

Report to ISPP from an Associated Society for 2009-2013

Name of Society:

The Canadian Phytopathological Society / La Société Canadienne de Phytopathologie
Established: 1929

Web address for Society:

<http://phytopath.ca/>

Name(s) of personnel preparing report.

Fouad Daayf, Past President, CPS-SCP

Nominated Officers. Is the list for your society on the ISPP website correct?
(<http://www.isppweb.org/societies.asp>) /

| <u>Year</u> | <u>President</u> | <u>Secretary</u> | <u>Treasurer</u> |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2008-09 | M.E. Leggett | A. Hopkin | S. Hambleton |
| 2009-10 | R. Belanger | A. Hopkin | S. Hambleton |
| 2010-11 | J. Gilbert | A. Hopkin | S. Hambleton |
| 2011-12 | M.R. McDonald | A. Hopkin | S. Hambleton |
| 2012-13 | F. Daayf | A. Hopkin | K. Conn |
| 2013-14 | J. Elmhirst | G. Jespersen | K. Conn |

ISPP councillor; Dr. Zamir Punja, Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5A 1S6, Canada, Tel: (778) 782-4471, Email: punja@sfu.ca

ISPP councillor; Coreen Franke, Manager, Pathology Research, Viterra R&D, 201-407 Downey Road, Saskatoon, SK S7N 4L8, email: Coreen.Franke@viterra.com

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

Society Contact:

Dr. Zamir Punja, Biological Sciences, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, British Columbia, V5A 1S6, Canada, Tel: (778) 782-4471, Email: punja@sfu.ca

Society membership:

2009: Total: 406 (282 regular, 66 emeritus, 42 student, 16 sustaining associates)
2010: Total: 354 (251 regular, 53 emeritus, 34 student, 16 sustaining associates)
2011: Total: 340 (244 regular, 59 emeritus, 21 student, 16 sustaining associates)
2012: Total: 336 (234 regular, 53 emeritus, 31 student, 18 sustaining associates)
2013: Total: 359 (245 regular, 62 emeritus, 33 student, 19 sustaining associates)

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Society Activities and publications

The society publishes the Canadian Journal of Plant Pathology/Revue Canadienne de Phytopathologie and the annual Canadian Plant Disease Survey and hosts Pest Management Research Reports/ Rapport de recherches sur la lutte dirigée, published annually by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, on its website. The society has published the following books: Diseases of Field Crops in Canada/Maladies des Grandes Cultures au Canada, History of Plant Pathology in Canada 1970-2008 and, in conjunction with the Entomological Society of Canada, Diseases and Pests of Vegetable Crops in Canada/Maladies et Ravageurs des Cultures Légumières au Canada. The society also publishes CPS News, a quarterly newsletter which is available on the website. Other related information is available on the website: <http://phytopath.ca/>

Society Conferences and Workshops

The CPS/SCP holds a scientific conference every year in conjunction with its annual general meeting. In the last 5 years, the meetings have been held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 2009; Vancouver, British Columbia, in conjunction with the Pacific Division of the American Phytopathological Society in 2010; Halifax, Nova Scotia in conjunction with Plant Canada in 2011; Niagara Falls, Ontario, in conjunction with the International Plum Pox Virus (PPV) Working Group in 2012; and Edmonton, Alberta in 2013. Future meetings will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, in conjunction with the American Phytopathological Society from Aug. 9th to Aug. 13th, 2014, and in Edmonton, Alberta, in conjunction with Plant Canada and the Botanical Society of America, tentatively scheduled from July 24th to July 30th, 2015. Workshops and/or symposia are associated with each annual meeting and are organized by the local organizing committee. In addition, there are 6 regional chapters of the CPS (Maritimes, Ontario East, Ontario Southwest, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and British Columbia) which hold regional annual meetings on different dates from the national society's meeting. There are two other societies in Canada which have interest in plant pathology: the Quebec Society for Plant Protection and the Plant Pathology Society of Alberta, and they have annual general meetings as well.

Other Plant Pathology Conferences in Region

In addition to the annual and regional meetings of the CPS and provincial societies, several other conferences are held in Canada every year that address plant pathological issues in their programs, at least in part. These meetings are not directly organized or funded by the CPS, although members of the CPS are often involved. These are run by other societies including the Agronomy Institute of Canada, the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists, the Canadian Botanical Association and others. Many international conferences are also held in Canada which do not directly involve the CPS, such as the annual Canadian Workshop on Fusarium Head Blight and the annual Plum Pox Virus (PPV) workshop. Many members of the CPS also participate in regional and national meetings of the American Phytopathological Society (APS).

Plant Pathology in Region

Plant pathology continues to play an important role in the economy of the Canadian agricultural sector, although our society faces a number of challenges.

Education in plant pathology remains an issue. There is a concern that, in many Canadian universities, botany, plant science or agriculture-related departments no longer have a critical level of expertise to teach plant pathology courses that are relevant to the wide array of phytopathological challenges facing Canadian crops. It has been increasingly difficult to retain designated “plant pathology” positions in both academia and government. As Dr. Menzies mentioned in the previous report, five years ago, colleagues in other specialties such as plant breeding, agronomy, forestry, genomics, proteomics, and other biotechnology-related fields may be working on plant pathology issues, but do not see themselves as plant pathologists. This relates to the problem of plant pathologists’ scientific identity and the fate of plant pathology as a scientific discipline.

During the last decade, provincial and federal governments in Canada have cut their budgets allocated to research in general and to agricultural research in particular. This has negatively impacted research activities in agriculture in general and plant pathology in particular. Another challenge, for Canadian plant pathologists and plant breeders doing disease resistance trials in fields and greenhouses, is compliance with Environment Canada’s regulations relating to the production and application of plant pathogen inoculum. Consultations among government, the CPS and industry are ongoing to adapt the regulations to make them more practical for researchers while addressing the needs and concerns of the public.

In spite of these difficulties, plant pathology in Canada remains a dynamic force, as evidenced by the active role that plant pathologists play in many scientific societies and boards in Canada and world-wide, the many conferences they host in Canada and participate in, each year inside and outside the country, and their successes in control of several diseases. Many Canadian plant pathologists are currently working on very important diseases such as clubroot of canola, FHB of wheat and barley, rust of wheat, diseases of pulse crops, and several other serious horticultural and forest pathology issues. For example, the Government of Canada funded two large plant pathology projects from 2008 to 2013 as part of the Growing Forward - Animal and Plant Health Research Initiative. According to Dr. C. McCartney, the “Developing Canadian Wheat Resistant to Ug99 Stem Rust” project was the first major re-investment in wheat stem rust research in decades, particularly in the area of genetics of host-pathogen interactions. The project characterized and mapped the Ug99 stem rust resistance in the Canadian spring wheat varieties AC Cadillac and Peace. Wheat breeding was a major component of the project and led to the development of multiple wheat varieties with Ug99 stem rust resistance. The second project was entitled “An Integrated Strategy for Sustainable Management of Clubroot on Canola” to tackle clubroot disease, which recently became a problem on canola in western Canada. Dr. Gary Peng, who was involved in this project, indicates that the goal was to better understand the distribution of the pathogen, identify useful sources of resistance, and determine the efficacy of chemical, biological and agronomic controls for this disease of canola. This is the largest investment in the history of clubroot research. The project has generated much new information on the biology of the pathogen. This research identified a clubroot-resistant genotype of canola and agronomic practices which were recommended, in use with resistant cultivars, which will help mitigate the effect of clubroot disease on canola production in Canada.