



Citation for Dr. Barry Shelp, CSPB Gold Medal Award

Dr. Barry Shelp is an internationally renowned plant biochemist and molecular biologist who has made meaningful contributions to plant biology on many levels over the course of his illustrious career. Dr. Shelp studied plant biochemistry under several of the luminaries of the field, undertaking his MSc (1977) at Brock University, his PhD (1981) at Queen's University, a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Western Australia, and a research associate appointment at Carleton University. Dr. Shelp joined the faculty at the University of Guelph in 1984, where he has forged a distinctive career path in fundamental, applied and translational plant science. As evidenced by more than 130 peer-reviewed publications and four book chapters that have been cited nearly 5000 times, Dr. Shelp has made notable research advances in our understanding of how plants cope at cellular, biochemical and molecular levels with a wide array of biotic and abiotic environmental stresses. Much of this research has direct application in agriculture and horticulture. His largest body of work, comprising greater than 50 publications, has yield important and novel insights into the role of gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and the GABA shunt for plant defense, abiotic stress response, and communication. Integral to his research success, Dr. Shelp has mentored more than 30 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows over the past three decades. Most of these personnel have translated the knowledge that they acquired during their time under Dr. Shelp's tutelage into careers in the biological sciences across a spectrum of academic, industry, and government organizations. Beyond academic research, Dr. Shelp has embarked on a number of entrepreneurial ventures, applying his research expertise to found multiple University spin-off companies with diverse portfolios in environmental protection and plant-derived therapeutics.

Dr. Shelp has also invested tirelessly in service to the plant biology community. Most notably, he served as Co-Editor for the NRC journal *Botany* from 2004 to 2011, where, together with Dr.

Larry Peterson, he shepherded the journal into a new era, increasing its visibility and appeal and ensuring its long term viability. Dr. Shelp has also served numerous roles for the CSPP/CSPB.

Dr. Shelp's great scientific, service and entrepreneurial contributions will have a lasting influence on the academic plant biology community as well as in business spheres. But, Dr. Shelp's greatest achievement has been to make meaningful contributions in all three of these areas that will have long-term and far-reaching impact. He is justly deserving of this career recognition award.

Gold Medal Committee: Janice Cooke, Line Lapointe, Guy Samson.