

Meeting Reports

Saskatchewan Regional Group of CPS

The annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Regional Group of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) was held at the Saskatoon Agriculture and Agri-Food (AAFC) Research and Development Centre on the morning of Tuesday November 26, 2019. The meeting provided an opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students of plant pathology to present their work and learn about plant pathology research in Saskatchewan, while also facilitating an exchange of ideas between researchers, agronomists and provincial specialists. The Saskatchewan Plant Disease Committee meeting was held in the afternoon of the same day in the same location.

Gursahib Singh, a Ph.D. candidate, was awarded \$300 for his first place graduate presentation entitled “Effect of fungicide application timing on Fusarium Head Blight in durum wheat”. M.Sc. candidate Alejandro Ledena delivered a presentation titled “Crop sequence study of Fusarium Head Blight on wheat and barley” for which she received a second place award of \$200. Two undergraduate students, Eliza Mae Acode and Weston Bohachewsk, delivered oral presentations on “Characterization of resistance to stripe rust in wheat accessions from Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) gene bank” and “Mining Plant Gene Resources of Canada (PGRC) gene bank wheat accessions and spelt wheat elite breeding lines for resistance to leaf and stem rust”, respectively. Both undergraduate students were awarded \$150 for participation. Graduate student Seon Hwa Kim presented a poster entitled “Scaled-up BCA mycoparasite fermentation for SASK biocontrol product efficacy against FHB”. All student oral and poster presenters received a copy of “Diseases of Field Crops”. Student presentations were judged by Myrtle Harrington (AAFC), Lipu Wang (University of Saskatchewan) and Yu Chen (Cargill).



Student presenters Eliza Mae Acode (far left), Weston Bohachewsk (next from left), Gursahib Singh (centre left), Alejandro Ledena (second from right) and Seon Hwa Kim (far right) with CPS-SK representative Michelle Hubbard (behind sign).

Contributed presentations were delivered by Jiangying Tu on “Synchrotron-based fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and focal plane array imaging reveal unique changes of cell-wall components in barley non host resistance to powdery-mildew fungus”, Rui Wen on “Quantification of *Plasmodiophora brassicae* resting spores in soils using Droplet Digital PCR (ddPCR)”, Zakir Hossain on “Biocontrol of *Aphanomyces* root rot in pea: a potential approach” and Michelle Hubbard on “*Ascochyta rabiei* in monocropped and intercropped chickpea in Saskatchewan”.

SaskCanola, SaskFlax, SaskWheat and Western Grains Research Foundation (WGRF) sponsored the meeting.

The meeting was organized by Michelle Hubbard (chair), Linda McGregor, Fengqun Yu, Coreen Franke and Melissa Kehler. Qilin Chen contributed to setting up the room. Tyler Wist provided a projector.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Hubbard, CPS-SK Regional Representative.