

**BULLETIN**

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The 2007 **Eastern Regional Meeting** of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists will be held at University of Western Ontario, on December 1st

**REGISTER NOW!!**

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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As this is my first message as President of the CSPP I want to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the CSPP for providing me a wonderful scientific society home since the beginning of my involvement in plant biology research, as a PhD student in the early 1980's. It is an honour to serve the society as president and be able to contribute to the many activities that the society carries out in support of plant scientists at all stages in their careers.

It has been wonderful to witness the way in which the society has developed to support and encourage graduate student involvement in plant biology research. This year we were very pleased to award the first Ragai Ibrahim Prize for Best Student Paper. This prize joins two earlier initiatives aimed to benefit our student members, the Ann Oaks Scholarship and the George H. Duff Student Travel Bursary.

Organizing meetings is a central part of what the society does. The meetings are the way we keep the personal relationships that foster collaborations fresh and are a great chance to meet new plant scientists in Canada. At informal discussions during refreshment breaks or in the evenings all things seem possible!

In 2008 we will be marking our 50<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. I encourage everyone to make a special effort to join the celebration being planned for our annual meeting in Ottawa, June 14-17, 2008. **As a special project for our 50<sup>th</sup> celebration I would invite everyone who has pictures of previous CSPP meetings or personalities to send them to me as electronic (scanned) versions with a short description so that I can set up a pictorial retrospective of our history.**

The highlights of our meetings are the times when we get a chance to celebrate the accomplishments of our best scientists with the Gold Medal, CD Nelson, Tree Physiology and Gleb Krotkov awards. I invite you to surf through the Awards section of the CSPP web to jog your memory previous meetings where these people were recognized and to become involved in honouring those that you know well, by submitting nominations.

The challenge in a country the size of Canada is to make those relationships work between meetings. The CSPP bulletin and the website are great ways to keep in touch with colleagues. Help the executive

and all your colleagues by using these vehicles to let others know what you are doing.

I wish you all well as you are in the midst of the business in the fall semester.

Peter Pauls  
CSPP President



*Rob Guy transferring the 'presidents' tools' to Peter Pauls the new CSPP President at the end of the Annual Business Meeting in Saskatoon.*

## CSPP/SCPV GOLD MEDAL AWARD

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Tony's training was in classical physiology and his initial work focused on transport of phenolic acids, potassium and phosphate in higher plants. By mid-career his target ions had clearly become nitrate and ammonium and his group was the first to use short-lived <sup>13</sup>N radiotracers to identify and characterize five distinct root nitrogen transporters

by their kinetic properties (i.e., high versus low affinity, and constitutive versus inducible transport) in barley, rice and tree species. These studies were complemented by thermodynamic descriptions using electrophysiological methods. More recently, Dr. Glass mastered and adopted a full suite of modern molecular biology and genomics tools to study nitrogen uptake in higher plants, algae and fungi. He cloned genes encoding the N transporter, studied their regulation, gene structure and functional relations. He is applying current concepts of transport processes to real problems in agriculture via collaboration with government scientists, growers and agronomists.



*CSPPP/SCPV President Rob Guy presents the Gold Medal Certificate to Tony Glass at Plant Canada 2007.*

Dr. Glass has recruited, trained and collaborated with an impressive group of very talented research personnel and has established local, national and international collaborations. During his career numerous scientists have spent sabbatical time in his laboratory. His creative use of physiological, biochemical, and molecular approaches in his research, and his talent for focusing on important problems and generating new insights based on data from his laboratory have resulted in a well-deserved reputation in the field of nutrient transport. Professor Glass has published some 145 peer-

reviewed journal papers, seven book chapters and one text book. Many of these articles are extremely well cited, resulting in his inclusion on the 2006 ISI Ranking of scientists "Most Highly Cited" – individuals in this group constitute less than a half-percent of all publishing researchers.

We are proud to bestow on Tony our most prestigious award for scientific achievement – the Society Gold Medal.

## **CSPPP/SCPV DAVID J. GIFFORD AWARD IN TREE PHYSIOLOGY**

After his B.Sc. in Physical Chemistry at Pomona College, Mel received his PhD in Plant Biophysics from the University of Cambridge in 1972 and soon after joined the Department of Botany at the University of Toronto. He quickly climbed through the ranks to be appointed in 1977 a Full Professor by the University of Toronto, the youngest in its history, where he remained until 1985. Between 1985 and 2006, Mel was a Senior Research Scientist at the USDA in Burlington, Vermont and a Research Professor at the University of Vermont.

Mel has been persistent in his pioneering studies of xylem function and structure and is arguably the world's foremost authority on plant water relations. Water movement in plants remains a very active area of research, vigorously debated in the most prominent of journals. A deceptively simple but long-standing question is "how does water get to the top of tall trees?" Mel's deep biophysical understanding, knowledge of tree biology and clear thinking have kept the debate on track. He has developed or perfected techniques and performed many of the critical experiments needed to test competing models and to focus and redirect the collective effort. He has coauthored close to 200 refereed publications and these papers have been cited almost 7,000 times.

Some of Mel's most highly cited work includes his early papers on the fundamental theory of the pressure chamber for the estimation of several tissue-water-relations parameters. Mel published some of the first examples of species differences in these properties and of the role of leaf phenology and drought stress in altering water relations. He has used the pressure chamber and instruments of his own design to tackle fundamental aspects of plant water relations and to examine the hydraulic properties of the soil-plant-atmosphere continuum and virtually all of its various components. He has

staunchly defended the cohesion theory of xylem transport on both theoretical and empirical grounds. Mel has conducted key experiments directly demonstrating substantial xylem tensions in actively transpiring plants. He has demonstrated that cavitation-induced embolisms occur commonly in trees but has also proven that cohesion theory is robust to xylem dysfunction caused by these events. Mel developed the concept that many trees function close to a state of run-away embolism and that drought adaptation is often related to hydraulic architecture and vulnerability of the xylem to cavitation. Through his career Mel has also made important contributions to our understanding of short distance transport of water and solutes through the symplast and apoplast, the transport properties of plant cell walls and leaf cuticles, and Münch pressure-flow in the phloem.

Mel has been the recipient of many prestigious awards including the Marcus Wallenberg Prize in 2002 for his “pioneering scientific discoveries leading to basic understanding of water transport in trees” as well as the IUFRO Scientific Achievement Award and Humboldt Research Award. In 1979, Mel was an early recipient of our C.D. Nelson Award. The CSPP-SCPV is now most pleased to again recognize the very important and ongoing contributions of Professor Melvin Tyree with the David J. Gifford Award in Tree Physiology.



*CSPP/SCPV President Rob Guy presents the David J. Gifford Award in Tree Physiology to Melvin Tyree at Plant Canada 2007.*

## CSPP/SCPV C.D. NELSON AWARD

Dr. Robert Mullen received both his BSc and PhD from the University of Alberta, the latter with Prof. David Gifford, followed by a Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Arizona. He was appointed to the Department of Botany at the University of Guelph in 2000 and within a very short time has established an outstanding record of accomplishment that is recognized both in Canada and internationally. He has an enviable record of publications and reviews for a young investigator, both in terms of the quantity and quality of the publications. He has written invited review articles in leading international review journals such as *Current Opinion in Plant Biology* and *Trends in Plant Science*. In addition, he has published a number of research articles in top international journals such as *The Plant Cell*, *Journal of Cell Biology*, *Plant Journal*, *Plant Physiology* and the *Journal of Biological Chemistry*.

Rob's research as an independent scientist has focused primarily on deciphering the molecular mechanisms underlying protein trafficking and organelle biogenesis in plant cells. He has worked primarily in three separate, but related areas of research: 1) the assembly and maintenance (biogenesis) of peroxisomes; 2) the trafficking of a special class of integral membrane proteins called tail-anchored proteins; and 3) the cellular biology of enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of seed oils. His most notable research achievements have come from studies of the biosynthesis of oils, and of the assembly of peroxisomes for their subsequent mobilization. For the former, he has provided invaluable insights into the targeting, assembly and regulation of oil biosynthetic enzymes, especially with regard to the channeling of exotic fatty acids into seed storage oils. His research on peroxisomes is equally at the forefront of knowledge and is redefining our understanding of how proteins are targeted to organelles. Rob has clearly shown a biogenetic relationship between the ER and peroxisomes by demonstrating that certain classes of peroxisomal membrane proteins are delivered via the endomembrane system. This is one of the rare instances where some of the earliest, most convincing data regarding organelle biogenesis in eukaryotic cells have come from studies of plants, and not mammals or yeast. His scientific capability is marked by his abilities to formulate important and relevant questions, his keen sense of experimental design, rigorous interpretation of data, and outstanding writing skills. Rob's work defines the

cutting edge and state of the art in the cell biology and of plant lipid research, and he is widely recognized as an international expert in these fields. In addition to his highest quality original publications, Rob has also written seminal reviews and book chapters in his research area, a mark of prestige and status, as well as being invited to present seminars at numerous institutions and scientific meetings. He has served the Canadian scientific and our Society community, for example as chief organizer of the CSPP meeting in Guelph in 2004, and as Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Botany. And somehow he still has time for golf!

The Society is most pleased to honor Rob with the CD Nelson Award.



*Discussions amongst members of the CSPP/SCPV Executive before the Annual Business Meeting at Plant Canada 2007.*

## CSPP/SCPV RAGAI IBRAHIM AWARD

The 2006 **Ragai Ibrahim Prize** for best student paper has been awarded to **Amanda Rochon** of Charles Despre's group at Brock University. Her work concerns systemic acquired resistance (SAR) and was published in *Plant Cell* in December (Rochon A, Boyle P, Wignes T, Fobert PR, Despres C. The coactivator function of Arabidopsis NPR1 requires the core of its BTB/POZ domain and the oxidation of C-terminal cysteines. *Plant Cell*. 2006 Dec;18(12):3670-85).

Systemic acquired resistance (SAR) is a broad-range, disease resistance pathway induced in *Arabidopsis thaliana* that involves salicylic acid (SA)

accumulation and the expression of pathogenesis related (*PR*) genes. The role of NPR1 (Nonexpressor of pathogenesis related gene 1) and the TGA2 transcription factor in SAR, individually and as a complex, has been studied extensively. However details concerning the interaction between TGA2 and NPR1 are lacking and it is unclear how TGA2 and NPR1 regulate transcription or whether a TGA2-NPR1 complex forms on DNA. To address these issues, Amanda performed ChIP experiments to show that TGA2 and NPR1 are recruited to *PR-1* independently of each other and SA treatment. Conflicting results as to the role of TGA2 in the SAR pathway prompted her to perform a modified *in vivo* transcription assay, which revealed that TGA2 is an autonomous transcriptional repressor in both the absence and presence of SA. However after SA treatment, in the presence of NPR1, TGA2 is incorporated into a transactivating complex with NPR1. The transactivating ability of this complex requires the core of NPR1's BTB/POZ (broad complex tramtrack bric-a-brac/poxvirus and zinc finger) domain (residues 80 to 91) and the oxidation of NPR1 cysteines 521 and 529. These cysteines are found in the C-terminus of NPR1 and constitute a previously unidentified transactivating domain in NPR1 we termed Cys-oxidized. Taken together, these results broaden the scope of our understanding of the mechanism by which TGA2 and NPR1 activate the Arabidopsis *PR-1*.



*Ragai Ibrahim presents his Award to Amanda Rochon at Plant Canada 2007.*

Ten papers were in nomination this year and due to the overall high quality of these papers, the committee deserved two honorable mentions this year: to Yo Miyashita from Allen Good's group for their paper entitled 'Alanine aminotransferase catalyses the breakdown of alanine after hypoxia in *Arabidopsis thaliana*' published in the *Plant Journal* and to Ian Major from Peter Constabel's group for their paper entitled 'Molecular analysis of poplar

defense against herbivory: comparison of wound- and insect elicitor- induced gene expression published in *New Phytologist*.

Greg Moorhead  
Education Director

## CSPP/SCPV PRESIDENTS' AWARDS

This year winner of the Presidents' Award for the best oral presentation at Plant Canada 2007 was Nicole J. Dafoe from the Department of Biology, University of Victoria, for her talk entitled 'Identification and differential regulation of phloem proteins in *Populus*.' This talk was co-authored by C.P. Constabel. Nicole presented a very exciting study on the identification and differential regulation of phloem proteins in *Populus* during the CSPP student session on Monday afternoon. The jury was impressed by the clear way in which she presented a complicated set of data. Nicole's enthusiasm for her work was obvious. Her study included appropriate controls and led to the identification of specific proteins in the phloem of poplar. Nicole displayed good background knowledge of the field during the question period. Her study set the stage for many new investigations about the functions of the proteins she identified in poplar phloem.



*CSPP/SCPV Past President John King presents a cheque to Nicole Dafoe, CSPP/SCPV Presidents' Award winner for best oral presentation, at Plant Canada 2007.*

There was an honourable mention to R.F. Degenhardt from the Department of Biology,

University of Saskatchewan for his talk on 'Bioimaging of *Arabidopsis* ribosomal proteins RPL23aA and -B reveals preferential incorporation of RPL23aA during ribosome biogenesis. P.C. Bonham-Smith was the co-author of this talk.

The Presidents' Award for best poster presentation at Plant Canada 2007 was awarded to Gholamreza Babajani from the Department of Biological Sciences at Simon Fraser University, for the poster entitled 'Functional analysis of the RCD-SRO (Radical induced cell death similar to RCD) gene family in salt-treated roots'.



*CSPP/SCPV Past President John King presents a cheque to Aine Plant, Gholamreza Babajani's supervisor, for the CSPP/SCPV Presidents' Award for best poster presentation at Plant Canada 2007.*

The poster, co-authored by A.L. Plant, was visually attractive and provided sufficient detail to understand the issue under consideration. The study involved a combination of bioinformatic, molecular, physiological and microscopic techniques. It made an excellent use of publicly available resources such as sequence databases

and knockout mutants, and produced unique biological material. The results were presented logically and concisely, and the outcomes were clear. Overall, the research significantly advanced the study of plant response to salt stress.

The honourable mention for the Presidents' Award for best poster presentation was awarded to K.A. Sproule from the Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. This poster, co-authored by P.C. Bonham-Smith, D.G. Muench and I.A.P. Parkin, was entitled 'Role of microtubules in low temperature sensing and signaling'.

Peter Pauls  
Vice-President

## DEREK BEWLEY HONOURED BY ASPB

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J. Derek Bewley is University Professor Emeritus at the University of Guelph, where he has been a faculty member since 1985. He began his scientific career in the United Kingdom, obtaining both a B.Sc. (1965) and Ph.D. (1968) from Queen Elizabeth College, University of London. The topic of his Ph.D. dissertation, under the supervision of Dr. M. Black, was on the role of gibberellins in germination of light-sensitive lettuce. A postdoctoral training opportunity brought him to North America and the lab of Abe Marcus at the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, where he studied the role of initiation factors in protein synthesis of wheat embryos. He was hired as an assistant professor in the Department of Biology at the University of Calgary in 1970 and quickly advanced through the academic ranks, becoming a full professor in 1977. In 1985, he moved to the University of Guelph to become chair of the Department of Botany, where he reorganized the department, hired many new faculty, and increased graduate student enrollment. During his long career, Derek has shared his broad knowledge of plant biology with colleagues at universities throughout the world by holding appointments as visiting scientist, visiting professor, or distinguished fellow at the University of London, McGill University, The John Innes Centre, the University of Adelaide, and the University of California, Davis, among others.

Derek is one of the foremost international experts on seed biology. His original research has made fundamental advances in the areas of seed storage protein synthesis and degradation, seed

development, water relations, somatic embryogenesis, germination, and dormancy. His seminal work on the role of endosperm identified this tissue as a key for regulation of radical emergence in seeds. He and his colleagues showed that endosperm weakening was a prerequisite for germination and that cell wall polymers contributed to endosperm rigidity, and they identified the principal enzymes responsible for wall loosening and seed germination. Derek's group also linked ABA with seed development, showing that ABA levels correlated with storage protein accumulation. This paved the way for consideration that ABA was not just an inhibitor of germination, but rather had multiple and profound effects on seed development. To date, Derek has published over 250 peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, review articles, and books on these topics and is on the ISI Highly Cited Author list with over 5,000 citations accumulated. Today's plant scientists have undoubtedly been educated about seed biology from the definitive texts that Derek wrote with Michael Black: *Physiology and Biochemistry of Seeds* (1978, 1982) and *Seeds: Physiology of Development and Germination* (1985, 1994). Their most recent effort, an edited volume of over 500 articles titled *Encyclopedia of Seeds: Science, Technology and Uses*, will certainly continue to inform and educate the next generation of plant biologists.

Derek has been a lifelong supporter of both ASPB and our sister society, the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists, and has been a leader in promoting cooperation between these societies. He is a past president of CSPP and organized a joint conference of the two societies in Toronto (1989). He was a monitoring editor of *Plant Physiology* from 1992 to 1995. He is also an elected fellow of the Royal Society of Canada (FRSC, 1982). Among a list of awards too numerous to include in their entirety, several are quite noteworthy, including a Gold Medal Award from the CSPP for professional achievements (1992), The Career Excellence in Research Award from Sigma Xi (1993), and the Distinguished Biologist Award from the Canadian Council of University Biology Chairs (1994).

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<http://www.aspb.org/awards/>

## WELCOME TO NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

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We are pleased to welcome three new corporate members of the CSPP–SCPV, **Conviron**, **PP Systems** and **Qubit Systems**. Corporate membership entitles them to display their logo on our web pages with a link to their own corporate site. We have now 5 active corporate CSPP members. Corporate membership entitles the company to name two of their employees to receive the equivalent of “full member” status. Full members can attend our annual and regional meetings at member rates, receive and be listed in our membership directory, and receive the Society’s electronic Bulletin, issued biannually. The application form for corporate membership can be downloaded from the Society’s website (<http://cspp-scpv.ca/>).

## TREASURER’S NOTES

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Membership renewal time is again upon us. As in the recent past, Society members may renew their memberships for one, two or three years. Renewal forms are mailed to all current members, and are also available on the CSPP-SCPV web site. Membership renewals received in the remainder of 2007 will also count for 2008.



The membership renewal form also space for donations to the Duff Student Travel Fund and the Oaks Scholarship Fund. The Society collects approximately \$1000 annually in donations to the Travel Fund, and has awarded approximately \$6000 per year for student travel to the national conference in each of the past four years. The Travel Fund has clearly been well-used!

The Oaks Fund has been collecting funds towards the establishment of a PhD scholarship in plant biology, and is set to make the first award in 2008.

Harold Weger, Treasurer

## ANN OAKS DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP

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The Oaks Scholarship Fund was established by a donation from long-time CSPP-SCPV member the late Dr. Ann Oaks; Dr. Oaks also made subsequent donations to the Fund. The CSPP-SCPV was the beneficiary of a life insurance policy by Dr. Oaks and was also included in Dr. Oaks’ will. The Fund will be used to provide for the financial support of a PhD student in plant biology. Approximately \$1000 was donated by Society members to the Oaks Scholarship Fund in fiscal year 2007 (which ended April 30).

At the end of fiscal 2007 the Oaks Fund contained approximately \$430,000. This money is almost entirely under the management of BMO Nesbitt Burns. The goal is to name the first scholarship holder in spring 2008. After much discussion among the members of the Oaks Board, the CSPP-SCPV Executive, and with the membership at the ABM in Saskatoon this past June, the value of the scholarship has been set at \$21,000 per year (equivalent to NSERC’s PGS-D).

We have arranged for preliminary adjudication for the award to be done by NSERC in conjunction with their own PGS-D competition. All plant biology PhD students who apply for NSERC’s PGS-D award will be automatically considered for the Oaks Doctoral Scholarship as well. The Board of Trustees is looking forward to awarding the scholarship for the first time!

Harold Weger, Chair, Oaks Board of Trustees

## RAGAI IBRAHIM AWARD

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Have you particular pride in one of your current students for the great paper she/he published this year? Do you know of a current student or a student who graduated in 2006/2007 who published an impressive paper in 2007? Give them further recognition for their great efforts by nominating them for **The Ragai Ibrahim Prize for best student paper**. The nomination is a simple process, you need only be a member of the Society. See the details below. Don’t procrastinate, do it now! You’ll get a great deal of pleasure out of their winning the award.

**Criteria:** A peer reviewed paper either in print or on line will be nominated by the supervisor of the student, and will be evaluated on the impact or potential impact that work will have on plant science. The nominated student will be the first or primary author of the work, and the paper must be based on work that the nominee performed as a student (graduate student or undergraduate). The nominee must be a member of the CSPP.

The award is based on the calendar year (January 1 to December 31). Nominations are due by January 31 of the following year. The nominee must be a student, or alternatively, have completed their graduate/undergraduate program no more than 12 months prior to the date of publication of the paper. Each year there will be one winner and an honorable mention.

**Nomination:** Send a PDF copy of the paper to the Chair of the Ibrahim Award Committee at IbrahimAward@cspp-scpv.ca by **January 31**. Please include a brief summary of why the paper merits consideration for the award (100 words maximum), and indicate whether the nominee is still a student or whether they have completed their program (please indicate date of completion). The winner of the prize will be decided by March 1, and the winner will be notified. The award will be presented at the CSPP Annual Meeting.

**Value of Prize:** The winner will receive a framed certificate and a cheque for 350 dollars.

Rob Hill  
Chair of the Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee

## LE PRIX RAGAI IBRAHIM

Êtes-vous particulièrement fier d'un article publié cette année par un de vos étudiants? Connaissez-vous un étudiant qui est toujours aux études ou qui a terminé en 2006/2007 et qui a publié un excellent article en 2007? Soumettez leur candidature pour le Prix Ragai Ibrahim afin que leurs efforts soient reconnus. La procédure est simple, ils leur soient d'être membre de la SCPV. Voir détails ci-après. N'attendez pas, faites-le dès maintenant! Vous en tirerez certainement un plaisir immense si l'un de vos étudiants obtient le prix.

**Critères de Sélection.** Un article publié soit en version papier ou en ligne dans une revue avec comité de lecture peut être proposé par le superviseur de l'étudiant(e), et sera évalué quant à

l'impact actuel ou potentiel que ce travail aura en biologie végétale. L'étudiant doit être premier auteur ou l'auteur principal du travail, et l'article doit être basé sur les travaux que le candidat a réalisés durant ses études (aux 1er, 2e ou 3e cycles). Le candidat doit être un membre de la SCPV.

Le prix est remis annuellement pour des articles publiés au cours de l'année précédente (1er janvier au 31 décembre). Les candidatures doivent être déposées au plus tard le 31 janvier de l'année suivante. Le candidat doit être étudiant ou avoir complété ses études de 1<sup>er</sup>, 2<sup>e</sup> ou 3<sup>e</sup> cycles moins de 12 mois avant la date de publication de l'article. Le comité identifiera un gagnant et une mention honorable à chaque année.

**Candidatures :** Une copie pdf de l'article doit être envoyé au président du Comité du Prix Ragai Ibrahim à l'adresse suivante : IbrahimAward@cspp-scpv.ca au plus tard le **31 janvier 2008**. Cet envoi doit être accompagné d'un court texte expliquant pourquoi cet article devrait être considéré pour le Prix Ragai Ibrahim. De plus, veuillez indiquer si le candidat est toujours étudiant ou s'il a complété ses études (indiquer alors la date de fin des études). La décision sera prise le 1<sup>er</sup> mars et le gagnant en sera informé. Le prix sera remis lors du congrès annuel de la SCPV.

**Prix.** Le gagnant recevra un certificat ainsi qu'une bourse au montant de 350 dollars.

Rob Hill  
Président du Comité du Prix Ragai Ibrahim

## NEXT EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

**CSPP-SCPV Eastern Regional Meeting 2007  
The University of Western Ontario  
December 01, 2007**

We are pleased and excited to be the hosts for this year's meeting, primarily because we have Arranged a great slate of keynote speakers (Brenda Winkel, Eran Pichersky, Krzysztof Szczyglowski), but also because we have a chance to show off the recently completed Biotron.

Registration is now available on line, via UWO Conference Services. Please use the following URL:

[http://www.has.uwo.ca/cs/cspp/cspp\\_registration.cf](http://www.has.uwo.ca/cs/cspp/cspp_registration.cf) or select the link from the official conference web

page ( <http://www.uwo.ca/biology/CSPP-ERM.htm>)  
Payment options include credit card, institutional cheque or money order.

Registration Deadline: Friday November 16 th, 2007.

This year's meeting will follow a similar schedule to that of last year's Eastern Regional Meeting in Hamilton: We will have a one-day conference on a Saturday December 01, 2007. Tours of the Biotron and a Welcome Reception are planned for Friday November 30 th, for those who chose to arrive in London the day before the main conference. Be sure to indicate your intention to attend either the Biotron tour or the Welcome Reception on your registration form (the cost of the reception is included in your registration fee).

Abstract submission is now available. Please follow the instructions outlined in the \*.pdf document available from the link on the main conference web page. Submit abstracts as Word document attachments to [cspp2007@uwo.ca](mailto:cspp2007@uwo.ca).

Abstract Deadline (for inclusion the conference booklet): Friday November 16 th, 2007.

Traditionally, the regional meetings of the CSPP membership are student oriented and we hope that many graduate students and recent post-docs will have the opportunity to attend. Discounted registration fees are available for student and post-doc registrants.

We hope to see in London in December!

Local Organizing Committee:

Dr. Norm Huner  
Dr. Denis Maxwell  
Dr. Mark Bernards

## OPENING OF THE BIOTRON

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Human beings are causing unprecedented damage to the Earth - in fact we are in danger of exceeding the planet's capacity to sustain human life. But, a new facility at Western offers hope – the ability to peer into the future of climate change giving us the perspective to steer ourselves on a less destructive path. Opening in 2008, the Biotron Institute for Experimental Climate Change Research is a partnership between Western, the University of

Guelph, and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. It represents a \$30 million dollar infrastructure investment dedicated to answering the most pressing environmental questions and to developing biotechnologies that can restore and protect ecosystem health.

The Biotron is a high-containment facility housing an array of custom-designed controlled environments for plants, insects, and microorganisms. On the roof, sealed, glass Biomes (mini-ecosystem compartments) allow investigators to simulate climate change and pollution in mini-ecosystems ranging from arctic winter to desert or tropical, and everything in between. The basement contains a large climate chamber in which 5 metre-deep soil cores can be studied from regions as diverse as Arctic tundra to modern agricultural fields. The chamber enables the investigation of such critical environmental issues as the impact of carbon cycles upon natural greenhouse gas production, the development of controlled carbon sinks and bioremediation techniques, and the transfer of soil and water-borne pathogens through the ecosystem.

With these tools the Biotron will help us understand the impact of climate change and pollution on organisms so we can be better prepared to make decisions that protect ecosystems and our planet as a whole. The Biotron also stimulates the bioeconomy by providing labs to develop high-quality, renewable, biodegradable products such as fibres, bioplastics, medicinal compounds, and biofuels.

Amar Singh, General Manager  
Biotron Institute for Experimental Climate Change Research  
The University of Western Ontario

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web: [www.biotron.uwo.ca](http://www.biotron.uwo.ca)

## CANADIAN JOURNAL OF BOTANY IS CHANGING ITS NAME

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We are pleased to announce that as of January 2008 (Volume 86) the name of the *Canadian Journal of Botany* will be changed to *Botany*, with the continued byline "An International Journal for plant Biology". This change has been made after

considerable consultation with various members of the Botanical Community and with members of NRC Research press. We appreciate the support that we received during the consultation process. We believe this name change will better reflect the international scope of the Journal and that it will encourage the submission of more excellent manuscripts from international researchers. The *Canadian Journal of Botany* has a long history of excellence in publishing a broad spectrum of botanical manuscripts; we are confident that this will continue. There will be no changes in journal format, publication frequency, or ISSN for both electronic and print formats, and the volume numbers will continue on from 2007.

**Barry J. Shelp**  
Co-Editor

**R. Larry Peterson**  
Co-editor

## LA REVUE CANADIENNE DE BOTANIQUE CHANGE DE NOM

Nous sommes heureux d'annoncer qu'à compter de janvier 2008 (volume 86), la *Revue canadienne de botanique* s'appellera simplement *Botanique*. Nous conserverons toutefois la mention « Une revue internationale de biologie végétale ». Le changement découle de vastes consultations auprès de nombreux intervenants du milieu de la botanique et des Presses scientifiques du CNRC. Nous sommes reconnaissants de l'appui manifesté durant le processus de consultation. Nous croyons que ce changement de nom sa traduira par un meilleur reflet de l'envergure internationale de la revue et qu'il encouragera la soumission d'un nombre accru d'excellents manuscrits par des chercheurs de partout dans le monde. La *Revue canadienne de botanique* est associé à une longue tradition d'excellence en ce qui touche la publication d'un large éventail de sujets en botanique; nous sommes persuadés que cette tradition se poursuivra. Le format de la revue, la fréquence de parution et les ISSN de la version électronique et de la version imprimée demeurent inchangés; le numéro de volume fera suite à celui de 2007.

**Barry J. Shelp**  
Codirecteur scientifique

**R. Larry Peterson**  
Codirecteur scientifique

## SPECIAL OFFER FROM THE FUNCTIONAL PLANT BIOLOGY JOURNAL

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## NOMINATIONS FOR CSPP AWARDS

The Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists invites nominations for its major awards to be presented at the Society's annual meeting in 2008. The details concerning the nature of each award, eligibility and qualifications of the nominees as well as the procedure to be followed by the nominators are given in the appropriate By-Laws in the Society's Constitution, a pdf version of which can be downloaded from the web site of the society ([www.cspp-scpv.ca](http://www.cspp-scpv.ca)). These details, as well as lists of past recipients, are also included in the CSPP Membership Directory. The nominations for each award must be received by the Chair of the respective award committee (see addresses below) by March 31, 2008.

### The CSPP Medal (The Gold Medal)

The medal is awarded either for outstanding published contributions or for distinguished service to plant physiology, primarily in Canada (see By-Law 11). The nominations should be sent to: Dr. Robert J. Ireland, Biology Department, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, email: [rireland@mta.ca](mailto:rireland@mta.ca)

**The C.D. Nelson Award in Plant Physiology**

The Award is given for outstanding research contributions to plant physiology. Special consideration will be given to originality and independence of thought. Nominees shall have been in an independent, full-time research position for no more than 10 years (see By-Law 12). The nominations should be sent to: Dr. Peter J. Facchini, Department of Biological Sciences, Université of Calgary, Calgary, AB, email: [pfacchin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pfacchin@ucalgary.ca)

**The David J. Gifford Tree Physiology Award**

The Award is given for outstanding research contributions in tree physiology, primarily in Canada. Special consideration will be given to originality and independence of thought (see By-Law 13). The nominations should be sent to: Dr. Robert T. Mullen, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, email: [rtmullen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rtmullen@uoguelph.ca)

**The Gleb Krotkov Award of the CSPP**

The Award is given for outstanding service to the Society, both in administration and in scientific contributions to annual meetings (see By-Law 14). The nominations should be sent to: Dr. David B. Layzell, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, email: [layzelled@biology.queensu.ca](mailto:layzelled@biology.queensu.ca)

## CANDIDATURES POUR LES PRIX DE LA SCPV

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La Société canadienne de physiologie végétale vous invite à soumettre des candidatures pour les Prix de la Société qui seront remis lors du prochain congrès annuel en 2008. Les conditions d'éligibilité aux différents Prix (qualifications des candidats, procédures à suivre et caractéristiques des prix) sont décrits dans les Arrêtés de la Constitution de la SCPV. Une version pdf de la Constitution est disponible sur le site internet ([www.cspp-scpv.ca](http://www.cspp-scpv.ca)) de la Société. Ces détails ainsi que la liste des précédents récipiendaires est également disponible dans la 'Liste des Membres' de la SCPV. La date limite de réception des candidatures auprès des différents présidents des comités responsables de l'évaluation des candidatures (voir les adresses ci-après) est fixée au 31 mars 2008.

**La Médaille de la SCPV (La Médaille d'or)**

La Médaille est décernée à un membre s'étant distingué soit par des publications exceptionnelles ou par ses services à la physiologie végétale, principalement au Canada (voir Arrêté no. 11). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées à : Dr. Robert J. Ireland, Biology Department, Mount Allison University, Sackville, NB, courriel : [rireland@mta.ca](mailto:rireland@mta.ca)

**Le Prix C.D. Nelson en physiologie végétale**

Ce Prix est décerné pour des contributions exceptionnelles à la recherche en physiologie végétale. Une attention particulière sera accordée à l'originalité et à la créativité des travaux. Les candidats doivent détenir un poste de chercheur indépendant, à temps plein, depuis moins de 10 ans (voir Arrêté no. 12). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées à : Dr. Peter J. Facchini, Department of Biological Sciences, Université of Calgary, Calgary, AB, courriel : [pfacchin@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pfacchin@ucalgary.ca)

**Le Prix David J. Gifford en physiologie des arbres**

Ce Prix est décerné pour des contributions exceptionnelles à la recherche en physiologie des arbres, principalement au Canada. Une attention particulière sera accordée à l'originalité et à la créativité des travaux (voir Arrêté no. 13). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées à : Dr. Robert T. Mullen, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, courriel : [rtmullen@uoguelph.ca](mailto:rtmullen@uoguelph.ca)

**Le Prix Gleb Krotkov de la SCPV**

Ce Prix est décerné pour service exceptionnel rendu à la Société, autant dans l'administration de la Société qu'en termes de contributions scientifiques lors des congrès annuels de la Société (voir Arrêté no. 14). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées à : Dr. David B. Layzell, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON, courriel : [layzelled@biology.queensu.ca](mailto:layzelled@biology.queensu.ca)

## CSPP EXECUTIVE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2007-2008

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### EXECUTIVE

*President:*

Peter Pauls (Guelph) 2009

*Vice-President:*

Carl Douglas (British Columbia) 2009

*Secretary:*

Line Lapointe (Laval) 2008

*Treasurer:*

Harold Weger (Regina) 2008

*Communications Director/Bulletin Editor:*

Gordon Gray (Sask) 2009

*Western Regional Director:*

Soheil Mahmoud (UBC Okanagan) 2009

*Eastern Regional Director:*

Malcolm Campbell (Toronto) 2008

*Senior Director:*

Priti Krishna (Western Ontario) 2009

*Science Policy Director:*

Barbara Moffatt (Waterloo) 2008

*Education Director:*

Greg Moorhead (Calgary) 2009

*Student/PDF Representative:*

Alexandra Reid (London) 2008

*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) 2008  
Sheila Macfie (Western Ontario) 2009  
Doug Campbell (Mt Allison) 2011  
George Espie (UT Mississauga) Advisor

Auditors

Ken Wilson (Saskatchewan) 2008  
Peta Bonham-Smith (Saskatchewan) 2008

C.D. Nelson Award Committee

Peter Facchini (Calgary) 2008 Chair  
David Reid (Calgary) 2009  
Daniel Matton (Montréal) 2010

Communications Committee

Gordon Gray (Saskatchewan) 2009 Chair  
Line Lapointe (Laval) 2008  
Michael Stasiak (Guelph) webmaster

David J. Gifford Tree Physiology Award Committee

Rob Mullen (Guelph) 2008 Chair  
Shawn Mansfield (British Columbia) 2009  
Chris Todd (Saskatoon) 2010

Education Committee

Greg Moorhead (Calgary) 2010 Chair  
Anja Geitmann (Montreal) 2009  
Ewa Cholewa (Nipissing) 2009

Gleb Krotkov Award Committee

Dave Layzell (Queen's) 2008 Chair  
Normand Brisson (Montreal) 2009  
André Laroche (Lethbridge) 2010

Meeting Site Committee

Carl Douglas (British Columbia) 2009 Chair  
Santosh Misra (Victoria) 2008  
Aine Plant (SFU) 2009  
Peta Bonham-Smith (Saskatchewan) 2010

Nominating Committee

Priti Krishna (Western Ontario) 2009 Chair  
John Greenwood (Guelph) 2008  
Doug Muench (Calgary) 2009

Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee

Rob Hill (Manitoba) 2010 Chair  
Vince De Luca 2010  
Jean Rivoal (Montreal) 2010  
Alexandra Reid (London) 2008

Society (Gold) Medal Award Committee

Rob Ireland (Mt Allison) 2008 Chair  
Deep Saini (Waterloo) 2009  
Daphne Goring (Toronto) 2010

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2007 Eastern Regional Meeting

December 1, 2007  
University of Western Ontario,  
Ontario  
<http://www.uwo.ca/biology/CSPP-ERM.htm>

### International Symposium Announcement



*Glutathione and related thiols  
in microorganisms and plants*

Faculté de Pharmacie de Nancy  
26-29 August 2008  
<http://www.thiolmicrob.uhp-nancy.fr>

### IUFRO-CTIA 2008 Joint Meeting Adaptation, Breeding and Conservation in the Era of Forest Tree Genomics and Environmental Change

August 25-28 2008  
Loews Le Concorde, Quebec City, Que  
<http://www.iufro-ctia2008.ca/>

### The Pan American Congress Plant and BioEnergy Symposium

June 22-25 2008  
Fiesta Americana Hotel  
Mérida, Mexico  
<http://www.aspb.org/meetings/2008/>



### CSPP/SCPV 2008 50th Annual Meeting

June 14-17 2008  
Ottawa, Canada

### Plant Biology 2008 Joint Annual Meeting of ASPB and the Sociedad Mexicana De Bioquímica

June 26-July 1 2008  
Siglo XXI Convention Centre  
Mérida, Mexico  
<http://www.aspb.org/meetings/2008/>

### ACFAS



5 au 9 mai 2008  
INRS  
Québec, Québec  
[http://www.acfas.ca/congres/a\\_propos.html](http://www.acfas.ca/congres/a_propos.html)

**9<sup>th</sup> ISSS Conference  
on Seed Biology**

July 6-11 2008

Olsztyn, Poland

<http://www.seedbio2008.pl/index1.php>**CO<sub>2</sub> Assimilation in Plants:  
Genome to Biome****Gordon Research Conference**

August 17-22 2008

Biddeford, ME

<http://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2008&program=co2>**CBA/ABC 2008 Joint meeting**

July 25-31 2008

Vancouver, B.C.

<http://www.2008.botanyconference.org/>

For additional or more recent postings, please see the CSPP/SCPV website at <http://cspp-scpv.ca/meetings-e.shtml>

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## CONTRIBUTORS

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Peter Pauls	CSPP/SCPV President
Rob Guy	CSPP/SCPV Past President
Harold Weger	CSPP/SCPV Treasurer
Greg Moorhead	CSPP/SCPV Education Director
Line Lapointe	CSPP/SCPV Secretary and Bulletin Editor for this issue
Priti Kirshna	CSPP/SCPV Senior Director
Rob Hill	Chair of the Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee
Amar Sing	General Manager, Biotron
Mark Bernards	ERM local organizer
Barry Shelp	CJB co-editor
Larry Peterson	CJB co-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](mailto:communication@cspp-scpv.ca))

**Next issue of the CSPP/SCPV Bulletin:  
April 2008**