

**CANDIDATURE FOR THE
ORGANIZATION OF THE 10TH
INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON
AEROBIOLOGY (ICA)**



SEPTEMBER 8-11/2014



**Aerobiology in the third millennium
for the preservation of human and
environmental health**

The Italian Aerobiology Association (AIA), with the support of the University of Parma and the patronage of the Comune di Parma (Town Council), the Provincia di Parma (Provincial Council) and Chamber of Commerce in Parma feels proud and privileged to invite the International Aerobiology Association (IAA) to hold the

10th ICA in PARMA, ITALY



The 10th International Congress of Aerobiology is a good opportunity for an interdisciplinary approach, with a close collaboration between aerobiologists and other scientists. It is now necessary to broaden our horizon to address the relationship between environmental health and human health. Airborne pollens and spores cause respiratory diseases in humans, with strong repercussions on its quality of life and heavy sanitary costs. The increasing prevalence of upper and lower airway allergic illnesses observed in developed countries in the last decades has encouraged studies on the relationship between environmental agents and pathologic reactions in humans, together with connections between biological and chemical pollution. Advances in allergology and aerobiology have not only led to improved diagnostic techniques and treatment, but have also had important consequences in other fields, such as agriculture and the conservation of cultural heritage.

From the beginning of its activity the Italian Association of Aerobiology (AIA) has seen the close interaction between biologists, doctors and experts from other disciplines, with fruitful results. Amongst the most recent scientific initiatives, the improved assessment of exposure to airborne allergens is to be mentioned, given its use of new techniques estimating airborne allergenic

determinants. Several projects are in progress in order to evaluate if the effects of airborne allergens are measurable over a wider geographic area and at the same time implement an outdoor allergen early warning network, in addition to pollen forecasts. Climatic factors influencing allergen exposure will be extracted and used to calculate the effect of climate change on local airborne allergen exposure. Current users of national pollen information services (atopic individuals, physicians and health authorities) will benefit. Another matter to be discussed in greater depth is the diffusion of ragweed and its pollens even up to a long distance, and the methods used in different countries to oppose its diffusion. Particular attention will be paid to quality control in aerobiology, and to public and private indoor aerobiology in order to meet international guidelines. The next challenge will be to ensure recognition of aerobiology in society and amongst politicians, and also to spread information on regional, national and international aerobiological monitoring networks. During the Congress an exhibition through prints, books, scientific instruments and documents, mostly authentic on the history of the aerial transmission of human diseases, will be organized to describe the main historic stages of aerobiology studies on the presence in atmosphere of the bacteria, fungi and allergenic pollens responsible for human diseases.

The city of Parma, with 180,000 inhabitants, lies in the Po valley, to the South of the Po river, 100 km from the Tyrrhenian coast and 200 km from the Adriatic coast (44° 48' lat, 10° 19' long east, 55 m asl). Parma is an elegant city with the refined atmosphere which can only be experienced in a 'petite capitale', with its centre rich in art, parks and treasures from different ages. It is a very welcoming place, which steals the heart of tourists and citizens with its manners. Yet Parma is not only the city itself, its monuments or the tradition in music and culture. Parma also includes the province, a territory of infinite funds, a varied landscape that stretches from the Po River to the Apennines, with small villages rich in history and liveliness, castles, medieval parish churches and theatres spread in the countryside.

Parma is celebrated for its great food production, is also known as the Food valley, a land made famous among Italian cities thanks to its specialties, century-old gastronomic traditions and knowledge which have developed into modern and competitive food industry. Parma's most distinctive and finest contribution to the world of cuisine is its pork products (Culatello and Spalla cotta -Shoulder of pork-) accompanied by cheese (Parmigiano), wines (Fortana, Malvasia, Lambrusco and Sauvignon), mushrooms and truffles. Many activities are also possible in the countryside, tours on mountain bike, horseback riding, hiking, discovering ancient monuments and small villages or just relaxing in the beautiful frame of the Apennines mountains, from the south of the Via Emilia to the highlands on the border with Liguria and Tuscany. A vital town rich in history, art and culture, Parma has been fashioned over the centuries by great painters and architects such as Antelami, Correggio, Parmigianino, Canova, Tiepolo and Leonardo da Vinci. Parma and its territory have privileged relationships with music, opera in particular thanks to Composer Giuseppe Verdi and Musician and Conductor Arturo Toscanini. The surroundings of Parma are scattered with castles built by noble families between the 14th and 15th centuries: Bardi Fortress, Torrechiara Castle, Rocca Sanvitale in Fontanellato and Reggia Palace in Colorno with its surrounding park. The Magnani Rocca Foundation with an art collection which includes, among others, works by Gentile da Fabriano, Filippo Lippi, Carpaccio, Dürer, Titian, Rubens, Van Dyck, Goya, Monet, Renoir, Cézanne, de Chirico, de Pisis, Morandi, Burri, Canova and Bartolini. The famous painting The Family of the Infante Don Luis, a masterpiece by Francisco Goya, is the emblem of a collection.

The city is the seat of the oldest university in Italy, whose fame dates back to Charles the Great. It now boasts 12 faculties, 21 bachelor's degree courses, 40 full degree courses, 1,022 professors and over 30,000 students. Parma International Airport is located strategically in the centre of northern Italy half way between Bologna and Milan. From Parma International Airport you can access a wide range of business and tourist destinations throughout northern and central Italy. The closest airports are located in Milan (Linate, Malpensa), and Bologna. Parma is on the main railway line connecting Milan to Bologna.

Parma is an ancient city in the heart of Italy with very rich cultural heritage, well-balanced civic spirit and exceptional entrepreneurship. For this reason scholars and researchers from the world will find in Parma the ideal place and context to present and discuss their theses in modern Conference Centres, available free of charge and located in the city centre and close to the most important cultural venues in Parma.

Welcome in Parma

