

## Focus issue: “Plant Health Sustaining Mediterranean Ecosystems”, the theme of the 15th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union

This Focus issue of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* includes invited papers presented at the 15th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union, held in Córdoba (Spain), from June 20–23, 2017. The Congress was organised by the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union and the University of Córdoba, Spain, with patronage of the International Society for Plant Pathology. The mission of the meeting was to promote dissemination of latest plant pathology knowledge, and to encourage dialogue, interaction and collaboration among researchers from different disciplines interested in all aspects of phytopathology. More than 200 participants from 26 countries attended the Congress, making it an outstanding scientific event. Plenary, concurrent and poster sessions addressed topics, including: Genome Analysis; Invasive Emerging Pathogens; Integrated Disease Management; Food Safety; New Tools in Diagnostics and Management; Molecular Pathogen-Host Interactions; Impacts of Climate Change; Biocontrol, Natural Compounds and Plant Stimulants; Epidemiology and Modelling; and Microbiomes in Plant Health.

The four reviews and one research paper published in this Supplement to Vol. 57 of *Phytopathologia Mediterranea* have been peer reviewed, and cover five subject areas:

- Emerging pathogens as a consequence of globalization and climate change, using leafy vegetable pathogens as a case study (*Alternaria* spp. on basil and rocket, *Fusarium equiseti* on lettuce, rocket and

- radish, and *Myrothecium verrucaria* and *M. roridum* on lamb’s lettuce, spinach and wild rocket.);
- Plant microbiomes, summarizing the major advances in knowledge of plant root-associated microbial communities and new concepts of the ‘plant metagenome’, from model plants (such as *Arabidopsis thaliana*), to important Mediterranean crops;
- Decision-making for integrated pest management, discussing models that predict fungicide efficacy, based on physical mode of action, localization on/within host plants, effects on pathogen, and the dynamics of fungicide residues;
- Durability of host resistance to plant pathogens, focusing on broomrapes (*Orobanche* spp. and *Phelipanche* spp., affecting important Mediterranean crops (legumes and sunflower);
- Use of chemical management of plant diseases for preventing mycotoxin contamination (specifically to control *Aspergillus flavus* and aflatoxin production in maize.

The Guest Editors express appreciation to the authors for their contributions, and to Antonio Di Pietro and the Organizing Committee of the Congress.

### Guest Editors

**Blanca B. Landa**, Institute for Sustainable Agriculture, Spanish National Research Council, Córdoba, Spain  
**Nicola Sante Iacobellis**, Former Professor of Plant Pathology at Università degli Studi della Basilicata, Italy