

Dear Friends and Colleagues, we hope that you, your family and colleagues are healthy and safe and wish you all the best.

On behalf of the Italian Society of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Microbiology (SIMTREA), it is our pleasure to announce the 6th International Conference on Microbial Diversity 2021 (MD21), that will be virtual, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MD21 will take place from 14 to 15 December 2021.

The MD is a prestigious international congress that has seen the number of participants grow over the years and the previous MD editions saw a multidisciplinary audience including microbiologists working in the area of agriculture, food, environment, health and industry members.

The theme of MD21 is focused on emerging topics in microbiology, ranging from the study of the metabolome to microbial ecology and the impact of microbes on the human society.

The online event will allow researchers from anywhere in the world to take part in the discussions, with the aim to create a connected and collaborative community of microbiologists. Lectures will be available in streaming, and on demand after the sessions.

We look forward to uniting the microbial sciences community for this unique event!

Chairman of the Scientific Committee of MD 2021: **Luca Cocolin**

Invited speakers

Nicholas Bokulich (ETH Zürich, Switzerland); **Bas Teusink** (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands); **Rudolf Amann** (Max Planck Institute, Bremen, Germany); **Maria Marco** (University of California, Davis, California); **Sarah Lebeer** (University of Antwerp, Belgium); **Peter Vandamme** (University of Ghent, Belgium); **Korneel Rabaey** (University of Ghent, Belgium); **Pascal Saikaly** (KAUST University, Saudi Arabia); **Federico Aulenta** (Italian National Research Council, Italy); **Hadda Imene Ouzari** (University Tunis El Manar, Tunisia); **Loubna El fels** (Cadi Ayyad University, Marrakech, Morocco); **Petek Cakar** (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey); **Marcello Scalisi** (Mediterranean Universities Union, Italy).

Scientific Committee

Chairman of the Scientific committee: **Luca Cocolin** President of SIMTREA, University of Turin; **Daniele Daffonchio**, KAUST; **Cinzia Caggia**, University of Catania; **Marilena Budroni**, University of Sassari; **Carlo Viti**, University of Florence; **Giovanna Felis**, University of Verona; **Maria Gullo**, University of Modena and Reggio Emilia; **Stéphane Chaillou**, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique - INRAE.

Organising Committee

SIMTREA Board

E-mail address: secretariatmd21simtrea.org; Website: <https://md21.simtrea.org/it/>

Registration fee

The registration fees are as follows: 50 Euros for PhD Students and Students; 100 Euros for SIMTREA members and 120 Euros for NON-SIMTREA members and includes the access to all Congress Sessions and digital proceedings. One day registration is fixed to 50 Euros for PhD Students, Students and SIMTREA members, to 70 Euros for NON-SIMTREA members. Please, check deadlines on our website <https://md21.simtrea.org/it/>