

## PREFACE

We celebrated our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Adana, Turkey in October surrounded by warm Turkish hospitality and fine weather. Prior to the conference itself, 36 delegates participated in a three-day pre-conference tour, visiting several citrus orchards near Adana, Dörtyol, Erzin and Mersin to observe Yellow Vein Clearing, Chlorotic Dwarf, Cachexia, Gummy Bark, Tristeza and Stubborn. We also toured a modern packingshed and juice/fresh cut fruit plant, ate generous servings of wonderful Turkish food provided by local growers and community leaders, and visited many historically significant sites covering many centuries, including Tarsus (birthplace of St. Paul), the battle site where Alexander the Great defeated the Persian King Darius, Kandlidivane (“bloody like hell!”), a Roman amphitheater in Mersin, and Snake and Maiden’s Castles. The organizing committee, led by Nuket Önelge and Orhan Bozan, and the Nextour Travel Agency folk, Mrs Nesrin Göçhan and our guide Ali Levent, did an amazing job.

The conference was held in the Hotel Seyhan, and began on Monday morning, October 22. Following a short concert of classical music, 84 delegates from 20 countries were welcomed by Nuket Önelge and John da Graça (IOCV Chairman), followed by addresses from the Uğur Paksoy (Chairman of the Adana Citrus Growers Association), Dr Ayzin Küden (Dean of Agriculture, Çükurova University) and Dr Alper Akinoğlu (Rector of the University) who formally opened the conference.

The first presentation was an invited review of the IOCV’s first 50 years by Josy Bové, an ideal choice to present our history since he was present at the first meeting in 1957 and has attended all but one of the IOCV conferences. He gave a superb informative, comprehensive and entertaining review with a title summarizing the developments – “From graft-transmitted citrus agents to viroids, viruses and endogenous bacteria”.

As usual, the major topic of an IOCV meeting was tristeza, and many papers and posters were presented on this topic. We heard about the spread of CTV in Italy, the establishment of the brown citrus aphid in Spain and Portugal, surveys in Croatia, Syria and Tanzania, progress in diagnosis, understanding genome functions, evolution of virus strains, an invited review of cross protection by Chet Roistacher, and its successful application in Peru. Delegates attended a welcome cocktail reception at Çükurova University on Monday evening.

The Business Meeting was held on Tuesday afternoon, and lasted over 4 hours. Many important topics were covered – the nominations of three new IOCV Fellows were approved, Victoria Rossetti, Pete Timmer and Luis Navarro. Members also accepted an invitation from Brazil for the 18<sup>th</sup> conference in 2010, and responded positively to Marina Barba’s proposal to publish the proceedings in *Petria*, a journal of the CRA in Rome. Afterwards, we enjoyed a gala dinner outside at the Uptown Restaurant.

We took a mid-week break on Wednesday, and toured citrus orchards as well as the ancient city of Antioch, with stops at St. Peter’s Grotto and the Hatay Museum.

When the conference resumed, we got updates on Sudden Death, tatter leaf, CVC, viroids, and finally on Friday, considerable attention was given to Huanglongbing. This is now becoming the number one priority with the confirmation of the disease in both Brazil and Florida. There may be a new pathogen, a phytoplasma, causing some HLB symptoms in Brazil, South Africa may have found a source of resistance in recovered embryos from chimeric fruit, Brazil is developing management practices to reduce losses, and maybe guava interplants will help reduce psyllid populations.

At the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday banquet at Park Zirve, Chet Roistacher cut the cake, John da Graça gave out attendance certificates, and then handed the chair over to Nuria Duran-Vila. She addressed the gathering with her goals of growing IOCV in the coming years, and then introduced the new chairman-elect, Mark Hilf.

Everyone left Turkey with a wealth of good memories. To Nuket, Orhan and all their smiling students and assistants, our sincere thanks for making us all so welcome and for organizing a highly successful conference.

All full-length papers were reviewed by two referees. We express our thanks to the following who served as referees:

Daniela Alioto, Pat Barkley, Joseph Bove, Piero Caciagli, Mariano Cambra, Jianchi Chen, John da Graça, Salvatore Walter Davino, Megan Dewdney, Francesco di Serio, Nuria Duran-Vila, Eduardo Feichtenberger, Ricardo Flores, Maria-Laura Garcia, Steven Garnsey, José (Pepe) Guerri, Madhura Kunta, Rosa La Rosa, Silvio Lopes, Cristina Marzachi, Pedro Moreno, V. Orbovic, Sabrina Palmano, Serena Rizza, Chet Roistacher, Colette Saillard, Mani Skaria, Pete Timmer, Georgios Vidalakis, Nian Wang and Ray Yokomi.

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(Editors)