

CPS • SCP News



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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President's Message/Mot du Président

The days are getting shorter, but the pace of work seems to increase as I try to clear my desk before Christmas and the year end. A month-long absence in September and October left me wondering what would or would not get done in the garden before the snow came, but the long open



Jeannie Gilbert
CPS-SCP President/Président

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fall gave time to harvest, spread the compost, and till the vegetable patch. The leaves were raked and the waterfall put to rest for the winter. Unfortunately, my sojourn away meant that I had to pass on the invitations to the regional meetings in the Maritimes, Alberta and Saskatchewan (thanks to Randy Kutcher for conveying greetings at the latter meeting). The unusual weather we experienced in much of western Canada will have produced some interesting disease reports at these meetings. I read that the prolonged, above-normal rainfall in Saskatchewan promoted high disease levels in most crops. Flooding through many regions in the west increased summer fallow to levels not seen since 1999. There were 60% and 135% increases over 2009 in unseeded acres this year in Manitoba and

Saskatchewan, respectively. Seeding was delayed in Manitoba and the continued rains promoted fusarium head blight in the late-seeded cereals leading to high variation in yields and quality in eastern Manitoba. Harvest started slowly in Saskatchewan, and while Ontario and Alberta had good fall weather for harvest, the late seeding in Alberta meant that crop development was delayed by as much as 20-30 days in the south and 7-10 days in northern areas. It seems that years which are considered 'normal' for environmental conditions, no longer occur. In terms of the one regional meeting I will be able to attend, the Manitoba meeting is up-coming. I always juggle between the regional CPS meeting and the National Fusarium Head Blight Forum in the US. This year it's the regional CPS meeting which

takes place
December

9. In addition to hearing about the disease situation in all crops in the province, in recent years the

meeting has provided a forum for graduate students to present their research alongside more seasoned researchers. I look forward to hearing their next round of research results.

CPS Annual Meeting in 2011:

Mark your calendars for the next annual meeting – Halifax 17-21 July, 2011. This will be a joint meeting of six Canadian plant science societies held under the umbrella of Plant Canada, and promises to be a memorable occasion with symposia and sessions organized by all six societies around the common theme of Plant Adaptation to Environmental Change. The CPS already has two excellent speakers

lined up for the first symposium thanks to Gordon Braun and Paul Hildebrand. Be aware that there are several travel awards available to assist graduate students to attend, and this meeting promises to be especially stimulating given the participation of so many societies. A new travel award is offered by Taylor and Francis, the publisher for the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology. The locations for future meetings have been set as follows: London 2012, Calgary 2013, and a joint meeting with APS in Minneapolis 2014.

CPS Business:

Some business items that the executive is working on include a revision to the bylaws to remove out-dated details, and

on-line payment for membership. We are establishing an ad hoc Science Policy Committee to prepare a statement to

Environment Canada concerning their recent plan to enforce a regulation concerning the 'manufacture' of pathogenic organisms. As it stands the regulation will seriously impede much of the pathology screening that is required for research and crop improvement.

Membership Renewals Due:

As the New Year has arrived, remember to renew your membership...give Khalid a present, renew before he has to send out more reminders. Our CPS News editor is Coreen Franke. Kelly has guided her through the first couple of newsletters, but Coreen fully takes over the reins in 2011, and all future reminders for

information and articles will come from her. Thank you once again, Kelly for all the hours you have invested in bringing us the newsletter for the last 7-8 years.

Holiday wishes:

Winter has arrived here with snow storms and wintry blasts, but the thought of Christmas always warms my heart. I hope the holiday season brought joy to you and your families, and that we will all enjoy peace and prosperity in the coming year.

Message du président

Les jours raccourcissent, mais, au travail, le rythme semble s'accélérer alors que j'essaie de désencombrer mon bureau avant Noël et la fin de l'année. Une absence d'un mois en septembre et octobre m'a incité à me demander ce qui sera fait, ou pas, dans le jardin avant les premières chutes de neige. Mais l'automne qui s'est prolongé a permis de voir à la récolte, d'épandre le compost et de passer le motoculteur dans le potager. Les feuilles ont été râtelées et l'écoulement de la cascade, interrompu pour l'hiver. Malheureusement, mon séjour m'a fait rater les réunions régionales dans les Maritimes, en Alberta et en Saskatchewan (merci à Randy Kutcher d'avoir transmis mes salutations à l'occasion de la dernière réunion). Le temps inhabituel qu'a connu la majeure partie de l'Ouest canadien a sûrement contribué à la présentation de rapports de maladie intéressants lors de ces réunions. J'ai lu que les périodes prolongées de pluie et que les précipitations supérieures à la moyenne ont été responsables de hauts taux de maladies dans la majorité des cultures. Des inondations dans plusieurs régions de l'Ouest ont contribué à accroître les superficies laissées en jachère d'été à des niveaux que l'on n'avait pas vus depuis 1999. Il y a eu cette année des

augmentations de 60 % et de 135 %, par rapport à 2009, des surfaces non ensemencées au Manitoba et en Saskatchewan, respectivement. Au Manitoba, les semis ont été retardés et les pluies incessantes ont provoqué la fusariose dans les céréales semées tardivement, ce qui a provoqué de fortes variations quant aux rendements et à la qualité des grains dans l'est du Manitoba. Les récoltes ont débuté lentement en Saskatchewan et, bien que l'Alberta et l'Ontario aient eu du temps favorable aux récoltes, les semis tardifs en Alberta ont fait que le développement des cultures a été retardé de 20 à 30 jours dans le sud et de 7 à 10 jours dans le nord. Il semble qu'il n'y a plus rien de « normal » lorsqu'il est question de conditions environnementales. Quant à ma présence aux réunions régionales, je pourrai assister à la réunion qui se tiendra bientôt au Manitoba. Je suis toujours partagé entre assister à la réunion régionale de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie (SCP) ou au *National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* aux États-Unis. Cette année, j'ai accordé la préséance à la réunion régionale de la SCP qui s'est tenue le 9 décembre. En plus de transmettre un état de la situation quant aux maladies qui touchent toutes les cultures dans la province, au cours des dernières années, la réunion a servi de forum aux étudiants de deuxième et troisième cycle pour leur permettre de présenter leurs recherches aux côtés de chercheurs plus aguerris. J'ai hâte de connaître la prochaine partie des résultats de recherche.

Réunion annuelle de la SCP en 2011

Inscrivez la date de la prochaine réunion annuelle sur votre calendrier! Elle se tiendra à Halifax du 17 au 21 juillet 2011. Chapeautée par Plant Canada, la réunion en sera une de six sociétés canadiennes de phyto-logie et promet d'être mémorable en raison des colloques et des ateliers organisés par les six sociétés sur le thème

commun de l'Adaptation des plantes aux changements environnementaux. La SCP a retenu, pour le premier colloque, les services de deux excellents conférenciers : Gordon Braun et Paul Hildebrand. Veuillez noter qu'un certain nombre de bourses de voyage seront offertes aux étudiants qui désireront y assister, et cette réunion promet d'être des plus

stimulantes étant donné la participation de toutes ces sociétés. Une nouvelle bourse de voyage est offerte par Taylor &

Francis, l'éditeur de la *Revue canadienne de phytopathologie*. Les prochaines réunions auront lieu à London en 2012 et à Calgary en 2013. Il y aura une réunion conjointe avec la Société américaine de phytopathologie, qui se tiendra à Minneapolis en 2014.

Affaires de la SCP

Quelques-unes des affaires auxquelles travaille le conseil de direction incluent une révision des lois concernant la suppression des détails obsolètes ainsi que le paiement en ligne de la cotisation des membres. Nous sommes en voie de former un comité d'études sur les politiques scientifiques, qui préparera une déclaration qu'il présentera à Environnement Canada quant à son récent plan visant à mettre en application un règlement concernant la « fabrication » d'organismes pathogènes. Dans l'état actuel des choses, il entravera fortement le dépistage pathologique essentiel à la recherche et à l'amélioration des cultures.

Renouvellement des cotisations

À l'approche de la nouvelle année, n'oubliez pas de renouveler votre adhésion. Offrez un cadeau à Khalid : renouvelez votre adhésion avant qu'il ait à vous envoyer un rappel. Notre rédactrice des nouvelles est Coreen Franke. Kelly l'a accompagnée au cours de ses premiers

bulletins, mais, à partir de 2011, Coreen volera de ses propres ailes et c'est d'elle qu'émaneront les rappels concernant l'information

et les articles. Merci encore Kelly pour les sept ou huit années que tu as investies dans la transmission du bulletin de la SCP.

Vœux de la saison

L'hiver est de nouveau arrivé avec son cortège de tempêtes et de rafales, mais, à la pensée de Noël, mon cœur se réchauffe chaque fois. J'espère que la saison des fêtes vous apportera, à vous ainsi qu'à votre famille, beaucoup de joie et je vous souhaite à tous que la nouvelle année soit synonyme de paix et de prospérité.

Committee and Other Reports

A new CPS Education Award in 2011

CPS has approved a new CPS Education Award starting in 2011 to recognize the contributions by individuals or groups for the development of teaching resources that can be used in public schools or universities to encourage the study of plant pathology and related topic areas. Suitable resources could include, but are not limited to, videos, websites, software, experimental designs, new texts, posters depicting either educational material or specific scientific projects, or articles of educational interest. Where possible, all resources should be designed to be made available through the CPS website or are publically available. All members of the public and CPS are eligible, including school students. The award consists of \$100, an engraved plaque, and an article in the CPS News.

More information on the nomination process will follow in the March CPS Newsletter, but CPS Members are encouraged to begin thinking of suitable nominations for this new award.

For further information, please contact Dr. Greg J. Boland, Chair - CPS Education Committee

CPS membership renewal for 2011

Thanks for the many CPS members who renewed their 2011 membership by now. For the majority of the members who have not renewed their membership for 2011 yet, please send your renewal ASAP to avoid interruption of services and receiving the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology on time. By renewing your membership, you will be entitled to attend the Annual General meeting in conjunction with Plant Canada in Halifax,

Nova Scotia on July 17-21, 2011 at a reduced rate equivalent to your membership dues, plus the bonus of getting the CJPP. So please go to the CPS website <http://www.cps-scp.ca> and fill in the **membership renewal form** and send it to *Khalid.Rashid@agr.gc.ca* or fax to Khalid Rashid at 204-822-7243.

Respectfully submitted
Khalid Rashid, Membership Secretary

Regional Meetings and Awards

CPS Saskatchewan Regional Meeting Report

The CPS-Saskatchewan Regional Group held its annual meeting on December 9, 2010 at the AAFC-Saskatoon Research Centre. The meeting was attended by approximately 56 people. There were nine oral and five poster presentations. Mr. Chao Yang, a Ph.D. student studying with Dr. Vladimir Vujanovic (Dept. of Food and Bioproduct Sciences, University of Saskatchewan) and Dr. Chantal Hamel (AAFC Swift Current), received the award for best oral presentation. The title of Mr. Yang's presentation was "**Non-target effects of fungicide on rhizosphere N_2 -fixing bacterial community and nodulation in chickpea field**". The best poster award was given to Ms. Iman Khallaf, a Ph.D. student with Dr. Soledade Pedras in the Department of Chemistry at the U of S. Ms. Khallaf presented her work on the "**Interaction of the fungal phytotoxin destruxin B with crucifer and non-crucifer plants**". Lively discussions and good company were in abundance at the supper social event which followed the meeting.

Many of those who attended the CPS-SK annual meeting also attended the Saskatchewan Plant Disease Committee (SPDC) meeting on December 10, 2010.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Randy Kutcher from AAFC-Melfort with Ms. Faye Dokken-Bouchard, the provincial plant disease specialist from the Saskatchewan Ministry of Agriculture, as secretary. Discussions at the SPDC meeting focused on challenges encountered during the 2010 field season due to excessive rain throughout the province. Poor seed quality was a common theme, and the challenges of moving into the 2011 season with this seed were also discussed.

Ongoing issues regarding short canola rotations were of intense interest, especially with regard to the threat of diseases such as clubroot, *Sclerotinia*, and blackleg. We are certainly hoping for better weather in 2011 to help mediate the effects of high inoculum levels in the field.

Submitted by
Cheryl Armstrong-Cho, CPS-SK Regional Representative

Southern Ontario Regional Association of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (SORA-CPS) meeting

Tafi Mugadza and Mark Cooper Gienow won second place award in the student poster competition of the Southern Ontario Regional Association of the Canadian Phytopathological Society

(SORA-CPS) meeting held at the SCPPRC, London, ON, on November 6, 2010. Tafi and Mark are co-op students in Dr. Deena Errampalli's laboratory at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Vineland, Ontario.



From left: Tafi Mugadza, Mark Gienow, Ken Conn (Chair, SORA-CPS), and Deena Errampalli

CPS Manitoba Regional meeting

Chami Amarasinghe, Master's student in Plant Science, University of Manitoba won First Place in the Graduate Student competition at the Canadian Phytopathological Society Regional Meetings held December 9, 2010 in Winnipeg. Chami's oral presentation was titled **"Difference in TRI13 gene sequences between the 3-acetyldeoxynivalenol producing *Fusarium graminearum* chemotypes from Canada and China"**. Chami is supervised by Dilantha Fernando. Chami was presented with the new CPS History Book Plant Pathology in Canada 1970 – 2008.

Scholarship News

Ms. Chami Amarasinghe, of the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, has received the prestigious Canadian Wheat Board Scholarship to do a Ph.D. on *Fusarium* head blight disease in wheat under the supervision of Dr. Dilantha Fernando commencing January, 2011. Chami completed her Master's degree in December, 2010. Chami received her B.Sc. (Honors) degree from the University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka in 2007. Chami will work on the *Fusarium* genetics and the trichothecene toxin pathway for her Ph.D.

People and Travel

Dilantha Fernando

Dilantha Fernando, Professor, Dept. of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, chaired the first session of the agricultural biotechnology track titled "The role of Ag-biotech innovation for national and international sustainable growth" at the World Congress of

Industrial Biotechnology 2010 held in Dalian, China. Dilantha gave the keynote talk in the same session titled "Pyrosequencing and Terminal-Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (T-RFLP) are useful tools in Ag-Biotech innovation to give novel information on bacterial communities that influence plant health for sustainable growth under different cropping systems". Ru Li, Ph.D. student, along with Eshan Khafipour, Dennis Krause, Martin Entz and Teresa de Kievit are co-authors.

Canadian Grain Commission welcomes Tom Gräfenhan

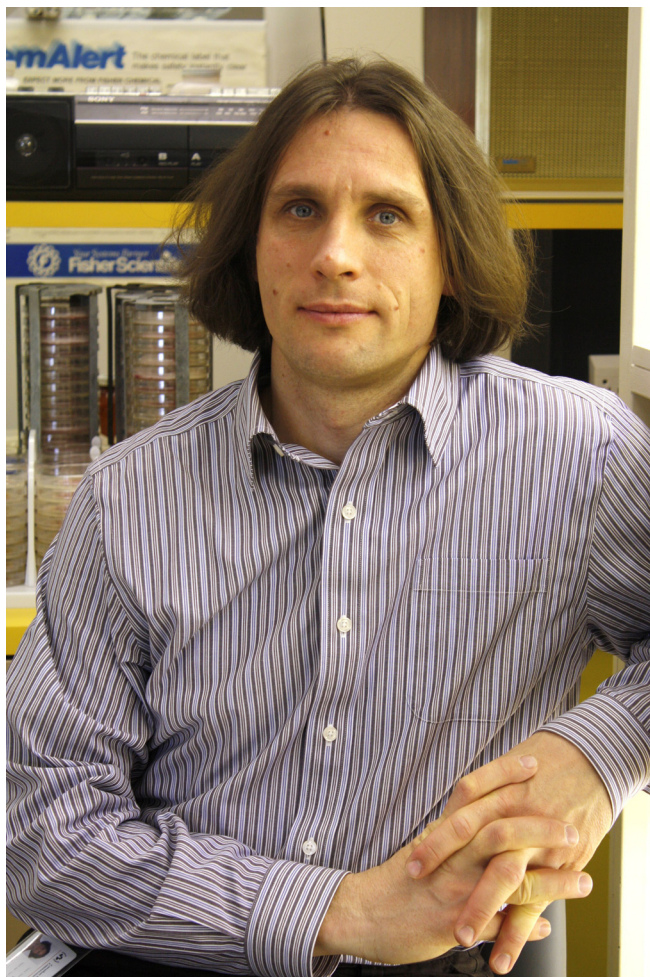
The Canadian Grain Commission is pleased to welcome Tom Gräfenhan, PhD, as Program Manager of Microbiology in our Grain Research Laboratory.

At the Canadian Grain Commission, Dr. Gräfenhan plans to continue monitoring *Fusarium* head blight through the annual Harvest Survey program. As well, he plans to explore new molecular methods for detecting plant pathogens and mycotoxin-producing fungi. He will also continue working on fungal population studies.

Dr. Gräfenhan comes to us from National Research Council of Canada where he was a research officer at the Institute for Research in Construction specializing in indoor moulds. His work focused on identifying and quantifying indoor mould species and studying boundary conditions for fungal growth in incubation chambers.

Dr. Gräfenhan holds a doctorate in Plant Pathology from Humboldt-University in Berlin, Germany. He came to Canada in 2006 as a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) visiting fellow to do post-doctoral research with Dr. Keith A. Seifert at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Ottawa. Here he helped develop quantitative polymerase

chain reaction (PCR) assays to detect fusarium species. He also worked on the taxonomy and phylogeny of *Fusarium* species.



Dr. Tom Gräfenhan, Program Manager of Microbiology, CGC Grain Research Lab

Employment

Title: M.Sc. and Ph.D. positions

Location: School of Environmental Sciences, University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1

Description: Applications are now being accepted for two positions at a M.Sc. and a Ph.D. level. My laboratory specializes in examining factors affecting induced resistance, both to gain basic information about the molecular biology of plant disease resistance mechanisms and to help make defense activators a more practical alternative to conventional pesticides. The objective of the first project is to examine genetic variation in the response of tomato plants to defense activators and compare that variation to differences in defense gene expression using RT-PCR. The objective of the second project is to use a powerful new technology, known as Next Generation mRNA sequencing, to quantify gene expression to compare defense responses against different pathogens with and without the application of defense activators. Students will gain various skills in plant pathology, molecular biology and bioinformatics from these projects.

Eligibility: Candidates must have completed their B.Sc. or M.Sc. in a related field prior to commencement of the award.

Application Deadline: Is open until a suitable candidate is found. The starting date will be negotiated with the candidate.

The following application materials are required and may be submitted by electronic mail, by fax, or by postal mail to meet the deadline:

- A letter of application from the candidate, including a statement of research interests for the period of the fellowship (maximum 2 pages) and an

indication of when he/she expects to be available to take up the award if successful;

- The candidate's curriculum vitae including a current e-mail address;
- Names and current e-mail addresses of two individuals who have agreed to provide letters of reference;
- University-level transcripts. These may be official transcripts sent directly by the university or universities, or unofficial transcripts sent by the candidate.

THERE IS NO APPLICATION FORM

Applications will be considered based on the academic merit and research potential of the candidates. Travel expenses, insurance, immigration fees, etc., will be the responsibility of the fellowship holder. There is no citizenship restriction. Following initial consideration based on the documents listed above, the selected candidate will be invited to submit a formal application for admission to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. program in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph.

All application materials and enquiries should be directed to:

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Announcements

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER ON PLANT PATHOLOGY

News and announcements from all on any aspect of Plant Pathology are invited for the Newsletter. Contributions from the ISPP Executive, Council and Subject Matter Committees, Associated Societies

and Supporting Organizations are requested.

Editor: Brian J Deverall e-mail: isspp.nl.editor@isspweb.org

Members of Associated Societies of ISPP can receive e-mail notification of Newsletter updates by joining the ISPP mail list.

<http://www.isspweb.org/newsletter.asp>

ISPP NEWSLETTER 40 (10) November 2010

In this issue:

- Science Citation Index Expanded and the ISPP Journal Food Security
- Soil-borne Plant Diseases in Vietnam
- Grains Supplies and Global Food Security an International Forum in Australia
- Climate Change and Indian Plant Pathology
- Centre of Excellence in Plant Health Launched in Nairobi
- Mycosphaerella and Stagonospora Diseases of Cereals
- News about ISPP Forest Pathology
- Links to Important Diseases and Pathogens
- Multitrophic Interactions in Soil
- Crop Protection in Northern Britain (CPNB) – Call for Papers
- Graduate School of Journalism at the University of California
- National Food Plan Needed in Australia
- International Conference on Plant Proteases
- Coming Events



International Society for Plant Pathology

ISPP NEWSLETTER 40 (11) December 2010

In this issue:

- Letter from the ISPP President
- Dr B E J Wheeler
- Actinidia Root Rot in Southern China
- Molecular Plant Pathology
- Report on Biological Control of Postharvest Diseases: Challenges and Opportunities
- Australasian Pathogen of the Month
- Management of Plant Pathogen Collections
- World Directory of Plant Pathologists
- Arab Society for Plant Protection
- Chickpea and Lentil Diseases and Pests
- Delivering Plant Health Care in Uganda
- Update about Postharvest Pathology Congress
- Thesis Database
- Coming events

ISPP NEWSLETTER 41 (1) January 2011

In this issue:

- Floods in Queensland
- ISPP Executive and Secretariat Meeting
- An International Legume Congress in France
- Global Conference on Plant Pathology for Food Security in India
- Chinese Language Publications on Vegetable Pests and Diseases
- International Mycological Association and its New Periodical
- JSTOR Plant Science an On-line Archive about Plants
- Gold Medal Award in Bangladesh
- Springer to publish journals of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society
- Pests and Diseases of Cultivated Palms
- Turfgrass Fungicides

In Memoriam

Roland Rohringer

Retired Cereal Research Centre (CRC) Scientist, Roland Rohringer, aged 81, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, December 7, 2010. Roland was one of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's top scientists and an international authority on host/pathogen interactions, specifically between wheat and the rust fungi. He was Head of the Plant Pathology Section for many years, and an Acting Centre Director on several occasions. Roland led



the Physiological Plant Pathology group at the Winnipeg Research Station/Winnipeg Research Centre, which did seminal work on understanding the molecular and structural components of host/fungal interactions and which was the progenitor of the current Molecular Genetics Group at the CRC. He was bestowed the Fellow of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) award in 1988.

When Roland retired in 1991, he and his wife Betty-Carol moved back to Germany where he was born. There, he continued for many years to do research at the Plant

Pathology Department of the University of Goettingen, on a full or part-time basis, and mentored several graduate students. He and his wife were delighted and most welcoming when former colleagues and friends from Canada passed through Germany on visits. He was invited and attended the 75th anniversary meeting of the CPS in Ottawa in 2004. Following health problems in the past few years, Roland returned to Winnipeg in August 2010 to be closer to his family (son, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren).

A piece that Roland prepared for the 75th anniversary special issue of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology (see: Rohringer, R. 2006. Reminiscence. Can. J. Plant Pathol. (Suppl.) 28: S379-S380) provides a delightful personal account of the early years of his research career in North America.

Submission Deadline for the March 2011 issue of CPS - SCP News

PLEASE NOTE: The submission deadline for the **March 2011 issue** of CPS - SCP News is **February 18, 2011**. **If you send photographs for publication in the CPS-SCP News, please ensure that you indicate that all individuals appearing in the photographs have given permission for their photographs to appear in the newsletter. Photographs will not be published if permission has not been obtained from the individuals involved.**

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