



52nd Annual

Maize Genetics CONFERENCE

March 18-21, 2010 - Riva del Garda, Italy

Steering Committee

Jane Dorweiler (*Chair*), Mike Muszynski and Erik Vollbrecht (*Co-Chairs*); Giuseppe Gavazzi, Karen Koch, Mark Cigan, Uta Paskowski, Robert Benson, Paula McSteen and Bill Tracy

Ex-officio: Kathleen Newton *Treasurer*; Gabriella Consonni, Roberto Tuberosa, Mario Motto and Marty Sachs, *Local Hosts*; Carson Andorf and Mary Schaeffer, *Abstract Coordinators*

December 7, 2009

We cordially invite you to attend the 2010 Maize Genetics Conference, to be held at the Conference Centre in Riva del Garda, Italy beginning with the evening meal on Thursday, March 18 and continuing until 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 21, 2010. While some details are highlighted below, more explicit details about the program, hotel/travel information, and meeting registration are available at the meeting website: http://www.maizegdb.org/maize_meeting/2010/. The meeting website will be updated regularly as any additional details become available.

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS:

All U.S. Citizens must have a valid passport to travel to Italy for this conference.

Those requiring an international travel visa should plan to apply for one within the next 2 weeks – three months prior to the conference. Those international attendees requiring letters of invitation to facilitate visa applications may contact Jane Dorweiler (jane.dorweiler@marquette.edu).

You are also encouraged to explore airfare at your earliest convenience to secure the best fare.

REGISTRATION: Deadline is **January 29, 2010**.

Please register for both the meeting and the lodging.

1. Meeting Registration

There is a fee of \$550 for advance registration (\$650 after Jan 29, 2010), which includes meals at the conference. Students who will be requesting Financial Aid should please see “Student Financial Aid” below.

Meeting registration will open December 7, 2009. You will be able to register online using the Meeting Registration link on the Meeting website (http://www.maizegdb.org/maize_meeting/2010/). Alternatively, you may print the form and mail or FAX it with your registration payment. We strongly encourage you to register in advance of the meeting as pre-registration allows us to compile a list of attendees with their affiliations, pre-print nametags, and give meal guarantees.

2. Lodging Reservation

You may reserve lodging on-line through the Rivotour link at the meeting website. If you need to locate a roommate, please do so before submitting your lodging registration. A roommate link has been posted on the meeting web site. You are encouraged to make your reservations as early as possible to guarantee your lodging choice, preferably no later than January 29, 2010.

Travel Arrangements

Rivatour can also book your transfer shuttle to/from major airports in Italy and the town of Riva del Garda as well as to/from the Rovereto train station. We encourage all attendees to take advantage of this service so that prices will be lower for all.

TALKS, POSTERS, ABSTRACTS: Abstract submission deadline is January 29, 2010.

The meeting will feature five plenary speakers: Marianne Bänziger, *CIMMYT, Mexico*; Alain Charcosset, *INRA, France*; Enrico Coen, *John Innes Centre, England*; Michele Morgante, *University of Udine, Italy*; Anne Sylvester, *University of Wyoming, USA*. The program will also include approximately 30 short talks (15 minutes each), and extended poster sessions. The complete program will be posted at the meeting website prior to the meeting.

All abstracts must be submitted electronically by Jan. 29, 2010 via the meeting website, http://www.maizegdb.org/maize_meeting/2010/, where you may indicate your interest in presenting a short talk. Those who plan to be away at that time tending to winter crops should submit abstracts in advance.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID: Deadline for applying is January 29, 2010.

The steering committee is soliciting federal grants and industry donations to help defray meeting costs for graduate students and for those undergraduates who are the first and presenting author of a poster or talk. While we are striving to raise funds sufficient to cover as much of the registration fee as possible, and as many students as possible, please be aware that we will not know precisely how much funding we can provide individual participants until shortly before the meeting.

Travel awards will also be considered for students and post-docs.

In the interest of broadening meeting participation, students who are from underrepresented groups, first-time attendees or from smaller academic institutions are particularly encouraged to apply.

The precise logistics for handling student registration and financial aid applications are currently being finalized, thus the student registration/financial aid link will be made available as soon as possible - no later than December 14, 2009.

NO applications for student support received after January 29, 2010 will be considered, so please act promptly once student registration becomes available on the meeting website.

FUTURE MAIZE MEETING ANOUNCEMENTS: If you will not be able to attend this years' meeting, but would be interested in attending future meetings, you may wish to monitor the MaizeGDB.org website for information regarding the annual meeting, or wish to send your contact information to maizegdb.org to ensure receipt of future electronic meeting announcements.

Given the excitement surrounding the release of the maize genomic sequence, and all that is increasingly feasible in terms of comparative and functional grass genomics, we are hopeful that you will seriously consider attending the meeting this year!



Jane Dorweiler

On behalf of the 2010 Maize Genetics Steering Committee