

Dr. Fathey Sarhan
Recipient of the 2011 CSPP Gold Medal Award

Dr. Fathey Sarhan is an outstanding scientist with an international reputation for his ongoing research in the fields of vernalization and the biological processes associated with the development of cold tolerance in plants.

Dr. Sarhan received his PhD in plant biochemistry in 1977 from the Université de Montréal, where he began his research aimed at understanding cold acclimation. He then worked for a short time as a research associate in the Département des sciences biologiques at the Université du Québec à Montréal and in 1978 he accepted a faculty position in the same department. Since that time, Dr. Sarhan has utilized a host of molecular and cellular approaches in his research to address many of the most critical questions in cold acclimation and vernalization that have placed him amongst the top echelon of international researchers in this field. His numerous (over 85) research papers, invited reviews and book contributions are published in a range of journals, reflecting the breadth of his contributions, and he also holds an impressive level of research grant funding from multiple sources, including NSERC, Genome Canada, Genome Quebec, and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. That Dr. Sarhan has gained international recognition and acclaim for his research is also apparent from the number of invitations he has received to present at prestigious international conferences and symposia.



Dr. Sarhan has also been very active in terms of his commitment to the training of younger scientists (including numerous graduate students and post-doctoral fellows). Many of these individuals have since become eminent scientists in their own right.

Notably, Dr. Sarhan's leadership in research has been matched with a remarkable record of service to the national and international communities, including serving as a member of the NSERC Canada Research Chairs program, the provincial committee for Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the Green Crops Network and NSERC plant biology grant selection committee. He has also been highly active in the CSPP, serving as a Senior Officer of the Society and its Eastern Regional Director from 1991-1993, a member of the organizing committee for the 1988 annual meeting, and chairing the committee that organized the 32nd annual meeting.

In summary, Dr. Sarhan is a highly deserving candidate for the CSPP Gold Medal Award.