



Photos: Coresta

Workshop on e-cigarettes, with Derek Mariner (left), Paul Hare, Riccardo Polosa, Lise Fraissinet, and Gene Gillman (Chair)

Coresta – towards new challenges

Coresta's vision is to provide an authoritative source of publicly available, credible science and best practices related to tobacco and its derived products. The association held congresses in South Korea and Turkey during 2015, both of which outlined a move towards new and challenging times.

Four Study Groups, Smoke Science and Product Technology (SSPT) on the one hand, Agronomy & Leaf Integrity and Phytopathology & Genetics (AP) on the other, form the spinal cord of Coresta. The association's annual gathering provides a forum, for those who work in the field of tobacco and its derived products, to communicate their scientific work, benefit from the science presented there, and to exchange their views. In addition to formal presentations of scientific material and workshops involving selected topics, the meetings are an opportunity for the various Coresta Task Forces and Sub Groups responsible for collaborative work on specialised subjects within Coresta to meet and to report their results to the audiences at large. The SSPT Groups met in South Korea for the second time. There were fourteen themed sessions and a special workshop on e-cigarettes. The AP Study Groups met in Turkey. Their meeting comprised twelve sessions and a workshop on Omics (areas of cell studies in

the fields of genomics, transcriptomics, proteomics and metabolomics.)

Jeju island, South Korea

The SSPT2015 meeting was hosted by KT&G and organised in the Lotte Hotel, on the volcanic island of Jeju. For those who went there in 2007, it seemed like déjà vu but time flies and new winds are blowing. The enigmatic stone figures of Jeju may have remained in place but Coresta has been moving onward.

Workshop on e-cigarettes

Eight years ago, nobody would have believed that Coresta would also be working on e-cigarettes. Presentations were made in the workshop on e-cigarettes by four invited panellists – Paul Hare, an e-cigarette manufacturer, Lise Fraissinet, a pharmaceutical consultant, Derek Mariner, principal scientist at BAT and Riccardo Polosa, a leading scientist in

the field of clinical bronchoprovocation and a prominent figure in the vaping world. Each gave detailed descriptions of their field of expertise, covering product testing, standards and good manufacturing practices, current e-cigarette product regulation in the major markets and possible health effects related to e-cigarette usage. Riccardo Polosa proclaimed that “e-cigarettes and vaporisers have the potential to be the greatest harm reduction tool introduced in recent history.” Polosa’s presentation drew much interest from the participants and many questions were asked from the floor during the open and lively discussion between the speakers and audience.

Izmir, Turkey

The AP2015 meeting was organised directly by the Coresta Secretariat for the first time in Izmir, Turkey. The welcome cocktail-buffet on Sunday was hosted in the elegant Swissôtel Büyük Efes hotel’s ▶



Workshop on OMICs, with Yongfeng Guo (left), François Dorlhac (Chair), Marianne Mazier, Jennifer Bromley, and Nicolas Siervo

top floor restaurant with a breathtaking view over the bay of Izmir.

Workshop on Omics

Sometimes the agricultural world and scientific world appear to be far apart from each other. However, in agricultural production these two worlds are intermingled; they need to cooperate closely. Coresta's role as a cooperation centre is paramount. It is important to remember that growers and scientists face the same problems, the same passion and the same quest - the pursuit of excellence. Therefore, the expectations of growers are generating an increasing need for highly specialised technical and scientific information. As in Korea, four top level panellists were invited to the workshop. Jennifer Bromley from BAT, Nicolas Siervo from PMI, Yongfeng Guo from CAAS, Chi-

nese Academy of Agricultural Science and Marianne Mazier from INRA, Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique, France. They covered studies on how progress made within the different Omics fields can be applied to tobacco. This workshop aimed to highlight the need to consolidate in a common database the data needed for geneticists and breeders to more easily develop new tobacco cultivars using molecular markers or New Breeding Techniques (NBT). However, during the discussions it emerged that visibility was needed at the legal level on NBTs. The Chairman of the session, François Dorlhac (Imperial Tobacco), pointed out that breeders cannot devote their resources to developing new cultivars without the certainty that these will be marketable. The publication of guidelines by the EU was expected to provide some answers to this topic at the end of 2015.

Coresta vision

Coresta aims to be recognised by its members and relevant external bodies as an authoritative source of publicly available, credible science and best practices related to tobacco and its derived products.

Scientific cooperation has always been the cornerstone of Coresta. It is based on solid science and good practices. To boost these principles, Coresta decided that the cooperation process within the association needs to be formalised and documented to ensure transparency and sustainable improvement. Coresta created the Standards Task Force in 2012 to meet this challenge. It presented its first output in both the Jeju and Izmir meetings in 2015. Its purpose is not only to formalise agreed ways of doing something but also to support scientists who produce new documents by making their everyday lives easier.

The association is constantly searching for new ways to find better cooperation skills and working methods to satisfy its members. A new website project is under way with the aim of producing collaborative digital tools. The objectives of both the Website and Standards Task Forces are determined by the expectations of Coresta members and the changing society.

Both events met their objectives. New information was shared with the scientific community (including the tobacco-related regulators) and everyone agreed to meet again at the Coresta Congress, to be held 9-13 October 2016 in Berlin, Germany.

TJI Staff

MAKE THE MOST OF TJI ONLINE

over 143.000 visitors in 2015
www.tobaccojournal.com



over 5.000 subscribers from over 100 countries
Register free of charge at www.tobaccojournal.com/newsletter



Daily



Weekly