12th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PLANT PATHOLOGY



What was important to me at the 12th International Congress on Plant Pathology in Lyon 2023

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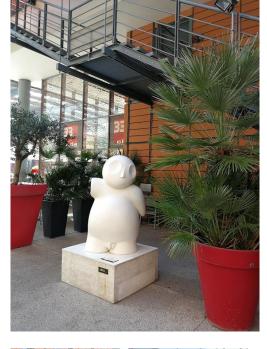








LYON CONVENTION CENTRE







It is a very interesting congress center with many attractions, sculptures, restaurants, Cinema etc. ⁽ⁱ⁾



2,400 phytopathologists from all over the world. "One health for all plants, crops and trees."



Breeding resistant varieties, using mixtures of varieties (this is biodiversity at the genetic level), using bacteriophages or fungi to protect plants against diseases is an alternative to chemical plant protection products - in this field there were the largest number of posters and speeches. **Biocontrol is a topic that varies in all cases**.

This trend, however, may encounter problems resulting from the relatively quick adaptation of pathogens to the environment (particular attention was paid to **stem rust**, **yellow rust** and fungi of the **Fusarium** genus), which is closely related to changing habitat conditions related to climate change.

Many presentations included research on the developmental **biology of disease perpetrators at the molecular level**. Interactions at the level of the plant **microbiome** and genes are of interest not only to phytopathologists, but also to biotechnologists, microbiologists and geneticists, which was reflected in the symposium. The growing problem of **invasive and alien causes** of plant diseases was also discussed, as well as the increasingly well-researched role of endophytes in the plant disease process.



Top of the top for me

Discussion panel devoted to teaching

Discussion C8.7



How are the student numbers from where you come?

• Do you feel that there is a public interest for plant pathology? How do we reach out to the general public?

• How should we reach out and ensure the recruitment of the next generation of plant pathologtists?

• How might story-based scientific narratives raise plant awareness in didactical situations? (Dawn Sanders)

- By 'looking through an artistic lens' is it possible to appreciate/identify plants in new ways? (Dawn Sanders)
- Can we avoid the disciplinary walls built over time and learn to work together as scientists, artists and educators to face these challenges? (Dawn)

For me, as the Vice-Dean for Studies, the panel devoted to didactics related to phytopathology and plant protection was extremely interesting. It was the first time that I took part in such a substantive discussion, showing that the problems we have at universities in Poland are exactly the same in other countries. Very interesting and true was the opinion of one of the speakers that throughout the world we educate only scientists in Doctoral Schools etc., because this is the only purpose these PhD students are prepared for, but there is no reliable education for educators anywhere, so we should not be surprised that More and more often, there is no one to teach classes, since we are educating everyone to be scientists.

The congress also included a panel devoted to the use of social media by phytopathologists. It can be an effective tool for sharing the results of research and observations on plant diseases with the public, as well as for quick information about emerging new problems.



Thank you very much for your attention