ISTRO INFO
NEWSLETTER
of the
International Soil Tillage Research Organisation

José Dörner

⌘ Election for Board Positions

Dear Friends, we are happy to announce that we have five strong candidates for the four open positions for the ISTRO Board. The candidates represent countries such as Denmark, Brazil, France, and China. Four of them are females, and one is a male.

We have received one nomination for the President-Elect position (Professor Lingling Li, China), and 2 nominations for up to 3 regular Board positions (Dr. Karina Cavalieri-Polizeli, Brazil, and Loraine ten Damme, Denmark. Additionally, we have received two nominations for the Assistant Secretary General (Dr. Joséphine Peigné, France and Dr. Ying Zhao, China).

The Board evaluated Lingling's as a very strong candidate for the President Elect position and decided to support her nomination. At the same time, we are happy to announce that Karina and Lorain accepted to take part of the Board. In the case of Assistant Secretary General the voting procedures is explained in the present ISTRO EXTRA.

President Elect:

Dr. Lingling Li (China)
Gansu Agricultural University

Dr. Lingling Li, is a Prof. in College of Agronomy, Gansu Agricultural University, and a Scientist in State Key Laboratory of Aridland Crop Science. Besides Editor-in-Chief for "Soil and Tillage Research", she is also Co-editor in chief for "Farming System", and Specialty Chief Editor for "Frontiers in agronomy". She is on board of International Soil and Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO), member of the Independent Steering Committee of the CGIAR Research Program on Wheat – WHEAT-ISC. She acted as scientific committee member for 4th and 5th International Symposium for Farming Systems Design, 7th, 8th and 9th World Congress on Conservation Agriculture, 2nd International Scientific Conference on "Agricultural Challenges to Climate Change".

She has been focusing her research on conservation agriculture and rainfed farming systems for the Loess Plateau of China, finished more than 30 research projects funded by Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) etc., including 1 research project finished together with International Crops Research Institute for Semiarid Tropics (ICRISAT, India) team. She has published more than 300 papers in the referred journals and conferences. She has received 7 awards of "Advancement of Science and Technology" and "Natural Science" of Gansu province. Also, she was awarded "Outstanding Young Teachers in Universities" by "Fox Ying Tung Education Foundation" of Ministry of Education of China, received "Youth Award", and "Leading Talent" award of Gansu Province.

Her specialties are: conservation agriculture, rainfed agriculture, organic matter, tillage and stubble management, field water management, soil amendment.

Board Members:

Karina Cavalieri-Polizeli (Brazil)
Federal University of Parana

Born in Paranavaí, Paraná State, in Brazil, on July 10, 1979, Karina grew up on a coffee farm until she was thirteen years old. She became an agricultural engineer in 2002 and holds a Masters degree (2004) from the State University of Maringá. Karina defended her PhD in agronomy in 2007 in the Soils and Plant Nutrition research line at ESALQ- São Paulo University, with a one-year sandwich period at the Swedish University of Agricultural Science (SLU) in Uppsala. She has experience in the area of agronomy, with an emphasis on soil science, working mainly on topics related to soil physics, soil management and conservation. Karina has been a professor and coordinator of the Soil Physics Laboratory at the Federal University of Paraná - UFPR since 2011 and works with research projects that encompass soil physical quality and health, soil conservation practices and management, soil compaction. She has supervised several undergraduate and graduate students. She has been involved in the Postgraduate Program in Soil Science (PGCS) at UFPR since 2012, and since 2023, she is the Coordinator of PGCS. Karina is a member of the Brazilian Society of Soil Science and of the International Soil and Tillage Research Organization (ISTRO). Karina is the chair of the ISTRO working group on soil compaction since 2024.

Loraine ten Damme (Denmark)
Aarhus University

Dr. Loraine ten Damme is a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Agroecology at Aarhus University, Denmark. Loraine defended her PhD on "Revealing key processes of soil structure deformation after traffic" at Aarhus University 2021. She was a postdoctoral researcher at the Department of Soil & Environment at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in 2021-2023. Her research interests include soil management and soil quality, with a specific focus on the impact of field traffic and soil amendments on soil physical and mechanical characteristics. In her work, Loraine seeks to better understand the processes that drive soil structure modification, their interactions with climate, and the implications for soil functioning. She has served editorial advisory board of Soil & Tillage Research since 2024.

The two elected for the open Board positions will supplement Dr. Rachel Guimaraes (Brazil), Dr. Joséphine Peigné (France) and Dr. Ying Zhao, (China) who are serving until 2027.

⌘ Election of Assistant Secretary General

To vote for the Assistant Secretary General e-mail lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk with the subject heading ISTRO ballot 2027. In the text state your name, membership number (if known) and your country. Then state the names of your preferred candidate. All votes received will be acknowledged. Voting will close at midnight on 31 April 2026 midnight. Only votes from ISTRO members whose membership is up-to-date will be counted – so please ensure you membership dues have been paid. To pay your dues, please contact Treasurer Mark Reiter (Reiter, Mark <mreiter@vt.edu>).

José Dörner (Assistant Secretary General) will take over from Lars J. Munkholm as Secretary General and serve until 2033.

Ying Zhao, (China)
Ludong University

Prof. Ying Zhao is a Distinguished Professor of Soil Physics and Hydrology at Ludong University (China) and an Adjunct Professor at the School of Environment and Sustainability, University of Saskatchewan (Canada). His research focuses on soil physics, vadose-zone hydrology, soil tillage, and sustainable soil and water management.

Prof. Zhao has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers and several book chapters, with an H-index of 62 (Google Scholar). His work appears in leading journals including *Nature*-family journals, *PNAS*, *Soil & Tillage Research*, and *Plant and Soil*. He has authored multiple papers specifically in *Soil & Tillage Research* and serves the scientific community through editorial roles, including *Land Degradation & Development* and *Vadose Zone Journal*, as well as the Advisory Board of *Soil & Tillage Research*.

Within ISTRO, Prof. Zhao currently serves as a Board member and has actively participated in several ISTRO conferences. He is committed to strengthening global collaboration in soil tillage and soil–water research and to supporting effective communication and engagement within the ISTRO community.

Joséphine Peigné (France)
ISARA

Dr Joséphine Peigné is a French senior agronomist specializing in soil fertility, soil tillage systems, and organic and conservation agriculture. She has over twenty years of research and teaching experience, including serving as Director of the Agroecology and Environment Research Unit at ISARA (2019–2025). Her scientific work has advanced understanding of reduced tillage, organic no-till, soil structure assessment (soil profile observation), and earthworm–soil interactions in long-term field experiments. She has coordinated numerous

regional and national research projects on conservation tillage and agroecological transitions, and has led work packages within several European CORE-Organic projects. Her publications include influential papers on the effects of tillage on soil fertility, microbial functioning, earthworm communities and crop performance. She supervises several PhD students working on soil fertility, with a special focus on interaction between soil structure and biology, and innovative cropping systems. Dr Peigné is a member of the Board of ISTRO – the International Soil Tillage Research Organization. She also serves as an expert for various national and international research evaluation bodies. Her work aims to support the design of resilient, low-disturbance cropping systems that regenerate soil functioning.

ISTRO INFO is the newsletter of the **International Soil Tillage Research Organisation** (www.istro.org).

All information contained in this newsletter is © ISTRO and may not be distributed without written permission of the Secretary General, Prof. Lars J. Munkholm (lars.munkholm@agro.au.dk) or the Assistant Secretary General, Prof. José Dörner (josedorner@uach.cl)

For more information, please contact: Prof. José Dörner, Assistant Secretary General, ISTRO. Instituto de Ingeniería Agraria y Suelos, Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Alimentarias, Universidad Austral de Chile, Edificio Saelzer 2do Piso, Campus Isla, Valdivia, Chile