

## Emrah AKPINAR's Story (Türkiye)

I am a last year PhD student at Trakya University, biotechnology and genetic department in Türkiye, Edirne.

I am working on the identification of *Plasmopara halstedii* races in Turkey. I can proudly say that I had just started my master's degree when I took part in the organization of the 19th ISC conference held in Edirne in 2016. I had the chance to be involved in the organization of many international congresses under the leadership of my advisor Prof. Dr. Yalçın Kaya.

This was the first time I had the excitement of attending an international congress and making an oral presentation. Besides, it was really incredible to be able to go and experience a country like China that I had always wanted to see.

I feel very lucky to have had the chance to experience incredible places like the Beijing Olympic Stadium, Forbidden Palace, Great Wall of China, Summer Palace before the conference. I would also like to thank Hao and Jeff, who guided and accompanied us in Beijing.

I would like to thank the valuable scientists who helped me learn many new things by sharing their valuable knowledge during the conference.

After the conference, experiencing Inner Mongolia, learning a lot about their culture and history, and attending the Mongolia horse show were wonderful experiences. It was also an unforgettable experience with its wonderful food and hospitality, from beginning to end.

I would like to express my endless gratitude to my advisor Dr. Yalçın Kaya who made this experience possible, to the host Dr. Jun ZHAO and his team who made everything go smoothly with their hospitality, to all the ISA board members who provided me with a grant, to Laetitia for her cheerfulness, sociability and helpfulness, and to my student friends who did their best to help us day and night. I hope to see you all again in France in 2028.