

## ISTROEXTRA

### ⌘ Election for Board positions

We have received a nomination for the President Elect position (Dr. Ranjan Bhattacharyya, India) and three nominations for the two open Board positions (Professor Dr. José Dörner, Chile, Professor Dr. Danijel Jug, Croatia and Dr. Guillermo Siri-Prieto, Uruguay). Ballot information will be sent out by the Secretary General, Blair McKenzie in the next days to those whose subscriptions are up-to-date. Therefore, please check your membership subscription to make sure that you are eligible to vote. If you do not get the ballot information it is likely that your payment is not up-to-date. To pay your dues, please contact Treasurer Steve Prior ([Steve.Prior@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Steve.Prior@ars.usda.gov)).

Nicholas Holden, currently the President Elect, will automatically take over from Jean Roger-Estrade as President of ISTRO following the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial Conference in Paris, France and serve until the 22<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference in Dublin in 2021. Blair McKenzie (Secretary General) and Lars J. Munkholm (Assistant Secretary General) will continue to be serving until 2021.

### President Elect

#### Dr. Ranjan Bhattacharyya from India



Ranjan is a Senior Scientist at the Centre for Environment Science and Climate Resilient Agriculture in Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi since July 2011. He received his Ph.D. in 2009 emphasizing Soil Science and Soil and Water Conservation at the University of

Wolverhampton in the UK. During 2001-2009 he has made significant contributions to understanding soil conservation in highlands and in the field of carbon sequestration and conservation tillage systems in the Indian Himalayas. Ranjan's research in the Indian Himalayas was recognized by the International Soil and Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO) through his selection as a "Young Scholar" which provided him an award that enabled him to attend the 18<sup>th</sup> Triennial ISTRO Conference at Izmir, Turkey. He also received many recognitions, including the 'Young Researcher' award from the European Society for Soil Conservation in 2007, 'Scholarship' from the British Society of Soil Science in 2008, team award (as a team leader) from Indian Council of Agricultural Research in 2008-09, 'Scientist of the Year' award by the World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWAC) in 2009, and 'Young Scientist' award by the Indian Society of Soil Science (ISSS) in 2010. Ranjan became a member of the 'Geoderma' Editorial Board in April 2013 (and reappointed in 2017), and in January 2014, he was recognized as a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) in India. He is also serving in the editorial board of 'Agriculture, Ecosystems & Environment', 'Journal of the Indian Society of Soil Science' and 'Agronomy Journal' since 2015. In 2016, he became a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, UK and a fellow of the West Bengal Academy of Science & Technology, India. In New Delhi, he is involved in conducting collaborative research focused on: (1) Conservation agriculture, (2) restoration and improvement of soil health, and (3) soil organic matter dynamics under anticipated climate change. In 2017, he was awarded with the Indo-Australia Early- and Mid-Career Researchers' Fellowship by the Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi (India) to conduct advanced research on soil carbon sequestration in the University of Queensland, Australia for 9 months, ending March 2018. Ranjan is a member of the ISSS, Indian Society of Agro-Physics, Indian Society of Agronomy, Indian Society of Plant Physiology, Indian Society of Soil and Water Conservationists, Clay Mineral Society of India, Indian Science Congress Association and National Environmental Science Academy. He is also an annual member of the ISTRO, WASWAC, and International Union of Soil Science. He is presently an ISTRO Board Member and is working efficiently.

## ISTRO Board

### Professor, Dr. José Dörner, Chile



José holds a doctoral degree from the Christian Albrechts University in Kiel, Germany (2005). At the beginning of 2006 he started to work in the Institute of Agricultural Engineering and Soil Science at the Austral University in Chile. José is currently a Professor of Soil Physics in the same Institute as well as the Director of the Research Center on Volcanic Soils ([www.cisvo.cl](http://www.cisvo.cl)). His research is focused on the impact of land use change, soil management and grazing management on soil physical properties considering both temporal and spatial variability. The main work is concentrated on soils derived from volcanic ashes in southern Chile using laboratory methods as well as field measurements to better understand the peculiar physical behaviour of these soils. José studied the resilience capacity of this soils and how this change as a consequence of the land use change, as well as, due to grassland degradation, soil compaction but also after the implementation of pasture improvement managements. On the other hand, his work described how the soil structure conservation, by using different pasture improvement managements, helps to improve the water use by plants and, consequently grassland productivity, among others. He also studied water content and temperature dynamics of soils under different land uses as well soil managements (e.g., tilled and non-tilled soils). From this research projects, José and his research team, published more than 40 scientific papers since 2006. José is member of ISTRO. He received the Cees van Ouwerkerk Scholarship to attend the 2006 ISTRO Conference in Kiel, Germany. In 2015 he got the Georg Foster Fellowship for Experienced

Researchers from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

José is member of the Editorial Advisory Board of Soil & Tillage Research and accepted to be nominated to the ISTRO Board in order to represent South America as well as to contribute with his ideas, enthusiasm and work to the development of ISTRO.

### Professor, Dr. Daniel Jug, Croatia



Danijel Jug is an employee of Faculty of Agriculture in Osijek, at the Department for Plant Production. In 2006, he achieved academic degree of PhD in the scientific field of Agroecology and Crop Production. From 2013, he was elected to academic rank of a full professor. His main field of expertise and scientific interest is in Soils and crop management, Conservation agriculture, Agroclimatology and climate change, Sustainable land management. His most important research experience can be summarized as follows: multidisciplinary approach to study of reduced and conservation soil tillage in relation to biological, physical and chemical soil properties, plant nutritional status, development of agricultural management according to specific agroecological conditions, climate change adaptation, agricultural productivity, soil remediation and conservation. He has been participating, as project manager or researcher, in several national and international research projects mostly related to plant reaction to different climate variation and adaptation according to the principles of conservation soil tillage. As co-author he published more than 120 scientific paper, more than 100 professional papers and as the first author two university textbooks:

"Soil tillage in agroecology framework" and "Conservation soil tillage as a measure for climate change mitigation".

Danijel is one of the founders of CROSTRO (Croatian Soil Tillage Research Organization), the branch of ISTRO. As the CROSTRO secretary he organized the first International Scientific Conference (in 2010) and as the actual CROSTRO president organized two ISC (in 2010 and 2017). He also initiated CESTRO (Central Europe Division of ISTRO) and as the president organized the ISC for the first time in 2017. Currently, he is working on the establishing and promoting PannEx initiative (Regional hydro-climate project over the Pannonian basin) as member of IPC and as the coordinator of working group "Adaptation of agronomic activities to weather and climate extremes". Main idea of his engagement in this initiative is promotion of stronger connections between conservation soil tillage and climate changes. This topic would be one of the most important initiatives of his engagement on the ISTRO Board. His initiative is to establish a new ISTRO working group "Soil tillage and climate change". Danijel is a very active scientist, persistent and committed in promotion of ISTRO ideas through his activities. As a member of ISTRO Board, Danijel is ready and willing to continue to serve and contribute to the ISTRO ideas and goals in the next six years period.

Dr. Guillermo Siri-Prieto, Uruguay



Dr. Guillermo Siri-Prieto is in the Agronomy Faculty at the University of the Republic of Uruguay where he received his B.S. (1993) in Agronomy. He received his PhD in Agronomy and

Soils (2004) from Auburn University, Alabama USA where he concentrated on conservation tillage and soil compaction by animal traffic. Since 1992, he has worked as a professor and research scientist at the University of the Republic of Uruguay. His research on crop and soil management has focused on: (1) bioenergy aspects of lignocellulosic crops, sweet sorghum, and other conventional crops, (2) quantifying the soil organic C and N sequestration potential of land management systems inclusive of conservation tillage, pasture, and lignocellulosic cropping systems, and (3) cover crop impacts on soil water and nitrogen availability for summer cash crops. He has been a member of ISTRO since 2003 and attended Triennial ISTRO Conferences in Brisbane (Australia), Kiel (Germany), Izmir (Turkey), Montevideo (Uruguay), and Nanjing (China). Dr. Siri-Prieto was recognized by ISTRO as a "Young Scholar Honorable Mention" which provided an award that enabled him to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> Triennial ISTRO Conference in Kiel, Germany. He is member of the SUCS-Uruguay-ISTRO Branch and served on the Organizing Committee for the 19<sup>th</sup> ISTRO Conference held in Uruguay. He has authored over 30 publications, including 12 peer-reviewed journal articles. He has served on the Editorial Board for the *Agrociencia Journal* (Uruguay) since 2016, as an Associate Editor for the *Agronomy Journal* (USA) from 2008 to 2011, and as an at-large reviewer for several other soil science and agricultural journals. Dr. Siri-Prieto is enthusiastic about the opportunity to represent his South American colleagues by serving on the prestigious ISTRO Board.

## ☞ Scholarships for ISTRO Conference 2018 –final reminder.

### Four Scholarships to participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> ISTRO Conference in Paris, 24-27 September 2018.

The ISTRO Board has again approved scholarships for young researchers who are ISTRO members to attend the triennial ISTRO conference. Young is defined under the age of 40 on 24 September 2018. We are sponsoring four scholarships to support attendance at the 21<sup>st</sup> Triennial ISTRO conference from 24–27 September 2018 in Paris, France. Scholarship candidates must be current (i.e. dues up-to-date) members of ISTRO themselves and be nominated by a current member of ISTRO and not previously been awarded a scholarship.

To ensure that you are eligible for scholarships, to vote and participate in the organization please ensure that your membership fees are up-to-date. *Branches* needs also to pay attention to this. If you are unsure about your membership status; simply email Treasurer Steve Prior ([Steve.Prior@ars.usda.gov](mailto:Steve.Prior@ars.usda.gov)) and ask.

All scholarships will be valued at up to 2,000 Euros.

Travel should be a lowest cost (economy) fares. The Cees van Ouwerkerk scholarship is open to young researchers from any country. The scholarship will be awarded to an applicant who has demonstrated superior research accomplishments.

The other three scholarships are open to young researchers from all countries except those classified as being "high-income." Excluded high-income countries can be found in the XL spreadsheet at: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519>. These scholarships will also be awarded to applicants based on academic merit and research accomplishments taking into account the location of the young researcher at the time of application and on the geographic spread of applicants.

Nominations including supporting material documenting their research activities (e.g. two recent journal or conference publications), a curriculum vitae listing education and all publications, presentations and teaching activities, and the Abstract for a paper to be presented at the 2018 ISTRO Conference must be submitted to the Assistant Secretary- General (Lars Munkholm) by December 31, 2017.

The scholarship selection committee comprises three elected members of the ISTRO Board (who are not office bearers). After the selection, all applicants will be informed by the Assistant Secretary-General who will also notify the Conference Organizers to help make the final arrangements. Applications should be emailed to Lars Munkholm:

[lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk](mailto:lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk)

Note: Without exception, applicants must be current ISTRO members and meet the age criteria.