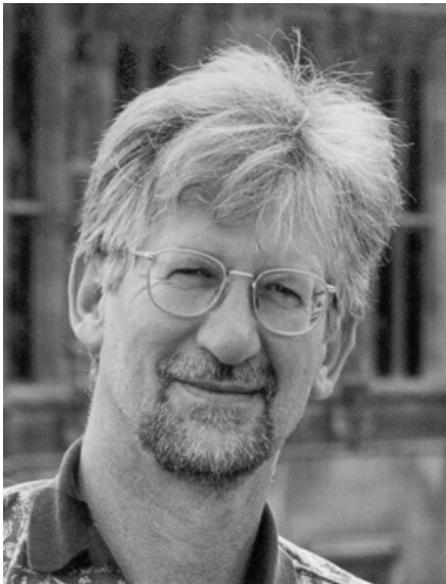


## President's Message

*Roger Rimmer*



Plant diseases have been making the news in Canada recently. In Prince Edward Island, the appearance of potato wart has created enormous difficulties for

growers following the US ban on importation of PEI seed-potatoes. In Ontario, the appearance last year of plum pox virus in peach trees in the vicinity of Niagara-on-the-Lake is also a cause for concern. These are both good examples of how important quarantine regulations can be and how economically devastating introduction of exotic pathogens into disease free areas is when quarantines fail. It is very distressing to watch the destruction of large amounts of potatoes as they are ploughed into the soil and to listen to the woes of the beleaguered growers. More

information about the potato wart and sharka, the disease caused by plum pox virus, is available on the CPS website. It is clear that plant diseases are as important as ever in today's world.

Issues related to food and its production in general are also at the forefront of our news as never before. The spread of mad cow disease in Europe and the poor handling of the situation by the UK government departments has resulted in a deep suspicion and loss of respect for government regulatory agencies and scientists by the general public in the UK and in Europe. The StarLink fiasco with corn in the USA, and other issues with respect to genetically modified crops continue to fuel

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people's imagination and concern of food safety and health. In the face of all this, farmers are still expected to maintain production of high quality despite the lowest commodity prices since the Depression. Recently, the Royal Society of Canada has released its report on genetically modified food. It is available on the web at <http://www.rsc.ca/foodbiotechnology/indexEN.html>. This extensive report is well worth the time to read. It discusses at length the issue of substantial equivalence, which to date has been one of the main considerations for approval for production of transgenic crops in Canada by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The committee has many recommendations for dealing with genetically engineered foods. As stakeholders in the agricultural food production industry we should be aware and responsive to issues in this area.

Rudra Singh will be stepping down as Editor-in-Chief of the *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology* this year after serving a 7-year term. Rudra has overseen several improvements of the journal and has been instrumental in reducing substantially the time from submission of a manuscript to publication. This has made the journal much more attractive for authors who wish for speedy publication and helps to make our Journal more viable. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rudra Singh for his excellent service to the Journal, the Board and the Society in general. I am pleased to announce that the Board has appointed Zamir Punja as the new Editor of *CJPP*. Zamir was very much involved in the transfer of publication to NRC, and I'm sure he will contribute new ideas for the future direction of the Journal especially with regards to the possibility of electronic publication. There are also two new Section Editors, Jean Liu for Genetics and Tony Sturz for Bacteriology. Furthermore, Luc

Couture has agreed to review papers submitted in French. Welcome on-board to you all.

At the Annual General Meeting last year we agreed to set aside a sum of money to support international plant pathology meetings held in Canada and organised by a CPS member. The Board therefore has awarded \$2,500 to the IUFRO (International Union of Forestry Research Organizations) Root and Butt Rot Workshop organised by Gaston Laflamme to be held in Quebec City, September 16-22, 2001. Anyone interested in the workshop should contact Gaston as soon as possible.

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*“...issues with respect to genetically modified crops continue to fuel people's imagination and concern of food safety and health. As stakeholders in the agricultural food production industry we should be aware and responsive to issues in this area.”*

A strong Society depends on a strong membership. Gayle Jespersion, our Membership Secretary, had received 333 memberships applica-

tions by the end of February, including 16 sustaining associates, 28 student and 47 emeritus memberships. Last year we had a total of 408 members, so there are still a number of members who have not yet renewed. I would like to encourage those of you who have not renewed (but still receive this newsletter) to do so soon, and for all of us to spend time persuading non-member colleagues on the benefits of joining the CPS. Please help Gayle by paying your membership dues on time. Also, it is important to provide her with any changes in email and/or mailing addresses in a timely fashion. Otherwise valuable time of our volunteers away from work and family is wasted in tracking down current addresses. It is particularly frustrating to keep record of who should not receive the June issue of *CJPP* and then to mail them out separately after the late payment has been received.

The CPS is always looking for volunteers who wish to contribute their time and energy to help promote the Society. If you would like to be more involved, please in-

dicare your interest either to the Chair of the Nominating Committee, who is always the immediate Past-President, or directly to subject matter committee chairs. You will find the names of the appropriate persons to contact on the CPS web site. Nominations for positions to the Board and Standing Committees for this year are due to the Secretary, Lone Buchwaldt before April 25, as indicated in the report from the Nominating Committee elsewhere in this newsletter. I would also like to remind Chairpersons of committees that an annual report should be submitted to the Secretary in time for publication in the June issue of *CPS News* and presentation at the Annual General Meeting.

This year, the Annual General Meeting will be held in London, Ontario, from June 10 to 13. I'm especially looking forward to the meeting, as the University of Western Ontario is where I obtained my Ph.D. Now is the time to make plans to attend. You should have received a brochure about the meeting in January/February and you can also find information and registration forms on the CPS website. The program looks very exciting and the tours associated with the meeting should be of interest to many, especially our oenophiles. I hope to see you in June in London.

## Mot du président

Les maladies des plantes ont récemment fait la une au Canada. À l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard, l'apparition de la galle verruqueuse sur la pomme de terre a créé d'énormes difficultés aux producteurs à la suite de la décision des É.-U. d'interdire l'importation des semences de pomme de terre de l'Î.-P.-É. L'année dernière, l'apparition du virus de la sharka dans des pêchers à proximité de Niagara-on-the-Lake, en Ontario, fut également un sujet d'inquiétude. Ces deux bons exemples illustrent à quel point les règlements de quarantaine peuvent être importants et à quel point l'introduction de micro-organismes pathogènes exotiques dans des

zones libres de maladies est économiquement dévastatrice quand les mesures de quarantaine échouent. Il est décourageant d'être le témoin de la destruction de grandes quantités de pommes de terre par enfouissement et d'entendre les malheurs des cultivateurs concernés. Plus d'informations sur la galle verruqueuse de pomme de terre et sur la sharka du prunier sont disponibles sur le site web de la SCP. Il est clair que dans le monde d'aujourd'hui les maladies des plantes sont aussi importantes que par le passé.

Les enjeux associés aux aliments et à leur production en général font également les manchettes plus que jamais. La propagation de la maladie de la vache folle en Europe et l'incapacité des services du gouvernement britannique à faire face à la situation ont eu comme conséquence une profonde méfiance et une perte de respect envers les agences gouvernementales de réglementation et les scientifiques par le grand public du Royaume-Uni et de l'Europe. Aux États-Unis, le fiasco de StarLink avec le maïs et d'autres questions litigieuses concernant les cultures génétiquement modifiées continuent à alimenter l'imagination des gens et leur inquiétude pour la sécurité alimentaire et la santé. Malgré cette situation, on espère encore du producteur qu'il fournisse une production de haute qualité en dépit des plus bas prix payés pour ses produits depuis la récession. Récemment, la Société royale du Canada a rendu public son rapport sur les aliments génétiquement modifiés. Il est disponible sur le web à <http://www.rsc.ca/foodbiotechnology/indexFR.html>. Ce rapport approfondi vaut la peine d'être lu. Il discute longuement de la question d'équivalence substantielle qui, jusqu'à maintenant, a été une des considérations principales pour l'approbation, par l'Agence canadienne d'inspection des aliments, de la production de cultures transgéniques au Canada. Le comité fait beaucoup de recommandations concernant les cultures génétiquement modifiées. Comme intervenants dans



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l'industrie agroalimentaire, nous devrions être au fait et sensibles aux préoccupations de ce domaine.

Cette année, Rudra Singh quittera son poste de directeur scientifique de la Revue canadienne de phytopathologie après y avoir oeuvré durant sept ans. Rudra a orchestré plusieurs améliorations à la Revue et a contribué à réduire sensiblement le temps entre la soumission d'un manuscrit et sa publication. Ceci a rendu la Revue beaucoup plus attrayante pour les auteurs qui souhaitent une publication rapide et a amélioré la

viabilité de notre Revue. Je veux saisir cette occasion pour remercier Rudra Singh de son excellent travail à la Revue, au Conseil et à la Société en général. Je suis heureux d'annoncer que le Conseil a nommé Zamir Punja comme nouveau directeur de la Revue. Zamir a été très impliqué dans le transfert, au CNRC, de la publication de la Revue et je suis sûr qu'il va apporter de nouvelles idées au cours de son mandat à la Revue, particulièrement quant aux possibilités de publication électronique. Il y a également

deux nouveaux directeurs de section, Jean Liu pour la génétique et Tony Sturz pour la bactériologie. En outre, Luc Couture a accepté de réviser les manuscrits soumis en français. Bienvenue à bord à vous tous.

L'année dernière lors de l'Assemblée générale annuelle, nous avons accepté d'affecter une somme d'argent pour aider des réunions internationales de phytopathologie tenues au

Canada et organisées par un membre de la SCP. Le conseil a donc attribué 2500 \$ au colloque de l'UIIRF sur la carie des racines et de la souche organisé par Gaston

Laflamme à Québec, du 16 au 22 septembre 2001. Quiconque intéressé au colloque doit contacter Gaston le plus tôt possible.

Une société forte dépend d'une adhésion forte. Gayle Jesperson, notre secrétaire à l'adhésion, avait reçu 333 formules d'adhésion vers la fin de février, y compris 16 membres de soutien, 28 membres étudiants et 47 membres honoraires. L'année dernière, nous avons un total de 408 membres ; il y a donc un certain nombre de membres qui n'ont pas encore renouvelé leur adhésion. J'encourage

***... questions litigieuses concernant les cultures génétiquement modifiées continuent à alimenter l'imagination des gens et leur inquiétude pour la sécurité alimentaire et la santé. Comme intervenants dans l'industrie agroalimentaire, nous devrions être au fait et sensibles aux préoccupations de ce domaine.***

ceux parmi vous qui n'ont pas encore renouvelé (mais qui recevez toujours ce bulletin) de le faire bientôt et je vous en joins tous de prendre du temps pour convaincre des collègues des avantages qu'il y a à joindre la SCP. Veuillez aider Gayle en payant votre cotisation en temps. En outre, il est important de lui fournir tous les changements de courriel ou d'adresse postale en temps opportun. Sinon, le temps de nos bénévoles qui autrement seraient au travail ou avec leur famille est perdu à chercher des adresses. Il est particulièrement frustrant d'avoir à noter qui ne devrait pas recevoir le numéro de juin de la Revue et puis d'avoir ensuite à l'expédier séparément à ceux qui ont fait parvenir leur paiement en retard.

La SCP recherche toujours des volontaires qui souhaitent consacrer du temps et de l'énergie à promouvoir la Société. Si vous êtes de ceux qui sont prêts à s'impliquer, s'il vous plaît signalez votre intérêt soit au président du Comité de mise en candidature, qui est toujours le Président sortant, ou directement aux présidents de comités spéciaux. Vous trouverez sur le site web de la SCP les noms des personnes à contacter. Les nominations pour des postes au Conseil et aux Comités permanents pour cette année doivent être soumises au secrétaire Lone Buchwaldt avant le 25 avril, tel qu'indiqué dans le rapport du Comité de mise en candidature inclus dans le présent bulletin. Je veux également rappeler aux présidents des comités qu'un rapport annuel doit être soumis au secrétaire en temps pour publication dans le numéro de juin du bulletin d'information de la SCP et pour l'assemblée générale annuelle.

Cette année, l'assemblée générale annuelle sera tenue à London, Ontario, du 10 au 13 juin. J'ai spécialement hâte à cette réunion étant donné que c'est à l'Université Western Ontario que j'ai obtenu mon Ph.D. C'est maintenant le temps de planifier votre participation. En janvier ou février, vous avez dû recevoir une brochure concernant la réunion ; vous pouvez également trouver l'information et

des formulaires d'enregistrement sur le site web de la SCP. Le programme a l'air très passionnant et les excursions associées à la réunion devraient être d'intérêt pour plusieurs, particulièrement nos oenologues. J'espère vous voir en juin à London.

## Contact the Editor

Email: **cps-news@home.com**  
 phone: (306) 653-8876  
 Ph./FAX: (306) 652-2708

David Kaminski  
 702 Lansdowne Ave.  
 Saskatoon, SK S7N 1E5

*We don't often receive unsolicited opinion pieces from the members of CPS. The one printed on p. 11 of this issue was sent as one member's response to the Past-President Zamir Punja's President's Message from one year ago. The issue (GMOs, public debate and the media) continues to percolate - there is reference to it in Roger Rimmer's latest, and I echo his encouragement that you examine the report of the Royal Society of Canada.*

*Another CPS member sent a note urging me to address an oversight in the December issue, "Whoever sent in the item on p. 68 about Cheryl Cho winning the Vanterpool prize shortchanged the **other** winner, Asheesh (Danny) Singh. He was the runner-up and won a prize of \$800." Congratulations, Danny. And thanks, Robin.*

Ed.

## **Exotic Pests**, continued from p.10

introduce topics relating to exotic pests by posting short papers on the meeting's website, followed by a free online Internet discussion period of two weeks. Discussion will focus on how exotic pests impact forests and landscape trees, how they impact international trade, pests of current concern, methods of control, and possible guidelines, standards and regulations.

Those interested can visit the meeting's website <http://exoticpests.apsnet.org/> for a preliminary program listing and to register to receive an email reminder prior to the start of the online discussion.

## Call for Annual Reports 2001

As Secretary of the CPS, one of my responsibilities is to make sure that reports from Chairpersons of various committees, Regional Representatives, and individuals within specific responsibilities within the society are available for discussion by CPS members at the annual general meeting. This is a friendly reminder to the individuals listed below to submit a report for printing in the *CPS News* - June issue, which will be mailed to members before the annual meeting in London Ontario June 10-13, 2001.

Please send the report by email to the CPS News Editor, David Kaminski: [cps-news@home.com](mailto:cps-news@home.com), with a copy to me at [BuchwaldtL@em.agr.ca](mailto:BuchwaldtL@em.agr.ca). You can also mail a diskette to Lone Buchwaldt, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, 107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 0X2. **The deadline for inclusion in the next CPS newsletter is May 1, 2001.**

Sincerely,  
Lone Buchwaldt  
CPS Secretary

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE FROM THE FOLLOWING

### *Standing Committees:*

Zamir Punja, Chair of the Nomination Committee, proposed slate for 2000-2001  
Rudra Sing, Chair of the Journal Editorial Committee  
Gayle Jespersion, Chair of the Membership Committee  
Greg Boland, Chair of the Science Policy Committee  
Solke De Boer, Chair of the Future Meeting Committee  
George Lazarovits, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for London 2001  
Larry Kawchuk, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for Lethbridge 2002

### *Subject Matter Committees:*

J.P. Tewari, Chair of the International Co-operation Committee  
Roger Rimmer Chair of the Symposium and Workshop Committee  
Jennie Gilbert, Chair of Education and Public Awareness Committee  
Mary Ruth McDonald, Chair of the Information Products Marketing Committee

### *Ad Hoc Committees:*

Tony Sturz, Chair of Industry Relations Committee  
Denise Gaudet, Chair of Historic Resources  
Ron Howard, Chair of the Committee on Implementation of the Strategic Plan

### *Other Reports:*

George Lazarovits, Representative to the International Society of Plant Pathology  
David Kaminski, Editor of the *CPS News*  
Greg Boland, Coordinator for the CPS Web Site  
Robin Morrall, National Coordinator for the *Canadian Plant Disease Survey*

Reports from regional meetings of plant pathologists should be submitted to the *CPS News* by the Regional Representatives as soon after the meeting as possible. Some reports have already been published. The Regional Representatives are:

Randy Clear, Manitoba  
Coreen Franke, Saskatchewan  
Annette Nassuth, Western Ontario  
Bernard Vigier, Eastern Ontario  
Deena Errampalli, Maritimes  
Eric Littley, British Columbia  
Lorraine Harrison, Plant Pathology Society of Alberta  
Odile Carisse, Quebec Society for the Protection of Plants

## Report of the Nominating Committee

### *Proposed Slate for 2001-2002*

#### CPS/SCP BOARD

President: Greg J. Boland  
President-Elect: Karen L. Bailey  
Vice-President: **Richard A. Martin\*\***  
Past President: Roger Rimmer  
Secretary: **Ken E. Mallett\*\***  
Senior Director: Simon F. Shamoun  
Junior Director: **Odile Carisse\*\***  
Treasurer: Peter L. Sholberg  
Membership Sec.: Gayle Jespersion

#### STANDING COMMITTEES

##### Nominating Committee (5 members)

S. R. Rimmer (Chair), J. G. Menzies, **Rick D. Peters\*\***, **Paul Hildebrand\*\***, Z. K. Punja

##### Journal Editorial Committee (11 members)

**Z. K. Punja** (Chair), R. S. Utkhede, R. A. A. Morrall, R. S. Hunt, **J. Q. Liu\*\***, K. F. Dobinson, D. Gaudet, M. P. Corlett, L. M. Kawchuk, L. Couture, **A. V. Sturz\*\***

##### Awards Committee (5 members)

V. J. Higgins (Chair), K. Y. Rashid, S. M. Boyetchko, Brent McCallum, **S. Jabaji-Hare\*\***

##### Membership Committee (11 members)

G. Jespersion (Chair), P. L. Sholberg, Regional Representatives

##### Future Meeting Committee (3 members)

A.C. Kushalappa (Chair), Mike Celetti, **Randy Kutcher\*\***

##### Resolutions Committee (3 members)

P. G. Pearse (Chair), Jeannie Gilbert, **Ken Conn\*\***

##### Financial Advisory Committee (10 members)

S. R. Rimmer, G. J. Boland, Karen Bailey, Richard Martin, P. L. Sholberg, Z. K. Punja, L. M. Kawchuk, Dilantha Fernando, Ron Howard, Jim Menzies

##### Science Policy Committee (5 members)

K. L. Bailey (Chair), R. A. Martin, P. A. Burnett, Carole Beaulieu, **Randy Clear\*\***

The names of proposed new members of the Board and Standing Committees are **highlighted in bold**. Those confirmed as accepted are asterisked.

The remaining members are continuing or completing their terms as specified by the society's by-laws. Additional nominations can be made by society members for Vice-President, Secretary and Junior Director, as well as for positions on the Nominating, Awards, Future Meetings, Resolutions, and Science Policy Committees. *Nominations shall be signed by five members of the Society and by the nominee, and must be received by the CPS/SCP Secretary **before April 25, 2001**, which is six weeks before the Annual General Meeting.*

Respectfully: submitted, Z.K. Punja (Chair), G. Lazarovitz, M.R. Fernandez, J.G. Menzies, P. Audy

## From the Membership Secretary

### Don't get left out of the CPS directory!

If you have not renewed your membership for 2001 be sure to get your payment in right away, or you risk being left out of the membership directory. The directory content will be finalized in April to May, and should be in your hands by June 2001. Timely membership renewal will also ensure uninterrupted delivery of your newsletters and journals. Membership renewal forms were mailed in December 2000, and they are also available on the website at:

[www.cps-scp.ca/application.htm](http://www.cps-scp.ca/application.htm)

Be sure to contact the membership secretary (any time!) with any changes to your address, phone or fax numbers, or email address at:

### Gayle Jespersen

CPS Membership Secretary

200-1690 Powick Road

Kelowna, BC V1X 7G5

ph.: 250-861-7228

fax: 250-861-7490

Email: [gayle.jespersen@gems1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:gayle.jespersen@gems1.gov.bc.ca)

### ISPP World Directory of Plant Pathologists

[www.scisoc.org/ispp/world\\_directory/](http://www.scisoc.org/ispp/world_directory/)

The CPS contributes membership information to the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) Online Directory of Plant Pathologists. Updated CPS membership data will be submitted to the ISPP after the majority of the memberships have been renewed, likely around the same time that our own directory content is finalized.

There are currently 13 different plant pathology societies contributing to the directory, making it highly useful tool for plant pathologists. The ISPP search engine is engineered to provide at most 50 matches to any query. This limitation is set for two reasons: 1) to require the user to be specific enough in their search to obtain a return of good data; and 2) to prevent wholesale gathering of information that might make directory lists available for

purposes other than the personal use by individual plant pathologists.

Information provided in the directory includes name, address, phone & fax numbers, e-mail address, and research interests. They have also requested languages spoken.

If you would like to opt out of having your name in the ISPP directory, please contact the membership secretary, Gayle Jespersen.

### On-line Journals

#### National Research Council Journals:

Fourteen NRC Press journals, including the **Canadian Journal of Botany**, are now offer free access on the Internet to **Canadians only**, courtesy of the Depository Services Program of the government of Canada. Journals can be accessed from the following page:

[www.nrc.ca/cgi-bin/cisti/journals/rp/rp2\\_jour\\_e](http://www.nrc.ca/cgi-bin/cisti/journals/rp/rp2_jour_e)

If you are unable to access the journals, from a Canadian address, there is a form to fill out to register your IP address at <http://dsp-psd.pwgsc.gc.ca/NRC-CNR/aide-e.html>.

#### Other free (or some fee) on-line journals:

##### Phytoparasitica

([www.phytoparasitica.org/](http://www.phytoparasitica.org/)), the Israel Journal of Plant Protection Sciences, offers full text access to its archived issues. Abstracts are available to 2000 and 2001 issues.

**Crop Protection**, the official journal of the International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences ([www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/3/0/4/0/6/](http://www.elsevier.nl/inca/publications/store/3/0/4/0/6/)) offers access to the electronic full text of Crop Protection for IAPPS members only. However full text of many volumes was available online at the time in Feb. 2001. Abstracts are available for other volumes.

##### Plant Health Progress

([www.apsnet.org/journals/top.asp](http://www.apsnet.org/journals/top.asp)) is a multidisciplinary electronic-only journal

on the APS website dedicated to plant health maintenance. It centers on plant health information as it affects agriculture, horticulture, industry, and society. The journal includes topical reviews, diagnostic and management information, applied research, plant health reports, product news, and opinions.

**Other APS Journals**, including **Plant Disease**, **Phytopathology** and **Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions**) require subscriptions to access the full text. Abstracts are available online.

The **Journal of Plant Pathology** ([www.agr.unipi.it/sipav/jpp/jppindex.htm](http://www.agr.unipi.it/sipav/jpp/jppindex.htm)) has abstracts online and some selected articles.

**The Florida Entomologist** ([www.fcla.edu/FlaEnt/](http://www.fcla.edu/FlaEnt/)) claims to be "the first long-published, refereed, natural science journal on the Internet and the first life science journal to have all current and back issues on the Web with free access."

**The Journal of Extension** ([www.joe.org](http://www.joe.org)) is the peer-reviewed electronic publication of the Cooperative Extension System. It seeks to expand and update the research and knowledge base for Extension professionals and other adult educators to improve their effectiveness.

## Employment

**Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology**,  
Vegetable Diseases,  
Geneva, New York, USA  
Application deadline 1 June 2001

The Cornell University Department of Plant Pathology, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY invites applications for a tenure track position with a 75% research and 25% extension assignment. The incumbent is expected to develop a nationally recognized research and extension program with a focus on understanding the ecology and biology of host-pathogen interactions for the purpose of developing cost effective, sustainable,

and environmentally sound integrated pest management strategies and practices for vegetable crops. This may include alternative approaches to disease management, and development of disease forecast and decision support systems. New York's diverse and expanding vegetable industry needs strategies and tactics to control disease on crops grown in traditional, transitional, organic, and greenhouse systems. The individual filling this position will be part of a statewide multidisciplinary vegetable team that is committed to developing sound pest management recommendations for diverse vegetable producers. The extension component will involve outreach efforts that lead to widespread implementation of vegetable pest management strategies. Collaboration with faculty and extension field staff, and mentoring of graduate students is expected. The successful candidate is expected to obtain external funding to support the program. A Ph.D. in plant pathology or related discipline, with a broad knowledge of disease biology, epidemiology, and control along with a strong commitment to extension programming, excellent written and oral communication skills are required. Salary will be competitive and commensurate with background and experience. An attractive fringe benefits package is available. The position will be available October 1, 2001 and applications will be reviewed commencing **1 June 2001**. Applicants should submit a letter of application, resume, transcripts, a statement of research and extension interests and the names of three references to:

**Dr. Robert C. Seem**, Department of Plant Pathology, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, NY 14456  
Phone: 315-787-2213  
FAX: 315-787-2276  
Email: [rsc4@cornell.edu](mailto:rsc4@cornell.edu).

Information about the department can be found at [www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pp/](http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/pp/). Cornell University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer.

## Announcements & Coming Events

The deadline for early registration for the **Annual Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society** is April 1. Please see our website at [www.cps-scp.ca/annualmeeting2001.htm](http://www.cps-scp.ca/annualmeeting2001.htm) for further details. Convince your neighbours that this is the year that they should come to CPS. We still have spots available for presentations on Novel Disease Control Strategies. An excellent and exciting program, both social and scientific is waiting for you by the Thames River. See you in June.

George Lazarovits,  
Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada,  
Southern Crop Protection  
and Food Research Ctr.,  
1391 Sandford St,  
London, ON, Canada, N5V 4T3  
Ph: 519-457-1470 Ext. 293  
Fax: 519-457-3997  
Email: [Lazarovitsg@em.agr.ca](mailto:Lazarovitsg@em.agr.ca)

**The 10th Root and Butt Rot meeting, IUFRO**  
(International Union of Forestry  
Research Organizations) **Working Group**  
**7.02.01**, 16-22 September 2001.  
Chateau Frotenac, Quebec City, Canada.  
For more information visit:  
<http://iufro-rbr2001.cfl.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca>  
or G. Laflamme at Email:  
[IUFRO-RBR2001@cfl.forestry.ca](mailto:IUFRO-RBR2001@cfl.forestry.ca)

Dr. Gaston Laflamme  
Tél.: (418) 648-4149  
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[Laflamme@CFL.Forestry.ca](mailto:Laflamme@CFL.Forestry.ca)  
[www.cfl.forestry.ca](http://www.cfl.forestry.ca)

### **ISPP Instructional Technology Online Symposium** ~ May 15-June 30, 2001

An online symposium in Instructional Technology will be held from May 15-June 30, 2001. It has been organized by the Teaching Committee of the International Society for Plant Pathology. It includes "papers" about various instructional technologies with online discussions between the authors and symposium participants. The symposium allows time for instructors to access various demonstrations and then participate in discussions about how best to use them. It also includes weekly discussion sessions on topics related to instructional technology. New papers and discussions will be posted throughout the

symposium. Even after the active presentations are complete, all materials will be archived and available for viewing. This symposium is particularly exciting because it can literally involve instructors in plant pathology (and related disciplines) from around the world.

Dr. Terry Stewart of Massey University is the webmaster for this event and is generously contributing his time and effort. The organizing committee members and moderators are Drs Cleora D'Arcy, Darin Eastburn, David Guest, Thorsten Kraska, and James Partridge and me. You can access the schedule for the symposium at [www.ispp-itsymposium.org.nz/](http://www.ispp-itsymposium.org.nz/) to plan your participation

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The April issue of *ISPP News* is at:  
[www.isppweb.org/nlapr01.htm](http://www.isppweb.org/nlapr01.htm)

### **Scientists Go Online To Discuss Threat Posed by Exotic Forest Pests**

St. Paul, MN (February 20, 2001) In the past, imported diseases and insects have devastated forests and plant life throughout the world and caused millions of dollars of economic damage. This April, scientists, along with business, government and other interested individuals from around the world will gather at their keyboards for "The Risks of Exotic Forest Pests and Their Impact on Trade," a FREE internet presentation and discussion on how to reduce the movement of disease pests across countries.

"Some of the most deadly plant diseases have easily found their way around the world," states Cindy Ash, a plant health scientist with the American Phytopathological Society (APS), one of the sponsors of the online meeting. "Often these diseases are introduced in ways we would never think of; in wood used for packing material for example." States Ash, "Since this is truly a global issue, it requires the coordinated efforts of scientists, regulators and others from around the world. In this way we can begin to develop methods for preventing the possibility of huge losses in forest plants and crops."

Beginning April 16, 2001, a panel of experts will

## Genetically Modified Foods

Past president Zamir Punja mentions the issue of genetically modified foods in CPS-SCP Newsletter 44: No 1, March 2000. He stated that he was propelled into the debate after reading a press article in which Dr. David Suzuki had made statements about irresponsibility of scientists supporting the use of genetically modified foods. Punja's written response in defence of what plant pathologists and other scientists were doing in recombinant DNA research to improve the resistance of plants to diseases and pests catapulted him into media stardom. Dr. Punja had suggested that news media coverage devoted to the issue made it more controversial than scientific evidence and logical thought would warrant.

Some thoughts on this matter follow: it must be realized that transgenic manipulation of plant crops used for foods and feeds has some very far-reaching effects in global economies and world trade. It has the potential to touch the lives of millions, perhaps billions of people. Fear of their livelihoods is at stake.

The technology alters a plant's genome by inserting genes from unrelated species, genera, etc., and even from members of the animal kingdom. This is substantially different from the traditional methods of genetical crossings (plant breeding) to obtain resistance to diseases and insects, and to make crops better adapted to their environment. In Canada and elsewhere, these latter methods have been effectively used for more than seventy years to stabilize and/or increase the yields of many crops. Transgenic engineering is quite different.

My first remark would be that the jury is still out on the question of transgenically modified crops. If quantum mechanics is a reality, then it follows that no gene is an 'island'! The possibility of side effects exists. Nature is usually tardy in releasing her secrets. Big jumps in technology often have costs that are incalculable.

The urgent question is - has the new transgenic technology been adequately exposed to the Darwinian process of selection? Adequate clinical testing is one of the most troublesome precautions plant breeders face.

Some things that commercial companies are doing may prove to be long term boons. The question arises - are the companies waiting sufficiently long to establish good scientific assurances of safety?

During the last fifty years of pesticide evaluations several scientists who had their gaze riveted on specific attributes were later embarrassed by their failure to detect undesirable side effects. Consequently, approved chemicals had to be withdrawn later.

The fate of the nuclear energy program gives reason for caution. It seems that as far as the United States and Canada are concerned, the tragedy of nuclear fission energy is at an end. Dr. Freeman Dyson in 'Imagined Worlds' said, "The building of better nuclear power plants has been stopped by deep and justified public distrust."

The reason that several European countries are opposed to the importation of genetically modified seeds from North America can be summed up in three words: mad cow disease. In Great Britain, it remains the greatest food scare in recent memory. Those who lived through it were left with an abiding distrust of man-made alterations to food, and the government's inability to guarantee food safety. The public distrusts the experts because they gave the claim to be infallible. The public knows that human beings are fallible. As so frequently happens, scientists have found themselves on the horns of a dilemma. 'To do or not to do: is the question'.

Public reactions may not always be rational, but they are the reality.

Colin D. McKeen

## Diseases of Field Crops in Canada Revision

A revision of *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada* (DFCC) is underway. Our objective is to update and improve content while retaining its practical perspective at a reasonable price. We are adding some new chapters and significantly revising others. It is a very tight schedule as we want to have the book ready to print in January 2002. Chapter editors are already busy working on text changes to meet a June 30 deadline.

To make this project really successful, we need the help of all CPS members. Do you have better images that could replace some of those already in the book? Do you have images of new diseases and crops? Are you willing to go out with your camera and get new images for us?

If you can answer "yes" to any of these questions, please contact **Richard Gugel** (Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon Research Centre, 107 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK, S7N 0X2; Email: [gugelr@em.agr.ca](mailto:gugelr@em.agr.ca)), who is the Photograph Editor for the revised edition, or any of the Chapter Editors listed below. For any photographic images, CPS will be requesting that the owner assign copyright, but the contributor will retain the right to use the images in their own work, for their own teaching, and in their own publications with acknowledgement of CPS copyright. Your contribution will be credited in the book alongside each image that we use. **Please note that the deadline for photograph submissions is July 31, 2001.**

### Chapters in DFCC and the Chapter Editors:

Plant Diseases and the Economy - updated, Karen Bailey ([baileyk@em.agr.ca](mailto:baileyk@em.agr.ca))

Causes of Plant Diseases - updated, Zamir Punja ([punja@sfu.ca](mailto:punja@sfu.ca))

Disease Control by Crop Management - **major revisions**, Kelly Turkington ([turkingtonk@em.agr.ca](mailto:turkingtonk@em.agr.ca))

Seed: Abnormalities and Storage Problems

- **new chapter**, Randy Clear ([rclear@cgc.ca](mailto:rclear@cgc.ca))

Diseases of Corn - updated, Art Schaafsma and Albert Tenuta ([aschaafs@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca](mailto:aschaafs@ridgetownc.uoguelph.ca) and [albert.tenuta@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:albert.tenuta@omafra.gov.on.ca))

Diseases of Barley - updated, Andy Tekauz ([atekauz@em.agr.ca](mailto:atekauz@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Oats - updated, James Chong ([jchong@em.agr.ca](mailto:jchong@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Wheat - updated, Jeannie Gilbert and Jim Menzies ([jgilbert@em.agr.ca](mailto:jgilbert@em.agr.ca) and [jmenzies@em.agr.ca](mailto:jmenzies@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Rye and Triticale - updated, Ron Knox ([knoxr@em.agr.ca](mailto:knoxr@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Grasses - updated, Tom Hsiang ([thsiang@uoguelph.ca](mailto:thsiang@uoguelph.ca))

Overwintering Diseases of Cereals and Grasses - updated, Denis Gaudet ([gaudetd@em.agr.ca](mailto:gaudetd@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Canola, Rapeseed, and Mustard - updated, Roger Rimmer and Randy Kutcher ([rimmerr@em.agr.ca](mailto:rimmerr@em.agr.ca) and [kutcherr@em.agr.ca](mailto:kutcherr@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Flax - updated, Khalid Rashid ([krashid@em.agr.ca](mailto:krashid@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Sunflower - updated, Khalid Rashid ([krashid@em.agr.ca](mailto:krashid@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Field Bean - updated, Bob Hall ([rhall@evbhort.uoguelph.ca](mailto:rhall@evbhort.uoguelph.ca))

Diseases of Soybean - **major revisions**, Terry Anderson and Albert Tenuta ([andersont@em.agr.ca](mailto:andersont@em.agr.ca) and [albert.tenuta@omafra.gov.on.ca](mailto:albert.tenuta@omafra.gov.on.ca))

Diseases of Field Pea - updated, Allen Xue ([axue@em.agr.ca](mailto:axue@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Chickpea - **new chapter**, Godfrey Chongo and Bruce Gossen ([chongog@em.agr.ca](mailto:chongog@em.agr.ca) and [gossenb@em.agr.ca](mailto:gossenb@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Lentil - updated, Robin Morrall ([morrall@abyss.usask.ca](mailto:morrall@abyss.usask.ca))

Diseases of Alfalfa - updated, Bruce Gossen ([gossenb@em.agr.ca](mailto:gossenb@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Clover and Birdsfoot Trefoil - updated, Luc Couture and Bruce Coulman ([couturel@em.agr.ca](mailto:couturel@em.agr.ca) and [coulmanb@em.agr.ca](mailto:coulmanb@em.agr.ca))

Diseases of Other Crops: Buckwheat, Canary Seed, Caraway, Coriander, Safflower, Borage, and Faba Bean - **new chapter**, David Kaminski (cps-news@home.com)

Revisions Group: Karen Bailey, Bruce Gossen, Robin Morrall, Richard Gugel

### A Specific Request

I am editing a new chapter in the revised edition of the *Diseases of Field Crops in Canada*. For this, I am looking for photo's of seed discolourations or abnormalities (or samples of the seed) in cereals, oilseeds, and pulses. I am in special need of photos of seed from eastern Canada as well as seed from eastern and western Canada that have been visibly affected by viruses and bacteria. You can contact me at 204 983-7797, or email me at **rclear@cgic.ca**. All contributors will be gratefully acknowledged.

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### People & Travel

Dr. **Lu Piening** and his wife Joan have recently returned from 10 weeks in the jungles of northern Bolivia where Lu conducted a feasibility study into developing technologies to prevent aflatoxin production in harvested Brazil nuts. Brazil nuts are very important, being the only export commodity from northern Bolivia. The toxin develops as a result of the nuts becoming infected with two *Aspergillus* spp. The Brazil nut is about the only commodity of commerce that is gathered totally from indigenous trees in the Amazon rain forests of Brazil, Bolivia and Peru. The fallen nuts (in pods) are gathered from December to March which coincides with

the rainy season. The high humidity, accompanied by the high temperatures, stimulates the development of aflatoxins by *Aspergillus* spp. *Aspergillus* infection can be reduced by collecting the nuts more often, treating the nuts with a non-toxic (to man) antifungal product, improving storage to provide better drying and improving the sanitary conditions of equipment used in the harvest.

Lu also spent two weeks earlier in the year in Gansu province in China where he advised on disease problems of winter wheat. He located some evidence of winter kill, but the major problem was stripe rust. Winter wheat is grown throughout the year in Gansu, at the higher elevations (on terraces) in mid- to late summer and at the lower elevations (valleys) during the winter. As a result the spores of this rust cycle from higher to lower elevations within the region throughout the year. It was suggested that resistant varieties be considered and possibly non-susceptible alternate crops for the higher elevations.

Dr. **Michele Heath**, University of Toronto, was invited to give the Garrett Memorial Lecture at the British Society for Plant Pathology meeting on Plant Pathogen Interactions at the end of December 2000. She celebrated the true (?) end of the millennium by presenting a talk entitled "Millennial Milestones: Concepts, Molecules and Genes."

About 60 mycologists and plant pathologists from Canada and the US attended the Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Winter Workshop in Mycology on February 10-11. This annual event was hosted this year by Dave Malloch at the University of Toronto and, in addition to research presentations, included a wine tasting and an after-dinner presentation by Michele Heath on "The Wonder of Biotrophy."