



## 7<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MICROBIAL DIVERSITY “Agrifood microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future”

September 26-29, 2023

Paganini Congressi – Parma (Italy)

<https://www.paganinicongressi.it/#paganini-congressi>

Dear Friends and Colleagues, on behalf of the Italian Society of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Microbiology (SIMTREA), it is our pleasure to announce the **7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Microbial Diversity 2023, that will take place in Parma from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023**, at the Paganini Congressi.

The Conference is organized by University of Parma and SIMTREA.

The MD is a prestigious international congress that has seen the number of participants increase over the years and that brings together researchers and professionals from all over the world working on agricultural, environmental and food microbiology.

The theme of 7<sup>th</sup> Edition of MD is “**Agrifood microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future**” and includes four sessions: FOOD microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future; HUMAN microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future; ENVIROMENT microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future; Sustainable future has come.

We believe that Parma is the *right place in the right moment* to host the MD 2023 as it is the cradle of many ideas in just as many fields of research and is hosting several events bringing together people from all over the World. We all know that the World population is continuously increasing, facing problems such as Food security, Food safety, Climate changes, Pandemic. We firmly believe that the agrifood microbiota and its diversity would be the key tool for a sustainable future.

We are looking forward to share thoughts and ideas for these ambitious goals here in Parma!

### WEBSITE AND CONTACTS

#### **Website**

Information on the MD23 can be also found on our website <https://www.md23.simtrea.org/>

#### **Contacts**

For scientific, organising and general information matters, please contact the MD23 secretariat: [secretariatMD23@simtrea.org](mailto:secretariatMD23@simtrea.org)

For payment matters, please contact the SIMTREA treasury: [tesoreria@simtrea.org](mailto:tesoreria@simtrea.org)

## SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The MD23 programme will include: 5 thematic session, 3 invited plenary lectures, 4 invited keynote lectures, 16 presentations, 20 short presentations, 5 poster session.

<b>Tuesday 26 September 2023</b> - 16:00 registration	
16:30 - Opening lecture - <b>Prof. Marco Gobbetti</b>	
Welcome Ceremony - Atrio delle Colonne, University of Parma Central Palace	
<b>Wednesday 27 September 2023</b> – 8:30 registration	
<b>Session: FOOD</b> microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future	<b>Session: HUMAN</b> microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future
9:00 - plenary lecture – <b>Prof. Paul Cotter</b>	14:00 - keynote lecture – <b>Prof. Sarah Lebeer</b>
10:00 - presentation	14:30 - presentation
10:20 - presentation	14:50 - presentation
10:40 - presentation	15:10 - presentation
11:00 – coffee break	15:20 – coffee break
11:15 - poster session	15:45 - poster session
11:45 – short presentation	16:15 – short presentation
11:55 – short presentation	16:25 – short presentation
12:05 – short presentation	16:35 – short presentation
12:15 – short presentation	16:45 – short presentation
12:30 – lunch	17:00 - end of scientific programme of the day
	18:00 - walking city tour
<b>Thursday 28 September 2023</b> – 8:30 registration	
<b>Session: ENVIROMENT</b> microbiota as a tool for a sustainable future	<b>Session: Exploiting</b> microbiomes as a tool for a sustainable future
9:00 - plenary lecture - <b>Prof. Peiyong Hong</b>	14:00 - keynote lecture - <b>Prof. Daniele Daffonchio</b>
10:00 - presentation	14:30 - presentation
10:20 - presentation	14:50 - presentation
10:40 - presentation	15:10 - presentation
11:00 – coffee break	15:20 – coffee break
11:15 - poster session	15:45 - poster session
11:45 – short presentation	16:15 – short presentation
11:55 – short presentation	16:25 – short presentation
12:05 – short presentation	16:35 – short presentation
12:15 – short presentation	16:45 – short presentation
12:30 – lunch	17:00 - end of scientific programme of the day
	20:00 – gala dinner
<b>Friday 29 September 2023</b> – 8:30 registration - <b>Session: Sustainable future has come</b>	
9:00 - keynote lecture - <b>Prof. Daniele del Rio</b>	11:15 - poster session
9:30 - keynote lecture - <b>Prof. Danilo Ercolini</b>	11:45 – short presentation
10:00 - presentation	11:55 – short presentation
10:20 - presentation	12:05 – short presentation
10:40 - presentation	12:15 – short presentation
11:00 – coffee break	12:30 – end of the conference and light lunch
	14:30 SIMTREA meeting

## CONFIRMED INVITED SPEAKERS

- **Prof. Paul Cotter** (Teagasc & SeqBiome, University of Cork, Ireland)  
*Plenary lecture: A MASTER Plan: Leveraging food and food chain microbiome data for a sustainable future*
- **Prof. Daniele Daffonchio** (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia)  
*Keynote lecture: Ecology of the thermal adaptation of microbial communities in time and space*
- **Prof. Daniele Del Rio** (University of Parma, Italy)  
*Keynote lecture: Research and innovation network on Food and Nutrition Sustainability, Safety and Security: the ONFOODS national partnership*
- **Prof. Danilo Ercolini** (University of Naples Federico II, Italy)  
*Keynote lecture: The National Center for the Development of New Technologies in Agriculture (Agritech): Microbiota as tools for a sustainable development of agri-food production*
- **Prof. Marco Gobbetti** (Libera Università di Bolzano, Italy)  
*Opening plenary lecture: How to manage with fermentation microbiomes: metabolic framework of spontaneous versus synthetic metacommunities*
- **Prof. Peiyong Hong** (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia)  
*Plenary lecture: Building a resilient and sustainable water system for our future urban farms*
- **Prof. Sarah Lebeer** (University of Antwerp, Belgium)  
*Keynote lecture: The uniqueness of the microbiome of the human reproductive tract*

## ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

**Erasmus Neviani** (University of Parma, Italy), **Monica Gatti** (University of Parma, Italy), **Camilla Lazzi** (University of Parma, Italy), **Valentina Bernini** (University of Parma, Italy), **Benedetta Bottari** (University of Parma, Italy), **Elena Bancalari** (University of Parma, Italy), **Alessia Levante** (University of Parma, Italy), **Annalisa Ricci** (University of Parma, Italy), **Jasmine Hadj Sadoun** (University of Parma, Italy), **Francesco Martelli** (University of Parma, Italy), **Luca Bettera** (University of Parma, Italy), **Laura Troiani** (University of Parma, Italy), **Saverio Monica** (University of Parma, Italy), **Martina Marrella** (University of Parma, Italy), **Luca Fontechiari** (University of Parma, Italy), **Claudia Della Pina** (University of Parma, Italy), **Gaia Bertani** (University of Parma, Italy), **Laura Marchi** (University of Parma, Italy), **Teresa Zotta** (University of Basilicata, Italy).

## SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

**Paul Cotter** (Teagasc Food Research Centre, University of Cork, Ireland), **Daniele Daffonchio** (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia), **Daniele Del Rio** (University of Parma, Italy), **Danilo Ercolini** (University of Naples Federico II, Italy), **Marco Gobbetti** (Libera Università di Bolzano, Italy), **Peiyong Hong** (King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, Saudi Arabia), **Sarah Lebeer** (University of Antwerp, Belgium), **Erasmus Neviani** (University of Parma, Italy), **Monica Gatti** (University of Parma, Italy), **Camilla Lazzi** (University of Parma, Italy), **Valentina Bernini** (University of Parma, Italy), **Benedetta Bottari** (University of Parma, Italy), **Elena Bancalari** (University of Parma, Italy), **Alessia Levante** (University of Parma, Italy), **Annalisa Ricci** (University of Parma, Italy), **Jasmine Hadj Sadoun** (University of Parma, Italy), **Francesco Martelli** (University of Parma, Italy), **Rosalba Lanciotti** (University of Bologna, Italy), **Luca Cocolin** (University of Turin, Italy), **Carlo Giuseppe Rizzello** (University of Rome, Italy), **Olimpia Pepe** (University of Naples, Italy), **Monica Agnolucci** (University of Pisa, Italy), **Luca Settanni** (University of Palermo, Italy), **Teresa Zotta** (University of Basilicata, Italy), **Maria De Angelis** (University of Bari, Italy), **Pier Luigi Cardinali** (University of Perugia, Italy), **Cinzia Caggia** (University of Catania, Italy).

## PRACTICAL INFORMATION

### Registration Deadlines (all deadlines at 23:59 CET)

- Early Bird Registration – **by July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- Late Registration (bank transfer) – **by August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- Late Registration (credit card or PayPal) – **by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

### Registration Fees

Registration Type	Amount	Registration fee includes
SIMTREA Members (early bird)	430 €	access to all scientific sessions
SIMTREA Members (late registration)	510 €	access to poster exhibition
Non-members (early bird)	460 €	welcome ceremony
Non-members (late registration)	510 €	coffee/ tea breaks
Student <sup>1</sup> (early bird)	300 €	lunch breaks
Student <sup>1</sup> (late registration)	350 €	

<sup>1</sup>Student fee is only applicable for PhD students, post doc with short term contract (Research fellow)

### Abstract information

- Abstract submission: **March 20<sup>th</sup> - May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**
- Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts: **by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**
- Notification for abstract eligibility as a presentation/short presentation: **by July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### The Organizers

**About SIMTREA:** Italian Society of Agro-Food and Environmental Microbiology. SIMTREA was founded on 15 February 1994 in Milan (Italy), and is a non-profit membership organization of scientists who work in the fields of agricultural, environmental and food microbiology. The Society promotes the understanding of microbiology to different stakeholders, including policy makers, students, and teachers. Since 2011, SIMTREA organizes the biennial International Conference on Microbial Diversity aimed to promote discussion and exchange of information and experiences on the complexity and powerfulness of microbial biodiversity (<https://www.simtrea.org/>).

**About University of Parma:** The University of Parma (UNIPR, [www.unipr.it](http://www.unipr.it)), whose origins date back to 962 AD, is one of the oldest universities in the world and one of the best-known in Italy. Today it has 1,300 employees and more than 30,000 students who work and study on three campuses. UNIPR has 98 degree courses (11 in English), 21 research doctorates, and 39 masters coordinated in 9 academic Departments. Departments in the areas of social sciences and humanities, medicine and surgery, and veterinary sciences are located in the city centre. The other Departments (agri-food areas, pharmacy, engineering and architecture, mathematical, physical, and natural sciences) are located in the Scientific and Technological Campus, an area of 77 hectares in the southern part of the city, which also holds facilities for staff and students, for sports and recreational activities. The Campus also houses the Technology Transfer Office, which plays a valuable role in the protection and commercialization of intellectual property developed by UNIPR researchers. Within the Campus, there is also an important Industrial Technopole, an infrastructure that houses innovative research centres and laboratories for industrial research and technological development. The Technopole favours the meeting between companies and researchers by reducing the distance

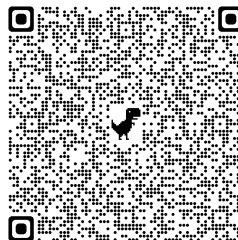
between supply and demand for innovation. UNIPR brings together a strong interdisciplinary team involving agricultural sciences. In the Science and Technology Campus, there is also “The Food Project Area” (<https://www.foodproject.unipr.it/>). The Food Project is promoted by UNIPR to establish and strengthen the already existing skills of excellence in the field of research and teaching in the agri-food sector. The Department of Food and Drug Sciences (<https://saf.unipr.it/it>), through consistent high-quality scientific production, is placed on the national and international scene as a centre of excellence in research and training related to the pharmaceutical and biomedical fields, focusing attention on the discovery of new drugs, nutraceuticals, supplements, cosmetics, medical devices, and their correct use and access for efficient pharmaceutical assistance, as well as to the agri-food world, focusing attention on quality, safety, typicality of foods, technological innovation, design of new foods and new production processes, assessment of product sustainability.

## LOCATION

### Congress venue - Paganini Congressi



Paganini Congressi, events and conference factory  
<https://www.paganinicongressi.it/>  
Via Toscana 5/a, 43121 Parma, Italy  
Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/xwwkAp9gJBjVDdmp7>



### About Parma

Parma is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest city in the Emilia-Romagna region and is famous for its delicious food products, heart of the Italian Food Valley; Parma has obtained UNESCO's recognition as “Creative City of Gastronomy”. Romanesque buildings, including the frescoed Parma Cathedral and the pink marble baptistry, adorn the city centre. Cradle of opera, birthplace of Giuseppe Verdi, Parma is also renown for the Teatro Regio, a 19th century opera house. Inside the imposing Palazzo della Pilotta, the Galleria Nazionale, displaying works by the 16th century painters Correggio and Canaletto, and the spectacular wooden theatre Teatro Farnese can be visited. The headquarters of the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) are located in Parma.



Photo credits: Città di Parma <https://www.flickr.com/photos/comuneparma/>

## HOW TO REACH

Parma is located in Northern Italy, about 100 km from Milan and from Bologna, it is easily reachable by car, train or plane. If you choose to arrive:

**By car:** Take Motorway A1 Milan-Bologna (exit Parma) and A15 Parma-La Spezia/Genoa (exit Parma Ovest) For info, please visit: [www.autostrade.it](http://www.autostrade.it)

**By train:** Most of trains travelling on the Milano-Bologna line stop in Parma, as well as those on Turin-Bologna and Genoa-Bologna lines. Rome and Florence are well connected thanks to high-speed trains in 3.30 hours (Rome) and 1.45 hour (Florence) arriving at Reggio Emilia AV Station. For info, please visit: <https://www.trenitalia.com/> and [www.italotreno.it](http://www.italotreno.it)

**By plane:** The International Airports near Parma (about one-hour distance) are Milan Malpensa Airport (180 Km), Milan Linate Airport (120 Km), Bologna Airport (90 Km), Bergamo (162 Km) and Verona (115 Km).