



Object: NATO Advanced Study Institute

From 8 to 19 September 2006 the NATO Advanced Study Institute (ASI) entitled “**Novel biotechnologies for biocontrol agent enhancement and management**” will be held in Gualdo Tadino, Perugia, Italy.

An ASI is a high-level teaching activity where a carefully defined subject is treated in depth by lecturers of international standing. New advances in a subject, not taught elsewhere, will be reported in tutorial form. We are organizing this ASI because we realize that except for classical biocontrol, there have been few successes with inundative biocontrol due to evolutionary barriers, and it is necessary to invoke some of the novel tools of biotechnology to overcome these obstacles. Perhaps with the addition of such technologies, it will be possible to augment pesticides for the control of some of the more intractable weeds, insect pests and disease pathogens.

A NATO ASI is not intended to be an international conference or symposium, but rather a short course contributing to the dissemination of knowledge and the formation of international scientific contacts.

The main objective of the ASI, that we are being charged to organize by NATO, is to offer to students a concentrated overview of the rapidly developing advanced biotechnological knowledge and tools to enhance and manage biological control agents such they will be efficacious in modern agriculture.

The intent of this NATO ASI is to permit the meeting of the major exponents in the scientific community working with enhancing different biological control agents (fungi, bacteria, virus, nematodes, insects), on different targets (pathogens, insects, weeds, rodents). This multi-disciplinary group has backgrounds in the different aspects of biotechnologies (transgenic enhancement, molecular biology, formulation, genetics, risk assessment, new technology, biochemistry, physiology) will present highly advanced lectures during the ten-day-ASI, in order to allow students to improve their capability to enhance and manage biological control agents. This approach will allow ASI attendees to bring new ideas, new approaches, or new methodologies coming from different fields of application to their own field of expertise.

A further aim of the NATO ASI is to create a network of young and experienced scientists, with few geographical barriers among countries, who will develop new opportunities to collaborate in this field of science that requires a “global” collaborative approach. The invited lecturers already are leaders in their respective fields of knowledge, coordinating groups of researchers, leading a large number of projects on different aspects of biological control, and taking part in, or leading, international groups of experts. Fifteen lecturers have been invited, and around 80 students are expected to take part to the ASI.

Location

The meeting will be held at the Borgo Hotel Le Terre del Verde, located in Gualdo Tadino, near Perugia, in the middle of Italy, a beautiful venue very conveniently located, having a warm atmosphere and all the facilities for a pleasant stay. Please visit its website at http://www.letterdelverde.it/home_en.php for further information.

Dates

The NATO Advanced Study Institute will be held from 8 (arrival) to 19 (departure) September 2006.

Programme

The NATO Advanced Study Institute will be organized to have in each day one main theme with some lectures. Each talk will be followed by a long discussion. According to the NATO rules, 15 lecturers of high and internationally recognized scientific level have been invited. They will show progress in their field of interest, update results, and propose and discuss new approaches.

Several specific workshops or round tables will also be organized during the NATO ASI. Time will be reserved for short presentations and poster sessions by the students that have some research expertise in the given area. Exhibition and presentations of novel equipment available for biotech research may also be arranged.

Costs/Awards

There is no registration fee for attending the NATO ASI.

The costs for the whole NATO Advanced Study Institute, based on a double room occupancy, full board, excursions, bag, scientific material, and shuttle bus to train station and airport on days of arrival and departure, will be 1,500 Euro. As a rule, travel and living expenses for the participants have to be covered by their home countries or home institutions.

Some funds are available to permit the Organizing Committee to partially cover living and travel expenses to a limited number of people from NATO or Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue Countries. Additional special funds will be available for students from USA, Turkey, Portugal and Greece. The decision of individuals to be granted is left to the discretion of the Organizers, and will be based on merits and needs of the applicants. We will make all effort to find further economic support for the students, besides the basic NATO grant.

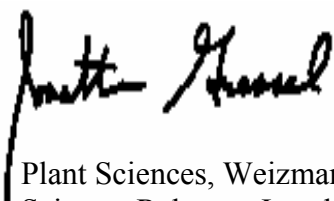
To be invited, Potential students (post-graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and young scientists) are requested to fill in the application form available on-line at the official website (<http://www.ispa.cnr.it/NATO-ASI>), and submit it together with a short CV, and a paragraph about your research and why this course is relevant. Please be aware that attendance during the whole NATO ASI is mandatory.

Participation in the course as students is limited by NATO to citizens from NATO or Partner or Mediterranean Dialogue Countries (see complete list on the website). Students from Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden or Switzerland may participate but their related costs cannot be paid from the NATO grant.

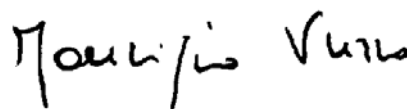
If you decide to ask for funds, please be aware that these are limited, and that NATO requires a certain percentage of attendees be from partner countries who typically have extreme limitations on their funding. If you are from a NATO member country outside of USA, Turkey, Portugal and Greece, support will be *extremely* limited. In addition, the ASI is limited to 80 participants and we expect many more applicants.

Information on the programme, lecturers, schedule, venue, accommodation, etc. can be found at the official website <http://www.ispa.cnr.it/NATO-ASI>

With our best regards



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