

# CPS • SCP News



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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March 2025

## Message from the Executive Board of the CPS

Greetings CPS Members,

After a long and snowy winter in many parts of the country, we hope that the first signs of spring are starting to emerge wherever you may be. We hope that the winter has offered an opportunity to work through data collected during the busy field season, to spend some productive time in the lab, and to catch up on some of the reading and writing that there never seems to be enough time for during the busy summer months!

We hope that you will join us for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the CPS, which will be held from June 15-20 in Vancouver, BC, at the University of British Columbia. Registration and abstract submissions are now open [on the CPS website](#). The early-bird registration deadline is **April 15th**. This meeting will be held jointly with the 17th International Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildews Conference, which will meet from June 15-20. A joint banquet will be held in the evening of June 18th. This joint meeting provides an ideal opportunity to connect with colleagues from around the world. The

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conference organizing committee is hard at work preparing an engaging and fun program for participants, including a pre-meeting workshop, "Identification of phytopathogens using high-throughput sequencing data generated from environmental samples". This workshop will

provide hands-on training on in silico approaches for identifying and classifying samples from sequencing data, drawing on experience with rust fungus-infected cereal samples collected from fields. However, the concepts intended to explore in the workshop are broadly applicable so they can be tailored to specific species of interest. We hope to see you there!

If you haven't already done so, please consider nominating one of your colleagues or students for one of the many awards offered by the CPS! The deadline for nominations for CPS Awards is **March 15, 2025**, so make sure to get your nominations in as soon as possible!

The enthusiastically-awaited 4th edition of Diseases of Field Crops in Canada will be available soon! Printing of this useful text has begun, and we anticipate that the book will be available within the next two months. Keep your eyes peeled for an announcement when the book is available for ordering.

Plans are underway to refresh and modernize the CPS' website! Our CPS Website Editor, **Michael Holtz**, is working with a new service provider to refresh the look, feel and functionality of our website.

Some of the upgrades will include a refreshed payment and registration system, as well as improved readability and functionality on mobile devices. We expect that the refreshed version of the website will be launched in advance of the 2025 Annual Meeting. Additionally, assisted by **Michael Holtz** and **Erika Dort** (Graduate Student), **Denis Gaudet** has been updating the 'Bring Our History Alive' project online ([https://phytopath.ca/historical\\_bringing-our-history-alive/](https://phytopath.ca/historical_bringing-our-history-alive/)) with new information in

memory of former CPS members who have passed away. The initiative currently includes three sections: (1) Early History of the Canadian

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Phytopathological Society, (2) Canadian Pioneers in Plant Pathology and Mycology, and (3) Remembering Our Colleagues Who Have Passed (1979–present). If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Denis at [denisandregaudet@gmail.com](mailto:denisandregaudet@gmail.com).

Best wishes for a happy and productive spring. We look forward to seeing you in June at the annual meeting!

Warm regards,  
The Executive Board of the CPS



## Message du conseil d'administration de la SCP

Sincères salutations à tous les membres de la SCP,

Après le long hiver enneigé qu'ont éprouvé plusieurs régions du pays, nous espérons que les premiers signes du printemps commencent à se faire sentir, où que vous soyez. Nous espérons également que l'hiver vous a permis de traiter les données accumulées au cours de la saison mouvementée passée sur le terrain, de passer quelques heures productives au laboratoire, et de rattraper le temps qui se fait trop souvent rare pour lire et rédiger durant les mois chargés de l'été!

Nous espérons que vous vous joindrez à nous à la réunion annuelle de 2025 de la SCP qui se tiendra du 15 au 20 juin à

Vancouver, à l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique. Vous pouvez déjà vous inscrire et soumettre vos résumés [sur le site Web de la SCPT](#). La date limite pour l'inscription hâtive est **le 15 avril**. Cette réunion se tiendra conjointement avec la 17<sup>e</sup> Conférence internationale sur les rouilles et l'oïdium des céréales, du 15 au 20 juin. Un banquet commun aura lieu dans la soirée du 18 juin. Cette réunion conjointe sera une occasion idéale de rencontrer des collègues de partout dans le monde. Le comité organisateur de la conférence travaille d'arrache-pied afin de préparer un

**«Nous espérons que vous vous joindrez à nous à la réunion annuelle de 2025 de la SCP qui se tiendra du 15 au 20 juin à Vancouver, à l'Université de la Colombie-Britannique.»**

programme amusant et stimulant pour les participants, y compris la mise sur pied d'un atelier préparatoire à la réunion sous le thème de « l'identification d'agents phytopathogènes grâce à des données issues du séquençage à haut débit, générées à partir d'échantillons prélevés dans l'environnement ». Cet atelier constituera une initiation pratique sur les approches in silico visant l'identification et la classification d'échantillons issus des données de séquençage, en s'appuyant sur l'expérience acquise avec des échantillons de céréales infectées par des champignons de la rouille, collectés sur le terrain. Néanmoins, les concepts que l'on prévoit

d'explorer dans le cadre de l'atelier sont largement applicables et, en conséquence, ils peuvent être adaptés à des

espèces d'intérêt précises. Nous espérons vous y voir!

Si vous ne l'avez déjà fait, s'il vous plaît, envisagez de proposer la candidature d'un de vos collègues ou étudiants pour un des nombreux prix décernés par la SCP! La date limite pour les mises en candidature est **le 15 mars 2025**, alors assurez-vous de les transmettre dès que possible!

La quatrième édition impatiemment attendue de Maladies des grandes cultures au Canada sera bientôt en vente! Ce

manuel pratique est déjà sous presse et nous prévoyons qu'il sera distribué d'ici deux mois. Restez aux aguets pour vous assurer de ne pas manquer l'annonce de sa mise en vente pour le commander.

On envisage actuellement la refonte du site Web de la SCP! Le rédacteur de notre site, **Michael Holtz**, travaille avec un nouveau fournisseur de services pour en actualiser l'apparence et la fonctionnalité. Certaines des mises à jour incluront la refonte du système d'enregistrement et de paiement ainsi que, pour les plateformes mobiles, une meilleure lisibilité et des fonctionnalités améliorées. Nous prévoyons que la version actualisée du site Web sera lancée avant la réunion annuelle de 2025. En outre, avec l'aide de **Michael Holtz** et d'**Erika Dort** (étudiante diplômée), **Denis Gaudet** a mis à jour le projet « Ravivons notre histoire »

([https://phytopath.ca/historical\\_bringing-our-history-alive/](https://phytopath.ca/historical_bringing-our-history-alive/)), comportant de nouveaux renseignements en hommage aux anciens membres de la SCP aujourd'hui décédés. Le projet comprend actuellement trois sections : 1) Les origines de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie; 2) Les pionniers canadiens de la phytopathologie et de la mycologie; et 3) Un hommage à nos collègues disparus (de 1979 à aujourd'hui). Si vous avez des idées ou des suggestions, s'il vous plaît, contactez Denis à l'adresse suivante : [denisandregaudet@gmail.com](mailto:denisandregaudet@gmail.com).

Nous vous souhaitons un très florissant et très fécond printemps et nous espérons vous voir en juin à la réunion annuelle!

Amicalement,

Le conseil d'administration de la SCP



## Society Business

### Call for Nominations: CPS Awards

CPS Members: Nominate a deserving colleague for a CPS Award

Students: Apply for CPS Scholarships and Student Travel Awards

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
- Outstanding Research
- Outstanding Young Scientist
- CPS Education Award
- Achievements in Plant Disease Management
- Career Recognition Award

Full descriptions of each category are posted on the CPS web site at <https://phytopath.ca/about-cps/cps-awards/>. For each application, please combine materials into a single file (except for references for student awards) and send to the CPS Awards Committee at [cps.awards@gmail.com](mailto:cps.awards@gmail.com).

We also encourage graduate students to apply for CPS Student Awards

Graduate Student Scholarships (three awards at \$1500 each).

Graduate Student Travel Awards (three awards at \$1000 each).

**The deadline for submission of all applications is March 15, 2025.**

Send nominations and applications to the CPS Awards Committee at [cps.awards@gmail.com](mailto:cps.awards@gmail.com). Please combine all materials into a single file for each application, and use the last name of the nominee (or applicant if for student award) to start the filename including target award name. For Best Student Presentation Awards, only a single presentation (whether oral or poster) will be considered per student. When submitting abstracts for the student presentation award, please indicate which one is being used in competition, and also send a copy of that abstract to [cps.awards@gmail.com](mailto:cps.awards@gmail.com).



## Report from the CPS Nominating Committee

Dear CPS Members,

The Nominating Committee has received, review and endorsed the following nominations for positions on the Board of Directors and Standing Committee starting in 2025:

### Board of Directors:

- **Vice President (1): David Joly and Wen Chen**
- **Junior Director (1): Mamadou Fall, Mindy Liu and Shawkat Ali**
- **Secretary: Tom Fetch**
- **Membership Secretary: Sara Stricker**

### Standing Committees:

- **Awards Committee (1): James Tucker and Sean Westerveld**
- **Nominating Committee (2): Randy Kucher**

According to our By-Laws, where more than one candidate is nominated for a position, an election by secret ballot shall be held. This applies to the nominations for Vice President, Junior Director and member of Awards Committee this year. CPS members should have recently received their ballots by email from the CPS Membership Secretary. If you didn't receive your ballot, please reach out to Sara Stricker, the Membership Secretary, at [CPS.member.sec@gmail.com](mailto:CPS.member.sec@gmail.com).

All nominations/appointments will require the final approval by members at the AMOM in June, 2025.

We thank everyone for taking the time to nominate your colleagues for these CPS positions! If you have any questions regarding the information, please contact Gary Peng, the Chair of the Nominating Committee at [gary.peng@agr.gc.ca](mailto:gary.peng@agr.gc.ca).

Submitted by Tom Fetch  
Secretary, CPS board



## Meetings

# Joint Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society and the 17th International Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildews Conference

**Registration and abstract submission are now open for the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Canadian Phytopathological Society!**

The Annual Meeting of the CPS will be held from June 15-20, 2025 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.

This meeting will be held jointly with the 17th International Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildews Conference, so this is a great opportunity to meet with international colleagues!

**Register and submit your abstracts on the CPS Website at:**  
<https://phytopath.ca/meetings/cps-icrPMC2025/>

**The earlybird registration deadline is April 15!**



## People

### Congratulations to Anuradha Jayathissa!

Congratulations to Anuradha Jayathissa on the successful defense of her Ph.D. thesis at the University of Manitoba on Feb. 18, 2025. Anuradha's thesis was titled "Influence of Pathogen Strain, Barley Cultivar, and HYD5 Protein on Fusarium Head Blight Progression and Fusarium-Barley Interactions During Malting." She was co-advised by Drs. Matthew Bakker (U Manitoba Department of Microbiology) and Dilantha Fernando (U Manitoba Department of Plant Science). Portions of her thesis have been published as <https://doi.org/10.1111/ppa.13918> and <https://doi.org/10.1111/ppa.13946>, while the final chapter of her thesis is currently in the review & revision process.



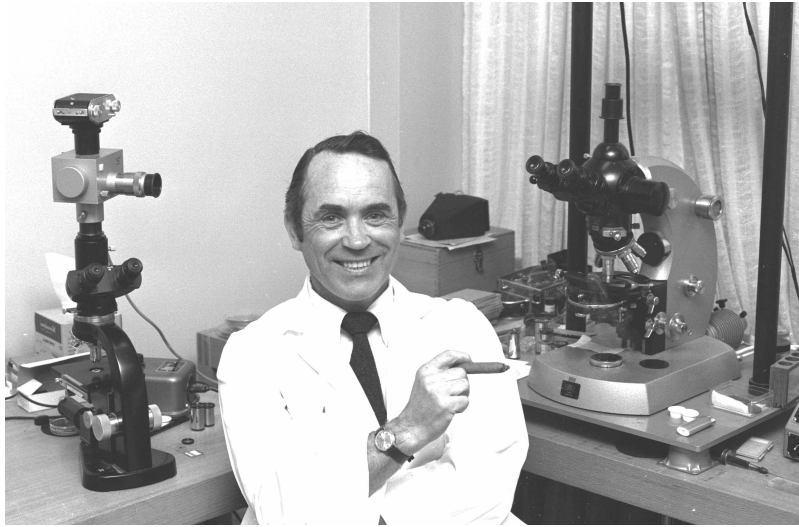
**Anuradha Jayathissa** (right) with her co-advisor **Matthew Bakker** (left)





## In Memoriam

### George Lawrence Barron 29 August 1928 – 12 October 2024



Dr. George Barron of the University of Guelph was born in Grangemouth, Scotland, and spent his formative years at various cities and towns in Scotland. By the time he graduated from high school in 1946, he had dropped out, spent two years working as an apprentice in a shipyard, and returned to complete his requirements to finish when he was 18 years old. Upon graduation, he faced mandatory post-war conscription and spent

time in the RAF as well as training in wireless and radar technology. When he was demobilized in 1949, he became eligible for post-secondary financial support, and started his undergraduate degree in Science at Glasgow University. He met his future wife, Mae Thomson, there in 1951, and married in 1953. He graduated at the top of his class in 1954 with a B.Sc. Honours in Botany. Their daughter Lesley was born in Glasgow in June 1954, and then soon after, they moved to Guelph where George earned his MSc degree in Plant Pathology under the direction of Blair MacNeill. Then they moved to Ames Iowa, where George completed his Ph.D. in mycology under the direction of Joseph Gilman, and where their son Scott was born in 1957. Then George returned to Guelph in 1958 to accept an assistant professor position in Botany in the Ontario Agricultural College, which in 1964 became part of the University of Guelph. His second son Stuart was born there in 1959, followed by his daughter Laurie in 1965. He is survived by his children and seven grandchildren.

George's research on fungi was highly respected. His books, *The Genera of Hyphomycetes from Soil* (1968), *The Nematode-destroying Fungi* (1977), and *Mushrooms of Ontario and Eastern Canada* (1999), made fungi accessible to mycologists, soil biologists and the general public through clear, succinct text and beautiful drawings and photographs. Over the years, he received a number of prestigious awards and honours in recognition of his work. These included the Distinguished Mycologist Award by the Mycological Society of America (1998), and a Doctor of Science degree from the University of Glasgow (1984) for his contributions to soil mycology. George was also awarded the George Lawson Medal from the Canadian

Botanical Society (1993) for his contributions on the biology of soil fungi in Canada. To celebrate their centenary in 1996, the British Mycological Society awarded Fellowships to thirty distinguished mycologists around the world. George was selected as one of this elite global group. George was awarded a D.Sc. from St. Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia for significant contributions to Canadian mycology (2004).

Upon mandatory retirement in 1993, he continued to come in to work daily until well into his eighties. At that time, George changed direction from microfungi to macrofungi, and wrote a book on *The Mushrooms of Ontario and North-East North America*. The book was well-received and sold over 45,000 copies in Canada and the USA. His favourite retirement project was the creation of a website on fungi that was enjoyed widely by students of fungi, both professional and amateur. In the early years, his website attracted close to a million hits annually. George released much of the content of the website on a CD with over 900 pages and a thousand images of fungi. The CD received appreciative comments for its quality of content, and value as an educational resource.

George's wit and humour will be missed by all who knew him.

Respectfully submitted by Tom Hsiang (U of Guelph) and Greg Thorn (Western University)



## Young Scientists' Corner

**Kirsten Holy**

University of Guelph



My name is Kirsten Holy, I am currently writing my thesis titled “Monitoring and Managing Clubroot (*Plasmodiophora brassicae*) on Canola in Ontario” at the University of Guelph with advisors Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald and Dr. Bruce D. Gossen.

When I was completing my undergraduate degree in biological sciences at the University of Ottawa, I was not exactly sure what aspect of biology I wanted to pursue as a career. I decided to specialize in plant physiology and was lucky enough to take a plant pathology course taught by Dr. Allyson MacLean and Dr. Elizabeth Brauer. I thoroughly enjoyed the course content, especially when learning about the applications of plant pathology in the agricultural industry. This course was also my first introduction to clubroot, and I remember being intrigued by the prolific organism that is *P. brassicae*!

I went on to work for Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Dr. Elizabeth Brauer’s laboratory at the Experimental Farm in Ottawa, ON. In Dr. Brauer’s lab I was a part of a project examining a novel virulence factor of *Fusarium graminearum*. Here I was able to gain in-field experience and strengthen my molecular skills. Shortly after this I began my master’s research at the University of Guelph in the McDonald laboratory. My project is divided into three objectives, the first of which is focused on monitoring the distribution and virulence of clubroot pathotypes in Ontario. This involved collection of clubroot samples from fields in the Timiskaming District, and the valued help of many agronomists, growers, and industry professionals. My other two objectives are related to disease management. These focus on assessing soil characteristics related to disease development, including pH, calcium, and the microbiome, as well as environmental factors affecting *P. brassicae* resting spore viability.

The applications of my master’s research that directly benefit growers and aid in our understanding of the tricky organism that is *P. brassicae* have been the most fulfilling to me. I am excited to continue working in plant pathology and the agricultural industry because I see a great importance in the research being done by Canadian plant pathologists. I would like to recognize all the individual who were involved in my journey in plant pathology research up until this point, as well as the support from the Ontario Graduate Scholarship, and the Ontario Agricultural College community.



## 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@isppweb.org](mailto:ispp.nl.editor@isppweb.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>

- Advancements in plant gene editing technology: From construct design to enhanced transformation efficiency
- Bacterial diseases: An emerging threat for central European forest and urban trees?
- Unity against uncertainty: Experts come together to combat Rice False Smut
- New FAO analysis maps nationally determined contributions, identifies opportunities, gaps and risks related to agrifood climate solutions
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events

#### ISPP Newsletter 55 (1) January 2025

- ISPP President's greetings for 2025
- 2024 Update on the ISPP Resilience Bursary expenditures and activities by Ukrainian scientists in Poland
- Sniffer dog detects tree disease to help protect UK's woodlands
- What a century-old grapevine reveals about a disease that plagues wine country
- Harnessing nature's arsenal: Phospholipids in plant defense mechanisms
- NASA helps spot wine grape disease from skies above California

#### ISPP Newsletter 55 (2) February 2025

- Obituary of Dr Peter Richard Scott FISPP, 1942-2025
- Meeting, training school and survey on food loss and waste
- Enhancing social media delivery to plant pathologists – ISPP 2023 Survey Final Report
- Obituary of Jari Valkonen, 1964-2024
- EUPHRESCO III - Video contest 2025
- Confronting risks of mirror life
- The 2030 declaration on scientific plant and fungal collecting

- APS course on Developing and Validating Seed Health Assays
  - Current Vacancies
  - Acknowledgements
  - Coming Events
- ISPP Newsletter 55 (3) March 2025**
- From crop diseases to malnutrition, the innovators are finding solutions in unexpected places
  - A tribute to Dr James (Jim) Waller, 1938-2024
  - Plant cells gain immune capabilities when it's time to fight disease
- Professor Robert Park recognised as national 'problem solver' by Universities Australia
  - Obituary of Armando Bergamin Filho, 1948-2025
  - Assessing delimiting strategies to identify the infested zones of quarantine plant pests and diseases
  - Brown spot of rice
  - These bacteria perform a trick that could keep plants healthy
  - 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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## Contact the Editors

### Linda Elizabeth Jewell, Editor

St. John's Research and Development Centre  
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada  
204 Brookfield Rd.  
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador  
A1E 6J5

Telephone: 709-351-0361  
Email: [linda.jewell@agr.gc.ca](mailto:linda.jewell@agr.gc.ca)

### Coreen Franke, Associate Editor

Nutrien Ag Solutions  
201 - 407 Downey Road  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan  
S7N 4L8

Telephone: 306-229-4180  
Email: [coreen.franke@nutrien.com](mailto:coreen.franke@nutrien.com)

## Submission Deadline for the June 2025 Issue of CPS-SCP News

**PLEASE NOTE:** The submission deadline for the June 2025 issue of CPS-SCP News is **May 30, 2025**. 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. Please send photos as separate attachments, rather than embedding them in Word or PDF files.

