

HuPlantControl WG3 training school for model virulence systems that can be used as proxies for human infection

Aim: a common question from the food safety authorities is whether human pathogens that are transmitted by edible plants retain pathogenicity and thus pose the same level of risk as if they were derived from other sources (i.e. meat, water, direct contact). Therefore, we have designed a training school to share knowledge, techniques and data for use of proxies for human infection, with particular relevance to foodborne human pathogens.

Date: 18th – 21st February 2020

Location: INRA Val de Loire Research Centre, Infectiology and Public Health unit, Tours, France & University of Tours, France.

Website: https://www6.val-de-loire.inra.fr/infectiologie-santepublique_eng/

Trainees: research scientists who want to further their knowledge of how proxy systems can be used to better understand pathogenicity of human pathogens passaged by plants. Grants of €1000 are available, dependent on HuPlantControl COST action eligibility criteria. Priority will be given to ITCs and early-career stage scientists and research assistants.

Content & Schedule: the workshop comprises a series of lecture, workshops and laboratory sessions to cover the current state of knowledge for proxies relevant to food-borne bacteria and to fungi; knowledge gaps; potential proxies and functional screens. It is run by HuPlantControl COST action members (Nicola Holden, Isabelle Virlogeux-Payant, Mihai Mares), in collaboration with INRA and Univ. Tours staff, over four days:

18/02/2020 (PM)

- Arrival and welcome
- Introductory lecture
- List of HuPlantControl proxies

19/02/2020 (All day)

- Animal ethics
- Alternatives to animal experiments
- Gene expression & modelling
- Cell lines
- Model systems including insects, animals and synthetic models

20/02/2020 (All day)

- Practical sessions with cell lines

21/02/2020 (AM)

- Experimental results presentations
- Conclusions & wrap-up