

**2014 Manitoba CPS Regional Meeting minutes  
December 4<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Morden AAFC Research Centre, Morden MB**

The 2014 Manitoba Regional Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society was held on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December at the AAFC Research Centre in Morden MB. Thirty-Five people attended the event.

Registration with coffee and donuts started at 9:00am.

After introductions, the attendees first received a warm welcome from Dr. David Wall on behalf of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and from Dr. Jim Menzies on behalf of the local arrangements committee. Dr. Deena Errampalli, the current CPS President, joined by video teleconference and made a short presentation. Dr. Errampalli welcomed the attendees and conveyed information on future CPS and joint meetings.

Disease updates followed: Dr. Brent McCallum (leaf, stripe, and stem rusts), Dr. Jim Menzies (crown rust, smuts, and ergot), Dr. Khalid Rashid (flax and sunflower diseases including aster yellows, verticillium wilt, rusts, sclerotinia rots, and downy mildews), Mrs. Holly Derksen (FHB in wheat and Goss's wilt in corn), Dr. Debbie McLaren (pulse diseases including root rots, mycosphaerella blight, mold, anthracnose, and downy mildew, as well as canola blackleg), Dr. Xiben Wang (barley diseases), Dr. Vikram Bisht (soybean and vegetable diseases).

This year there were seven student presentations as follows:

- **Alkher H, Adam LR, Kawchuk LM, Peters RD, Al-Mughrabi KI, Daayf F.** Cross-pathogenicity of *Phytophthora infestans* on potato and tomato.
- **Hajihassani A, Tenuta M.** Host preference and seed-borne transmission of the stem nematodes, *Ditylenchus weischeri* and *dipsaci*.
- **Amarasinghe CC, Tittlemier SA, Fernando WGD.** Identification of nivalenol producing *Fusarium cerealis* in winter wheat for the first time in Manitoba, Canada.
- **Reimer LM, De Kievit T, Fernando WGD.** The plant growth promoting ability of biocontrol bacteria *Pseudomonas chlororaphis* PA23, *Pseudomonas brassicacearum* DF41, and *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*
- **Becker MG, Girard IJ, Fernando WGD, Belmonte MF.** How Low Can We Go? Optimization of RNA sequencing libraries to study the *Brassica napus* – *Leptosphaeria maculans* pathosystem genomics.
- **Zhu X, Islam MR, Adam LR, Daayf F.** Functional analysis of potential pathogenicity determinants in *Verticillium dahliae*.
- **Molina OI, Tenuta M, Daayf F.** Quantification of *Verticillium* species using Real Time PCR in potato soils in Manitoba.

After lunch, the attendees were given a tour of the AAFC Morden Research Centre. Then presentations were given by Dr. Mark Belmonte from the University of Manitoba, Dr. Vikram Bisht from Manitoba Agriculture, and Dr. Maria Antonia Henriquez from AAFC Brandon:

- **Belmonte MF, Becker MG, Zhang X, Fernando WGD.** Comprehensive RNA profiling of the *Leptosphaeria maculans* – *Brassica napus* cotyledon pathosystem.
- **Bisht V, Gudmestad N, and Desjardins M.** Boscalid and Azoxystrobin resistance in *Alternaria solani* isolates from Manitoba.
- **Henriquez MA, McLaren DL, Conner RL, Balasubramanian PM, Chang KF, Hwang SF, Strelkov SE, Gossen BD, Penner WC.** Soybean root rot and *Phytophthora* rot in Manitoba.

After a short coffee break, awards for best student presentations were presented to two winners. The best student oral presentation went to **Michael Becker** (supervisor: Dr. Mark Belmonte) and the runner-up was **Oscar Molina** (supervisor: Mario Tenuta). The business meeting followed shortly after.



Dr. Fouad Daayf (center) congratulates the winners of the Best Student Oral Presentation awards at the CPS Manitoba Regional Meeting. Michael Becker (right) won first place and Oscar Molina (left) took second.

### **Business meeting**

After welcoming the members, Dr. Daayf asked for the adoption of the minutes from last year's meeting. The minutes were accepted by a motion from Dr. K. Rashid, seconded by Dr. B. McCallum. Dr. Daayf and Mr. Lorne Adam provided an update on the newly remodeled CPS

website and invited the members to send any comments or remarks on the new website to the CPS Board.

The members then discussed the possibility of hosting the annual meeting of the CPS in Winnipeg in 2017. A vote was held and the members unanimously voted for hosting the meeting in Winnipeg. Dr. Daayf and Dr. Menzies will be chairing the local arrangements committee.

Dr. Daayf presented a financial update of the Manitoba regional section, and then thanked all those in the audience for coming, and Drs. Menzies, Rashid, and Bisht for this year's local arrangements of the CPS-Manitoba section meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Fouad Daayf

CPS-MB Regional Representative

