

CPS • SCP *News*



CANADIAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY • SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DE PHYTOPATHOLOGIE

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President's Message



Maria Antonia Henriquez
CPS-SCP President/présidente

Dear CPS Members,

As we approach the Holiday Season, I would like to extend my warmest holiday greetings to all members of the Canadian Phytopathological Society. This season offers a welcome moment to reflect on our accomplishments and to look ahead with enthusiasm to the opportunities before us.

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Planning is well underway for our CPS 2026 Annual Meeting in Halifax, to be held at the historic Lord Nelson Hotel. Our theme, **"Plant Pathology in a Changing World,"** highlights the evolving challenges and innovations shaping our discipline. As new diseases emerge and traditional strategies

are tested, innovations in genomics, diagnostics, and precision agriculture are providing fresh tools for sustainable disease management and protecting global food security. We are preparing an outstanding

lineup of invited speakers who will address a wide range of timely and impactful topics. The conference will also feature two hands-on workshops on the final day: **Microbiome Analysis in R** chaired by **Wen Chen** and **R for Statistical Analysis** chaired by **Gurcharn Brar**. In addition, on **Sunday, June 14, a Valley Tour** will be offered, providing visits to diverse crop farms and a local winery—an excellent opportunity to connect science, agriculture, and community. More information, including the conference program, registration and abstract submission will be made available on the CPS website after the new year. We look forward to welcoming you to Halifax for what promises to be an enriching and memorable meeting.

In other society news, the CPS website will soon include a **CPS-Board of Directors password-protected area** to maintain and archive historical records of Board meetings and documentation. A new **Subject Matter Committee for CPS Webinars** has also been established, chaired by the CPS President, with the Junior and Senior Directors serving as members. This committee will oversee the launch of online webinars every two to three months, open to the public and featuring both national and international speakers.

“I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication to the Society—through your research, leadership, mentoring, volunteerism, and commitment to advancing plant pathology in Canada and beyond.”

The Board has been working diligently on several administrative updates, including amendments to existing by-laws. In addition, the **Information Products Marketing Committee**, chaired by **Mike Harding**, is reviewing and

updating its Terms of Reference, originally established in 1997. Additionally, the **Virtual Workshop Committee** (created in 2022) has been merged with the **Ad Hoc Symposium Workshop Committee** (created in 1997) to form a unified **Workshop Committee**, chaired by **Wen Chen**. Updated Terms of Reference will be prepared for this committee as well. I am also pleased to share that the Board has approved an increase in funding support for **CPS Regional Groups**—from \$1,000 to \$1,500—to help strengthen and promote regional activities across the country.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to **Dilantha Fernando** for kindly agreeing to lead the development of our **new CPS Strategic Plan**, which will guide the Society’s vision over the next 5–10 years. We truly appreciate his support and commitment to this important work. Dilantha will soon begin forming his committee with representation from across Canada to support the planning process.

Finally, I want to thank each of you for your continued dedication to the Society—through your research, leadership, mentoring, volunteerism, and commitment to advancing plant pathology in Canada and beyond. Our strength as a Society comes

from the passion and participation of our members, and I am truly grateful for your contributions.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and a restful and joyful holiday season.

Warm regards,

Maria Antonia Henriquez

President of CPS

Research Scientist

Morden Research and Development Centre
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada



Message de la présidente

Chers membres de la SCP,

À l'approche des fêtes, je souhaite adresser mes vœux les plus chaleureux à tous les membres de la Société canadienne de phytopathologie. Cette saison nous offre un moment bienvenu pour réfléchir à nos réalisations et envisager l'avenir avec enthousiasme quant aux possibilités qui s'offrent à nous.

La planification de notre réunion annuelle de 2026, qui se tiendra à Halifax à l'hôtel historique Lord Nelson, va bon train. Notre thème, « **La phytopathologie dans un monde en mutation** », met en évidence les défis et les innovations en constante évolution qui façonnent notre discipline. À mesure que de nouvelles maladies apparaissent et que les stratégies traditionnelles sont mises à l'épreuve, des innovations en génomique, en diagnostic et en agriculture de précision fournissent de nouveaux outils pour la gestion durable des maladies et la protection de la sécurité alimentaire mondiale. Nous préparons une liste exceptionnelle d'orateurs invités qui traiteront d'un large éventail de sujets

d'actualité et percutants. Le dernier jour, la réunion offrira également deux ateliers pratiques : **L'analyse du microbiome en R**, présidé par **Wen Chen** et **R pour l'analyse statistique**, présidé par **Gurcharn Brar**. De plus, **le dimanche 14 juin, un tour de la vallée sera offert**, proposant des visites dans diverses exploitations agricoles ainsi que d'un domaine viticole local — une excellente occasion de faire le lien entre la science, l'agriculture et la communauté. De plus amples renseignements, concernant, entre autres, le programme de la réunion, l'inscription et la soumission de résumés, seront disponibles sur le site Web de la SCP après le début de la nouvelle année. Nous avons hâte de vous accueillir à Halifax pour ce qui promet d'être une réunion enrichissante et mémorable.

Autres actualités de la Société, le site Web de la SCP inclura bientôt **une zone protégée par mot de passe pour les directeurs du conseil de la SCP** pour conserver et archiver les comptes rendus historiques des réunions du conseil et la documentation. Un nouveau **comité thématique sur les webinaires de la SCP**

a également été créé, présidé par la présidente de la SCP avec les directeurs, principal et adjoint, en tant que membres. Ce comité supervisera le lancement de webinaires en ligne tous les deux ou trois mois, ouverts au public et mettant en vedette des conférenciers nationaux et internationaux.

Le conseil a travaillé avec diligence sur

plusieurs mises à jour administratives, y compris des modifications aux règlements en vigueur. En outre, le **Comité de commercialisation des produits d'information**, présidé par **Mike Harding**, révise et met à jour son mandat, établi initialement en 1997. De plus, le **Comité de l'atelier virtuel** (créé en 2022) a été fusionné avec le **Comité ad hoc pour les ateliers du symposium** (créé en 1997) pour former le **Comité des ateliers**, présidé par **Wen Chen**. Un mandat actualisé sera aussi préparé pour ce comité. Je suis également heureuse de vous annoncer que le conseil a approuvé une augmentation du soutien financier pour **les groupes régionaux de la SCP** — passant de 1 000 \$ à 1 500 \$ — pour aider à renforcer et à promouvoir les activités régionales partout au pays.

Je tiens à exprimer ma sincère gratitude à **Dilantha Fernando** pour avoir aimablement accepté de diriger l'élaboration de notre **nouveau plan stratégique** qui guidera la

vision de la Société au cours des 10 à 15 prochaines années. Nous apprécions grandement son soutien et son engagement en ce qui a trait à cet important travail. Dilantha formera bientôt son comité

composé de représentants de partout au Canada pour soutenir le processus de planification.

Finalement, je tiens à remercier

chacun d'entre vous pour votre dévouement continu envers la Société — grâce à vos recherches, à votre leadership, à votre mentorat, à votre bénévolat et à votre engagement à faire progresser la phytopathologie au Canada et au-delà. Notre force en tant que Société émane de la passion et de la participation de nos membres, et je vous suis sincèrement reconnaissante pour vos contributions.

Je vous souhaite à tous un joyeux Noël et une bonne année, ainsi que de joyeuses et reposantes fêtes de fin d'année!

Salutations cordiales,

Maria Antonia Henriquez
Présidente de la SCP
Chercheuse scientifique
Centre de recherche et de développement de Morden
Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada



Society Business

Call for Nominations: New CPS Board and Standing Committee Members

Vacancies for the Board of Directors:

- Vice President
- Junior Director

Vacancies for Members of Standing Committees

- Awards Committee (1)
- Financial Advisory Committee (1)
- Nominating Committee (1)

All nominations must have the consent of the nominee and be endorsed by at least five CPS members, including the nominee. Please consider nominating your colleagues for any of these positions. For details on the duties of these positions, please refer to the By-laws: <https://phytopath.ca/about/organization/>.

All nominations will need to be received on or before February 1st, 2026. Please send your nominations to either the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Guillaume Bilodeau (guillaume.bilodeau@inspection.gc.ca) or CPS Secretary, Tom Fetch (tomfetchjr@outlook.com) on or before the deadline.

For questions, please contact Tom Fetch at the email address above.

Submitted by Gary Peng (on behalf of the Chair of the Nominating Committee)



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.

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 31, 2026.

Send nominations and applications to the CPS Awards Committee at 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.



Meetings

Report on the 45th Annual Meeting of the PPSA



November 12-14th, 2024, Best Western Inn & Suites, Lacombe, Alberta

The 40th Annual Meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta (PPSA) was held from November 12 to 14, 2024 at the Best Western Inn & Suites, Lacombe, Alberta. The meeting began with a warm congratulatory message from the Chair of the local arrangements committee, T.K. Turkington, AAFC Lacombe and Barb Shepherd, Reeve of Lacombe County. There were a total of 64 attendees at the meeting including students, post-doctoral students, researchers, and extension staff. The breadth, depth and diversity of attendees concerned about plant pathology for various crop types provided a broad perspective. The meeting brought together a broad range of areas and research disciplines that encompassed the continuum from the DNA level, to the laboratory, field, end-use markets, and to the dinner plate. In addition, the meeting represented a critical learning and career development opportunity for students looking at careers related to the development of more in-depth knowledge of plant pathogens, host-pathogen systems, breeding, epidemiology, and practical in-field management. Additionally, it provided an important opportunity for the plant pathology community and stakeholders (producer groups, industry, funders, etc.) to network and learn about the current status of Prairie-based research and the development of solutions within Canada and globally. A banquet was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2024 at the Best Western Hotel. The 2024 PPSA organizers would like to thank the sponsors, organizers, attendees and hotel staff for making the 2024 PPSA meeting a success.

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta (Lacombe, AB) included 16 oral presentations and 23 posters. There were three student talks, eleven student posters, three oral presentations by technicians and three poster presentations by technicians. The judging committee was led by Robyne Davidson and included Michele Konschuh, James Calpas, and Michael Holtz.

At an awards ceremony, following the banquet on Wednesday November 13, 2024, the award winners were announced and presented with a cheque for \$250, a certificate acknowledging the achievement, and copy of the book *Plant Pathology in Canada 1970-2008*.

The award winners were:

Outstanding technician oral presentation:

Greg Daniels: Sampling and processing variability and its effect on *Plasmodiophora brassicae* detection and quantification in Alberta soils

Outstanding technician poster presentation:

Mouldi Zid: Sensitivity of *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis* populations to DMI and QoI fungicides

Outstanding student oral presentation:

Bohan Wei: The genetic evolution and adaptation of the stripe rust pathogen *Puccinia striiformis* in Canada

Outstanding student poster presentation:

Chunxiao (Rai) Yang: Assessing yield loss in canola: The combined impact of clubroot and verticillium stripe.

Two scholarship recipients were announced at the awards ceremony. Each recipient received a cheque for \$1500, a certificate commemorating the achievement and the CPS book, *History of Plant Pathology in Canada*.

PPSA Scholarship: Xinjie (Winston) Liu was the recipient of the 2024 PPSA Graduate Student Scholarship. Xinjie is a PhD student in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Alberta supervised by Dr. Guanqun (Gavin) Chen. His dissertation topic is "Elucidating the function(s) of PHOSPHOLIPASE(S) in canola to both abiotic and biotic stresses."

Swanson Award: Mr. Someshwar Ravnit Latchman was the recipient of the 2024 Swanson Award in Plant Pathology and Nematology. Ravnit is a PhD at the University of British Columbia co-supervised by Drs. Simone Castellarin and Rishi Burlakoti and his dissertation topic is "Investigating methods of prevention of bacterial blight in blueberry plants caused by *Pseudomonas syringae*".

On behalf of the PPSA Awards committee, our sincere congratulations to the award winners and scholarship recipients. Many thanks to the judges for their efforts in evaluating student and technical posters and presentations.

Respectfully submitted by the PPSA Awards Committee: Michael Harding (Chair) and Michael Holtz

The Local Organizing Committee would like to thank the sponsors of the 2024 Annual PPSA meeting including: BASF, the Canadian Phytopathological Society, Alberta Canola, Western Grains Research Foundation, Lacombe County, Syngenta, Alberta Grains, City of Lacombe, Lakeland College, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. The local arrangements committee would also like to thank the attendees of the 2024 PPSA meeting for helping to create a scientific program that provided a platform for information exchange and communication among plant pathology enthusiasts.

During the PPSA business meeting the morning of November 14th, 2025, 2025-2026 officers for the PPSA were elected. These included:

President – **Reem Aboukhaddour** (nominated by Mike Harding)

Vice President – **Rudolph Fredua-Agyeman** (nominated by Sheau-Fang Hwang)

Treasurer – **Sasha Chisholm** (current)

Secretary – **Ryan Gourlie** (nominated by Reem Aboukhaddour)

Directors – **Robyne Davidson, Ryan Gourlie, Rudolph Fredua-Ageyman, Jackie Busaan** (current)

The 46th PPSA in fall 2025 will be organized by Reem Aboukhaddour's team at AAFC Lethbridge.

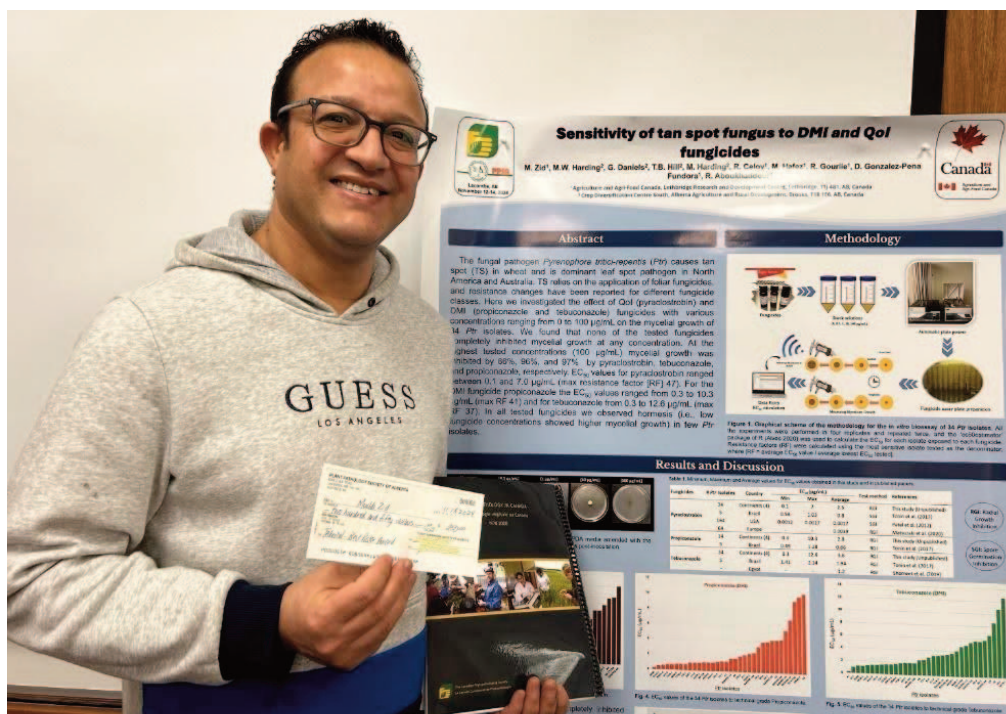
The local organizing committee for the 2024 PPSA meeting included: Sasha Chisholm, Jackie Busaan, Kelly Turkington, Sajid Rehman, Robyne Davidson, Trina Alexander, Ravinder Goyal, Albert Hannig, and Michael Holtz.

Submitted by

T.K. Turkington, Sasha Chisholm, and Jackie Busaan, AAFC Lacombe.



Michael Harding (L), PPSA Awards Committee Chair presenting the **outstanding technician oral presentation award** to **Greg Daniels** (R), Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation, Brooks, AB. The title of Greg's oral presentation was "Sampling and processing variability and its effect on *Plasmodiophora brassicae* detection and quantification in Alberta soils".



Outstanding technician poster presenter Mouldi Zid, AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, Lethbridge, AB. The title of Mouldi's poster was "Sensitivity of *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis* populations to DMI and QoI fungicides".



Michael Harding (L), PPSA Awards Committee Chair presenting the **outstanding student oral presentation** to **Bohan Wei (R)**, AAFC Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, Lethbridge, AB. The title of Bohan's presentation was "The genetic evolution and adaptation of the stripe rust pathogen *Puccinia striiformis* in Canada".



Michael Harding (L), PPSA Awards Committee Chair presenting the **outstanding student poster presentation to Chunxiao (Rai) Yang (R)**, Faculty of Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sci. – Ag., Food. & Nutri. Sci. Dept., University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. The title of Rai's poster was "Assessing yield loss in canola: The combined impact of clubroot and verticillium stripe".



Michael Harding (L), PPSA Awards Committee Chair presenting the **2024 PPSA Graduate Student Scholarship to Xinjie (Winston) Liu**, a PhD student in the Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutritional Sciences at the University of Alberta supervised by Dr. Guanqun (Gavin) Chen. Winston's dissertation topic is "Elucidating the function(s) of PHOSPHOLIPASE(S) in canola to both abiotic and biotic stresses".



Group photo of the attendees of the 45th ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PLANT
PATHOLOGY SOCIETY OF ALBERTA
November 12-14, 2024



International Symposium on Cereal Leaf Blights (ISCLB) 2026: May 2026 in Banff, AB



The website for the International Symposium on Cereal Leaf Blights (ISCLB) 2026, scheduled for May 2026 in Banff, is now live. Updates and additional details will be posted over the coming months.

Please feel free to circulate the link <https://www.isclb.com/> to colleagues and students. Don't forget to mark your calendars; this exciting event is less than a year away!



2026 CPS Annual Meeting: See you in Halifax!

Mark your calendars! The 2026 annual meeting of the CPS will be held in Halifax, NS, from **June 14-18, 2026** at the **Lord Nelson Hotel**. More details about registration and the scientific program will be shared in future issues of the News, on the CPS website, and by email to the membership. We look forward to seeing you next summer!

Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) Annual Meeting 2026

Canadian Phytopathological Society La Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie

June 14 -18, 2026, Lord Nelson, Halifax, NS, CANADA



The Lord Nelson Hotel & Suites



People

Congratulations to Kelsey Wog!

Congratulations to Kelsey Wog on successfully defending her M.Sc. research in the Department of Microbiology at the University of Manitoba on September 9, 2025. Her thesis, “Beyond *cyp51*: A novel reduced spore dormancy pathway confers azole resistance in *Fusarium graminearum*,” was based on an experimental evolution study. Her graduate program was co-supervised by Dr. Matthew Bakker (Department of Microbiology) and Aleeza Gerstein (Department of Microbiology and Department of Statistics).

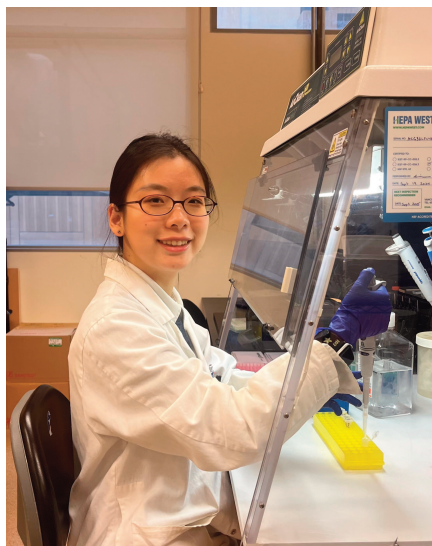


Kelsey Wog (centre) with her co-advisors: **Aleeza Gerstein** (left) and **Matthew Bakker** (right).



Young Scientists' Corner

Alice Yuyan Li,
University of British Columbia



My name is Alice Yuyan Li, or 李雨嫣 in Chinese. I grew up in Chengdu, China and completed my undergraduate studies at Beijing Forestry University from 2019 to 2023. Although I enjoyed my major in Urban Forestry, the one elective course in Forest Health is what sparked my interest in Forest Pathology. I am fascinated by fungi as both an elegant organism and yet as a destructive agent, along with the complexity of their interactions with trees. This led me to work with Dr. Chongjuan You on my undergraduate thesis, where I studied current distribution and modelled the potential spread of Diplodia tip blight (*Sphaeropsis sapinea*) in China. That project was my first real step into plant pathology experiments, and I loved it.

After graduation, I joined the Hamelin Lab in 2023 as a Master's student in Forest and Conservation Sciences at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada, under the supervision of Dr. Richard Hamelin. My current research focuses on genomic detection and monitoring of Dutch elm disease (DED), both in the lab and field. I am designing species-specific PCR tools for the detection of the pathogens *Ophiostoma ulmi* and *O. novo-ulmi*, and have designed another PCR tool for the elm hosts (*Ulmus* spp.) as a positive control. A secondary native elm wilt pathogen, *Plenodomus tracheiphilus*, which has a similar phenotype to DED, is also being explored to support future practical field applications. With this project, I worked closely with collaborators at the Government of Saskatchewan on the current western front of the DED invasion. Dr. Rory McIntosh, James Bush and Joshua Pol kindly hosted and supported me with field collections as well as lab work in Saskatchewan.

Beyond the lab, I won second prize in the UBC 3-Minute Thesis in my faculty in 2024 and presented my work at the CPS-BC (2024) meeting in Victoria and CPS (2025) in Vancouver. I was also honoured to receive the SERG International Graduate Student Award and UBC BPOC Graduate Excellence Award in 2025 and present in St. John's. As DED continues to spread, I hope my research will contribute to earlier and more accurate detection, especially in Alberta and, very recently, in British Columbia. After my anticipated graduation in May 2026, I am eager to pursue any plant pathology-related opportunities all around Canada and would be delighted to connect with CPS members interested in fungal diseases and forest health.



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

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 55 (10) October 2025

- 17th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union held in Bari, Italy, 6–10 July 2025
- Planet Fungi – A Photographer's Foray. Discount Codes
- 13th International Workshop on Grapevine Trunk Diseases, held in Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico, 20–24 July 2025
- The Rest of the Story: Forgotten Stories of Plant Pathology History. New Book

- Deciphering the complex signaling networks in *Phytophthora* infected plants
- Endophytic fungi as biocontrol agents
- New clues in how plant microbiomes protect against bacterial speck disease of tomatoes
- Exploring soil microbial and plant parasitic nematode communities involved in the apple replant disease complex in Nova Scotia
- AI-powered image generation sharpens accuracy in crop disease severity assessment
- Wheat disease losses total \$2.9 billion across the United States and Canada between 2018 and 2021
- Robot matches humans in scouting for vineyard diseases
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events

ISPP Newsletter 55 (11) November 2025

- Obituary of Lina Concepcion Luna-Ilag, Filipino Plant Pathologist, 1938-2025

- New biosensor tracks plants' immune hormone in real time
- Obituary of Melda Laing Moffett, An Australian Icon of Plant Bacteriology, 1930-2025
- Advances in bioprotection of plants against diseases. New Book
- Mechanisms and genetic resources in crop protection
- Undermining the cry for help
- Crop-killing pathogen found to disable plant 'alarm system'
- Ultra-short RNA insertions offer scalable, cost-effective gene silencing for agriculture
- Swedish university honours Michael Wingfield for forest research
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events
- Expansion of the plant-parasitic nematode RNA viruses
- Salicylic acid at the crossroads of plant immunity and temperature resilience
- Ancient plant protein offers new path for broad-spectrum pathogen resistance in crops
- Estimating the climate change-driven global distribution of *Fusarium proliferatum* and mycotoxin risk assessment under future warming scenarios
- Biofilm takes flight as Saharan bacteria shield themselves to survive dust storm journeys
- Wild grass offers new genetic clues to combat deadliest pathogen of wheat
- Current Vacancies
- Acknowledgements
- Coming Events

ISPP Newsletter 55 (12) December 2025

- New ISPP Subject Matter Committee on Fruit, Nut and Forest Crop Canker Diseases
- International Year of the Woman Farmer 2026
- Plant 'first responder' cells warn neighbors about bacterial pathogens



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 2026 Issue of CPS-SCP News

PLEASE NOTE: The submission deadline for the March 2026 issue of CPS-SCP News is **February 27, 2026**. 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.

