

# 2026 IFRG meeting, Anatomie building, Utrecht, The Netherlands

## Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

|               |                                                         |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 16:00 - 18:00 | Registration Hotel Mitland, Ariënslaan 1, Utrecht       |
| 19:00 - 21:00 | Boat tour canals Utrecht (more info will follow)        |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | Informal drinks at Hotel Mitland, Ariënslaan 1, Utrecht |

## Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

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| 08:30 - 09:00         | Registration Anatomie building, Utrecht                                                                                                                                                            |
| 09:00 - 09:10         | Welcome and outline of the program by IFRG chair - Dr. Roos Molenaar                                                                                                                               |
| 09:10 - 09:20         | Words of welcome by WPSA - Dr. Peter van Horne                                                                                                                                                     |
|                       | <b>Session 1: In-ovo sexing and embryo assessment</b>                                                                                                                                              |
| 09:20 - 10:00         | KEYNOTE LECTURE: In-ovo sexing: From ethical imperative to practical implementation<br><i>Matthias Corion</i>                                                                                      |
| 10:00 - 10:15         | Modelling embryonic stage progression due to pre-incubation temperature treatments<br><i>Mathias Creyf</i>                                                                                         |
| 10:15 - 10:30         | Assessing early embryo survivability using artificial intelligence driven vision software<br><i>Jeroen Snijders</i>                                                                                |
| 10:30 - 11:00         | Coffee/Tea break                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|                       | <b>Session 2: Avian reproduction, genetic conservation and poster pitches</b>                                                                                                                      |
| 11:00 - 11:15         | The Balbiani body - a key player in germline specification in birds<br><i>Sabine Klein</i>                                                                                                         |
| 11:15 - 11:30         | Dynamics and function of testosterone in the ejaculate of jungle fowl<br><i>Hossein Daryabari</i>                                                                                                  |
| 11:30 - 11:45         | The Italian poultry breeds semen cryobank: The ex situ conservation tool for national poultry genetic resources conservation<br><i>Stefano Paolo Marelli</i>                                       |
| 11:45 - 12:00         | Donor–host compatibility in transgenic PGC transplantation: Toward standardized protocols for avian genetic resource conservation<br><i>Firouzeh Sadeghzadeh</i>                                   |
| <b>POSTER PITCHES</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 12:00 - 12:05         | Shift from lipid to protein removal: Enzymatic, non-corrosive hatchery cleaning<br><i>Thijs Ennaert</i>                                                                                            |
| 12:05 - 12:10         | Use of decision trees to detect intervention points in broiler breeder management<br><i>Edgar O. Oviedo-Rondon</i>                                                                                 |
| 12:10 - 12:15         | Effect of embryonic thermal manipulation from days 7 to 16 of incubation on growth-related gene expression and myocyte development in broiler chicks at pulling<br><i>Henrique Carneiro Lobato</i> |
| 12:15 - 13:15         | Lunch break                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Thursday, October 29<sup>th</sup>

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|                      | <b>Session 3: Nick French Prize for young scientist</b>                                                                                                                                          |
| 13:15 - 13:30        | Effects of in-ovo injection of bamboo leaf essential oil on hatchability and Newcastle disease virus antibody titer<br><i>Felicia Emmanuella Ellison</i>                                         |
| 13:30 - 13:45        | Between tradition and innovation: Decision-making on incubation strategies in small-scale poultry systems<br><i>Henrique Carneiro Lobato</i>                                                     |
| 13:45 - 14:00        | Effects of chronic mild heat stress on reproductive performance, physiology status, egg quality and incubation characteristics in broiler breeders<br><i>Guangju Wang</i>                        |
| 14:00 - 14:15        | Egg-streme conditions? Effects of post-hatch feed and water deprivation on body and organ weights in laying hen chickens<br><i>Anke van Mierlo</i>                                               |
| 14:15 - 14:30        | Effects of post-hatch feed and water deprivation duration on body weight, physiological hunger and thirst indicators, and feeding and drinking motivation in layer chickens<br><i>Zhanyue Wu</i> |
| 14:30 - 14:45        | Dietary fenugreek seed ( <i>Trigonella foenum-graecum</i> ) enhances reproductive efficiency and incubation traits in Sasso breeder chickens<br><i>Mivodjo Michée Stéphane Adande</i>            |
| <b>14:45 - 15:15</b> | <b>Coffee/Tea break</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                      | <b>Session 4: Early feeding and on-farm hatching</b>                                                                                                                                             |
| 15:15 - 15:30        | Effects of early feeding and post-hatch fasting on physiological and behavioral indicators of welfare in broiler chicks<br><i>Itallo Conrado Sousa de Araujo</i>                                 |
| 15:30 - 15:45        | Effects of early feeding and post-hatch fasting on <i>pectoralis major</i> muscle development in broiler chicks<br><i>Henrique Carneiro Lobato</i>                                               |
| 15:45 - 16:00        | Can Pekin ducks hatch on farm?<br><i>Marcin W. Lis</i>                                                                                                                                           |

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|                      | <b>Social programme</b>                    |
| <b>17:30 - 18:30</b> | Tour at old Faculty of Veterinary Medicine |
| <b>18:30 - 22:00</b> | Walking dinner                             |
| <b>20:30 - 21:00</b> | Winner of the Nick French Prize            |

## Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>

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|                      | <b>Session 5: Egg storage and pre-incubation strategies</b>                                                                                                        |
| 09:00 - 09:15        | Turning storage strategy on its head: storage orientation and setter system largely affect hatchability in long-stored layer eggs<br><i>Jan Wijnen</i>             |
| 09:15 - 09:30        | The effect of pre-warming profiles and combination with SPIDES on embryonic development, hatching time, hatchability and broiler performance<br><i>Serdar Özlü</i> |
| 09:30 - 09:45        | Developmental uniformity of embryos and chicks after different warming rates from storage to incubation temperature<br><i>Carla van der Pol</i>                    |
| 09:45 - 10:00        | Effect of rewarming broiler hatching eggs during storage on embryonic development, hatch time and hatchability of fertile eggs<br><i>Okan Elibol</i>               |
| 10:00 - 10:15        | Effect of preheating on development and hatching of Pekin duck eggs<br><i>Aleksandra Januszevska</i>                                                               |
| 10:15 - 10:30        | Transcriptomics reveals how broiler embryos from short- and long-stored eggs respond to 10 hours of pre-incubation warming<br><i>Anne Pennings</i>                 |
| <b>10:30 - 11:00</b> | <b>Coffee/Tea break</b>                                                                                                                                            |
|                      | <b>Session 6 : Incubation environment</b>                                                                                                                          |
| 11:00 - 11:15        | Breaking the shell: How light shapes brain gene networks controlling chick hatching<br><i>Louisa Kosin</i>                                                         |
| 11:15 - 11:30        | Relative humidity during incubation: What does it really mean?<br><i>Ron Meijerhof</i>                                                                             |
| 11:30 - 11:45        | Weight loss dynamics during Mule duck egg incubation under commercial conditions<br><i>Marie Nehlig</i>                                                            |
| 11:45 - 12:00        | The effects of incubation parameters on chick quality and performance<br><i>Keith Bramwell</i>                                                                     |
| 12:00 - 12:15        | Impact of early hypercapnia on muscle biology and meat quality in fast-growing chicken<br><i>Charlotte Andrieux</i>                                                |
| <b>12:15 - 13:15</b> | <b>Lunch break</b>                                                                                                                                                 |
|                      | <b>Session 7 : Incubation temperature</b>                                                                                                                          |
| 13:15 - 13:30        | Role of incubation temperature on skin development and footpad dermatitis<br><i>Edgar O. Oviedo-Rondon</i>                                                         |
| 13:30 - 13:45        | Mitochondria function in different muscles of chicks treated with higher and lower temperatures during incubation<br><i>Ina Starke</i>                             |
| 13:45 - 14:00        | Effects of mid-incubation eggshell temperature on male or female broiler embryonic parameters<br><i>Clément Gbongbon</i>                                           |
| 14:00 - 14:15        | Closing IFRG meeting 2026                                                                                                                                          |
| 14:15 - 14:45        | <b>IFRG Business meeting - Dr. Roos Molenaar</b>                                                                                                                   |
| <b>14:45 - 15:15</b> | <b>Coffee/Tea break</b>                                                                                                                                            |