

Fifth joint meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta and the Saskatchewan Regional Group of CPS

The 39th Annual Meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta (PPSA) was held together with the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Regional Group of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) from October 15-17, 2018, at the Days Inn and Suites, Lloydminster, Alberta. This was the fifth such joint meeting, held at roughly 5-year intervals. These joint meetings provide an opportunity to meet and exchange information with colleagues across the provincial border, especially for technical staff who are not often able to attend national or international meetings, and provide graduate students with an opportunity to present their work at a large meeting in a year when the CPS meeting is too far away for most students to be able to attend.

To that end, there is a strong emphasis on presentations by students and technical staff. In 2018, there were separate Student and Technician presentation competitions. All of the presentation award recipients received a copy of the book *History of Plant Pathology in Canada*. First place award winners also received a cheque for \$150 and second place winners received a cheque for \$50. The judges for both competitions were Barb Ziesman, Yu Chen and Dilantha Fernando.

In the Student Competition, all three winners were M.Sc. students at the University of Alberta working with Drs. S. E. Strelkov and S. F. Hwang: *First place* went to **Nicole Fox**, *Second place* to **Keisha Hollman**, and *Third place* to **Yixiao Wang**. In the Technician Competition, *First place* went to **Daniel McDougall** (University of Regina, supervisor Dr. J. Stavrinides), *Second place* to **Linda McGregor** (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saskatoon, supervisor Dr. G. Peng), and *Third place* to **Blake Hill** (Alberta Agriculture and Forestry Brooks, supervisor Dr. M. Harding). Congratulations to all of the winners!

In addition to the Student and Technician presentations, **Dr. Tim Murray** from the Washington State University provided an invited seminar entitled 'Climate change and its impact on diseases of winter wheat', **Dr. Yantai Gan** from AAFC at Swift Current made an invited presentation entitled 'Adapting agronomic practices to changing climates through system integration', **Dr. Gary Peng** from AAFC at Saskatoon gave an invited presentation on 'Managing blackleg of canola in western Canada - An integrated approach' and the CPS President, **Dr. Dilantha Fernando** from the University of Manitoba, provided greetings from CPS and outlined some of the recent initiatives and issues arising in the society.

There were 67 attendees at the meeting, which consisted of an opening reception, two days of meetings with 23 presentations and 17 posters, a business meeting for PPSA and a formal banquet.

The LAC for the joint meeting consisted of Bruce Gossen – Chair, Michelle Hubbard – Scientific Program, Yu Chen – sponsors, Merek Wigness – registration, Gary Peng – Finance, plus Noryne Rauhala (PPSA Treasurer) who handled the banking and invoices. Thanks to everyone who participated and special thanks to our sponsors for their generous support!

Drs. Sheau-Fang Hwang and Kan-Fa Chang were nominated and accepted as honorary life members of the PPSA in recognition of their long service to and involvement in the PPSA. Also, the Swanson Award for 2018 from the PPSA went to Ms. Yifan Yan at the University of British Columbia. Ms. Yan's project examines the impact of climate change on grape production and her supervisor is Dr. S. Castellarin.



Ms. Yifan Yan receiving the 2018 Swanson Award
from Dr. R. Yada, Dean of the Faculty of Land and Food Systems at UBC

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Gossen (Chair, LAC)