

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CPS

Alberta (PPSA) 2025



The 46th meeting of the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta (PPSA) took place in Lethbridge, AB at the Signature Sandman Lodge on October 28-30, 2025. The gathering began with a reception on the evening of October 28th and presentations began on the morning of October 29th. PPSA President, Dr. Reem Aboukhaddour (AAFC-Lethbridge), welcomed the 61 delegates followed by three sessions of oral presentations and one poster session. Proceedings continued October 30th with the final session of oral presentations and the PPSA business meeting. In all, there were 17 oral presentations and 24 posters covering a diverse range of phytopathology topics.

A banquet was held on the evening of October 29th at the beautiful nearby Galt Museum & Archives viewing gallery. Following the banquet an awards ceremony recognized the 2025 PPSA scholarship recipients and outstanding presentations. The Swanson Award (\$1500) went to Taryn Dunivant, a student at the University of California, Riverside studying '*Evolutionary perspectives on natural variation in rice responses to environmental burden*' and the PPSA Scholarship (\$1500) was awarded to Chunxiao (Rai) Yang, at the University of Alberta. Outstanding Presentation awards (\$250 each) went to Maria Munawar (Outstanding presentation by a technician) Zyre Aubrey-Heber (Outstanding student talk) and Erin Gunn (Outstanding student poster). Each awardee received a certificate acknowledging the achievement, and a copy of the book *Plant Pathology in Canada 1970–2008*.

The 47th meeting of the PPSA is scheduled to take place in Edmonton, AB October 27th to November 29th, 2025.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Harding, CPS Regional Representative for Alberta

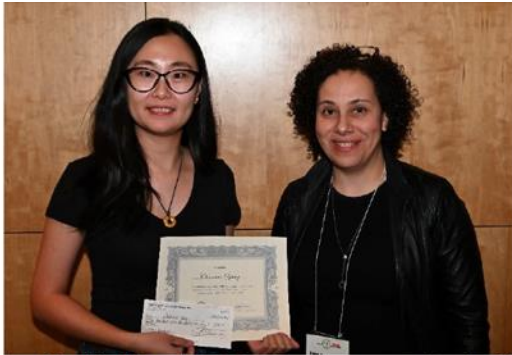




Reem Aboukhaddour (R), PPSA President, presenting the outstanding student poster award to Erin Gunn (L), University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC. The title of Erin's poster was "Detection and Quantification of Leaf Spot Complex in western Canada"



Reem Aboukhaddour (R), PPSA President, presenting the outstanding student oral presentation award to Zyré Aubrey-Hébert (L), University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB. The title of Zyré's presentation was "Variation in race composition and effector profiles of *Pyrenophora tritici-repentis* infecting durum wheat"



Reem Aboukhaddour (R), PPSA President, presenting the 2025 PPSA Graduate Student Scholarship to Chunxiao (Rai) Yang (L), University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB supervised by Dr. Stephen Strelkov and Dr. Sheau-Fang Hwang. The subject of Chunxiao's dissertation is "Integrated Epidemiology and Management of Clubroot in Canadian Canola: Spore Biology, Pathotype Dynamics, and Co-infection Effects"



Reem Aboukhaddour (L), PPSA President, presenting the outstanding technician poster award to Maria Munawar (R), University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, AB. The title of Maria's poster was "Development of Axenic In Vitro Cultures of Root Lesion and Spiral Nematodes Isolated from Southern Alberta Fields"

