In the wake of the double helix

From the green revolution to the gene revolution

Bologna, Italy • May 27 to 31, 2003

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Fifty years after the discovery of the structure of DNA, our progress in manipulating genes and unravelling their functions has been enormous and the consequences, for better or for worse, far-reaching. In the past decades, the application of sound genetic principles coupled with modern agronomic practices have fuelled the green revolution, which brought food to millions of people in many developing countries. Yet, famine, malnutrition and poverty are far from being eradicated. Additionally, the application of the intensive agronomic practices which have made possible the green revolution are often incompatible with the long-term sustainability of the agricultural systems. Agro-biotechnology and the knowledge generated by basic research can provide innovative solutions for these problems.

This Conference will bring together the architects of the green revolution and a number of pioneers of modern plant biotechnology who have laid the foundations for the gene revolution and have mastered the tools to harness its potential. Cutting-edge technologies will be critically assessed for their value in identifying valuable alleles and in manipulating such alleles with indirect (e.g. marker-assisted selection) and/or direct (e.g. genetic engineering) approaches. The controversy surrounding transgenic crops is unprecedented, and the debate on the benefits and risks of GM crops remains unsettled. Wrong information and misunderstanding have sparked, particularly in Europe, deep concerns and irrational fears towards GMOs, with negative repercussions on the public’s confidence toward the scientific community as well as on the advancement of research in this area. Speakers from different countries will illustrate the present status, opportunities and future perspectives of public and private research in plant biotechnology.

A number of panel discussions will provide ample opportunities for confronting different views and for debating to what extent in the future it may be possible to benefit from the merits of biotechnology while avoiding the shortcomings.
In the wake of the Double Helix: From the Green Revolution to the Gene Revolution

Session Speakers

Pere Arús
Roger Beachy
John Bennett
Jeff Bennetzen
Eugenio Benvenuto
Robert Bertram
Norman Borlaug
Steve Briggs
Willem Broekaert
Paul Christou
Paddy Cunningham
Mike Gale
Cesare Gessler
Jim Giovannoni
Silvana Grandillo
Emanuel Guiderdoni
Perry Gustafson
Tim Helenijarits
David James
Gurdev Khush
Andrzej Kilian
Maarten Koornneef
Peter Langridge
Mirosław Matuszyński
Sue Mayer
Marc van Montagu
Michele Morgante
Montserrat Rages
Andrew Paterson
Mario Razzotti
Ron Phillips
Enrico Porecudò
Ingo Potrykus
Calvin Quaseth
Antoni Rafalski
Francesco Salamini
Silvio Salvi
G.T. Scarascia Mugnozza
Monkombu Swaminathan
Mark Thomas
Athanasios Tsafaritis
Gianpiero Valè
Kurt Vandenberghe
Rod Wing
Masahiro Yano
Mark Zabeau
Qi Fa Zhang

Panel Discussion Delegates

Ron Cantrell
Paolo De Castro
Deborah Delmer
Sergio Dompé
Gebisa Ejeta
Dario Frisio
Mike Gale
Andreas Graner
Emanuel Guiderdoni
Daniel Kamanga
Hoan Le
Stefano Masini
Mario Motto
Alberto Piatti
Prabhu Pingali
Guglielmo Rizzioli
Maurizio Ronconi
Cla Smith
Filippo Trifiletti
Rod Wing
Robert Zeigler

Program

Tuesday, May 27. The British Council • Strada Maggiore, 19
Walking tour of Bologna and welcome reception.

Wednesday, May 28. Faculty of Agriculture • Via Fanin, 44
Session 1. The green revolution: A view from its architects.
Session 2. The contribution of mutants.
Session 3. Harnessing the value of wild and cultivated germplasm.

Thursday, May 29. Faculty of Agriculture • Via Fanin, 44
Session 4. Genome structure and applications of marker technologies in cereals.
Session 5. Understanding and exploiting hybrid vigour in cereals.
Session 6. Assigning functions to genes.

Friday, May 30. Faculty of Agriculture • Via Fanin, 44
Session 7. Biotechnology for food security and sustainability.
Session 8. Transgenic crops for biofarming and human health.
Session 9. Progress in genetics and breeding of fruit crops through biotechnology.

Saturday, May 31. Sala Giorgio Prodi • Piazza San Giovanni in Monte, 2

Panel Discussions

- The green revolution: Achievements and shortcomings. (May 28)
- Initiatives in cereal genomics in the EU and the U.S. (May 29)
- A doubly green revolution: Only a mirage? (May 30)
- GMOs and the agrifood chain in Italy. (May 31)
IN THE WAKE OF THE DOUBLE HELIX:

GENERAL INFORMATION

REGISTRATION FEES

before 30/4 after 30/4
Participant € 220,00 € 250,00
Young scientist (under 35) € 160,00 € 190,00

The registration fee includes:
• access to all sessions
• book of abstracts
• coffee breaks and 3 lunches

TOUR AND WELCOME RECEPTION

Tour of Bologna and welcome reception • May 27
Meeting point: the British Council, Strada Maggiore, 19 (Bologna centre).
A walking guided tour (3-6 p.m; English speaking guide) of the city of Bologna, to discover
the monuments, churches and palaces of this ancient city, followed by a welcome reception (8-10 p.m.)

CONGRESS DINNER

Social dinner • May 30 € 45,00
A dinner in a typical restaurant of Bologna to taste the best of Italy’s culinary arts.

TOURS (Minimum no. of participants: 15; English speaking guide)

May, 28 at 9.00 a.m.
Archaeological museum of Bologna (half day) € 20,00
Guided tour to the Archaeological Museum of Bologna, with the most important exhibits of Etruscan,
Egyptian and Roman people and art.

May, 29 at 9.00 a.m.
Tour of Ravenna (full day) € 76,00
Bus transportation from Bologna to Ravenna and return. Guided tour of the byzantine city
of Ravenna to discover an ancient world of churches, mosaics and abbeys. Lunch in a typical restaurant.
Guided tour to “S. Apollinare in Classe”, the most important abbey of Ravenna.
Or
The famous churches of Bologna (half day) € 20,00
Guided tour to the famous churches of Bologna: S. Petronio, S. Stefano, San Giacomo and San Martino.

May, 30 at 9.00 a.m.
The collections of the University of Bologna (half day) € 20,00
Guided tour to the naturalistic collection of Poggi’s Palace, the wax’s Museum and
tour of the oldest University in Europe.

FROM THE GREEN REVOLUTION TO THE GENE REVOLUTION

GENERAL INFORMATION

METHOD OF PAYMENT

The registration fees are free of every charges or banking commission.
(NB: Please send the receipt or the copy of the cheque to the organising secretariat).
Specify participant’s name and “Green-Gene” as reason for payment.

• Bank cheque “non-negotiable” in favor of Avenue Media
from Italy: Banca Popolare dell’Emilia Romagna, Bologna - Agenzia n° 7
current account n° 437531 in favor of Avenue Media S.r.l.
ABI 5387 - CAB 02406
from EU: code IBAN: IT52V0538702406 000000 437531 - code BIC: BPMCONT22
from abroad: SWIFT BPMCONT22 - current account n° 437531

• Wire transfer
directly on the web site www.avenuemedia.it or fill the
special section on the registration form.

PROCEEDINGS

A volume of ca. 500 pages will include the contributions of the invited speakers. The volume
(hard cover in colour) will be available in spring 2004 and will be offered at the discon-
tunted rate of € 50 (ca. US $55 + shipping expenses) to those participants who wish to
reserve it (see registration form, no advance deposit required). Final cost may average € 75 (ca. US $85 + shipping expenses).

ABSTRACTS

Deadline for poster abstracts: April 30.
Please follow the instructions below when writing the abstract:
• Font: Times New Roman
• Title: bold, 12 point-body, justify
• Author/s: 11 point-body, justify. Name of presenting author should be in CAPITAL
and should be followed by the e-mail address in parentheses.
• Name and address of Institution/s: 11 point-body, justify
• Keywords: maximum 5
• Text: 11 point-body, justify
• Number of characters in the text (including spaces): maximum 3,500
• References should be included directly in the text as shown in the fac-simile (see web site)
• Send by e-mail: use RTF format and MS Word PC

Send the abstract to: congress@avenuemedia.it

POSTER

Poster size: 70 (width) x 100 (height) cm.
Arriving by train.
From the station, 10 minutes by taxi or 25 minutes by bus no. 35, to the last stop, CAAB stop (see web site for more details).

Arriving by car.
From the A1 and A13 Motorways.
Follow signs for “Tangenziale - San Lazzaro direction”.
Take exit 9 “San Donato”. At the end of the ramp, at the traffic light, turn left and proceed following CAAB signs.

Arriving by plane.
From the “G. Marconi” airport, 15 minutes by taxi.

Organizing Secretariat

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