

**ABSTRACTS OF  
LECTURES AND POSTERS**

**THE**  
**World**  
**Mycotoxin**  
**Forum**<sup>®</sup>  
**13<sup>TH</sup>**  
**CONFERENCE**

**WMFmeetsItaly**

**16-18 MAY 2022**  
**PARMA-ITALY**

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## Key to the abstracts of lectures and posters:

- the abstracts of lectures and posters are grouped separately;
- the lectures are grouped according to the daily programme; and
- the posters are grouped according to theme and then in an alphabetical order according to the presenting/corresponding author.

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## WELCOME TO PARMA

The World Mycotoxin Forum® is the leading international meeting series on mycotoxins dedicated to assembling the world's best minds across the spectrum of integrated strategies ensuring the safety and security of the food and feed supply chain. The World Mycotoxin Forum® brings together a holistic conference programme covering the latest issues in mycotoxin management and is targeted at everyone working in the mycotoxin space – researchers, food and feed industry, laboratories, policy makers, and enforcement agencies from around the world.

The 13th conference of the World Mycotoxin Forum® – **WMFmeetsITALY** – will offer an excellent way to network, share ideas, and formulate recommendations and conclusions on how to close knowledge gaps. It will include:

- presentations and discussions in plenary meetings and parallel sessions
- poster sessions
- workshops
- WMF Young Scientists Forum
- company pitches, case studies, and industry updates covering a wide range of topics
- a concurrent instrument/manufacturers exhibition providing information on equipment, products, and services.

The aim of this year's conference is to elaborate further on key strategic issues looking forward, amid the current challenges. High-quality speakers, ample time for discussions, and every opportunity to establish rewarding contacts are values the World Mycotoxin Forum® wants to uphold. You are invited to take part in the discussions with participants from different disciplines and meet business relations in your area.

We wish you an active and fruitful meeting!

General conference chairs  
Rudolf Krska  
Chris Elliott

Local conference chairs  
Chiara Dall'Asta  
Michele Suman



## ABOUT PARMA

Con il patrocinio



Located in northern Italy in Emilia-Romagna region, Parma is a wonderful destination for those who appreciate art, architecture, and Italian food. The city, located at the gateway to the area producing Parmigiano Reggiano cheese and balsamic vinegar, is probably most famous for Prosciutto di Parma. In addition to these Italian delicacies, there is plenty to do and see in Parma. The city has delightful streets, art museums, and a celebrated cathedral and baptistry.





development of the biocontrol strain in polymers with the addition of glucose or sucrose was evaluated. The diameter of the pores of each polymer was determined and those with a pore diameter of 93-97  $\mu\text{m}$  were selected assuming they allow a better use of the entire substrate by the biological control agent. In addition, the growth of the biological control strain in the different preparations was analysed. The synthesis of this biopolymer included stages of gelation, cooling, freezing, thawing, drying, sterilization and curing, hydration, pH regulation, inoculation, incubation, and final drying. The effectiveness of the bioformulate evaluated under field showed a reduction of 81% in aflatoxin accumulation in maize kernels in comparison with the non-inoculated controls. The development of this biotechnological tool allowed us to present a process and product patent that is currently pending. In addition, it offers to producers an eco-friendly, economical, and safe alternative that contributes to food quality and safety.

#### P70

##### INFLUENCE OF TEMPERATURE AND WATER ACTIVITY ON GROWTH AND AFLATOXIN PRODUCTION OF *ASPERGILLUS FLAVUS* STRAINS ISOLATED FROM CHICKPEAS

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Chickpea (*Cicer arietinum* L.) is one of the most cultivated pulses in terms of world production. There is a high demand for world production due to the crop's nutritional value. In Argentina, most of chickpea production is exported. Chickpea is susceptible to more than 25 well-documented fungal pathogens that cause seed deterioration and contamination with mycotoxins. The most worldwide prevalent fungi in chickpeas are species belonging to *Aspergillus*, *Fusarium*, *Penicillium*, *Alternaria*, and *Rhizopus* genera. In a previous study, we observed that *A. flavus* was the prevalent fungi isolated from chickpea. Considering that *A. flavus* has the ability to produce aflatoxins (compounds classified in group 1 by IARC) and aflatoxin production and fungal growth of *A. flavus* can be influenced by abiotic conditions, the effect of water activity ( $a_w$ , 0.99, 0.98, 0.96, 0.94, 0.92, 0.90 and 0.87), temperature (15, 25, and 30°C), incubation time (5, 10, 14, and 21 days), and their interactions on mycelial growth and aflatoxin production in a chickpea-based medium by three *A. flavus* strains isolated from chickpea in Argentina was evaluated. Maximum growth rates were obtained at  $a_w$  0.99 and 30°C, with growth decreasing as the  $a_w$  of the medium was reduced. Maximum amounts of aflatoxins were produced at 0.99  $a_w$  and 25°C after 5 days of incubation for 2 strains, and at 25°C and 0.96  $a_w$  after 21 days of incubation for the third strain. Aflatoxin concentrations varied depending on the  $a_w$  and temperature interactions assayed. Two-dimensional profiles of  $a_w$  by temperature interactions were developed from these data to identify areas where conditions indicate a significant risk from aflatoxin accumulation on chickpea. This study provides useful data about conditions representing a high and a low risk for aflatoxin contamination of chickpea which is of greater concern because chickpea is destined mainly for human consumption.

#### P71

##### FROM THE TREASURE CHEST OF PLANT BIOACTIVES TO THE FUTURE OF NEW CROP PROTECTANTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE: THE POSSIBLE EXPLOITATION OF *CITRULLUS COLOCYNTHIS* L. (SCHRAD.) EXTRACTS AGAINST *ASPERGILLUS FLAVUS* AND AFLATOXINS AND OTHER STORIES.

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The world of plant extracts and natural compounds have long been regarded as a promise land for the individuation of healthy alternatives to chemical preservatives, against microbial contamination, in food and feed commodities. A plethora of aromatic and medicinal plant species have been studied from decades to explore their antimicrobial and antioxidant properties, in order to both validate their ethnobotanical use for healing microbial illnesses and assess their suitability as food preservation agents. In fact, after terrestrialization and during the following evolutionary pathway, plants had to develop chemical compounds – constitutive and/or induced – for defense against specific pathogens, therefore becoming a potential source of new natural products usable with antimicrobial purposes. Aside from the most common contaminants that could occur in foodstuff, mycotoxigenic fungal species

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