



e-newsletter of the International Society of Mycotoxicology 06/2019

Foreword by the ISM president:

Dear ISM-member,

Mycotoxins are major food contaminants affecting global food security, especially in low and middle-income countries. In the European Union, grain and foods based on these grain (e.g. pasta, bread, bakery products) account for the largest contribution to mycotoxin exposure in all age classes of the EU population, in particular due to the mycotoxins produced by *Fusarium* spp. (deoxynivalenol, T-2/HT-2 toxins, zearalenone, ochratoxin A and fumonisins). Despite huge efforts, prevention and control of these toxic secondary metabolites remains difficult and the agriculture and food industries continue to be vulnerable to problems of contamination. Consequently, in 2016 the European Commission has funded the large scale projects, **MycoKey** (www.mycokey.eu) and **MytoolBox** (www.mytoolbox.eu) which are coordinated by ISM Past President Dr. Antonio Logrieco and current ISM President Prof. Rudolf Krska, respectively, to develop integrated mycotoxin management strategies to mitigate the mycotoxin issue in food and feed chains.

Complementary to these activities, the **International Society of Mycotoxicology** (ISM- www.mycotox-society.org) aims to increase scientific knowledge concerning biology, chemistry and any sciences/disciplines related to mycotoxins and toxigenic fungi, through membership networking, scientific meetings, symposia, discussions, technical courses and publications. Active participation of food chemists and technologists, plant pathologists and breeders, mycologists and fungal biologists, toxicologists and nutritionists, veterinarians and medical doctors has always been highly welcome. ISM's mission is to promote research on mycotoxins and toxigenic fungi thereby leading to prevention and reduction in exposure to mycotoxins, enhanced food

safety and a greater public awareness of this area. Hence, all suppliers, participants and beneficiaries of the food supply chain, including farmers, consumers, stakeholders, researchers, members of civil society and government, are invited to become member of the International Society of Mycotoxicology and to support our vision of a world providing secure and safe food for everyone, as also laid down in the Mycotoxin Charter which has recently been signed by many ISM members (see *Toxins* 2018, 10(4), 149; <https://doi.org/10.3390/toxins10040149>)

In this spirit, the current ISM e-newsletter's (http://www.mycotox-society.org/?page_id=1572) aim is to ensure that our members stay up-to-date with latest activities, new trends and challenges in mycotoxin research and mitigation strategies – in a world of increasing globalization and climate change! If you are not a member yet, please use the link http://www.mycotox-society.org/?page_id=6 to sign up on-line! We would be more than glad if you'd consider joining us!

Best wishes, have a great summer and let's stay in touch!



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After three years of research and extensive programming and modelling, the EU-funded project **MyToolBox – the smart way to tackle mycotoxins along the food- and feed chain** (www.mytoolbox.eu/) was presented to a wider audience at its first stakeholder meeting in China in April 2019. It served not only as a demonstration of its scientific results, but also to understand the end-users' needs and requirements to tackle mycotoxin contamination in their industry field. Above all, the stakeholders' feedback was vital to understand the usability of mycotoxin research – and thus the MyToolBox e-platform. Please, see enclosed **document (please, click on link to obtain more info http://www.mycotox-society.org/wp-content/uploads/Mytoolbox-Newsletter_2019_03.pdf)** for further info and/or contact office@mytoolbox.eu



The EU-funded project **MycoKey** is also playing a significant role in the context of solutions to tackle biological contamination of maize, wheat and barley in the food and feed chain, by applying an integrated approach to reduce the risks associated to toxigenic fungi and related mycotoxins, specifically aflatoxins, deoxynivalenol, zearalenone, ochratoxin A and fumonisins. Among many other recent activities, MycoKey has organised a series of “Roundtable Discussions” to gather information on trending research areas in the field of mycotoxicology.

Please, see enclosed **document (please, click on link <http://www.mycotox-society.org/wp-content/uploads/MycoKey-36M-newsletter-4072019-1.pdf>)** for further info and/or contact antonio.logrieco@ispa.cnr.it

MYTOX-SOUTH and World Bank Grant for Mycotoxin Research in Africa:

WORLD BANK grant for Mycotoxin Research in Africa

During the last January, **World Bank** announced that a project led by The Food and Toxicology Research Group of the Federal University of Technology Minna (Nigeria) together with MYTOX-SOUTH **was awarded with \$4.8 million grant to establish the “African Centre of Excellence for Mycotoxin and Food Safety”**. This African Centre of Excellence (ACE) is aimed at addressing five sustainable development goals (SDGs) of poverty reduction, zero hunger, good health and wellbeing, and quality education, and indirectly clean water and sanitation by 2030.

The ACE will create an interdisciplinary, experiential education model that will prepare a cadre of future leaders focused on the rapidly emerging need for innovations at the nexus of food security, food safety, agricultural productivity and economics from local to global scales. **The ACE will foster impactful interdisciplinary research and implement solutions that improve the quality of life of Africans through fit-for-purpose interventions fostering economic growth and access to sufficient safe food for all.** The activities of the ACE will be accomplished with 46 industry/sectoral and academic partners, and international scientific advisory board members from across six continents. The project commissioning comes up on 18th to 22nd February 2019 in Djibouti.



WORLD BANK GROUP

Short stays at Ghent University

During this February, a large amount of **young researchers from south partners are visiting** the MYTOX-SOUTH laboratories present in Ghent University. All of them took advantage of the equipment and facilities present in the laboratories to improve the quality of their studies and to get a valuable training for their future scientific careers. The visitors have come from different countries:

- **Ayodele Adebayo Soretire** and **Yemisi Jeff-Agboola** from Nigeria.
- **Kagiso Specer Thitoyamore** from Botswana.
- **Sombie Ouahamin Olivier** from Burkina Faso.
- **Addisalem Mesfin** and **Kokeb Haddis** from Ethiopia.

We invite all interested people to participate in MYTOX-SOUTH to contact MYTOX-SOUTH (info@mytoxsouth.org) for more information

Conference announcements:

WMFmeetsIUPAC – the joint conference of the 11th Conference of The World Mycotoxin Forum® and the XVth IUPAC International Symposium on Mycotoxins – takes place in Belfast, **Northern Ireland, 14-16 October 2019**. The event will build on the success of the previous conferences held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands (2012) and Winnipeg, Canada (2016). <https://www.worldmycotoxinforum.org/>



After the successful [MycoKey](#) events organized in Ghent, Belgium (2017) and Wuhan, Cina (2018), we are pleased to announce the final [MycoKey-2020 conference](#) entitled: “**Integrated and innovative key actions for mycotoxin management in the food and feed chain**” to be held in **Bari, Italy** from **9 to 12 March, 2020**. This international Conference will be organized together with the 2nd International Forum on Mycotoxins in Animal Production and the participation of [MyToolBox project](#) under the umbrella of the [International Society for Mycotoxicology \(ISM\)](#).

During the conference, experts and international scientists will present the latest knowledge and researches on mycotoxin management, including the outcomes of the four years EU projects, with special focus on Europe-China dialogue. The conference, aims to be a very important and strategic appointment for all the scientific communities, industries/companies and stakeholders, that operate in the field of the food safety, and it is based on a cross -disciplinary approach, required by the deep evolution of the whole agrifood sector. The programme of the Conference will be strongly oriented towards integrated strategies for mycotoxin minimization worldwide including topics on advances in applied research in food chain , and topics focusing on industrial and networking actions. Please, register with: <https://bari2020.mycokkey.eu/pre-registration/>

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT of the 3rd ASM conference:

FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT **3rd ASM - MYTOX-SOUTH CONFERENCE**

6 – 9 September, 2020
Stellenbosch, SOUTH AFRICA



The African Society of Mycotoxicology (ASM) together with MYTOX-SOUTH under the auspices of the International Society of Mycotoxicology (ISM) proudly announce the 3rd African Symposium on Mycotoxicology (ASM) joint MYTOX-SOUTH Conference to take place from 6 to 9 September, 2020

in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Contact africanmycotoxins2018@gmail.com for further information (see also enclosed **pdf file**). Please, do also visit the updated ASM website <https://africansocietyofmycotoxicology.org/> which provides many useful links.

This e-Newsletter is supported by:



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