts, so we will hear the most recent stories in the fascinating world of molecular plant-microbe interactions. Lorito will tell about his experiences in this issue, but I already know that Sorrento brings the society on top of its core business again: "communicate the hottest stories to the scientific community." This 13th IC-MPMI will set records in terms of participants and science.

4. Increase IS-MPMI membership figures by stimulating young scientists to join IS-MPMI.

Together with headquarters staff, I have taken the opportunity to write to chairs of departments, professors, and group leaders to stimulate their colleagues and their Ph.D. students to join IS-MPMI. IS-MPMI should have as many members as there are participants at the biennial congresses. We are not there yet, but our membership went up from below 500 to around 630. We should be able to reach the target that I set of 750. Ideally, we should have 1,200 members, which is the number of participants of the congress this year. So members, please tell your colleagues. IS-MPMI is strong but it still can become stronger! We all should become role models for the younger generation of scientists in the field of molecular plant-microbe interactions.

5. Give members benefits for joining IS-MPMI.

Of course membership of IS-MPMI should give benefits to its members. And there are several benefits. The clearest benefit is of course the reduction in registration fees for attending the biennial congresses. Strong reductions are also given

on subscriptions to *MPMI*, and there is the *IS-MPMI Reporter*.

6. Give IS-MPMI more visibility among its members.

This has been achieved so far by interviews with the BOD in the *IS-MPMI Reporter* but also by presenting poster awards at the 13th IC-MPMI in Sorrento and, for the first time, presenting an IS-MPMI award to an outstanding scientist who has performed pioneering work in the area of molecular plant-microbe interactions. The IS-MPMI award will be presented at the opening ceremony in Sorrento and the poster awards will be presented during the party at the end of the congress.

7. Get a good representation of disciplines and international scientists in the BOD.

The BOD should not only cover all disciplines in our area but should also represent a truly international community of scientists covering the best science in our area. Only then will we keep attracting the highly motivated young scientists to publish in our *MPMI* journal and to attend our biennial congresses. In Sorrento, we will elect new board members and we take all these factors into account. In this respect, we should include a virologist and a nematologist in the BOD and find more representatives from Asian countries.

8. The 14th IC-MPMI will be held in Québec City.

Organizing large meetings require much planning and preparation. As some of you know already, the 14th IC-MPMI will be held in Québec City, Québec, Canada, July 19–23, 2009. Please reserve the dates.

Hani Antoun and his local organizing committee, in close collaboration with the IS-MPMI international scientific advisory board, will organize another excellent congress. Renew your membership with IS-MPMI or, if you are not a member yet, become a member of IS-MPMI, and you will get an excellent congress for a reduced congress fee.

Pierre J. G. M. de Wit
IS-MPMI President

See You in Sorrento!

The organization of the XIII International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions (IC-MPMI) to be held July 21–27, 2007, in Sorrento, Italy, is in full swing! The undertakings are numerous and various and involve helping participants to register, submit abstracts, and book accommodations; compiling lists of registrants and topic interests; inviting speakers; formatting abstracts for publication; selecting menu items; arranging locations for posters and presentations at the congress venue; and coordinating technical assistance, as well as scheduling the scientific and cultural programs.

One week before the February 15 deadline for early registration and abstract submission, there were only 150 persons registered. Needless to say, the local organizers were somewhat concerned! However, we have proof that people like to leave everything to the last minute . . . in the 48 hours before the closing of the early registration, our website received more than 800 abstract submissions! The obvious consequence is that many of you encountered some difficulties with your registrations/submissions. Similarly, several complications were encountered by the organizers with this ultimate surge. We were worried that the server could become blocked with the bottleneck of activity. Worldwide differences were noted when working in real time. For those of you in North America, the 6–9 hour difference behind the Italian time resulted in responses to your queries until midnight and later by the local organizers to resolve your problems immediately. The society office of IS-MPMI was flooded with new membership requests and there were some difficulties in providing everyone with the certification in time.

To date, we have received about 1,250 registrations, of which 90% have been paid in full. Participants originate from more than 50 countries on five different continents. It is nice to see that among the attendees there will be about 30% students, many attending an international scientific meeting for the first time. The remaining registrants are composed of post-doctorates, researchers, professors, and other professionals in the field. Approximately 350 of the registrants are members of IS-MPMI, 40% of these are new members that joined as incentive for attending the congress. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome these new recruits to the society, composed of 55% regular, 31% post-doc, and 15% student members!

As local organizers, we had hoped for good attendance at the XIII IC-MPMI, but certainly, the actual number of registrants has exceeded all of our expectations! Indeed, this large number is both exhilarating and overwhelm-



ing. This presents new challenges for meeting organizers in terms of budget and space allocation. For example, how can food and logistic arrangements be combined in order to provide coffee breaks to all delegates and respect the 30 minutes scheduled between sessions? Where and how can 1,000 posters be displayed to ensure good visibility and accessibility? Funding availability is another important consideration for both organizers and attendees. Some costs are reduced with a rise in attend-

ance numbers, whereas many other costs are increased with the coordination of such a substantial group of people. The costs to attend an international meeting are expensive, especially with the high exchange rate of the euro. In fact, this has been reflected in the 150 requests for financial assistance that have been presented by the registrants.

Without a doubt, a strong scientific program claims a large part of the merit for attracting participants to this congress. Thanks is extended to the National and International Scientific Advisory Boards for their key role in decision making and planning. Criteria used for the program compilation were based on selecting important topics of interest from diverse subject matters and choosing speakers that are currently active in each field, as reflected in recent publications. The resulting scientific program is indeed attractive and exciting for anyone involved in molecular plant-microbe interactions! The true importance of the congress is apparent in the fact that, among the 78 speakers invited to contribute to the Plenary and Concurrent Sessions, 95% accepted our invitation to participate, thus making this meeting a priority on their agenda.

Last, but definitely not least, we must also attribute the positive response of participants to the enticing lure of Sorrento, Italy, as the host location of the congress venue at the Hilton Sorrento Palace! The fascinating zone around the Gulf of Naples offers many attractions—gastronomic, touristic, and historic—to occupy your free time at the meeting. Don't forget the sunscreen!

Check the meeting website (www.mpmi2007.net/) for updates on the final scientific program, to check on your submitted abstract, and to organize your stay. The Local Organizing Committee is pleased to welcome you to sunny Sorrento to attend the XIII International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions! See you in July!

Matteo Lorito
Chair, Local Organizing Committee



13th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions Preliminary Program

Saturday, July 21, 2007

- 15:00 to 17:00 Registration: Hotel Hilton Sorrento Palace
17:00 to 17:30 Opening Ceremony: Welcome
17:30 to 19:00 Opening Lecture(s): Evolution and Diversification of Small RNA Pathways,
J. Carrington
19:00 Welcome Party

Sunday, July 22, 2007

- 08:30 to 10:30 Plenary Session I
PATHOGENIC AND SYMBIOTIC INTERACTIONS (BACTERIA)
B. J. Staskawicz, S.-Y. He, U. Bonas, and J. Stougaard
10:30 to 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 to 13:00 Plenary Session II
PATHOGENIC AND SYMBIOTIC INTERACTIONS (FUNGI AND OOMYCETES)
S. Kamoun, N. Talbot, F. Martin, and P. Bonfante
13:00 to 14:30 Lunch
14:30 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions 1, 2, and 3
16:30 to 17:00 Coffee Break
17:00 to 19:00 Concurrent Sessions 4, 5, and 6

Monday, July 23, 2007

- 08:30 to 10:30 Plenary Session III
COMMON HOST MECHANISMS CONTROLLING INTERACTIONS
F. Ausubel, X. Dong, J. Sheen, and M. Parniske
10:30 to 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 to 13:00 Plenary Session IV
MULTITROPHIC INTERACTIONS (PATHOGENS, INSECTS, NEMATODES, PARASITIC PLANTS)
C. M. J. Pieterse, C. M. De Moraes, D. J. Kliebenstein, and V. M. Williamson
13:00 to 14:30 Lunch
14:30 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions 7, 8, and 9
16:30 to 17:00 Coffee Break
17:00 to 20:00 Poster Session (odd-numbered posters)

Tuesday, July 24, 2007

- 08:30 to 10:30 Plenary Session V
RECOGNITION AND SIGNALING I
P. J. G. M. de Wit, P. Dodds, J. Dangl, and G. B. Martin
10:30 to 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 to 13:00 Plenary Session VI
RECOGNITION AND SIGNALING II
J. D. G. Jones, G. De Lorenzo, P. Schulze-Lefert, and T. Mengiste

- 13:00 Free Time and Congress Tour

Wednesday, July 25, 2007

- 08:30 to 10:30 Plenary Session VII
MOLECULAR DIALOGUES I
M. Harrison, S. Lindow, G. E. Oldroyd, and R. Kahmann
10:30 to 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 to 13:00 Plenary Session VIII
MOLECULAR DIALOGUES II
O. Voinnet, R. Flores, R. P. Oliver, and G. Felix
13:00 to 14:30 Lunch
14:30 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions 10, 11, and 12
16:30 to 17:00 Coffee Break
17:00 to 20:00 Poster Session (even-numbered posters)

Thursday, July 26, 2007

- 08:30 to 10:30 Plenary Session IX
DYNAMICS OF PLANT RESPONSES TO MICROBES
R. Panstruga, S. P. Dinesh-Kumar, R. W. Innes, and K. Shimamoto
10:30 to 11:00 Coffee Break
11:00 to 13:00 Plenary Session X
PLANT-MICROBE INTERACTIONS AND BIOTECHNOLOGY
L. Thomashow, M. Lorito, J. Gressel, and M. Fuchs
13:00 to 14:30 Lunch
14:30 to 16:30 Concurrent Sessions 13, 14, and 15
16:30 to 17:00 Coffee Break
17:00 to 19:00 Concurrent Sessions 16, 17, and 18
20:30 Congress Dinner

Friday, July 27, 2007

- Workshops – Satellite Meetings (to be confirmed)

Concurrent Sessions Invited Speakers that have confirmed their participation to date:

- J. T. Greenberg, K. Shirasu, B. Tyler, C. Cuomo, R. W. Michelmore, M. Grant, B. Mauch-Mani, H. C. Kistler, P. Tudzynski, S. W. Ding, L. Rubino, P. Abad, U. Paszkowski, U. Nehls, I. Chet, G. V. Bloemberg, F. Sanchez, M. Kawaguchi, F. Govers, J. Beynon, T. Nuernberger, V. Lipka, D. F. Klessig, M. Delledonne, A. Collmer, B. Scott, R. Oelmuller, J. Glazebrook, T. Munnik, J. Michiels, D. Haas, J. Alfano, and S. Genin

Meet IS-MPMI Members

IS-MPMI's diverse membership spans the globe and includes professionals who have been in their field for decades, as well as those who are just starting out. To help members learn more about their colleagues, the *IS-MPMI Reporter* includes profiles of randomly chosen members at different career stages.

Student



Ricelle Agbayani

Ricelle Agbayani

University of Hawaii – Manoa
Honolulu, HI, U.S.A.

I obtained my bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Hawaii – Manoa in 2000 and immediately participated in the Marine Option Program offered by the Marine Bioproducts Engineering Center (University of Hawaii). From there, I was introduced to plant biotechnology by joining **Judy Zhu's** lab at the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center. During that internship, I used the green fluorescent protein as a visual selectable marker to avoid selection using antibiotics for the transformation of *Carica papaya* L. Afterwards, Zhu hired me as a research assistant working on the PMI/Man selection system, again to avoid antibiotic selection, to produce transgenic papaya plants. In addition, I became involved in other projects in her group, specifically, transformation of papaya for improved resistance to *Phytophthora palmivora* using a stilbene synthase gene (*Vst1*) from grapevine and the *Dahlia merckii* defensin (*DmAMP1*). Being a part of fundamental studies on mechanisms of host resistance or susceptibility made me more enthusiastic about working with plants, especially in the area of plant-pathogen interactions.

In 2003, I was given the opportunity to go back to school to pursue my Ph.D. degree, still under the supervision of Zhu. In my thesis project, I produced transgenic papaya plants expressing the *Arabidopsis thaliana* *NPR1* (nonexpressor of PR) gene and overexpressing the *NPR1* gene homolog in papaya. In this research, I used techniques such as northern and western blot analyses, quantitative RT-PCR, and bioassays to characterize the molecular responses of papaya plants to pathogens. This project has been particularly challenging. The *NPR1* gene may be the key regulatory gene controlling the onset of systemic acquired resistance.

In addition, we are interested in understanding the signal transduction network that controls the activation of defense responses in papaya. A fragment of a peptide elicitor from *P. palmivora*, Pep-13, was cloned and inserted into an *Agrobacterium*-infiltration vector that I am using as a tool for the identification of a suite of plant disease resistance genes.

I became a member of IS-MPMI while attending the congress meeting in Merida, Mexico. This exciting meeting was my first ever international conference, and not only did I learn a lot from works of other colleagues

but it also gave me the opportunity to meet people with similar research interests. IS-MPMI meetings and the *IS-MPMI Reporter* are very helpful in keeping up with new advancements in plant-microbe interactions.

Post-Doctoral/Early Career



Thomas Ott

Thomas Ott

INRA-CNRS
Toulouse, France

I studied biology at the University of Göttingen (Germany) and the University of Manchester (United Kingdom) and finished my courses with a diploma thesis (German equivalent of an M.Sc. degree) in the lab of **Andrea Polle**, studying antioxidative systems of the ectomycorrhiza-building fungus *Paxillus involutus* upon cadmium stress. After that, I started my Ph.D. thesis in the lab of **Michael Udvardi**, who was leading a research group at the Max-Planck-Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology (MPI-MP) in Golm/Potsdam (Germany), a small city south of Berlin. The interest of the group was mainly focused on nodule metabolism in *Lotus japonicus*. When I joined the team, I got involved in extending the transcriptome facilities building a 10-k cDNA array based on nodule-derived ESTs. In parallel, we characterized several late nodulins together with other group members and international collaborators.

During these years, RNA interference was initially used in plants and opened the unique opportunity for us to attempt a final proof of function for one of the most well-known nodulins, leghemoglobins. The encoded proteins were believed to facilitate oxygen diffusion in root nodules and to maintain a hypoxic environment to protect the oxygen-sensitive bacterial enzyme nitrogenase. Even if this hypothesis existed for more than 20 years, it had never been proven genetically. We generated stable transformed plants (LbRNAi) of *L. japonicus* using *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*-mediated gene transfer and succeeded to silence all three leghemoglobins genes posttranscriptionally. As expected, the nodules were unable to fix atmospheric nitrogen. This was due to the absence of nitrogenase protein in these nodules. Additionally, free oxygen concentrations and overall respiration were significantly altered. From these and other data, we concluded that Lb proteins indeed facilitate high flux rates of oxygen to the site of respiration to accomplish the high energy demand required for symbiotic nitrogen fixation. These data were supposed to be presented during the XII International Congress on MPMI in Cancun, the year when I became a member of

IS-MPMI. But unfortunately, the hurricane was faster than us and brought us 2 days in shelter rather than a fabulous meeting at that time.

After finishing my Ph.D. degree at the MPI-MP, I stayed there for a first short post-doc to finish some experiments. After receiving a Marie-Curie-Fellowship from the European Union to work in the Laboratory for Plant-Microbe Interactions (LIPM) at the INRA-CNRS in Toulouse (France), I started a second post-doc in the group of **Pascal Gamas** in January 2006. Here, I am currently studying the role of a novel protein in the model legume *Medicago truncatula*, which was so far annotated as “unknown function”. We found one gene encoding a member of this protein family to be strongly induced during nodule development but also by isolated Nod-factors. Protein-fluorophore fusions revealed that it is located in certain domains adjacent to the plasma membrane. We believe that these domains are lipid rafts, detergent-insoluble membrane regions that are rich in sterols and sphingolipids. Using shotgun proteomics, we indeed detected this protein when isolating lipid rafts from nodulated roots and confirmed its enrichment in these extracts compared to total plasma membranes using a specific antibody we raised. This antibody enabled us to localize the protein during infection nodule development, where it seems to accumulate in close physical distance to the invading bacteria. I currently use fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) and fluorescence lifetime imaging microscopy (FLIM) to characterize different interactions of the protein.

I think it has been valuable to be an IS-MPMI member when working in the field of plant-microbe interactions for the last years. It provides a useful platform for communication and gives interesting updates for this research area.

Distinguished



Richard Strange

University of London
London, United Kingdom

As a student of botany at Southampton University, United Kingdom, during the late 1950s and early 1960s, I developed “itchy feet” so, when an advertisement for a Rockefeller Junior Research Fellowship at the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland appeared on a notice board in the department, I leapt at the chance. During the several weeks that elapsed between finals and finding myself in the Southern Hemisphere, I survived a sticky interview for the job and a long boat trip through the Mediterranean Sea and the Suez Canal and down the east coast of Africa, calling at various ports on my way to Beira in Mozambique and finally arriving in Salisbury after a 24-hour train journey. I subsequently found out that that trip, or even life itself, might have ended prematurely for

Richard Strange

me in a fish market at Mombasa, as I had been oblivious to a threat from an angry, bottle-wielding local who had apparently objected to my photographing the scene!

Life in Salisbury, Rhodesia—now Harare, Zimbabwe—in a color-blind university was interesting, although there was little supervision of research, and it was a useful experience that, I think, helped me supervise 25 successful Ph.D. students later on! While there, I also indulged in a spot of moonlighting, teaching the cello at the then Rhodesian College of Music.

Returning to England, I finished writing my thesis for London University and was duly awarded a Ph.D. degree. There followed a year at the University of Wisconsin, trying to isolate the spore germination inhibitor of *Puccinia graminis* f. sp. *tritici* in **Paul Allen**'s lab. Back in England again, I was awarded a Senior Research Fellowship in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Birmingham, where my task was to enquire if pathogen nutrition was fundamental to the parasitism of wheat by *Fusarium graminearum* (I was more than a little skeptical of this approach at the time!). From reading the literature, it seemed to me that the head blight stage of the disease was important and that anthers played a crucial role in the initial infection. Taking my inspiration from the Ouchterlony diffusion plates, popular in the department at the time, I adapted the technique to measure stimulation or inhibition of fungal growth from spores by plant extracts. Rather to my surprise, I found that anther extracts caused a 70% increase of hyphal extension over that of controls. After the usual traumas of research, which included harvesting anthers from wheat plants growing in a field with a vacuum cleaner (and some funny looks from passers by!), I managed to isolate choline and glycinebetaine as the stimulants. It is good to see that nowadays the disease is getting the attention it deserves, although I am not aware that anyone has pursued the suggestion I made of selecting cleistogamous plants, which presumably would not offer the fungus the tempting bait of the anther.

I was appointed to a lectureship at the University College London (UCL: the original part of London University) in 1970 and, like many of my colleagues, stayed there until retirement as honorary professor in 2004, producing more than 90 papers and two books: *Plant Disease Control, Towards Environmentally Acceptable Methods* (1992) and *Introduction to Plant Pathology* (2003). At UCL, almost half my post-graduate students were from developing countries and they always worked on projects that were relevant to the agriculture of their country of origin. One of the more successful projects led to the isolation of the solanapyrone toxins from the fungus *Ascochyta rabiei*, which causes a devastating disease of chickpea wherever the crop is grown under cool and wet conditions.

On retirement, a sister College, Birkbeck, where I had examined previously and had also given a few lectures, offered me an Honorary Fellowship with office and

Meet IS-MPMI Members continued on page 14

Welcome New Members

The following members joined IS-MPMI between December 1, 2006, and April 30, 2007.

Please join us in welcoming them to the society!

Pamela Abbruscato CERSA - Parco Tecnologico Padano Lodi, Italy	Sarah Ben M'Barek Wageningen Univ Wageningen, Netherlands	Uwe Conrath RWTH Aachen Univ Aachen, Germany	Dan Funck Jensen Univ of Copenhagen Frederiksberg C, Denmark
Gian Paolo Accotto Istituto Di Virologia Vegetale, CNR Torino, Italy	Sandra Bensmihen INRA UMR CNRS Castanet Tolosan, France	Renato D'Ovidio Univ of Tuscia Viterbo, Italy	Isabel I. Garcia-Luque CSIC Madrid, Spain
Wafa Achouak CNRS St-Paul-Lez-Durance, France	Carmen R. Beuzon Lopez Univ of Malaga Malaga, Spain	Chris Dardick USDA ARS AFRS Kearneysville, WV, U.S.A.	Nicole Gaudé Max Planck Inst Golm, Germany
Audry C. Almengor Univ of Texas Richardson, TX, U.S.A.	Sumana Bhat Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Ardmore, OK, U.S.A.	Irene de Bruijn Wageningen Univ Wageningen, Netherlands	Sabrina Gemmer Univ of Bremen Bremen, Germany
Jessica N. Anderson Univ of Florida Gainesville, FL, U.S.A.	Klaas Bouwmeester Wageningen Univ Wageningen, Netherlands	Olga del Pozo Univ of Sevilla CSIC Sevilla, Spain	Eleanor Gilroy Scottish Crop Research Inst Dundee, United Kingdom
Tomoya Asano Kanazawa Univ Kanazawa, Japan	Sergio Herminio Brommonschenkel Univ Federal de Vicoso Vicoso, MG, Brazil	Maria J. Delgado Estacion Exp Del Zaidin, CSIC Granada, Spain	Selena Gimenez Ibanez The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom
Shazia N. Aslam Univ of Bath Bath, United Kingdom	Laurence Buhot John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom	Brody J. DeYoung Indiana Univ Bloomington, IN, U.S.A.	Maria Victoria Gomez-Rodriguez Univ de Jaen Jaen, Spain
Anna O. Avrova Scottish Crop Research Inst Dundee, United Kingdom	Adriana Cabral Utrecht Univ Utrecht, Netherlands	Andrew C. Diener Univ of California Los Angeles, CA, U.S.A.	Sarah R. Grant Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC, U.S.A.
Rachel L. Baker Southern Illinois Univ Carbondale, IL, U.S.A.	Bruno Cammue Katholieke Univ Leuven Leuven, Belgium	Elizabeth Anne Edwards John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom	Jose R. Gutierrez-Pulgar The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom
Venkatesh Balakrishnan Shizuoka Univ Shizuoka-Shiuoka, Japan	Ward K. P. Capoen John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom	Ursula Ellendorff Wageningen Univ Wageningen, Netherlands	David S. Guttman Univ of Toronto Toronto, ON, Canada
Alexi L. Balmuth The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom	Claudio Caprari Univ of Molise Pesche (IS), Italy	Mats Otto Ellerstrom Goteborg Univ Goteborg, Sweden	Mollah M. D. Hamiduzzaman Stockholm Univ Stockholm, Sweden
Manas R. Banerjee Brett Young Winnipeg, MB, Canada	Raffaello Castoria Univ of Molise Campobasso, Italy	Noris Emanuela CNR - Ist Di Virologia Vegetale Torino, Italy	Borbala D. Harrach Hungarian Academy of Sciences Budapest, Hungary
Elena Baraldi Univ Degli Studi Di Bologna Bologna, Italy	Volkan Cevik Warwick Univ Warwick, United Kingdom	Corrado Fanelli Univ La Sapienza Rome, Italy	Anton Hartmann GSF Natl Res Ctr for Env and Health Neuherberg, Bavaria, Germany
Rajendra Bari The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom	Mireille Chabaud INRA Castanet Tolosan, France	Patricia Conceicao Ferreira Dos Santos Stockholm Univ Stockholm, Sweden	Elise Haudecoeur CNRS - Inst Sciences Vegetal Gif Sur Yvette, France
Melanie Barnett Stanford Univ Stanford, CA, U.S.A.	Emilie Chapelle CNRS - Inst Sciences Vegetal Gif Sur Yvette, France	Robert F. Fisher Stanford Univ Stanford, CA, U.S.A.	Naghmeh Hemmati Carbondale, IL, U.S.A.
Laura E. Bartley Univ of California Davis, CA, U.S.A.	Leonid Chernin Hebrew Univ of Jerusalem Rehovot, Israel	Isolde M. R. Francis Univ of Gent Gent, Belgium	Tarek A. Hewezi Iowa State Univ Ames, IA, U.S.A.

Judith Hirsch UMR BGPI Montpellier, Cedex 5, France	Ralf Koebnik CNRS UPS IRD Montpellier, France	Rene Mathis Geves Beaucouze Cedex, France	Nemo Peeters INRA Castanet Tolosan, France
Csaba Hornyik Scottish Crop Research Inst Dundee, United Kingdom	Eva Kondorosi CNRS - Inst Sciences Vegetal Gif Sur Yvette, France	Hazel McLellan Univ of Edinburgh IMPS Edinburgh, United Kingdom	Ine Perty Univ of Gent Gent, Belgium
Mijan Hossain Okayama Univ Okayama, Japan	Franziska Krajinski Univ of Hannover Hannover, Germany	Christy F. Mecey Michigan State Univ East Lansing, MI, U.S.A.	Leighton Pritchard Scottish Crop Research Inst Dundee, United Kingdom
Peter J. Howe Iowa State Univ Ames, IA, U.S.A.	Thomas Kroj INRA Castanet Tolosan, France	Laura Miozzi CNR - Ist Di Virologia Vegetale Torino, Italy	Maria Eugenia Ramos Univ of California Berkeley, CA, U.S.A.
Sonia N. Humphris Scottish Crop Research Inst Dundee, United Kingdom	Marco Kruijt Wageningen Univ Wageningen, Netherlands	Raka M. Mitra Univ of Minnesota St Paul, MN, U.S.A.	A. L. N. Rao Univ of California Riverside, CA, U.S.A.
Robert W. Jackson Univ of Reading Reading, United Kingdom	Christophe J. R. A. Lacomme Scottish Crop Research Inst Dundee, United Kingdom	Monica Morales-German John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom	John P. Rathjen The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom
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Richard D. Johnson AgResearch Grasslands Palmerston North, New Zealand	Jonathan R. Latham Bioscience Resource Project Ledbury, United Kingdom	Tatiana Mucyn The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom	Barbara Reinhold-Hurek Univ of Bremen Bremen, Germany
Tina Jordan Univ of Zurich Zurich, Switzerland	Daniele Liberti Agric & Agri-Food Canada London, ON, Canada	Alfonso Munoz-Gutierrez John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom	Nicolas Rispaill Univ De Cordoba Cordoba, Spain
Krittika Kaewchumnong Univ of Aberdeen Aberdeen, United Kingdom	Melisa T. S. Lim Carnegie Institute Stanford, CA, U.S.A.	Jeremy D. Murray Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation Ardmore, OK, U.S.A.	Tita Ritsema Utrecht Univ Utrecht, Netherlands
Anna Kalinina Agric & Agri-Food Canada London, ON, Canada	Giuseppe Lima Univ of Molise Campobasso, Italy	Ervin D. Nagy Univ of Georgia Athens, GA, U.S.A.	Alexandre Robert-Seilaniantz The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom
Eric Kalkman Wageningen Univ Wageningen, Netherlands	Camilo E. Lopez Univ Nacional de Colombia Bogota, Colombia	Vardis Ntoukakis The Sainsbury Laboratory Norwich, United Kingdom	Mindy M. Roberts Univ of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC, U.S.A.
Jagreet Kaur Max Planck Inst for Plant Breeding Res Koeln, Germany	Helen C. Lovell Univ of the West of England Bristol, United Kingdom	Shin Okazaki T U Dresden Dresden, Germany	Mario Rocha-Sosa UNAM - Inst de Biotecnologia Cuernavaca, Mor, Mexico
Soonok Kim Seoul Natl Univ Seoul, Korea	Michael F. Lyngkjaer Riso Natl Lab Technical Univ of Denmark Roskilde, Denmark	Pernille Olsen Risoe Natl Lab Roskilde, Denmark	Christian C. Rogers John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom
Lorant Kiraly Plant Protection Inst Budapest, Hungary	Saara Mansouri Southern Illinois Univ Carbondale, IL, U.S.A.	Janet M. Paper Michigan State Univ East Lansing, MI, U.S.A.	Gianfranco Romanazzi Marome Polytechnic Univ Ancona, Italy
Yoshihiro Kobae Nagoya Univ Nagoya, Japan	John F. Marsh John Innes Centre Norwich, United Kingdom	Roberta Paris Bologna Univ Bologna, Italy	Carmen Ruiz Roldan Univ De Cordoba Cordoba, Spain
Motoichiro Kodama Tottori Univ Tottori, Japan	Marta Martin Univ Autonoma De Madrid Madrid, Spain	Giuseppe Parrella CNR-IPP Portici, NA, Italy	Javier Ruiz-Albert Univ of Malaga Malaga, Spain

Welcome New Members continued on page 14

Welcome New Members *continued from page 13*

Melanie A. Sacco
Boyce Thompson Inst
Ithaca, NY, U.S.A.

Henk-Jan Schoonbeek
Univ of Fribourg
Fribourg, Switzerland

Carolyn J. Schultz
Univ of Adelaide
Glen Osmond, SA, Australia

Benjamin Schwessinger
John Innes Centre
Norwich, United Kingdom

Maria Teresa Serra Yoldi
CSIC
Madrid, Spain

Libo Shan
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston, MA, U.S.A.

Ryan W. Shepherd
Univ of California
Berkeley, CA, U.S.A.

Roshi Shrestha
Univ of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, United Kingdom

Jean Luiz Simoes de Araujo
EMBRAPA
Seropidica, RJ CEP, Brazil

Jakob Skov
Risoe Natl Lab
Roskilde, Denmark

Ana Slaughter
Univ of Neuchatel
Neuchatel, Switzerland

Lucinda S. Smith
Stanford Univ
Stanford, CA, U.S.A.

Christian Sohlenkamp
Univ Nac Autonoma de Mexico
Cuernavaca, Mor, Mexico

Jing Song
Ohio State Univ
Wooster, OH, U.S.A.

Maria Jose Soto
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Francesca Stefanato
Univ of Fribourg
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Akiko Sugio
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Boris Szurek
Inst De Res Pour Le Development
(IRD)
Montpellier, France

Frank Takken
Univ of Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Wladimir I. L. Tameling
Wageningen Univ
Wageningen, Netherlands

Ryohei Terauchi
Iwate Biotechnology Research
Center
Iwate, Japan

Meet IS-MPMI Members *continued from page 11*

lab space, where I currently pursue my interest of trying to produce toxin-minus mutants of *A. rabiei* via *Agrobacterium*-mediated mutagenesis. Global food security is another interest, as may be adduced from my paper "Plant disease: A threat to global food security," written with **Peter Scott** for the *Annual Review of Phytopathology* (43:83-116:2005). Following this, we are trying to initiate a new journal with the title "Food Security: The Science and Sociology of Food Production and Access to Food." Currently, 5 million children die of malnutrition annually. So our aim is to produce a journal that addresses all

aspects of the problem of insufficient food reaching hungry mouths in the hope that it will do something to reduce this appalling number and help in achieving the Millennium Development Goal of halving world hunger by 2015. If this is also your interest, we should be pleased to hear from you.

On retiring, I made the choice of the journals to which I would continue to subscribe. *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions* stood out as a journal I must have, as it keeps me in touch with the cutting edge of the subject.

Recently published research in *Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions*

Find complete abstracts online with links to full-text articles at <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/loi/mpmi>

February 2007, Vol. 20, Number 2

GmEREBP1 Is a Transcription Factor Activating Defense Genes in Soybean and *Arabidopsis*.

Arabidopsis WRKY70 Is Required for Full *RPP4*-Mediated Disease Resistance and Basal Defense Against *Hyaloperonospora parasitica*.

Nod Factor Perception During Infection Thread Growth Fine-Tunes Nodulation.

Identification and Characterization of a *nodH* Ortholog from the Alfalfa-Nodulating Or191-Like Rhizobia.

The Role of Pectate Lyase and the Jasmonic Acid Defense Response in *Pseudomonas viridisflava* Virulence.

Characterization of the Interaction Between the Bacterial Wilt Pathogen *Ralstonia solanacearum* and the Model Legume Plant *Medicago truncatula*.

Ptr ToxA Interacts with a Chloroplast-Localized Protein.

Transcriptional Adaptation of *Mycosphaerella graminicola* to Programmed Cell Death (PCD) of Its Susceptible Wheat Host.

Transcriptional Analysis of Complementary Sense Genes in *Spinach curly top virus* and Functional Role of C2 in Pathogenesis.

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March 2007, Vol. 20, Number 3

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April 2007, Vol. 20, Number 4

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MPMI Journal Articles continued on page 16

MPMI Journal Articles continued from page 15

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May 2007, Vol. 20, Number 5

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Improvements to the MPMI Online Journal continued from page 1

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Saskia Hogenhout

The John Innes Centre (JIC) in Norwich, England, is pleased to announce the appointment of **Saskia Hogenhout**, an expert in phloem-feeding insects and pathogens transmitted by these insects. Hogenhout will begin her appointment as a research scientist in June 2007. Her research centers on the emerging field of molecular plant-microbe-insect interactions (MPMII). Insects and other arthropods damage plants directly

but also vector more than half of the ~800 plant viruses described to date, as well as numerous bacterial plant pathogens. Hogenhout will move her lab from The Ohio State University in the United States, where she has been an assistant and associate professor for the past 8 years.

Hogenhout's appointment is part of the planned growth of JIC into the area of plant-insect interactions. Her lab will be part of the Department of Disease and Stress Biology and will make use of the quarantine insectary facility located on the JIC campus (www.jic.ac.uk/corporate/services-and-products/resources/insectary.htm). Hogenhout is delighted about her move. She says, "The JIC has an outstanding reputation in plant research worldwide providing an excellent environment for integrative molecular studies on plants, microbes and insects. My aim is to strengthen the JIC research portfolio with regards to the topics of insects and insect-transmitted microbes. In the past years, my lab has focused on genome sequencing and post-genomics analyses of phytoplasmas (bacterial plant pathogens) and rhabdoviruses. Both of these pathogens are transmitted by phloem-feeding leafhoppers and planthoppers. The timing of my move to the JIC is perfect. Genome sequences for many phloem-feeding insects are now being generated in my lab and elsewhere providing unique opportunities for understanding how insect-transmitted microbes and their insect vectors manipulate plants."

Visit Hogenhout's new JIC website at
www.jic.ac.uk/staff/saskia-hogenhout/default.htm.



Volker Lipka

The Sainsbury Laboratory announces the appointment of **Volker Lipka**, an expert in plant nonhost resistance to fungal pathogens.

"We are delighted that Volker has joined us," says **Jonathan Jones**, head of the Sainsbury Lab. "He was lead author on a beautiful Science paper on non-host resistance in *Arabidopsis* to pea and barley powdery mildews,

and his program will continue to investigate powdery mildew and *Colletotrichum* interactions with plants. I am particularly pleased that he will help us strengthen our capacity in imaging."

Lipka has moved his lab from the University of Tuebingen, Germany, in February 2007 and will continue work that he initiated there and in **Paul Schulze-Lefert**'s department at the Max-Planck-Institute in Cologne. "I am excited about joining the Sainsbury Laboratory, which has a renowned reputation for outstanding plant-microbe interaction research," he says. "I feel that this is the right place to develop my own career in a competitive scientific area. The Sainsbury Laboratory provides a unique research environment which will allow me to explore challenging questions and make exciting discoveries."

Lipka's appointment is part of the planned growth of the Sainsbury Laboratory research portfolio, which aims to recruit a further two project leaders to do research into new areas of plant biology based on plant-pathogen interactions. The institute was recently awarded a 5-year funding package of £17M by the Gatsby Charitable Foundation as part of its continued support for the laboratory.

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**Assistant Professor
(Host-Pathogen Interactions)**

Position number 82139, UHM C of Trop Agr & Human Res, (Manoa), tenure track, Department of Plant & Environmental Protection Sciences, nine-month position to begin January 1, 2008. **Duties:** Develop an externally funded research program to address the molecular interactions of plants and fungi, including the diagnosis of invasive and bioterror fungi using molecular approaches, and develop environmentally sound management strategies to control fungal diseases of important crops in Hawaii. Crops could include but are not limited to papaya, banana, pineapple, vegetable crops, turf grasses, ornamentals, and diversified crops. The successful candidate will be responsible for an introductory course and lab entitled Plant Pathogens and Diseases; will be expected to contribute to the graduate and undergraduate programs by developing courses appropriate to the instructional assignment; and will team teach or contribute guest lectures in other courses. He/she will also participate as a member of the graduate faculty to supervise graduate students and serve on student advisory committees. **Minimum Qualifications:** Ph.D. degree in plant pathology or a related discipline; research experience in host-pathogen interactions as demonstrated by publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Desirable Qualifications: Post-doctoral research experience in host-fungal interactions; teaching experience at the university level; evidence of successful grantsmanship. **To Apply:** Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, official transcripts of college training, and have three confidential letters of recommendation sent to Dr. Anne Alvarez.

Application Address: Dr. Anne Alvarez, Search Committee Chair, Department of Plant & Environmental Protection Sciences, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawaii at Manoa, 3190 Maile Way, Room 307, Honolulu, HI 96822, U.S.A.

Inquiries: Dr. Anne Alvarez; **Phone:** 808-956-7764;

Fax: 808-956-2832; **E-mail:** alvarez@hawaii.edu. **Date Posted:** April 13, 2007. **Closing Date:** August 10, 2007.

The University of Hawaii is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution. All qualified applicants will be considered, regardless of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or status as disabled veteran or veteran of Vietnam era. Employment is contingent on satisfying employment eligibility verification requirements of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. Appointments to positions are subject to campus recruitment guidelines and the collective bargaining agreement.



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COMING EVENTS

2007

June 3-7
9th World Congress on Parasitic Plants.
Charlottesville, VA, U.S.A.
www.cpe.vt.edu/wcopp/

July 2-6
The Downy Mildews—2nd International Symposium. Olomouc, Czech Republic.
www.downymildews.upol.cz

July 10-14
20th North American Symbiotic Nitrogen Fixation Conference.
Milwaukee, WI, U.S.A.
www.marquette.edu/NASNFC

July 21-27
13th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions.
Sorrento, Italy.
www.mpmi2007.org

July 28-August 1
APS/SON Joint Meeting.
San Diego, CA, U.S.A.
<http://meeting.apsnet.org/>

August 12-17
11th International Workshop on Fire Blight.
Portland, OR, U.S.A.
<http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/fireblight2007/>

August 26-30

ASM Conference on Pseudomonas 2007.
Seattle, WA, U.S.A.
www.asm.org/Meetings/index.asp?bid=44125

October 1-3

2nd International Conference on Bacterial Blight of Rice (ICBB).
Nanjing, China.
<http://icbb2007.njau.edu.cn/>

October 8-12

ISHS Second International Symposium on Tomato Diseases.
Kusadasi, Turkey.
www.2istd.ege.edu.tr/

October 9-14

4th International Rice Blast Conference.
Changsha, China.
www.4thirbc.org

October 21-26

XIVth International Botrytis Symposium.
Cape Town, South Africa.
<http://academic.sun.ac.za/botrytis2007>

November 12-15

First Meeting of the International Phytoplasmatologist Working Group.
Bologna, Italy.
bertaccini_a@biblio.cib.unibo.it

2008

February 10-15
Keystone Symposium on Plant Innate Immunity.
Keystone, CO, U.S.A.
www.keystonesymposia.org/Meetings/ViewMeetings.cfm?MeetingID=932&AllowFutureView=1

July 26-30
APS Centennial Meeting
Minneapolis, MN U.S.A.
www.apsnet.org/centennial

August 24-29
9th International Congress of Plant Pathology.
Torino, Italy.
www.icpp2008.org

August 30-September 2
10th International Fusarium Workshop.
Alghero, Sardinia, Italy.
www.cdl.umn.edu/scab/10th_fhb_wkshp.htm

2009

July 19-23
14th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions.
Québec City, Québec, Canada.

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