

iPLANTA Webinar 5:

RNAi based control of fungal pathogens: Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 4.00pm (CET)

Minutes

This webinar on the use of RNAi strategies to control fungal pathogens of crops was introduced by Bruno Mezzetti (iPlanta Chair) and chaired by Elena Baraldi (UNIBO).

The first presentation on disease control by dsRNA was held by Karl-Heinz Kogel, Institute for Phytopathology, Giessen (D) on the mechanism of dsRNA uptake by fungal pathogens and dsRNA internal movement and transmission. The second talk was from Eduardo Goulin (IFSC, Brazil) on the possibility to control antrachnose of Citrus species through dsRNA application on *Colletotrichum absissicum*, a fungal genus known to be recalcitrant to dsRNA. Subsequently, Mark Belmonte from the University of Manitoba in Canada spoke about the application of SIGS and HIGS RNAi based strategies to control *Sclerotinia*, whereas Hailing Jin, from UC Riverside in USA, presented her findings on cross-kingdom RNA trafficking and on the different receptivity of dsRNA from different fungal pathogens. As final speaker, Luca Capriotti, a PhD student in Mezzetti lab presented data on the application of dsRNA against *Botrytis cinerea* obtained in greenhouse on potted plants, an environment close to the field and significant for exploitation of these molecules.

At the end of each talk there was always a good number of questions to each speaker, in addition we had a quite lively general discussion at the end of the webinar on specific and general issues related to RNAi and its possible use to control fungal diseases.

The video of the meeting, the presentations and the report can be found at the following links:

<https://www.iplantawebinars.com/event/5fe0cc6652a27f1f07fe269d>

<https://iplanta.univpm.it/node/83>