



International Fungal Biology Conference: from Molecules to Communities

September 27-30, 2025 | Chania, Crete, Greece

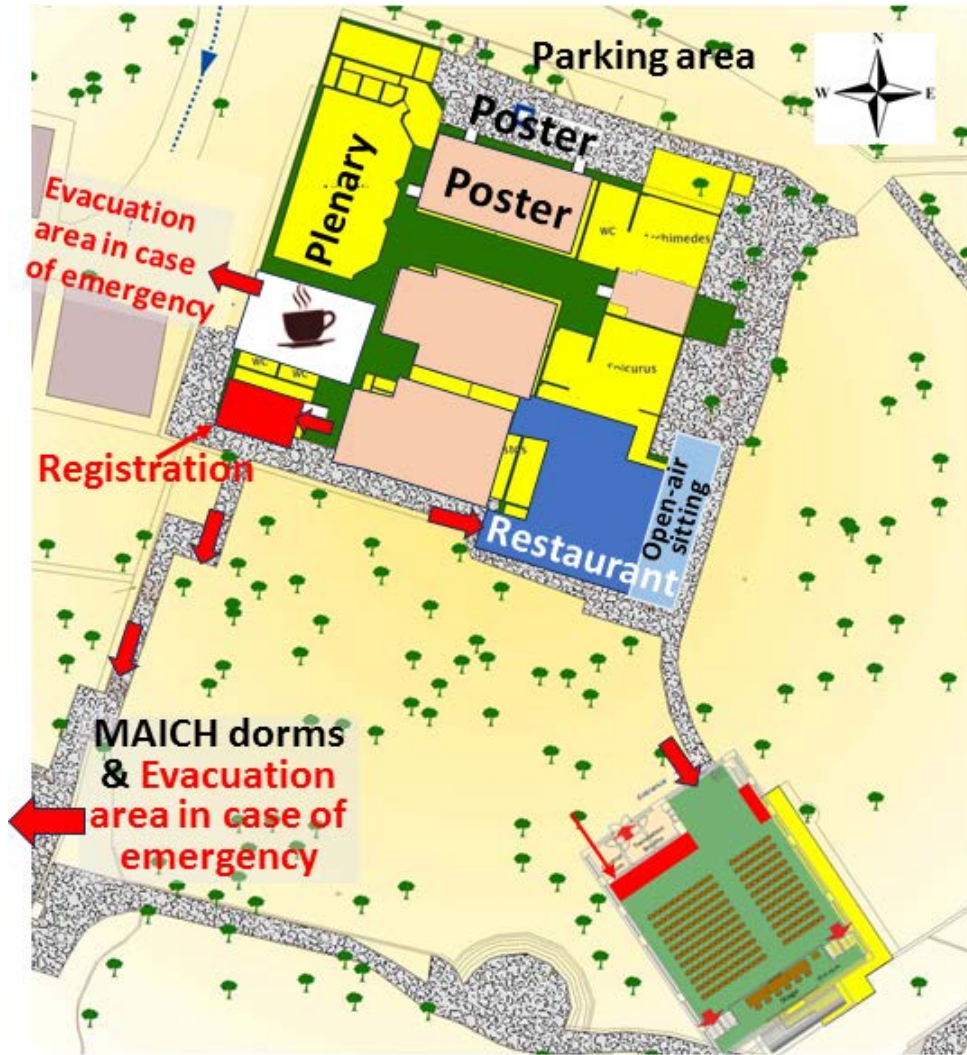
Mediterranean Agronomic Institute of Chania, CIHEAM MAI.Chania

Program



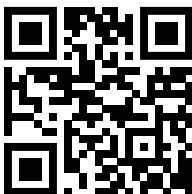
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Map of MAICH Conference Centre



Plenary Room: Aristotle

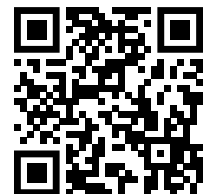
Poster Room: Thales



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[Route to the bus boarding point](#)

Program

Day #1, Saturday 27 September 2025

Time	Program category	Speaker name and topic of talk
10.00-12.30	Check-in and registration	
13.00-14.30	Lunch	
14.40- 15.00	Welcome-opening of the meeting	George Diallinas, Meritxell Riquelme
15.00-15.40	Honorary lecture Introduced by G. Diallinas	Claudio Scazzocchio <i>From fungi to microbial holozoa, a personal itinerary</i>
Session 1: Fungal Metabolism, Homeostasis & Development Chair: Reinhard Fischer, Xiaorong Li		
15.40-16.00	Invited lecture 1	Gerhard Braus George-August-University Goettingen, Germany <i>Coordination of fungal development and secondary metabolism</i>
16.00-16.20	Invited lecture 2	Joseph Strauss University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna, Austria <i>The fungal network – communication and memory within a fungal colony</i>
16.20-16.40	Selected lecture 1	Ronald de Vries Westerdijk Fungal Biodiversity Institute, The Netherlands <i>Diversity and regulation of carbon metabolism in filamentous fungi</i>
16.40-17.10	Coffee break	

17.10-17.30	Invited lecture 3	Zsuzsanna Hamari University of Szeged, Hungary <i>Fungal nicotinate degradation pathway</i>
17.30-17.50	Selected lecture 2	Manuel Sánchez López-Berges Universidad de Córdoba, Spain <i>Accessory gene cluster confers high copper tolerance in the cross-kingdom pathogen Fusarium oxysporum</i>
17.50-18.10	Selected lecture 3	George Tzelepis Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden <i>Elucidating the role of N-deglycosylation activity in filamentous fungal homeostasis</i>
18.10-18.30	Selected lecture 4	Emmanouil Bastakis Georg August University Göttingen, Germany <i>Molecular circuit between Aspergillus nidulans transcription factors MsnA and VelB to coordinate fungal stress and developmental responses</i>
18.30-20.30	Poster Session 1 (1-24) with drinks	
21.00-22.30	Reception dinner	
22.30-23.30	Open-air concert	

Day #2, Sunday 28 September 2025

Time	Program category	Speaker name and topic of talk
8.00-9.00	Breakfast	
Session 2: Fungal mechanisms Chair: Meritxell Riquelme, Gerhard Braus, Joseph Strauss		
9.00-9.40	EMBO keynote lecture Introduced by M. Riquelme	Anne Spang Biozentrum University of Basel, Switzerland <i>Arf1, a jack of all trades in organelle homeostasis and cell signaling</i>
9.40-10.00	Invited lecture 4	George Diallinas National & Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece <i>Unconventional Golgi-bypass trafficking of plasma membrane transporters</i>
10.00-10.20	Invited lecture 5	Martine Bassilana Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France <i>Lipid- and signal-mediated polarized growth in fungi</i>
10.20-10.40	Invited lecture 6	Lillian Fritz-Laylin University of Massachusetts, Amherst, USA <i>Chytrid fungi and the development of fungal morphogenesis</i>
10.40-11.10	Coffee break	
11.10-11.30	Invited lecture 7	Meritxell Riquelme Scientific Research Center and Higher Education of Ensenada (CICESE), Baja California, Mexico <i>Uncovering the Hyphal Tip: New Insights into Fungal Cell Polarity and Secretion</i>
11.30-11.50	Selected lecture 5	Michael Feldbrügge Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, Germany <i>Endosomal mRNA transport and cell wall remodeling</i>

11.50-12.10	Selected lecture 6	Edward Wallace The University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom <i>RNA-Binding protein SsdA shows dynamic localisation and transport during hyphal growth in Aspergillus nidulans</i>
12.10-12.30	Selected lecture 7	Jesus Aguirre Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico <i>Regulation of mitochondrial and actin dynamics regulation by reactive oxygen species</i>
12.30-12.50	Selected lecture 8	Florian Altegoer Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf, Germany <i>A novel peptide-GPCR system senses plant entry to drive fungal infection</i>
13.00-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.00	Poster Session 2 (25-47) with coffee	
16.00-16.20	Selected lecture 9	Elizabeth Bayne University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom <i>Mechanisms of RNA interference in Cryptococcus</i>
16.20-16.40	Selected lecture 10	Robert Arkowitz CNRS - INSERM - Université Côte d'Azur, France <i>Tolerance to the antifungal drug fluconazole is mediated by tuning cytoplasmic fluidity</i>
16.40-17.10	Coffee break	
17.10-17.30	Selected lecture 11	Xenia Georgiou University of Athens, Greece <i>VapA/Scs2 sustains polarized growth in Aspergillus nidulans by maintaining AP-2-mediated apical endocytosis</i>

17.30-17.50	Selected lecture 12	Juan Manuel Martínez Andrade Scientific Research Center and Higher Education of Ensenada (CICESE), Baja California, Mexico <i>The small GTPase SEY-1 regulates the morphology and function of the apical endoplasmic reticulum and mitochondria in Neurospora crassa</i>
18.00- 18.15	Information & announcements for dinner organization	George Diallinas
18.15-20.15	Outdoors free time for discussions and networking	
20.30-24.30	Dinner and tour in the city of Chania in small groups (partly organized)	

Day #3, Monday 29 September 2025

Time	Program category	Speaker name and topic of talk
8.00-9.00	Breakfast	
Session 3: Fungal crosstalk with hosts & predatory interactions Chair: Per Ljungdahl		
9.00-9.30	Plenary lecture 1	Nick Talbot The Sainsbury Laboratory, Norwich, UK <i>Investigating the biology of effector-mediated invasive growth by the rice blast fungus Magnaporthe oryzae</i>
9.30-9.50	Invited lecture 8	Reinhard Fischer Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany <i>Small-secreted proteins as fungal virulence factors in the predatory interaction of Arthrobotrys flagrans with Caenorhabditis elegans.</i>
9.50-10.10	Invited lecture 9	Charissa de Bekker Utrecht University, The Netherlands <i>Mechanisms involved in fungal hijacking of insect host behavior</i>
10.10-10.30	Invited lecture 10	Yen-Ping Hsueh Max Planck Institute for Biology, Tübingen, Germany <i>Predator-prey interactions of nematode-trapping fungi</i>
10.30-11.00	Coffee break	
11.00-11.20	Invited lecture 11	Miriam Osés-Ruiz Public University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain <i>Appressorium-mediated plant infection by the rice blast fungus Magnaporthe oryzae</i>
11.20-11.40	Invited lecture 12	Antonio Di Pietro University of Córdoba, Spain <i>Pathogenic lifestyle in root colonizing fungi</i>

11.40-12.00	Selected lecture 13	Luis Vicente Lopez-Llorca University of Alicante, Spain <i>Chitosan, biocontrol fungi and plants: stress can be good to you</i>
12.00-12.20	Selected lecture 14	Rosa R. Mouriño-Pérez Scientific Research Center and Higher Education of Ensenada (CICESE), Baja California, Mexico <i>Cytoskeletal dynamics underlying intracellular organization in the entomopathogenic fungus Metarhizium brunneum</i>
12.20-12.40	Selected lecture 15	Singh Ranu Indian institute of science education and research Bhopal, India <i>An uncharacterized domain within the N-terminal tail of histone H3 regulates the transcription of FLO1 via Cyc8</i>
13.00-14.30	Lunch	

Session 4: Fungal societal interactions-Microbiomes

Chair: Antonio Di Pietro

14.30-14.50	Invited lecture 13	Axel Brakhage Leibniz Institute for Natural Product Research and Infection Biology (Leibniz-HKI), Jena, Germany <i>Shaping of bacterial-fungal interactions by natural products</i>
14.50-15.10	Invited lecture 14	Vassilis Kokkoris Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands <i>Cell and network dynamics in arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi</i>
15.10-15.30	Invited lecture 15	Luisa Lanfranco Università di Torino, Italy <i>Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungal genomes and virome</i>
15.30-15.50	Invited lecture 16	Alexandra Dallaire Royal Botanical Kew Gardens, UK <i>Genome evolutions studies in AM fungi and beyond</i>

15.50-16.10	Invited lecture 17	Natalia Requena Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT), Germany <i>The secret life of nematode-trapping fungi</i>
16.10-16.30	Selected lecture 16	Emma Alessandri ETH Zurich, Switzerland <i>The Unfolded Protein Response is involved in antibacterial defense in fungi</i>
17.00-19.30	Excursion for afternoon swimming	
20.00	Free night	

Day #4, Tuesday 30 September 2025

Time	Program category	Speaker name and topic of talk
8.00-9.00	Breakfast	
Session 5: Fungal virulence and evolution Chair: Natalia Requena, Claudio Scazzocchio		
9.00-9.20	Invited lecture 18	Mike Bromley University of Manchester, UK <i>Antifungal resistance: A one health problem</i>
9.20-9.40	Invited lecture 19	Georgios Chamilos Institute of Molecular Biology and Biotechnology, Foundation for Research and Technology – Hellas, Heraklion, Crete, Greece <i>Updates on Aspergillosis and Mucormycosis</i>
9.40-10.00	Invited lecture 20	Xiaorong Lin University of Georgia, USA <i>Discovery of the molecular bases for cryptococcal tolerance to host CO₂</i>
10.00-10.20	Invited lecture 21	Bing Zhai Chinese Academy of Sciences, China <i>Human microbiome and fungal infections</i>
10.20-10.50	Coffee break	
10.50-11.20	Plenary lecture 2	Joe Heitman Duke University, Durham, USA <i>Epimutations evoke transient antimicrobial drug resistance</i>
11.20-11.40	Invited lecture 22	Aaron Vogan University of Uppsala, Sweden <i>Gene acquisition by giant transposons primes eukaryotes for rapid evolution via horizontal gene transfer</i>

11.40-12.00	Selected lecture 17	Sizwe Ndlovu North-West University, South Africa <i>Combining OSMAC and untargeted metabolomics approaches reveal compounds exhibiting potential anti-HIV-1 activities from an endophytic fungus, Penicillium rubens</i>
12.00-12.20	Invited lecture 23	Per Ljungdahl Stockholm University, Sweden <i>Factors facilitating Candida albicans pathogenicity</i>
12.20-12.40	Selected lecture 18	Slavica Janevska Leibniz-HKI, Germany <i>Elucidation of genetic diversity and pathogenicity mechanisms of the opportunistic human pathogen Fusarium oxysporum</i>
13.00-14.30	Lunch	
14.30-16.00	Free time for discussions and networking with coffee	
Session 6: New tools final questions and conclusions Chair: Xenia Georgiou, Georgia Sagia		
16.00-16.20	Invited lecture 24	Milda Pucetaite Lund University, Sweden <i>Tracing hyphal scale metabolic dynamics in soil fungi via Raman microspectroscopy</i>
16.20-16.40	Selected lecture 19	Darren Thomson University of Exeter, United Kingdom <i>The Mycology Bioimaging Initiative</i>
16.40-17.00	Selected Lecture 20	Antoine Loquet CNRS-CBMN, France <i>New solid-state NMR approaches to decipher the molecular organization of intact fungal and yeast cell wall at atomic resolution</i>
17.00-17.20	Selected Lecture 21	Tanja Pajić University of Belgrade, Serbia <i>Cell dynamics investigation of the Mucoromycetes fungus, Phycomyces blakesleeana, via nonlinear laser scanning microscopy</i>

17.20-17.40	Selected Lecture 22	Chen Xiaoyi Utrecht University, The Netherlands <i>Quantitative single-molecule FISH reveals subcellular localization of flb family mRNA in the filamentous fungus Aspergillus niger</i>
17.40-18.00	Selected Lecture 23	Clara Valero The University of Manchester, United Kingdom <i>Exploring the link between azole resistance and fitness in Aspergillus fumigatus by using quantitative trait locus (QTL) mapping</i>
18.00-19.00	Selected questions of young participants to speakers	
19.00-19.30	Concluding remarks	Organizers and all participants
20.00 -24.45	Gala Dinner in Cretan Village	

Day #5, Wednesday 1 October 2025

8.00-9.00

Breakfast

9.00-12.30

Check-out

2 Honorary/EMBO lectures, 2 Plenary, 24 Invited, 23 selected = 51 talks

47 posters

Health and Safety

SELF-ISOLATION/QUARANTINE (in case of a serious epidemic):

While the Institute takes all precautions to avoid contamination, in case of a confirmed e.g. COVID case in the Institute, you may be asked to self-isolate and/or quarantine. Please note that you are **OBLIGED** to do this if you are asked to by the state authorities. Please be aware at all times to wash your hands regularly, and to use disinfectant wherever possible. While MAICH takes every care to ensure your health and safety on the campus, you are personally responsible for your own safety. Please show **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** at all times.

IN CASE OF FIRE:

- ✓ Stay calm and don't panic; Call the fire brigade immediately: **199**
- ✓ If you know how to use a fire extinguisher, use it to put out the fire before the fire spreads; Evacuate the building according to the plans on display in each area; Gather at the assembly area as specified in the plan on display in the building; If you can't leave the room, seal the doors and windows in order not to help the fire spread.

IN CASE OF EARTHQUAKE:

- ✓ Stay calm and don't panic; Stay away from furniture or objects which can fall on you
- ✓ Find shelter under a table or desk or next to a solid piece of furniture (in a safe triangle). If there is no suitable furniture, crouch in the middle of the room and cover your head with your hands.
- ✓ Find shelter under the frame of a door; Stay away from glass surfaces; Do not go out onto the balcony; Do not run towards the exit; Do not use the elevator; After the shaking stops completely, leave the building with caution; Remember: do not run; Gather at the assembly area as specified in the plans on.

Students/visitors are responsible for their personal belongings in their rooms. In the case of loss, the Institute bears no responsibility. Students/visitors must keep their door locked when they are absent from their room. The Institute holds no responsibility for lost or stolen personal items.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION LOCATIONS

See designated areas on the inside front cover.

AT ALL TIMES: Please consider all the people who use the Institute's facilities, as well as the cleaning ladies who need to clean up afterwards. All students/visitors are required to adhere to these rules of cleanliness.

An Automated External Defibrillator (AED) is available in the venue.

Useful Information

EUROPEAN EMERGENCY NUMBER: 112

TAXI

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AUTHORITIES

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Fire Department: 199

Police: +30 2821 0 28744

Port Authority: +30 2821 0 98888

FIRST AID – HOSPITAL

First Aid:166

Hospital of Chania: +30 2821 0 22000

Private Clinique “IASIS”: +30 2821 0 70800

Private Clinique

“Therapeutic of Chania” +302821052688

RECEIPTS/INVOICES: You should have already received your receipt/invoice through email. In case there is no receipt/invoice received so far, please contact the conference secretariat.

CONFERENCE BADGES: Will be provided upon registration. Badges function as tickets for the conference rooms and for the “Mediterranean” Restaurant, which is located in the conference venue. Therefore, badges should be worn at all times.

LANGUAGE: The official language of the conference is English.



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Participants must arrange transportation independently

Taxi estimated cost to/from airport: 30€



Bus No. 13 connects MAICH with the city.

Stops: Square 1866 & AGORA terminal.

More info: Chania City Bus website



Photos will be taken during the event for marketing. All the photos will be displayed on the monitor located outside the Conference Center Office of MAICH during the conference. If you do not wish to be photographed, or you wish to delete a photo please inform the conference secretariat at MAICH.

The conference secretariat is open during the conference hours and willing to help and assist participants.

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