Dear all,

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we are delighted to announce the 26th Congress of the Italian Society of Plant Pathology that will be held in Verona, from 23rd to 25th September 2020.

Taking the challenge of the International Year of Plant Health (http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020), we want to shed light on new and emerging discoveries about the complex interactions between plants, pathogens, microbes and environment, and on the new frontiers of plant disease control that will pave the way of the future scenarios in the field of plant health.

In the sessions **Plant-pathogen interactions** and **Plant pathogens and the microbial world**, we will privilege the contributions that provide a wide view on the evolution of pathogenicity and virulence and on the dynamic interactions among pathogens, plants and microbes, in a changing environment. The session **Innovative approaches to plant disease control**, on the other hand, will emphasize the new frontiers in this field, including the application of biotechnologies. Every topic will be introduced by a top-level invited speaker, who will also chair the corresponding session, to encourage and enrich the discussion.

The closing session dedicated to the International Year of Plant health will deal with the themes of plant disease control, plant health and consequent food security, which will be discussed by guests with different expertise, from industry, sociological sciences and regulatory institutions. This event will be open to the large public, as an engagement of SIPaV into the society, in the mission to bring the essential themes of Plant Health to a general audience.

We strongly believe that the Annual Congress should be a real source of inspiration for all participants, to bring home new concepts and ideas to be implemented in the different areas of Plant Pathology.

We hope to see you all in Verona, for a new exciting meeting in this very special Year 2020!!

Annalisa Polverari
Elodie Vandelle
Chairs of the Local Organizing Committee