

Bulletin



The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists/
La Soci et  canadienne de biologie v g tale



McGill University (McDonald Campus) hosts the upcoming Eastern Regional Meeting in Montreal, November 24-25, 2017 (Photo credit: McGill Media Department)

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Message from the President Message du Pr sident

Geoffrey Wasteneys

Dear CSPB/SCBV members

It is at once a great privilege and a somewhat daunting responsibility to serve as President of The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists for the next two years. As plant scientists, it is not difficult for us to see the direct relevance of our research and teaching to the most pressing challenges facing our planet and humankind. As scientists with expertise in plant development, genomics, cell and molecular biology, bioinformatics, biochemistry, natural products, metabolism, proteomics,

Metabolomics, physiology, physiological ecology, biotechnology and adaptations to biotic and abiotic stress, we have the collective wisdom, skills and expertise to innovate solutions to the most serious problems that have arisen from human use and misuse of Earth's natural resources. Despite this, it remains frustratingly difficult to convince our governments and funding agencies that harnessing our expertise should be the number one investment opportunity to ensure Canada's prosperity, and to enable



Canada to help the rest of the world. And, while it is gratifying to see that our current Prime Minister has restored the position of Chief Science Advisor with the appointment of Dr Mona Nemer on September 26th 2017, this took nearly two years from the time the government took office. Meanwhile, no government action has been taken on the recommendations of the Naylor Report on federal funding for fundamental science, which was commissioned in 2016 by the Federal Minister for Science. As the



Plenary session at the Annual General Meeting 2017 in Vancouver

Left to right: Harry Klee (University of Florida) speaks about Consumer-assisted selection for better tomato; attendees of the meeting in the auditorium of the plenary sessions

(Continued)

largest plant science organization in Canada, CSPB must have a strong voice in how plant biology can contribute to the “new knowledge, novel technologies, and advanced skills for future jobs” that the Trudeau Government is promising.

What can CSPB do to make a positive contribution to Canada’s place on the world stage? As a start, we are active in the leadership of *Plant Canada*, an umbrella organization linking seven plant science societies, we are close allies with the *American Society of Plant Biologists*, and we are a founding member of the *Global Plant Council*. We are also a member in the *Partnership Group for Science and Engineering*, which is a useful conduit for communicating our interests to government agencies. Broadly speaking, we need to generate opportunities for each CSPB member to do the best work they can, and to be ahead of the game in the change economy. Specifically, this can mean debating and championing emerging tools and technologies, such as the use of artificial intelligence in systems biology, or computational approaches to assist laboratory experiments. We also need to foster the best practice in undergraduate and graduate

education to equip plant biologists with the hard and soft skills they will need to be successful in a very different future workplace. And finally, we must strive for diversity and inclusivity and celebrate and encourage our members at all levels.

This year I had the opportunity to chair the local organizing committee for the 2017 Annual Meeting of the CSPB-SCBV, ***Plants from Sea to Sky***. Approximately 300 delegates attended the meeting at The University of British Columbia, Vancouver campus, July 4-7, which was a joint meeting with the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS). Our idea was to highlight advances in plant biology ranging from marine macroalgae to forest trees, along with microalgae, horticultural species and model systems such as *Arabidopsis*. Plenary speakers included Elliot Meyerowitz (CalTech), Siobhan Braybrook (Sainsbury Labs UK), Sabeeha Merchant (UCLA), Harry Klee (U Florida), Cara Haney (UBC), Sophia Stone (Dalhousie, CD Nelson Prize Winner for 2016), Andrew Groover (UC Davis, USDA), Yves Desjardins (Laval) and Matthew Bracken (UC Irvine). One plenary symposium was devoted to the memory of Carl Douglas (CSPB

President 2009-11). Our education forum, led by Mathias Schuetz (Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Vancouver), was titled Cannabis in the Classroom. Two excellent career workshops, one focusing on careers in academia, the other considering alternative career paths, were organized by our student/postdoctoral fellow representative, Shrikaar Kambhampathi (Western).

My congratulations to the recipients of two major awards announced during the Plants from Sea to Sky meeting. Marcus Samuel (U Calgary) received the C.D. Nelson Award and Uwe Hacke (U Alberta) received the David J. Gifford Award in Tree Biology. Congratulations also to all the students who took part in the poster and seminar competition, the details of which are provided in the Vice President’s Report.

This year we trialed the use of live streaming for the plenary sessions and video recording of the concurrent sessions, which enabled the delegates to view seminars they could not otherwise attend. We also organized poster sessions before lunch, to give poster presenters greater prominence in the meeting schedule. I would like to take this opportunity to express

(Continued)

my deep gratitude to my counterparts at CSHS, the members of the local organizing committee, the UBC Botany Department staff, the numerous volunteers, and all of our sponsors.

Details of our future meetings can be found in the Vice President's Message. I would, however, like to acknowledge all those who have generously volunteered their time to run these events including Olivia Wilkins and Jean-Benoit Charron (McGill), for the Eastern Regional Meeting on Nov 25th, Mark Belmonte together with John Markham from CBA (U Manitoba) for our Western Regional meeting from December 10th to 12th in Winnipeg, and Anja Geitmann (McGill) and Fran ois Ouellet (UQAM) for our next AGM, which will be held July 14-18 2018 in Montreal in conjunction with ASPB and the International Society of Photosynthesis Research.

The '**Equity and Diversity Task Force**', which we established at our 2016 AGM in Kingston, produced its first report in June 2017. The task force assessed whether the CSPB

could improve policies and procedures to ensure equal opportunities for all independent of gender, religion and ethnic background. In its June 19 report the task force examined several practices and policies of the society. These included the criteria for the CSPB Awards, the provision of travel assistance to students and post-doctoral fellows, and the definition of post-doctoral researchers. I have tasked the CSPB executive with considering how to implement these recommendations and intend to formulate a position statement to be placed on the Society web site for further comment. Thanks to Allison MacDonald (University of Waterloo), Heather McFarlane (University of Melbourne), Ken Wilson (University of Saskatchewan) and Janice Cooke (University of Alberta) for their excellent work on this report.

In 2016, we also established a task force to determine the terms and conditions of a new prize targeted at post-doctoral researchers that will be named in memory of Carl Douglas. Special thanks to Western

Regional Director Mark Belmonte (U. Manitoba) for chairing this task force.

This year brings some fresh faces to the CSPB-SCBV executive and our committees. To the executive I am delighted to welcome our new Vice President Daphne Goring (U Toronto), Eastern Regional Director Robert Mullen (U Guelph), Education Director Steven Chatfield (U Toronto), and Science Policy Director Owen Rowland (Carleton). I would also like to thank Daphne for her previous role as Eastern Regional Director and Emily Indriolo (NMSU) for her service as Education Director over the past two years. Finally, as the new President of CSPB, it is my great pleasure to acknowledge and thank Anja Geitmann for her inspiring leadership as President, her guidance to me and other members of the executive, and for her strong commitment to the CSPB-SCBV as a long-standing member of the executive.

Geoffrey Wasteney,
University of British Columbia
President CSPB/SCBV



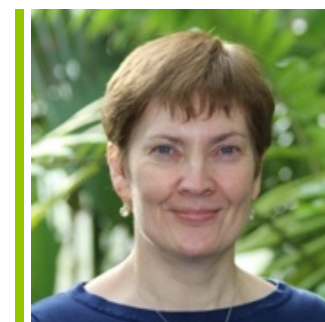
Message from the Vice President

Daphne Goring, University of Toronto

Dear CSPB/SCBV members

After a brief stint as the Eastern Regional Director, I am very pleased to be serving as the new CSPB/SCBV Vice-President. I look forward to working with the CSPB/SCBV executive on various initiatives to benefit our society and participating in the organization of the CSPB/SCBV annual meetings. Speaking of annual meetings, the “Plants from Sea to Sky” meeting at the University of British Columbia in July was a great success and you can read more about it from our President’s column. It was a joint meeting between CSPB/SCBV and the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science (CSHS), and our president, Geoffrey Wasteneys, co-chaired this meeting with CSHS president,

Karen Tanino. I would like to extend a very grateful thanks to Geoffrey for taking on this task and doing an excellent job in organizing and leading the meeting. Thanks also to all the volunteers who were actively involved in running this meeting and judging student presentations. We had a strong turnout of students presenting their research with 29 student oral presentations and 58 student poster presentations. The judges were so impressed with the overall calibre of the presentations and had the quite the challenging task of picking winners. Nevertheless, a few presentations particularly stood out and were selected as winners:



Oral presentation winners: The President’s Award for the best oral presentation went to **Melissa Chen** (University of British Columbia, *Horizontal transfer of microbes between seaweed neighbours*). Honourable mentions went to **Dylan Ziegler** (Thompson Rivers University, *Furtive Flowers: Phenology, shoot development, and organization of pistillate *Arceuthobium americanum**), **Thamali Kariyawasam** (University of British Columbia, *Complexity of the regulatory networks for the homeobox-dependent zygosporangium program during the sexual development of *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii**), and **Mina Ghahremani** (Queen’s University, *A curculin-like lectin*

Winners of the student presentation awards at the Annual General Meeting



Centre: Rob Guy (Former CSPB/SCBV President). Poster Presentation Winners from left to right: Laryssa Halat, Christine Chiu, Sam Livingston, Heather MacKay



Centre: Rob Guy (Former CSPB/SCBV President). Oral Presentation Winners from left to right: Dylan Ziegler, Thamali Kariyawasam, Mina Ghahremani, Melissa Chen

interacts with a high mannose glycoform of the purple acid phosphatase AtPAP26 in cell walls of phosphate-starved *Arabidopsis thaliana*).

Poster Presentation winners:

The President's Award for the best poster presentation went to **Christine Chiu** (University of British Columbia, *Detoxification of Pine Terpenoids by the Mountain Pine Beetle*).

Honorable mentions went to **Samuel Livingston** (University of British Columbia, *Probing Cannabis sativa glandular trichome cellular ultrastructure during resin production*), **Laryssa Halat** (University of British Columbia, *Everything in moderation: The microtubule-associated CLASP balances division and differentiation in the plant root meristem*), and **Heather Mackay** (University of British Columbia, *Designer lignin: Identification of p-hydroxybenzoyl-CoA monolignol transferase in poplar*).

A reminder that the Eastern and Western Regional meetings are coming up (please see the Directors reports). I also encourage everyone to attend our next annual meeting, **Plant Biology 2018**, which will be held jointly with the American Society of Plant Biologists in Montreal on July 14-18, 2018. The International Society for Photosynthesis Research will also be participating in this meeting. Below are the abstract submission deadlines, and more



Fran ois Ouellet, Anja Geitmann, Geoff Wasteneys at planning meeting in September 2017 for Plant Biology 2018 in Old Montreal, not far from next year's meeting site.

information on the meeting will become available in the upcoming weeks.

February 19, 2018:

Abstract deadline for a concurrent and lightning talk consideration.

June 1, 2018:

Abstract deadline for a poster submission.

We will be offering George H. Duff travel bursaries to help students and post-doctoral fellows attend Plant Biology 2018 and further information will be posted on the CSPB/SCBV website. Lastly, given the more limited opportunities for student oral presentations at Plant Biology 2018, we have decided to only offer a CSPB student poster presentation competition. If you would like to participate in this competition and are selected for an oral

presentation, please bring a poster along as well to present at the meeting.

Upcoming Annual Meetings:

2018 Plant Biology (Joint ASPB-CSPB/SCBV), Montreal July 14-18, 2018. Local Organizing committee: Anja Geitmann and colleagues.

2019 Plant Canada, University of Guelph July 7-11, 2019. Local Organizing committee: Barry Micallef and colleagues.

2020 CSPB/SCBV Annual General Meeting, Saskatoon. Local Organizing committee: Raju Soolanayakanahally and colleagues at AAFC, NRC and the University of Saskatchewan.

2021 CSPB/SCBV Annual General Meeting, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Local Organizing committee: Sophia Stone and colleagues.

2022 Plant Biology 2022 (Joint ASPB-CSPB/SCBV), Portland Oregon.

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers to get involved in the various CSPB/SCBV committees and the CSPB/SCBV Executive. If you are interested, please feel free to contact either myself (cspb-vp@cspb-scbv.ca) or our Senior Director, Jean-Benoit Charron (seniordirector@cspb-scbv.ca).

Daphne Goring,
University of Toronto
Vice-President CSPB/SCBV

Upcoming Regional Meetings



McGill University is pleased to welcome members of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists for the 2017 ERM on November 24 and 25 to celebrate the 110th anniversary of the Macdonald Campus. Tucked along the waterfront, a little more than a half-hour from the bustling downtown of Montreal, in Sainte-Anne-de-

Bellevue, the Macdonald Campus is a beautiful Campus of 650-hectares that includes laboratories, green space, herbarium, farmlands and forest, all used for teaching and research.

For Registration, Abstract Submission and further details please visit <http://www.cspp->

scpv.ca/meetings/2017ERM/

A mixer will be held in Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue the evening of Friday November 24^h at the Ceilidh Pub from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. A variety of hors d'oeuvres and refreshments will be served. Join us for a fun evening and discover contradancing.

Olivia Wilkins, Jean-Benoit Charron

Co-Chairs, CSPB/SCBV ERM 2017 Organizing Committee

Please contact erm@cspb-scbv.ca if you have questions

CSPB•SCBV CBA•ABC
**Joint Western
 Regional Meeting**
 Winnipeg 2017
 December 10-12



Together with John Markham, we are organizing the first ever joint western regional meeting of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists and Canadian Botanical Association, December 10-12 at the ALT Hotel in beautiful downtown Winnipeg where Eastern and Western Canada meet on Treaty One Territory.

As part of our collective mandate to support research discoveries and innovation, this unique meeting brings together scientists with interests in broad areas of plant biology from

across Western Canada.

This years Keynote Speaker is Dr. Jill Hamilton from North Dakota State University who will present her work: 'Teasing apart the genetic basis of adaptation in a changing climate'. In addition to scheduled talks and poster sessions we are also offering workshops that will focus on broad aspects of plant biology research and hosted at the i) Manitoba Museum to provide insight on how plants adapt to their environments ii) University of Manitoba Herbarium to expand one's

knowledge of plant and fungal collections and iii) UofM campus to process and visualize next generation RNA sequencing data.

Together, this meeting will bridge plant scientists with similar research goals, interests, and outcomes and will solidify Western Canada as leaders in cutting edge plant biology research. We hope to provide up and coming students and researchers with opportunities to showcase the potential of their work and provide opportunities in Western Canada's growing applied plant biology sector.

We hope you will take this opportunity to come and

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reconnect with old friends, meet colleagues and potential collaborators, and take some time to enjoy the many attractions Winnipeg has to offer.

For further details please visit:

<http://cspb-cba-wrm-winnipeg2017.weebly.com>

Mark Belmonte,
Western Regional Director
& Chair of CSPB/SCBV WRM
2017 Organizing Committee

CSPB/SCBV Welcomes New Plant Biology Faculty



Emily Austen, Department of Biology, Mount Allison University

Emily is a plant evolutionary ecologist interested in the ways in which hermaphroditism, modularity, and immobility shape the strategies plants use in finding mates, fending off enemies, and coping with changing conditions. Emily completed her BSCh Biology at Queen's University in 2003, followed by a Master's degree in Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University in 2005. She completed her PhD at the University of Toronto in 2014 and continued as an NSERC postdoctoral fellow at the

University of Ottawa where she investigates the ecological consequences of pollen colour polymorphism in trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*). Emily will begin as an Assistant Professor at Mount Allison University in April 2018. Her research here will test the ecological significance and evolvability of variation among flowers within a plant, and her teaching responsibilities will include courses in plant diversity, genetics and evolution, and evolutionary ecology.

Shelley joined the Department of Cell & Systems Biology at the University of Toronto as an Assistant Professor in September 2016. The goal of the Lumba lab is to elucidate the differences between signalling pathways underlying germination in the parasitic plant *Striga hermonthica* and a non-parasitic model like *Arabidopsis*. *Striga* is the most devastating parasitic weed in Africa where it infects sorghum, millet, maize and rice, causing subsistence farmers to lose 30%

to 100% of their yield. By "cracking" the *Striga* germination code, the Lumba lab seeks to develop strategies that disrupt *Striga* germination. Shelley completed her PhD and post-doctoral work at University of Toronto. She serves on international plant organizations including the International Plant Growth Substances Association (IPGSA) and the International Plant Molecular Biology (IPMB) Scientific Board. Her research program is supported by NSERC and was recently awarded an NSERC Accelerator Supplement.



Shelley Lumba, Cell & Systems Biology, University of Toronto

(continued New Plant Biology Faculty)



Daniel Kierzkowski, Department de Sciences Biologiques, University of Montreal

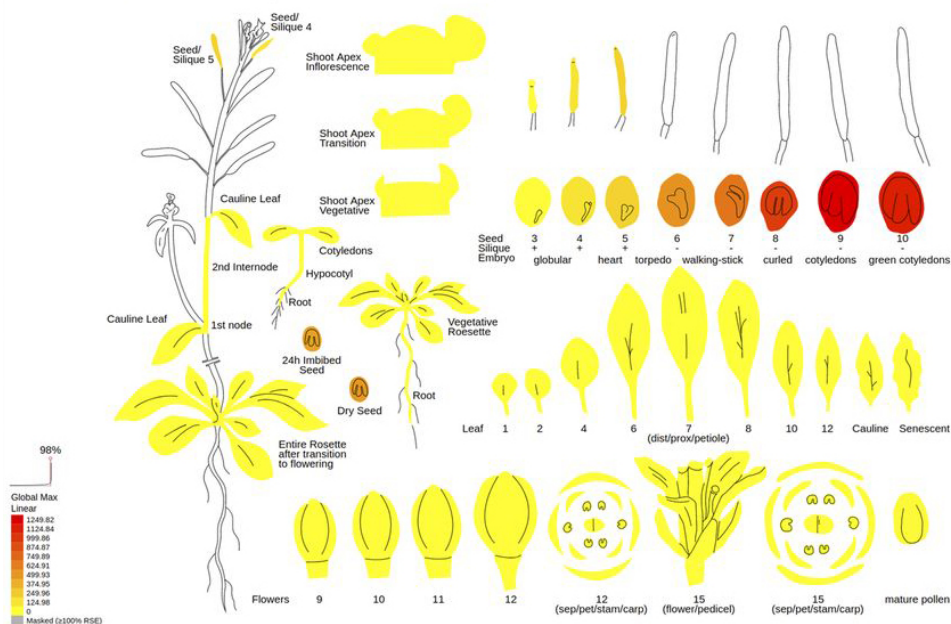
Daniel is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Montr el. He is interested in plant development at the molecular, cellular and organ levels. His research focuses on understanding how different biological shapes emerge, via

the interactions between genes, growth, differentiation and mechanical constraints.

Daniel completed his Ph.D. at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan, Poland. He was a postdoc at the University of Bern in Switzerland and then at the Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research in Cologne, Germany. He joined the University of Montr el in 2017. Daniel teaches plant anatomy and morphogenesis.

Featured Paper

The featured paper in this issue is for the Provart Lab's ePlant tool, which was recently published by the *Plant Cell* (Waese et al., 2017). The image shows the expression pattern of *ABI3*, a gene encoding a transcription factor important in seed development, in different plant tissues, notably maturing seeds. ePlant enables the exploration of plant information encompassing >20 different kinds of genome-wide data across >12 orders of magnitude for hypothesis generation, all in one easy-to-use, open source tool. Linkages have been created between different levels such that it is easy to see if polymorphisms from the *Arabidopsis* 1001 Genomes Project that cause non-synonymous changes map near to DNA binding regions of transcription factors in a 3D



context, for instance. Find it at <http://bar.utoronto.ca/eplant!> ePlants for 15 other agronomically important plant species are in the works. The *Arabidopsis* ePlant and other species ePlants have been funded by Genome Canada grants to N. Provart and collaborators.

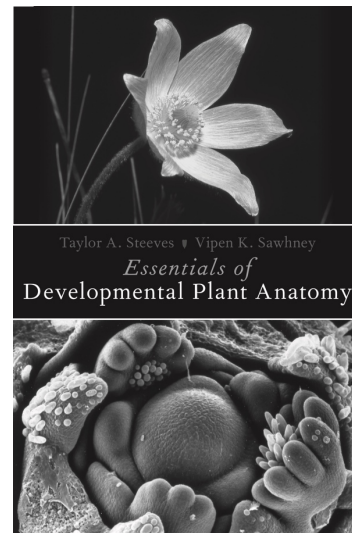
Jamie Waese, Jim Fan, Asher Pasha, Hans Yu, Geoffrey Fucile, Ruian Shi, Matthew Cumming, Lawrence A. Kelley, Michael J. Sternberg, Vivek Krishnakumar, Erik Ferlanti, Jason Miller, Chris Town, Wolfgang Stuerzlinger, Nicholas J. Provart (2017) ePlant: Visualizing and Exploring Multiple Levels of Data for Hypothesis Generation in Plant Biology. *The Plant Cell*, 29:1806-1821. doi/10.1105/tpc.17.00073

Featured Book

Essentials of Developmental Plant Anatomy

Vipen Sawhney, University of Saskatchewan

First published in January 2017 by the late Taylor Steeves and Vipen Sawhney, "This book provides a developmental perspective to plant anatomy. The intent of the book is to provide fundamental information on plant development and structure to researchers in nearly all areas of plant biology i.e., plant physiology, cell biology, development, ecology, developmental genetics and molecular biology, and to students at the introductory level in plant biology. The book is focused on angiosperms with examples from other groups of plants"



Your opportunity to get involved in CSPB/SCBV

Jean-Benoit Charron, Senior Director CSPB/SCBV, McGill University

Your society needs YOU – Now is the time to get involved!

CSBP/SCBV is recruiting a new Secretary

The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists is seeking to recruit a candidate to serve on its Executive Committee as Secretary. Responsibilities of the Secretary include:

1. Attend all sessions of the Board and all meetings of the members and act as clerk thereof and record all votes and minutes of all proceedings in the

books to be kept for that purpose.

2. Give notice of all meetings of the members and of the Board of Directors.
3. Perform other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors or President.
4. Be custodian of the Seal of the Society.

Committee positions open for CSBP/SCBV members

In addition, the society is looking for motivated individuals to serve on several committees. Most of these

committees recognize excellence in plant biology through awards such as The Gold Medal Award, the C.D. Nelson Award, the David J. Gifford Award in Tree Physiology and the Gleb Krotkov Award.

Nominate yourself or other CSBP/SCBV members

The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists invites those interested in serving as Secretary or as members on one of its committees to please contact Jean-Benoit Charron (jean-benoit.charron@mcgill.ca)

Conference Updates



The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists
La Soci et e Canadienne de Biologie V g tale

Upcoming CSPB/SCBV Events

2017 Eastern Regional Meeting: November 24-25, 2017, McGill University, Macdonald Campus, Montreal. Organizers: Jean-Benoit Charron, Olivia Wilkins

2017 Western Regional Meeting - joint meeting Canadian Botanical Association: December 10-13, 2017, University of Manitoba, Regina. Organizers: Mark Belmonte, John Markham

2018 Annual General Meeting/Plant Biology 2018: July 14-18, Montreal. Local Organizers: Anja Geitmann and colleagues. Joint meeting with the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) and International Society of Phytosynthesis Research (ISPR).

2018 Eastern Regional Meeting: Western University, London, Ontario. Organizers: Danielle Way and colleagues.

2019 Annual General Meeting/Plant Canada Meeting: July 7-11, University of Guelph. Organizers: Barry Micallef and colleagues. CSPB will host this joint meeting.

2019 Eastern Regional Meeting: Brock University, St. Catharines, Ontario. Organizers: Vincenzo De Luca and colleagues.

2020 Annual General Meeting: Saskatoon. Organizers: Raju Soolanayakanahally and colleagues at AAFC, NRC and the University of Saskatchewan.

2021 Annual General Meeting: Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Organizers: Sophia Stone and colleagues.

2022 Annual General Meeting/Plant Biology 2022: Portland, Oregon. Joint meeting with the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)

41st New Phytologist Symposium: Plant sciences for the future Registration now open!

11–13 April 2018, Nancy, France

<https://www.newphytologist.org/symposia/41>

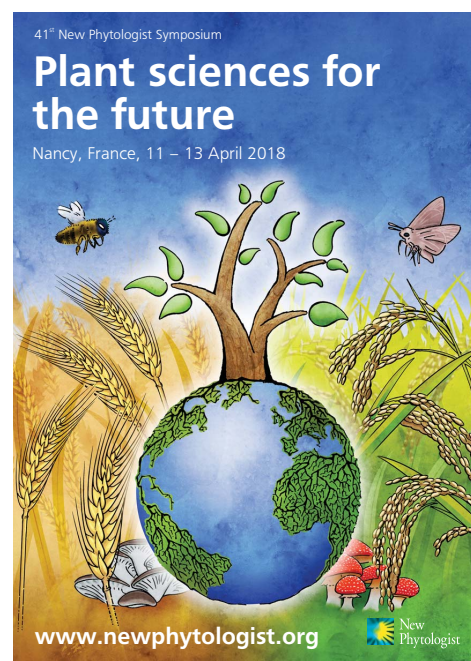
The 41st New Phytologist Symposium will provide new insights into the evolutionary forces and molecular mechanisms that govern plant development and physiology, and their interactions with biotic and abiotic cues.

Invited speakers from the *New Phytologist* Editorial Board will highlight emerging topics in plant sciences as well as the application of modern technologies to capture the complex mechanisms driving plant development, physiology, interactions and evolution.

Eighteen leading scientists will speak at the symposium along with early career researchers, selected to give talks following submission of poster abstracts. Travel grants are available.

Travel grant deadline: **Thursday 18 January 2018**

Poster abstract deadline: **Thursday 8 February 2018**



More details and registration at
<https://www.newphytologist.org/symposia/41>.



CSPB/SCBV Career Workshops at the AGM in Vancouver

Shrikaar Kamphampati, Student and Postdoc Representative

The career workshops at the past CSPB/SCBV annual general meeting in Vancouver, July 4-7, were a huge success. Thanks to all the students and post-docs who attended the workshops, as well as the panelists for their valuable suggestions. As a follow up, please be sure to check out the CSPB webpage for continuously updating graduate and post-doctoral positions in the employment section (<http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/jobs.shtml>). For funding opportunities in Canada and abroad, our Grads and Postdocs

section (<http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/gradPD.shtml>) is a great resource. Follow CSPB/SCBV (@cspbscbv) on twitter for regular updates on plant science events, news and opportunities in Canada.

The upcoming CSPB/SCBV annual general meeting is a joint meeting with ASPB and will be held at Montréal, July 14-18, 2018. This meeting will be a great platform for networking with plant science community across North America. Career and educational workshops/round tables will

certainly be among the prime foci of the meeting. We have a great line-up of activities for undergrads, grads and postdocs, regardless of whether or not you have decided your career direction. Be sure to keep an eye on the deadlines for travel grants (<https://aspb-travelgrants.secure-platform.com/a/>), and updates on meeting information. I hope to see you all in Montréal, next year.

Shrikaar Kamphampati

Owen Roland elected new CSPB/SCBV Science Policy Director

Owen Roland was elected as the new CSPB/SCBV Science Policy Director during the last AGM in Vancouver. Owen acted as the interim Science Policy Director since fall 2016. Owen is the Chair of the Department of Biology at Carleton University, Ottawa and perfectly located in close proximity to science and research organizations in Ottawa including NSERC.





The New CSPB/SCBV Eastern Regional Director

Robert Mullen, University of Guelph

I am delighted to be serving as the new Eastern Regional Director. I have been a member of the CSPB since the very start of my career as a plant biologist and I am looking forward to interacting with all my friends and colleagues in the society in this new capacity.

That said, I would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to attend the upcoming Eastern Regional Meeting, which is being held November 24-25, 2017 at McGill University in Montreal and

hosted by Jean-Benoit Charron and Olivia Wilkins. The meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up on cutting-edge plant science research and build collaborations, as well as getting reacquainted with old friends and making new ones, and all in the venue of beautiful Montreal in the fall.

I am also pleased to announce that the sites for the next two Eastern Region Meetings have been confirmed. In 2018, the meeting will take place at Western University in London and

will be hosted by Danielle Way and colleagues. In 2019, the meeting will be at Brock University in St. Catharines and hosted by Vincenzo De Luca. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank in advance Danielle and Vincenzo for their generous offer to host these upcoming ERMs, as well Jean-Benoit and Olivia, for all their hard work in preparing for this year's meeting.

Warmest regards,
Robert Mullen

Facelift For CSPB/SCBV Website

Ingo Ensminger, CSPB/SCBV Communications Director, University of Toronto

We are working hard on an update of the CSPB/SCBV website. A new and fresher look is only the beginning. CSPB/SCBV members will have access to several new features. These include a mobile version of the website, access to materials for teaching and education, and a member login where you can modify your member profiles and manage your membership. We plan to rollout the new website in two phases. By the end of 2017 the website will become available online. During spring 2018 we will make new features such as membership self-management available. In the meantime, you can have a peek at a beta-version of the new website at <https://cspb-scbv.wildapricot.org/>

Let us know how you like the new look and send an email to communication@cspb-scbv.ca

The screenshot shows the CSPB/SCBV website homepage. At the top, there is a green header with the organization's name in English and French, a search bar, and a 'Login' button. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Membership, Meetings, Resources, Education, Newsroom, and Contact. The main content area features a large image of a person in a lab coat, with the caption 'Plant Biology Lecture Series Honours Margaret McCully'. Below this are three columns: 'Featured member' with a profile for Harold Weiler, 'Upcoming Events' listing regional and general meetings, and 'News' with several recent articles. A 'Join CSPB' button is prominently displayed. At the bottom, there is a 'Welcome to The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists' section and a footer with social media icons and contact information.

CSPB Inside



CSPB/SCBV Exec Committee Members 2017/2018

Left to right and top to bottom: Geoffrey Wasteney, President (UBC) | Anja Geitmann, Past President (McGill) | Daphne Goring, Vice President (U Toronto) | Barry Micallef, Secretary (U Guelph) | Sheila Macfie, Treasurer (U Western Ontario) | Robert Mullen, Eastern Regional Director (U Guelph) | Mark Belmonte, Western Regional Director (U Manitoba) | Ingo Ensminger, Communications Director and Bulletin Editor (U Toronto) | Steven Chatfield, Education Director (U Toronto) | Owen Rowland, Science Policy Director (Carleton) | Shrikaar Kambhampati, Student/PDF Representative (U Western) | Jean-Benoit Charron, Senior Director (McGill)

Committee Members | Composition des Comit es

Ann Oaks Scholarship Committee | Comit  des Bourses d' tudes Ann Oaks

Harold Weger (Regina) 2018 Chair
Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster) 2018 Co-Chair
Doug Campbell (Mt Allison) 2019
Sharon Regan (Queen's) 2020
Sheila Macfie (Western Ontario) 2019 Treasurer
George Espie (U Toronto) 2021 Advisor

C.D. Nelson Award Committee | Comit  du Prix C.D. Nelson

Annick Bertrand (AAFC, Qu bec) 2018 Chair
Janice Cook (Alberta) 2019
Jennifer Baltzer (Wilfrid-Laurier) 2019

Communications Committee | Comit  des Communications

Ingo Ensminger (U Toronto) 2017 Chair
Jacqueline Monaghan (Queen's) 2018
Barry Micallef (Guelph) 2018
Michael Stasiak (Guelph) webmaster
N.N. (To be appointed)
N.N. (To be appointed)

David J. Gifford Tree Biology Award Committee | Comit  du Prix David J. Gifford en biologie des arbres

Armand S guin (NRC Qu bec) 2018 Chair
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Photo Credits

Anja Geitmann, Geoffrey Wasteneys, McGill Media
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Layout and Production

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The Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Canadian
Society of Plant Biologists/Soci t  Canadienne de
Biologie V g tale (CSPB/SCBV).

The next Bulletin will appear in June 2018

**Editorial Deadline for Bulletin
Issue 25 is**

April 31, 2018

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