

Dear colleagues, Dear participants

On behalf of the Office of the President I welcome you to the International Symposium of our Association, MGPR, and, as a Greek, I welcome you to Greece and to Thessaloniki, capital of Macedonia.

This is the 7th International Symposium of MGPR, following the ones taken place in Cagliari, Italy (1999), Valencia, Spain (2001), Aix-en-Provence, France (2003), Kusantasi, Turkey (2005), Agadir, Morocco (2007) and Cairo, Egypt (2009). The local organisers made great efforts to keep the standards of the event high and to give the opportunity to as many researchers as possible to present their scientific results and achievements, either orally or by poster presentations.

MGPR is a non-profit scientific Association aiming to contribute to progress in research on pesticides in food and environment, to promote the collaboration between scientists and to diffuse information not only among the scientific community but also among the society. The bi-annual International Symposium is one of the main activities of MGPR, which brings together pesticide researchers, pesticide regulators, University students and the agrochemicals industry for an exchange of information and for a common identification of trends, problems and solutions.

Fellowships to young researchers are also awarded by MGPR (when budget allows for) offering them the opportunity to be involved for a short period of time into the activities of a pesticide laboratory of MGPR members.

MGPR was founded by the late Professor Paolo Cabras and this Symposium is dedicated to his memory. His passing away was a great loss for MGPR, a great loss for the scientific community. He was a passionate academic, a forerunner researcher with wide and ambitious visions. He made considerable achievements in research and innovation. He was an ardent supporter of collaboration between scientists from the Mediterranean countries.

To pay tribute to his memory MGPR will award a fellowship of € 2000 during this Symposium, to enable a young scientist to carry out a short research project in a laboratory of the MGPR network.

I want to express my warm thanks to Professor Urania Menkissoglu-Spiroudi for having kindly accepted to host and organise this event. I extend my thanks to the Local Organising Committee, to the Scientific Committee, and to Symposium Secretariat.

And last, but not least, I thank you for your participation and your contribution, I wish you fruitful meetings, a pleasant stay and I am looking forward meeting you again.

Dr. Chaido LENTZA-RIZOS,

MGPR President