8TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MICROBIAL DIVERSITY

"Microbial Diversity for Empowering the Ecological Transition: Research, Innovation, and Technological Transfer"

Sapienza University of Rome, Italy
23-26 September 2025

Dear Friends and Colleagues, on behalf of the Italian Society of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Microbiology (SIMTREA), it is our pleasure to announce the 8th International Conference on Microbial Diversity 2025, that will take place in Rome from 23th to 26th September 2025, at Sapienza University.

The **International Conference on Microbial Diversity** is a biennial event organized by the Italian Society for Agricultural, Food and Environmental Microbiology (SIMTREA). SIMTREA encompasses a community of scientists, researchers, and experts working in microbiology and biotechnology within public and private research institutions and industry. It promotes the understanding of microbiology and its applications among a wide range of stakeholders, including policymakers, industry representatives, and academia.

Since 2011, SIMTREA has hosted the Microbial Diversity Conference to encourage the discussion and exchange of information and experiences regarding the intrinsic complexity of microbial diversity. The Society and its conference are part of the international circuits of FEMS (Federation of European Microbiological Societies) and IUMS (International Union of Microbiological Societies).

The 8th Conference edition, titled ***"Microbial Diversity for Empowering the Ecological Transition: Research, Innovation, and Technological Transfer,"*** aims to showcase the latest developments in fundamental and applied scientific research and technology transfer in ecological transition, climate change, sustainable and circular production.

Join us to explore groundbreaking advancements in microbiology applied to agriculture, food, and the environment. Connect with experts, share knowledge, and be part of the innovation shaping a more sustainable future!

The Organising Committee

Website
Information on the MD25 will be found soon on the website https://www.md25.simtrea.org/

Contacts
For scientific, organising and general information matters, please contact secretariatMD25@simtrea.org

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Mario Caponio (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Federica Violetta Conti** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Ilario Ferrocino** (University of Turin, Italy), **Ilaria Garbin** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Angela Longo** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Marco Montemurro** (National Research Council, Italy), **Giuseppe Perri** (University of Bari, Italy), **Erica Pontonio** (University of Bari, Italy), **Massimo Reverberi** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Carlo Giuseppe Rizzello** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Andrea Torreggiani** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Arianna Vari** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Michela Verni** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Emanuele Zannini** (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy), **Teresa Zotta** (University of Basilicata, Italy),

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE:

Monica Agnolucci (University of Pisa, Italy), **Stefan Cappelle** (Puratos, Belgium), **Sergio Casella** (University of Padova, Italy), **Eugene B. Chang** (University of Chicago, USA), **Luca Cocolin** (University of Turin, Italy), **Daniele Daffonchio** (University of Turin, Italy)**, Manuela Giovannetti** (University of Pisa, Italy), **Marco Gobbetti** (Free University of Bozen, Italy), **Rosalba Lanciotti** (University of Bologna, Italy), **Erasmo Neviani** (University of Parma, Italy), **Per Halkjær Nielsen** (Aalborg University, Denmark), **Eugenio Parente** (University of Basilicata, Italy), **Olimpia Pepe** (University of Naples, Italy), **Carlo Giuseppe Rizzello** (University of Rome, Italy), **Angela Sessitsch** (Austrian Institute of Technology, Seibersdorf, Austria)**, Luca Settanni** (University of Palermo, Italy), **Teresa Zotta** (University of Basilicata, Italy).

SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMME

The MD25 programme will include: 5 thematic sessions, 6 invited plenary lectures, 18 selected presentations, 29 short presentations, 5 poster sessions, a research projects corner.

SESSIONS

- ***Session 1:*** **Systems microbiology, Functional genomics, Gut microbiota**
- ***Session 2:*** **Microbial interactions, Food processing and Future foods**
- ***Session 3:*** **Soil and Plant microbiota: rooting for sustainable agriculture**
- ***Session 4:*** **Microbial ecosystems, Environmental sustainability**
- ***Session 5:*** **Scaling up microbial solutions for the industry**

THE RESEARCH PROJECTS CORNER

A space in the conference area will be dedicated to permanent information desks where researchers will show research project results, distribute informational materials, and display posters and audio/video material.

REGISTRATION

Deadlines (all at 23:59 CET)

- Early Bird Registration – **by July 31th, 2025**
- Late Registration (bank transfer) – **by August 15th, 2025**
- Late Registration (credit card or PayPal) – **by August 31 th, 2025**

Abstract submission

- Abstract submission: **March 10th - May 20th, 2025**
- Notification of acceptance or rejection of abstracts**: by July 1st, 2025**
- Notification for abstract eligibility as a presentation/short presentation: **by July 1st, 2025**

SIMTREA AWARDS for young researchers (under 35)

- **SESSION PRIZES**
  n.5 (one for session) Best oral presentations
- **POSTER PRIZE**
  n. 1 Best poster

TUESDAY 23 September 2025 -16:00 Registration
16.45 Institutional Greetings
17.00 Opening Lecture ***Erasmo Neviani***, University of Parma, Italy *From single bacterial cells to microbial communities: a round trip to unlock the secrets and technological significance of microbial ecosystems characteristic of dairy niches*
18.00 Welcome Ceremony

WEDNESDAY 24 September 2025 - 08:30 Registration	
Session 1: **Systems microbiology, Functional genomics, Gut microbiota**	***Session 2:*** **Microbial interactions, Food processing and Future foods**
09:00 Plenary lecture ***Eugene B. Chang****, University of Chicago, USA* *The transitional landscape of host-microbe interactions of the GI tract seen through the lens of systems microbiology*	14:00 Plenary lecture ***Eugenio Parente***, University of Basilicata, Italy *Advances in the methods for the inference of microbial associations in microbiomes*
09:40 selected presentations	14:40 selected presentations
11.00 coffee break	15.40 coffee break
11.15 poster session	16.00 poster session
11.45 short presentations	16.30 short presentations
12.45 Lunch	18.00- 20.00 guided tour of the Sapienza Botanical Garden
20.30 Gala Dinner	

THURSDAY 25 September 2025 - 08:30 Registration	
Session 3: **Soil and Plant microbiota: rooting for sustainable agriculture**	***Session 4:*** **Microbial ecosystems, Environmental sustainability**
09:00 Plenary lecture ***Angela Sessitsch***, AIT Austrian Institute of Technology, Austria *The plant microbiome for sustainability*	14:00 Plenary lecture ***Per Halkjær Nielsen***, Aalborg University, Denmark *Novel insights into the microbial diversity and ecology of global wastewater treatment and resource recovery systems*
09:40 selected presentations	14:40 selected presentations
11.00 coffee break	15.40 coffee break
11.15 poster session	16.00 poster session
11.45 short presentations	16.30 short presentations
12.45 Lunch	18.00 - guided tour of the Sapienza Museums

FRIDAY 26 September 2025 - 08:30 Registration
Session 5: **Scaling up microbial solutions for the industry**
9:00 Plenary lecture: ***Stefan Cappelle***, Puratos, Belgium *Food fermentation for good: scaling tradition*
09:40 selected presentation
11.00 coffee break
11.15 poster session
12.30 Closing Ceremony and **Awards**
13:00 light lunch
14:00 SIMTREA Meeting

LOCATION

Congress venue

Department of Chemistry "La Ginestra" hall (Building CU014),
Sapienza University of Rome, piazzale Aldo Moro 5, 00185 Roma
https://maps.app.goo.gl/x3xhtNpvx6nnaAz96

Gala Dinner venue

Botanical garden of Rome
Largo Cristina di Svezia, 23 A - 24, 00165 Roma
Website: https://ortobotanico.web.uniroma1.it/
Map: https://maps.app.goo.gl/Wt44AzdnDkmHduC79

About SIMTREA

Italian Society of Agro-Food and Environmental Microbiology. SIMTREA, founded on 15 February 1994 in Milan (Italy), is a non-profit membership organization of scientists working 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 Sapienza - University of Rome**:*

Founded in 1303, Sapienza is the oldest university in Rome and the largest in Europe. Since its foundation, Sapienza has constantly played a significant role in Italian history and has been directly involved in key changes and developments in society, economics and politics. Sapienza has 125,000 students, 3,576 professors, 2,320 employees, technicians and librarians and 1,260 administrative staff in university hospitals. It currently offers 311 degree programs, among which over 66 are taught in English, over 98 PhD and 86 specialization schools. Sapienza is organized into 11 faculties, one School for Advanced Studies, one post-degree School of Aerospace Engineering, 57 departments, as well as numerous research and service centers. University services include 48 libraries, 19 museums, and the Sapienza Sport Center. The main campus, where the conference will be held, is a real city within the city located in the heart of Rome. The campus also houses the technology transfer office, which plays a valuable role in the protection and commercialization of intellectual property developed by Sapienza researchers.
Scientific research activities at Sapienza cover an extremely broad spectrum of disciplines, reaching levels of excellence in many areas, including archaeology, physics and astrophysics, humanities and cultural heritage, the environment, nanotechnologies, cell and gene therapy, design, aerospace, social and economic sciences.

Sapienza brings together a strong interdisciplinary team, as well as infrastructures, committed to the enhancement of research results in agricultural sciences. Infrastructures include *i)* the Smart PHYTOTRON for simulations of global change environmental conditions to analyze and monitor in real time the morpho-functional effects of biotic and abiotic stress on natural and crop plant species; *ii)* the NMLab, an integrated system of NMR spectroscopy-based equipment and knowhow entirely dedicated to metabolomic analysis; *iii)* METROFOOD, a research infrastructure in the "health & food" field, consisting of the best research centers of 18 European countries. Research projects in the agri-food sector range from protection of marginal areas to circular economy, reduction of waste and environmental impacts, passing through safety, traceability and typicality of supply chains. Research groups carry out their activities jointly with numerous national and international companies as well as research institutions.

Sapienza is committed to pursuing outreach through two different paths: technology transfer and innovation on the one hand, which is responsible for the creation of several startups and spinoffs, and the production of public goods and public engagement on the other, with the aim of generating social, cultural and economic impact on society and the territory.

Sapienza at a Glance 2022-2023 - Facts and Figures: https://youtu.be/6SvMIk3TMEI?si=G0TArcyaen7CsZAO