



8th International Bacterial Wilt Symposium

Program



22-26 March 2026
Wageningen, the Netherlands
<https://event.wur.nl/ibws2026>



Scientific committee

María Inés Siri (Uruguay)
Mauricio Rossato (Brazil)
Boshou Liao (China)
Yasufumi Hikichi (Japan)
Marc Valls (Spain)
Ville Friman (Finland)
Stephane Genin (France)
Alice Guidot (France)
Gilles Cellier (France)
Caitilyn Allen (USA)
David Norman (USA)
Tiffany Lowe-Power (USA)
Jonathan Jacobs (USA)

Book of abstracts



Maria
Bergsma-Vlami

Organizing committee

Maria Bergsma-Vlami (NIVIP | NPPO | NVWA)
Florien Gorter (WUR)
Martijn Vogelaar (NIVIP | NPPO | NVWA & WUR)
Inge van Duivenbode (NAK)
Sebastiaan van Kessel (NAK)
Chiel Pel (NIVIP | NPPO | NVWA)
Rita Volkers (NIVIP | NPPO | NVWA)
Ellis Meekes (Naktuinbouw)



Florien Gorter



Martijn Vogelaar



Inge
van Duivenbode



Sebastiaan
van Kessel



Chiel Pel



Rita Volkers



Ellis Meekes



NAK
Randweg 14
8304 AS Emmeloord
The Netherlands



Netherlands Food and Consumer
Product Safety Authority
Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food
Security and Nature

NIVIP | NPPO | NVWA
Geertjesweg 15
6706 EA Wageningen
The Netherlands



WUR
Droevendaalsesteeg 1
6708PB Wageningen
The Netherlands



Naktuinbouw
Sotaweg 22
2371 GD Roelofarendsveen
The Netherlands



8th International Bacterial Wilt Symposium

22-26 March 2026, Wageningen, the Netherlands

Program (version 20260315)

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

Sponsors

Principal



Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries,
Food Security and Nature

Gold



primediagnos^tics

Silver



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 Maria Bergsma-Vlami

Special session on plant microbiome research in the Netherlands

Chair: Florian Gorter

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

Chair: Tiffany Lowe-Power

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

Chair: Alice Guidot

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

Chair: David Norman

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

Chair: Boshou Liao

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)

Program for Tuesday continues on next page

Tuesday March 24 (continued)

Hotel Wander - HUGO TECH

15:55 Nathalie Aoun | University of California Davis | USA

Natural variation in a NLR pair confers thermostable resistance to a devastating bacterial pathogen

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 | Kenya

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)

11:00 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

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

13:30 Group picture (outside Omnia)

13:45 Departure of bus (outside Omnia)

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

Chair: Yasufumi Hikichi

8:45 Keynote: Gilles Cellier | ANSES | France (Réunion)

How population genetic signatures revealed contrasted outbreak histories of bacterial diseases?

9:15 Amandine Cuntz | 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 pseudosolanacearum* 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)

Chair: Marc Valls

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 - Maria Bergsma-Vlami

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