



Success in Sorrento— The XIII International Congress

The XIII International Congress of IS-MPMI arrived in Sorrento, Italy, on July 21, remained for 5 full days packed with an abundance of scientific, social, cultural, and gastronomic activity, and then left in a flurry on July 27 with the bustle of people, luggage, and buses. The final count was about 1,245 registered participants, originating from 59 countries worldwide! This turnout reflected a good response of the MPMI scientific community to this event, even if only one and a half years have passed since the last occasion in Mexico. Further, the registration discount offered when becoming an IS-MPMI member elicited about a 45% increase in the number of IS-MPMI memberships versus the December 2006 count. Ultimately, even though the congress was held in one of the most prestigious, thus expensive, European tourist sites, the final budget was balanced with no losses incurred to the society. Thanks to all who attended and helped make this a successful MPMI congress—probably record breaking in terms of attendance number!



Past President Pierre de Wit, Congress Chair Matteo Lorito, and new President Federico Sanchez dancing together during the social dinner.

The scientific program proved to be comprehensive, covering a wide range of topics. The opening lecture provided by **James C. Carrington** gave us a novel insight into the role of small RNAs in plants, an exciting, topical, growing field of research. The IS-MPMI Award Lecture of **Thomas Boller** presented an inside view into the development of his exceptionally innovative research career. The regular congress day started every morning with talks in the Plenary Sessions, followed by informal lunch discussions. The afternoon activities included Concurrent Sessions and Poster Sessions, which immediately rolled into the evening Special Interest Workshops that, in some cases, proceeded until after 11:00 p.m. Then, if 15 hours of listening to the organized presentations wasn't enough, nightcap sessions continued into the wee hours for those who were not yet satiated and wanted to discuss more science and organize collaboration! A heartfelt thank you is extended to all the speakers. Their participation formed a strong scientific foundation for the congress. Hearing about their "hot" findings was exciting, and their interpretations of the subjects were stimulating and thought provoking.

The visual impact of the nearly 1,000 posters throughout the congress venue was impressive. These scientific presentations were equally attractive and instigated much discussion, thanks to the availability of the authors during the two sessions. Needless to say, the Poster Committees had a daunting task in selecting the award recipients.

The Hilton Sorrento Palace was put to a rigorous test in hosting so many congress delegates! Its strategic location overlooking the sea of the sirens was indeed breathtaking. We had the fortune of having the venue renovated for the start of the congress—the paint was still wet the day before the opening! Every possible conference space was utilized and optimized! Every problem was dealt with and resolved. The organization of the community lunches together worked well! All participants must agree

that it was indeed an extraordinary sight to see, not to mention notable to hear, about 1,200 delegates seated all together for lunch in the San Antonio/Pompeii Restaurant and on the terrace! The lunches, normally composed of a several-course meal, were served efficiently in an arc of about 70–80 minutes in order to respect the schedule of the scientific program. The little cakes, tarts, or cookies served during the coffee breaks were so colorful and deliciously arranged.

The social program initiated with the Welcome Reception, which was held outdoors in the refreshing lemon orchard against the backdrop of the Gulf of Naples and the background music and dance of the classic Neapolitan “tarantella.” The full attendance made movement difficult to locate old acquaintances (not to mention the appetizers) in the crowd, but with patience, circulation was possible and encounters were successful. The week of the congress was substantially sunny and hot, hot, hot. Many participants, approximately 20 busloads, braved the climate to participate in the congress tour to the Pompeii excavation site! It was striking to see so many bright yellow congress hats moving around the extensive archaeological complex. Fortunately, no PAMP (Pompeii-Associated Missing People) were registered. In spite of the heat, seeing the ancient town of Pompeii below the shadow of the volcano Vesuvius provided a thrill, meriting the visit no matter what meteorological conditions prevailed.

In the Closing Ceremony, the presidency of IS-MPMI was passed from **Pierre de Wit** to the newly elected President **Federico Sanchez**, who addressed the crowd, presented the poster awards, and introduced the site for the XIV IS-MPMI Congress in 2009.

The congress dinner was also hosted in the lemon orchard. A sumptuous meal was served, accompanied by an interactive Neapolitan music spectacle that was capable of drawing in all attendees to partake. A highlight to the evening of entertainment involved the participation of the past and present presidents of IS-MPMI and the congress chair at center stage.

The organization of this 13th edition of the IS-MPMI congress is not yet finished. Now work is proceeding to edit and assemble all of the manuscripts submitted by the speakers into a publication.

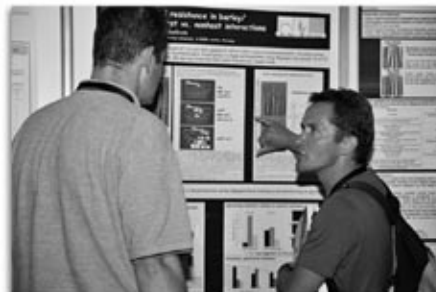
The ultimate goals for these IS-MPMI congresses are to reinforce and expand the community and to share new and exciting scientific findings, as well to initiate and sustain personal contacts during these biennial encounters. Consensus is that these objectives have been achieved.

See you in Québec City in 2 years!

Matteo Lorito and the Local Organizers

Images from the XIII International Congress of IS-MPMI

View all the people, posters, and presentations of the XIII International Congress. A photo gallery is now available at www.ismpminet.org/meetings/2007Gallery



You Know You Attended the XIII International Congress in Sorrento When...

- You got sunburned despite spending 8 hours a day inside the conference center.
- You suffered from limoncello hangover.
- Your PTI is induced (PTI, Pompeii Triggered Immunity).
- You got hit on the head with a giant lemon in the Hilton's Agrumeto Garden.
- You know that JJ can deliver eukaryotic effectors inside plant cells using bacterial Type III secretion (so can Brian).
- You suffer from anxiety every time you step onto a bus.
- You picked up the habit of having wine at lunch.
- You are a PAMP (Pompeii-Associated Missing Person).
- You avoid using the "A" word (Avirulence).
- You will never fly with Alitalia again.
- You heard sirens singing the zigzag model.
- You know the difference between a seabream (orata) and a seabass (spigola).
- You start referring to fungi as oomycete-like organisms.
- You will name your next son Matteo.
- You already marked your calendar with the dates of the XIV IS-MPMI Congress in Québec City.

IS-MPMI Congress Poster Award Recipients

The awards for the IS-MPMI Best Posters were given to the following.

CerK1, a receptor like kinase, plays a critical role for chitin elicitor signaling in *Arabidopsis thaliana*.

Ayako Miya, Premkumar Albert, Yoshitake Desaki, Kazuya Ichimura, Ken Shirasu, Naoto Kawakami, Hanae Kakui, and Naoto Shibuya

Novel elements of the tomato *BS4*-mediated resistance response to *Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *vesicatoria* that express *Avrbs4*

Sebastian Schornack, Ulla Bonas, and Thomas Lahaye

Remorins represent of a novel, structural plant protein family located in lipid rafts and involved in signaling events during infection of *Medicago truncatula*

Thomas Ott, Ton Timmers, Benoit Lefebvre, Sandra Moreau, Tatiana Vernié, Laurence Godiard, Michel Rossignol, Pascal Gamas, and Andreas Niebel

Dissection of plant cell responses to arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi reveals an unpredicted role for Dmi3, a calcium/calmodulin-dependent kinase

Andrea Genre and Paola Bonfante

Accumulation of fungal effectors in blast interfacial complexes during biotrophic invasion of rice

Romain Berruyer, Chang Hyun Khang, Sook Young Park, Prasanna Kankanala, Seogchan Kang, and Barbara Valent

The Molecular Plant Pathology Awards were given to the following.

AvrPtoB mediates the degradation of the host fen kinase to promote disease susceptibility

T. R. Rosebrock, L. Zeng, J. J. Brady, R. B. Abramovitch, F. Xiao, and G. Martin

Isolation and characterization of the pepper *BS3* resistance gene

P. Romer, S. Hahn, T. Jordan, T. Strauss, H. Scholze, U. Bonas, and T. Lahaye

Congratulations to all the awardees!

XIV International Congress

July 19-23, 2009 • Québec City, Canada



Make plans now to attend the
**XIV International Congress of
Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions**
in beautiful Québec City!

Visit **www.ismpminet.org**
for Congress updates.

We'll see you in 2009!