



Dear Colleagues,

The upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria, entitled “**The Impact of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria on Global Plant Health**” will be held in Assisi, Umbria, Central Italy, on June 07-12, 2020. The Conference mission is to promote and disseminate the latest scientific advances in all aspects of Phytobacteriology and encourage dialogue and collaboration between researchers. The conference language is English.

The latest developments in the field, either basic or applied, will be presented and discussed at the conference. Plenary, oral and poster sessions will be held on key topics such as: **Epidemiology and Ecology; Omics and Evolution; Control and Integrated Management; Diversity, Taxonomy and Diagnosis; Pathogenesis and Regulation; Disease Resistance and Effector Biology.**

The proposal of special sessions may be considered by the Scientific Committee. In this regard, the year 2020 has been planned by the FAO as Plant Health Year. A special session is planned to be organized in collaboration with the FAO with the aim to discuss the role and impact of plant diseases caused by bacteria on plant health world-wide.

A number of abstracts presented as poster contributions will be selected for short oral presentation and discussion. The participation of young researchers is strongly encouraged. Reduced registration fees for students and early-career postdoctoral researchers will be available. Awards for these two groups for posters and presentations are planned.

The meeting proceedings are planned to be published as a special issue in the **Journal of Plant Pathology**.

We are looking forward to welcome you in Assisi, the birthplace of San Francesco, closely associated with the work of the Franciscan Order. Its medieval art masterpieces, such as the Basilica of San Francesco - one of the 53 Unesco World Heritage sites in Italy, with paintings by Cimabue, Pietro Lorenzetti, Simone Martini and Giotto - have made Assisi a fundamental reference point for the development of Italian and European art and architecture.

A web-site ([www.icppb2020.com](http://www.icppb2020.com)) is under preparation and it would be operative by January 2019 at the latest.

Your attendance will contribute to the fruitful exchange of scientific ideas and help to establish new friendships and future collaborations. We are sure that your participation in the conference, and experience of Assisi, will be scientifically and culturally rewarding, highly enjoyable and truly unforgettable.

Nicola Sante Iacobellis

and

Roberto Buonauro

Co-Chairmen of the Scientific and Organizing Committees