8th International Bacterial Wilt Symposium

22-26 March 2026, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Preliminary program (version 20260225)

	Sun 22	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Thu 26
8:00		8:00 Registration and coffee		8:15 Excursion	
		8:45 Welcome	8:45 Theme 2		8:45 Theme 3
9:00		9:15 Special session			
10:00		10:15 Coffee break	10:15 Coffee break		10:15 Coffee break
		10:45 Special session (continued)	10:45 Theme 2 (continued)		10:45 Poster session
11:00		11:15 Opening lecture	11:25 Theme 5		11:35 Theme 3 (continued)
		11:45 Theme 1			
12:00		12:35 Lunch break	12:35 Lunch break		12:35 Lunch break
13:00		13:35 Theme 1 (continued)	13:35 Theme 5 (continued)		13:35 Theme 2 (continued)
14:00			14:55 Theme 4		
15:00		15:15 Coffee break	15:25 Coffee break		15:15 Coffee break
		15:45 Poster session	15:55 Theme 4 (continued)		15:45 Closing lecture, Awards and closing
16:00	16:00 Drinks and registration				
17:00					
18:00					
19:00					19:00 Conference dinner
20:00					
21:00					

Themes and special session

The scientific programme will consist of five diverse bacterial wilt related themes as shown in the list below. In addition, a broader special session on the plant microbiome will be organized.

Theme 1
Diversity, genomics, and evolution of the *Ralstonia solanacearum* species complex (e.g. phylogeny, pangenomics, population genetics, evolution)

Theme 2
Molecular plant-microbe interactions (e.g. effectors, quorum sensing, plant responses/gene expression, genetics and metabolomics)

Theme 3
Ecology and epidemiology (e.g. pathogen survival, range expansion, plant host range, microbiome interactions)

Theme 4
Host resistance and crop improvement (e.g. resistance genes, resistance markers, breeding, genetic engineering)

Theme 5
Disease control, prevention, and diagnostics (e.g. detection, identification, biological control, containment, ICM)

Sunday March 22

Hotel Wander - Restaurant

16:00 - 18:00 Welcome drinks and registration
For those of you who are already in Wageningen. An opportunity to get registered and talk to your colleagues while enjoying a drink and some small snacks.

Monday March 23
Hotel Wander - HUGO TECH

8:00 - 8:45 Registration (lobby of the hotel)
If you could not register on Sunday, you can register now.

8:45 Opening of the IBWS2026

Special session on plant microbiome research in the Netherlands
9:15 Keynote: Jos Raaymakers | NIOO + Leiden University | The Netherlands
A walk on the wild side
9:45 Keynote: Roeland Berendsen | Utrecht University | The Netherlands
From soil-borne legacies to predictive microbiomes: phenotyping of plant-microbe interactions

10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break (restaurant)

10:45 Keynote: Lemeng Dong | University of Amsterdam | The Netherlands
Chemical signalling in plant-microbe-nematode interactions

Opening lecture
11:15 Keynote: Stephane Genin | INRAE | France
The R. solanacearum expanded family: expanding geographical areas, expanding host range, and expanding knowledge

Theme 1: Diversity, genomics, and evolution of the *R. solanacearum* species complex
11:45 Keynote: Honour McCann | Max Planck Institute | Germany
Antagonism and emergence: genomics of historic and contemporary Ralstonia spp. outbreaks
12:15 Poliane Alfenas Zerbini | Universidade Federal de Viçosa | Brazil
Emergence of Ralstonia syzygii subsp. syzygii (Phylotype IV) in Brazil: evidence for a Myrtaceae-associated lineage expansion

12:35 - 13:35 Lunch break (restaurant)

13:35 Karla Cardenas Gomez | University of York | United Kingdom
Can temperature adaptation drive Ralstonia solanacearum strain K60 range expansion and virulence?
13:55 Emma Sheriff | University of Helsinki | Finland
Understanding phage defence system synergy in the plant pathogen Ralstonia
14:15 Shuo Wang | University of Helsinki; Nanjing Agricultural University | Finland
Prophages drive the recombination of anti-phage defence systems within and between Ralstonia species
14:35 Fe Dela Cueva | University of the Philippines Los Baños | Philippines
Genetic diversity and population structure of Ralstonia solanacearum phylotype II in Philippine bananas
14:55 Alice Guidot | INRAE | France
Changes in DNA methylation, a form of epigenetic modification, contribute to rapid adaptation of Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum to the host plant

15:15 - 15:45 Coffee break (HUGO TECH)

15:45 - 17:30 Poster session 1

Tuesday March 24
Hotel Wander - HUGO TECH

Theme 2: Molecular plant-microbe interactions

8:45 Keynote: Zhong Wei | Nanjing Agricultural University | China
Harnessing the rhizobiont to control Ralstonia solanacearum invasion

9:15 Mercedes Rocafort Ferrer | CRAG; Universitat de Barcelona | Spain
The phenylacetic acid pathway is required for R. solanacearum rhizosphere establishment

9:35 Rebecca Schomer | University of Arizona | USA
Dissecting the bacterial-plant chemical conversations that drive Ralstonia phytopathogens towards host roots

9:55 Caroline Baroukh | INRAE | France
What mathematical modelling has revealed about bacterial wilt disease

10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break (restaurant)

10:45 Yasufumi Hikichi | Kochi University | Japan
A novel transcriptional regulator RalT contributes to the fine-tuning of the quorum sensing-dependent production of major exopolysaccharide EPS I in Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum strain OE1-1

11:05 Tiffany Lowe-Power | University of California Davis | USA
The EPS-I exopolysaccharide transforms Ralstonia wilt pathogen biofilms into mobile viscoelastic fluids for rapid dissemination in planta

Theme 5: Disease control, prevention, and diagnostics

11:25 Keynote: Ville Friman | University of Helsinki | Finland
Using phages to biocontrol Ralstonia solanacearum

11:55 Boshou Liao | OCRI-CAAS | China
Development of high-throughput resistance screening approaches and utilization of diverse resistant germplasm for effective control of bacterial wilt in peanut

12:15 Martijn Vogelaar | Wageningen University and Research | The Netherlands
Development of a new TaqMan PCR for simultaneous detection and distinction of R. pseudosolanacearum and R. solanacearum in surface water

12:35 - 13:35 Lunch break (restaurant)

13:35 Viola Kurm | Wageningen University and Research | The Netherlands
From Pangenomics to Diagnostics: Resolving Diversity in Ralstonia syzygii

13:55 Daniel Narino-Rojas | University of York | United Kingdom
Genome-wide identification of Ralstonia solanacearum genes conferring resistance to diverse bacteriophages using RB-TnSeq

14:15 Manigundan Kaari | Dong-A University | South Korea
Actinobacterial synthetic community alters the rhizosphere microbiota and enhance the tomato health

14:35 Can-Hua Lu | Yunnan Academy of Tobacco Agricultural Sciences | China
Six-year field evaluation of cropping systems for management of bacterial wilt and root knot nematode of tobacco

Theme 4: Host resistance and crop improvement

14:55 Keynote: Marc Valls | Universitat de Barcelona | Spain
Characterisation and engineering of the mechanisms conferring vascular resistance to bacterial wilt in tomato

15:25 - 15:55 Coffee break (restaurant)

15:55 Nathalie Aoun | University of California Davis | USA
Natural variation in a NLR pair confers thermostable resistance to a devastating bacterial pathogen

Program for Tuesday continues on next page

Tuesday March 24 (continued)
Hotel Wander - HUGO TECH

16:15 Bo Li | Huazhong Agricultural University | China
The mechanism of receptor-mediated immunity to bacterial wilt in tomato
16:35 Huaiyong Luo | OCRI-CAAS | China
Identification of key loci associated with resistance to bacterial wilt in peanut through whole-genome resequencing
16:55 Paola Gaiero | Universidad de la República | Uruguay
Genetic architecture of bacterial wilt resistance in potato wild relatives from Uruguay and new source for introgression
17:15 Mary Mwangi | International Potato Center | Peru
Development of bacterial wilt resistant potato using Efr, Jim2 and Roq1 genes

Wednesday March 25
Excursion

8:15 Gather in front of Hotel Wander
8:45 Departure of bus

Visit to NPEC and UNLOCK
9:15 Tour NPEC or UNLOCK (Wageningen University and Research Campus)
Guided tour through the Netherlands Plant Eco-phenotyping Centre (NPEC) facilities or the UNLOCK microbial research facilities at the Wageningen University and Research campus

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee break (Unifarm)

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12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break (Omnia)

13:45 Departure of bus

Visit to the city center of Wageningen
14:15 Tour Wageningen historical center
Guided tour through the historical part of the center of Wageningen
15:45 Drinks at Visum Mundi
Catch up with colleagues while enjoying some drinks and small snacks

Thursday March 26
Hotel Wander - HUGO TECH

Theme 3: Ecology and epidemiology

8:45 Keynote: Gilles Cellier | ANSES | France (Réunion)
How population genetic signatures revealed contrasted outbreak histories of bacterial diseases?

9:15 Amandine Cunty | ANSES | France
Tracing the origin of Ralstonia solanacearum in mainland France

9:35 Maria Bergsma-Vlami | NIVIP | The Netherlands
Exploring the genetic diversity of recent Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum phylotype I findings in Europe

9:55 Robert Vreeburg | NIVIP | The Netherlands
Ralstonia in Dutch surface water, looking back and looking forward

10:15 - 10:45 Coffee break (HUGO TECH)

10:45 - 11:35 Poster session 2

Theme 3: Ecology and epidemiology (continued)

11:35 Florien Gorter | Wageningen University and Research | The Netherlands
Quantifying the dissemination of Ralstonia pseudosolanaceraum via free water in soil using a custom laboratory set-up

11:55 Kenji Kai | Osaka Metropolitan University | Japan
Ralstonia parasitizes not only plants but also some fungi

12:15 Virginia Ferreira | Universidad de la República | Uruguay
Bacterial wilt resistance is correlated with rhizosphere bacterial communities in potato genotypes

12:35 - 13:35 Lunch break (restaurant)

Theme 2: Molecular plant-microbe interactions (continued)

13:35 Anjali Iyer-Pascuzzi | Purdue University | USA
A type III effector from Ralstonia solanacearum interacts with the plant cytoskeleton and is required for virulence

13:55 Corri Hamilton | University of Missouri | USA
Ralstonia solanacearum R3B2 strain UW551 overcomes inhibitory xylem chemistry to break tomato bacterial wilt resistance

14:15 Qinghong Li | Zhejiang University | China
Related type 2C protein phosphatases LOPP and CIPP1 negatively regulate immunity to Ralstonia solanacearum in tomato

14:35 Kouhei Ohnishi | Kochi University | Japan
Sucrose and malic acid in the tobacco plant induce hrp regulon in a phytopathogen Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum

14:55 Milka Kezimana-Oculi | Université de Toulouse | France
Origin and role of putrescine in bacterial wilt disease

15:15 - 15:45 Coffee break (restaurant)

Closing session

15:45 Award ceremony
Hayward-Prior travel grant winners and Best student contribution awards

16:05 Keynote: Caitilyn Allen | University of Wisconsin | USA
How plant pathogenic Ralstonia respond to a host – the story of RprR

16:50 Official closing of the IBWS2026

19:00 - 22:00 Conference dinner (restaurant)