2026 IFRG meeting, Anatomie building, Bekkerstraat 141, Utrecht, The Netherlands

Wednesday, October 28th

16:00 - 18:00	**Registration Hotel Mitland, Ariënslaan 1, Utrecht**
19:00 - 20:30	Boat tour canals Utrecht, Wittevrouwensingel 100, Utrecht
20:30 - 22:30	Informal drinks at Hotel Mitland, Ariënslaan 1, Utrecht

Thursday, October 29th

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**
	Session 1: In-ovo sexing and embryo assessment
09:20 - 10:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE: In-ovo sexing: From ethical imperative to practical implementation *Matthias Corion*
10:00 - 10:15	Modelling embryonic stage progression due to pre-incubation temperature treatments *Mathias Creyf*
10:15 - 10:30	Assessing early embryo survivability using artificial intelligence driven vision software *Jeroen Snijders*
10:30 - 11:00	**Coffee/Tea break**
	Session 2: Avian reproduction, genetic conservation and poster pitches
11:00 - 11:15	The Balbiani body - a key player in germline specification in birds *Sabine Klein*
11:15 - 11:30	Dynamics and function of testosterone in the ejaculate of jungle fowl *Ton Groothuis*
11:30 - 11:45	The Italian poultry breeds semen cryobank: The ex situ conservation tool for national poultry genetic resources conservation *Stefano Paolo Marelli*
11:45 - 12:00	Donor–host compatibility in transgenic PGC transplantation: Toward standardized protocols for avian genetic resource conservation *Ophélie Bernardi*
POSTER PITCHES	
12:00 - 12:05	Shift from lipid to protein removal: Enzymatic, non-corrosive hatchery cleaning *Tom Klein Zieverink*
12:05 - 12:10	Use of decision trees to detect intervention points in broiler breeder management *Edgar O. Oviedo-Rondon*
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 *Henrique Carneiro Lobato*
12:15 - 13:30	**Lunch break**

Thursday, October 29th

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

	Social programme
17:00 - 18:30	Drinks & Bitterballen (Dutch traditional finger food)
17:30 - 18:30	Tour at old Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
18:30 - 22:00	Walking dinner
20:30 - 21:00	Winner of the Nick French Prize

Friday, October 30th

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