

# Proposal for Hosting ICPMF11

*Presented by: Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2017*

## City and time period:

It is proposed that ICPMF11 (2019) take place, for the first time, in Portugal, in the historical city of Braganza. The time period would be 10-13<sup>th</sup> or 17-20<sup>th</sup> September (not definite but subject to discussion). The event would take place in the facilities of the School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Braganza (IPB).

## Motivation

### *At Institutional level*

Dr. Gonzales-Barron is a Research Fellow at the CIMO Mountain Research Centre (based at the School of Agriculture of IPB). The Food Safety and Technology (FST) Group, where she belongs to, actively conducts research on quality, authenticity and safety of foods produced in the region, including those bearing quality labels. Nonetheless, there are still many highly-consumed regional foods that are under-investigated from the point of view of pathogens' survival and risk assessment, or even microbiological stability. Hosting ICPMF11 is a unique opportunity for CIMO-IPB to promote scientific interaction between active Portuguese researchers and international cutting-edge predictive modelling research units. This is expected to contribute to steadily filling up the research gaps existing for those regional products. Thus, the knowledge transfer occurring during ICPMF11 and beyond is the main motivation of CIMO-IPB, as that would eventually bring about the establishment of partnerships and cooperation activities through international research projects. Hosting ICPMF11 at CIMO-IPB will not only boost the institution's internationalisation, but will also emphasise the relevance of predictive modelling in the safety assurance and valorisation of mountain food products, which is one of CIMO's research strategic objectives. In addition, representatives from regional industries will have the chance to gather together in a scientific event of the dimension of the ICPMF congress and interact with top world scientists. Overall, microbiology predictive modelling has been an immature field of research in Portugal. Our hosting of ICPMF11 may act as a catalyser to encourage and promote predictive modelling research in other Portuguese institutions.

### *On a personal level*

For a decade, Dr. Gonzales-Barron has been actively undertaking research on risk assessment of pathogens, predictive microbiology and acceptance sampling plans, incorporating a series of novel modelling tools such as meta-analysis, mixed distributions, zero-inflated count data models and Bayesian statistics. She has participated in the last four ICPMFs, namely, in Washington (2009), Dublin (2011), Paris (2013), Rio de Janeiro (2015) and will attend Cordoba's meeting this year (2017). So, in the second place, her motivation to organise ICPMF11 is personal as a result of her understanding of and familiarity with many of the research topics covered by this conference. Since she took on the Researcher post at CIMO in 2013, Dr. Gonzales-Barron committed to increase its visibility through the organisation of scientific meetings, symposia and workshops, which she has done in USA, Spain, Switzerland, Portugal and Peru.

Braganza is a typically-Portuguese old town (Romanic origin dates back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century), located by the Natural Park of Montesinho, one of the wildest forest zones of Europe. Braganza houses several traditional industries producing a myriad of local foods, such as cheese, fermented meats, wine, chestnuts and honey, which provide substantial economic sustainability to the region. While the regional industries will benefit from this event either as participants or as sponsors, ICPMF delegates will have an exceptional opportunity to enjoy a rural experience from a rich gastronomy to traditional villages of a distinctive rustic beauty, with the clear advantage of the low living costs of a countryside area.

Many airlines, such as Lufthansa, Air Europa, Iberia, KLM, Aer Lingus, fly into Porto, including the low cost Ryanair, Transavia, EasyJet and Wizz Air. Although there are daily buses linking Porto to Braganza, a day before the conference, buses will be scheduled to bring ICPMF delegates from Porto to Braganza at least at two different times.

### Preferred topics

State-of-the-art topics of predictive modelling in foods will be maintained in ICPMF11. However, an additional session dedicated to the *microbiological safety and authenticity of regional food products* would be created to attract the participation of the many SMEs located in this region and in neighbouring Spain. Two additional sessions would revolve around (i) *dynamic and competition microbial models*, and (ii) *meta-analysis protocols and applications for risk assessment and management*. It is also intended that this time pre-conference workshops organised for researchers go beyond simple demos and become rather hands-on half-day courses. Demo-type workshops will still be organised but for food companies to tackle common problems, once again to have the engagement of representatives from regional industries. To ensure a worldwide representation at the conference, an *International Scientific Committee* will consist of recognised professionals belonging to leading research groups. A *National Scientific Committee* consisting of researchers of different universities across the country will be also formed so as to promote development of predictive modelling research in Portugal. In addition to the scientific programme, an attractive social programme will be elaborated, including a *touristic visit*, *visits to regional food industries* and a *gastronomy tour*. Relevant contributions of ICPMF10 approved through peer-review process will be published in an Elsevier journal (Microbial Risk Analysis, LWT-Food Science and Technology or International Journal of Food Microbiology).

### Organisers of the Conference:

- 1) Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron (Chair)
- 2) Dr. Vasco Cadavez (Vice-Chair)

### Supporting organisations

- Mountain Research Centre (CIMO) – **letter enclosed**
- School of Agriculture (ESA) of IPB – **letter enclosed**
- Polytechnic Institute of Braganza (IPB) – **letter enclosed**
- City Council of Braganza – **letter enclosed**
- Microbial Risk Analysis journal – Elsevier – **letter enclosed**
- Others to be procured subject to approval [ex. Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) through the Scientific Community Support Fund programme and regional food producers]



CÂMARA MUNICIPAL DE BRAGANÇA

GABINETE DO PRESIDENTE

Dear  
Dr. Fanny Tenenhaus-Aziza  
Chair  
International Committee on Predictive  
Modelling in Foods

Sua referência	Sua comunicação	Nossa referência	Data
		Ofício N.º 1161	2017/02/15

I am deeply honoured to write this letter to support the proposal of Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron, active researcher of the Mountain Research Centre (CIMO), based at the School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB), to host the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Conference of Predictive Modelling in Foods (ICPMF11) at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB).

Bragança is a dynamic, attractive, modern and safe city located in the North-eastern region of Portugal. The City Council of Bragança acknowledges the significant roles that IPB and CIMO play in both the city's and the region's development which are, undoubtedly, connected to the production of high quality food products, such as: chestnuts, meat and fermented meat products, wine and olive oil. The City Council also highlights that IPB's and CIMO's strategies are fully in line with our strategy for local and regional development.

Thus, the City Council of Bragança fully supports the hosting of ICPMF at CIMO/IPB. This will enable IPB and CIMO to strengthen their research and technological connections, thus enabling them to further contribute to regional development.

I look forward to hearing a positive outcome in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Mayor of Bragança  
  
Hernâni Dinis Venâncio Dias

pág. 1 / 1

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## Centro de Investigação de Montanha

Instituto Politécnico de Bragança

Escola Superior Agrária

www.cimo.esa.ipb.pt

10.02.17

Dr. Fanny Tenenhaus-Aziza

Chair

International Committee on Predictive Modelling in Foods

Dear Dr. Tenenhaus-Aziza,

It is my pleasure to write this letter in support of the proposal presented by Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron to host the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the well-known International Conference of Predictive Modelling in Foods (ICPMF11) at the Polytechnic Institute of Braganza (IPB).

CIMO is a multidisciplinary research centre aiming to valorise mountain natural resources, forest and agriculture ecosystems, as well as local food products in order to support the sustainable development of mountain areas. CIMO would be very honoured to host outstanding international scientists in the field of predictive modelling and food safety, at the same time that hosting ICPMF11 will contribute to enlarge the body of research on predictive microbiology and risk assessment for our traditional food products, positively impacting on local stakeholders and our region. Dr. Gonzales-Barron's proposal now submitted represents an opportunity for CIMO's researchers and Portuguese food scientists in general to strengthen their integration into international cutting-edge research networks in quest of the same objective, which is the assured production of safe food products.

Thus, on behalf of CIMO, I fully support Dr. Gonzales-Barron's efforts to bring ICPMF11 to Braganza, Portugal. Furthermore, CIMO commits to back up all her efforts to obtain external funding from the Portuguese Foundation for Food Science and Technology (FCT) and industry sponsorship for ICPMF11.

I look forward to a positive outcome.

Yours sincerely,



Centro de Investigação de Montanha (CIMO)

14.02.17

Dr. Fanny Tenenhaus-Aziza  
Chair

International Committee on Predictive Modelling in Foods

Dear Dr. Tenenhaus-Aziza,

I am very glad to write this letter in support of Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron's proposal for hosting the **11<sup>th</sup> International Conference of Predictive Modelling in Foods (ICPMF11)** at the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) in Portugal.

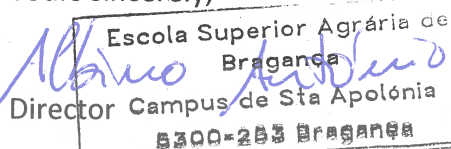
The School of Agriculture (ESAB), founded in 1983, is one of the five organic units of IPB, whose mission is to provide education, research and technical support to the community. The field of intervention, broadly speaking, is the agricultural science where environmental, food and biotechnological sciences are integrated to.

Scientific investigation and support to the community have always constituted the central policy in the School's developmental path. As a result, in the past five years, ESAB has participated in over 70 research projects apart from research contracts and cooperation projects of technical support, laboratorial support and external services.

Thus, ESAB would be very honoured to receive an international congress of the prominence of ICPMF which will bring about a very rich exchange of research ideas and cooperation plans among outstanding food safety scientists from all over the world. Please accept this letter as an appreciation of the value that hosting ICPMF at the ESAB/IPB would bring to our research community.

Looking forward to hearing a positive response.

Yours sincerely,

  
Escola Superior Agrária de  
Bragança  
Director Campus de Sta Apolónia  
5300-283 Bragança

**Dr. Fanny Tenenhaus-Aziza**  
Chair  
International Committee on Predictive Modelling in Foods

Bragança, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017

*Dear Dr. Tenenhaus-Aziza,*

I am deeply honoured to write this letter to support the proposal of Dr. Ursula Gonzales-Barron, active researcher of our School of Agriculture, to host the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition of the International Conference of Predictive Modelling in Foods (ICPMF11) at the Polytechnic Institute of Braganza (IPB).

IPB is a Portuguese University of Applied Sciences with 7000 students and 500 lecturers and researchers. It has an internationalisation programme with widely recognised success, including the annual mobility of more than 900 incoming and outgoing students and 200 teaching staff members. IPB is recognised by its performance in applied research and regional engagement. IPB would be very honoured to host an international congress of the magnitude of ICPMF which will bring along outstanding food safety scientists from all over the world. In our view, the scientific interaction at ICPMF11 constitutes a unique opportunity to:

- Strengthen the integrate of our scientists to reputed food safety research networks;
- Promote scientific cooperation materialised in international research projects;
- Attract investments for local food processing;
- Provide technical support for local stakeholders;
- Provide technology transfer to local stakeholders;
- Stimulate economic development of the mountain areas of Portugal

Thus, please accept this letter as a formal recognition of the value of hosting ICPMF at IPB. Furthermore, our Institute commits to put at Dr. Gonzales-Barron's disposal all requested facilities and university's catering services for ICPMF11.

I remain looking forward to a positive decision.

Yours sincerely,

  
João Alberto Sobrinho Teixeira  
President of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança





DR. URSULA A. GONZALES-BARRON  
Food Safety and Technology Group  
CIMO - Mountain Research Centre  
School of Agriculture  
Polytechnic Institute of Braganza  
Apartado 1172, Portugal

February 13, 2017

Dear Dr. Gonzales-Barron,

We are glad that you are putting together the documentation bid to host the ICPMF11 conference in Portugal in 2019. As the Publisher and Editor-in-Chief of the journal Microbial Risk Analysis at Elsevier, we are delighted to provide our journal as a forum to publish a Special Issue of the proceedings of ICPMF11.

Thank you very much for your support of Microbial Risk Analysis and we wish you the best on your hosting bid for this important conference.

Sincerely,

Sheba Agarwal - Jans, PhD  
Microbiology Publisher, Elsevier  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Omar Oyarzabal, PhD  
Editor-in-Chief, Microbial Risk Analysis  
University of Vermont, Vermont, USA