

PREFACE

The present issue of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* is a collection of research papers and abstracts based on presentations at the 2nd International Workshop on “*Esca and Grapevine Declines*” that was held in Lisbon, Portugal, in September 14-15, 2001. The workshop was organised by the *Mediterranean Phytopathological Union* (MPU), the *International Council on Grapevine Trunk Diseases* (ICGTD) and the *Sociedade Portuguesa de Fitopatologia* (SPF). The workshop provided a forum to present updates, current research, and recent advances made in studies on those diseases since the 1st workshop was held in Siena (Italy) in October 1999 [*Phytopathologia Mediterranea* 39(1), 1999]. The Lisbon workshop had 123 participants from 16 different countries in both hemispheres and resulted in fruitful discussions of some contentious issues. The names and terminology of the diseases and their associated pathogens were established. Progress has been made towards the development of reliable detection of the main pathogens, and advances have been made in understanding the interactions between the host and the pathogens. Although significant progress has been made towards understanding the epidemiology of the diseases, much remains to be done.

The research papers published in this Supplement to Vol. 40 of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* have been peer reviewed, and cover four main subject areas: pathogens, host-pathogen interaction, epidemiology and control.

We especially regret that Dr. Luigi Chiarappa, the ICGTD President, and two of the founding members, Ian Pascoe and Lucie Morton, could not attend because of the tragedy that hit the United State of America on the 11th of September. It was most unfortunate that they could not see at first hand the progress that has been made in the last 2 years on this subject. At the opening ceremony, the MPU president, Prof. Elephterios C. Tjamos, and Prof. Helena Oliveira, representing the SFP, expressed the sincere condolences of all participants to the American people and all who were affected by the disaster.