

## Invited speakers:

Prof. Stephane Declerck

(Université catholique de Louvain –  
UCL, Belgium)

Dr. Guido Van den Ackerveken

(University Utrecht , The Netherlands)

Prof. Anne Willems

(University Gent, Belgium):

Prof. Paola Bonfante,

(University Torino, Italy)

Prof. Jutta Ludwig-Müller

(Technische Universität Dresden,  
Germany)

**Deadline for abstract submission for  
selection for oral presentation:**

**3/11/11**

**Email abstract to [abstract@bpba.be](mailto:abstract@bpba.be)**

### **Scientific and Organising Committee**

**Stefaan Werbrouck**, *University College Ghent (chair)*

**Pascal Geerts**, *CRA Gembloux (vice chair)*

**Ivan Famelaer**, *VUB (secretary)*

**Tom Eeckhaut**, *ILVO, Gent*

**Danny Geelen**, *University Ghent*

**Jean Lathouwers**, *Erasmus Hogeschool, Brussels*

**Bart Panis**, *Catholic University Leuven*

**Arlette Reynaerts** (*private*)

**Evelyne Etienne**, *CEDEVIT, University Liège*

**Hervé Dupré de Boulois**, *UCLouvain*

*5th symposium of the  
Belgian Plant Biotech Association  
in collaboration with UCLouvain*

# Living together: Plant - Microorganism Biotechnology



November 18th, 2011

9:00-17:00

« Foyer du Lac »

Aula Magna

Place Raymond Lemaire, 1  
B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve

5 min. walk from the train station of Louvain-la-Neuve  
Reserved parking places at the Aula Magna

## Sponsors



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Sponsoring conditions:  
[Info@bpba.be](mailto:Info@bpba.be)

## Scientific Program

**9.00: Registration**

**9.45: Opening**

**10.00: Stephane Declerck :**

“Arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi as key actors in agro-ecosystems”

**10.45: Paola Bonfante:**

“ Plants and mycorrhizal fungi: at the roots of plant nutrition”

**11.30: short presentations by young scientists**

**12.00-13.30: lunch & poster**

**13.30: Jutta Ludwig-Müller:**

“Endophytic fungi and induction of plant disease tolerance: Control of clubroot in Brassicaceae”

**14.15: Guido Van den Ackerveken:**

“Molecular basis of plant disease susceptibility”

**15.00: short presentations by young scientists**

**15.15 : coffee break**

**15.45: Anne Willems:**

“ Plant-bacteria symbioses: the legume-rhizobia example, a partnership of increasing diversity”

**16.30: Closure and drink**



## Registration and Abstract submission

Interested participants are invited to register at our website [www.bpba.be](http://www.bpba.be)

If you intend to present a poster or a short oral presentation, please upload a 1 page abstract on the website. After the symposium, abstracts will be published on the BPBA website

**The BPBA will reward the best poster with 250 €**

Abstracts in the area of plant-microorganism interaction, plant biotechnology, plant tissue culture and plant breeding are welcome.

Registration fee: 30 € (15 € for students). Includes participation in the scientific program, lunch and coffee-breaks. Payment: on arrival at the desk of the symposium.

Registration will provide an opportunity to become member of the BPBA free of charge.

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## Living together: Plant - Microorganism Biotechnology

During hundreds of millions of years, plants have been shaped by molecular interactions with epiphytic, symbiotic, and pathogenic microbes. A healthy plant harbors a diverse epiphytic microbial flora. Plant biotechnology has a love-hate relationship with microorganisms. On the one hand, *Agrobacterium* bacterium, is used to introduce foreign genes into plant cells. On the other hand, microbial contamination is one of the most serious problems of plant tissue culture biotechnology. Paradoxically, beneficial epiphytic and endophytic microorganisms are essential for an optimal acclimatization process. They provide the host with an extended phenotype and may strengthen plant nutrition acquisition, metabolism, and stress tolerance. In recent years, new insights have emerged through the application of molecular biological approaches. During this meeting, internationally renowned speakers will share their findings on different aspects of micro-organisms, that are extremely important for molecular biotechnology, plant tissue culture and plant production.