

# CPS • SCP News



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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## President's Message



Sheau-Fang Hwang  
CPS-SCP President/présidente

Dear CPS members,

In November, I was able to deliver the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) President's greetings in virtual format to three regional meetings: the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta (CPS-PPSA) on November 4-5, the Southwestern Ontario Regional Association of the CPS (SORA-CPS) on November 5, and the CPS Saskatchewan Regional Group (CPS-SK) Annual Meeting on November 29. I am sorry that I was not able to attend in person, but I am grateful to the Chairs of the Local Arrangements Committees (Michael Harding, Sean Westerveld and Michelle

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Hubbard) for giving me the opportunity to share my greetings and also talk about various CPS issues and initiatives.

I would like to update you as well on a few highlights from our CPS Board Meetings from the past three months:

### **Financial condition**

The CPS is in an excellent financial condition. Dr. Ken Conn, our Treasurer, is in a dilemma on how to invest our money, since GICs are very attractive now while mutual funds are volatile. The Board unanimously agreed to sell some of the non-restricted money currently invested in mutual funds and change these over to GICs. A big thank you to Ken Conn not only for providing accurate financial statements at every Board meeting, but also for guiding the CPS investments.

### **Renewal of the Taylor and Francis contract**

The CPS currently has a contract with Taylor and Francis (T&F) for publication of the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology (CJPP). The current contract with T&F is good until the end of 2023. Based on the earlier survey of the CPS membership, the Society favors a 'hybrid model' for publication of the CJPP, in which an author can choose either to pay an Article Processing Fee for immediate open access of their article, or pay lower page charges but without immediate open access. However, all articles eventually become open-access and free to all readers after 12 months. After much discussion, the ad hoc committee that had been established to secure a new publishing contract unanimously recommend to the CPS Board to stay with T&F, since the publisher proposed a new contract that met nearly all of the Society's terms and wishes. The CPS Board has accepted the ad hoc committee's recommendation to accept the T&F proposal, as they will continue to publish the CJPP. Many thanks to Drs. Linda Jewell (new Editor-in-Chief), Stephen Strelkov (past Editor-in-Chief), Ken Conn (Treasurer)

and all of the other members of the ad hoc committee (Tom Fetch, Tim Paulitz, Gary Peng and Wen Chen) for their hard work and diligence in ensuring that the CPS signs the best possible publishing contract. These initiatives should continue to increase the CJPP's impact factor over the next few years.

### **Membership System**

The CPS Board has established another ad hoc committee to determine the pros and cons of a flexible vs. calendar year membership for the Society. In the flexible membership system, you can get a full year of membership starting when you join. We will send a questionnaire soon to get your opinion as to whether you want to change the membership system from the calendar year to a flexible term. Thanks to our ad hoc committee including Michael Holtz, Ken Conn, Wen Chen, Sara Stricker, and Vikram Bisht for working out an automated system to adopt a flexible schedule for payments of membership fees. We will be ready to switch to a new flexible membership system if the survey results indicate that this is what the majority of the CPS members want. For the 2023 calendar year, you still need to renew the CPS membership in December, which can be easily done on the CPS website using the on-line form, or by printing and mailing the membership form to Vikram Bisht.

### **Membership Drive**

The CPS Board has noticed the declining Society membership numbers and therefore one of our urgent priorities is to recruit new members to help the CPS grow. The Board is trying to develop strategies to increase membership. We will establish another ad hoc committee including the Membership

Secretary Dr. Vikram Bisht to develop a Strategic Plan to drive the membership up. Several initiatives were also discussed at the Board meetings, including printing CPS brochures for student membership recruiting, providing \$25 memberships to APS students, providing credits to the Certified Crop Advisors and Agronomists, and lobbying for them to join through advertisements at Field Days or Workshops during the summer. We plan to get in touch with regional chairs and to get their involvement in this initiative.

There are several benefits of CPS membership, including a reduced fee for publishing papers in the CJPP and a free subscription to the journal. There will be a substantial discount in the registration fee for the CPS Annual Meeting, and free access to many Virtual Workshops and Student Seminars.

In November, I had the opportunity to present seminars at four national universities and two research institutes in Taiwan. At the end of each seminar, I did my best to lobby for the CPS and invited researchers and students there to become members. I am sure we will have many new members in attendance at the Tri-Society Meeting in Ottawa.

Perhaps, if each of us gets the word out to

the people who are involved in work on plant diseases, including breeders, agronomists, Certified Crop Advisors, etc., then we could increase awareness of the benefits of joining our Society. I hope you can each find some time to do this in the coming year! Our graduate students and young scientists are

the future of CPS, so please let us hear your voices and ideas on how to grow our Society. Please feel free to contact any Board member including me if you have any suggestions.

***“There are several benefits of CPS membership, including a reduced fee for publishing papers in the CJPP and a free subscription to the journal. There will be a substantial discount in the registration fee for the CPS Annual Meeting, and free access to many Virtual Workshops and Student Seminars.”***

#### **Virtual workshops and seminars**

A thank you to Linda Jewell, the Chair of the Education Committee’s Student Seminar Series, who has very actively and successfully organized the virtual seminars for graduate students and early career scientists. Please reach out to the Education Committee Chair, Linda Jewell (Linda.Jewell@agr.gc.ca), to sign up or for more information.

A thank you also to Wen Chen, the Chair of the Virtual Workshops, who coordinated a very informative virtual workshop in October by recruiting international colleagues to provide the most up-to-date information on web-based data-mining approaches for fungal genomes and associated omics data. This workshop certainly has provided an opportunity for professional growth to many CPS members.

### **Future meetings**

At the 12th International Congress of Plant Pathology conference (ICPP) in Lyon, France (August 20-25, 2023), the Glenn Anderson Lectureship will provide up to CAN \$6,000 for travel expenses and an honorarium for a selected keynote speaker. Many thanks to our Past President, Lone Buchwaldt, who contacted the APS's president and the Chair of the Food Security Task Force (FSTF) of the ICPP. The FSTF's Chair is currently in the process of contacting the recommended Candidate for this Lectureship Award.

In 2023, the Tri-Society Meeting with the CPS-CHSH (Canadian Society for Horticultural Science) and Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) will be held from June 17-23, 2023 in Ottawa. The theme of the Tri-Society meeting is "Agroecosystem resiliency under a changing climate". The CPS Scientific Committee members include Guillaume Bilodeau, Mamadou Fall, Wen Chen, Sarah Hambleton and Harvinder Bennypaul. They are working hard to identify and organize the technical sessions, symposia and workshops and to invite the right speakers. Dr. Guillaume Bilodeau (CFIA) is the chairperson of the local arrangements committee (LAC) and Vice President of CPS, who has promised an exciting program. Please mark this meeting on your calendars. It will be an opportunity to renew connections with CPS members and also an opportunity to visit our beautiful capital city.

In 2024, the Plant Canada meeting will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, with the CPS as the lead organizer. I am very pleased to confirm that Barry Saville (Chair) & Stephen Strelkov have agreed to serve on the CPS Science Committee. Tom Fetch and Vikram Bisht will serve as Co-Chairs of the Fundraising Committee. Currently, President-Elect Gary Peng serves as the liaison between the CPS Board and the LAC.

As your president since July 2022, I have observed the success of many CPS functions and events; this success undoubtedly depends on many CPS members' volunteered time, expertise and support. There are still challenges ahead of us in this high-tech and dynamic environment. We are working together to keep CPS abreast of the latest trends. I will do my best to work with you and the Board to make a constructive contribution to the CPS in the coming year.

Best wishes to you and your families for a relaxing, safe, and enjoyable holiday season. I also wish all of you a healthy, prosperous, and happy New Year!

Sheau-Fang Hwang  
President of the Canadian  
Phytopathological Society  
Professor, University of Alberta



## Message de la présidente

Chers membres de la SCP,

En novembre, j'ai pu transmettre, virtuellement, les salutations de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie (SCP) aux membres de trois sociétés régionales dans le cadre de réunions : les 4 et 5 novembre, à la Société de phytopathologie de l'Alberta (CPS-SPA); le 5 novembre, à l'Association régionale du sud-ouest de l'Ontario (ARSO-SCP); et, le 29 novembre, au Groupe régional de la Saskatchewan de la SCP (SCP-GRS), dans le cadre de sa réunion annuelle. Je regrette de n'avoir pu assister en personne, mais je suis reconnaissante envers les présidents des comités organisateurs locaux (Michael Harding, Sean Westerveld et Michelle Hubbard) de m'avoir donné l'occasion de partager mes salutations et de discuter de différents sujets et initiatives d'intérêt pour la SCP.

J'aimerais également vous informer des quelques points marquants qui ont émané des réunions du conseil de la SCP depuis les trois derniers mois.

### **Situation financière**

La situation financière de la SCP est excellente. Ken Conn, notre trésorier, se trouve face à un dilemme quant à comment investir notre argent : les CPG sont actuellement très intéressants, tandis que les fonds communs sont volatiles. Le conseil a décidé unanimement de vendre une partie des fonds non affectés actuellement investis dans les fonds communs et de les transférer dans des CPG. Un grand merci à Ken Conn, non seulement pour les états financiers précis qu'il nous transmet à chaque réunion du conseil, mais aussi pour orienter

judicieusement les investissements de la SCP.

### **Renouvellement du contrat avec Taylor and Francis**

La SCP est actuellement sous contrat avec Taylor and Francis (T & F) pour la publication de la Revue canadienne de phytopathologie (RCP). Le contrat actuel est valide jusqu'à la fin de 2023. En se basant sur un sondage précédent des membres de la SCP, la Société favorise un « modèle hybride » pour la publication de la RCP, dans lequel un auteur peut choisir soit de payer des frais de traitement pour son article, avec libre accès immédiat, soit de payer des frais de publication réduits, mais sans libre accès immédiat. Toutefois, tous les articles deviennent librement accessibles à tous les lecteurs après 12 mois. À la suite de longues discussions, le comité ad hoc qui avait été créé en vue de négocier un nouveau contrat d'édition a recommandé unanimement au conseil de la SCP de rester avec T & F, puisqu'il a proposé un nouveau contrat qui respectait presque toutes les conditions et préférences de la Société. Le conseil de la SCP a accepté la recommandation du comité ad hoc d'accepter la proposition de T & F : ce dernier continuera donc de publier la RCP. Mes remerciements sincères à Linda Jewell (nouvelle rédactrice en chef), à Stephen Strelkov (rédacteur en chef sortant), à Ken Conn (trésorier) ainsi qu'à tous les autres membres du comité ad hoc (Tom Fetch, Tim Paulitz, Gary Peng et Wen Chen) pour leur travail acharné et leur diligence qui garantissent que la SCP signera le meilleur contrat d'édition possible. Ces initiatives devraient contribuer à accroître le facteur

d'impact de la RCP au fil des prochaines années.

### **Système de gestion des adhésions**

Le conseil de la SCP a créé un autre comité ad hoc pour évaluer les avantages et les inconvénients d'un système flexible d'adhésion par rapport à un système basé sur l'année civile. Avec le système flexible, vous devenez membre pour une année entière à partir de votre date d'adhésion. Nous vous enverrons bientôt un questionnaire pour que vous nous fassiez part de votre opinion quant aux deux options possibles. Merci à notre comité ad hoc, composé de Michael Holtz, Ken Conn, Wen Chen, Sara Stricker et Vikram Bisht, d'avoir conçu un système automatisé afin d'adopter un horaire flexible pour le paiement des frais d'adhésion. Nous serons prêts à passer à un nouveau système d'adhésion flexible dès que les résultats du sondage indiqueront que c'est ce que désirent les membres de la SCP. Pour l'année civile 2023, vous devrez renouveler votre adhésion en décembre, ce qui peut être facilement fait en remplissant le formulaire en ligne du site de la SCP ou en l'imprimant et en le postant à Vikram Bisht.

### **Campagne de recrutement**

Le conseil de la SCP a remarqué que le nombre de membres de la SCP est en baisse et, en conséquence, une de nos priorités les plus urgentes est de recruter de nouveaux membres afin d'aider la SCP à croître. Le conseil cherche à élaborer des stratégies pour accroître le nombre de membres. Nous créerons un autre comité ad hoc composé entre autres du secrétaire aux adhésions, Vikram Bisht, pour élaborer un plan stratégique visant à accroître le nombre de membres de la SCP. Plusieurs

suggestions ont été évaluées durant les réunions du conseil, y compris l'impression de brochures s'adressant aux étudiants afin de les recruter, l'offre d'une adhésion à 25 \$ pour les étudiants membres de la SAP, la proposition de crédits aux conseillers agréés en agriculture et aux agronomes ainsi que des activités de démarchage pour qu'ils se joignent à nous en diffusant, durant l'été, de la publicité pendant les journées champêtres et les ateliers de même que dans le cadre de séminaires pour étudiants. Nous prévoyons de contacter les présidents régionaux afin qu'ils s'impliquent dans cette initiative.

L'adhésion à la SCP comporte plusieurs avantages, y compris un tarif réduit pour la publication d'articles dans la RCP et un abonnement gratuit à la Revue. Il y aura également un rabais substantiel sur les frais d'inscription à la réunion annuelle de la SCP et l'accès gratuit pour les étudiants à plusieurs ateliers virtuels et séminaires.

En novembre, j'ai eu l'occasion d'animer un séminaire à quatre universités nationales et à deux instituts de recherche à Taiwan. À la fin de chaque séminaire, j'ai fait de mon mieux pour promouvoir la SCP et j'ai invité des chercheurs ainsi que des étudiants à devenir membres. Je suis convaincue que nous aurons plusieurs nouveaux membres à la réunion tripartite d'Ottawa.

Peut-être, si chacun de nous en parlions aux personnes qui sont engagées à combattre les maladies des plantes, y compris les sélectionneurs, les agronomes, les conseillers agréés en agriculture, etc., nous pourrions les sensibiliser aux avantages de se joindre à notre Société. J'espère que vous pourrez consacrer un

peu de temps à ce projet cette année! Nos étudiants diplômés et nos jeunes scientifiques sont l'avenir de la SCP, alors, s'il vous plaît, faites-nous entendre vos voix et vos idées sur la façon de la faire croître. Si vous avez des suggestions, s'il vous plaît, n'hésitez pas à contacter n'importe quel membre du conseil, moi y compris.

### Ateliers

### virtuels et séminaires

Merci à Linda Jewell, présidente du comité sur l'éducation responsable de la série de séminaires pour étudiants, qui a très activement et avec succès

organisé les séminaires virtuels pour étudiants diplômés et jeunes scientifiques en début de carrière. Si vous désirez obtenir de plus amples renseignements, s'il vous plaît, contactez la présidente du comité à l'adresse suivante : [Linda.Jewell@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Linda.Jewell@agr.gc.ca).

Merci également à Wen Chen, présidente des ateliers virtuels, qui a coordonné un atelier des plus informatifs en octobre en recrutant des collègues de l'étranger pour nous fournir l'information la plus à jour sur l'extraction de données sur le Web concernant les génomes de champignons et d'autres données associées aux sciences « omiques ». Cet atelier a sans aucun doute été une occasion de croissance professionnelle pour bien des membres de la SCP.

### Réunions à venir

Dans le cadre de la conférence du 12e Congrès international de pathologie végétale (CIPV) qui se tiendra à Lyon en France du 20 au 25 août 2023, les Conférences Glenn Anderson fourniront jusqu'à 6 000 \$ CA sous forme de bourse pour couvrir les frais de déplacement et les

honoraires d'un conférencier principal de marque. Mes sincères remerciements à notre présidente sortante, Lone Buchwaldt, qui a contacté la présidente de la SAP et le président du Groupe de

travail sur la sécurité alimentaire (GTSA) du CIPV. Le président du GTSA est à la veille de nous transmettre le nom du candidat recommandé pour cette bourse.

En 2023, la réunion tripartite regroupant la SCP, la Société canadienne de science horticole (SCSH) et la Société canadienne d'agronomie (SCA) se tiendra du 17 au 23 juin, à Ottawa. Le thème de cette réunion est : « Résilience des agroécosystèmes dans un contexte de changements climatiques ». Le comité scientifique de la SCP inclut Guillaume Bilodeau, Mamadou Fall, Wen Chen, Sarah Hambleton et Harvinder Bennypaul. Ils travaillent ardemment pour définir et organiser les séances techniques, les symposiums ainsi que les ateliers et pour inviter les bons conférenciers. Guillaume Bilodeau (ACIA)

***“L’adhésion à la SCP comporte plusieurs avantages, y compris un tarif réduit pour la publication d’articles dans la RCP et un abonnement gratuit à la Revue. Il y aura également un rabais substantiel sur les frais d’inscription à la réunion annuelle de la SCP et l’accès gratuit pour les étudiants à plusieurs ateliers virtuels et séminaires.”***

est le président du comité organisateur local (COL) et vice-président de la SCP; il nous a promis un programme des plus intéressants. S'il vous plaît, inscrivez cette réunion dans votre agenda. Ce sera une occasion de renouer des liens avec les membres de la SCP, et de plus une occasion de visiter notre belle capitale nationale.

En 2024, la réunion de Plant Canada se tiendra à Winnipeg, au Manitoba, avec la SCP à titre de principale organisatrice. Je suis heureuse de confirmer que Barry Saville (président) et Stephen Strelkov ont accepté de faire partie du comité scientifique. Tom Fetch et Vikram Bisht agiront à titre de coprésidents du comité de collecte de fonds. Actuellement, le président élu, Gary Peng, assure la liaison entre le conseil de la SCP et le COL.

En tant que présidente de la SCP depuis juillet 2022, j'ai eu l'occasion de constater le succès de plusieurs fonctions et

événements. Cette réussite découle sans aucun doute de l'expertise et du soutien de plusieurs de ses membres ainsi que du temps qu'ils y ont consacré bénévolement. Il reste encore bien des défis à relever dans ce contexte dynamique et de haute technologie. Nous travaillons de concert pour maintenir la SCP à l'avant-garde des plus récentes tendances. Je ferai tout mon possible pour travailler avec vous et le conseil afin de contribuer constructivement au succès de la SCP dans le courant de la nouvelle année.

Meilleurs vœux, à vous-mêmes ainsi qu'à vos familles, et que cette saison des fêtes soit relaxante, sans souci et agréable. Je vous souhaite à tous également, pour la nouvelle année, santé, bonheur et prospérité!

Sheau-Fang Hwang, présidente de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie  
Professeure, Université de l'Alberta



## Announcements

### **Tri-Society Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society, the Canadian Society of Agronomy, and the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science: June 17-21, 2023**

The Canadian Tri-Society meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS), the Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) and Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS) will be held from June 17th to 21st 2023 at the Delta Hotel, Ottawa, ON. The theme of the meeting is: Agroecosystem resiliency under a changing climate. More details will be coming soon about the program, abstract submission and registration. Please save the date. For information you can contact: [Guillaume.Bilodeau@inspection.gc.ca](mailto:Guillaume.Bilodeau@inspection.gc.ca)

<https://phytopath.ca/meetings/2023cdn-tri-society/>

**Date:** 17/06/2023 - 23/06/2023

**Location:** Delta Hotels by Marriott Ottawa City Centre, 101 Lyon St. N, Ottawa, Ontario



## Meetings

### Report on the 2022 CPS Annual Meeting

The 2022 CPS meeting took place virtually between July 4 and 8. In 2020, Penticton, BC, was chosen to hold the annual CPS meeting. In the fall of 2019, the Local Organizing Committee (list of members, see below) developed an enticing program to invite Canadian plant pathologists and US colleagues to this region in BC. Alas, by the spring of 2020 it became obvious that we had to abandon our plans for an “in-person meeting” because of COVID-19 restrictions.

Fast forward and Penticton, BC, was given the opportunity for a redress for the 2022 annual meeting. We dusted off our plans, re-contacted keynote and symposium speakers, and went full steam ahead finishing what we started. With the pandemic retreating, we had good hopes that the meeting could be held “in person.” Then the next Corona variant virus wave hit and in consultation with the CPS board, it was decided to make this meeting virtual. Despite the disappointment it caused not to be able to meet in person, we continued working hard to put together a great program so that we could learn about each other’s research and be educated. The theme of the 2022 meeting was “Harnessing the phytobiome for sustainable plant health”. Phytobiome research has reached maturity and is making an impact on various other fields of research, often providing a more holistic approach to solve various problems, including plant/tree productivity, promoting health, mitigating environmental impacts and diseases (pathologies), and assisting general plant/tree management. Aboveground, endophytic, and underground microbial communities are being investigated for their roles, made easier lately by inventories of such communities revealed using various high-throughput analysis tools, sequencing, proteomics and metabolomics. Contributions of various constituents in natural communities, and effects of plant-associated microbial assemblages are being investigated.



Dr. Julia A. Vorholt

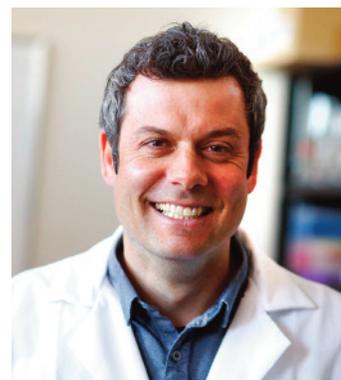
A total of 200 participants registered, an outstanding number. It was decided to give everyone the opportunity to present orally and 74 abstracts were submitted, including 43 from graduate students. Welcoming messages were given by Dr. Úrbez-Torres, chair of the organizing committee and Dr. Lone Buchwaldt, CPS President. Special mention and acknowledgements were also made by Dr. Tom Forge to BASF, Nufarm and Syngenta for their generous sponsorship to the meeting. The meeting started with Prof. Dr. Julia A. Vorholt from the ETH Zurich, Institute of Microbiology, Switzerland, who delivered the keynote presentation “The leaf microbiota: disassembling and rebuilding to explore plant microbe interactions.” Dr. Vorholt outlined the principles of microbiome studies in her group and gave several examples, such as plant-associated microbiomes that

contribute to host phenotypes such as growth, health, and resilience. Ongoing research in her group aims to uncover the molecular basis by which host-microbe and microbe-microbe interactions shape and maintain microbial communities, and to understand the role of individual microorganisms and their collective ecosystem function. Reductionist approaches were discussed to disentangle the inherent complexity of interactions in situ. She explained that such experimentally tractable, synthetic communities enable hypotheses to be tested through targeted manipulation in gnotobiotic systems. Altering microbial, host, and environmental parameters allows quantitative assessment of host and microbial characteristics. In her talk, she outlined the use of multifaceted approaches to detect interactions and functions that provide new insights into the fundamental biology of plant-microbe interactions and which help to harness the power of the microbiome.



Dr. Cara Haney

The meeting continued with the Annual Meeting of the Members led by Dr. Buchwaldt. Different topics were addressed, including both President's and Treasure's reports, presentation of CPS awards and scholarships, updates in the CJPP, and suggested bylaw changes in CPS, among some others. Finally, the new CPS president, Dr. Sheau-Fang Hwang was presented.



Dr. Martin Fillion

A symposium was held the second day of the meeting, with the title "Tweaking the phytobiome for sustainable plant health." Three talks were given by invited speakers: Dr. Cara Haney, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in plant-microbiome interactions, Department of Microbiology & Immunology, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, who talked about "Mechanisms in plant regulation of rhizosphere microbiota"; Dr. Niklaus J. Grünwald, Research Plant Pathologist, United States Department of Agriculture, Corvallis, Oregon, USA, who talked about "Novel computational and genomic approaches to understand oomycete emergence"; and Dr. Martin Fillion, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Saint-Jean sur Richelieu, Quebec, Canada, who talked about "A functional tailored inoculation approach for plant-beneficial *Pseudomonas* spp. promoting sustainable plant health." Synopses of their presentations will be published in the CJPP. The meeting continued with a broad range of fantastic presentations given under different topics, including disease etiology, host-pathogen interactions, diagnostics, disease control, pathogen biology, and disease/pathogen epidemiology. Abstracts from these presentations will be published in the CJPP.



Dr. Niklaus J. Grünwald

A separate competition for best MSc and PhD student presentations was organized

and the generous sponsorships allowed us to increase the number and amount of the prizes in the respective competitions. The Local Arrangements Committee would like also to take the opportunity here to thank all judges that voluntarily offered to assist evaluating the presentations in both competitions. A total of 20 MSc and 23 PhD students presented their research work. All students gave outstanding presentations showing the high caliber of their research. The winners for the best PhD student presentation were: 1st place for Sherry Sun from the University of British Columbia who presented “Investigating the NHP-dependent SAR pathway in common hexaploid wheat; options for broad-spectrum disease reduction?; 2nd place for Michelle Thompson from the University of Guelph who presented “Exploring cultured microbes of pollinated maize silks and interactions with *Fusarium graminearum* (Schwabe)””; and 3rd place for Siyu Song from the University of British Columbia who presented “PSKR1 helps recruit *Pseudomonas fluorescens* to the plant rhizosphere microbiome”. The winners for the best MSc student presentations were: 1st place for Lindsey King from the University of British Columbia who presented “The root-lesion nematode, *Pratylenchus penetrans*, affects early growth and physiology of M.9, G.41 and G.935 apple rootstocks under field conditions”; 2nd place was for Vincent Fetterley from the University of British Columbia who presented “Summoning the ancestors: using an *Aegilops tauschii* diversity panel to improve stripe rust resistance in wheat”; and 3rd place for Monique Lariviere from Trent University who presented “Exploring the stress response of *Ustilago maydis*: an antisense approach.”



The best PhD student presentation awards went to Sherry Sun (1st place; not pictured), Michelle Thompson (2nd place; top left), and Siyu Song (3rd place; top right). The best MSc presentation awards went to Lindsey King (1st place; bottom left), Vincent Fetterley (2nd place; bottom right), and Monique Lariviere (3rd place; not pictured)

At the end of the meeting, the student committee organized a virtual social for graduate students that consisted of a trivia quiz where cash prizes were given to winners in specific categories. Winners in this student social were Danna Rotariu, Ilakkiya Thirugnanasambandam, Zhiyu Yu, and Emilee Storfie from the University of Alberta, Vahid Jalali Javaran from the University of Sherbrooke, Emily Johnstone from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and Janesse Holmes and Hayley Kellam from Simon Fraser University.

The meeting concluded with remarks from the current President Dr. Sheau-Fang Hwang and an invitation by Dr. Guillaume Bilodeau, Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee to attend the 2023 CPS annual meeting in Ottawa.

### **CPS 2022 LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE**

#### **Chair:**

Dr. José Ramón Úrbez-Torres, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC

#### **Co-Chair:**

Dr. Guus Bakkeren, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC

#### **Committee Members:**

Dr. Gurcharn Singh Brar, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Dr. Rishi Burlakoti, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Agassiz, BC

Dr. Mike Cruickshank, Natural Resources Canada, Victoria, BC

Dr. Tom Forge, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC

Dan O’Gorman, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC

Dr. Vippen Joshi, British Columbia Ministry of Agriculture, Abbotsford, BC

Jesse MacDonald, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland, BC

Dr. Simon Shamoun, Natural Resources Canada, Victoria, BC

#### **Student Committee:**

Jared Hrycan, April Mahovlic, and Sherry Sun, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Summerland Research and Development Centre, Summerland, BC and University of British Columbia.

Prepared and submitted by Guus Bakkeren and José Ramón Úrbez-Torres.



## Report on the 43rd Annual Meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta



Attendees at the 2022 PPSA Meeting held in Brooks, Alberta

The Plant Pathology Society of Alberta held its 43rd Annual Meeting in person at the Heritage Inn and Convention Centre in Brooks, Alberta on November 2-4, 2022. There were 57 registrants and 50 attendees. A blizzard in Alberta on November 2nd greatly hindered travel for everyone, with some arriving on November 3rd, and some unable to attend. The proceedings included a reception on the evening of November 2nd, and paper and poster sessions on November 3rd. There were 20 oral presentations (six student/technician) and 18 posters (11 student/technician). One of the sessions was a symposium entitled Advances in plant pathology research using novel techniques, which included the following presentations:  
Dr. Junye Jiang: Using rhqPCR for detection of plant pathogens  
Dr. Syama Chatterton: Digital droplet PCR to assess root disease risk for peas/lentils  
Liang Zhao: Analysis of contributing factors of blackleg disease with AI  
Lipu Wang: Fast chromatography tandem mass spectrometry for DON quantification in wheat grain

The student and technician presentations were adjudicated by Nora Foroud, Robyne Davidson, James Calpas, Ron Howard, Reem Aboukhaddour, Jie Feng and Michael Harding. A banquet was held on the evening of November 3rd, followed by an awards ceremony. The winners of the presentation awards received a cheque for \$100, a certificate acknowledging the achievement, and copy of the book *Plant Pathology in Canada 1970-2008*. The awards were presented to:

Outstanding presentation by a technician: Albert Hannig (Evaluation of synthetic antimicrobial peptide expression and resistance to root rot in *Pisum sativum*).  
Outstanding student poster presentation: Zhiyu Yu (Evaluation of fall and spring applied lime

applications for the management of clubroot of canola)

Outstanding student oral presentation: Emilee Storfie (*Evaluating the effect of foliar application of salicylic acid on clubroot development in Brassica napus*)

At the award ceremony, two scholarships were also awarded:

PPSA Scholarship: Emilee Storfie was the recipient of the 2022 PPSA Graduate Student Scholarship. Emilee is a PhD student at the University of Alberta supervised by Dr. Stephen Strelkov, and her thesis is tentatively titled "Understanding the molecular interactions between resistance-breaking pathotypes of *Plasmodiophora brassicae* and *Brassica napus*."

Swanson Award: Beth Peacock is the recipient of the 2022 Swanson Award. Beth is a PhD student at the University of California, Riverside supervised by Dr. James Borneman. Her dissertation title is "Elucidating the host-microbe interactions responsible for the survivor tree phenotype in citrus huanglongbing disease".

The PPSA Business Meeting was held in the morning on November 4th, followed by a round-table discussion on coordination of provincial crop disease surveys, with the meetings concluding on November 4th.

Generous financial support of the meeting was provided by: Alberta Canola, BASF, Canadian Phytopathological Society, Syngenta, Corteva, 20/20 Seed Labs, South Country CO-OP, City of Brooks, Western Grains Research Foundation, Eastern Irrigation District, Alberta Wheat & Barley, Alfalfa Seed Commission Alberta, SGS, Viterra, Potato Growers of Alberta.

Thank you very much to sponsors, organizers, host and attendees for an excellent meeting.



Award winners from the 2022 PPSA Meeting. Left: Emilee Storfie receives "Outstanding Student Oral Presentation"; Middle: Zhiyu Yu receives "Outstanding student poster presentation"; Right: Albert Hannig receives "Outstanding presentation by a technician".



## Society Business

### CPS Awards 2023: Call for Nominations

CPS Members: Nominate a deserving colleague for a CPS Award!

Students: Apply for the CPS Scholarship!

The Canadian Phytopathological Society is proud to recognize achievements of its members. Please consider nominating a colleague for one of the CPS Awards listed below:

- Honorary Member
- Fellow of CPS \*updated by-law change\*
- Outstanding Research
- Outstanding Young Scientist \*updated by-law change\*
- CPS Education Award
- Achievements in Plant Disease Management
- Career Recognition Award \*NEW\*

Full descriptions of each category are posted on the CPS web site at <https://phytopath.ca/about-cps/cps-awards/>. All materials should be combined in a single file for each application. The updated or new by-laws for awards are provided below.

We also encourage graduate students to apply for CPS scholarships (see URL link above).

Graduate Student Scholarships (3 awards at \$1500 each). This application must include:

- 1 Two letters of support from academic or work supervisors;
- 2 A personal statement (1 page) of your motivation to pursue graduate work in plant pathology, future goals, and activities relating to leadership and research;
- 3 An essay (3 pages maximum) on a topic in plant pathology or an original research proposal that demonstrates your ability to communicate and organize;
- 4 Copies of academic transcripts of undergraduate and graduate (if available) education
- 5 Evidence of registration in a graduate program (letter from supervisor, tuition receipt).

**The deadline for submission of all awards is March 1, 2023.**

Send nominations and applications to Jeremy Dettman at [jeremy.dettman@agr.gc.ca](mailto:jeremy.dettman@agr.gc.ca)

**Changes to By-Law 32 Awards of the Society approved at the AMOM on Dec 11, 2020**

#### **2. Fellow Award**

a) Nominees for Fellow shall be regular members of the Society who have rendered outstanding service to the Society and to the profession of plant pathology. **Examples of service to CPS include having served on the CPS Board, Subject Matter Committees, editorial board, meeting arrangement committee, newsletter editor, website editor, and other CPS committees. A description of these services should be included with the nomination.**

#### 4. Outstanding Young Scientist Award

b) Nominees for this award must **have successfully defended their doctoral thesis in the 12 years ending on December 31** in which the award is received, **but time spent on parental, compassionate or medical leave (clearly identified in the nomination letter) is not counted as part of the 12-year period.** Nominees need not be members of the Society, nor need they be domiciled in Canada.

#### 14. Career Recognition Award

The intent of the Career Recognition Award is to recognize and validate the contributions of retired individuals who have made significant and long-term contributions to plant pathology in Canada, and the broader community. It also provides an opportunity to publish an account of these contributions in the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology as a form of recognition.

a) Awardees are expected to have contributed to both of the following areas:

- Plant pathology research. Inclusive of published research contributions, training of students and research personnel, invited talks and presentations, books and book chapters, etc. A curriculum vitae should be attached to the nomination submitted.
- Plant pathology community. This may include teaching of courses in plant pathology, extension work, public education, dissemination of information, overseas contributions, preparation of bulletins and fact sheets, etc.

b) Nominees for the Career Recognition Award are retired former or current CPS members who have had a significant impact on plant pathology in Canada. Nominations should include a description of the contributions in each of the two areas above.

c) All nominations will be reviewed by the CPS Awards Committee and a recommendation forwarded to the CPS Board of Directors for final approval. Awardees will receive a Certificate and travel expenses to the meeting (subject to BOD approval to support this expense). Awardees will present a retrospective on their plant pathology research career at a CPS meeting, and be invited to publish an account of these contributions in the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology (page charges waived, subject to BOD approval). One awardee may be approved by the CPS Board each year.

d) Nominations must be received by the CPS Awards Committee by the due date of March 1 in the year for which the nomination is made.



## Report on CPS Virtual Workshops for the 2022-2023 Fiscal Year

Following up from a Special Issue on rust disease management and biology in the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology published in December 2021, CPS' Virtual Workshop Committee (VWC) hosted a workshop on June 9, 2022, entitled "Rust in Peace: Breeding and Cultural Practices to Mitigate Rust Diseases in Crops and Forest Trees." This workshop invited six experts from Canada (Drs. S. Zeglen, S. Seifi, and F. Bokore), Australia (Drs. B. Schwessinger and H. Bariana), and France (Dr. P. Frey). The presentations ranged from the emergence of new genetic groups, evolution and host adaptation, control measures, and host resistance. The recordings of this workshop can be found on [CPS's YouTube channel](#). In October 2022, VWC teamed with FungiDB (Drs. D.S. Roos, O. Harb, E. Basenko, and U. Bohme) and hosted a two-session workshop: "FungiDB: Hands-on training in web-based data-mining approaches for fungal genomes and associated omics data". This workshop combined mini lectures and hands-on practices on web-based data-mining approaches for fungal genomes and associated omics data with a focus on phytopathogens. Other services provided by the VeuPathDB Bioinformatics Resource Centre, such as data analysis in Galaxy and Apollo, were also covered. The recordings of this workshop can be found at <https://fungidb.org/fungidb/app/static-content/workshopOCT2022.html>. These two workshops attracted over 100 participants from Australia, Canada, China, France, the Netherlands, and the U.S.

Virtual Workshop Committee Chair & Co-Chair: Wen Chen, Guillaume Bilodeau

Announcement and registration on CPS website: Michael Holtz

Registration fee handling: Kenneth Conn

Advertisement: Vikram Bisht, Wen Chen, Guillaume Bilodeau, Linda Jewell,

Workshop leaders: Gurcharn S. Brar, Nicolas Feau, Evelina Basenko.

Virtual Workshop Committee

Prepared on 2022-11-24



## CPS Education Committee's Pathogen of the Year

If you could choose to highlight one plant pathogen, what would you choose and why?

The CPS Education Committee wants YOU to help to highlight the 2023 Pathogen of the Year! The intention of this initiative is to engage with the public and generate interest about plant pathogens!

Submit your suggestion for pathogen of the year using the following survey:

[https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8jnpLZiWfoi2RLg](https://uoguelph.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8jnpLZiWfoi2RLg)

## CPS Education Committee's Student Seminar Series

The CPS Education Committee hosts a regular series of Virtual Student Seminars! We hope that these seminars will allow students and recent graduates to share a larger piece of their research with the CPS community than a typical conference presentation might allow.

Presenters should be students or recent (within the past 6 months) graduates from a Canadian institution. Preference may be given to CPS members. All members of the CPS community are welcome to attend the seminars. Presentations should be 30 minutes in length, with 15 minutes for questions and discussion. Presentations should be focused on the student's own research results as opposed to proposed or future work.

Seminars are held on a monthly basis on the final Wednesday of each month.

To sign up for a presentation slot, to get on the mailing list to receive the seminar links, or if you have any questions, please email the Chair of the CPS Education Committee, Linda Jewell, at [Linda.Jewell@agr.gc.ca](mailto:Linda.Jewell@agr.gc.ca).

We hope that all CPS members will encourage their students to participate in the seminar series as presenters and/or audience members!

### Upcoming seminars:

- January 25, 2023: Gustavo Diaz Cruz: "Phytotoxin production and regulation in *Streptomyces* sp. 11-1-2."
- February 22, 2023: Sherry Sun (title TBD)
- March 29, 2023: presentation slot available



## CPS 100th Anniversary Committee: We Want Your Ideas!

In 2027, the CPS will be celebrating its 100th anniversary! A committee has been struck to begin working on plans to celebrate this momentous occasion, and we welcome input and feedback from the society at large about the types of activities and events should be included in the celebration. Please start thinking now about what you'd like to see or do to mark this occasion!

If you have an idea that you wish to share with the committee, please reach out to the chair of the committee, Linda Jewell, at [linda.jewell@agr.gc.ca](mailto:linda.jewell@agr.gc.ca).

Please stay tuned for a survey to gauge interest in some of the committee's ideas in the new year!

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Jewell  
Chair, CPS 100th Anniversary Committee



## Young Scientists' Corner

### FEATURED STUDENT:

**Claudia Escobar Gil**

University of Alberta



Claudia in the lab

My interest in science began when I was learning about the biological processes involved in human diseases. Questions about the causes of diseases like cancer or HIV, why some people are born with specific rare diseases, were particularly intriguing to me. Understanding how these diseases affect the human body inspired me to pursue a scientific career. My career as a scientist began in 2010 at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Colombia, where I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Biology. I focused my attention on intricate cell structure and composition processes that regulated the properties of life. These molecular biology insights and practical scientific experiences cemented my passion for cell biology and especially cell-to-cell interactions.

Throughout my undergraduate career, I devoted my time to gaining valuable knowledge regarding molecular interactions and cell responses. Through different biotechnology courses, I met Professor Mauricio Quimbaya, Ph.D. He introduced me to his research in cancer and the model organism *Arabidopsis thaliana*. My interest in this research drove me to work as a research assistant in his biotechnology lab, gaining experience with molecular techniques. My undergrad provided a variety of great opportunities to grow as a molecular biology researcher. One such opportunity was my job at the germplasm and cell transformation laboratory at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT). Here, I was able to apply my knowledge and laboratory skills while learning about somatic embryogenesis, tissue culture techniques and propagation in cassava. In addition, I worked on the establishment and development of methodologies for isolation transformation and proliferation of protoplasts in cassava. This groundwork set the stage for genetically modified cassava plants with the CRISPR-Cas 9 system in the future.

The biotechnology courses in my undergraduate studies emphasized improvements in omics technologies, including how they are leading research globally, and that is why I pursued a project where I could expand my knowledge on this subject. Currently, my thesis project at the University of Alberta explores the transcriptomic responses of the fungal pathogen *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis*, the causal agent of tan spot of wheat. We are analyzing the gene expression changes through time after inoculation, as well as possible metabolic routes and molecular processes involved in pathogenesis. This experience had a significant impact on my career as it provided interesting and important challenges to complement my laboratory skills with computational bioinformatics analysis. With the advent of high-throughput sequencing technologies, I look forward to pursuing a career in applied omics technologies, applying genome assemblies, transcriptomes, and genotyping to understand host-pathogen interactions.



## Publications

### ISPP - International Newsletter on Plant Pathology



The International Society for Plant Pathology promotes the world-wide development of plant pathology and the dissemination of knowledge about plant diseases and plant health management. News and announcements from all on any aspect of Plant Pathology are invited for the Newsletter.

**Editor: Daniel Huberli**

e-mail: [ispp.nl.editor@isspweb.org](mailto:ispp.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.isppweb.org/newsletter.asp>

**ISPP Newsletter 52 (10) October 2022**

- ICPP2023 in Lyon, the place to be!
- Sixth Update on ISPP Resilience Bursary for Plant Pathologists
- Report on the 14th International Conference on Plant Pathogenic
- Bacteria (14th ICPPB) and 4th International Erwinia Workshop (4th IEW), Assisi (Italy) July, 2022
- Obituary of Nicola Sante Iacobellis, 1949-2022
- Obituary of Professor Emeritus, Chuji Hiruki, 1931-2021

- New banana disease is spreading and poses a threat to Africa's food security
- Back to the roots
- 20 Years of Highly Influential Publications in Molecular Plant Immunity
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events

**ISPP Newsletter 52 (11) November 2022**

- ICPP2023 Provisional Scientific Program
- Seventh Update on ISPP Resilience Bursary for Plant Pathologists
- Research bears its fruit: Agroinnova celebrates its twentieth anniversary with Harvest
- The missing link: Fatty acid metabolism impacts plant immunity
- Researchers identify genes potentially responsible for sugarcane's resistance to pests, cold and drought
- Scientists say One Health approach to plant health is vital to achieving sustainable global food security
- Plant resources threatened by pests and diseases
- Awards for Professor Małgorzata Mańka and Professor Małgorzata Jędryczka in Poland

- Why do plant-pathogenic fungi produce mycotoxins?
  - The transcriptional regulator CtrA controls gene expression in Alphaproteobacteria phages
  - Current Vacancies
  - Acknowledgements
  - Coming Events
- ISPP Newsletter 52 (12) December 2022**
- Eighth Update on ISPP Resilience Bursary for Plant Pathologists
  - ICPP2023 - Lyon Satellite Events
  - Summary of the worldwide available crop disease risk simulation studies that were driven by climate change scenarios and published during the past 20 years
- Secretion secrets revealed: pathogen effector characterisation for a devastating plant disease
  - Breakthrough in protecting bananas from Panama disease
  - Understanding the environmental microbiome using confocal microscopy
  - A new species of *Mycodiplosis* gall midge feeding on myrtle rust
  - Vector acquisition and co-inoculation of two plant viruses
  - Current Vacancies
  - Acknowledgements
  - Coming Events



## Entomological Society of Canada



The *Bulletin* has been published quarterly by the Entomological Society of Canada since 1969. It provides information on the activities of the Society and its members, research and employment opportunities, matters of wider scientific importance and book reviews.

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## Submission Deadline for the March 2023 Issue of CPS-SCP News

**PLEASE NOTE:** The submission deadline for the March 2023 issue of CPS-SCP News is **February 24, 2023**. 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. In addition, photographs must be accompanied by a caption, and must be of suitable quality for printing. Photos that do not meet these guidelines will not be printed. When possible, please send photos as separate attachments, rather than embedding them in Word or PDF files.

