

Atlantic Canada 2024 Regional Update

The 2024 edition of the meeting of the Atlantic chapter of the Canadian Phytopathological Society, took place on November 21 at the Kentville Research and Development Centre in Kentville, NS. The local host was Shawkat Ali and he did an outstanding job arranging the meeting! There were 9 oral and 2 poster presentations on various topics in phytopathology presented in the afternoon, with a nutrition break to stimulate active discussion among participants. Dinner after the meeting was held at the Old Orchard Inn, Wolfville Ridge, NS.

We were pleased to welcome Dr. Shuanglong Huang, Department of Agriculture, Prince Edward Island as our keynote speaker. Dr. Huang is a new scientist with the PEI Department of Agriculture and his presentation was entitled: “From west to east: advancing crop health through collaborative research”.

There were multiple winners of the Best Student Paper Award. Shayne McLaughlin (Kentville Research and Development Centre, Kentville, NS) presented a paper entitled: “Exploring the bacterial communities of 'Honeycrisp' apples in Atlantic Canada”. Xavier Godin (Kentville Research and Development Centre, Kentville, NS) gave a paper entitled: “Apple (*Malus domestica*) rootstock selection of microorganisms induces differential microbiome architecture resulting in a disease suppressive state”. Qifan Yang (Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Charlottetown Laboratory, PE) presented a poster on “Assessing the viability of potato wart (*Synchytrium endobioticum*) sporangia using Fluorescent In-Situ Hybridization (FISH) techniques”. Youssef Moutahir (Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB) presented a paper entitled: “Development and validation of approaches for the detection, propagation, and synthesis of Hop Latent Viroid: toward the development of a biotechnological tool for functional genomics in cannabis”. Finally, Laryssa Roy (Université de Moncton, Moncton, NB) gave a paper entitled: “Uncovering the diversity of *Fusarium oxysporum* formae speciales affecting *Cannabis sativa*”. Each graduate student received a cheque for \$100 as a reward for their excellent presentations. Undergraduate students were awarded \$50.

Many thanks to all who attended the meeting. We trust we will be able to get together on a regular basis in future, and on that note, plans are developing for Linda Jewell and Dawn Bignell to host the 2025 meetings in Newfoundland and Labrador.

Submitted by Rick Peters, Atlantic CPS rep



Photo caption

Hosts, keynote speaker and student award winners at the recent 2024 CPS (Atlantic chapter) meetings in Kentville, NS. From the left: Dr. Shuanglong Huang (keynote speaker), Dr. Shawkat Ali (host), Xavier Godin (student), Shayne McLaughlin (student), Dr. Rick Peters (Atlantic CPS rep), Youssef Moutahir (student), Qifan Yang (student), and Laryssa Roy (student).