

ISPP Newsletter 39 (2) February 2009

Material for the Newsletter is invited from individual members of ISPP, Associated Societies, Council members, Chairs of all Committees and representatives of Affiliated Societies and Supporting Organisations.

Editor: Brian J Deverall, ([E-mail](#))

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The Forthcoming "Food Security" Journal

Publication of the first issue of "Food Security" is now imminent, as an initiative of ISPP and its Task Force, leading to the joint venture between ISPP and Springer.

Twelve papers for the first issue can be accessed through SpringerLink.

See: <http://www.springer.com/life+sci/agriculture/journal/12571> and click on "Online Version". Dr Norman Borlaug's "Foreword" is one of those available, as is also an Editorial entitled "In this issue" by Richard Strange and Peter Scott, summarising the content.

The complete first issue of "Food Security", and selected items from future issues, will be available free online. ISPP Members and Members of ISPP Associated Societies can subscribe to the journal for €30 per annum.

See: http://www.isppweb.org/about_fs_flyer.asp.

ISPP Subject Matter Committees

At the ISPP Executive and Council meetings at ICPP2008 in Turin, there was action on recommendations from then Vice-President Wenhua Tang about ISPP Subject Matter Committees (SMCs). A key move was to give a member of the ISPP Executive the role of liaising with and helping to develop the SMCs.

The ISPP SMCs are listed with links to more information about each one of them at http://www.isppweb.org/about_subject.asp.

New Vice-President Wafa Khoury took on the responsibility to co-ordinate and promote the Subject Matter Committees (SMCs) and thus further their aim of enhancing interaction between plant pathologists all over the world. As a first step, she has written to all SMCs

through their Chairs or members likely to be close to their leadership. The content of the letter is linked from <http://www.isppweb.org/> .

She has had immediate responses from some of the Chairs about activities and changes, and these are reported as separate items in this Newsletter.

Professor Tang continues to assist and advise in this work.

The 17th Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference

Apps 2009

The 17th Australasian Plant Pathology Society Conference in 2009 marks the 40th anniversary of the Society. The conference offers participants an opportunity to reflect on the achievements in a time of unprecedented scientific discovery about the nature of plant disease. It is also a time to explore the future directions of our profession amidst the challenges posed by emerging diseases, food security, climate change, water, trade, bioterrorism, consumer safety and preferences, and the opportunities presented to agriculture and horticulture by biofuels, phytomedicines and leisure activities.

The conference theme "Plant Health Management: an integrated approach" addresses these challenges from three angles - fundamental discovery, the application of these discoveries to practical problems and the adoption of research. Keynote speakers will lead plenary sessions focused on each theme, with concurrent sessions based around offered papers and posters, with a supporting program of special interest workshops and field trips.

The conference will be held from 29 September-1 October 2009 in the Civic Centre of Newcastle, a bustling, historic, post-industrial seaside city 150 km north of Sydney. Newcastle boasts easy access from all major cities, a range of accommodation, exciting cultural activities, superb beaches, and other nearby attractions including the Hunter Valley, Barrington Tops National Park and more superb coastal scenery.

For more information please visit www.apps2009.org.au and register your interest. We look forward to meeting you in Newcastle, NSW, Australia.

"Latest Information on Plant Diseases" from ProMED-Plant

The moderator Dr Dagmar Hanold of ProMED-Plant advises that plant diseases have recently been given a separate box on the Pro-MED main web page. The box is headed "Latest Information on Plant Diseases" and it lists only the plant posts. This has vastly improved ease of access to PRO/PL posts without having to mount an archive search and has been received very favourably. It also makes it easier for potential new plant subscribers to assess whether these reports meet their needs. See the main web page: <http://www.promedmail.org> .

Dagmar would like to encourage ISPP members to check this out and to consider subscribing to the plant list (subscription is free). In 2008, a total number of 218 plant reports was posted

including 10 reports of new pathogens or diseases, 41 first country reports of known pathogens, and 15 reports of diseases due to undiagnosed pathogens. There is also an extensive searchable archive for tracking particular pathogens or crops.

She would also like ISPP members to be aware that personal observations of disease outbreaks and other contributions are always most gratefully received.

An introduction to the ProMED-Plant and to Dagmar is in a Newsletter at: <http://www.isppweb.org/nljun07.asp> . Her contact details are: Dr Dagmar Hanold, Plant Virology & Plant Moderator ProMED-mail, School of Agriculture, Food and Wine, The University of Adelaide, Waite Campus, Glen Osmond SA 5064, Australia. Tel: +61-8-8303-7307; Fax: +61-8-8303-7109. E-mail: dagmar.hanold@adelaide.edu.au .

Contribute Ideas to a Brief History of ISPP

The history of ISPP is being prepared for inclusion on the ISPP Web Pages. If you have information, stories, highlights or references please send them to Charlie Delp at charliedelp@verizon.net .

Rhizoctonia Subject Matter Committee

The new Chair of the ISPP Rhizoctonia Subject Matter Committee is Professor Suha Jabaji, Plant Science Department, Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, McGill University, 21,111 Lakeshore Road, Ste-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec, Canada. suha.jabaji@mcgill.ca .

Suha replaces Professor Stephen Neate, North Dakota State University, Fargo, ND, USA. stephen.neate@ndsu.edu .

Plant Virus Epidemiology Committee

The Chair of the ISPP Plant Virus Epidemiology Committee, Professor Alberto Fereres, reported to ISPP Vice-President Wafa Khoury, about several important recent and current activities:

1. Creation of a web-site at: <http://www.isppweb.org/ICPVE/> .
2. Production of a special issue on Virus Epidemiology to be published in the Elsevier Journal "Virus Research" in about March 2009.
3. Planning and early organization of the XIth International Plant Virus Epidemiology Symposium at Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA, on 20-24 June 2010.

Professor Fereres's address is Director del Instituto de Ciencias Agrarias (ICA), CSIC, C/Serrano 115 dpdo, 28002 Madrid, Spain. afereres@ccma.csic.es .

Report on Phytophthora, Pythium and related genera workshop

The 3rd International Phytophthora, Pythium and related genera workshop was presented in association with ICPP2008 in Turin, Italy, from 23-24 August 2008. It was subtitled

"Integration of Traditional and Modern Approaches for Investigating the Taxonomy and Evolution of the Oomycetes".

Dr Z Gloria Abad provided information for this item. Her address is: Lead Scientist, Molecular Biologist/Plant Pathologist, Molecular Diagnostics Lab (MDL), Plant Safeguarding and Pest Identification (PSPi), National Identification Services (NIS), USDA-APHIS, BLDG 580, BARC-E, Powder Mill Road, Beltsville, MD 20705. USA. Gloria.Abad@aphis.usda.gov .

Ninety four scientists from 28 countries participated in the event which was organized by Gloria Abad (as above) and Jennifer Phillips from Zarb Consulting, Raleigh, North Carolina, USA, with Chiara Demaria and Valentina Parenti of Valentina Communications as local organizers. Collaborators for running the workshop were Tammy Kolt and Eileen Joseph and Rajya Shukla, John Rascoe, Selena Rice and Robin Wilcox from two sections of USDA, APHIS, Plant Safeguarding and Pest Identification, Beltsville, MD, USA. There was also an international Scientific Committee.

Gloria Abad chaired the workshop with Frank Martin of USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Salinas, CA, USA, and David Cooke, Scottish Crop Research Institute, Dundee, UK, as co-chairs.

The workshop received 32 oral presentations and 40 posters in seven sessions that covered Systematics and phylogenetics; Evolution and population genetics; Nomenclature of present taxa and putative new species; Morphological and molecular taxonomic methods; Ecology, biogeography, and epidemiology; Advances in systems for identification and diagnostics; Integrating morphological and molecular tools for a unified phylogeny and classification. There was also a special session discussing presentations, posters and relevant topics on Oomycetes.

Keynote speakers were: Gloria Abad; Clive Brasier, Forest Research Agency, Alice Holt Lodge, Farnham, Surrey, UK; Arthur de Cock, Centraalbureau voor Schimmelcultures, Utrecht, NETHERLANDS; Michael Coffey, World Phytophthora Collection, University of California, Riverside, CA, USA; David Cooke (as above); Seogchan Kang, Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania, PA, USA; Andre Levesque, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Ottawa, CANADA; Frank Martin (as above); Paul Tooley, USDA, Agricultural Research Service, Fort Detrick, MD, USA; Hermann Voglmayr, University of Vienna, Rennweg, Wien, AUSTRIA.

Participants showed their excitement in receiving contributions from colleagues bringing great experience gained from a vast amount of research. The combination of participating in the workshop and the ICPP2008, and the enjoyment of the tourist activities, made the experiences in Turin, Italy, truly memorable for all involved

The next workshops are being planned for 2010 in the USA, and for 2013 in Beijing, China, in association with the 10th International Congress of Plant Pathology.

From the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP)

The SASPP web-site highlights a report by Professor Teresa Coutinho of the University of Pretoria on work which has achieved the first genome sequence of a plant pathogen in Africa.

This work is joint with Professor Fanus Venter of the same University and is in collaboration with the Scottish Crops Research Institute, UK. See: <http://saspp.org/content/view/123/1/> .

The research is on *Pantoea ananatis*, the causal agent of bacterial blight and die-back of young eucalypts in South Africa. It has also been found to cause a stalk disease of maize locally and a variety of other symptoms on onions, melons, pineapple, rice and sudan grass elsewhere in the world. There are also reports of it causing human infections. Little is known about its ecology and biology as causes of these diseases. On eucalypts, it is a common epiphyte on leaves, and high relative humidity and warm temperatures favour disease development.

It was decided to investigate the genome of the bacterium in order to help in understanding its ecology, biology and pathology. The genome of a virulent strain of *P. ananatis* from eucalypts was then sequenced. The genome is 4.7 megabases in size. It was put through a computer system which annotated known genes. The sequences were compared to those of genomes of other bacteria in the same family. A number of pathogenicity factors were identified and their function is being investigated. There are several unique elements in the genome of the strain of *P. ananatis* and these may provide more understanding of how the bacterium functions as a pathogen of both plants and humans.

Professor Coutinho's address is: Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology, Forestry and Agricultural Biotechnology Institute (FABI), University of Pretoria, South Africa.

Forest Education Opportunities

The World Forestry Center (WFC) is a non-profit forestry education organization based in Portland, Oregon, USA. See: <http://www.worldforestry.org/> .

WFC announces professional development opportunities in the USA for educators and natural resource professionals. The web-site gives information about partial fellowship awards and needs for some self-funding.

Some award schemes had closing dates in February 2009 but the WFI International Fellowship Program accepts applications year-round. The WFI Fellowship, with a term of 6-12 months, brings professionals in natural resources to conduct a practical research project at the World Forestry Center. In addition to projects, Fellows participate in weekly field trips, interviews and site visits to forestry organizations in north-western USA, research labs, universities, public and private timberlands, trade associations, mills and corporations. The Fellowship is a unique opportunity to learn about sustainable forestry from the Pacific Northwest forestry sector, and to work with colleagues from around the world. Fellowships are open to any country, and there is a matching grant from the Harry A Merlo Foundation. Over 70 Fellows from 23 countries have participated to date. Applications are accepted year-round. See: <http://wfi.worldforestry.org/fellowship-1.htm> .

A Stink Bug and Cotton Disease

According to an alert in the 23 January issue of CropBiotech, the USA Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) have solved the mystery of a disease that can destroy up to 15 percent of a cotton crop in the south-eastern United States. Ten years

ago, scientists reported an emerging seed rot disease that was discolouring seeds and darkening fibres in cotton bolls in the south-eastern states, making the crops unmarketable.

Gino Medrano and colleagues from the ARS Cotton Pathology Research Unit discovered that this disease is caused by bacteria transmitted by the southern green stink bug (*Nezara viridula*). The stink bug's bite creates a pathway for the bacteria to enter the boll and damage it. By infecting bolls at various stages, they found damage levels depending on when infections occurred in the fruiting cycle and on how long infection spreads before harvest. Bolls infected three weeks after flowering are resistant and undamaged. Younger bolls remain susceptible. See: <http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/pr/2009/090121.htm> .

CropBiotech Net web pages are at <http://www.isaaa.org/kc> .

Coming Events

International Forest Biosecurity Conference, incorporating the 6th International Forest Vegetation Management Conference, in Rotorua, New Zealand. 16-20 March 2009. See: <http://forestbiosecurity.com/> . Contact: Dr Brian Richardson, General Manager, Ensis Forest Biosecurity and Protection, Private Bag 3020, Rotorua, New Zealand. Phone: +64-7-343-5516; Fax: +64-7-343-5333; Mobile: 021-913-221.

Borlaug Global Rust Initiative (BGRI) 2009 Technical Workshop in Sonora, Mexico. 17-19 March 2009. Note that there will be a registration fee of \$US300. Contact: BGRI@cornell.edu .

FEBS Workshop 'Adaptation Potential in Plants' at the Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology, Vienna, Austria. 19-21 March 2009. Contact: maria.siomos@gmi.oeaw.ac.at . See: www.gmi.oeaw.ac.at/febs2009 .

7th World Potato Congress "Nourishing Our Future" in Christchurch, New Zealand. 22-25 March 2009. See: <http://www.wpcnz.org.nz/> .

Greenhouse 2009: Climate Change and Resources, in Perth, Western Australia. 23-26 March 2009. See: <http://www.greenhouse2009.com> .

International Conference on Plant Virology to be held at the Harrogate International Center, UK. 1-3 April 2009. See: www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=73&basket=wwshowconfdets .

The Second European Ramularia Workshop, Edinburgh 2009 - a new disease and challenge in Barley Production in Edinburgh, UK. 7-8 April 2009. See: www.aab.org.uk .

VI International Postharvest Symposium in Antalya, Turkey. 8-12 April 2009. Contact: erkan@akdeniz.edu.tr . See: <http://www.postharvest2009.com/> .

Advances in epidemiology and control of rusts at Science and Advice for Scottish Agriculture (SASA), Edinburgh, UK. 22-23 April 2009. See: <http://www.aab.org.uk/page.php?start=184&conf=78> .

The 5th International Conference on Biopesticides: Stakeholders' Perspective (ICOB-V 2009) in New Delhi, India. 26-30 April 2009. Contact: icob5.biopest@nic.in .
See: <http://www.icob5.nic.in> .

3rd International Symposium on Crop Plant Resistance to Biotic and Abiotic Factors: Current Potential and Future Demands in Berlin, Germany. 14-16 May 2009.
Contact: dpg@phytomedizin.org . See: www.dpg-bcpc-symposium.de .

Meeting on "Plant Abiotic Stress - from signaling to development" in Tartu, Estonia. 14-17 May 2009. Contact: Dr Hannes Kollist inpas@frens.ee . Phone: +372-737-4814.
See: <http://www.ut.ee/inpas/> .

8th International PGPR Workshop in Portland, Oregon, USA. 17-22 May 2009. See: www.capps.wsu.edu/pgpr .

Training Program: Integrated Pest Management and Food Safety in Wageningen, The Netherlands. 18 May-12 Jun 2009. Contact: training.wi@wur.nl .

14th International Sclerotinia Workshop in Wilmington, North Carolina, USA. 31 May-4 June 2009. See: http://www.cals.ncsu.edu/sclerotinia_conference/index.html .

SFP National Congress (in French) in Lyon, France. 8-11 June 2009.

Canadian Phytopathological Society Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. 22-25 June 2009. See: www.cps-scp.ca .

XXIth International Symposium on Virus and Virus-Like Diseases of Temperate Fruit Crops and XIIth International Symposium on Small Fruit Virus Diseases in Germany. 5-10 July 2009. See <http://www.phytomedizin.org/index.php?id=193> . Source: Professor Dr Wilhelm Jelkmann Wilhelm.Jelkmann@jki.bund.de Julius Kühn-Institut, Bundesforschungsinstitut für Kulturpflanzen, Institut für Pflanzenschutz in Obst- und Weinbau, Schwabenheimer Str. 101, 69221 Dossenheim, Germany.

Plant ROS 2009 in Helsinki, Finland. 8-10 July 2009. Contact: organizers@pog2009.org .
See: pog2009.org/ .

14th International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions in Québec City, Canada. 19-23 July 2009. See: www.ismpminet.org/meetings .

APS Annual Meeting 2009 at the Portland Convention Center, Portland, Oregon, USA. 1-5 August 2009. See: <http://www.apsnet.org> .

14th Australasian Plant Breeding Conference and 11th SABRAO Conference in Cairns, North Queensland, Australia. 10-14 August 2009. See: <http://www.plantbreeding09.com.au/> .

10th International Cotton Conference "Natural Fibres-Their Attractiveness in Multidirectional Applications" in Gdynia, Poland. 3-4 September 2009. See: <http://www.gca.org.pl/x.php/2,326/10th-International-Cotton-Conference.html> .

2nd World Seed Conference "Responding to the Challenges of the Changing World: The Role of New Plant Varieties and High Quality Seed in Agriculture" at FAO headquarters in Rome, Italy. 8-10 September 8-10, 2009.

See: <http://worldseedconference.org/en/worldseedconference/home.html> .

BSPP Presidential Meeting 2009 "Darwin to Disease; Crops and their pathogens" - Celebrating Darwin's 200th Birthday - University Museum, Oxford, UK. 22 September 2009.

See: <http://www.bspp.org.uk/> .

APPS 2009 "Plant Health Management-An Integrated Approach" at the Civic Precinct, Newcastle, NSW, Australia. 30 September-2 October 2009.

See: <http://www.apps2009.org.au/> .

The 13th World Forestry Congress (Forests in development - a vital balance) in Buenos Aires, Argentina. 18-25 October 2009. See http://www.wfc2009.org/index_1024.html . E-mail: info@wfc2009.org .

9th International Congress on Plant Molecular Biology in St Louis, Missouri, USA. 25-30 October 2009. Contact: ipmb2009@missouri.edu . See: www.ipmb2009.org .

The 10th Arab Congress of Plant Protection in Beirut, Lebanon. 26-30 October 2009.

See: www.asplantprotection.org . See also: flyer linked from <http://www.isppweb.org/nljan09.asp#2> .

Contact: aspp@terra.net.lb or acpp2009@cnrs.edu.lb .

"First International Conference of Mycops" in the Institute of Mycology and Plant Pathology, University of Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan. 9-11 November 2009. Contact: Professor Dr Rukshana Bajwa director@mpp.pu.edu.pk or the Conference Secretary Dr Sarwar Alam drssalam@yahoo.com .

The 2009 International Conference on Horticulture in Bangalore, Karnataka, India. 9-12 November 2009. See: <http://www.pnasf.org/ich2009.htm> .

5th International Conference on Plant Pathology, with the theme "Plant pathology in the globalized era", at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India. 10-13 November 2009. Contact: ipsdis@indiatimes.com or ipsdis@yahoo.com .

National Soybean Rust Symposium in New Orleans, Louisiana, USA. 9-11 December 2009. Contact: dorrance.1@osu.edu .

Global Biosecurity 2010, Safeguarding Agriculture and the Environment, at the Brisbane Convention Center, Queensland, Australia. 23 February-3 March 2010.

See: www.globalbiosecurity2010.com .

13th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union in Rome, Italy. 13-18 June 2010. See: www.mpunion.com . Contact: laura.mugnai@unifi.it . 12th IUPAC International Congress of Pesticide Chemistry in Melbourne, Australia. 4-8 July 2010.

See: <http://www.iupacicpc2010.org/> .

9th International Mycological Congress (IMC9) in Edinburgh, Scotland, UK. 1-6 August 2010. See: <http://www.imc9.info/> .

APS Annual Meeting 2010 at Opryland, Nashville, Tennessee, USA. 7-11 August 2010. See: <http://www.apsnet.org> .

Plant Virus Epidemiology Symposium at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, USA. August 2010. See: <http://www.isppweb.org/ICPVE/> .

XXVIII International Horticultural Congress (IHC2010) in Lisbon, Portugal. 22-27 August 2010. Contact: info@ihc2010.org . See: <http://www.ihc2010.org> .

The 8th International Conference on Pseudomonas syringae and Related Pathogens in Oxford, UK. 31 August-3 September 2010. See: www.reading.ac.uk/Psyringae2010 . Contact: syringae2010@plants.ox.ac.uk .

The 18th Biennial Australasian Plant Pathology Meeting and 4th Asian Conference for Plant Pathology, a Joint Conference, at the Darwin Convention Centre, Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia. 27-29 April 2011. Watch: <http://www.australasianplantpathologysociety.org.au/> .

Joint Meeting of APS and IAPPS in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. 6-10 August 2011. See: <http://www.apsnet.org> .

10th International Congress of Plant Pathology 2013 (ICPP2013) "Bio-security, Food Safety and Plant Pathology: The Role of Plant Pathology in a Globalized Economy" in Beijing, China. 25-31 August 2013. Watch: <http://www.isppweb.org/congress.asp> .

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