

BULLETIN

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OCTOBER 2003

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EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING,
 The Eastern Regional Meeting of the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists will be held on December 12 and 13 at the Concordia University in Montreal.

CONGRÈS RÉGIONAL DE L'EST,
 Le Congrès Régional de l'Est de la Société Canadienne de Physiologie Végétale aura lieu le 12 et 13 décembre à l'Université Concordia de Montréal.

Web site for registration, accommodation, preliminary program, and abstract submission:

Abstract deadline: November 14

<http://clone.concordia.ca/cspp2003>

MOT DU RÉDACTEUR



Bonjour à tous

Finalement, je met la main à la pâte pour compléter ce troisième numéro du Bulletin Électronique de la SCPV. J'avoue ma culpabilité d'avoir remis à si tard la publication de ce numéro. La raison principale de cette situation est la décision de ne faire que deux

publications par an au lieu de trois. Le « timing » de la parution du bulletin par rapport aux rencontres de nos membres (congrès annuel et régionaux) et les efforts considérables requis pour préparer le bulletin représentent les deux raisons majeures qui expliquent cette décision. En constatant l'absence de parution du bulletin au août 2003 tel que prévu, certains d'entre vous ont sans doute pensé que, comme par le passé, le bulletin était déjà tombé dans les oubliettes. Que ces personnes se sentent rassurées car il n'en est rien. Une parution bi-annuelle en avril et en octobre permettra de transmettre les informations relatives aux congrès de la société de façon optimale.

Le but principal de cette parution est de publiciser le Congrès Régional de l'Est de la CSPP/SCPV qui se tient cette année les 12 et 13 décembre à L'Université Concordia de Montréal. Paul Gulick, R. Ibrahim et Luc Varin, les organisateurs de cette rencontre, nous présentent les informations relatives à cet événement. C'est donc avec grand plaisir que le Comité Exécutif de la Société se joint aux organisateurs et vous invite tous à participer en grand nombre à ce congrès. Une invitation particulière est lancée aux étudiants gradués et chercheurs postdoctoraux de l'Est du pays (de l'ouest de l'Ontario à

l'est de Terre-Neuve) à venir présenter leurs dernières découvertes. Les étudiants gradués peuvent soumettre leur candidature et courir la chance de remporter des prix intéressants dont le prix de la meilleure présentation orale et de la meilleure présentation écrite. Pour ce faire, vous pouvez rejoindre la responsable de ces concours, Priti Krishna, Directrice Régionale de l'Est (eastern@cspp-scpv.ca). De plus amples informations sur ce sujet sont présentées dans ce bulletin.

Ce bulletin comporte plusieurs autres chroniques qui sauront vous intéresser j'en suis sur. Entre autre, le nouveau président de la SCPV, Hargurdeep (Deep) Saini nous transmet ses premières impressions ainsi qu'un avant goût des dossiers qu'il entend faire avancer au cours de son mandat. Vous trouverez également un rapport sur le congrès annuel de la CSPP/SCPV qui s'est déroulé à Antigonish en Nouvelle Écosse l'été dernier. Plusieurs prix ont été décernés lors de cette rencontre et les lauréats de ces prix sont mentionnés dans la section « Prix et Distinctions ».

Le présent bulletin rend également hommage au professeur David J. Gifford (University of Alberta), membre exemplaire de la CSPP/SCPV, actuel vice-président du comité exécutif, confrère de travail et ami de plusieurs d'entre nous qui est décédé récemment. La communauté scientifique de biologie végétale perd un grand ami et un excellent chercheur. Je vous laisse donc poursuivre la lecture de ce numéro en souhaitant vous compter parmi nous à Montréal en décembre.

Pierre Bilodeau
Secrétaire/Rédacteur

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings!

It is always hard to start anything on a sad note, but I can't bring myself to begin otherwise. As you know, less than two months after being elected Vice President of the CSPP, David Gifford passed away suddenly on August 15. He was to assume the

Presidency of the society in 2005. David had been one of the pillars of the CSPP for many years and was a respected member of Canada's scientific and academic community. I had worked closely with him on the society's affairs for over a decade, and I will miss his

wisdom and his dedication to the cause of plant biology in this country.

Thanks to the hard work of the previous executive and an increasing enthusiasm of CSPP members, the new executive that took over at the annual meeting in Antigonish finds our society in excellent shape and looking up. We now have a solid membership base, our meetings attract participants in large numbers, and the quality of science presented at these meetings is first class. The society is playing a leading role, spearheaded by Carol Peterson and Elizabeth Weretilnyk, in developing *Plant Canada* into a vibrant umbrella organization of plant biology societies in Canada. Co-founded in 2000 by the CSPP and the Canadian Botanical Association, *Plant Canada* has now grown to include three additional societies: Canadian Society of Soil Sciences, Canadian Phytopathology Society and the Canadian Weed Science Society. Preparations are underway for the first joint

meeting of all these societies in 2005 in Edmonton under the *Plant Canada* banner. This is expected to be the largest ever gathering of Canadian plant scientists.

In the rapidly evolving perspective of plant biology, CSPP needs to explore new initiatives. One that we will be looking at quite seriously in the months to come is to build closer links with plant biology related industries. Creation of a 'corporate member' category is an option being considered. On another front, Norm Huner, my predecessor, had initiated discussions with the management of Canadian Journal of Botany to find ways to increase the physiology content of the journal. The aim is to have a high-profile periodical associated with our society. I will intensify our efforts in this regard, and will probably approach many of you to seek your participation in this initiative. Speaking of participation, I believe that there are at least 600 potential CSPP members out there, and we have to launch a major campaign to get these people to sign up. As your active participation in this campaign is essential for its success, you will hear us knocking on your doors early in next year.

Plant Canada 2003 — the joint meeting of CSPP and CBA at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish was a great success, both scientifically and socially. The picturesque surroundings for this meeting provided an

ideal retreat for the convergence of botany and plant physiology. Congratulations and thanks to David Garbary and his team of organizers for an excellent work. Congratulations also to Peter Facchini (University of Calgary) for winning the C.D. Nelson Award, and to our student members Pauline Quesnelle (Trent University) and Yeen Ting Hwang (University of Guelph) for taking home the Presidents' Award for best oral and poster presentation, respectively.

Luc Varin and his co-organizers are putting together an interesting program for the eastern regional meeting on December 12-13 at the new campus of Concordia University in Montreal. This would also be an excellent opportunity to partake in the joie de vivre of Montreal embellished with pre-Christmas festivities. The next national meeting is scheduled in June 2004 at the University of Guelph. I take this occasion to urge you all to mark these two meetings on your agenda and make it a point to attend.

I look forward to seeing you in great numbers at both the meetings.

Best wishes,
Deep Saini

MOT DU PRÉSIDENT

Bonjour à tous

Il est toujours difficile de débiter quoi que ce soit sur une mauvaise note, mais il m'est impossible d'envisager la situation autrement. Comme vous le savez, moins de deux mois après avoir été élu Vice Président de la SCPV, David Gifford est décédé subitement le 15 août 2003. Il devait assumer la Présidence de la Société en 2005. David fut l'un des piliers de la SCPV durant plusieurs années et était un membre respecté de la communauté scientifique et académique au Canada. J'ai personnellement travaillé avec lui sur plusieurs dossiers de la Société au cours de la dernière décennie et je ressens déjà le creux laissé par son absence, considérant sa grande sagesse et son dévouement à la cause de la biologie végétale dans ce pays.

Merci au travail acharné du Comité Exécutif précédant et à l'enthousiasme accru des membres de la Société, le nouvel exécutif qui a pris la relève lors du congrès annuel à Antigonish trouve une Société en excellente forme et prête à prendre de nouveaux défis. Nous possédons maintenant un regroupement stable des membres, nos congrès attirent de nombreux participants, et la qualité de la science présentée lors de ces congrès est excellente. Notre Société joue un rôle central, sous le leadership de Carol Peterson et Elizabeth Weretilnyk, dans le développement de *Plant Canada* en une organisation vibrante qui chapeaute la biologie végétale au Canada. Co-fondée en 2000 par la SCPV et l'Association Botanique Canadienne, *Plant Canada* inclut actuellement

trois nouvelles sociétés : La Société Canadienne de la Science du Sol, la Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie, et la Société Canadienne de Malherbologie. Les préparatifs sont en cours pour la première conférence conjointe de toutes ces sociétés en 2005 à Edmonton sous la bannière de *Plant Canada*. Cette conférence devrait être le plus grand regroupement de biologistes des plantes du Canada.

Dans la foulée de l'évolution rapide des perspectives en biologie végétale, la SCPV se doit d'explorer de nouvelles initiatives. Une de ces nouvelles initiatives que nous prévoyons étudier sérieusement dans les mois à venir est la mise en place de liens plus étroits avec les industries impliquées en biologie végétale. La création d'une nouvelle catégorie de « membre corporatif » est une alternative considérée. D'un autre côté, Norm Huner, mon prédécesseur, avait initié des discussions avec le « Canadian Journal of Botany » afin d'identifier des moyens d'augmenter le contenu physiologique du journal. Le but visé serait la création d'un lien plus direct entre notre Société et un périodique de haut-calibre. J'ai l'intention de poursuivre les efforts initiés par Norm dans cette direction, et je risque de devoir approcher plusieurs d'entre vous afin de demander votre participation dans cette initiative. En parlant de participation, je crois qu'il existe plus de 600 membres potentiels de la SCPV, alors nous devons initier une importante campagne de recrutement afin d'attirer ces membres potentiels à devenir membres en règle. Comme votre participation

active dans cette campagne est essentielle pour son succès, ne vous surprenez pas si nous cognons à votre porte au début de 2004.

Plant Canada 2003 – la conférence conjointe de la SCPV et de l'ABC à l'université St-Francis Xavier d'Antigonish fut un grand succès, autant au niveau scientifique que social. L'environnement enchanteur de cette rencontre procura une retraite idéale pour la convergence de la botanique et de la physiologie végétale. Félicitation et un grand merci à David Garbary ainsi qu'à tout son équipe pour un excellent travail. Félicitation également à Peter Facchini (University of Calgary) pour l'obtention du prix C.D. Nelson, ainsi qu'aux membres étudiants Pauline Quesnelle (Trent University) et Yeen Ting Hwang (University of Guelph) pour l'obtention des Prix du Président pour la meilleure présentation orale et affiche, respectivement.

Luc Varin et ses collègues sont à mettre la touche finale au programme du congrès régional de l'Est qui se tiendra les 12-13 décembre 2003 au nouveau campus de l'université Concordia à Montréal. Cette rencontre représente également une excellente opportunité de baigner dans l'atmosphère festive de Montréal juste avant le temps des fêtes. Le prochain congrès annuel de la SCPV est prévu pour juin 2004 à l'université de Guelph. Je vous invite fortement à prendre en note ces deux rencontres et à faire un devoir d'y assister. J'anticipe avec joie le plaisir de vous rencontrer en grand nombre lors de ces deux événements.

Cordialement vôtre
Deep Saini

REPORT ON THE 2003 CSPP ANNUAL MEETING IN ANTIGONISH

Astonishing!!! This is one word to describe the past 2003 CSPP Annual Meeting in Antigonish, Nova-Scotia. All together, the scientific program, the social activities, the location at St-Francis Xavier University, and the surrounding environment of Antigonish have made a success of this annual conference. On behalf of the CSPP/SCPV Executive Committee and all our members, I extend our appreciation and thanks to the conference chair, David Garbary, and the organization committees for the hard work and the countless efforts that they have dedicated in the preparation and orchestration of this successful conference. This was a joint meeting between the CSPP/SCPV and the CBA/ABC (Canadian Botanical Association/Association Botanique du Canada). The meeting was also held under the umbrella of **PLANT CANADA**, a federation of Societies aiming to bring Canadian plant biologists from various field closer together. Finally, the conference also included the 11th *New Phytologist* Symposium on Plant Speciation.

I must confess when I was looking at the program before attending the meeting, my first impression was not very good. Imagine, a plant molecular biologist (which means every sentence without the words “gene, expression, or microarray” just lost 75% of my attention) looking at a scientific program with Symposium titles such as “Forest of Land and Sea”, or “Invasive Plants”. In addition, plenary lectures entitled “Tales of fish and forests (John Smol)” and “Videomicroscopy of living diatoms (Jeremy Pickett-Heaps)” or “Micro-fungi and large buildings (Thomas Rand)”. Now, you probably get the picture. So lucky for me, I happened to be the Secretary of one of the Societies that sponsors this scientific gathering and as such, I was strongly encouraged to participate in this meeting. Another incentive to attend this meeting was that I had never been to this part of Canada. So I married career and leisure and brought the family along to visit

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. At least this was the original plan.

Despite my initial impression, I attended most of the symposium and was surprisingly amazed to learn about diatoms, paleolimnology and hydraulic architecture of trees. Although these fields of research are far away from my personal interests, listening to these various aspects of plant biology emphasized the importance of the ecosystem in any biological process. Believe me, this was an important step in my plant molecular biologist way of thinking. The conclusion of all this is that in addition to giving the opportunity of colleagues and collaborators to get together and talk about their own interests, meeting such as these also provide wonderful opportunities to spend some times to look around in other related research field and see what has been happening lately. The size, the scope, and the setting of a meeting such as Plant Canada 2003 provide an ideal environment to foster networking and interdisciplinary exchanges. The other conclusion that I came upon is that Canadian plant science research is doing well and that we are doing groundbreaking, internationally recognized top science in many different field of research.

Socially, this conference had plenty of activities. These activities included a Plant Day for the general public at the beginning of the conference, an Art Gallery opening (Art Botanical) and a special convocation to award Honourary Doctor of Laws to John Smol (Paleoecological Environmental Assessment and Research Laboratory – PEARL, Department of Biology, Queen's University, Kingston, ON), Jeremy Pickett-Heaps (School of Botany, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia) and Melvin Tyree (U.S. Forest Service, Burlington, VT). Several field trips were also organized to show conference participants around Antigonish. A barbecue was held at

Crystal Cliffs and the conference closed with a Banquet, followed by an Award Ceremony, music and dance. The next articles entitled Awards and Prizes describes in details the award-winners recognized during this ceremony. As usual, the banquet and the award ceremony were held in a convivial atmosphere as you can gather from the following picture.

In conclusion, let me thank again the organizing committees and all the participants of the 2003 Plant Canada meeting. Well done and see you all next year in Guelph.

Pierre Bilodeau
CSPP Secretary/Bulletin Editor



Some of the CSPP presidents present at the 2003 annual meeting. From left, Derek Bewley, Tony Bidwell and Deep Saini (current president).

AWARDS AND PRIZES

2003 C.D. NELSON AWARD

In 1987, Peter Facchini initiated graduate studies at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Frank Dicosmo. His PhD thesis involved groundbreaking research on the immobilization of cultured plant cells to polymer surfaces for the production of secondary metabolites. In 1991 Peter began postdoctoral research under the supervision of Joe Chappel at the University of Kentucky to further develop his molecular biology skills and interest in plant secondary metabolism. Peter returned to Canada in 1992 as an NSERC postdoctoral fellow in Vince DeLuca's laboratory at the University of Montréal. While in Montreal, Peter worked on the enzymology, molecular biology, and cell biology of alkaloid biosynthesis in opium poppy. These studies served to establish the foundation for the original research program that Peter subsequently initiated upon his recruitment in 1995 as a Faculty member in the Dept. of Biological Sciences at the University of Calgary.

In the 8 years that Peter has been at the University of Calgary, he has developed into an independent leader in his chosen field of research. He has published profusely, authoring over 50 publications to date in high impact journals such as *Plant Physiology*, *Planta*, *J. Biol. Chem.*, and *Plant Mol. Biol.* Peter's research excellence has demonstrated how well integrated biochemical and molecular biological studies can contribute fundamental knowledge of how plants develop specialized pathways and cells for manufacturing important secondary metabolites such as morphine. This information will facilitate metabolic engineering of these pathways since Peter's group has also developed an opium poppy transformation system.

Peter's pioneering exploits in the detailed characterization of the biochemistry, cell biology, and molecular biology of alkaloid metabolism in opium poppy were recently acknowledged in the form of a prestigious invited review article in the *2001 Annual Review of Plant Physiology and Plant Molecular Biology*, as well as a 2002 Tier II Canada Research Chair. The CSPP is delighted to honor Peter Facchini as a very deserving recipient for the C.D. Nelson Award "in recognition of outstanding achievements by a young scientist to plant physiology in Canada".

Bill Plaxton, Luc Varin, and David Kristie
C.D. Nelson Nomination Committee



Peter Facchini (left) receiving the 2003 C.D. Nelson Award from Norm Huner (right) CSPP President (2001-2003) during the banquet of the CSPP Annual Meeting in Antigonish, NS.

2003 PRESIDENT AWARDS

At every annual meeting, the CSPP is pleased to present the Presidents' Award to the best oral and poster presentations. This year, the Presidents' Award for the best oral presentation was given to Ms. Pauline E. Quesnelle for her presentation entitled: Trans vs cis: the role of cytokinin isomers during pea embryogenesis. Ms Quesnelle is currently studying in the department of biology, at Trent University under Neil Emery's supervision. She received her Award from Dr. Tony Bidwell (see picture below left).

On the other hand, the winner of the Presidents' Award for best poster presentation was given to Ms. Yeen Ting Hwang, for her poster entitled: Characterization of the molecular targeting signals that direct tail-anchored

cytochrome b5 isoforms to either mitochondria or endoplasmic reticulum. Ms Hwang is a graduate student in the department of botany, at the University of Guelph under the supervision of Rob Mullen (picture below right). We congratulate all students for their impressive presentations. Often it is very difficult to determine which is the best presentation and this demonstrate that our students are doing a great job at preparing their presentation and also delivering it to their peers. We must also acknowledge and thank the judges for taking the time to help in attending the presentations that they are assigned to and ranking each of them with such professionalism.



Pauline Quesnelle (Trent) receiving her Presidents' Award for best oral presentation from Tony Bidwell, CSPP President from the farthest reach in the past).



Yeen Ting Hwang, recipient of the Presidents' Award for best poster presentation during the Plant Canada 2003 in Antigonish, NS.

2003 DUFF TRAVEL AWARDS

Fifteen Duff Travel Awards were given this year to students attending the CSPP Annual Meeting in

Antigonish for a total of \$3200. Here is a list of the award winning students and their university of origin.

<i>Name</i>	<i>University of origin</i>
Pauline Quesnelle	Trent University
Philip Beaudette	Trent University
Marie-France Hetu	Queen's University
Barb Vanderbeld	Queen's University
J.C Waller	Queen's University
D.M Chaisson	Queen's University
Gale Bozzo	Queen's University

<i>Name</i>	<i>University of origin</i>
Andrius Balsaris	University of Western Ontario
Dominic Rossso	University of Western Ontario
Zezhou Wang	University of Western Ontario
Winona Gadapati	University of Western Ontario
Michelle Sweeney	University of Western Ontario
Erin Anderson	University of Guelph
Yeen Ting Hwang	University of Guelph
David Bird	University of Calgary

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 2004. 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). The constitution is also included in the CSPP Directory of Members. The nominations for each award must be received by the Chair of the respective award committee (see addresses below) by March 31, 2004.

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. Stewart Rood, Department of Biological Sciences, 4401 University Drive, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge AB T1K 3M4. Phone: 403-329-2327; Email: rood@uleth.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. Robert Mullen, Department of Botany, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1. Phone: 519-824-4120 ext 56479; Email: rtmullen@uoguelph.ca

The CSPP Award in Tree Physiology

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. Patrick von Aderkas, Department of Biology, P.O. Box 3020 Station CSC, University of Victoria, Victoria BC V8W 3N5. Phone: 250-721-8925; Email: pvonader@uvvm.uvic.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. Brian Colman, Department of Biology, York University, Toronto ON M3J 1P3. Phone: 416-736-5399; Email: colman@yorku.ca

Nominations pour les Prix de la SCPV

La Société Canadienne de Physiologie Végétale appelle les candidatures pour ses prix principaux qui seront remis lors du prochain congrès annuel en 2004. Les conditions d'éligibilités aux différents prix (qualifications des candidats, procédures à suivre et caractéristiques des prix) sont indiquées 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) de la Société. La constitution 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 d'évaluation des candidatures pour chaque prix est fixée au 31 mars 2004.

La médaille de la SCPV (Le Médaille d'Or)

La médaille est décernée pour des publications exceptionnelles ou pour un membre s'étant distingué pour ses services en physiologie végétale, principalement au Canada. (Voir L'Arrêté No.11). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées au: Dr. Stewart Rood, Department of Biological Sciences, 4401 University Drive, University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge AB T1K 3M4. Phone: 403-329-2327; Email: rood@uleth.ca

Le Prix C.D. Nelson en Physiologie Végétale

Ce Prix est décerné pour des contributions exceptionnelles à la recherche en Physiologie végétale. Une considération spéciale sera accordée pour l'originalité et pour la créativité des travaux. Les candidats devront avoir dirigé leur propre programmes de recherche à plein temps depuis moins de 10 ans.(Voir l'Arrêté No. 12). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées au: Dr. Robert Mullen, Department of Botany, University of Guelph, Guelph, ON N1G 2W1. Phone: 519-824-4120 poste 56479; Email: rtmullen@uoguelph.ca

Le Prix SCPV en Physiologie des Arbres

Ce Prix est décerné pour les contributions exceptionnelles de recherche en Physiologie des arbres, principalement au Canada. Une considération spéciale sera accordée pour l'originalité et pour la créativité des travaux." (Voir L'Arrêté No. 13). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées au: Dr. Patrick von Aderkas, Department of Biology, P.O. Box 3020 Station CSC, University of Victoria, Victoria BC V8W 3N5. Phone: 250-721-8925; Email: pvonader@uvvm.uvic.ca

Le Prix Gleb Krotkov de la SCPV

Ce Prix est décerné pour un service exceptionnel rendu à la Société, autant en administration qu'en contributions scientifiques lors des congrès annuels de la société. (Voir l'Arrêté No. 14). Les candidatures doivent être envoyées au: Dr. Brian Colman, Department of Biology, York University, Toronto ON M3J 1P3. Phone: 416-736-5399; Email: colman@yorku.ca

2003 EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING

INVITATION

The local organizing committee invites all CSPP/SCPV members and the plant biology community to the Society's 2003 EASTERN REGIONAL MEETING to be held in Concordia University, Montreal on December 12-13 2003. The meeting's web site address is: <http://clone.concordia.ca/cspp2003>. The registration and abstract forms are available on this website. The scientific program includes plenary lectures, oral presentations and a poster session.

Abstracts must be received by November 14, 2003. Type your Abstract on plain paper using 12 point font, not exceeding 16.5 x 7.5 cm (6.5 x 3.0 inch). Send one copy of the Abstract by mail and an electronic version by Email (MS-Word, Word Perfect) to: varinl@clone.concordia.ca

Vous devez faire parvenir votre résumé au plus tard le 14 novembre 2003. Faire parvenir une copie par la poste et par courrier électronique à l'adresse suivante:

varinl@clone.concordia.ca

Luc Varin, Biology Department, SP-375.01, Concordia University, 7141 Sherbrooke Street West, Montréal, H4B 1R6

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

December 12 16:00-18:00 Registration
18:00-19:30 Reception
19:30-20:30 Plenary Lecture

December 13 9:00-9:30 Plenary Lecture
9:30-10:30 Oral Presentations
10:30-11:00 Coffee
11:00-12:30 Oral Presentations
12:30-13:30 Lunch
13:30-15:00 Oral Presentations
15:00-17:00 Posters & Coffee
17:00-18:00 Oral Presentations
18:00-19:00 Mixer

EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR AWARD

CSPP is committed to shaping students into excellent future scientists and teachers. Regional meetings are held primarily to encourage students to present their research results and participate in discussions. Both oral and poster presentations of students are judged for excellence, and the best presentations are awarded the Regional Director's award (a certificate and a \$250 check). We look forward to your participation and first-rate presentations at the upcoming Eastern Regional Meeting in Montreal on December 12th and 13th. When submitting your abstracts, please indicate that you are a student and that you wish to be considered for the Regional Director's award.



Web site for registration,
accommodation, preliminary
program, and abstract submission:

<http://clone.concordia.ca/cspp2003>

**Abstract deadline:
November 14**

TREASURER NEWS


Membership Renewals

Membership renewal forms will soon be mailed out. Please remember to renew before Feb. 1, 2004, in order to be included in the 2004 membership directory. Membership renewal forms

are also available on the Society web site (<http://csp-scpcv.ca>); you don't have to wait for the arrival of renewal form in the mail in order to renew your membership! For those people who wish to become members in order to attend the Eastern Regional Meeting at Concordia University in December, new memberships received in the remainder of 2003 will also count for 2004.

George Duff Travel Awards Fund and Ann Oaks Scholarship Fund

The CSPP/SCPV accepts donations for the above funds. Graduate students may apply for George Duff Travel

Awards to help defray the costs of attending the Society's Annual Meeting, which in 2004 will be held in Guelph, ON. The Ann Oaks Scholarship Fund is currently in the process of accumulating additional funds to be used for the establishment of three-year NSERC-level PhD (PGS B) graduate awards. Donations to both funds are tax deductible (as are dues for membership in the Society).

For the George Duff Travel Awards, all the money donated to the Duff Fund every year is given to graduate students. And, additional money from Society general revenue is allocated to the Fund each year.

For the fiscal year ending April 30, 2003, the Society received donations of \$1050 for the Duff Travel Award Fund and \$750 for the Oaks Scholarship Fund. Thank you to those members who donated!

Harold Weger
Treasurer

In MEMORIAM:

PROF. DAVID J. GIFFORD (1944 -2003)


David passed away suddenly on August 15th, 2003, a few days short of his 59th birthday. A native of England, he was born in Liverpool and immigrated to Canada in 1967. After initial employment as a research technician, he entered the B.Sc. Botany program at the University of Alberta, and graduated with first-class honors. He continued his interest in plants as a Ph.D.

student with Edwin Cossins studying formate metabolism in barley leaves. From there, as an NSERC postdoctoral fellow, he moved to the University of Calgary with Derek Bewley, studying the synthesis and mobilization of storage proteins in the endosperm of castor bean. After a brief spell in the Medical School at Calgary, as a Research Associate with Gil Schultz, in 1986 he was appointed as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany at the University of Alberta. He rose quickly through the ranks and was appointed by the Department of Biological Sciences as Full Professor in 1997.

His prime focus in research was on the seeds of gymnosperms, particularly in the regulation of the mobilization of their stored lipid and protein reserves following germination. Recently, he also forged an association with the biotechnology company CellFor Inc., Vancouver, B.C. to study pine somatic and zygotic embryos. Seeds of gymnosperms provide unique and difficult challenges as research material, and it required persistence and fortitude on David's part to continue to face these, and to produce novel, valuable data. A number of excellent graduate students have completed their theses under his nurturing guidance, many of whom are becoming established in independent careers within North America. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to tree physiology, David became the fourth recipient of the CSPP Award in Tree Physiology.

David has also contributed substantially to plant biology within Canada. He served as Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Botany for nearly ten years, and his commitment to this position has been much appreciated. No less, he was a stalwart member and supporter of our Society, and played many important roles within it. He was a Western Director and a Senior Director, with associated committee duties, and most recently was the Communications Director and Chair of the Communications Committee. In this role he revised, produced and set the template for the valuable Directory of Members, which also contains much additional information about our Society. At the last Annual Meeting of the Society he was elected to become

President in 2005, a role that he would have filled with enthusiasm and skill.

Finally, David was also a strong family man, and his wife Judy, and his daughters Jessica and Robyn were a very important part of his life. He enjoyed the great outdoors, particularly hiking and cross-country skiing in the mountains.

With his passing, the Canadian Society of Plant Physiologists mourns the loss of a great friend and fellow scientist.

J. Derek Bewley and Robert T. Mullen,
Department of Botany, University of Guelph.

VACANT POSITIONS

Assistant Professor positions

Département de sciences biologiques - Université de Montréal

The Department of biological sciences of the School of Arts and Sciences invites applications for assistant professor positions. We are looking for candidates in the fields of :

Molecular, cellular and organismic biology

Development of the nervous system : neuroethology
Hormonal control : molecular endocrinology

Biodiversity, systematics and evolution

Ornithology : Populations genetics/dynamics, biology of conservation, systematics

Mycology : systematics; evolutionary relationships : hosts/pathogens interactions

Positions start June 1st 2004 (Subject to budgetary approval), Applications will be considered until the positions are filled.

Applicant must have a Ph.D., postdoctoral experience and publications, and must be able to teach in their field in French. Interested applicants should send their curriculum vitae, a description of the proposed research, reprints, and arrange for three confidential letters of reference be sent, before November 15, 2003, to :Thérèse Cabana, Chairman, Department of biological sciences, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre-ville, Montreal, QC, Canada H3C 3J7, therese.cabana@umontreal.ca, www.fas.umontreal.ca/BIOL

In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements, priority will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents in Canada. Université de Montréal is committed to a program of access to equity in employment for women..

Chef d'équipe - biochimie analytique Medicago inc.

Relevant de la directrice du développement de produits, le titulaire de ce poste est responsable de la planification, l'organisation, la coordination et l'exécution de l'ensemble des activités du service de développement analytique, notamment :

- Recherche et développement sur la caractérisation des excipients de plantes;
- Caractérisation de produits pharmaceutiques et d'excipient;
- Développement de méthodes analytiques (transfert et validation).
- Il assure l'intégrité, la qualité et l'efficacité de son service et est responsable des résultats générés.
- Il est également responsable de l'optimisation et de l'amélioration des procédures analytiques.

Principales fonctions et responsabilité :

- Mettre en place le service analytique : achat d'équipements, organisation, logistique, recrutement;
- Mettre au point et implanter les protocoles de caractérisation de protéines en respectant les normes internes de gestion de la qualité;
- Établir, avec les clients du service, les besoins et les échéanciers;
- Superviser le travail des membres de son équipe et voir à la répartition des tâches;
- Exercer un rôle conseil auprès des membres de son équipe et des autres services de son secteur;
- Assurer le suivi des différents projets (rencontres avec les différentes équipes) et rédiger les rapports d'activité;
- Voir au respect et à la validité des divers protocoles;
- En collaboration avec l'assurance qualité, implanter et maintenir à jour un système de gestion de la documentation;
- Mettre en place les activités de contrôle de la qualité pour les opérations de son service;
- Interagir avec les chargés de développement et les autres chefs d'équipe de Medicago, participer à des réunions et divers groupes de travail nécessitant son expertise, dont notamment, le comité consultatif;
- Mettre en place des procédures opératoires normalisées « PON » pour l'exécution des travaux et voir à leur respect;
- Optimiser les activités de son service (argent, temps, ressources);
- Mettre au point des nouveaux procédés en coordination et en accord avec les pratiques de R&D;
- Prévoir le matériel requis.

Qualifications requises

- Diplôme de deuxième cycle en biochimie, chimie analytique ou autre domaine connexe;

- Minimum de 5 années d'expérience pertinente, notamment en caractérisation analytique et en validation des méthodes;
- Expertise démontrée en milieu industriel régit par les bonnes pratiques de fabrication (BPF), particulièrement dans le secteur biopharmaceutique ou bioalimentaire;
- Habileté en gestion et expérience en supervision de personnel;
- Bilinguisme (écrit et parlé);
- Maîtrise des différents logiciels de bureautique;
- Leadership et habileté en communication.

October 14, 2003

POSTDOCTORAL POSITIONS IN PLANT GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

University of Guelph

Three postdoctoral positions are available to study regulatory mechanisms related to several aspects of plant growth and development in the Arabidopsis, rice and corn plant model systems including (1) identification of genes that confer enhanced nitrogen utilization, (2) characterization of a family of genes involved in the control of flowering, and (3) screening for and characterization of genes involved in seed germination. Each of the successful candidates will combine standard molecular biological, physiology and biochemical techniques with contemporary methods such as genome-wide analysis of gene expression to study the roles of transcription factors controlling these different aspects of plant growth and development.

The projects described above include investigators from the Departments of Molecular Biology and Genetics (Steven Rothstein, Joe Colasanti) and Botany (Robert Mullen) at the University of Guelph (Guelph, Ontario, Canada). We are part of the newly formed Cooperative for Plant Molecular Biology, a multidisciplinary research effort aimed at the high throughput discovery of genes applicable to various aspects of plant growth and development. Our laboratories are supported by outstanding facilities for DNA sequencing, microarray analysis, proteomics, plant transformation, confocal and electron microscopy.

Successful candidates should have a Ph.D. in a related field and a strong background in the application of molecular biology techniques. Experience with Arabidopsis and genomics approaches is desirable but not necessary. The selected applicants are also expected to work and communicate well within a collaborative research environment. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. The positions are available beginning in October 2003 and are renewable for up to three years. To apply, candidates should send a cover letter, curriculum vitae, copies of reprints, brief summaries of recent research, and names and addresses for three references to: Dr Steven Rothstein, Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, University of Guelph,

Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1. Phone: 519-824-4120 ext 58524; E-mail: rothstei@uoguelph.ca.

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Guelph is committed to an employment equity program that includes special measures to achieve diversity among its faculty and staff.

Date Posted: 10/02/03

Postdoctoral and Graduate fellowships

University of Guelph

Applications are invited for several graduate and postdoctoral positions in the medicinal plant research program at the University of Guelph. This program is jointly funded by the industry, NSERC and Agriculture Canada to develop technologies for the production of high quality medicinal plants in controlled environments. Specific components of the research are in vitro culture, somatic embryogenesis, biomass accumulation in bioreactors/controlled chambers, and phytochemical analyses including metabolomic profiling. Expertise in quantification of indole amines, particularly melatonin and serotonin in plant tissues is desirable. The postdoctoral candidates should have extensive experience in plant biochemistry, analytical chemistry, and plant cell culture. The PDF positions are at a minimum salary of Can \$ 33,000 per year with standard medical benefits and are renewable for an additional period of two years. Graduate student stipend starts at Can \$ 16,500 per year.

Specialties: ES - Environmental/Stress Physiology

Application Instructions: Please send CV and contact information for at least two references to: Dr Praveen K. Saxena Professor Department of Plant Agriculture Bovey Building University of Guelph Guelph, Ontario, Canada, N1G 2W1 Tel: 519-824-4120 ext. 52495 FAX: 519-767-0755 Email: psaxena@uoguelph.ca,

Date Posted: 10/01/03

Canada Research Chair in Plant Development

Dept. of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta

Applications are invited for a tenure-track position at the Assistant Professor level in developmental or structural plant biology. This appointment will be made under the auspices of the Canada Research Chairs Program (Tier II; <http://www.rgo.ualberta.ca/crc.html>). The Department of Biological Sciences is broadly based with strong research groups in plant biology, systematics/evolution, physiology/cell biology and molecular biology/genetics (<http://www.biology.ualberta.ca>). Applicants should have research expertise in plant morphology, anatomy or developmental biology. We are particularly interested in applicants with strengths in structural plant biology. The research of our more than 70 faculty members and 300 graduate students is supported by excellent facilities, including state-of-the-art growth chambers, large herbaria, a molecular biology service unit, and a fully equipped microscopy unit. Candidates should submit a curriculum vitae, one-page summary of research plans and reprints of

their three most significant publications electronically to positions@biology.ualberta.ca or by mail to Dr. L.S. Frost, Chair, Department of Biological Sciences, CW 405 Biological Sciences Bldg., University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6G 2E9. Applicants must arrange for three letters of reference to be sent to the Chair. Closing Date: November 17, 2003. The effective date of employment will be July 1, 2004. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The University of Alberta hires on the basis of merit. We are committed to the principle of equity in employment. We welcome diversity and encourage applications from all qualified women and men, including persons with disabilities, members of visible minorities, and Aboriginal peoples.

Date Posted: 09/29/03

**Assistant Professor, Plant Developmental Biology
University of Toronto at Scarborough**

The Department of Life Sciences, University of Toronto at Scarborough, invites applications for a tenure-stream position in Plant Developmental Biology. This position will be filled at the Assistant Professor level and salary will be commensurate with qualifications. Candidates working on any aspect of plant development, and those integrating developmental studies into other areas of plant biology (e.g. evolution, pathology) will be considered. The successful applicant is expected to contribute to graduate education and to teach an undergraduate course in plant morphology and diversity from a developmental perspective. Applicants must have a Ph.D. or equivalent, and should have one or more years of postdoctoral experience. The successful candidate is expected to develop a strong research program, broadening the research strengths in Life Sciences, and to take an active role in graduate and undergraduate teaching. For information on the research and teaching strengths in Life Sciences, please consult the Department website: <http://www.utsc.utoronto.ca/lifesci/index.html> The University of Toronto is strongly committed to diversity within its community and especially welcomes applications from visible minority group members, women, Aboriginal persons, persons with disabilities, members of sexual minority groups, and others who may contribute to the further diversification of ideas. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae, including statements of research and teaching interests, with a copy of recent reprints, and arrange to have three letters of recommendation commenting on publications, research potential and teaching ability sent from referees. The materials should be sent to Professor John M. Kennedy, Chair, Department of Life Sciences, University of Toronto at Scarborough, 1265 Military Trail, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1C1A4. The closing date

is December 19, 2003. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications. The position will be effective July 1, 2004.

Date Posted: 09/24/03

**Assistant Professor in Plant Physiology
Department of Botany, University of British Columbia**

The Department of Botany invites applications for a tenure-track faculty position at the level of Assistant Professor in the area of Plant Physiology. Candidates should have a Ph.D. and postdoctoral experience, with a demonstrated record of research excellence in plant physiology. Applicants with expertise in any area of plant physiology, from whole plant physiology to cellular/molecular physiology, are encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will be expected to establish an internationally competitive research program and will contribute to undergraduate teaching in the areas of plant physiology, cell physiology, and/or introductory biochemistry within the UBC Biology Program. Deadline for applications is November 15, 2003.

Applicants should arrange to have three letters of reference sent by mail, and send a CV and a statement of research and teaching interests by mail or E-mail to: Chair, Physiologist Search Committee Department of Botany, University of British Columbia, 3529 – 6270 University Boulevard, Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z4 Canada position@mail.botany.ubc.ca UBC hires on the basis of merit and is committed to employment equity. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply, however Canadians and permanent residents of Canada will be given priority. This position is subject to final budgetary approval.

September 18, 2003

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

University of Saskatchewan, Department of Biology

The Department invites applications for a tenure-track position at the Assistant professor level in the area of Higher Plant Functional Genomics, especially metabolite profiling/metabolomics, commencing July 1, 2004. This position will complement a recent appointment in the Department in lower plant functional genomics. Applicants should have a Ph.D. and preferably teaching and post-doctoral experience. The successful candidate will participate in the undergraduate and graduate teaching programs of the Department, with specific responsibility in plant physiology. The successful applicant is expected to develop a vigorous research program and interact with others in the areas of plant cell biology, molecular biology, development, pathology, systematics, and mycology in the Department and elsewhere on campus.

The Department has excellent infrastructure including electron and confocal microscopes and DNA sequencing facility. The University is home to the Canadian Light Source, Canada's national synchrotron light facility (www.cls.usask.ca) and the Saskatchewan Structural Sciences Centre (www.usask.ca/sssc). Also located on

campus are the NRC Plant Biotechnology Institute, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada Saskatoon Research Centre, and Innovation Place Research Park.

The University of Saskatchewan is committed to employment equity. Members of designated groups (women, aboriginal people, people with disabilities and visible minorities) are encouraged to self-identify in their applications. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. Send curriculum vitae, a description of proposed research and teaching interests, and the names, addresses, telephone/fax numbers, and email addresses of at least three references to: Dr. F. Messier, Head, Department of Biology, University of Saskatchewan, 112 Science Place, Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E2, Canada, Telephone: (306) 966-4400, Fax: (306) 966-4461, Email: francois.messier@usask.ca
Applications due: December 15, 2003

September 18, 2003
RESEARCH SCIENTIST
Performance Plants, Inc.

Performance Plants Inc. is a major Canadian plant biotechnology company, whose mission is to genetically engineer plant metabolism to improve agricultural productivity. The Company's Saskatoon research facility has an immediate opening for a Field Biologist/Plant Physiologist to lead research, in a team-oriented environment, that is aimed at the evaluation of transgenic crop plants in both controlled and field conditions. A M.Sc. or Ph.D. in crop science, agronomy or plant breeding with 2-3 years of field experience is required; while knowledge of genetics, statistics and Western Canada cropping systems are assets. Superior interpersonal skills as well as demonstrated written and verbal competency are essential. The successful candidate will ideally be detail-orientated, well organized, enthusiastic, and be able to appreciate goal-based research and development. Interested applicants should apply by November 15th, 2003 to: Louise Thornton, Director of Human Resources, Performance Plants Inc., BioSciences Complex, Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, K7L 3N6 Canada., Email: thorntonl@performanceplants.com, Fax: 1-(613)-545-3618

Performance Plants Inc. offers a complete benefits package and is an equal opportunity employer. Only applicants under consideration will be contacted.

September 17, 2003
FACULTY POSITIONS
Department of Biological Sciences Simon Fraser University

The Department of Biological Sciences seeks to fill several tenure-track faculty positions in the areas of cell biology, physiology, and developmental biology. Appointments will be made at the Assistant Professor level, but in exceptional circumstances a higher rank or

nomination for a Canada Research Chair will be considered. Successful candidates will pursue vigorous, externally funded research programs that includes the training of graduate students. They will be expected to contribute to the teaching of current core undergraduate courses, as well as developing graduate courses, in their areas of expertise. Review of applications will begin on December 1 2003, and the search will remain active until the positions are filled. Applicants should send a curriculum vitae, three representative reprints, a one-page summary of their research objectives, and contact details for three referees to: Dr. Tony D. Williams, Chair Department of Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Blvd., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, Canada, FAX 604 291 4312

All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority. The appointment is subject to final budgetary approval by the University. Simon Fraser University, located in the greater Vancouver area, is committed to employment equity, welcomes diversity in the workplace, and encourages applications from all qualified individuals including women, members of visible minorities, aboriginal persons, and persons with disabilities.

September 10, 2003
POSTDOCTORAL POSITION
Plant Biotechnology Institute

Applications are invited for a Post-Doc position at the National Research Council of Canada, Plant Biotechnology Institute in Saskatoon to investigate plant lipid metabolism. The primary focus of the position will be to study enzymes and regulatory factors involved in storage lipid deposition in seeds. Independent research concerning other aspects of carbon metabolism is also encouraged. The project includes biochemical as well as molecular biological approaches such as enzyme characterization, Arabidopsis mutant screening, metabolite analysis, and metabolic engineering to manipulate carbon flux through transgenic means. A suitable candidate should have strong interests in plant metabolism and skilled in standard molecular biology techniques and/or metabolic analysis. Experience in functional genomics is desired. Interested applicants should send a CV and letter of interest to Jitao Zou at the Plant Biotechnology Institute, 110 Gymnasium Place, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7N 0W9, email: jitao.zou@nrc.ca Tel: (306) 975-5583, Fax: (306)-975-4839.

UPCOMING EVENTS
2003

Plant Genetics 2003, Mechanisms of Genetic Variation,
Snowbird Resort and Conference Center, Snowbird, Utah,
www.aspb.org/meetings/pg-2003/
October 22-26 2003

14th International Congress on Nitrogen Fixation

Beijing, China
www.n2fix.com
November 1-6, 2003

The 4th International Rothamsted BioMarket

BioProducts from Plants and Microbes
Rothamsted, UK
www.biomarket.rothamsted.ac.uk
November 5-6, 2003

**Medicago Genomics: New Tools for Legume Biology
and Breeding,**

Diagora Congress Centre, Toulouse-Labège (France)

www.medicago.toulouse.inra.fr/EU/symposium/index.htm
12-14 November 2003

2004**72^e Congrès de l'ACFAS, La Société des Savoir**

Université du Québec à Montréal, Montréal
www.acfas.ca/congres
10-14 mai 2004

Plant Biology 2004 (ASPB)

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort & Convention Center
www.aspb.org/meetings/pb-2004/
July 24-28, 2004

FUTURE CSPP/SCPV MEETINGS

2004 Guelph, Ontario
2005 with Plant Canada, Edmonton, Alberta
2006 with ASPB, Montréal, Québec

COLLABORATORS

Derek Bewley University of Guelph
Joe Gerrath University of Guelph
Priti Krishna CSPP/SCPV Eastern Regional Director
Rob Mullen..... University of Guelph
Deep Saini CSPP/SCPV President
Luc Varin Université Concordia
Harold Weger CSPP/SCPV Treasurer

**Special thanks to Joe Gerrath for providing the picture from Plant Canada 2003 in
Antigonish, NS.**

Note: We welcome your comments and suggestions for future publications of the
CSPP/SCPV News Bulletin. Please forward all your written material to Pierre
Bilodeau (secretary@cspp-scpv.ca).

**Next issue of the CSPP/SCPV Bulletin:
APRIL 2004**