

BULLETIN

BULLETIN

of the

de la

**Canadian
Society of Plant
Physiologists**



**Société
Canadienne de
Physiologie Végétale**

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IN THIS ISSUE

Message from the President 2
 Report on the 2008 CSPP Eastern
 Regional Meeting 3
 CSPP/SCPV 2009 4
 Treasurer's Notes 5
 Report from the Science Policy Director 5
 Positions and Postings..... ..6
 Upcoming Events..... ..7
 CSPP Executive 8
 CSPP Committee Members..... ..8
 Contributors 9

DANS CE NUMÉRO

Mot du Président2
 Compte-rendu du 2008 Congrès régional
 de l'Est de la SCPV3
 CSPP/SCPV 2009..... ..4
 Nouvelles du trésorier5
 Nouvelles du directeur des politiques
 scientifiques5
 Postes disponibles6
 Congrès futurs..... ..7
 Membres de l'Exécutif8
 Membres des divers comités8
 Collaborateurs..... ..9



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY JUNE 12-15, 2009
VANCOUVER/BURNABY BC**

PLAN TO ATTEND CSPP/SCPV 2009
<http://cspp2009.com/>

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



A spring snowstorm, the anniversary of Darwin's "On the Origin of Species", the American Society for Plant Biology's summit of the leaders of plant biology societies, and a seminar course on life swirl around in my mind while preparing for my last Bulletin

message as president of the CSPP. The resistance of the dwarf irises in my garden to an unexpected blanket of snow, recently, is evidence of the amazing plasticity of plants. The 150th anniversary of the publication of Darwin's foundational work causes me to wonder at the distance we have come in our understanding of this grand unified theory of life. A seminar course on "Life" that I gave to a class, of mainly Arts students inspired me to look again at the many important intersections that exist between science and society.

Perhaps the most engaging emerging issue for us all is the need to increase food and biomass production to feed and to provide energy for the almost 40% increase in world population, that is projected for 2050. The roles plant science can play to meet these challenges will be central themes for the summit meeting of Plant Society leaders that will happen before the annual American Society of Plant Biology meeting this summer in Honolulu. Traditional, incremental, increases in nutrient utilization efficiencies of plants to enhance food, fuel and fibre production will be an important part of the answer. However, we will also need to utilize the knowledge we gain from our investigations of plant physiology, plant molecular biology, plant biochemistry and plant development, in novel ways, to make plants useful as feedstocks for various

industrial processes and to remediate degraded environments.

Many talks and posters related to these themes will be given at our own annual meeting occurring June 12-15 in Burnaby BC. The meeting is looking forward to the "next generation of plant physiologists". Invited plenary speakers, contributed talks and posters will be organized around several themes, including: performance, environment, cell and development and technology. It promises to be an exciting scientific event and the setting gives many wonderful opportunities for excursions.

The last two years as president have gone by quickly and I am pleased that the membership and level of participation in the society is strong. The 50th anniversary for the CSPP in 2008 allowed us all to reflect on the impact this organization has had on the growth of plant science in Canada and we were reminded again of the important roles certain individuals played in bringing this about. We are the beneficiaries of their vision, foresight and hard work.

I would urge everyone in the CSPP to consider getting involved in its various committees and activities. It is an organization that has been, and is, blessed by many dedicated members who have given of their time and talents to the organization. Evidence of their activities is given in the various reports in this publication. To all of you, who have served, on behalf of the society, thank you very much.

Finally, I wish Carl Douglas all the best with his presidency of the CSPP. He will be representing us at the ASPB summit and will continue to work with the ASPB and our own local organizing committee led by Anja Geitmann to plan the meeting for 2010 in Montreal.

Before then, I look forward to seeing you all in Burnaby in a few months.

Peter Pauls,
President

REPORT ON THE 2008 CSPP EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

The 2008 Eastern Regional Meeting of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists was held in conjunction with the annual Plant Development Workshop. The meeting was co-organized by Tim Dickinson of the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM) and Malcolm Campbell from the University of Toronto

and took full advantage of both venues. Participants arrived Friday December 5 and were treated to a keynote lecture by Quentin Cronk on the evolution and molecular development of bird pollinated flowers in the ROM theatre. Afterward an elevator took us up to a reception of spirits, food and

conversation amidst the inspirational ROM artifacts. On Saturday morning, speakers got underway in the Earth Sciences Centre at the University of Toronto. Over 160 participants attended 45 regular session talks while mingling among the 54 posters. Two more keynote addresses covered plant bacterial warfare (Jen Sheen, Harvard) and the synthesis of starch (Michael Emes, Guelph).

There was a very large contingent of student presenters, which kept a small team of judges at a frenetic pace. The winner of the poster competition was Chris Trobacher (Guelph) for his work on a cysteine proteinase and programmed cell death in tomato endosperm. The runner-up was Fadi Al-Daoud from McMaster. The oral presentation winner was Jonathan Plett (Queen's) for expanding our knowledge of ethylene receptors beyond the hypocotyl model. A close second was Mark Burrell from Guelph.

The conference was consummately planned and executed with session chairs keeping the talks synchronized to within mere fractions of a minute. Congratulations are in order for Tim, Malcolm and their exceptional organizational team for making this happen.

Neil Emery,
Eastern Regional Director



CSPP/SCPV Eastern Regional Director Neil Emery presents a cheque to Jonathan Plett (top) and Chris Trobacher (bottom) for the best oral and poster presentations, respectively.

CSPP/SCPV 2009

NEXT GENERATION
PLANT PHYSIOLOGISTS



Simon Fraser University June 12-15, 2009
Vancouver/Burnaby BC
<http://cspp2009.com/>

The local organizing committee welcomes you to attend **CSPP/SCPV 2009**.

Enjoy high calibre invited speakers and ample opportunity for talks, posters and mixers, all in a brand new facility. Take advantage of affordable registration fees, housing, a roof-top BBQ and field trips.

After the meeting keep your dorm room and explore Vancouver by bus, skytrain, bike, or rent a car and tour the pacific coast and wine country

Invited Speakers Include:

- Jennifer Nemhauser, Washington
- Eliot Herman, Donald Danforth
- Ljerka Kunst, British Columbia
- Gane Ka-Shu Wong, Alberta
- William Plaxton, Queen's
- Keiko Yoshioka, Toronto
- Linda Walling, Riverside
- Uwe Hacke, Alberta

CSPP/SCPV Annual Business Meeting: Sunday June 14

Early Registration Deadline: May 1



TREASURER'S NOTES



New Corporate Members

Within the past year, the Society has welcomed new two corporate members: BioChambers Incorporated (<http://biochambers.com/>) and Regent Instruments

(<http://www.regentinstruments.com/>).

Regent Instruments is based in Québec City, and provides image analysis measurement systems for plant science, such as systems for measuring leaf area and tree ring analysis. BioChambers is based in Winnipeg, and manufactures a wide variety of controlled environment chambers and growth rooms.

George Duff Student Travel Bursaries and Post-Doctoral Fellow Travel Bursaries

As has been the tradition for several years, the Society is again offering the George Duff Student Travel Bursaries for travel to the annual conference. This year, \$6000 has been allocated for the Duff Bursaries.

As well, for the first time, the Society is also offering travel bursaries to the annual conference for post-doctoral fellows. \$2000 has been allocated to this new program.

Application forms for both programs are available on the CSPP-SCPV web site.

Harold Weger,
Treasurer

MESSAGE FROM THE CSPP SCIENCE POLICY DIRECTOR



Whether it was President Obama's pledge to "restore science to its rightful place", the unexpected omission of new funding for Genome Canada in the January budget or the Science Minister's comments on evolution, science has featured prominently in

Canadian newspapers and television in 2009. Despite the media's newfound interest in science funding, Canadian scientists do not speak with a single, strong voice when it comes to promoting science and communicating its societal and economic value. The fragmented response to the budget, which mainly involved individual scientists writing letters or speaking out, makes it clear that a more unified approach is needed.

As the Science Policy Director for the CSPP, I've been looking for ways for us to get more involved in science policy initiatives. I think the CSPP should take on a more active role in bringing the concerns of our members, specifically those relating to plant biology and agriculture, to governments and policy makers. By this I mean not just the amount of funding but how it is spent. Certainly plant

physiology takes on additional relevance from a policy standpoint in the era of large-scale investment in biofuels and "bioproducts" and we should seek to have input into how Canada funds this type of research. As a small society with limited resources our voice is not likely to be heard very loudly and it could make sense for us to join together with a larger organization. The Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (of which the CSPP was not a member) disbanded in December 2008 and while a new organization called Life Sciences Canada may emerge, it is not clear if they will be successful or whether the CSPP would want to join. One option for us would be to become a member of the Partnership Group for Science and Engineering (PAGSE; www.pagse.org). This cooperative association, which was founded in 1995 by the Royal Society of Canada, "fosters common interests among its members and addresses issues concerning the nature and importance of research in science and engineering and its applications for the benefit of Canadians". PAGSE is not a lobby group but rather attempts to represent the interests of the Canadian science and engineering community to the Government of Canada. One of their most successful functions is to organize the "Bacon & Eggheads" events for parliamentarians. These are monthly breakfast meetings held on Parliament Hill that bring in scientists to present on

recent advances in science and engineering to an audience of MPs, Senators and other parliamentary staff. PAGSE also organizes symposia and makes submissions to parliamentary committees (e.g. the House of Commons Finance Committee). They represent about 50,000 members through the membership of over 25 societies and associations including the Canadian Society for Chemistry, Canadian Society for Ecology and Evolution and the Genetics Society of Canada. Membership costs are not clear to me although I heard the figure of \$1000 annually. PAGSE meets monthly at the University of Ottawa and therefore an Ottawa-based CSPP member would need to attend to keep us in the loop.

Although membership in an association like PAGSE (or something similar) is not going to bring about immediate change, it would be a step in the right direction. Hopefully membership in PAGSE and other ways to get the CSPP's voice heard in the halls of power will be discussed at the AGM in Burnaby this coming June.

On another issue, the results of the 2009 NSERC Discovery Grants competition have now been sent to Universities. Although the final statistics on the

competition are not yet available, it would be useful for CSPP members to let me know how they feel about the new evaluation system at NSERC and how funds were allocated this round. NSERC will likely request feedback and the CSPP may want be involved in discussions relating to this issue.

Let me know if you have any ideas or comments about policy issues affecting the CSPP (jon.page@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca).

Jon Page,
Science Policy Director

PS. For those of you who have been following the media interest about Canadian science funding and other big picture science issues (e.g. climate change), I recommend the blog <http://sciencecanada.blogspot.com/> which gathers news science-related items from newspapers and websites from around the country. A US outlook on science policy is found at <http://blogs.sciencemag.org/scienceinsider/>. A science policy conference, organized by a group of postdocs and young scientists, is planned for October 28-30, 2009 in Toronto (<http://sciencepolicy.ca/>).

POSITIONS AND POSTINGS

Post-Doctoral Position (3-Year Term Position)

The Pulse Genetic Improvement Group in the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan, is looking for a full-time post-doctoral candidate to work on developing double-haploid and/or rapid generation protocols for pulse crops.

Responsibilities: The successful candidate will develop either an anther and/or microspore culture protocol and/or develop a protocol for rapidly advancing generations in pulse crops.

Qualifications: As the ideal candidate, you will have a good publication record, with demonstrated experience in double-haploid technology and/or extensive tissue culture experience.

Opportunities: The Crop Development Centre (CDC) has the leading pulse crop breeding program in Canada. The CDC is located within the Department of Plant Sciences, University of Saskatchewan. It has access to one of the largest phytotrons in Canada with over 130 growth chambers, a 20,000 square foot greenhouse, a new \$3 million Pulse Crop Field Laboratory, a fully equipped Pulse Genetic Improvement lab with tissue culture facilities as well as Pulse Molecular and Pulse Pathology labs.

Term: Three years

Stipend: \$37,000 per year

Eligibility and Application: You must have received a doctoral degree in plant sciences or related subject from a recognized university.

Submit application (e-mail or mail) complete with cover letter, resume and names of 3 references by May 15th, 2009 to:

Dr. Monika Lulsdorf
Dep. of Plant Sciences
University of Saskatchewan
51 Campus Drive
Saskatoon SK S7N 5A8
E-mail: monika.lulsdorf@usask.ca

FOR OTHER RECENT POSTINGS, PLEASE SEE THE CSPP/SCPV WEBSITE AT
<http://cspp-scpv.ca/jobs-e.shtml>

UPCOMING EVENTS

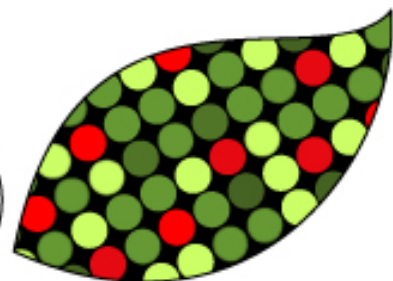


Plant Dormancy

4th International Symposium
June 8 - June 11, 2009 ~ Fargo, North Dakota

4th International Plant Dormancy Symposium, June 8-11, 2009 - Holiday Inn Fargo, North Dakota USA. For detailed information go to <http://www.plantdormancy.com>. This symposium is the fourth in a series following those in Oregon USA, 1995; in France, 1999; and in The Netherlands, 2004. Its goal is to bring together experts and stakeholders in a forum for exchange of information on dormancy in plants, development of collaborations, and sharing of ideas on plant dormancy mechanisms in vegetative buds, seeds, and other meristems from a variety of experimental plant systems ranging from agronomic, horticultural, and tree crops to model plants and weeds. Email contact info@plantdormancy.com. Co-chair: Dr. Mike Foley

CPGW2009



7th Canadian Plant Genomics Workshop, August 24-27, 2009 - Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada
CPGW2009 will bring together Canadian researchers and internationally-renowned scientists to explore recent advances in genomics research and how these advances are being integrated within the plant sciences. Registration is now open; early bird and abstract deadlines June 26. For more information visit our web site <http://www.cpgw2009.ca> or email cpgw2009@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca

FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS, PLEASE SEE THE CSPP/SCPV WEBSITE AT
<http://www.cspp-scpv.ca/meetings-e.shtml>

CSPP EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2008-2009

EXECUTIVE

President:

Peter Pauls (Guelph) 2009

Eastern Regional Director:

Neil Emery (Trent) 2010

Vice-President:

Carl Douglas (British Columbia) 2009

Senior Director:

Priti Krishna (Western Ontario) 2009

Secretary:

Line Lapointe (Laval) 2010

Science Policy Director:

Jonathan Page (NRC-PBI) 2010

Treasurer:

Harold Weger (Regina) 2010

Education Director:

Greg Moorhead (Calgary) 2009

Communications Director/Bulletin Editor:

Gordon Gray (Saskatchewan) 2009

Student/PDF Representative:

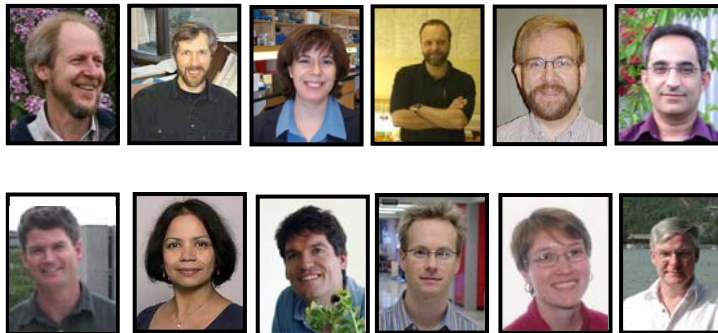
Allison McDonald (Western) 2010

Western Regional Director:

Soheil Mahmoud (UBC Okanagan) 2009

Past President:

Rob Guy (British Columbia) 2009



COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ann Oaks Scholarship Committee

Harold Weger (Regina) Chair 2010

Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster) Co-Chair 2010

Frederique Guinel (Laurier) 2012

Sheila Macfie (Western Ontario) 2009

Doug Campbell (Mt. Allison) 2011

George Espie (UT Mississauga) Advisor

Barry Shelp (Guelph) 2011

Communications Committee

Gordon Gray (Saskatchewan) 2009 Chair

Line Lapointe (Laval) 2010

Michael Stasiak (Guelph) webmaster

David J. Gifford Tree Physiology Award Committee

Shawn Mansfield (British Columbia) 2009 Chair

Chris Todd (Saskatchewan) 2010

Janice Cook (Alberta) 2011

Auditors

Ken Wilson (Saskatchewan) 2010

Peta Bonham-Smith (Saskatchewan) 2010

Education Committee

Greg Moorhead (Calgary) 2010 Chair

Anja Geitmann (Montréal) 2009

Ewa Cholewa (Nipissing) 2009

C.D. Nelson Award Committee

David Reid (Calgary) 2009 Chair

Daniel Matton (Montréal) 2010

Gleb Krotkov Award Committee

Normand Brisson (Montréal) 2009 Chair
 André Laroche (Lethbridge) 2010
 Bill Plaxton (Queen's) 2011

Meeting Site Committee

Carl Douglas (British Columbia) 2009 Chair
 Aine Plant (Simon Fraser) 2009
 Peta Bonham-Smith (Saskatchewan) 2010
 Lacey Samuel (British Columbia) 2011

Nominating Committee

Priti Krishna (Western Ontario) 2009 Chair
 Doug Muench (Calgary) 2009
 Robin Cameron (McMaster) 2011

Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee

Rob Hill (Manitoba) 2010 Chair
 Vince De Luca 2010
 Jean Rivoal (Montréal) 2010
 Allison McDonald (Western) 2010

Society (Gold) Medal Award Committee

Deep Saini (Waterloo) 2009 Chair
 Daphne Goring (Toronto) 2010
 Rob Mullen (Guelph) 2011

CONTRIBUTORS

Peter PaulsCSPP/SCPV President
 Neil EmeryCSPP/SCPV Eastern Regional Director
 Jim MattssonCo-organizer of CSPP/SCPV 2009
 Harold WegerCSPP/SCPV Treasurer
 Jon Page.....CSPP/SCPV Science Policy Director
 Line LapointeCSPP/SCPV Secretary
 Gordon GrayCSPP/SCPV Communications Director and Bulletin Editor

We welcome your comments and suggestions for future publications of the CSPP/SCPV News Bulletin. Please forward all your written material to Gordon Gray (communication@cspp-scpv.ca).

Next issue of the Bulletin will be October 2009.