



A field of Canola; a common sight in the vast agricultural lands of Saskatchewan, where the 2020 CSPB annual meeting will be held.

SPRING / PRINTEMPS 2020

The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists La Société canadienne de biologie végétale

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Message from the President

Daphne Goring
University of Toronto



After two years as Vice-President, I am very pleased to be serving as the new CSPB/SCBV President. I look forward to working with members of the CSPB/SCBV executive and society on various initiatives to benefit our society.

Our annual meeting this year was a joint venture between seven Canadian plant societies under the umbrella of Plant Canada (www.plantcanada.ca/). Plant Canada 2019, Communicating Innovation in Plant Science, was held on July 7th - 10th at the University of Guelph, and was very well attended with over 600 participants. CSPB was the lead society in organizing this meeting, and I would like to extend sincere gratitude of thanks to Geoffrey Wasteneys, Barry Micallef and Robert Mullen who played key roles in the organization. Geoffrey, in his role of CSPB President and PC Board member, chaired the scientific organizing committee and spent considerable time managing input from committee members to put together an excellent program. He also patiently led the coordination efforts between Plant Canada board members and the Local arrangement committee. Barry chaired the Local arrangement committee and took on the enormous task of organizing the meeting details at the University of Guelph. Finally, Robert and Barry co-chaired the Fundraising committee and directed a very successful effort to raise sponsorship funding for Plant Canada 2019.

For some highlights of the meeting, we had 12 very interesting and diverse plenary speakers speaking on a range of topics covering the broad interests of the seven Canadian plant societies. The breadth of topics was also seen in the 37 concurrent oral presentation sessions (in four sittings) with a total of 212 speakers, and the 2 poster sessions with a total of 217 poster presenters. I heard from many meeting participants that they quite enjoyed listening to the broad range of

presentations given by members of the different societies. It was also great to see strong participation of graduate students who made up many of the presenters in the oral and poster presentation sessions. We had a large number of students in the CSPB student presentation competition judging with 49 student oral presentations in 21 concurrent sessions and 47 student poster presentations in 2 poster sessions. Finally, our CSPB student/postdoc rep, Ryan Eng, organized two very successful careers workshops, Careers Outside of Academia and Beyond Grad School: A guide for PDF and PI positions, which were well attended and garnered considerable discussion. Please see other reports in this bulletin for more details on this meeting, and a list of the student presentation winners and honorable mentions.

CSPB/SCBV awards were well represented at Plant Canada 2019 with two award winner lectures and four awards handed out. Congratulations to all the winners!

Lectures:

2018 CSPB Society Medal Winner, Dr. William Plaxton (Feeding hungry plants: purple acid phosphatases play a pivotal role in phosphorous nutrition)

Citation:

http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards/2018_SocietyMedal_Plaxton.pdf

2018 C.D. Nelson Award Winner: Dr. Jaswinder Singh, McGill University (New paradigms in the genetic regulation of pre- and post-harvest grain germination in cereals).

Citation:

http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards/2018_CDNelson_Singh.pdf

Awards:

2019 C.D. Nelson Award Winner: Dr. Danielle Way,
University of Western Ontario

Citation:

http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards/2019_CDNelson_Way.pdf

2019 Gleb Krotkov Award for Outstanding Service to the Society: Dr. Michael Stasiak, University of Guelph, Ontario

Citation:

http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards/2019_Krotkov_Stasiak.pdf

2019 Carl Douglas Prize: Dr. Joan Laur, Université de Montréal

Citation:

http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards/2019_Douglas_Laur.pdf

2019 Ragai Ibrahim Award for Best Student Paper: Laryssa Halat, University of British Columbia

Citation:

http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards/2019_Ibrahim_Halat.pdf

Planning is well underway for the 2020 CSPB/SCBV Annual General Meeting to take place at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon June 14-18, 2020. The meeting co-organizers are Raju Soolanayakanahally (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) and Ken Wilson (University of Saskatchewan). They are also working with Vincenzo De Luca to organize a special symposium honouring Professor Ragai Ibrahim. Finally, our award winners for the 2019 C.D. Nelson Award (Danielle Way) and 2019 Carl Douglas Prize (Joan Laur) will be giving presentations at this meeting. Look out for more details in email announcements.

Additional rounds of updates have been incorporated into the CSPB/SCBV By-laws and Duties manual. Two sets of amendments to the by-laws were approved by the membership at the CSPB/SCBV Annual Business meeting (July 10, 2019) and at a brief membership meeting at the recent Eastern Regional Meeting (November 23, 2019). Executive members also made edits to the Duties manual

to more accurately describe current duties and to add new deadlines for award nominations and adjudication. Please be aware that all award nomination deadlines have been moved up to **February 1** of each year. In future years, please take the opportunity to recognize a colleague, mentor, peer, or student for their achievements and contributions to plant sciences. All documents are available on the CSPB/SCBV website:

<http://cspb-scbv.ca/>

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 me (president@cspb-scbv.ca) or our Senior Director, Jean-Benoit Charron (seniordirector@cspb-scbv.ca).

Daphne Goring
CSPB/SCVB President

Message from the Vice-President

Robin Cameron
McMaster University



Dear CSPB/SCBV members

It is a pleasure to take up my new role as CSPB/SCBV Vice President. I'm starting to learn what the job entails and getting to know the members of the executive. I plan on continuing former VP Daphne Goring's initiative to make our society a more equitable and inclusive one. We must continue our efforts to make our society and meetings inviting and diverse in order to take advantage of the creativity/excellence of all our members. I encourage meeting organizers to think about diversity when choosing invited speakers and session chairs for CSPB/SCBV annual and regional meetings.

Our annual meeting this past summer (2019) at the University of Guelph was a Plant Canada meeting with a number of Plant Biology Societies. It was very well attended (see Past President's and President's messages) with 96 high-quality student oral and poster presentations making it challenging for the judges to choose CSPB/SCBV Oral and Poster winners. I want to thank Daphne Goring in her role as CSPB/SCBV VP for organizing the 39 judges and also give a big thank you to all the judges (see below), who gave generously of their time during the meeting.

Robin Cameron
CSPB/SCBV Vice-President



Past President's Message

Geoffrey Wasteneys
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver

Many of our society members came to Guelph Ontario in early July to participate in Plant Canada 2019. Bringing this event to fruition was no easy task, and involved working with the six other member societies and associations over several years. I was, therefore, both pleased and relieved to see that the Scientific Program delivered at all levels. The keynote address on communicating science by Dan Riskin was well received and set the tone for three very full days of seminars, posters, business meetings, and social events. The stimulating plenary

sessions highlighted the diverse range of important work that plant biologists are doing but I also greatly enjoyed hearing about the amazing discoveries our society members, young and old, presented in the concurrent seminar and poster sessions. More details about the meeting can be found in the President's Message.

With over 600 attendees, participation exceeded expectations, and the Local Arrangements Committee, led by Barry Micallef,

did a great job ensuring that everything ran smoothly. It was CSPB's turn to "host" this year's Plant Canada meeting, and I am very pleased to report that the meeting was also a financial success. This was in no small way the result of the effort of Robert Mullen and Barry Micallef, who co-chaired the Fundraising Committee. As the lead organizers, CSPB will receive a healthy share of the meeting profit, and while making money is not our main motivation for these conferences, the profit feeds directly into important work, including travel bursaries for student and postdoctoral members, and our awards.

At our annual business meeting in Guelph, I passed the gavel to our new President, Daphne Goring, with whom I have had

the privilege to work over the past two years. It has been a great privilege to serve the CSPB, and I am confident that the current executive will carry forward the excellent work we do. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the executive, as well as all committee members, for their capable dedication to the CSPB. As immediate Past President, I will stay on the executive for another two years in a largely advisory capacity. I will continue, however, to serve CSPB in my new role as President of Plant Canada. I now look forward to advocating for the achievements and contributions of plant scientists across Canada.

Geoffrey Wasteneys
CSPB/SCBV Past President

Treasurer's News

Sheila Macfie
University of Western Ontario



Membership: By the time registration for the ERM in St. Catharines had closed, we had just over 400 members, many of whom had already renewed for 2020. Membership renewal continued with the WRM held in Canmore.

Membership is currently being processed on-line aty http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/membership_paypal.shtml. Des versions françaises des formulaires d'adhésion sont aussi disponibles (<http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/membership-f.shtml>). As soon as our new Society website is fully functional, memberships will be processed through a platform called AffiniPay. The site functions much in the same way as PayPal but, because it is associated with the new website platform, the administrative fees will be lower. As an added bonus, members will be sent individualized reminder notices based on the date on which they renewed (or paid) their membership fee. Be on the lookout for an announcement about the launch of our new site.

Donations: At the bottom of the on-line membership form, you will notice an opportunity to make a donation to one of our charitable funds. A direct link to the donation page is currently

available at <http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/donate.shtml> this URL will also change with the new website. Tax receipts will be issued for donations to any of our award funds: the Ann Oaks Scholarship Fund, the George Duff Travel Fund, the Ragai Ibrahim Award, the new Carl Douglas Prize Fund (for postdocs) and the new Mary E. Spencer Award Funds (for mid-career researchers). While the Ann Oaks Scholarship fund is supported by an endowment from the late Dr. Ann Oaks, our ability to support the other awards depends in part on the amounts of donations we receive from our members. We depend on your support to keep these awards viable.

Duff Travel Bursary: The Society allocated \$10,170 to Duff Travel Bursaries for the Plant Canada 2019 meeting in Guelph, providing partial travel support to 53 of our student and post-doc members. The application deadline for the 2020 meeting in Saskatoon will be announced in the new year. Keep your eye out for the e-mail announcement.

Sheila Macfie
Treasurer



Venue: Health Science Centre Facility

CSPB-SCPV 2020 Annual Meeting

June 15 - 18, 2020
University of Saskatchewan
Saskatoon, SK

Join us for the annual meeting in Saskatchewan, land of the living skies. The conference will occur on the beautiful campus of the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, from 15 to 18 June 2020. Saskatoon is a charming college town nestled in the heart of the Canadian Prairies and the hub of a dynamic plant research community, housing university, federal, provincial, and private company labs within walking distance from each other. Seven plenary talks, 15 concurrent sessions, 3 workshops, and a study tour will be offered at the 2020 Meeting as a part of the technical program. The deadline for abstract submission to be considered for an oral presentation will be April 17th.

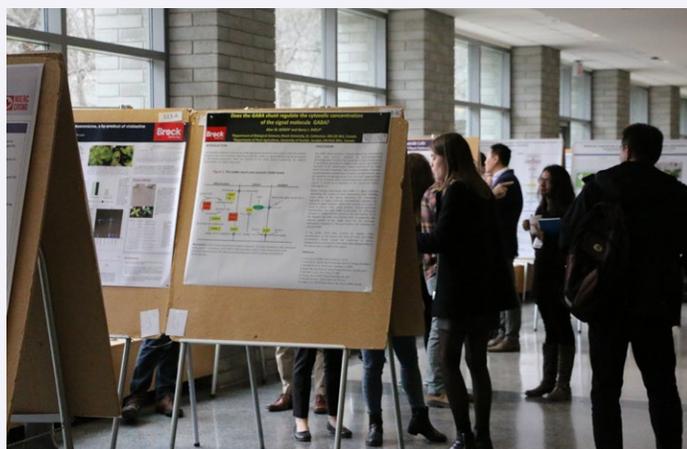


Field Tour: Showcasing crop research activities on Canadian prairies

Message from the Eastern Regional Director

CSPB/SCPV Eastern Regional Meeting 2019 at Brock University

The Eastern Regional Meeting (ERM) was held November 22nd-23rd (2019) at Brock University and was a glowing success. Over 100 registrants enjoyed lively discussions and outstanding oral and poster presentations, all thanks to the hard work by the organizing committee, including Vincenzo De Luca (Chair), Mehran Dastmalchi, Charles Després, and David Liscombe, as well as several helpful and friendly student volunteers.



The meeting began with welcoming remarks from Vincenzo De Luca and Tim Kenyon (Vice President Research Brock University), followed by a captivating plenary lecture from David Smith (Western University) entitled “Stranger things: the organelle genome edition”. Afterward, two concurrent sessions covering 10 oral presentations on a diverse array of topics were held.

The poster session took place after lunch with 45 participants presenting their work, followed by another two concurrent sessions of (10) oral presentations. Thereafter, Isabel Desgagné-Penix (University du Québec à Trois-Rivières) delivered an excellent plenary lecture entitled “Cracking the code of Amaryllidaceae alkaloid biosynthesis”.

Competition for the Eastern Regional Director’s Awards was very strong, as it is at every ERM, with 15 students competing for the best oral presentation award and another 37 students competing for the best poster presentation award. All of the talks and posters were high calibre, and a special note of thank you goes to each of the 22 judges that evaluated the oral and poster presentations. An additional thank you goes to the two lead judges, Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster University) and Wayne Snedden (Queen’s University), for guiding the judging deliberations.

The Director’s Award for the best oral presentation was shared by two students, Natalie Hoffman (University of Toronto Mississauga): “Setting the stage for lignin deposition: spatial distribution and anchoring of enzymes directing lignification in Arabidopsis” and Victoria Lesy (University of Guelph): “Characterizing the underlying molecular mechanism of the sugarcane anti-florigen ScFT2”. Honourable mention went to Christine Kempthorne (Brock University): “Role of pyrrolidine and phenanthroindolizine alkaloids in highly invasive *Vincetoxicum rossicum*”.



David Smith and Mehran Dastmalchi



Recipients of the ERM 2019 student presentation awards (clockwise from top left) with presenter Robert Mullen (Eastern Regional Director): **I) Best oral presentation** - Victoria Lesy (left) and Natalie Hoffman (middle); **II) Honourable mention best oral presentation** - Christine Kempthorne; **III) Best poster presentation** - Rebecca Kalinger; **IV) Honourable mention best poster presentation** - Jennifer Tropiano; **V) Agrisera poster presentation award** - Jeff Chen.

The Director's Award for the best poster presentation was awarded to Rebecca Kalinger (Carleton University): "Towards understanding the basis of substrate specificity in medium-chain acyl-lipid thioesterase (ALT) enzymes from plants". Honourable mention went to Jennifer Tropiano (McMaster University): "Identifying drought tolerance traits through comparative phenotyping of two *Eutrema salsugineum* accessions".

Another poster award that was generously sponsored by Agrisera was presented to Jeff Chen (University of Toronto Scarborough): "Elucidating the role of poplar clade II BAHD acyltransferases in very-long-chain fatty acid biosynthesis".

Thank you again to all of the members of the organizing committee and volunteers, as well as the session chairs and judges, for ensuring the meeting in St. Catharines was a success! The conference was generously sponsored by the following partners: Brock University office of research services; Conviron; Medicago Rnd Inc; Norgen Biotek Corp; Qubit Systems Inc; Vineland Research and Innovation Center; Willow Biosciences.

The next ERM is being held later this fall (2020) at Concordia University in Montréal and is being organized by Jin Suk Lee (Chair). As always, this meeting will be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with colleagues and friends and learn about some of the most recent advances in plant science, all in the beautiful city of Montréal. I look forward to seeing you there.

Robert Mullen
Eastern Regional Director



Isabel Desgagné-Penix

New Faculty Members

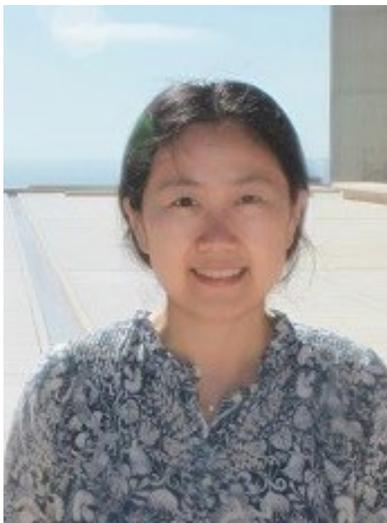
Prepared by Jacqueline Monaghan



Elizabeth K. Brauer

Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa Research & Development Centre

Liz joined Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) as a Research Scientist in October. Her lab in Ottawa uses image-based phenotyping and molecular genetics to increase yield and disease resistance in cereal crops. She works with breeders to determine how trait measurements can be used to predict yield or pathogen resistance in diverse environments. One focus of her work is to develop genetic resistance to the fungal pathogen, *Fusarium graminearum*. During her postdoctoral fellowship at AAFC, Dr. Brauer contributed to the discovery of a mycotoxin virulence factor called gramillin from *F. graminearum*. Dr. Brauer's lab will study gramillin perception and sensitivity in plants to enhance *F. graminearum* resistance in cultivated barley. The long-term goal of her work is to improve selection efficiency in pre-breeding and breeding programs and to develop quantitative resistance in cereal crops. Dr. Brauer earned her M.Sc. from the University of Guelph and her Ph.D. from Cornell University. She conducted her doctoral research at the Boyce Thompson Institute as a NSERC postgraduate scholar. Please visit Liz's website to learn about opportunities to join the lab (<https://brauerlab.weebly.com/>).



Liang Song

Department of Botany, University of British Columbia

Liang Song joined the University of British Columbia as an Assistant Professor in October 2018. Liang received her Ph.D. degree in Plant Physiology from Pennsylvania State University and her postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies. During her training, she studied the regulation of gene expression by small RNAs and plant hormones. She has always been intrigued by the delicate interplay between positive and negative regulators in a transcriptional network. She also enjoys showing her trainees the similarities between scientific projects and detective stories.

The Song lab aims to understand how plants respond to both internal and environmental cues through the plant hormone abscisic acid (ABA), a nexus molecule of abiotic stress responses and plant development. ABA plays many important physiological and developmental roles throughout the plant life cycle. These roles include stomatal control, flavonoid biosynthesis, cuticle deposition, and shaping root architecture. Plants use ABA to cope with adverse conditions such as

drought, high salinity, high temperature, and cold. In addition, ABA also regulates several seed traits, including seed oil and protein content, desiccation tolerance, and germination. Currently, the Song lab focuses on studying key transcription factors in ABA signaling using genomic, biochemical, and cell biology approaches. Her group has been addressing the following topics: (1) The commonality and diversity of ABA-regulated gene expression networks in different tissues/cell types or under various stresses, and (2) The roles of ABA-responsive transcription factors in the environmental and genetic control of seed development. These network studies are expected to identify unknown regulators in ABA responses, as well as provide information to optimize the balance between plant development and stress responses. The long term goal of the Song lab is to promote knowledge translation across plant species to improve plant performance in a changing climate



Valerio Hoyos-Villegas

Department of Plant Science, McGill University

Valerio Hoyos-Villegas is currently an Assistant Professor in Plant Breeding and Genetics in the Department of Plant Science at McGill University. He obtained his MS in Crop, Insect and Microbial sciences from the University of Missouri in 2011 and his Ph.D. in Plant Breeding, Genetics and Biotechnology from Michigan State University in 2015. Between 2015 and 2019, Valerio held an appointment as Scientist in Forage Breeding and Genetics in Christchurch, New Zealand.

Our lab focuses on the development of pulse cultivars. Cultivar development is a crucial technological component of agriculture. Maintaining genetic gain means that farmers can access cultivars that can cope with disease, insect, and environmental stresses, which reduces dependency on pesticides and natural resources such as water.

Quantitative genetics and data science. Breeding and achieving genetic gain for complex traits with low heritability is a difficult task given the intricate nature of plant genomes and the multiple interactions that occur among the large numbers of genes controlling complex traits as well as the dynamics of traits with low heritability within segregating populations. We study how complex traits and their effects can be predicted and modeled to establish the magnitude of achievable gain for cultivar development using statistical genetics and next-generation sequencing.

Plant phenomics. Due to the large size of segregating populations, plant breeding programs are often limited by the ability to identify superior individuals. The advent of field-based sensors to measure traits coupled with artificial intelligence and machine learning is enabling breeders to select for conventional traits faster and identify novel traits that are otherwise not detectable by the human eye to develop and accelerate plant improvement. We focus on developing and implementing plant phenomics tools in plant breeding programs for agronomic traits as well as quality traits.

Postdoc Feature

Prepared by
Elizabeth Brauer

Dr. Jai Singh Patel

Department of Plant Food and Environmental Sciences
Faculty of Agriculture, Dalhousie University, NS, Canada



Dr. Jai Singh Patel is a postdoctoral fellow with Dr. B. Prithviraj at Dalhousie University. He received his PhD in plant biotechnology from Banaras Hindu University in India. For his doctoral work, he tested the protective properties of *Pseudomonas fluorescens* or *Trichoderma asperellum* against powdery mildew in pea. His postdoctoral work focuses on seaweed-based biostimulants for plant defense and productivity. Jai combines seaweed-based extracts with *Pseudomonas fluorescens* to determine how application to plants enhances plant growth, yield and resistance against biotic and abiotic stresses. He used real time PCR, HPLC, fluorescence microscopy and spectrophotometry to unravel the mechanism underlying the protective activity of the seaweed extract. His work on plant growth promoting rhizobacteria in seaweed extracts shows potential for improving crop production. His work is partly funded by an industry collaborator, Acadian Seaplants Limited, to study the applications of this discovery.

Message from the CSPB Student and Postdoctoral Representative

This past summer, I was privileged to organize two professional development workshops at the Plant Canada 2019 meeting. I would like to thank Dr. Teagen Quilichini (NRC Saskatoon), Dr. Jacqueline Monaghan (Queen's University), and Dr. Heather McFarlane (University of Toronto) who graciously volunteered their time to share any experiences and advice in academic, government, and industry research. The workshops were well attended and initiated valuable discussion between the speakers and attendees. I am currently brainstorming workshop ideas for the next CSPB meeting in Saskatoon. Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions or ideas for the workshops.

This year, the CSPB Executive will be looking to fill my current position to start the next two-year term for 2020 – 2022. Keep your eyes peeled for an e-mail from the CSPB regarding the call for nominations. The position is open to all grad students and post-doctoral fellows who are members of the CSPB.



Ryan Christopher Eng (ryan.c.eng@gmail.com)

Deadline for the next bulletin

Dear CSPB-SCBV members,

Contributions to the Fall Bulletin

It is time to share news with your Canadian plant biology community! Send us your contributions for the next bulletin by September 30, 2020. Items can include photos, comments, suggestions for featured books, articles and events (conferences).

We would also like to make a special call to feature newly-hired faculty and postdoctoral fellows in plant biology. We aim to highlight three new appointees for each category in the bulletin. The hope is to acquaint them with the society and help the transition into their new roles. If you have any new members in your faculty please let us know.

The next bulletin will appear in November 2020. Send all our contributions, before the editorial deadline to: bulletin@cspb-scbv.ca

NHPRS 2020 conference

Submitted by John Thor Arnason University of Ottawa

The Natural Health Products Research Society welcomes you to its 17th annual conference and trade show at the downtown campus of the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, May 24-27 2020. The theme of this year's conference is Canada and the International Landscape. The conference will be of interest to, and brings together, scientists working on phytochemistry, nutraceutical or medicinal plants. The www.NHPRS.ca website is now live, including information on an exceptional group of keynote speakers. For further information contact co-chairs Cory.Harris@uottawa.ca or John.Arnason@uottawa.ca

CSPB-SCBV Awards

This past winter we asked for your nominations for CSPB-SCBV awards. The recipients will be awarded in the respective categories during the CSPB-SCBV Annual General Meeting, **June 16-18, 2020 in Saskatoon**. To read more about each award and previous recipients, please go to <http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards.shtml> and read the CSPB-SCBV By-Laws (<http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/about.shtml>).

New: February 1 is the annual deadline for all nomination/application files. Please see the CSPB-SCBV By-Laws (About CSPB) for full details and instructions.

Each year take this opportunity to recognize a colleague, mentor, peer, or student for their achievements and contributions to plant sciences in the following categories:

The C.D. NELSON AWARD IN PLANT BIOLOGY:

This award shall be given for outstanding research contributions to plant biology. 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, although career breaks will be taken into account when applicants are nearing the end of this eligibility period (e.g. maternity or parental leave, caregiver's responsibilities, illness, etc.). Nominees need not be Canadian citizens or members of the Society but must be engaged in a research program in Canada at the time of the nomination.

For questions and nomination submissions, contact the chair of the committee: Moira Galway mgalway@stfx.ca

The RAGAI IBRAHIM AWARD: The purpose of the award is to recognize excellence in publication by graduate students. 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 the work will have on plant biology.

For questions and nomination submissions, contact the chair of the committee: Cara Haney cara.haney@msl.ubc.ca

The MARY E. SPENCER AWARD: This award shall be given for outstanding research in the field of plant biology and active public service engagement in the plant biology community by a mid-career researcher. Nominees need not be Canadian citizens or members of the Society but must be engaged in a research program in Canada at the time of the nomination, and shall have been in an independent, full-time research position for more than 15 years.

For questions and nomination submissions, contact the chair of the committee: Line Lapointe Line.Lapointe@bio.ulaval.ca

The CARL DOUGLAS PRIZE: The Prize shall be awarded for outstanding contributions to plant biology by a postdoctoral fellow, based on initiative and originality of the research, productivity of the individual, and leadership during their postdoctoral fellowship. A postdoctoral fellow is an individual who has completed their PhD and is engaged in full-time research under the supervision of a mentor. Applicants shall have obtained their PhD no more than 4 years (i.e., 48 months) prior to the date of the submission of the application, although career breaks will be taken into account when applicants are nearing the end of this eligibility period (e.g. maternity or parental leave, caregiver's responsibilities, illness, etc.). Applicants need not be Canadian citizens or engaged in a research program in Canada at the time of the nomination or during their postdoctoral fellowship. Preference will be given to applicants who are current members of the Society and have previously participated as a member of the Society. For questions and application submissions, contact the chair of the committee: Dae-Kyun Ro daekyun.ro@ucalgary.ca

Please note that the **CSPB MEDAL (The Gold Medal)**, **DAVID J. GIFFORD AWARD IN TREE BIOLOGY**, and **GLEB KROTKOV AWARD** are only awarded every three years (please see CSPB-SCBV By-Laws About CSPB) and were recently awarded. **The CSPB MEDAL and DAVID J. GIFFORD AWARD IN TREE BIOLOGY** can be awarded again in 2021, and the **GLEB KROTKOV AWARD** can be awarded again in 2022.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions.

Best wishes,

Susanne Kohalmi
Communications Director and Bulletin Editor
Canadian Society of Plant Biologists / Société
Canadienne de Biologie Végétale
communication@cspb-scbv.ca

CSPB Inside

CSPB / SCBV Executive Committee Membership 2020



TOP **President:** Daphne Goring, **Vice-President:** Robin Cameron, **Past President:** Geoff Wasteneys, **Secretary:** David Bird, **Treasurer:** Sheila Macfie, **Communications Director:** Susanne Kohalmi
BOTTOM **Eastern Regional Director:** Robert Mullen, **Western Regional Director:** Douglas Muench, **Senior Director:** Jean-Benoit Charron, **Science Policy Director:** Owen Roland, **Education Director:** Steven Chatfield, **Student/PDF Representative:** Ryan Eng

Committee Members

Ann Oaks Scholarship Committee

Harold Weger (Regina) Chair
Elizabeth Weretilnyk (McMaster) Co-Chair
Doug Campbell (Mt Allison)
George Espie (UT Mississauga)
Sharon Regan (Queen's)
Sheila Macfie (Western) Treasurer

C.D. Nelson Award Committee

Maira Galway (St Francis Xavier) Chair
Darrell Desveaux (Toronto)
Sylvie Renault (Manitoba)

Communications Committee

Susanne Kohalmi (Western) Chair
Jacqueline Monaghan (Queen's)
Elizabeth Brauer (AAFC)
Mehran Dastmalchi (Brock) Bulletin Editor
Sherryl Bisgrove (Simon Fraser)
Secretary
Lauren Erland (UBC)
Michael Stasiak (Guelph) webmaster

David J. Gifford Tree Biology Award Committee

Olivia Wilkins (Manitoba) Chair
Uwe Hacke (Alberta)
Barbara Hawkins (Victoria)

Education Committee

Steven Chatfield (Toronto) Chair
Tamara L Western (McGill)
Joseph Colasanti (Guelph)
Abel Rosado (UBC)

Gleb Krotkov Award Committee

Nicholas Provart (Toronto) Chair
Belay T. Ayele (Manitoba)
Peta Bonham-Smith (Saskatchewan)

Nominating Committee

Jean-Benoit Charron (McGill) Chair
Steeve Pepin (Laval)
Marcus Samuel (Calgary)

Ragai Ibrahim Award Committee

Cara Haney (UBC) Chair
Pascale Beauregard (Sherbrooke)
Christopher Todd (Saskatchewan)
Ryan Eng (Max Planck)

Society (Gold) Medal Award Committee

Doug Muench (Calgary) Chair
Sophia Stone (Dalhousie)
Anja Geitmann (McGill)

Carl Douglas Prize committee

Dae-Kyun Ro (Calgary) Chair
Eliana Gonzales-Vigil (UT Scarborough)
Chris Ambrose (Saskatchewan)

Mary Spencer Award committee

Line Lapointe (Laval) Chair
Shelley Lumba (Toronto)
Janusz Zwiazek (Alberta)

Contributors

The Bulletin is the official newsletter of the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists/Société Canadienne de Biologie Végétale (CSPB/SCBV).

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Get involved in the CSPB/SCBV

Seeking candidates for director positions and several committees

The Canadian Society of Plant Biologists is seeking candidates to serve on its Executive Committee as **Student/Postdoc representative**.

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 Society Medal and the C.D. Nelson Award.

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

Upcoming Annual Meetings

2020

CSPB/SCBV Annual General Meeting, Saskatoon.
Local Organizing committee: Raju Soolanayakanahally, Ken Wilson 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.