

History of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP)



Introduction

My intent in documenting the history of ISPP is to capture its formation and evolution from the contentious beginnings and exemplary first Congress in London in 1968 to the 10th Congress to be held in Beijing in 2013. Therefore, it is organized chronologically around each of the 5-year meetings and includes some interim events. Although not an exhaustively complete collection, it is based on interviews, archive records, and recollections of some of the most important, esteemed, thoughtful, and handsome members of our society (see photos).

I am grateful to those who contributed to this History. The first President of ISPP, Professor R. K. S. Wood, sent me letters describing the origins of the 1st Congress; and Dr. Greg Johnson, the newly elected President of ISPP, has provided valuable resources that he researched. The reports and personal comments by Dr. Peter Scott, President of the 7th Congress in 1998 and leader of the Task Force on Global Food Security, represent a major contribution to ISPP and to this History. Drs. Thor Kommedahl and Brian Deverall, longtime Editors of the Newsletter, also contributed valuable personal comments and archived material. And finally, special thanks to Dr. Jim Cook, who attended all nine of the Congresses and was President of ISPP in 1988, for providing his personal files and comments that are essential to this organization's history.

Charlie Delp, ISPP Historian, August 2013

Society Purpose

The purpose of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) is to:

- Promote the worldwide development of plant pathology, and the dissemination of knowledge about plant diseases and plant health management
- Sponsoring an International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) at intervals of 5 years, and sponsoring other international meetings on plant pathology and related subjects
- Initiating and maintaining international cooperation
- Establishing Committees, Working Groups and Task Forces and associated publications to consider and report on special fields or problems
- Maintaining the International Directory of Plant Pathologists as a searchable website
- Publishing a Website at <http://www.ISPPWeb.org> and a Newsletter on the website
- Using other means as approved by the Executive Committee or the Council (composed of members appointed by member Associated Societies). The number of Councilors is in relation to the size of each society

The ISPP (founded in 1968) is a member of the International Union of Biological Sciences (IUBS), the International Union of Microbiological Sciences (IUMS), in liaison with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The ISPP Web Site is <http://www.ISPPWeb.org>

The ISPP is incorporated under Minnesota USA Statute Chapter 317A. (Filing Number 3659446-2 ; Original Date of Filing: 1/13/2010; Duration: Perpetual). The Registered Office of the International Society for Plant Pathology is: 3340 Pilot Knob Rd, St Paul, MN, USA 55121.

In 2012, the ISPP completed procedures under which the USA Internal Revenue Service made a determination of the ISPP application for Charity Status. They ruled that ISPP is a public charity (in the USA), and that contributions to ISPP are deductible under section 170 of the US Internal Revenue Service code and ISPP is qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devices and gifts. The ruling is retroactive to the time of ISPP beginning banking operations in the USA in January 2010.

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
SOCIETY PURPOSE	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS	3
THE BEGINNINGS	4
1ST ICPP 1968 JULY 14-26 - LONDON, UK	6
THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER ON PLANT PATHOLOGY	8
2ND ICPP 1973 SEPT. 5-12 - MINNEAPOLIS, USA	9
3RD ICPP 1978 AUGUST 16 - 23 MÜCHEN, GERMANY	11
4TH ICPP 1983 AUGUST 17-24 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA	13
5TH ICPP 1988 AUGUST 20-27 KYOTO, JAPAN	14
6TH ICPP 1993 JULY 28 - AUGUST 6 MONTREAL, CANADA	17
THE JAKOB ERIKSSON PRIZE FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY	19
THE GLENN ANDERSON LECTURE	20
THE WORLD DIRECTORY OF PLANT PATHOLOGISTS	20
7TH ICPP 1998 AUGUST 9 - 16 EDINBURGH, U.K.	22
TASK FORCE ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY	24
8TH ICPP 2003 - FEBRUARY 2-8 CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND	25
9TH ICPP 2008 AUGUST 24-29 TORINO, ITALY	29
A NEW JOURNAL, <i>FOOD SECURITY</i>	30
10TH ICPP 2013 AUGUST 25-30 BEIJING, CHINA	33
11TH ICPP 2018 JULY 28-AUGUST 3, BOSTON, MA USA	34
HISTORY SUMMARY OF THE ISPP TASK FORCE ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY	38
NOT THE END	42

The Beginnings

1st Executive Committee (1964 to 1968)

Chairman: Dr. S D Garrett, UK

Secretary: Professor R K S Wood, UK

Treasurer & Assistant Secretary: Dr. B E J Wheeler, UK

Founding ISPP Activities

As with many organizations, several versions of the events leading to the creation of a new international society and congress of plant pathology exist. Professor R.K.S. Wood, the first ISPP President, recently wrote what he remembers of the Origins of the International Congress of Plant Pathology:

“I met at a pub in Edinburgh over beers with Denis Garrett, Philip Gregory, Bill Snyder and Jim Horsfall. After moaning about the Botanical Congress, I proposed we have our own congress. The idea was met with enthusiasm and they promptly told me to organize one. I accepted orders. The rest is history!”

Professor Wood gives a more complete account of the Origins of the International Congress of Plant Pathology in the first *ISPP Newsletter* at http://www.isppweb.org/newsletters/1_1.pdf

Another of the earliest versions is reported in an article by Jim Cook in the 2005 Annual Rev. Phytopathol. 42:25-38. “Ken Baker told me this story many times of how the First International Symposium on Soilborne Plant Pathogens held at Berkeley in 1963 led to the British deciding to sponsor the first Congress of Plant Pathology, and coordinately, form an International Society of Plant Pathology. It was because of this connection, i.e., Snyder and Baker being co-chairs of the first Symposium on Soilborne Pathogens, that they were part of that initial steering committee formed in 1964. The story goes as follows:”

“The popularity of the Pacific Coast conferences led in 1958 to the appointment of Snyder and Baker as chairman and co-chairman, respectively, of the Committee on Biological Control of Soil-borne Plant Pathogens under auspices of the Agriculture Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences. All nine members of this committee were regulars at the annual Pacific coast conferences. With the experience and success of these conferences as their springboard, the committee organized An International Symposium on Factors Determining the Behavior of Plant Pathogens in Soil, held on the Berkeley campus in April 1963. Ken worked on little else upon his return from Adelaide to his new office at U.C. Berkeley in 1962.”

“I doubt that any previous symposium had been organized any better, gave more attention to details that defined the difference between good and outstanding, or was carried out with greater grandeur and style. It was funded jointly by the U.S. National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture ... and was attended by 310 participants from 24 countries. ...

“The symposium was co-chaired by Bill Snyder and Ken Baker. Snyder had the imagination and flare for grandeur and Ken took care of the details... and personally edited every manuscript as well

as the scores of abstracts representing the discussion, wrote the preface and introduction, and of course produced another classic Baker index to the book. Like Manual 23, this is a timeless book.”

“At the end of the symposium, Professor S. D. Garrett, University of Cambridge, agreed to take the lead in organizing a second symposium, to be held five years later in the United Kingdom. Rather than a second symposium, a committee of UK plant pathologists chaired by Garrett decided instead to organize the first International Congress of Plant Pathology, held in 1968 at Imperial College in London. The second international symposium on soilborne plant pathogens was included as part of this first congress and has continued to be a part of all subsequent congresses.”

“Prof John Colhoun at the University of Manchester organized and sponsored a workshop on Fusarium. It was the first international workshop on Fusarium since Wollenweber had organized and chaired one sometime in the 1920s. An International Committee on Fusarium was formed at that workshop (Cook, R. J. 1969. International workshop on Fusarium July, 1968 Bulletin, British Mycological Society 3:15 - 58) and continues to sponsor pre-congress workshops to this day. This workshop also served as the first of many pre-congress workshops to be held on many different topics.”

According to other sources, there was disquiet in the 1960s among several leaders concerning the limited amount of time and space given to plant pathology at the International Congresses of Botany.

(Rev. Appl. Mycol. 48: 225-253, 1969). “The first International Congress of Plant Pathology originated at a small, informal meeting of plant pathologists attending the Tenth International Congress of Botany at Edinburgh, 1964. A Steering Committee was formed to consider whether an independent Congress of plant pathology should be organized. Dr. SD Garrett, Chairman of the Plant Pathology Section of the Tenth International Congress of Botany, became Chairman of this Committee; other Members were Professor CJ Hickman (Canada), Professor B Boullard (France), Dr. KH Domsch (W. Germany), Professor TS Sadasivan (India), Professor AJP Oort (Netherlands), Professor H Kern (Switzerland), Professor KF Baker, Dr. JG Horsfall, Professor WC Snyder (USA), Sir Frederick Bawden, Professor PW Brian, Professor NA Burgess, Dr. PH Gregory, Professor JL Harley, Dr. I Isaac and Professor RKS Wood (United Kingdom).

Members of the Steering Committee met on 16 November 1964, and after considering advice given to Dr. S D Garrett by Sir George Taylor, Chairman of the Board of Division of Botany, International Congress of Scientific Unions, resolved to organize on their own initiative an International Congress of Plant Pathology to be held in the United Kingdom: also to collaborate with other pathologists in the U.K. and other countries in the formation of an International Association or Society of Plant Pathologists which later would apply for affiliation to the International Union of Biological Sciences.” The use of “Association” in the organization’s title was dropped early on.

1st ICPP 1968 July 14-26 - London, UK

Congress President: Sir Frederick C. Bawden, UK

Organizing Committee Chair: Professor R. K. S. Wood, UK

Treasurer: Dr. Bryan Wheeler, UK



These are the edited words of a handwritten draft by R. K. S. Wood on October 2009:

“Four years of hard labor with my marvelous personal secretary, my colleague Bryan Wheeler, my wife (unpaid), and lots of graduate students, we made it happen. Also many superb friends and colleagues elsewhere organized all the symposia and a huge number of speakers. Magnificent efforts! Imperial College, in a historic part of London, provided facilities and services at nominal cost. Fee for 1st Congress was £10. We made a profit of £10,000 thanks to Bryan Wheeler, a most efficient Treasurer. All bills were settled in two months. Profits were used for a charity to finance students at later Congresses.”

Professor Wood also remembers: *“This was a large Congress, 406 papers, with many tours and visits to outside research and tourist sites. The International Advisory Committee was kept fully informed of progress. The eminence of the opening Ceremony was Lord Blackett, President Royal Society, Order of Merit and Nobel Laureate. There was a reception at Imperial College by Lord Penney, Rector. The Congress Lecture was Dr. J. A. Harrar, President of the Rockefeller Foundation and an official Government Reception at the Magnificent Lancaster House was received by Secretary of State for Science. Don’t know how we managed all this! Last and most important-- 1968, what a year for a First Congress! 1. The report of a first really systemic fungicide (Delp & Klopping). 2. In-vitro culture of an obligate parasite (Ken Scott). 3. Mycoplasma as a plant-pathogen (Asayama).”*

James Cook (who has attended all of the Congresses and served as ISPP President from 1988 to 1993) wrote: *“One of my greatest thrills was to receive an invitation in 1967 from Professor Denis Garrett, Chair of the organizing committee for the First International Congress of Plant Pathology to be held in London, inviting me to speak in a symposium on soil water relations in the ecology of soilborne plant pathogens and root disease epidemiology. Unfortunately, this invitation came during a period when the U.S government was clamping down on overseas travel of government employees, and my travel request to attend the congress was denied. Fortunately my boss C. S. Holton found grant funds to support my participation not only in the Congress but my invitation to attend a pre-congress workshop on Fusarium, organized by John Colhoun at the University of Manchester. Of course I was required to use three weeks of my annual leave, but my time and experiences at ICPPs has been incredibly valuable.”*

Charlie Delp (who has attended all of the Congresses, served as ISPP Secretary General from 1998 to 2003, facilitated the International Directory, and is now Historian remembers *“That 1st Congress was a turning point in my career as a research scientist with the DuPont Co. We had discovered and developed a unique broad spectrum systemic fungicide, T-1991, otherwise known as benomyl and later Benlate®. The compound had fantastic properties and our research was ready to be introduced to the international community. I couldn’t have been more excited. Getting to meet new colleagues from around the world, participating in prestigious scientific sessions and witnessing the pomp and pageantry of the UK was a threshold experience. Since ICPP1968, my collaboration in workshops, seminars, and international organizations was launched. Participation in that Congress opened the*

world of plant pathology, outstanding pathologists and scientific adventures for me. Participation in ISPP and all of the Congresses since has enriched my life."

Anna Snowden remembers: "This Congress was organized almost single-handedly by Dr. Bryan Wheeler," who had been her lecturer and supervisor in 1965-66.

The Congress schedule was unusual in that it was spread over two weeks with days of formal sessions alternating with "free" days. This provided time for visits to other research centres, social interactions between attendees and for seeing more of the host region. Professor P. M. S. Blackett, President of the Royal Society opened the Congress. An outstanding talk by E. C. Stakman was given in the rooms of the Royal Geographical Society. R. K. S. Wood presented the constitutional framework for ISPP at a special assembly at the Congress.

According to the official program, the "Arrangements for the wives" organized by Lady Bawdin and Mrs. Watson, started with a Tea Party at Imperial College.

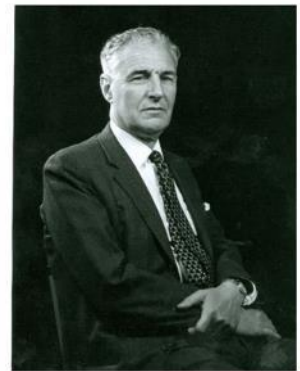
ISPP Executive Committee (1968 to 1973)

President: Professor R. K. S. Wood, UK

Vice President: Dr. Arthur Kelman, USA

Secretary-General: Professor J. G. ten Houten, The Netherlands

Treasurer: Dr. S. P. Raychaudhuri, India



Professor R.K.S. Wood

ISPP from 1968 to 1973:

Professor Wood writes: "*Founding of ISPP. I drafted a proposed constitution, discussed at the Plenary Meeting at the close of the Congress. All over in one hour including election of executive committee. Note: Secretary was Dr. J. G. ten Houten. (top pathologist in the Netherlands who became my very good friend), and the Treasurer Dr. S. P. Raychaudhuri (very senior from New Delhi). But when we started work we found severe money exchange controls in India. We could not risk sending any money there! So ten Houten became acting treasurer and he recruited young Koen Verhoef to help him.*"

From the APPS Circular 31 10 1968 (1 and 2) in a portion of a letter from N.T. Flentje, on behalf of the Australian Plant Pathology Society where he was describing the 1st ISPP Congress:

"I would like to pass on information to you from the International Congress Meetings in London. As you are aware it was proposed to set up an International Association of Plant Pathologists and this was agreed to unanimously by the 1,200 members of the Congress in London. A Council of some 26 members from about 20 different countries was set up and the Steering Committee of our own Society have suggested I was asked to act as the interim Chairman to London while we considered the matters of the Constitution and the proper election of office bearers.

It was decided that the next International Congress should be held in approximately 5 years time in either Denmark, U.S.A. or the Netherlands. This is now being examined by pathologists in Scandinavia to see whether they could accommodate such a Congress which would probably number 1200 – 1400. If they feel they cannot satisfactorily accommodate it, the Congress will almost certainly be held in the United States. The Australians present in London felt that it would be

premature to try and offer to organize such a Congress in Australia at this time, but we would be hopeful that we might make such an offer for a subsequent Congress.”

<http://www.appsnet.org/Public/history/historyapps3.aspx>

Thor Kommedahl reports, “*At a Council meeting in London during the First Congress, criteria were established for locating the next and following Congresses. It was desired that the venue should be 1) near an international airport, 2) in or near a large metropolitan area, to provide hotel, restaurant, and cultural facilities such as museums, art galleries, concerts, and theaters and 3) near a major university with adequate dormitory space and dining facilities, and a sizable plant pathology department, to provide for local arrangements, plant pathology exhibits, and other services. Thor Kommedahl reported that Minneapolis, Minnesota, met those criteria and would be an appropriate venue. Dr. Milton F. Kernkamp, Head of the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota, subsequently issued an official invitation. It was noted also that the Headquarters of the American Phytopathological Society, led by Ray Tarleton, was located nearby at Eagan, Minnesota, and it could and did provide personnel and expertise to facilitate registration and many other services needed to host a convention.*”

The International Newsletter on Plant Pathology

The Newsletter was started in November 1970 when ISPP membership was 224. It was edited by Dr. A. B. R. Beemster at the Institute of Phytopathological Research, Wageningen, the Netherlands for 13 years. The first edition is full of information about the beginnings of ISPP by President Wood, an announcement of the Nobel Peace Prize being awarded to Dr. N. E. Borlaug, the birth of the International Journal of Plant Pathology and a listing of Councilors from 18 countries.

http://www.isppweb.org/newsletters/1_1.pdf

In 1983 at the University of Minnesota, **Dr. Thor Kommedahl** was appointed the new editor of the Newsletter. He served as editor for 10 years as the Newsletter transitioned from twice a year to a monthly publication to include short, timely news articles of international interest.



Dr. Thor Kommedahl

Dr. Brian Deverall at the University of Sidney, Australia succeeded Thor as editor in 1993, and he has subsequently published the *ISPP Newsletter* online for much of the past 19 years (1994-2002 and 2007 to 2013). And he's still at it. Newsletters are accessible at:

<http://www.isppweb.org/newsletter.asp>

Note: Elaine Davison from Perth, Australia & Joseph Verreet from Kiel, Germany edited the Newsletter from 2003 to February 2005, & Joseph Verreet edited the Newsletter from April 2005 to October 2006. There were no Newsletters between October 2006 and June 2007 when Brian Deverall assumed the position.



Dr. Brian Deverall



2nd ICPP 1973 Sept. 5-12 - Minneapolis, USA

Congress President: Dr. Arthur Kelman, University of Wisconsin, USA

Honorary President: Dr. E. C. Stakman, University of Minnesota, USA

Organizing Committee Chair: Dr. J. E. Mitchell, University of Wisconsin, USA

The registered attendance at the 2nd ICPP was 1,880 scientists including American Phytopathological Society, the Society of Nematology members and from scientists from 59 countries representing 27 associated societies of the ISPP.

Dr. E. C. Stakman gave the opening address followed by welcomes and an official opening by R. K. S. Wood. The opening symposium was composed two presentations: "The Role of Agriculture in Economic Development," by James H. Jensen, USA; and "The Role of Plant Pathology in Agricultural Development," by G. Viennot-Bourgin, France. Over 1100 abstracts were published in the *Proceedings of the Congress*.



Dr. Arthur Kelman

Arthur Kelman played a major role in the development of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP). During his 15 years on the ISPP Executive from 1968, he met and helped many plant pathologists throughout the world, who remember him for his intellectual strength, leadership, warmth and charm. He had great insights into people. One of his special attributes was his ability to recognize talent in other people and to promote them for offices and committee assignments. He also followed up on those who accepted assignments to encourage and motivate them whenever possible. Early in 1978, in response to concerns about the naming of phytopathogenic bacteria, he convened a meeting of involved persons in Berkeley and this resulted in the creation of the important and always active ISPP Committee on the Taxonomy of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria. As Immediate-Past-President of the Society from late 1978, he was involved with the Australian organisers of the fourth Congress in Melbourne in 1983. He continued after 1983 to maintain a close interest in the continued wellbeing of the Society and its leadership. In recognition of his many contributions to the Society, he was elected as an Honorary Member by the ISPP Council on 20 August 1988 in Kyoto. His professional service and obituary are found in *ISPP Newsletter* 39 (8) <http://www.isppweb.org/nlaug09.asp#1>.

Art Kelman has filed his papers in the Iowa State University archives and they are a rich source of ISPP information. <http://www.add.lib.iastate.edu/spcl/manuscripts/MS673.html>

Executive Committee (1973 to 1978)

President: Dr. Arthur Kelman, USA

Immediate Past President: Professor R. K. S. Wood, UK

Vice President: Professor Friedrich Grossman, Germany

Vice President: Dr. Z. Hidaka, Japan

Secretary-General: Professor K. Verhoeff, Netherlands

Treasurer: Professor K. Verhoeff, Netherlands

Editor, *ISPP Newsletter*: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA

ISPP from 1973 to 1978:



The **ISPP logo** used on ISPP publications came from the logo used by the APS at the Second International Congress of Plant Pathology, held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1973. A staff artist at the APS Headquarters designed the logo for that Congress. When Thor Kommedahl became editor of the *ISPP Newsletter*, he asked Ray Tarleton, Executive Vice-President of APS, whether APS had any further use planned for that logo. There were no plans, so the ISPP editor sought permission to use it. The Board approved this and it became the masthead of the *ISPP Newsletter* and all other ISPP publications. The logo represents all nations and all kinds of crops and forests cared for by plant pathologists.

Dr. Thor Kommedahl officially started his long service to ISPP in 1973. He served 17 years on the ISPP Executive Committee and Council. The ISPP Council consisted of representatives from many countries with active plant pathology organizations, and in proportion to the number of members of that organization. Thor was elected chair of the American delegation of Councilors that met at annual APS conventions. He had 16 years experience on the APS Council and had served for 7 years on the ISPP Council when Art Kelman promoted him for Secretary-General and Treasurer. He served as Treasurer for 10 years. In addition he kept his assignment as editor of *ISPP Newsletter* and in 1983 he started publishing the Newsletter more than twice a year.



Dr. Thor Kommedahl

R.K.S. Wood wrote in the ISPP News in 1973, “*The most easily conceived function of ISPP is its responsibility for ... International Congresses. ... As important as Congresses are they have not involved the Executive Committee, as much as the recruitment of Associated Societies. ... At present, 30 national or regional societies with a combined membership of over 8,000 are joined with I.S.P.P., and are, or will be, represented on Council.*” He concluded by thanking the organizers of the 2nd Congress and the Executive Committee.

3rd ICPP 1978 August 16 - 23 München, Germany

Theme: “Healthy Plants for a Healthy Life”

Organizing Committee: Professor Gerhard Schuhmann and Dr. Eva Fuchs

Programme Committee: Professor F. Grossmann

Local Committee: Professor Rolf Diercks and Professor Hoffmann



ICCP78 took place in München, Germany with more than 1600 scientists from 105 countries attending. The Congress was opened in the representative hall of the famous German Museum. Following welcome speeches, Professor R. K. S. Wood was presented the Otto Appel Medal, the highest award of German Plant Protection. Professor Wood then delivered the Plenary Lecture “Plant Pathology in the 21st Century”.

The scientific programme was organized in the following twelve sections: Virology, Bacteriology, Mycology, Nematology, Soil Borne Pathogens, Physiological Plant Pathology, Post Harvest Pathology, Genetics of Resistance and Pathogenicity, Epidemiology, Pollution Effects, Disease Control, Professional Aspects of Plant Pathology (Phytomedizin).

Two formal 3-hour sessions took place daily, composed of invited and volunteered papers and chaired by prominent scientists. In some cases panel discussions were arranged and evening sessions were organized on special subjects of interest. The first ICPP poster session was held in München with authors present during specific timeframes to discuss their research.

Several Pre- and Post-Congress conferences and workshops were held around the German countryside: Seed Pathology in Karlsruhe, Fusarium in Berlin, Mycotoxins in München, Side Effects of Pesticides on Non-Target Microorganisms in Braunschweig, *Cercospora herpotrichoides* in München and Viroids and Other Small Nucleic Acids in Martinsried. Scientific as well as touristic post-congress excursions attracted large numbers of delegates. Free time on Sundays allowed special tours to landscape and historical highlights around München and to the Bavarian Alp Mountains. An opening day reception was given at the Schloss Schleißheim, one of the greatest baroque palaces in Europe, built by the Prince Elector Max Emanuel between 1701-1726. Many participants also remember the Bavarian Evening in the “Löwenbräu Keller” accentuated by a typical Bavarian brass band and folkloristic entertainment with “Schuhplattler” dancing, woodchoppers, and yodel singers.

Brian Deverall chaired an afternoon session of short papers and then a discussion on elicitation and action of plant defense in a vast old lecture theatre in Munich in 1978. He recalls “*I felt quite like an orchestral conductor, bringing in people from all around the theatre in a dynamic and highly successful discussion.*”

Anna Snowden remembers this Congress “*because I met a German delegate who had surveyed cargoes of kiwifruits in Hamburg, and she and I compared our experiences of examining fruit and vegetable cargoes.*”

Executive Committee from 1978 to 1983:

President: Professor Friedrich Grossmann, W. Germany

Immediate Past President: Dr. Arthur Kelman, USA

Vice President: Dr. D. N. Srivastava, India

Vice President: Dr. A. Kerr, Australia

Secretary-General: Professor K. Verhoeff, Netherlands

Treasurer: Professor K. Verhoeff, Netherlands

Editor, ISPP Newsletter: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA



Professor Friedrich Grossman

ISPP from 1978 to 1983:

Brian Deverall remembers that in Munich in 1978 Arthur Kelman asked him about key personnel for the 1983 Congress in Australia. *“I had absolutely no doubt that Allen Kerr was the man to lead that Congress, which he did. When Kerr chose not to go on to serve as president following the Congress in Melbourne, the normal cycle by that time, Johan Dekker, the other VP at the time of the Congress in Melbourne was elected to serve as president from 1983-1988 and preside over the 5th ICPP in Kyoto. About a year prior to the Congress in Kyoto, Arthur approached Jim Cook to stand for an uncontested election as president of ISPP for the 1988-1993 period. Other than R. K. S. Wood who served as the first president of ISPP, Cook is the only person to date to be elected president from the membership at large without first serving as a vice president.”*

Arthur Kelman, as President of the ISPP, convened an *ad hoc* meeting of interested scientists at Berkeley in early 1978. At this meeting, chaired by Milt Schroth, the ISPP Committee on Taxonomy of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria was founded. Its membership comprised J. F. Bradbury, D. W. Dye, M. Goto, A. C. Hayward (Chairman), R. A. Lelliott and M. N. Schroth. At the meeting, it was agreed that lists of names of bacterial pathogens would be presented to the International Committee on Systematics of Prokaryotes (ICSP). <http://www.the-icsp.org>

These comprised names that met the criteria for inclusion in Approved Lists and names that did not meet these criteria but were important for plant pathologists. The Origins and History of the ISPP Committee on Taxonomy of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria by John Young is available at: http://www.isppweb.org/about_tppb_history.asp

4th ICPP 1983 August 17-24 Melbourne, Australia

President: Dr. Allen Kerr

Organizing Committee Chair: Dr. Gretna Weste

Secretary: Dr. R. G. Paddock

Treasurer: Dr. R. D. Price



This 4th Congress, organized by a committee of Victorian Plant pathologists from the Plant Research Institute, Burnley, the Forests Commission, and Latrobe and Melbourne Universities, was the first to be held in the Southern Hemisphere, or in the Pacific region. Despite vast distances, huge fares and a world recession, 1,129 plant pathologists from 56 countries attended.

This Congress introduced some new formats: 1) symposia were held each morning, with 14 specialized sections in the afternoons; 2) all oral papers were invited; 3) all 600 contributed papers were presented as posters; and 4) for the first time, forest pathology and tropical plant pathology sections were included.

The patron of the Congress was His Excellency, The Right Honourable Sir Ninian Stephen A.K., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., K.B.E., K.St.J., Governor General of Australia. The Congress was opened by the State Governor, His Excellency Rear-Admiral Sir Brian Murray, K.C.M.G., A.O., K.St.J.

Brian Deverall was Chair of the Physiological Plant Pathology section of the Congress and organized three symposia. Three books based on the papers in these symposia were edited by Brian and symposia chairs and were published by Academic Press.

Melbourne University provided an excellent site for the Congress. The atmosphere and grace of Wilson Hall set the stage of the opening ceremony and the Campus Union provided opportunities for convivial contact. Morning and afternoon feasts were a dream for the hungry. Ian Harvey of New Zealand sang above the loud background noise of the P.A. system. The Congress concluded with a loss of approximately \$11,000, which may be interpreted as an ideal value for the delegates. The Australian Council of Agriculture underwrote the loss.

Executive Committee (1983 to 1988)

President: Professor Johan Dekker, The Netherlands

Immediate Past President: Professor Friederich Grossmann, W. GR.

Vice President: Dr. E. R. French, Peru

Vice President: Dr. K. Yora, Japan

Secretary-General: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA

Treasurer: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA

Editor, ISPP Newsletter: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA



Professor Johan Dekker

ISPP from 1983 to 1988:

The Executive Committee met in October 1987 at the International Congress of Plant Protection was held in Manila, Philippines. On their way home they stopped in Kyoto, Japan to discuss with the officers of the Japanese Society for Plant Pathology arrangements for the 5th ICPP. As a result of careful planning, the Congress functioned efficiently in 1988 in Kyoto.

5th ICPP 1988 August 20-27 Kyoto, Japan

Chairman of Organization Committee: Dr. Kiyoshi Yora

Vice Chairmen: Dr. W Lida, Dr. K Kishi, Dr. J Shishiyama and Dr. A. Yamaguchi

Secretary General: T Hajiwara



Kyoto is an old Capital and is blessed with abundant historical monuments and beautiful scenery. Because this is the first ICPP to be held in Asia there was a symposium on rice diseases. Jim Cook resolved the disagreement over the names of the Chinese Plant Pathology Societies from Beijing and Taipei. One of the highlights of the 5th ICPP for Jim Cook happened after the Congress had ended. *“Earlier in the week of the Congress, I was approached by one of his former PhD students, Dr.. Yi-sheng Lin from Taiwan, inviting me to join a dinner party at the end of the Congress, with no details on who was hosting the party or where it would be held. As the delegates moved from the final general assembly to an outdoor courtyard for a “good-bye” party, I, now the new president of the ISPP having just received the gavel from Johan Dekker, was whisked away by Dr. Lin in cab to a restaurant in downtown Kyoto. Escorted by Dr. Lin, they entered a room on the second floor where all the other guests were already seated at three round tables. To my surprise and delight, the guests were Chinese with half representing the Chinese Society of Plant Pathology from Beijing and half the Chinese Society of Plant Pathology from Taipei. The seating arrangement was such that each guest had a member of the other society on both their left and right. I was seated between the leaders of the two societies, Professor Wei-feng Chiu representing the CSPP from Beijing and Professor S.K. Sun representing the CSPP from Taipei, both of whom I knew from previous multiple visits to their respective institutes. Professor Wen Ko from the University of Hawaii, Hilo, was the only other guest not from one of the two societies. I recall the great excitement among the guests in being together, with perhaps more than the usual number of toasts.”*

Anna Snowden remembers: *“I have to say that for me, 1988 – Kyoto (5th ICPP) was the best ever. There was a substantial post-harvest group, and I gave a talk as well as submitting a colourful*

poster. The venue was a spectacular new congress centre, but the projection facilities, at first sight, appeared rather primitive. We had to mount our colour slides in special cardboard strips each holding ten slides. There were two white-gloved technicians assigned to each projector and, while one of them manually pulled the cardboard strip through the machine, the other used his binoculars to check the sharpness of the image on the screen and adjust the focus accordingly! At first, delegates were amused and asked "Don't they have slide carousels?" but I thought it was brilliant because it was completely dependable (in those days carousels often got stuck and caused interminable delays). I did not want to stay in an international hotel, so had managed to book into a Japanese ryokan, which was reasonably priced and gave me a bedroll, a single ornament, a low table with a flask of water, and a pine-tree at the window. The weather was scorching, and I remember enjoying luscious fresh figs bigger than any I had ever seen before. The Gala Dinner was expensive, but we assembled in an enormous hall. The main course was a buffet. Unfortunately the organisers had catered for delicate Japanese appetites, not realising that the 6-foot westerners would scoff all the goodies before some of us had even approached the buffet table - I thought there was going to be a food riot, but the evening was saved by the arrival of some spectacular drummers who were so mesmerising that we forgot our empty stomachs. In 2003 - Christchurch (8th ICPP) sensibly had shifted the date from August to summer in February. It was a very enjoyable affair in a good venue. I remember beautiful displays of exotic plants, hot weather, cool fountains, and practical lunch bags."

Executive Committee (1988 to 1993)

President: Dr. R. James Cook, USA

Immediate Past President: Professor Johan Dekker, The Netherlands

Vice President: Dr. J. Richard Hamilton Canada

Vice President: Professor Brian Deverall, Australia

Secretary-General: Dr. Alain Coleno, France

Treasurer: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA

Editor, ISPP Newsletter: Dr. Thor Kommedahl, USA



Dr. R. James Cook

ISPP from 1988 to 1993:

On Jim Cook's prompting, Brian Deverall developed the first ISPP brochure for release in 1993. Brian also says: "I was very relieved when Dick was elected President for 1993-1998 when I discovered in Montreal in 1993 that I had also been proposed for that position without my knowledge. It was on the way to Montreal in 1993 that I had a short stopover in Hawaii, and decided that I would volunteer to Dick at the end of the Montreal meeting that I would like to take over the Newsletter from Thor Kommedahl in 1994. And so it happened."

Soon after Jim Cook became President, he asked Brian Deverall to clarify the obscure, undemocratic and not sufficiently geographically representative procedure for appointing the Executive. Brian consulted Allen Kerr in Australia and Nigel Hardwick in the UK and they evolved a new method of Procedure. This change was approved as Revisions of ISPP Rules of Procedure Rule 5 by mail ballot of the Council in June 1991.

A priority during this time was to facilitate the inclusion of additional societies into ISPP. This included special invitations to Bangladesh, Kenya, Ethiopia, USSR, Eastern Block nations, and the first of several negotiations with China to establish inclusion of the society in Taipei. Appeals were

made to Plant Pathology Departments in the USA to sponsor or pay dues for societies with inadequate funds.



Montreal 1993 outgoing ISPP Executive
Alain Coleno, Thor Kommedahl, Johann Dekker, Jim Cook, Dick Hamilton, Brian Deverall

ISPP Fellows Elected by Council on 20 August 1988 in Kyoto:

Dr. Arthur Kelman - USA
Professor R.K.S. Wood – UK

6th ICPP 1993 July 28 – August 6 Montreal, Canada



Organizing Committee Chair: Dr. J. Richard Hamilton, Canada
Organized with support of:
Canadian Phytopathological Society and the National Research Council Canada
Program Committee Chair M.C. Heath
Local Arrangements Chair C.B. Aube
Fund Raising Committee Chair W.G. Bonn

The Plenary Session was on “Sustainable Agriculture.” There were 25 Symposia Sessions and 57 Discussion and Poster Sessions under 17 Subject matter topics. The weekend was open for tours of local delights like Old Quebec City.

Jim Cook, as past President, recalls: *“The Canadian government informed me that delegates to the 6th ICPP from South Africa would not be issued visas to attend this Congress, because of the apartheid policy there at that time. I wrote back a strong letter pointing out that we were an apolitical scientific society and welcomed all delegates to our meetings regardless of the policies and politics of their government, and even threatened to move the Congress if these delegates were denied visas. They got visas.”*

Vice President Dick Hamilton remembers: *“I attended the banquet and enjoyed the festivities immensely. It was a grand party with costumed butlers in their finery, including the traditional three-cornered plumed hats that were a novelty for me. The most interesting part of the ceremony was the marine band that accompanied me through the exit. I was surrounded by an escort of soldiers with muskets and I must say the hackles came on my neck and I felt like I was a king. The fifes and drums really set it off, and I will never forget that feeling of being a king.”*

Richard Hamilton designed the ISPP flag and showed it for the first time at ICPP1993. The flag has been passed from president to president and occasionally it is used as a symbol of transferring leadership.



The Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology



Jakob Eriksson.

The Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology, established in 1923 to encourage creative study of plant pathogens and the processes of disease development in plants, was presented at the ICPP for the first time in 1993.

The 7th recipient of the Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology awarded at the 6th Congress was Professor Dr. Ir Ariena H.C. van Bruggen, Professor of Biological Farming Systems at Wageningen University, Netherlands, in recognition of her original and thorough work on the new disease, 'corky root' of lettuce, caused by a hitherto unknown pathogen, the bacterium *Rhizomonas suberifaciens*. See a more complete history of the Jakob Eriksson Prize including photos of all of the recipients and titles of their presentations at: http://www.isppweb.org/about_eriksson.asp

Executive Committee (1993 to 1998)

President: Dr. Richard Hamilton, Canada

Immediate past President: Dr. R. James Cook, USA

Vice President: Dr. Peter R Scott, UK

Vice President: Dr. Mike J. Wingfield, South Africa

Secretary-General: Dr. Anupam Varma, India

Treasurer: Dr. M. Claire Shepherd, UK.

Editor, *ISPP Newsletter*: Dr. Brian J. Deverall, Australia



Dr. Richard Hamilton

With the help of Peter Scott, the **ISPP web page** was established in 1995. The ISPP Newsletter became a feature of the website in 1997. Paper versions of the newsletter ended in 1998.

At the request of Jim Cook, Dr. Brian Deverall developed the first **ISPP Brochure** for release at ICPP 1993 with updates published subsequently.

Individual members from countries which do not have national societies associated with ISPP are encouraged to attend the Council meetings as non-voting participants.

The Glenn Anderson Lecture

The Executive Committee met in 1994 in Lancaster, UK and decided that the Glenn Anderson Lecture would be a regular feature of ICPP to address issues like sustainability and agriculture in developing countries. The lectureship was founded to commemorate the contributions of Anderson, who was an outstanding and internationally renowned plant scientist recognized for introducing world food security as a topic of relevance to his profession. It was a joint venture of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) and the American Phytopathological Society (APS).



Dick Hamilton obtained the authority for ISPP to assume the responsibility of sponsoring the Glenn Anderson Lectureship beginning with the Montreal Congress. The speaker for the lecture is selected by the Organizing Committee of the ICPP in consultation with Executive Committee of ISPP. The lecture covers topics such as agriculture in developing countries and sustainability. Dr. Eugene Terry delivered the Glenn Anderson Lecture in the 7th ICPP on Population, Environment, Plant Disease and Food Security published as “Ecological stability and crop protection: a case for investment in technological alternatives” *Plant Pathology* (1999) 48 (6) 679–688. Biographical information for R. Glenn Anderson is available at <http://www.isppweb.org/nljun11.asp#5> and in a paper by Borlaug N E (1992) titled, “World food security and the legacy of Canadian wheat scientist R. Glenn Anderson,” *Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology* 14 (4) 254—266.

The World Directory of Plant Pathologists

The World Directory of Plant Pathologists was the creation of Dr. Fran Fisher of the University of Florida at Lake Alfred. She published it in print form in 1973 with 141 pages. A second edition was published 1980 and she died in 1982. In anticipation, for the continuity of this valued publication, she stipulated in her will that it should be published every five years. And she left invested funds anticipating about \$2,500.00 per year, to support that effort. The Trust failed to yield these funds and by 1998 ISPP received only \$8,000. The Bank of America administers the Francenia E. Fisher Trust.



Dr. Fran Fisher

Excerpts from the Preface of Fran Fisher’s Directory reflect her motives for publishing the Directory: *“This directory has been compiled with the sincere hope that it will help to improve personal and professional connections as well as communications among fellow plant pathologists throughout the world. Personal communication is a real necessity. ... The purpose of this directory is to fill that gap in our communications. ... The war on hunger has always been understood and waged as an unceasing battle by those in our profession. Now others are beginning to realize the vital significance of increasing agricultural productivity, not only to feed our growing population but also to permit the general economic development that depends on a strong, productive agricultural base, even in the modern world of technological achievement, the fact remains that mankind is directly or indirectly dependent upon plants. ... In most agricultural areas, one of the most profitable methods to increase agricultural production is by reducing the incidence of disease. --Fran. E. Fisher – Lake Alfred, Florida*

ISPP Historian, Charlie Delp: *“Fran Fisher and I were friends in Florida from the 60's. That was why, in 1993 when President Richard Hamilton asked someone to update her World Directory according to her will, I volunteered. But, of course it's not actually 'according to her will,' since she didn't know about the Internet. In 1998, I had to "jump through hoops" for the Bank trustees to convince them that the online version meets the criteria that Fran stipulated. ISPP receives payments from the Fisher Trust to ensure that the Directory is maintained.*



Dr. Charles J. Delp

I worked with the staff at the APS to develop an online World Directory that would integrate data from affiliated societies into the searchable directory. All affiliated societies are offered the opportunity to contribute data from their memberships and to update that data on a regular basis. APS has provided the technical support for this continuing effort. Many individuals, institutions, and affiliated societies have worked to make the World Directory a success. Unfortunately the major European societies, who by law must gain permission from each member to be included, have not made the effort to be included. Fran Fisher was aware of the need to be complete and current, therefore societies are offered the opportunity update their data frequently.”
http://www.isppweb.org/about_world_directory.asp.

At the Executive meeting in 1998, I advised that the World Directory of Plant Pathologists was going online and would be managed by the American Phytopathological Society. Complete directories and Introductory Pages from seven contributors included over 12,000 addresses. The contributors were APS, Asia on IRRI's database, China, France, Japan, Mediterranean, and Portugal. In addition, others were actively preparing data for submission: Australasia, SASPP Southern Africa, Africa on IITA's data base, and Latin America organized by Ed French at CIP.

7th ICPP 1998 August 9 – 16 Edinburgh, U.K.



Theme: Plant Pathology and Global Food Security

Congress Patron: Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal

President: Professor David S. Ingram, UK

Honorary Presidents: Vice-Presidents: Dr. Mr. D. Sainsbury and Professor R. K. S. Wood, UK

Vice-Presidents: Dr. R. James Cook, USA; Professor Dr. P. J. G. M. de Wit, Netherlands; Professor A. Varma, India; and Professor Zhou Guang He, China

Organizing Committee:

Chair: Dr. Peter R. Scott, UK;

Secretary: Dr. Nigel V. Hardwick, UK;

Chair Finance Committee: Professor D. Gareth Jones, UK;

Chair Programme Committee: Dr. David J. Royle, UK.

Local Arrangements Committee: Dr. W. J. Rennie

Peter Scott writes: *“The British bid for the 1998 Congress was based on a hole in the ground in Edinburgh. There was no sign of the Edinburgh International Conference Centre (EICC) when the bid was entered – it was a step of faith! ! It was justified, however, and the EICC provided a worthy venue for the Congress.”*

Edited from the Invitation to Attend the Congress: *“The significance of plant pathology to mankind has never been greater. We face an unprecedented challenge of preparing to feed the 11 billion people who are likely to be alive by the year 2050, yet we cannot come close to satisfying the 5 billion who are alive today. At the same time we have at our disposal unprecedented opportunities for better crop protection, which, with good management, can radically reduce the crop losses caused by pathogens and other agents, which are estimated to negate 30% of what should be turned into food globally.*

In meeting this aim, plant pathologists can contribute a sustainable element to global food security. We have planned a Congress to address these challenges, signal the opportunities, and excite everyone who comes with something that they had not expected to find. The radical new programme structure designed to match our perception of modern plant pathology has five themes. 1. Plant-pathogen interactions; 2. Population biology, ecology and epidemiology; 3. Plant pathology in practice; 4. Global perspectives; and 5. New control options.”

The ICPP 1998 was the largest single gathering of plant pathologists ever with 2230 delegates and 272 accompanied persons from 96 countries. The top 10 countries represented were: UK - 536, USA - 470, Japan - 169, Australia - 122, Germany - 122, The Netherlands - 107, France - 75, India - 67, South Africa - 66 and Sweden - 52. It cost the organisers just over £750k to stage and was considered to benefit the local economy by over £2m. Sponsorship and donations totalling £214k were obtained.

HRH The Princess Royal, our patron, performed the official opening. There were 311 invited speakers and 1517 posters in the new Edinburgh International Conference Centre. There were 32 exhibitors and 35 meetings of special interest groups including an open forum on Global Food Security - the star speaker being Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Dr. Norman Borlaug.

The Edinburgh Congress was the first at which online booking, Internet, and e-mail access were available. The proceedings containing over 1700 abstracts were published, available as a CD-ROM and also on the website <http://www.bspp.org.uk/icpp98/>

The scientific excursions were: 1. Scottish Crop Research Institute with 133 delegates, 2. Scottish Agricultural Science Agency/Scottish Agricultural College – 53 attending, 3. Royal Botanic Garden – 96, and 4. Forest Research-tress Forest - 47. Post-Congress tours were on cereals and potatoes with 44 delegates and a forest research tour involving 32 delegates.

ISPP Fellows Elected by Council on 14 August 1998 in Edinburgh:

Professor Johannes Dekker

Professor Chiu Wei Fan

The Congress ended with a banquet, a ceilidh and ‘Beating the Retreat’ by a pipe and drum band.

Plant Pathology and Global Food Security: The 1998 Edinburgh Congress set the scene for the first of a series of public discussions on Plant Pathology and Global Food Security. These have been held at each Congress since that time. In Edinburgh, Nobel Peace Laureate Dr. Norman Borlaug challenged the ISPP to take action on food security, recognizing the enormity of the problem and the significant contribution to it made by the control of plant diseases.

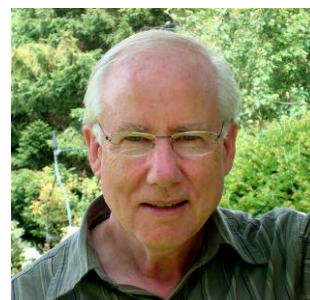


Dr. Norman Borlaug challenged ISPP at the 1998 Congress to act on food security.
Photo (2003), courtesy of United States Department of Agriculture.

Volume 1 of Noel Vietmeyer's series of biographies of Norman Borlaug titled "Borlaug, the Mild-Mannered Maverick Who fed a Billion People" is sub-titled "Right off the Farm, 1914 – 1944." The 278-page volume has more than 60 photographs and 100 of his personal stories about the amazing events of his first 30 years. It highlights his formative era and the many crises and consequences of his later Nobel-winning work. His work with wheat begins in Volume 2.
<http://www.worldfoodprize.org/assets/Dr.-borlaug/borlaug-brochure.pdf>

Executive Committee (1998 to 2003)

President: Dr. Peter R. Scott, UK
Immediate Past-President: Dr. Richard Hamilton, Canada
Vice President: Dr. Anupam Varma, India
Vice President: Dr. Richard Falloon, New Zealand
Secretary-General: Dr. Charles J Delp, USA
Treasurer: Dr. Chuji Hiruki, Canada
Editor, *ISPP Newsletter*: Professor Brian Deverall, Australia



Dr. Peter R. Scott

Task Force on Global Food Security

ISPP's response to Borlaug's challenge at ICPP 1998 was to establish a Task Force on Global Food Security. The Task Force, led by Dr. Peter Scott and comprised of plant pathologists from diverse backgrounds, convened in Bangkok in 1999. They decided to focus their efforts on what ISPP could do to deliver tangible results with limited resources.

http://www.isppweb.org/Society_Reports/rept0099.doc

Five activities of the Task Force:

1. Changing Public Policy and Opinions on Global Food Security

For example, a position paper was developed in support of "the application of modern biotechnology as a tool to enhance agricultural productivity; to feed and improve the lives of the fast-growing world population and to address environmental degradation, hunger, and poverty"

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins1023.asp - act1.1

2. Enhanced PhD training for plant pathology in developing countries

A study of different approaches to PhD training was prepared

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_phdtraining.asp

3. Quantification of the economic impact of some major diseases

A review in *Annual Review of Phytopathology* was prepared on 'Plant disease: a threat to global food security' (http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins1023.asp - act1.5).

4. Farmer training in simple disease management: pilot project for cassava in Ghana

A competitive Challenge Programme in 2003 called for project proposals to enable plant pathology to contribute to the challenge of global food security, ISPP supported a project at the Crops Research Institute Kumasi, Ghana, led by Dr. Emmanuel Moses (see below).

5. Development of the ISPP Website (<http://www.isppweb.org/>)

To provide visitors with information about: ISPP, about plant pathology, why it is important, and what needs to be done about it; including the activities of the ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security.

In addition to the Task Force activities, 70 ISPP Councilors voted to revise the ISPP Statutes and Rules of Procedures now posted on the ISPP Web (<http://www.isppweb.org/>).

8th ICPP 2003 - February 2-8 Christchurch, New Zealand

Theme: “Solving problems for the real world”

Congress President: Professor Lester Burgess

Organizing Committee Chairperson: Dr. Ian Harvey

See: <http://www.isppweb.org/ICPP2003report.asp>



**President Peter Scott accepts the Maori
“Welcome/Challenge” at ICPP 2003**

ICPP 2003 incorporated the 14th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society. The Congress began with a traditional Maori challenge and delegates being welcomed by Dr. Peter Scott, President of ISPP, and Dr. Ian Harvey, Chairman of ICPP 2003 Organizing Committee. 1300 delegates from over 70 countries attended the Congress, which included invited presentations in three Plenary, five Keynote and 32 Concurrent Sessions, covering the full spectrum of the plant pathology discipline. More than 1200 Offered Papers (posters) were also presented. A key Evening Session was a public forum on Global Food Security, with invited speakers from the Philippines, Malaysia, China, India and the United Kingdom. Bursary funds were used to assist post-graduates and plant pathologists from developing countries and emerging nations to attend the Congress, with 79 applicants receiving a total of NZ\$150,000 assistance.

ICPP 2003 was organized under five Keynote themes:

- Plant pathology in the Asia/Pacific region
- Towards integrated control of soilborne disease
- Host/pathogen interactions and molecular plant pathology
- Towards integrated management of airborne disease
- Knowledge transfer for plant pathology.

Key highlights were the Offered Paper (poster) Discussion Sessions. Representative posters from each of 29 topic areas were chosen by respective Chairpersons for brief presentations, particularly focusing on papers offered by young researchers and plant pathologists from developing countries.



ICPP 2003 Opening Social Event in Christchurch, New Zealand

The final session of ICPP 2003, titled "Challenges for Plant Pathology in the 21st Century," featured stimulating addresses from Professor Mike Jeger and Professor Ian Crute (both from the United Kingdom), and Marilou Infante from the Philippines.

A number of awards were presented. On behalf of the Swedish Academy of Sciences, the 9th Jacob Eriksson Prize for 2003 was presented to Dr. Jaacov Katan of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, in recognition of his original and innovative research in the fields of soil solarization and soilborne pathogens, his outstanding and broad international co-operation, and his dedication to the education of younger plant pathologists. The history and procedures for the award of the prize can be seen at [Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology](#).

ISPP from 2003 to 2008:

ISPP Executive links with Asian plant pathology: An important activity for the ISPP during the period of this Executive included efforts to cement and expand links with plant pathology societies in the Asian region. This began during the term of the previous Executive, with the election of Professor Tang Wenhua as ISPP Vice President, attendance of the ISPP Executive at the 1st Asian Conference on Plant Pathology (Beijing, Peoples' Republic of China, 2000), and supported the establishment of the Asian Association of Societies for Plant Pathology (AASPP). ISPP was represented at the 3rd Rhizoctonia Symposium (Taichung, Taiwan, 2000). This was followed by the attendance of ISPP President Richard Falloon at the 2nd Asian Conference of Plant Pathology (Singapore, 2005), the 3rd Asian Conference of Plant Pathology (Yogyakarta, Indonesia, 2007), and the 2nd Asian Congress of Mycology and Plant Pathology (Hyderabad, India, 2007).



The 1st Asian Conference on Plant Pathology in Beijing (August, 2000)

Executive Committee (2003 to 2008)

President: Dr. (Professor) Richard Falloon, New Zealand

Immediate Past President: Dr. Peter Scott, UK

Vice President: Professor Tang Wenhua, China

Vice President: Professor M. Lodovica Gullino, Italy

Secretary-General from 2006: Dr. Greg Johnson, Australia

Treasurer: Dr. Chuji Hiruki, Canada

Business Manager from 2007: Dr. Peter Williamson, Australia

Co-Editors and Editor, *ISPP Newsletter* Dr. Elaine Davidson, Australia

Dr. Joseph Verreet, Germany, Professor Brian Deverall, Australia

Chair, Task Force on Global Food Security: Dr. Peter R. Scott, UK



Dr. Richard Falloon

ISPP from 2003 to 2008:

Executive/Administration Activities: Dr. Greg Johnson took over the inactive position of ISPP Secretary-General in 2006, and Dr. Peter Williamson was appointed as ISPP Business Manager in 2007.

Dr. Williamson is from the Western Australia Department Of Agriculture, Queensland Wheat Research Institute and is now Business/Web Manager, for both APPS and ISPP.



Dr Peter Williamson

These were key appointments for the Society, bringing executive and administration experience developed within the Australasian Plant Pathology Society as two key appointments for ISPP. The full ISPP Executive met on two occasions, in Torino, Italy in 2006 and in Adelaide, Australia in 2007. These face-to-face meetings were an essential component in the ongoing affairs of ISPP, helping to ensure continuity between International Congresses of Plant Pathology and the maintenance of other ISPP initiatives.

A further revision to the Rules of Procedure was approved by the Council via e-mail January 1, 2002. See: http://www.isppweb.org/about_objectives_statutes.asp - rules

The Task Force on Global Food Security: Peter Scott, Task Force President, reported that the “Congress Challenge” received four project proposals. An award of US\$48,200 over a three year period was given to Emmanuel Moses for the project titled, “Development of Appropriate Strategies to Control Cassava Diseases in Ghana.” The Task Force statement concerning an integrated disease management approach to World Food Security was presented at the closing ceremony of ICPP 2003, offered as a press release, and posted on ISPPWeb.org. (Also see the Chronological History Summary of the ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security from 1998 to date at the end of this History or at: http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_tf_meeting_1.asp)

Report from the ICPP 2008 Committee: Lodovica Gullino, ISPP V.P. and Chair of the ICPP 2008 committee, said that the Congress would be held in Torino, Italy in 2008. The Center of Competence in Torino has sponsored the initial activities of organization including the participation in ICPP 2003. Other organizations such as The Italian Plant Protection Association, the Italian Phytopathological Society, the University of Torino, and the National Research Council of Italy (CNR) sponsored the Congress. <http://www.icpp2008.org>.

It was noted that Honorary memberships have not been appointed since Johan Dekker, Arthur Kelman, Wei-fan Qiu, and R.K.S Woods had previously been appointed Honorary Members, now Fellows.

Charlie Delp, World Directory of Plant Pathology Facilitator, reported that cooperation with APS to manage the ISPP World Directory database has been excellent. Most European countries require that individuals must give permission to have their personal data shared beyond organization rosters. Unfortunately the larger European societies have not solicited their members to determine a willingness to be included in the World Directory, so most of these societies have not been included to date. The new ISPP Business Manager, Peter Williamson, has assumed management of the World Directory.

9th ICPP 2008 August 24-29 Torino, Italy

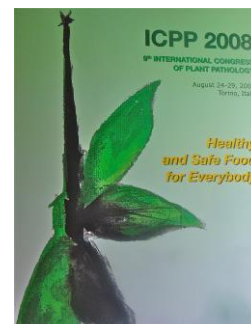
Theme: Healthy and Safe Food for Everyone

http://www.isppweb.org/society_reports/newsletter_icpp.pdf

Congress President: Professor Giovanni Paolo Martelli, Italy

Organizing Committee Chair: Professor Maria Lodovica Gullino

ICPP 2008 was held in the Lingotto Conference Centre of Torino, Italy, attracting almost 2000 delegates from 87 countries. Bursaries, ranging from 800 to 2,300 € were offered to 126 scientists from India, China, Thailand, Egypt, Brazil and several other countries. The Congress had 270 invited speakers, 1638 poster papers, 51 concurrent sessions, 20 evening sessions, and a public discussion forum on “Plant Pathology and Global Food Security.”



Five keynote sessions featured 1. The role of plant pathology in food safety and food security; 2. Host-pathogen interactions and molecular plant pathology; 3. Diseases of Mediterranean crops and forests; 4. Recent developments in disease management; and 5. Knowledge and technology transfer for plant pathology.

Plenary sessions included “Plant pathology and global food security” and a celebration of the “Centennial of the American Phytopathological Society.” Abstracts of presented papers were published in a special issue of the Journal of Plant Pathology, available also on CD-ROM. Three satellite workshops were also associated with the ICPP: 1. Integration of traditional and modern approaches for investigating the taxonomy and evolution of *Phytophthora*, *Pythium* and related genera; 2. “Plasmodiophorids and related organisms; and 3. *Colletotrichum* Diseases of Fruit Crops.

Delegates shared a Welcome Reception in the impressive courtyard of the Rectorate of the University of Torino. On Wednesday the group dined on Italian delicacies following a spectacular Opera in the Langhe region. After the Congress, technical excursions were organized to see forest pathology in the Aosta Valley, horticultural crops in the Saluzzo area, organic farming and Alpine botanical gardens in the Pellice Valley, and viticulture and wine production in Alba, Langhe, and Roero.

ISPP took several initiatives following ICPP 1998, one of which was the Task Force on Global Food Security led by Dr. Peter Scott. The task force sought ways to address the enormous challenge of food supply for the world and was faced with the important question of what ISPP could realistically contribute to reaching the World Food Conference’s ambitious goal? The Forums on Global Food Security at successive Congresses (ICPP 1998, ICPP 2003 and ICPP 2008) were convened to provide guidance to the ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security.

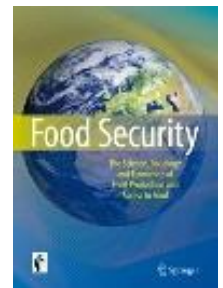
After a highly competitive application round in the Global Food Security Challenge Programme, the Task Force made the second award of funding to Dr. Lise Korsten of the University of Pretoria. Korsten’s project was closely aligned to the wording of the Call for Projects, to ‘raise the profile of plant disease, as a contribution to the challenge of global food security.’ The project did just that, through the establishment of an Information Hub to create awareness of the importance of plant diseases in food security and by utilizing a second-hand truck as a mobile demonstration laboratory.

The Task Force originally identified PhD training as a specific area for study. Dr. Richard Strange of Birkbeck College, University of London, who conducted a survey of PhD and MSc training, investigated this issue. One of the objectives was to determine how to reverse the decline of postgraduate training in plant pathology. The results confirmed that declining funds in developed countries underlie the declining availability of training - especially for students from developing countries. It was suggested that a condition of an award should be that a student from developing countries would work in his or her home country for at least 3 years after training in a developed country.

The Task force identified recognition of the impact of disease as a key element in official and public understanding of why plant disease matters. As a contribution to this, the Task Force supported publication of the review 'Plant disease: a threat to global food security' (Strange RN & Scott PR (2005) *Annual Review of Phytopathology* 43:83-116). Also see the Chronological History Summary of the ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security from 1998 to date at the end of this History.

A new journal, *Food Security*

Food Security, the new ISPP journal for The Science, Sociology and Economics of Food Production and Access to Food was launched during the Congress as an official ISPP publication with a twofold aim: (1) to draw attention to the constraints, of whatever provenance as the title implies and (2) to propose means by which these constraints may be overcome. The journal is published quarterly from March 2009, online and in print. It is an official journal of ISPP, with Richard Strange as Editor-in-Chief. Publication has been made possible through a partnership with the publisher Springer, who shares ownership with ISPP. Springer was to make the financial investment, matched by ISPP's intellectual investment. The first issue of *Food Security* was published, online and in print, in March 2009. <http://www.springer.com/life+sci/agriculture/journal/12571> <http://www.isppweb.org/nlmay11.asp>

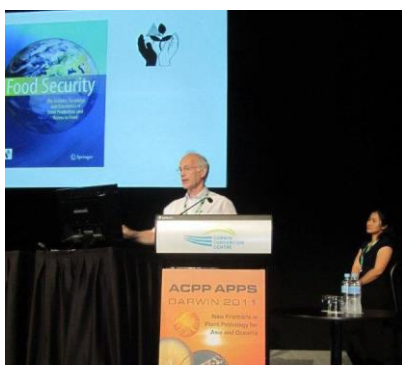


ISPP strives to ensure that issues of *Food Security* are affordable and available in developing countries. This is made possible through FAO's AGORA scheme "WHO's HINARI" and UNEP's "OARE." The first issue as well as selected content from subsequent issues is available online at no cost. ISPP Members and Members of Associated Societies have full access.



ISPP

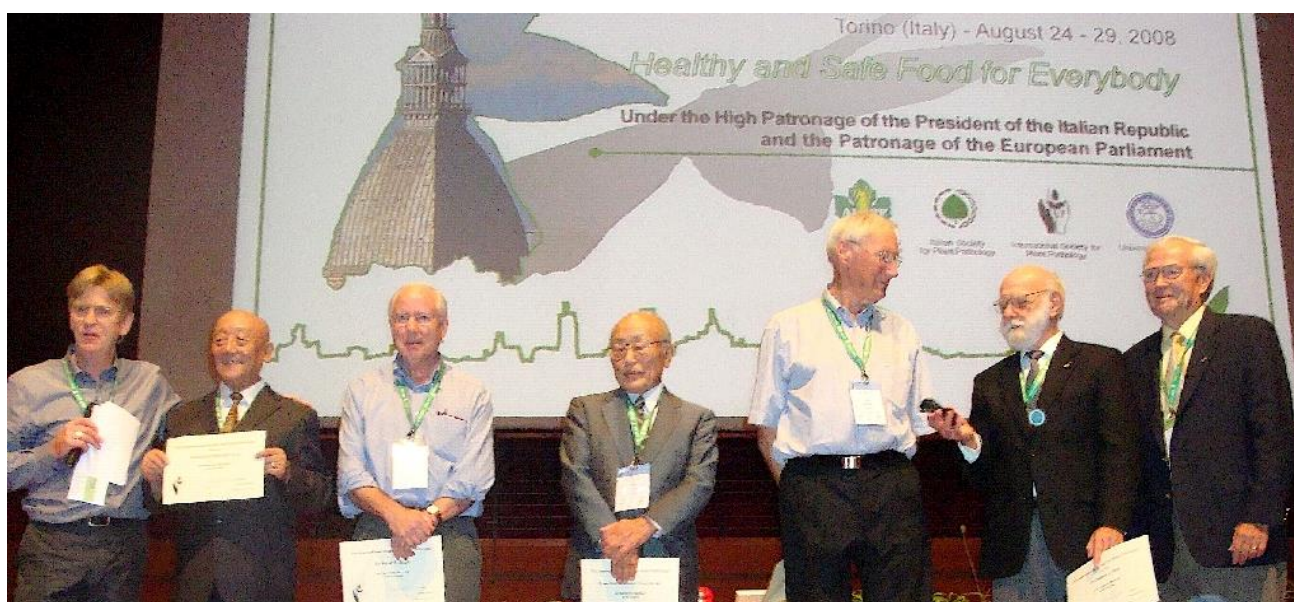
<http://www.springer.com/life+sci/agriculture/journal/12571>



Richard Strange & Lucy Tran-Nguyen (Australia, April 2011)

Zuzana Bernhard (Springer), Richard Strange
and Peter Scott, (Torino, August 2008)

ISPP Honorary Memberships were awarded to ISPP Fellows Dr. Jim Cook, Dr. Charles Delp, Professor Brian Deverall, Professor Chuji Hiruki, Dr. Peter Scott, and Professor Tang Wenhua. These individuals were recognized for their contributions as scientists to the knowledge of plant pathogens, the diseases they cause and methods of disease management; and also for their contributions to the objectives of the ISPP. Any member may nominate a Fellow.



ISPP President Richard Falloon with the Honorary Fellows Tang Wenhua, Peter Scott, Chuji Hiruki, Brian Deverall, Charlie Delp and Jim Cook. (Italy 2008)

The 10th Recipient of the Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology was Dr.. Laurence V. Madden, for his numerous seminal research contributions in plant disease epidemiology that have substantially increased our understanding of disease development in time and space. The history and procedures for the award of the prize can be seen at [Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology](#).



Professor Maria Lodovica Gullino

Executive Committee (2008 to 2013)

President: Professor Maria Lodovica Gullino, Italy
Immediate Past President: Professor Richard Falloon, New Zealand
Vice President: Professor You-Liang Peng, China
Vice President: Dr. Wafa Khoury, FAO
Secretary-General: Dr. Greg Johnson, Australia
Treasurer: Professor Thomas Evans, USA

Editor, ISPP Newsletter: Emeritus Professor Brian Deverall, Australia
Chair, Task Force on Global Food Security: Dr. Peter R. Scott, UK
Editor, Food Security: Professor Richard Strange, UK
Business Manager: Dr. Peter Williamson, Australia

ISPP 2008 -2013:

Based on selected invited papers from ICPP 2008, a series of books titled: *Plant Pathology in the 21st Century* is in preparation. Four books are under publications with Springer.

The book titles are: *Recent developments in management of plant diseases; Post-harvest pathology; The role of plant pathology in food safety and food security; Knowledge and technology transfer for plant pathology.*

As continued support of the **Asian Association for Societies for Plant Pathology** the ISPP Executive Committee met in April 2011 in Darwin in conjunction with the 4th Asian Conference for Plant Pathology (ACPP). The President of the Asian Association for Societies for Plant Pathology 2011-2014 was Professor David Guest of Australia, with Vice-Presidents Professor Somsiri Sangchote (Thailand) and Dr. Keiko Natsuaki (Japan), Secretary-General Professor Cheng-Gui Han (China) and Treasurer, Dr. Caroline Mohammed (Australia). The ISPP Business Manager assisted the AASPP to establish a basic website: <http://www.isppweb.org/AASPP/>

An important outcome from these linkages were the bids for hosting of ICPP 2013 from China and Korea, with the successful bid from the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology to host the 10th International Congress of Plant Pathology in Beijing, Peoples' Republic of China in 2013. Other conferences attended by Professor Falloon on behalf of ISPP included the Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (Anaheim, California, 2004), the 12th Mediterranean Plant Pathology Conference (Rhodos, Greece, 2006), and the 25th Anniversary Congress of the Swiss Society of Phytiatry (Brissago, Switzerland, 2007).

ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security made preparations for the launch of the publication of *Food Security* with Richard Strange, appointed Editor-in-Chief by ISPP, and Peter Scott as Chairman of the Task Force, in collaboration with Springer. Through the Advisory Board, Nobel Peace Laureate Norman Borlaug prepared a contribution for the first issue, commending the journal and the part played by plant pathologists in developing it.

http://www.isppweb.org/about_borlaug_statement.asp The first issue of *Food Security* was published online and in print in March, 2009:

<http://www.springer.com/life+sci/agriculture/journal/12571>

ISPP receives Charity Status in the USA. Thomas Evans, ISPP Treasurer, advises that the USA Internal Revenue Service has ruled that ISPP is a public charity and that contributions, bequests and gifts to ISPP are tax deductible in the USA.



ISPP Executive and Secretariat 2003-2008 and 2008-2013

Front Row. Professor Wenhua Tang, Vice President 2003-2008; Dr Chuji Hiruki, Treasurer 1998-2008; Professor Lodovica Gullino, President 2008-2013; Professor Richard Falloon, President 2003-2008; Dr Wafa Elkhoury, Vice-President 2008-2013. Back Row L to R: Professor Richard Strange, Editor in Chief, *Food Security*; Dr Greg Johnson, Secretary General 2005-2013; Professor Brian Deverall, ISPP Newsletter Editor; Dr Peter Williamson, Business Manager; Dr Peter Scott, Chairman, Task Force on Global Food Security; Dr Thomas Evans, Treasurer, 2008-2013. Absent: Professor You-Liang Peng, Vice President 2008-2013.

10th ICPP 2013 August 25-30 Beijing, China

Theme: Bio-security, Food Safety and Plant Pathology: The Role of Plant Pathology in a Globalized Economy www.icppbj2013.org/

Refer also to <http://www.isppweb.org/congress.asp>

Congress President: Shimai Zeng (China Agricultural University)



Vice Presidents:

Peter R. Scott - CAB International UK

Rongxiang Fang – Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences

Wafaa El Khoury – International Fund for Agricultural Development, IFAD

Organizing Committee Chair: Professor You-Liang Peng, China

<http://www.isppweb.org/ICPP/First%20Circular%20for%20ICPP2013.PDF>

The Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology in 2013

The awardee for this prize for 2013 is Jeffrey B. Jones of the University of Florida, and full details about him can be seen at <http://plantpath.ifas.ufl.edu/faculty/Jones/faculty-Jones.shtml>. The Prize will be presented at an awards ceremony during the Congress.

11th ICPP 2018 July 28-August 3, Boston, MA USA (Plans for the 50th anniversary for ISPP)

ISPP Executive Committee for the period 2013 - 2018 will be:

President: Dr. Greg Johnson, Australia

Immediate Past-President: Professor Maria Lodovica Gullino – Italy

Vice President: Dr. Tom Evans - USA

Vice President (elected): Dr. Serge Savary - France

Secretary General: Professor Brenda Wingfield – South Africa

Treasurer: Dr. Zamir Punja - Canada

Editor, *ISPP Newsletter*: Dr. Brian J Deverall, Australia

Editor, Food Security: Professor Richard Strange, UK

Elected persons were asked to issue statements to assist the ISPP Councilors in the election process as follows:

– President



Dr. Greg Johnson

It has been a privilege to serve as ISPP Secretary General 2005-2013. In 2008- 2013, ISPP has initiated the journal, [Food Security](#), in 2009 (impact factor 1.97 (2011)), maintained the significance of the [International Congress of Plant Pathology](#) (ICPP) in the plant pathology global events calendar, promoted the activities of the [Taskforce on Global Food Security](#) and [Subject Matter Committees](#), improved links with [Associated Societies](#) in the developed and developing worlds (through direct contacts and ISPP Newsletter distribution), to improve the professionalism and content of www.isppweb.org, revised the [constitution](#), and incorporated and registered ISPP as a charity in the USA. The ISPP President helps catalyse these activities, encourages individual effort, and looks ahead, to foster growth and new directions. Without an active ISPP Executive, the Society is diminished. As President 2013-2018, I will continue my commitment to ISPP as a global partnership for promoting plant pathology, and look forward to working with the American Phytopathology Society and ISPP Subject Matter Committees for an outstanding 50th anniversary ICPP 2018 in Boston, USA; include active engagement by ISPP to enhance current initiatives and ISPP resourcing, web profile and member-society involvement; build on the success of the Taskforce; promote the development of the Journal and strengthen links with International Agricultural Research Centres, aid agencies and the private sector. I offer continuity, and a track record of delivering both what is required, and progress. After a career in research and development collaboration, I am a consultant/team leader in development/international collaboration (horticulture/plant health) in Asia mostly under the Australian Government's development assistance program. I am active in [Linked In](#), [Research Gate](#), and [Twitter](#). My service with the [Australasian Plant Pathology Society](#) is (President, Treasurer, Regional Councillor and Biennial Conference Convenor).

-Vice President



Dr. Serge Savary

I was born in Ethiopia, educated in France, and completed a PhD in Phytopathology at Wageningen University. I have worked some 30 years, mostly in the tropical world (West Africa, Central America, Asia), and Europe (France, The Netherlands: Fellowship of the Wageningen Agricultural Centre), with focus on: plant disease epidemiology, simulation modelling, surveys in farmer's fields, IPM, crop loss assessment and modelling, and systems analysis. My career has included service with French research institutes (ORSTOM and INRA), and IRRI.

My career has had a strong emphasis on professional service and networking, as member of several APS committees, and of the BSPP; member of the Epidemiology Committee and the ISPP Taskforce on Global Food Security; founding Chair of the new ISPP Subject Matter Committee for Biotic Constraints to Food and Fibre Production; organizer of the 9th International Epidemiology Workshop (Landernau, France); reviewer for several journals of the field. I have also been active in fund raising for international agricultural research (member of a four-scientist proposal

development team for the Cereal System Initiative for South Asia to the B&MGF and USAID), and European, national, or local grants. These exposed me to research and education in widely different and fast-evolving contexts and needs. As Vice President of the ISPP I will foster activities focusing on: food security and safety; other ecosystem services, which have been ignored for too long; and thus greater connections of plant pathology with other disciplines, from social to ecological sciences. While contributing to achieving food security and safety remains a primary goal of plant pathology, I believe that such expansions will renew approaches in our field, attract young professionals, and increase our impacts. Such a broader context will increase the scientific scope of plant pathology and enhance inputs to societies' needs.



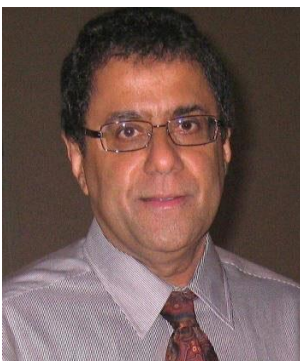
Professor Brenda Wingfield

Secretary General

I have worked in the plant pathology environment and been a member of the Southern African Society of Plant Pathology for 25 years, attending most of their meetings during this period. In my research, I have been deeply involved in developing tools to study evolutionary relationships among tree pests and pathogens and the population genetics of these organisms. A core focus has been on taxonomic and systematics questions and these have provided foundations for development of molecular tools for diagnostics. These tools have provided our research programmes with new technology to determine the causal agents of important plant diseases. I have pioneered the

use of the new DNA sequencing technologies to study the genomes of a number of important tree pathogens.

My research group was responsible for sequencing the first fungal genome on the African Continent. I have been involved in advising a large number of post graduate students, many of whom have become internationally recognized scientists (plant pathologists) in their own rights. I have received various awards including the Department of Science and Technology of South Africa Distinguished Women in Science Award in 2008, and in 2009 and I was the winner of the African Union Regional Awards for Women in Science (Southern Region). I have been a full professor and senior member of the staff of the Department of Genetics at the University of Pretoria since 1998. For the past four years, I have served as the Deputy Dean (Research) in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. I have been active in promoting the interests of women in Science, both in student supervision and mentorship of young academics. I have been Chairman of the National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) South Africa for 8 years. I am a fellow of the Royal Society of South Africa and the Academy of Sciences of South Africa, where I am also a Council member. I accepted nomination as Secretary General of the ISPP because I believe I can make a difference to the Society and thus to my field of primary interest. I am passionate about building Plant Pathology and am particularly keen to raise the profile of the Developing World and Africa in the ISPP. I have attended ISPP meetings regularly and have a substantial community of plant pathology colleagues globally who I believe would add to my capacity to serve the ISPP.



Professor Zamir Punja

- Treasurer

My current position is Professor and Burnaby Mountain Endowed Chair (2005-2015), Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada. I joined SFU in 1989 as an Associate Professor and assumed the

position of Director, Centre for Pest Management in 1992, a position I held for 10 years. I am currently a Full Professor and also a Faculty of Science Teaching Fellow.

Academic background: BSc from the University of B.C., MSc and PhD from the University of California, Davis, in 1981. Post-doctoral fellow at North Carolina State University. I joined Campbell Soup Company and spent 7 years as a research scientist and Manager, Biotechnology, in Davis, California and New Jersey, before joining SFU.

Research interests: Soilborne fungal pathogens, biological control of vegetable diseases, plant biotechnology and genetic engineering for disease resistance, epidemiology and molecular detection of fungal pathogens.

Contributions to the plant pathology profession:

Editor-in-Chief, Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology (2002-present). The journal has undergone significant changes over the past 5 years, with increased visibility, on-line publishing and enhanced impact factor and financial stability. President of the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) and member of the Board (1997-2001). Currently ex-officio member of the CPS Executive Board.

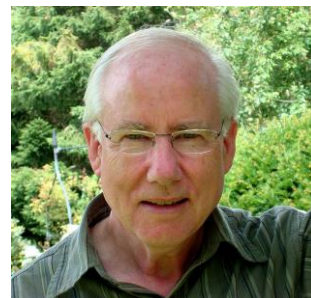
Past and proposed role in ISPP:

I have served as Councillor for ISPP as the representative from CPS from 2008-2013.

My experience with CPS and its journal has provided me with a breadth of experience in management skills, financial responsibilities and accountability for its members, and has provided me with a broad exposure to issues relevant to plant pathology internationally. The position of Treasurer of ISPP requires knowledge of fiscal accountability and management which I believe I possess. Involvement with an international society such as ISPP would enhance the visibility of plant pathology and its outreach, a mandate I clearly support and will contribute to as Treasurer and member of the Executive Committee.

Chronological History Summary of the ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security from 1998 to date

Summary by Peter Scott June 2013: *“The Task Force was formed in 1999 in response to a call to ISPP from Norman Borlaug, who spoke at ICPP 1998 and challenged us to DO something as plant pathologists towards the enormous problem of global food security. In response to this challenge, the President of ISPP invited an international group of plant pathologists to be Members of a Task Force on Global Food Security, and to participate in a first meeting, in Bangkok in 1999, at which an action plan would be developed. The record of the meeting is at: http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_tf_meeting_1.asp and http://www.isppweb.org/Society_Reports/rept0099.doc*



Dr. Peter R. Scott

The foundation of the Task Force and the establishment of its five Activities are summarized under the ICPP 1998 Congress, at which ISPP was challenged to take action towards global food security. Membership of the Task Force has been flexible and is open to anyone. It is detailed at: http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_tf.asp

The Task Force, with its global membership, meets mainly by email. It has had actual meetings on four occasions. From limited resources it has delivered a programme of activities: http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_background.asp including: Project 2007: Changing public policy and opinions on global food security in Southern Africa. The launch of ISPP's journal, *Food Security, The Science, Sociology and Economics of Food Production and Access to Food*

Congress sessions on food security have been held at the ICPPs in Christchurch, Torino and Beijing.

Chronology of ISPP Task Force on Global Food Security activities:

1999

A first Workshop meeting in Bangkok, September 1999, at which the priorities and Activities of the Task Force were established. See the Report at http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_tf_meeting_1.asp

2000

A meeting in August 2000 in conjunction with the First Asian Conference on Plant Pathology (ACPP 2000) at Beijing, China, including a Media Workshop on Biotechnology for journalists from India, Malaysia, and China. At the Conference, a statement prepared by ISPP scientists endorsing agricultural biotechnology was circulated to participants, many of whom signed it. See: http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins1023.asp - act1.1.

2001

At the Asian Agricultural Congress, Manila, April 2001, a paper was presented entitled "Biotechnology in food security and environmental protection: The initiatives of the International Society for Plant Pathology and China's priorities."

2002

A submission was made to the June 2002 'World Food Summit - 5 years later', at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, emphasizing the impact of plant disease. ISPP collaborated with the Entomological Society of America in a presentation, a web forum and a student debate on biosafety issues in November 2002. See:

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins1023.asp - act1.3.

2003

In support of changing public policy and opinions on global food security, the Task Force initiated a competitive **Challenge Programme**. Linked to the 8th ICPP 2003 in Christchurch, a competitive call was issued for project proposals to enable plant pathology to contribute to the challenge of global food security. ISPP allocated \$50,000 over 3 years - a major commitment for the Society. The successful project was from the Crops Research Institute, Kumasi, Ghana, led by plant pathologist Emmanuel Moses. The purpose of the project was to develop, within 3 years, appropriate strategies to control cassava diseases in Ghana, with an emphasis on training farmers to understand that disease limits their production, and then to recognize and manage the diseases that affected their crops. The project has also delivered an illustrated booklet, Guide to Identification and Control of Cassava Diseases (Moses et al. 2007), with descriptions of all the major diseases of cassava that reduce yield in most parts of Sub-Saharan Africa. ISPP is proud to see these results of its Challenge Programme initiative, and is delighted that Emmanuel Moses could share them at the 2008 Congress.

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_congresschallengeexecsummary.asp

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_congresschallengeghana.asp

At ICPP 2003, as a sequel to the public discussion meeting held at ICPP 1998, a Public Forum on Global Food Security was addressed by five speakers who "are recognized leaders in nutritional security and plant pathology. They presented information and challenges highlighting the pressing problems facing the world. They also addressed the part that must be played by science in general, and plant pathology in particular, to help humanity cope with the unprecedented requirement for increased food production to support the burgeoning human population."

2004

A questionnaire study of postgraduate training for plant pathology in developing countries was conducted by Dr. Richard Strange. It confirmed that declining funds in developed countries underlie the declining availability of training - especially for students from developing countries. It was suggested that a condition of an award should be that a student from developing countries should work in his or her home country for at least 3 years after training in a developed country.

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_phdtraining.asp.

2005

The Task force identified recognition of the impact of disease as a key element in official and public understanding of why plant disease matters. As a contribution to this, the Task Force supported a review in *Annual Review of Phytopathology* of 'Plant disease: a threat to global food security' (Strange and Scott 2005: http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins1023.asp - act1.5). It was concluded that catastrophic plant diseases significantly exacerbate the current deficit of food supply. At the political level the need is for plant diseases to be acknowledged as a threat to food supplies and, in consequence, that there is a need for adequate resources to be devoted to their control.

2007

A call for a new **Challenge Programme** award was made in 2007, for a project with a specific focus on raising the profile of plant disease. From 15 proposals, one entitled “Changing Public Perceptions and Opinions on Global Food Security” from Professor Lise Korsten of the University of Pretoria was selected. Its aims included: “To establish a Food Security Information Hub to build capacity in Africa in Plant Pathology and to create public private sector awareness of the importance of plant diseases in food security. To develop marketing material such as brochures, videos etc., for the public awareness programme. To purchase a second hand truck and convert it into a Plant Pathology Science Information and Demonstrative Laboratory vehicle that can travel between schools and science festivals in South Africa to create public awareness and inform the public of food security issues.” (http://www.isppweb.org/about_challenge_project_2007_result.asp).

Journal of Food Security: After receiving the support of the Executive Committee in September 2007, Richard Strange and Peter Scott, as members of the Task Force, progressed the project to develop a new journal, on behalf of the Advisory Board of 15 distinguished people. http://www.isppweb.org/about_fs_flyer.asp - 7.

Of six approaches to publishers made by Gurdev Khush on behalf of the Advisory Board, the one most positively received was to Springer. Negotiations led to a Publishing Agreement between ISPP and Springer, signed in 2008, with these key elements:

A new quarterly journal, *Food Security: The Science, Sociology and Economics of Food Production and Access to Food*, is to be launched in the first quarter of 2009, in print and online.

- It is jointly owned in equal shares by ISPP and Springer. Springer is responsible for publishing, and bears all the costs; ISPP is responsible for content and editorial matters. It will be presented as an official journal of ISPP.

Readers in developing countries can access it through Springer Developing Countries Initiatives such as AGORA, HINARI and OARE.

- The Agreement is for 15 years. It can be extended or cancelled at a year's notice.

In its **editorial policy**, the journal seeks to address the constraints - physical, biological and socio-economic - which not only limit food production but also the ability of people to access a healthy diet. These come under the following headings:

- Global food needs
- Global food potential
- Biotic constraints to satisfying global food needs
- Nutrition, food quality and food safety
- Socio-political constraints to satisfying global food needs

The journal will consist principally of original refereed papers, taking a synthetic view of the science, sociology and economics of food production, agricultural development, access to food and nutrition. Other articles will be reviews, case studies and letters to the editor. The journal will cover the principles and practice of food security *per se*, taking an overview of the subject or analyzing it with a broad perspective over its many component disciplines, but avoiding duplicating the coverage of these disciplines provided by the sharper focus of other publications. It will include plant pathology, in a context extending far beyond it. http://www.isppweb.org/about_fs_flyer.asp.

2008

Preparations for the launch of *Food Security* were made by Richard Strange, appointed Editor-in-Chief by ISPP, and Peter Scott as Chairman of the Task Force, in collaboration with Springer. Through the Advisory Board, Nobel Peace Laureate Norman Borlaug prepared a contribution for the

first issue, commending the journal and the part played by plant pathologists in developing it:
http://www.isppweb.org/about_borlaug_statement.asp.

A **Public Discussion Forum** was organized at ICPP 2008 in Torino, on Plant Pathology and Global Food Security, starting from these facts:

- More than 800 million people do not have adequate food
- 1.3 billion live on less than \$1 a day
- At least 10% of global food production is lost to plant disease

Plant pathologists cannot ignore the juxtaposition of these figures.

The Forum consisted of presentations by five speakers followed by open discussion. The important question to be addressed was: what more can ISPP realistically do to make some contribution to reaching the World Food Conference's ambitious goal of 1974: 'Every man, woman and child has the inalienable right to be free from hunger and malnutrition?'

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins_torino.asp

2011

The Task Force met in Darwin, NT Australia on April 27 in conjunction with the Asian Association of Societies for Plant Pathology and the Australasian Plant Pathology Society. Like previous meetings this meeting was open to all. About 20 people attended. Julie Nicol recommended that the Task Force collaborate with the CGIAR System wide Program on Integrated Pest Management (SP-IPM: <http://www.spipm.cgiar.org> because it could contribute to the needs to make policy makers more aware of the challenge of food security, including the impact of plant disease. Tom Evans said that food security has far too low a profile and more efforts should be made to put it higher on the public agenda.

Richard Strange (Editor-in-Chief) discussed the *Food Security Journal* stating that 104 articles have been published in 10 issues. There are 1340 pages available on the web. He also commented on Enhanced PhD training for plant pathology in developing countries noting his survey show that funding is limiting and there is a need to require that students return to their country after training.

The Economic impact of some major diseases is a subject for action. Wafa El Khoury said that more support for training in estimating losses should be given by CGIAR Centres and pathologists are not networking sufficiently and being reactive rather than proactive. Quantitative data are needed to convince policymakers and the public to invest in solving crop production/disease problems. Specific targets could be development assistance agencies such as Syngenta Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Under the management of Peter Williamson, business manager, the ISPP website was developed rapidly and has become the face of ISPP. The website has a huge potential to present to the public information about the science of plant pathology and the activities of ISPP. www.isppweb.org

Following the practice initiated at ICPP 1998 and continued at ICPP 2003, ICPP 2008 and scheduled for ICPP 2013, the Task Force assisted in the development of sessions on Food Security.

http://www.isppweb.org/foodsecurity_mins_darwin.asp

2013

Peter Scott recently said it's time for a change: "*I have greatly valued the opportunity to be involved in initiatives in the Task Force over 14 years. Needs are changing and I believe it is timely for a new*

Chair to re-examine the purpose and programme of the Task Force, while probably including some of the approaches established at the inaugural meeting of the Task Force in 1999.”
The Task Force will meet in Beijing during the 10th Congress.

NOT THE END

This History of ISPP is not complete and perhaps contains errors.

CALL FOR EDITS

Please send your corrections and additions to ISPP Historian Charlie Delp:
charliedelp@verizon.net