



**ICPP
BOSTON**
JULY 29 -
AUGUST 3 **2018**

Plant
Health in
a Global
Economy

Successful and Insightful, ICPP2018 Makes History as ISPP Turns 50

More than 2,400 scientists from 88 countries descended on Boston for the 11th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP2018). The theme of the congress, “Plant Health in a Global Economy,” was reflected in the nearly 500 presentations across more than 70 concurrent sessions, plus five plenary and 15 keynote presentations, featuring leading experts in plant pathology and nearly 1,200 posters from plant pathologists of all specializations.

After 2 days of exciting premeeting field trips, workshops, and satellite meetings (more than 20 in all!), ICPP2018 kicked off on Sunday, July 29, with an early American



(left to right)
Rick Bennett,
Tom Evans,
Greg Johnson,
and Mary
Palm.

life and drum group leading attendees to the opening plenary session. ICPP President **Rick Bennett** welcomed attendees and virtual participants via a live feed. Boston Mayor **Marty Walsh** provided remarks about the city, and ICPP Organizing Chair **Tom Evans** thanked the hundreds of volunteers involved in developing the impressive program.

The opening plenary then began with a retrospective from ISPP President **Greg Johnson** recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) and an overview of the organization's recent efforts. He encouraged attendees to work together to better harness knowledge and passion for improving both the progress of science and the equity of advancement in our societies and profession. He closed with a quote by science historian **Stephen Jay Gould**: “Despite the wicked curves,

detours, and delays, the rocky road towards scientific truth is a great trip.” The [12th Jakob Eriksson Prize for Plant Pathology](#) was then presented to APS member **Pierre JGM de Wit**, emeritus, Wageningen University, by **Ulla Gjörstrup**, representative of the Swedish Consul in Boston, together with **Mauritz Ramstedt**, chair of the Jakob Eriksson Commission. This honor recognized de Wit for his pioneering research in molecular plant pathology and plant-microbe interactions. **Francisco J. Reifschneider**, of EMBRAPA, rounded out the opening plenary with a talk entitled “A Healthy Future for Plant Health.” Reifschneider provided a thought-provoking presentation on the role plant pathologists play and the challenges they face in feeding the world's rapidly growing population. Immediately following the session, attendees





“APS was honored to be the host of the ICPP2018 and enjoyed the opportunity to work with ISPP on this important event for the plant pathology community!”

joined together to connect with colleagues during the Boston-themed welcome reception.

The vision for ICPP2018—“An engaged world community of plant health scientists advancing knowledge for a safe, affordable, secure supply of food, feed and fiber for a growing population”—was reflected in the programing that continued throughout the week. The stimulating Monday plenary session, titled “[Plant Health Is Earth’s Wealth](#),” was organized by **Greg Johnson** and APS President **Mary Palm**. The session featured **Sophien Kamoun**, The Sainsbury Laboratory; **Carolee T. Bull**, The Pennsylvania State University; and **David Guest**, University of Sydney. These presenters represented three different areas of expertise and geography, setting the stage for thoughtful discussions throughout the meeting.

Each day of the week, attendees heard the latest in plant pathology from a diverse assembly of experts. Tuesday’s keynote session focused on [emerging plant diseases and global food security](#) and featured the Glenn Anderson Lecture, as well as talks on climate change, metadata, modeling approaches, and the sweetpotato as a food security crop. The focus on Wednesday was new and exciting [approaches to controlling insect-vectored plant diseases](#). Talks covered how effector targets

can be utilized, how pathogen confusion can be used to achieve disease control, and what can be learned from pathogen effectors. Reflecting the theme of ICPP2018, Thursday’s keynote session offered key insights into [plant pathology’s role in food safety across the globe](#). Presentations covered mitigating aflatoxins, taking on the challenges of pesticide residues, and risk management of foodborne pathogens.

Closing out the 2018 congress was the final plenary session presentation, “[Global Food and Nutrition Security—From Challenges to Solutions](#)” by **Helene Dillard**. This presentation brought all the ICPP2018 programming full circle by highlighting the challenges plant pathologists face in addressing the global problem of feeding a growing world population and outlining goals for the next time ICPP convenes in 2023.

The ISPP closing ceremony wrapped up the meeting with the formal tradition of Greg Johnson handing over the ISPP flag and presidency to **Jan Leach**. ISPP Fellowships were then awarded to **Gloria Abad**, **Thomas Evans**, **M. Lodovica Gullino**, **Michele Heath**, **You Liang Peng**, **Dov Prusky**, **Mauritz Ramstedt**, **Paul Teng**, **Shinji Tsuyumu**, and **Peter Williamson**. All attendees were invited to ICPP2023, to be held in Lyon, France, for which the theme is “One Health for All Plants, Crops, and Trees.”

The general sessions offered during ICPP2018 were a valuable component for all attendees. Social media posting flourished throughout each session, highlighting the important take-aways that were gained.

In addition to these sessions and the concurrent session programming, which included panel discussions, PhytoViews, and a Hot Topic session on cocoa, attendees had opportunities to participate in a variety of other exchanges: 13 Idea Cafés, four POD Talks, and 96 One-to-One Conversation with an Expert sessions. A round of applause is deserved by **Scott Adkins**, chair of the Scientific Program Committee, and by **Amy Charkowski**, chair of the Program Planning Sub-Committee, and [their respective committee members](#), for planning and executing this impressive programming.

Attendees were also able to sign on to a petition to make 2020 the “International Year of Plant Health,” visit a variety of key industry exhibits, and of course, canvass the

nearly 1,200 posters on display, which were presented in two sessions. Students and early career professionals attended socials and a lunch to broaden their networks and establish new relationships. An LGBTQA social was also held for the first time (see page 106 for highlights). Many fans joined in some fun at the Boston Red Sox game for ICPP Night at Fenway Park. And the closing event at the truly American and iconic House of Blues Boston on Thursday evening was an event to remember. New to this congress, the Family Friendly group had several activities and meet-ups planned for children and their caregivers throughout the meeting (see page 106 for highlights). And the Science Ambassadors program offered mentors for those attending for the first time from developing countries (see page 107 for highlights). Additionally, a new ISPP tradition was initiated during the congress with the presentation of the inaugural Fran E. Fisher Award to **Charlie Delp** for his outstanding contributions to both the science of plant pathology and society for his dedication to connecting plant pathologists around the globe for improving plant health.

APS was honored to be the host of ICPP2018 and enjoyed the opportunity to work with ISPP on this important event for the plant pathology community! Special thanks go to the hundreds of volunteers involved in making ICPP2018 a reality. It would not have been possible without all their hard work, countless hours, and dedication provided. The generous support of the [ICPP2018 sponsors](#) was also significant in providing funding for more than 100 scientists from countries with developing economies to attend, in supporting scientists for sessions, and in providing overall event support. Congratulations to everyone who was involved and who attended a successful and inspiring ICPP2018!

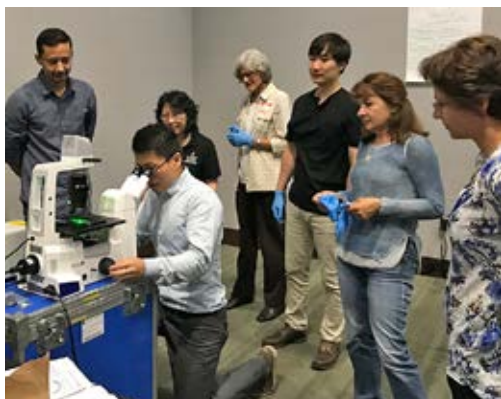
Make sure to follow the links in this article to find abstracts and audio recordings of the sessions. Visit the [ICPP2018 website](#) to view the congress photo video and other images to download, along with session recordings. Or view session recordings in the [archive section on the APS website](#). ■





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"I enjoyed everything about the event. I thought it was well organized and full of great speakers and opportunities to connect with other scientists."

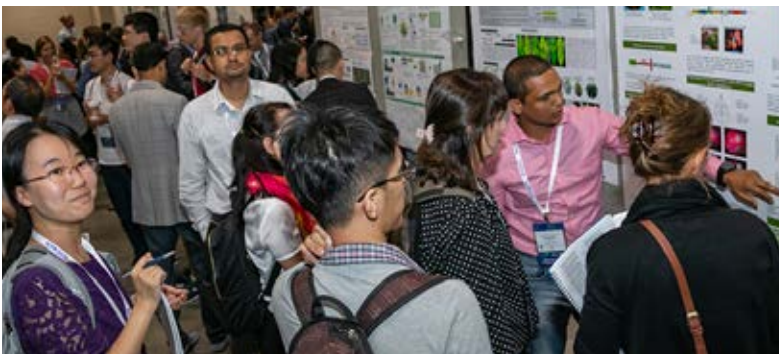




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"I loved this meeting, it was fantastic! As a graduate student, I used this opportunity to see many talks I wouldn't see otherwise. This was beneficial for coming up with new ideas and learning outside my field of expertise."





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NicD
@NICplantpath

Follow

Checking out the glass apples at Harvard museum of natural history! Fantastic event at #ICPP2018! @plantdisease @talbotlabexeter @KamounLab @mbjerkness @Buckhout_Bull



3:48 PM - 31 Jul 2018



Ashok Chanda
@AshokPath

Follow

Immense thanks to everyone involved in planning and execution of #ICPP2018 and @plantdisease for hosting a great international congress in #Boston..my recap of the fun and intense past 7 days, met old friends and made several new friends #PlantPathology #PlantHealth



3:27 PM - 3 Aug 2018



Sophien Kamoun
@KamounLab

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"Medicine can cure you one day but plants save your life everyday" #TwitterWisdom #ICPP2018

12:33 PM - 29 Jul 2018



Petter Françoise
@PetterEPPO

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Back from #ICPP2018 our owner brought us a gift!! #fidopathology @PlantpathDog @plantdisease



3:04 AM - 4 Aug 2018



Brett Summerell
@BrettSumm

Follow

ISPP President Greg Johnson and @plantdisease President Mary Palm with the gift - a baseball appropriately signed - from APS to ISPP to celebrate the 50th birthday of ISPP.



6:42 PM - 1 Aug 2018



Michelle Hulin
@michhulin

Follow

Arrived in Boston for #ICPP2018, my first time in the states! 🇺🇸 excited for some #plantpathology tomorrow



Breanne Kisselstein
@BA_SireCheese

Follow

My first @plantdisease meeting I saw so much collaboration between industry and academia and it made me fall in love with the field all over again!

Megan Blango-Daniels @MNDaniels24
I'm impressed by the cal I'm hearing repeatedly, for collaboration between scientists and industry and academia to solve problems. #icpp2018

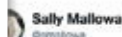
6:26 AM - 1 Aug 2018



Emerson Del Ponte
@edeponte

Follow

Established scientist from Switzerland, industry researcher from Canada, grad student from South Africa and undergrad from Peru! These were awesome people I met and will continue talking potential collaborations. Loved this one to one @plantdisease



Sally Mallowa
@sallowa

Follow

What a great group of scientists from Africa, from Africa and working in Africa to change how science is done, and provide solutions for food security!! What a great meeting!! #ICPP2018



9:42 PM



Guillaume Bloudeau
@GuillaumeBloudeau

Follow

Thank to all for organizing this wonderful International meeting #ICPP2018 @plantdisease #plantpathology #PlantHealth



2:42 PM - 3 Aug 2018



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"I am grateful for the ICPP experience. It was very interesting, educating and the plenary sessions were enlightening."





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"The opportunity to attend the 50th anniversary of ISPP was wonderful. It was very interesting to see that the problems and challenges of plant pathology are common in almost all the world, the difference lies in the opportunities that exist to face them."

