

PROGRAM:

Workshop sessions will consist of keynote papers, offered papers, and posters on the following topics: Systematics and phylogenetics; Genomics; Pathogenicity and disease epidemiology; Ecology and biogeography; Biological control; Disease management; Diagnostics; Host-fungal interactions; Mycotoxins and Metabolism.

Each Oral Session will include one or two invited keynote presentations and up to six oral presentations (10 min each) selected by the session chairpersons and by the Scientific Committee among the submitted abstracts.

Particular attention has been given to the Poster Sessions. Thanks to the facilities available at the Carlos V Hotel, we will be able to display all the posters continuously for the entire Workshop. Authors will have the opportunity to discuss their work during Poster Sessions in the afternoon without other concurrent Workshop activities.

Tentative program:**Saturday 30 August**

13.00-14.30: registration of participants

14.30-15.30: Keynote address

15.30-17.30: *Systematics and phylogenetics* (session leaders: Kerry O'Donnell, Keith Seifert)

17.30-19.30: poster session and coffee break

Sunday 31 August

08.30-10.45: *Genomics* (session leaders: Li-Jun Ma, Corby Kistler)

10.45-11.00: coffee break

11.00-13.15: *Host-fungal interactions* (session leaders: Willie Schäfer, Antonio Di Pietro)

13.15-14.30: lunch

14.30-16.30: *Biological control* (session leaders: Claude Alabouvette, Angelo Garibaldi)

16.30-16.45: coffee break

16.45-18.45: *Ecology and biogeography* (session leader: Brett Summerell)

18.45-19.45: poster session

Monday 1 September

08.30-10.45: *Mycotoxins and metabolism* (session leaders: Naresh Magan, Ulf Thrane)

10.45-11.00: coffee break

11.00-13.15: *Diagnostics* (session leaders: Kamel Abd-El Salam, Theo van der Lee)

13.15-14.30: lunch

14.30-16.45: *Disease management* (session leaders: Rafael M. Jiménez-Díaz, Wade Elmer)

16.45-17.45: poster session and coffee break

18.00: sightseeing tour and evening banquet

Tuesday 2 September

09.30-11.45: *Pathogenicity and disease epidemiology* (session leader: Sukumar Chakraborty)

11.45: coffee break

Departure

ABSTRACT INSTRUCTIONS:

Abstracts of oral and poster presentations should be submitted before 31 January 2008. The abstracts will be published in a Special issue of the [Journal of Plant Pathology](#), which will be distributed during the workshop. Abstracts arriving after the deadline will not be included in the JPP book of abstracts.

Abstracts should be sent by e-mail (word file) to:

gmigheli@uniss.it and balmas@uniss.it

Please indicate whether you prefer to contribute with one or more oral or poster presentations and select the most suitable Session for your abstract(s). The Scientific Committee and the Session Leaders will make a selection of oral presentations if the proposed contributions will exceed the available time.

Please follow the attached **GUIDELINES FOR WRITING ABSTRACTS**, to prepare your abstract.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR POSTER PRESENTATION:

The dimensions of the poster should not exceed 80 cm (31.5") width x 110 cm (43") height. The text, graphics, photographs, etc. should be readable at a distance of two meters (six feet).

Posters must be displayed during all the duration of the Workshop and removed before departure. Any remaining posters will be removed by the organizers and discarded. The posters must be attached to the poster board with the provided double-sided or one-sided adhesive tape. The use of tacks, pins, staples etc. or any other material that could perforate or damage the board stands is strictly prohibited.

Presenting authors are asked to attend their posters during the designated Poster Sessions I-IV. Posters will be numbered as indicated in the Book of Abstracts, which will be distributed at the Congress, and a corresponding numbered poster board will be available for attaching your presentation in the appropriate display area.

Poster attendance will be divided in two groups (even and odd numbers) during the Congress, as determined by the number assigned to your presentation (see the Book of Abstracts):

Poster Session I (Saturday 30, from 17.30 to 18.30): posters with even numbers.

Poster Session II (Saturday 30, from 18.30 to 19.30): posters with odd numbers.

Poster Session III (Sunday 31, from 18.45 to 19.45): posters with even numbers.

Poster Session IV (Monday 1, from 16.45 to 17.45): posters with odd numbers.

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING ABSTRACTS

Font: Times New Roman, size 12

Title: **CAPITAL LETTERS, BOLD**

Authors' names: in **Bold**

Affiliation(s): *In extenso* (not abbreviated) complete of address, in *italics*,

Fax and E-mail of the speaker or of the senior author, in *italics*

Text: must not exceed 250 words; single interspaced

Right and left margins: 2.5 cm

Example

RNA SILENCING OF THE TRICHOHECENE BIOSYNTHESIS GENE *TRI6* IN *FUSARIUM CULMORUM*. B. Scherm¹, M. Orrù¹, V. Balmas¹, T.M. Hammond², N.P. Keller², and Q. Migheli¹. *¹Dipartimento di Protezione delle Piante, Università degli Studi di Sassari, Via E. De Nicola 9, I-07100 Sassari, Italy and ²Department of Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA; Fax: +++39079229316; E-mail: qmigheli@uniss.it*

Post-transcriptional regulation of eukaryotic genes through interception and degradation of mRNA is known as RNA silencing. This mechanism is activated by an RNase III enzyme, which digests double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) molecules into 21- to 25-bp fragments. These fragments (siRNAs) are incorporated into a complex of proteins, the "RNA-induced silencing complex" (RISC), which uses the incorporated siRNAs to target and degrade mRNA with complementary sequences. It was recently demonstrated that inverted repeat transgenes (IRT) are efficient activators of RNA silencing in fungal species. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether RNA silencing could be applied to suppress mycotoxin production in the plant pathogen *F. culmorum* (W.G. Smith) Sacc., incitant of crown and foot rot on wheat. Transformation of a highly virulent strain of *F. culmorum* with IRT containing sequences corresponding to the trichothecene biosynthesis gene *tri6* was achieved by using the hygromycin B resistance gene *hph* as selectable marker in PEG-mediated co-transformation of fungal protoplasts. The pattern of integration indicates that most transformants underwent homologous recombination events with partial deletion of the endogenous *tri6* gene. A subset of transformants possessing both the endogenous gene and the *tri6*-specific IRT construct were selected for further studies. The *tri6*-specific IRT did not alter physiological characteristics, such as spore production, pigmentation, and growth rate on solid media. Pathogenicity assays are being carried to evaluate whether impairment in deoxynivalenol production in the *tri6*-IRT strains correlates with a loss of virulence.