



ECE2026
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ENTOMOLOGY
FOR OUR FUTURE

WORKSHOPS
TRAINING AND TESTIMONIES
SATELLITE MEETINGS



#ECE2026Tours



Satellite meetings



François 1^{er} Theatre
Open to all conference attendees

Editorial Board – Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata

Monday 29th of June
13h20-14h20
Room Montlouis

ECE Praesidium

Wednesday 1st of June
12h50-13h50
Room Montlouis

Meeting of Entomological Societies

Wednesday 1st of June
14h00-16h00
Room Montlouis

Editorial Board – Royal Entomological Society

Thursday 2nd of June
12h50-13h50
Room Montlouis



EU-funded programmes: Career in Entomology

EU-funded programmes: COST networks

“From Insects to Impact: Building Powerful COST Collaborations”

Monday 29th of June

François 1^{er} Theatre

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

This dynamic 1-hour session explores how European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) Actions drive collaboration, innovation and impact in insect research across Europe. Following a concise introduction to COST principles, objectives, and funding mechanisms, participants will hear short testimonies from ongoing insect-focused Actions. These case studies will highlight scientific goals, networking strategies, and real-world impacts. The workshop concludes with practical guidance on upcoming activities, as well as clear “do’s and don’ts” for launching a new COST Action—equipping participants to turn ideas into effective, international research networks. **Chair.** David Giron

17h00-17h10

Inside COST Actions: How They Work and How to Make Them Work for You

Federica Ortelli | Science Officer – COST Association

<https://www.cost.eu/>

17h15-17h45

A spotlight on insect-related COST programmes, featuring:

- 17h15-17h20 **CA22129 – InsectAI** – Using Image-based AI for Insect Monitoring & Conservation
Toke Thomas Høye
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22129/> <https://insectai.eu/>
- 17h20-17h25 **CA23122 – 10kLepGenomes** – Utilizing 10,000 genomes of European Lepidoptera
Pedro Ribeiro
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23122/> <https://10klepgenomes.eu/>
- 17h25-17h30 **CA23127 – GIN-TONIC** – Group on Insect Nutrition: To Open Nutritional Innovative Challenges
Jeroen De Smet
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA23127/> <https://www.group-on-insect-nutrition.eu/>
- 17h30-17h35 **CA22140 – Insect-IMP** – Improved Knowledge Transfer for Sustainable Insect Breeding
Pablo Librado
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22140/> <https://www.cost-insectimp.eu/>
- 17h40-17h45 **CA22102 – E-Niche** – European Network In CHEmical Ecology: translating the language of life into sustainability
David Giron
<https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA22102/> <https://e-niche.eu/>

17h45-18h00

An interactive discussion on building new COST actions and creating synergies between existing ones.

EU-funded programmes: LIFE programme

“Insects at the Edge: LIFE-funded conservation strategies for Europe's threatened fauna”

Tuesday 30th of June

Room Loches

Open to all conference attendees

Symposium overview

Insects and pollinators are among Europe's most ecologically vital yet critically threatened species groups. This symposium highlights the EU LIFE Programme as a key funding mechanism for their conservation, bringing together practitioners from a range of LIFE projects to share their approaches, results and experiences of securing and delivering LIFE funding. The session aims to inspire delegates to develop future LIFE project proposals aimed at protecting threatened insect species and their habitats. **Chair.** Gustavo Becerra Jurado.

16h30-16h50

Introductory remarks - Funding direct conservation action to protect Europe's threatened insects

Gustavo Becerra Jurado & Karen Lunan

https://cinea.ec.europa.eu/programmes/life_en

16h50-17h45

A spotlight on insect-related LIFE programmes, featuring:

- 16h50-17h05 **Habitat Approach – Life 4OakForests** – Conservation management tools for increasing structural and compositional biodiversity in Natura2000 oak forests
Serena Petroncini
<https://www.life4oakforests.eu/>
- 17h05-17h20 **Habitat Approach – Life SPAN** – Conservation-oriented management affects beetle community in forests: results from a multi-year experiment in forest stands in Italy and Germany
Laura Loru
<https://www.lifespanproject.eu/en/>
- 17h20-17h35 **Pollinators – Wild bees** – A Regional Commitment to Pollinator Conservation
Anne-Charlotte Monteiro
<https://www.life-wild-bees.eu/en/>
- 17h35-17h50 **Pollinators – Life4pollinators** – Making cities pollinator-friendly in the Mediterranean area
Marta Galloni
<https://www.life4pollinators.eu/en>
- 17h50-18h05 **Species Approach – Life Apollo** – Reintroduction of *Parnassius apollo* in Poland and Czech Republic: Based on Research and Project Experience
Tomáš Ernest Vondřejc
<https://www.lifeapollo.eu/en/>
- 18h05-18h20 **Species Approach – Life Osmobaltic** – Towards Understanding Ecological Corridors for *Osmoderma barnabita*: Ongoing Mark-Recapture Studies in Urban and Natural Landscapes
Maksims Balalaikins
<https://www.lgf.lt/en/life-osmo-baltic>

18h20-18h30

Closing remarks

Gustavo Becerra Jurado

EU-funded programmes: Career in Entomology 1

“Launching Your Career in Insect Science: Masters & Doctoral Networks”

Master Erasmus Mundus & MSCA Doctoral Networks

Tuesday 30th of June

Descartes Theatre

Open to all conference attendees

Whether you're curious about existing programmes, looking to join one, or ready to launch your own — this series of three one-hour workshops is your hands-on guide to EU funding opportunities in insect science. Each session combines a short introduction to the instruments, real testimonies from researchers currently in or just completing funded programmes, and an open discussion where you can ask questions, share ideas, and get practical do's and don'ts from those who've been through it. Regional support tools from Région Centre-Val de Loire are woven throughout — so you leave knowing not just what exists, but how to make it happen from where you are.

And remember: the real magic often happens after the sessions, over a glass of Touraine wine. Science thrives on connection — let's turn funding know-how into real partnerships.

These workshops complement two dedicated sessions on EU-funded programmes: the session on COST Actions — "From Insects to Impact: Building Powerful COST Collaborations" — on Monday 29 June in the Auditorium François 1er, and the session on the LIFE programme — "Insects at the Edge: LIFE-funded Conservation Strategies for Europe's Threatened Fauna" — on Tuesday 30 June in Room Loches.

Workshop overview

What does it take to build — or join — a high-quality international training programme in insect science? This workshop focuses on two powerful EU instruments designed to create structured, multi-partner research training: Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters and MSCA Doctoral Networks. Hear directly from researchers embedded in two flagship programmes and find out what made these projects work, what they'd do differently, and what opportunities still exist to get involved or build something new. The Région Centre-Val de Loire team will be on hand throughout to present the tools and support available locally to help you take the next step. **Chair.** Gayanaka Wijethilake

12h50-13h10

Erasmus Mundus & MSCA Doctoral Networks: What they are and how they work

Gayanaka Wijethilake – Cellule mutualisée Europe Recherche, Région CVL

13h10-13h30

A spotlight on insect-related training programmes, featuring:

13h10-13h20 **Erasmus Mundus Master– ISSF – Insects as Solutions for a Sustainable Future**
Elisabeth Huguet

<https://issf-master.eu/>

13h20-13h30 **MSCA Doctoral Network – Insect Doctors – Educating insect pathologists to understand and prevent infectious diseases in mass-reared insects**

Salvador Herrero

<https://insectdoctors.eu/>

13h30-13h50

An interactive discussion on creating or joining an Erasmus Mundus Master or Doctoral Network, building synergies between existing ones, and useful EU and Région CVL tools to support your project

EU-funded programmes: Career in Entomology 2

“Boosting Your Career in Insect Science: Individual international fellowships”

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships & ERC grants

Wednesday 1st of July

Descartes Theatre

Open to all conference attendees

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Workshop overview

You've built your expertise — now how do you turn it into a funded, independent research career with an international dimension? This workshop puts the spotlight on two highly competitive but transformative EU instruments: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and ERC Starting/Consolidator Grants. Researchers who have been through the process will share their experience first-hand — what the journey really looks like, what evaluators are looking for, and the honest lessons learned along the way. Whether you're weighing up your options or ready to write your first draft, you'll leave with a clearer sense of where to aim and how to get there. The Région Centre-Val de Loire team will be on hand throughout to present the tools and support available locally to help you take the next step. **Chair.** Gayanaka Wijethilake

12h50-13h05

From postdoc to PI: MSCA fellowships, ERC grants & the Région CVL toolkit

Gayanaka Wijethilake – Cellule mutualisée Europe Recherche, Région CVL

13h05-13h35

A spotlight on insect-related individual fellowships, featuring:

13h05-13h15 **MSCA fellowships – Chillants – Comparative physiology of adaptation to cold-extremes in boreal ants**

Quentin Willot

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101148613>

13h15-13h25 **ERC starting grant – The multitudes of mosquito viruses and their impact on Arbovirus disease ecology**

Cassandra Koh

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101162923>

13h25-13h35 **ERC consolidator grant – Zombihaviour – Leveraging the zombie-making strategies of *Ophiocordyceps* fungi to understand animal behaviour**

Charissa Bekker

<https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101124277>

13h35-13h50

An interactive discussion on planning and submitting your MSCA or ERC application, identifying the right instrument for your career stage, avoiding common pitfalls, and useful EU and Région CVL tools to strengthen your candidacy

EU-funded programmes: Career in Entomology 3

“Leading the Future in Insect Science: Collaborative Instruments”

MSCA Staff Exchanges, ERC Synergy, EIC Pathfinder...

Thursday 2nd of July

Descartes Theatre

Open to all conference attendees

Whether you're curious about existing programmes, looking to join one, or ready to launch your own — this series of three one-hour workshops is your hands-on guide to EU funding opportunities in insect science. Each session combines a short introduction to the instruments, real testimonies from researchers currently in or just completing funded programmes, and an open discussion where you can ask questions, share ideas, and get practical do's and don'ts from those who've been through it. Regional support tools from Région Centre-Val de Loire are woven throughout — so you leave knowing not just what exists, but how to make it happen from where you are.

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Workshop overview -

Ready to think bigger — or simply to grow your network, one collaboration at a time? This workshop looks at instruments designed for collaboration at every scale — from one-to-one research partnerships and researcher exchanges to large multi-partner consortia bringing together teams, institutions, and disciplines across borders. From MSCA Staff Exchanges and ERC Synergy Grants to the European Innovation Council, we'll map out the landscape of collaborative EU funding. We'll also shine a light on what's available nationally and locally: the CNRS Amorce programme, the University of Tours Visiting Researchers Programme, and Le Studium's range of fellowships and residency schemes offer concrete entry points for hosting or joining international research partnerships — whether you're looking for a single collaborator or building something much larger. Whether you're at the early stages of imagining a project, keen to find the right partner, or looking to strengthen and expand an existing network, this session will give you a clearer picture of what's possible and how to get started. **Chair.** Gayanaka Wijethilake

12h50-13h20

Collaborative EU instruments & local opportunities to connect, collaborate & lead

Gayanaka Wijethilake – Cellule mutualisée Europe Recherche, Région CVL

Aurélien Montagu – Le Studium. Loire Valley Institute for Advanced Studies

13h20-13h30

A spotlight on large-scale collaborative funding in insect science.

13h30-13h50

An interactive discussion on choosing the right instrument, finding the right partners, and making the most of what Région CVL has to offer

Career in Entomology 4

“Careers in insect science – pathways, case studies and inspiring the next generation”



Wednesday 1st of July
Room Vouvray
Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview -

The Royal Entomological Society (RES) has a strategic priority to increase public understanding of insect science, as part of its vision to ‘enrich the world with insect science’.

There are many careers and pathways working with insects; young people, school science educators and those with a keen interest in natural history are however often not aware of these. The landmark ‘Grand Challenges in Entomology’ paper (Luke et al, 2023) lists Societal Engagement and Knowledge Access as key challenges in our discipline, and work at RES is ongoing to provide the next generation with opportunities to choose careers in insect science.

The RES currently offers online resources on careers with insects, and shares UK and ROI courses and jobs on our website. We also take part in careers events including with the British Ecological Society and organise online events with school science communication networks such as STEM Ambassadors. We organise an annual Student Forum event for students studying insects, and feedback has shown it is beneficial for building a network of early career entomologists and providing a safe space to practice science communication skills.

As part of our 2025-2028 strategy, we are developing new resources to highlight careers with insects to different audiences. From early 2026 we will be sourcing case studies of insect scientists working in a range of entomological disciplines, from diverse backgrounds and with different career pathways. We will develop and test stories about these entomologists, aiming to be engaging and inspiring to a young audience. By late 2026 we plan to create an online resource and printed leaflet to share these case studies at events, such as nature festivals, education conferences and careers events. In 2027 we hope to create short videos with the entomologists for use in online engagement. **Chair.** Francisca Sconce

17h00-18h00

Presentation and open discussion



Scientific communication and publishing in Entomology

Scientific communication and publishing in Entomology 1

“Tiny creatures, lasting impact: Science communication for entomology”



Tuesday 30th of June

Room Courteline

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

Science communication goes far beyond simply publishing a paper in a journal and posting the link on your social media feed. Translating complex entomological research into tailored communication materials is essential for connecting your findings with policymakers, practitioners, stakeholders, and the wider public. This workshop explores how the communication teams behind EU-funded entomology projects and academic journals can team up with researchers to address the challenge of making insect science accessible, relevant, and actionable for diverse audiences through targeted communication tools, channels, and strategic approaches. Drawing on practical examples, communication strategies, and lessons learned, the workshop will highlight successful practices, common challenges, and key factors that contribute to long-term knowledge uptake and impact. Participants will also have the opportunity to apply these insights during a 30-minute interactive exercise where they will translate a real research output into tailored communication activities for different target audiences. **Chair.** Carla Stoyanova, Maria Kolesnikova, Nikolay Mehandzhiyski.

12h50-13h20

Science Communication Foundations & Best Practices

This first part will introduce the theoretical foundations of science communication in the context of EU-funded research projects. It will also include practical examples from entomology research and key strategies used in academic publishing to improve knowledge transfer and impact.

13h20-13h50

Hands-on Science Communication Exercise

The second part will be dedicated to a guided, interactive exercise. Participants will apply the concepts introduced in the first session to develop and refine science communication outputs, focusing on clarity, impact, and audience engagement.

Scientific communication and publishing in Entomology 2

“Open science and open access: From publication models to scholarly communication”



Wednesday 1st of July

Room Courteline

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

As open science continues to reshape scholarly communication, the ways in which research is published, reviewed and disseminated are rapidly evolving. New publishing models, peer review approaches, and community-driven initiatives are expanding the scholarly publishing landscape, while emerging tools and dissemination strategies create opportunities to increase research visibility and impact. In this workshop, participants will explore evolving open-access publishing models and discover how multifaceted scholarly communication approaches can help researchers enhance the visibility, discoverability and impact of their work. **Chairs.** Maria Kolesnikova (Pensoft Publishers), & Denis Bourguet Peer Community In (PCI)

12h50-13h20

Open science practices and open access publishing

Maria Kolesnikova

Denis Bourguet

13h20-13h50

Open discussion

Scientific communication and publishing in Entomology 3

“Entomology in the wikispace”



Thursday 2nd of July
Room Bourgueil
Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

This workshop is a basic introduction to the wiki ecosystem (Wikidata, Wikipedia, Wikimedia Commons) and the current status of entomology in the Wikimedia project. Participants will be guided through the creation of a Wikipedia article for a taxon of their choosing, including best practices, tips and tricks, and how to continue contributing to the Wikimedia project. **Chair.** Thomas CK Hall

Recommended Equipment

Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptop or tablet for the practical activities

12h50-13h50

Introduction to the Wiki Ecosystem for Entomologists

Overview of Wikimedia tools and platforms relevant to entomology research, outreach, and knowledge dissemination.

Navigating the WikiSpace

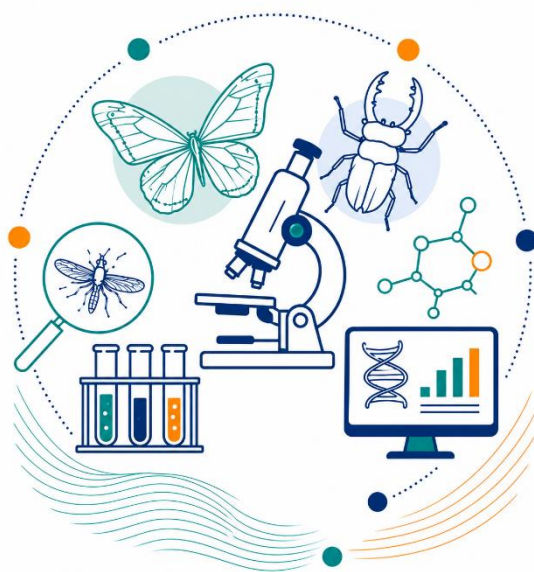
Practical guidance on how to explore, contribute to, and interact with the Wikimedia ecosystem.

Hands-on Workshop: Creating a Wikipedia Article

Step-by-step support for creating and editing a new Wikipedia page dedicated to a taxon selected by each participant.

Practical Session & Individual Contributions

Participants will work directly on their own article drafts with live guidance and feedback.



Research Frontiers in Insect Science

Research Frontiers in Insect Science 1

“Institut Pasteur: From Lab to Field—A New Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases”



Monday 29th of June

Room Chinon

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

This workshop introduces Institut Pasteur’s new Centre for Vector-Borne Diseases, created to bridge lab discoveries and real-world applications on the field. It unites expertise in vector biology, pathogen transmission, immunology, ecology, and data science, powered by shared platforms and an active network of partner institutes across the world. Presentations from several Institut Pasteur researchers will showcase the diversity of biological systems and methodologies to be implemented in the centre. Anchored in a One Health framework through partnerships across France, Europe, and global consortia, and coupling training with open, collaborative research, the initiative aims to anticipate emerging threats and strengthen preparedness. **Chairs.** Anna-Bella Failloux & Sarah Merklng

17h00-18h00

- 17h00-17h10 **Welcome and overview of the CMTV**
Sarah Merklng
- 17h10-17h20 **Malaria vectors**
Rogerio Amino
- 17h20-17h30 **Arbovirus vectors**
Sarah Merklng
- 17h30-17h40 **Sand flies and Leishmania**
Isabelle Louradour
- 17h40-17h50 **Ticks and tick-borne diseases**
Sarah Bonnet
- 17h50-18h00 **Tsetse flies and trypanosomes**
Brice Rotureau

Research Frontiers in Insect Science 2

“Long-term perspectives on the biomimetics of multi-functional interfaces”



Monday 29th of June

Room Bourgueil

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

Following the symposium INSECTS AS SOLUTIONS — “Biomimetism - From biological to bio-inspired photonic materials”, this workshop would like to convene with all the presenters to present and discuss some broader perspectives on where the field of biomimetics is headed and to explore the possibility of writing a joint perspective for publication. **Chairs.** Vinod Kumar Saranathan & Bodo Wilts

17h00-17h30

17h00-17h15 **Biomimetics of hierarchical mesoscopic structuration in insect scales**
Vinod Kumar Saranathan

17h15-17h30 **Amorphous photonic networks in insect cuticles**
Bodo Wilts

17h30-18h00

Open discussions and debate

Research Frontiers in Insect Science 3

“Discussing a recurring meeting on insect parental care”



Monday 29th of June

Room Villandry

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

The goal of this workshop is to discuss the idea of starting a biannual meeting focused on insect parental care. The idea is to create a new forum in an informal and sociable setting to talk and present science on insect parental care and network. There will be a short presentation outlining some of details, and a roundtable discussion on how to move forward, and who is interested in participating.

Chairs. Jos Kramer, Joël Meunier & Max Körner

17h00-17h10

Introduction

17h10-18h00

Open discussions and debate

Research Frontiers in Insect Science 4

“Image and video analysis tools in entomology (AnimalTA, Braid, FLO, Trapview)”



Tuesday 30th of June

Room Villandry

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

This workshop aims to present various tools used for image and video analysis, which are relevant to monitoring and studying insect behavior and ecology.

AnimalTA: AnimalTA is an open-source video-tracking software designed to analyse animal movement and behaviour from recorded videos. It provides an accessible, user-friendly interface, allowing researchers to rapidly extract trajectories even from complex or low-quality recordings.

Braid: Braid is a multi-camera tracking software. It performs tracking of marker-less targets which makes Braid particularly useful for tracking freely moving insects. Braid operates at low latency which makes it highly suitable for integration with closed-loop systems triggered by animal position, such as VR.

Fast Lock On (FLO): FLO is a method for videography that uses a camera system that automatically moves with the subject. FLO can be integrated into stationary and mobile drone-based systems to obtain high resolution tracking data and video of insects over large areas.

Trapview: Trapview is an automated insect monitoring and forecasting system. Part of the system is also deep-learning based image recognition. We will showcase which steps are crucial in preparing the training data sets, training various types of neural networks for different insects and running these models 24/7 against thousands of pictures of trap catches sent daily from automated insect traps.

Chairs. Violette Chiara, Michael Harrap, Tristan Robineau, Julien Saguez, Matej Stefancic,

12h50-13h50

12h50-13h00	Introduction to AnimalTA
13h00-13h10	Introduction to Braid
13h10-13h20	Introduction to Fast Lock On
13h20-13h30	Introduction to Trapview

13h40-13h50

Open discussions and debate

Research Frontiers in Insect Science 5

“Cutting-edge methods for the functional characterization of arthropod genes”



Wednesday 1st of July

Room Courteline

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

This workshop wants to bring on the table the use of the most groundbreaking ways to functionally characterize different genes across diverse arthropods impacting agriculture. By providing recent case studies on spider mites and pest insects, we will illustrate approaches of both gene silencing/knock-in methodologies and receptor deorphanization through different heterologous expression systems. **Chairs.** Alberto Maria Cattaneo & Sanders De Rouck

17h00-18h00

17h00-17h30

SYNCAS gene editing and DNA Repair Pathways in the Two-Spotted Spider Mite *Tetranychus urticae*: Enhancing Homology-Directed Repair

Sander De Rouck

17h30-18h00

Alternative strategies based on transgenic *Drosophila melanogaster* for the functional characterization of insect Ionotropic Receptors

Alberto Maria Cattaneo

Research Frontiers in Insect Science 6

“The ethics and welfare of insects in research: why and how”



Thursday 2nd of July

Room Courteline

Open to all conference attendees

Workshop overview

This workshop will introduce attendees to the concept of ethics and welfare in entomology, how we as entomologists can apply this to our work and allow feedback and data gathering into current practices.

Chairs. Jessica Stokes, Craig Pearl & Christophe Bressac

12h50-13h50

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 12h50-13h05 | Introduction to ethics and welfare
Craig Pearl |
| 13h05-13h20 | Application of ethics and welfare
Jessica Stokes |
| 13h20-13h25 | Survey and interactive feedback
Christophe Bressac |
| 13h25-13h50 | Discussion time/Interactive activity |



Honouring a Life in Entomology

Honouring a Life in Entomology

“A tribute to Marylène Poirié”

Wednesday 1st of July

Room Chinon

Open to all conference attendees



Marylène Poirié (1966-2026)

Workshop overview

Professor Marylène Poirié devoted her scientific career to advancing our understanding of insect biology through an integrative and deeply innovative approach combining molecular biology, evolution, immunity, symbiosis, and host–parasite interactions. After beginning her full-time research career at the Insect Biology Research Institute (IRBI, University of Tours / CNRS), she went on to become an internationally recognized figure in Molecular Insect Science, notably through her pioneering work on parasitoid venoms, insect immunity, bacterial symbioses, and sex determination in Hymenoptera. Beyond her major scientific contributions, Marylène Poirié was also a dedicated mentor, teacher, collaborator, and a driving force within the entomological community. Her enthusiasm for science, openness to interdisciplinary approaches, and generosity toward students and colleagues profoundly shaped many careers and collaborations across Europe and beyond. This workshop honours her memory through scientific presentations reflecting the diversity, originality, and lasting impact of her research legacy. **Chairs.** Jean-Michel Drezen & Jan-Luc Gatti

17h00-18h00

- 17h00-17h15 **Pr Marylène Poirié Memorial: a life devoted to Molecular Insect Science**
Jean-Michel Drezen
- 17h15-17h30 **Venom proteins and the virulence of parasitoids**
Jean-Luc Gatti
- 17h30-17h45 **Insects, viruses, venom et al.: Interactions**
Francesco Pennacchio
- 17h45-18h00 **The interplay between aphid immunity and symbiosis**
Federica Caleviro and Jean-Christophe Simon