

ICoMST Travel Award Scholarship

Summary of the 69th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology

Padova, Italy

August 18th-25th 2023

The 69th International Congress of Meat Science and Technology was held in Padova, Italy from August 18th to August 25th, 2023, under the theme “from Tradition to Green Innovation”. Over 500 participants from six continents attended. Canada was represented by eight attendees (Picture 1).

The congress started with two days dedicated to the pre-congress graduate course in which I had the chance to participate among the 40 limited places. The goal was to give students basic knowledge on meat science such as post-mortem muscle metabolism, meat colour and tenderness, fundamentals of water-holding capacity, and meat safety. Students were also led to think about the future of the meat industry with a group work comparing plant-based and meat-based sausages (Picture 2).

The ICoMST 2023 events included sessions of conferences and presentations, round table of discussions, symposiums, poster viewing, technical tours and social events leading to hot topic discussions, and exchange of scientific and technological information among researchers, students and industry.

The main topics discussed this year were:

1. Meat science communication and education
2. Muscle biology and biochemistry
3. Omics sciences
4. Meat safety
5. Animal biodiversity
6. Animal welfare and production systems
7. Traditional meat products
8. Innovation in meat processing
9. Meat alternatives
10. The role of meat in society
11. Alternative feeds to improve meat sustainability
12. Role of meat in food security
13. Meat and health

Hot topics discussed this year were the role of meat in human nutrition, food security, and society. Discussions brought out the importance of good science-based knowledge in public education and meat valorization in the actual context where meat is sharing the market with novel plant-based products. The



Picture 1. Canadian participants at ICoMST 2023; missing Dr. Oscar Lopez-Campos attending the Country Rep Meeting .



Picture 2. Pre-congress graduate course with the 40 students attending.



Picture 3. A total of 550 delegates participated.

congress also focused on sharing new advances and technologies to improve meat quality and sustainability of the meat industry by omics sciences, innovation in meat processing, advances in animal welfare, and alternative feeds to name only those.

Besides conference sessions, there were social events such as a typical Italian dinner and technical and scenic tours (Pictures 4 and 5).



Pictures 4 and 5. Tour 8 out of 10: meat rabbit family farm and Bassano del Grappa city visit.

Poster viewing sessions were held between conferences. A total of 434 posters were presented during the week and 58 of them were registered to the “Go Young” poster competition. I presented my poster “Meat plant resilience to temporal quality of pork meat quality” which had the objective to evaluate the impact of a meat plant production downtime of 18 weeks on the quality of commercially produced pork meat. My poster was awarded the first place at this poster competition. This international recognition highlights not only the efforts I put into this work, but also the quality of the research Canada does in meat science (Picture 6).



Picture 6. My poster presentation was awarded the first place of the “Go Young” poster competition.

To conclude, there are not enough words to express my gratitude towards the Canadian Meat Science Association (CMSA) and the Canadian Meat Council (CMC) for granting me the ICoMST travel award scholarship 2023. It was a unique and enriching experience to my academic cursus and professional career. I met wonderful people from the meat research and industry community from all around the world with which I shared scientific knowledge and experiences. I would also like to thank my supervisor, Linda Saucier, for inviting me to this congress and always encouraging me to surpass myself.

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