

INTERNATIONAL CHERRY SYMPOSIUM

4 MAY, Rimini Expo Center

SPEAKERS

Dr **Desmond O'Rourke** is a native of Northern Ireland. He has undergraduate degrees in Classics from Queens University, Belfast, and in Commerce from University College, Dublin and an M.A. and PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of California, Davis. He served on the Agricultural Economics faculty of Washington State University from 1970 to 2000 and headed their international marketing program from 1985 to 2000 when he moved to the private sector to set up his own consulting company, Belrose, Inc., world fruit market analysts. That company publishes special studies and consults extensively on global fruit markets. Dr O'Rourke is the author of over 200 publications and a frequent invited speaker and consultant around the world on various aspects of fruit marketing and international trade. He and his wife have three grown children and four grandchildren.



Rino Ghelfi is Associate Professor in Agricultural Economics and Rural Appraisal, University of Bologna (ITALY) where from 2012 to 2018 was programme Director of the degree programme Land and agro-forestry Sciences (First cycle degree/Bachelor – 180 ECTS) in the University of Bologna. From 2016 is Chief executive of the University of Bologna Experimental Farm – AUB. Rino Ghelfi is a specialist in the fields of farm management, of the competitiveness of the agri-food industry, and of the evaluation of the economic impact of agricultural policies and labour economics. He is a promoting partner of ERGO Consulting spin off of the University of Bologna, a company established in order to utilize and transfer the socio-economic study results and to disseminate the University technological know-how as regards the rural areas.

Is the supervisor of Farm accountancy data Center – University of Bologna. The center is devoted to the study of methodologies aimed at the farm accountancy, at the building and the analysis of financial statements, as well as at the evaluation of the economical performance of the farms. Has experience in executing and managing applied research projects in and around the agrifood economics sector.



José Quero García, born in Madrid in 1975, is currently a Researcher at INRAE-Bordeaux, within the Department 'Biology and Plant Breeding'. He is an 'Agronomic Engineer' from both the 'Escuela Técnica Superior de Ingenieros Agrónomos' (ETSIA) of Madrid and the 'Institut National Agronomique Paris-Grignon' (INAP-G) of Paris. He defended his PhD thesis at CIRAD (Montpellier), in 2004, where he studied the diversity and the breeding of taros (*Colocasia esculenta*). After a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at the Department of Virology, at ETSIA Madrid, he was hired by INRAE in 2007, as permanent researcher, with the main responsibility of leading the sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*) breeding programme. The applied objective of his research is the release of high-quality sweet cherry varieties with good adaptation to climate change. The main scientific objective of José Quero García is to study the genetic and molecular control of the variation of phenology and fruit quality-related traits. From a methodological point of view, he aims at optimizing the breeding process by implementing DNA-informed breeding approaches, such as for example marker-assisted selection. From 2012 to 2016, he was the Chair of COST Action FA1104 'Sustainable production of high-quality cherries for the European market'. Today, José Quero García coordinates the working group 'Sweet and sour cherry' of EUFRIN ('European Fruit Research Institutes Network'), one of its objectives being the implementation of a European network for the evaluation of new promising sweet and sour cherry varieties.



Dr. **Gregory Lang** is a Professor of Tree Fruit Physiology at Michigan State University, having served previously on the faculties of Washington State University and Louisiana State University. He earned graduate degrees in Pomology and Plant Physiology from the University of California-Davis, and a Bachelor's in Science at University of Georgia. Greg's laboratory teams have been instrumental in advancing the physiological understanding and adoption of dwarfing precocious rootstocks for sweet cherries and advancing innovations in labor-efficient orchard training systems. He has also led projects on various orchard covering systems for cherries, apricots, peaches, and plums, and conducted research on apple rootstocks. Dr. Lang has published more than 200 research and industry articles and 7 books on cherry production and plant science, chaired several

international fruit science working groups, and is the recipient of the 2001 Distinguished Research Award from the International Fruit Tree Association; the 2010 Graduate Educator Award, the 2017 Outstanding Extension Materials Award, and the 2019 Outstanding Fruit Research Publication Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science; and the 2019 Cherry Research Award from the Italian Academy of Agriculture. Greg travels extensively to speak on cherry production practices, and exchange ideas and experiences with growers and scientists worldwide.

Dr. **Matthew Whiting** leads an applied, whole-tree physiology research, extension, and teaching program that addresses key issues that limit sweet cherry growers' ability to efficiently, consistently, and sustainably produce superlative fruit. His team takes a pragmatic and collaborative approach to solve industry challenges central to orchard production efficiency (e.g., development of planar architectures, mechanization of operations), yield security (e.g., pollination biology, precision pollination systems), and fruit quality. Dr. Whiting's program goal is to improve orchard production efficiency while growing the highest quality fruit. Over the years this has been addressed from work on orchard systems and light interception, crop load management, fruit set, pollination biology, variability in fruit quality, cold hardiness, and mechanization of key operations including pruning, harvest, and, most recently, pollination. Over his 20 years at Washington State University, Dr. Whiting's program has secured more than \$8M in research funding and published 100+ research/extension publications. His extension program has been leading the transition to high efficiency orchard systems using a model of grower collaboration throughout Washington state, and around the world.



Moritz Knoche, born in 1960 in Germany, received his BSc, MSc (1986) and PhD (1989) from the Department of Horticulture at Bonn University. He then joined the laboratory of John Bukovac at Michigan State University as a postdoc to study cuticular penetration of plant growth regulators. Following his postdoc in the US, Moritz moved to the Netherlands and worked as a research scientist on the effect of spray application factors on performance of foliar applied agrochemicals at the DLO Institute for Agrobiological Sciences and Soil Fertility in Wageningen. In 1995, he became Full Professor for Horticulture at the Institute for Agronomy and Crop Science, Martin-Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany. At Halle University, he began a research program on sweet cherry fruit cracking that continued until today. In 2006 he moved to Hannover to work as a Full Professor for fruit science in the Institute for Horticultural Production Systems, Leibniz University Hannover. Moritz has published more than 130 research papers including papers on foliar uptake and cuticular penetration of agrochemicals, water transport and fruit water relations and fruit surface defects such as russetting (apple, pear), skin spots (apple), neck shrivel (plum), water soaking (strawberry) and cracking (sweet cherry and grape).

Michael Blanke is a senior researcher at the University of Bonn after starting his career viz PhD at both Bonn and East Malling, then Long Ashton, University of Bristol, UK and spent sabbaticals in South Africa and California. Michael Blanke was (probably) the first one to grow cherry trees under cover, first on GiSela 3 and then on G5, when he gained experience with excessive vegetative growth, soft fruit and risk of frost and allergens, which will be all covered in his talk. His small Gothic Richel tunnel was substituted by cherry trees on G5 in a large Haygrove tunnel. The results were presented locally and at the IHC Toronto 2002 as well as in Chile 2019 and in this lecture. Michael was part of the European COST Cherry FA 1104 project (Jose is here as the project leader); In the climate change section, Michael edited and published a dedicated Acta Horticulturae as a result of this work. One of Michael PhD students looked at the chilling requirements of cherry, another student in Michigan (Greg is here from MSU) looks at frost hardiness, another one at cherry ripening based on anthocyanin index, another work with post-doc investigated the changes in microclimate and fruit quality(allergens). His book chapter in THEEE CABI Cherry book is on microclimate manipulation ("modification"). His ca. 370 intl publications are cited over 6000 x and this one will be his 199th talk within the last 15 years.



Juan Pablo Zoffoli is professor at the School of Agriculture and Forestry of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. He works in the areas of fruit physiology and postharvest technology. His research has been focussed to understand critical physiological disorders that affects Chilean fruit export, such as hairline in table grapes, internal browning and mealiness in peaches, abnormal softening in kiwifruits and pitting in sweet cherries, together with early prediction of internal browning and bitter pit in apples, using non destructive equipments. His lab, in collaboration with projects associated with packaging companies, developed passive modified atmosphere packaging for sweet cherry, blueberry and kiwifruit. The ongoing postharvest research program for sweet cherries has made possible to extend the storage time and explore new ideas to help the industry to consolidate the export to distant

markets such as China.

Angela Gottardello was born in Padua. She studied at the University of Agriculture in Padua, obtaining a Master's degree in 2012. In 2013 she moved to Trentino and started working at the Mach Foundation (S. Michele a/Adige), in the Technology Transfer Centre. For the first 5 years, Angela worked on *Drosophila suzukii*: monitoring and alternative techniques to chemical control for the management of this insect. Since 2017, she deals with stonefruit: she takes care of the experimentation (training systems, rootstocks, cultivars, etc.) and the technical advising in the provincial territory. The aim of her work is to combine experimentation with the transfer of knowledge and innovations to farmers: this could be possible through several group meetings in the field and through the drafting of informative articles.



Luca Casoli. Born in Reggio Emilia (Italy) in 1972, he graduated in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Bologna, with a specialization in phytosanitary. He has been an agronomist and consultant for public bodies, private Italian and foreign companies, universities and training institutions. He was the coordinator for the management of integrated and organic cultivation in Reggio Emilia. Since 2018 he has been director of the Consorzio Fitosanitario of Modena and Reggio Emilia. Co-author of numerous scientific publications and some books; co-supervisor of various degree theses.