

SORA-CPS



Southwestern Ontario Regional Association
Canadian Phytopathological Society

Southwestern Ontario Regional Group of the CPS (SORA-CPS): Annual Meeting Report 2013

On November 2, 2013, SORA-CPS held its annual meeting from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm at the Southern Crop Protection and Food Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, London, Ontario. The meeting was attended by over 30 attendees including students, plant pathologists, researchers, extension specialists and industry representatives. The program for the meeting included three invited talks and 10 poster presentations on a wide range of phytopathological topics.

Dr. Ken Conn, Regional Representative of SORA-CPS and CPS Treasurer presented opening remarks and welcomed the participants to SORA-CPS annual meeting. Dr. Deena Errampalli (CPS President-Elect) brought greetings from the CPS Board. She read Dr. Janice Elmhirst, CPS President's, message which provided an update on national topics including initiatives to encourage student participation, scholarships and travel awards, etc. All were invited to attend the next APS/CPS annual meeting to be held in Minneapolis, MN in August of 2014.

There were three invited talks. Ms. Janice LeBoeuf, Vegetable Cops Specialist with Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and Ministry of Rural Affairs (OMAF and MRA), Ridgeway, Ontario, presented a talk on "Current challenges in field vegetable pathology in Ontario". The second talk titled, "DIR1 moves to distant leaves during Systemic Acquired Resistance (SAR); what does it do once it gets there?" was presented by Dr. Robin Cameron, Professor, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario. Dr. Wendy McFadden-Smith, Tree fruits and Grapes IPM specialist, OMAF and MRA, Vineland, Ontario, presented the third talk on "Sour rot disease of grapevine; the perfect pathology for pedagogy."

Drs. Robin Cameron and Deena Errampalli participated as judges for the student poster presentation competition. Dr. Ken Conn presented three prizes to Student poster competition winners. The first prize for the best student poster presentation was awarded to **Sirjana Shrestha**, Western University, London, Ontario and SCPFRC, AAFC, London, Ontario, for her poster on "Inheritance of virulence in the root rot pathogen *Phytophthora sojae*". The second prize winner was **Tanvir Bashir**, SCPFRC, AAFC, London, Ontario and Western University, London, Ontario for his poster, "A preliminary study on soybean mosaic virus transmission via soybean seeds" and the third prize went to **Ping Deng**, SCPFRC, AAFC, London, Ontario and Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University, Fujian, China for her poster on "The potyviral CI protein plays an essential role in Viral replication, cell-to-cell movement and systemic infection".

Dr. Ken Conn conducted the business meeting following the formal talks and poster presentations. Regional funds are in good shape. Impact of travel restrictions was evident resulting in low participation by government research and extension personnel. This is a cause for concern. The regional meeting for 2014 is planned to be held in November. Thanks to the judges of the student poster competition, and to the local arrangements committee putting together a one day program and for providing delicious lunch (Drs. Ken Conn, Deena Errampalli and Aiming Wang, and Nadia Morales and Aaron Simkovich).

Respectfully submitted by:

Deena Errampalli, (Chair, SORA-CPS Local Arrangements Committee and CPS President-Elect)
Ken Conn, Regional Representative of SORA-CPS