



ISPP

International Society for Plant Pathology

(Dr Greg Johnson, President 2013-2018)

Report to ISPP from an Associated Society for 2013-2018.

Return the completed report by email to Greg Johnson, ISPP President, (greg4d@gmail.com) with copy to Brenda Wingfield, Secretary General (brenda.wingfield@fab.up.ac.za) by 1 June 2018

Name of Society: (English and National/regional language) British Society for Plant Pathology

Year Established: 1981

Web address for Society: www.bspp.org.uk

Name (s) of personnel preparing report (Name, position, email) : Dr Sarah Holdgate. Secretary, secretary@bspp.org.uk

Nominated Officers. Is the list for your society on the ISPP website correct? (<http://www.isppweb.org/societies.asp>) No. ISPP Councillors for 2018 should be Prof Murray Grant, Prof Dawn Arnold and Prof Nicola Spence. **Lesley Torrance and Richard Cooper should be removed** as they are no longer serving the Society as ISPP Councillors. Details were forwarded in emails earlier this year.

(If Yes, there is no need to list them here. If listing is not correct, please list here President, Secretary, Treasurer, Business Manager/Office and ISPP councillors (address, telephone and email contacts).

Will a Society member be making corrections to the ISPP entry for your society on-line?

No, we assume that you will.

Society Contact: Dr Sarah Holdgate

Email secretary@bspp.org.uk

Society membership : 648 members in 2015; 662 members in 2016; 642 members in 2017

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Society activities and publications: Detailed up-to-date information on the British Society for Plant Pathology is available on its website at www.bspp.org.uk including information on forthcoming meetings, conferences and workshops, information on Society membership, information on the Society's Travel Fund, Bursary Fund and Fellowship Schemes, services for members, and any recent reports commissioned by the Society.

The British Society for Plant Pathology provides six main strands of support for the science. (1) We publish New Disease Reports and the journals Plant Pathology and Molecular Plant Pathology in conjunction with Wiley. The latter are well established, leading journals which provide the Society an income stream through profit-sharing arrangements with the publishers. We use this income for the following additional activities. (2) We provide generous financial and mentoring support for training. This includes, (i) summer studentships in research labs for undergraduate and MSc students, (ii) grants to support PhD students or (iii) established scientists to visit other labs for specific training or research purposes. (3) We partially support travel by members to conferences and other laboratories for scientific purposes. (4) We engage in numerous outreach activities and educational activities ranging from public events, specialist practical workshops, engagement in school curriculum development through to lobbying for stable government support for plant pathology and allied specialisms (5) The

Society additionally supports a range of conferences and meetings on specific topics of scientific or general interest relevant to the interests of its members, including occasional meetings of regional plant pathology groups and other networking events.

The journals of the British Society for Plant Pathology: Molecular Plant Pathology, Plant Pathology and New Disease Reports are highly respected and designed to address specific niche areas, the former being the highest impact specialist journal in the field of plant pathology. All BSPP journals have an informed specialist and rigorous refereeing process, and are designed to facilitate efficient content browsing. We work closely with our publisher Wileys to maintain our quality and ensure robust strategies to address both Open Access and the increasing number of start-ups this has spawned in the field. Prizes are awarded each year for the best ‘‘student’’ papers published in Plant Pathology and Molecular Plant Pathology. A Society Newsletter, containing information on members and their activities, is issued free to members each quarter.

The Society holds an annual Presidential meeting at which papers on a topical plant pathology theme are presented. The meeting includes competitions for the P H Gregory prize for the best presentation by a post graduate speaker and the John Colhoun prize for the best poster. The Society aims to attract high numbers of student and post graduate members to its meetings and special registration arrangements are usually in place for younger members. Members of the Society frequently contribute to meetings, workshops and exhibitions organised by other learned Societies, including events aimed at the general public, and in this way promote plant pathology and the Society’s activities.

We support member travel to the tune of ~£40k per year, and award ~£60k for fellowships and studentships and between £10-20k for conferences annually. Recent changes to the UK school’s curriculum has enabled us to provide materials and resources for use in Secondary schools across the Country and have been developed by a paid Outreach Officer with oversight from the Board.

The British Society for Plant Pathology is a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered UK Charity and annual returns of its business activities are made each year to both Companies House and the UK Charity Commissioners. A high proportion of the Society’s annual income is used in support of its services to members as articulated in our Articles of Association. The British Society for Plant Pathology is managed by a Board which meets quarterly to plan for the Presidential Meeting, to oversee awards for Travel grants, Bursaries and Fellowships, to agree the policy for the Society’s publications, to agree the annual budget and, generally, to manage the Society’s affairs. The Board also discusses and develops new ideas and initiatives to promote plant pathology and support plant pathologists. The Board of the Society comprises a President, who chairs its quarterly meetings, a President Elect, a Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Programme Secretary, Membership Secretary, and up to six members elected by the membership. The Senior Editors of the Society’s publications, Plant Pathology, Molecular Plant Pathology, New Disease Reports and the Newsletter, together with the Society’s Web Manager usually attend Board meetings to report on progress.

Internationally, we wish to develop purposeful links as widely as we can, though as a small society we have moderate capacity to do so. We work as part of the European Federation of Plant Pathologists and we have growing bi-lateral links with equivalent Societies in the USA, Canada and South Africa, including the exchange of speakers at conferences and the establishment of the Grace Waterhouse Fellowship Scheme.