

ITC CONFERENCE GRANT SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the grantee to the MC Chair.

Action number: CA16107

Conference title: 11th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) 2018: Plant Health in A Global Economy

Conference start and end date: 29/07/2018 to 03/08/2018

Conference attendance start and end date: 29/07/2018 to 02/08/2018

Grantee name: Andjelka Prokić

ACTIVITIES DURING YOUR ATTENDANCE AT THIS CONFERENCE:

The 11th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2018) was organized at the Hynes Convention Center in the city of Boston (USA), by the International Society for Plant Pathology and the American Phytopathological Society. Leading experts from academic institutions, governments and private industries around the world presented the latest advances and innovations, celebrated progress, and set a vision for assuring plant health in a global economy. The vision of the Congress – An engaged world community of plant health scientists advancing knowledge for a safe, affordable, secure supply of food, feed, and fiber for a growing population – reflected the broad and unique position plant pathology holds within the international community of scientists. The scientific program included invited papers as well as oral and poster presentations of contributed papers. Presentations covered the full range of research topics from genomics to epidemiology, which affect plant health at a local and global scale.

During the Opening Plenary Session on Sunday July 29, the keynote speakers, Dr. Pierre J. G. M. de Wit (Netherlands), awarded to Jacob Eriksson Prize 2018, and Dr. Francisco J. Reifschneider (Brazil) delivered the talks entitled: "From Elicitors to Effector-Assisted Disease Resistance Breeding" and "A Healthy Future for Plant Health", respectively. The Plenary Session - Plant Health Is Earth's Wealth, held on Monday July 30, included three invited presentations starting with an overview and case studies of what we can do now and into the future to effectively respond to plant health emergencies, which we were unable to do just a few short years ago. Following on a talk on translational taxonomy that explores the many ways and reasons to answer the question "What is this organism?" Final talk was addressing the interdisciplinary approaches to managing cacao diseases in Papua New Guinea. On Tuesday July 31, Keynote Session I: Emerging Plant Diseases and Global Food Security were held including talks on modeling epidemics and disease threats of the orange-fleshed sweet potato. Keynote Session II: Novel Approaches to Controlling Insect-Vectored Plant Diseases took place on Wednesday, August 1 addressed phytoplasma effectors, *Xylella fastidiosa* and Citrus huanglongbing disease. On the fifth day Keynote Session III: The Role of Plant Pathology in Food Safety included talks on aflatoxin management, pesticide residues in food and food borne pathogens. On each day, concurrent scientific sessions consisting of a combination of invited talks and submitted oral presentations on the most important topics in phytopathology took place in various locations, as well as PhytoView sessions, Hot Topics, Panel Discussions, informal settings and discussions.

ICPP2018 abstracts from the meeting will be published in a supplement to the October issue of *Phytopathology*.

IMPACT ON YOUR RESEARCH AND FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

Participation in the conference provided me with an opportunity to hear a wide variety of scientific program offering a dynamic look into the future of plant pathology. As phytobacteriologist, I found sessions and poster presentations on plant bacteriology describing latest activities in this area of plant pathology especially useful and inspiring. Recent research activities conducted for the development of innovative methods/materials to manage economically important bacterial crop diseases, through direct suppression of pathogen growth, enhancement of plant defense, and promotion of plant fitness were presented by reputed scientists from main research institutions. Serious emerging problems and impacts of these pathogens on regional and global economy were presented. Talk of Dr. Steven Lindow (University of California, Berkeley, U.S.A) entitled: "The Many Cell Density-Dependent Behaviors of *Xylella fastidiosa*: Achieving Disease Control via Pathogen Confusion" was very impressive and inspiring. A session, dedicated to "*Xylella fastidiosa*: Re-emerging Epidemics of a Global Pathogen and New Challenges for Its Control" opened by Dr. Maria Saponari (Institute for Sustainable Plant Protection, Bari, Italy), offered a platform for in-depth discussion on the results of research into *X. fastidiosa* and its vectors. The session on the biology, epidemiology, taxonomy and management of *Enterobacteriaceae* causing blackleg and soft rot of potatoes and other crops revealed many new information and latest research approaches on these dangerous plant pathogens.

This scientific conference was a good opportunity to communicate and interact with the researchers, scientists, and potential business collaborations through the dynamic scientific sessions. I established new relationships with colleagues and exchanged experiences on different research topics and achievements dedicated to various fields of plant pathology and bacteriology. At the conference I had a unique opportunity to present a poster on "Studying *Xanthomonas arboricola* pv. *corylina* strains from Serbia for streptomycin and kasugamycin resistance and copper sulfate sensitivity *in vitro*" and to discuss findings conducted at the Phytobacteriology laboratory at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Belgrade with colleagues from all-over the world. This feedback will help us in implementing efficient control measures in Serbia. Moreover, meeting renowned colleagues and early carrier researchers will certainly help in my career advancement.