ISPP INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY

PROMOTING WORLD-WIDE PLANT HEALTH AND FOOD SECURITY

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY

ISPP NEWSLETTER

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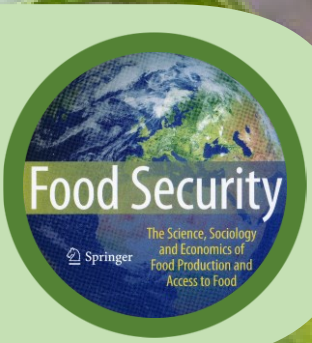

OBITUARY CHARLES J DELP, 1927 – 2025

CONTRIBUTED BY THE FAMILY OF CHARLIE DELP

Charles (Charlie) Joseph Delp was born in St Louis, Missouri, on 9 May 1927, to Hobart and Dorotha (Hartshorn) Delp. He and his older sister, Catherine, acquired skills of making new friends each time the family moved during their childhood while enduring the Depression. Their father's employment with the Federal Land Bank involved moves to Pine Bluff, AR; New Orleans, LA; Jackson, MS; back to St. Louis, and after his father's death, to Longmont, CO and Fort Collins, CO.

Immediately after graduating from Fort Collins High School, Charlie enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served in Japan during WWII (1945-46). He continued in the Naval Reserves and was Honorably Discharged in 1959. Charlie attended Colorado State University (then known as Colorado A&M) with assistance from the G.I. Bill. He went on to earn a PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of California, Davis in 1953. Through his 32-year career in research and development with DuPont Ag Products in Wilmington, DE, Charlie was credited with developing fungicides that allowed growers around the world to improve production of food and fiber crops. He held leadership roles in the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP), a global nonprofit institution and attended every one of their conferences over the span of 50 years. Charlie was also instrumental in compilation and publication of History of the ISPP, which includes full accounts of ISPP and related activities, from 1964 to the present including the 11 International Congresses of Plant Pathology.

Although Charlie took a serious attitude toward his work on issues of world food security and fungicide resistance management, those who worked with him in the USA and abroad remember him as an authentic and sincere gentleman who forged deep and lasting friendships. His willingness to help anyone who approached him for advice was a trademark characteristic. Charlie was a trailblazer in hiring women scientists in Crop Protection Discovery at a time when there were very few given professional opportunities.

Upon retiring from DuPont in 1985, Charlie served as an AAAS Congressional Science Fellow in Washington, DC, studying African agricultural aid for the House Agriculture and Hunger Committees. His dream of serving as a volunteer for the United States Peace Corps was fulfilled when he worked in Western Samoa (1998-2000) at the University of the South Pacific to tackle Phytophthora blight on the taro plant.

Beyond his professional contributions, Charlie took an active role in the Boy Scouts of America, the Presbyterian Church, and Toastmasters International. During his post-retirement decades, Charlie was well known as volunteer faculty and as a dedicated student in the University of South Florida's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) where he nurtured many friendships. Charlie was a devoted volunteer for LifePath Hospice in the Sarasota and Tampa areas where he again found an outlet for making new friends, albeit short-term.

Charlie married Marian Shawver in 1949 and together they raised 4 sons. Family camping outings and canoe trips in Canada's Algonquin and Northwest Territories continued from their son's youth through the decades that included grandchildren. Charlie and Marian encouraged their sons' pursuits in academics but also believed that life should be well-rounded, fun, and include service to others. Leaving a campsite better than you found it was a family motto. The Hartshorn family reunions were given high priority and occurred every 5 years beginning in the 1960's, typically in Colorado where he held close bonds with many of his cousins.

Charlie and Marian's marriage ended in 1983. In 1992, he married Stephanie Peters and so began a new chapter in his life. After residing in Delaware and Florida, they began spending summers in Central Nebraska in 2022 where they had built a home overlooking the peaceful prairie. It is there where Charlie fully appreciated each day of the last leg of his journey. Family visits from sons, grandchildren, cousins, and friends were the elixir that kept him going beyond what his medical team thought possible. As his Hospice nurse commented, "Charlie has made use of not only his 9 lives, but 5 from someone else as well."

On his 98th birthday, Charlie was awarded the WWII Medal from the State of Nebraska and was given a Quilt of Valor by their foundation. He enjoyed a small gathering of family and friends for that occasion, highlighted by at least 2 of his favorite desserts. He lived 1 week beyond that birthday.

Charlie is survived by his wife, Stephanie, his sons, Gary (Rochester, MN); Bryan (Waynesville, NC); Scott (Stanford, CA); and David (San Francisco, CA); along with 2 daughters in law and 6 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his sister, Catherine Eaks.

Those who wish may consider a donation to the Charlie Delp Fund of the ISPP Resilience Bursary for Plant Pathologists via this link. https://www.paypal.com/ncp/payment/2AT7W54NDW8H4

The family will memorialise him privately with no other service planned.

REMEMBERING CHARLIE DELP (BY HIS COLLEAGUES AND FRIENDS)

A few words. So many memories. Lodovica Gullino, ISPP President (2008-2013)

I met Charlie in 1980 at Wageningen at a Fungicide Resistance Course. He, well-known as the "Father of benomyl" and was not only a pioneer in research on fungicide resistance, but also leading the agri-chemical industry to develop the Fungicide Resistance Action Committee (FRAC) in the early 1980s to tackle the problem generated by site-specific fungicides. Since then, he has been to me a wonderful friend, mentor, English teacher, reviewer, … He helped me getting acquainted with life and work in the U.S., when I was a researcher at the very beginning. He has been for all of us a distinguished example of competence, fairness, discipline, sense of service to the scientific Societies as well as to the community.

Charlie's PhD. thesis on the biology and epidemiology of powdery mildew of grapevine remains a masterpiece in the field, even more than 70 years later. Charlie dedicated his entire career to DuPont in Wilmington, DE. Already retired in the early 1990s, Charles consulted for DuPont, where he helped address a phytotoxicity problem with a particular formulation of benomyl that caused issues for growers. Despite his great achievements and worldwide recognition, Charlie remained a very humble person, strongly devoted to his work, his company, and service to scientific Societies. He served as Secretary General of the International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP).

During his service, he worked on the World Directory of Plant Pathologists, leveraging the extensive network of contacts he developed throughout his career, with special attention to third world countries. With the help of his son Dave, Charlie developed the first logo of ISPP, representing hands holding the world.

Charlie attended 11 Congresses of ISPP, a record that will be very difficult (I would say impossible) to beat. With such an experience, he became the historian of the International Society. Charlie was restless, always ready to help, serve, and train. He will be remembered and missed by many as a wonderful, talented, and passionate colleague, as well as a very humble and simple person. Lodo Gullino

Greg Johnson Secretary General (2006-2013) and ISPP President (2013-2018)

I'm a latecomer in Charlie's circle, only getting to know him in the 21st century in 2006 when he began to advise and hand over the role of Secretary General of the ISPP to me. Charlie was always warmly helpful as I began the role in 2006, sending emails and posting ISPP back-records on a CD, and beaming as he'd arrive at ISPP Executive meetings. I modelled my approach to Secretary General minutes and communication on Charlie's as well as the attention he gave to associated societies and the World Directory of Plant Pathologists.

Preparing for and delivering the ISPP history session at ICPP2018 in Boston with Charlie was fun. We co-chaired, and were to present the ISPP history together. Charlie's segment included a rope trick, leaving no time for my portion - but that didn't matter.

In 2018, Charlie was the inaugural recipient of the ISPP Francesca Fisher Award in memory of Charlie's friend, the founder and stalwart advocate of the World Directory of Plant Pathologists, ISPP Benefactor, and fellow Floridian - Fran Fisher. As then ISPP President, I was thrilled to present the award to Charlie at the President's Reception for ISPP 50th Anniversary and hear the impromptu speeches from our colleagues.

Charlie, we'll miss you, rest well dear friend, and thanks. Greg Johnson

Richard Falloon, ISPP President (2003-2008)

Charles Delp was a distinguished plant pathologist, who served the international plant pathology community with distinction, from the time the International Society for Plant Pathology (ISPP) was established in the 1960s, throughout his career, and well into his active retirement.

However, I want to share a personal memory of Charlie, which shows him in another light.

In 2000, the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology, together with the Phytopathology Society of Japan and the Korean Society for Plant Pathology convened the first Asian Conference on Plant Pathology (ACP2000) in Beijing under the auspices of ISPP. The ISPP Executive Committee attended this seminal event under which the Asian Association of Societies for Plant Pathology was inaugurated.

To save Executive members' hotel costs, we shared rooms, and I was roomed with the famous du Pont scientist, Charlie Delp. For an antipodean and relative youngster, this was a daunting prospect. On one evening, we were to be hosted at a famous Beijing duck restaurant, but Charlie was feeling tired, so decided not to attend. One of the delicacies served were deep-fried whole scorpions, and the slightly reticent international visitors left several of the arachnids uneaten. I thought that Charlie was missing something, so took the remains of the dish back to our hotel room. He and I (to Charlie's delight) consumed these leftovers as a nightcap.

Our thoughts are with you, Stephanie, Richard Falloon.

Thomas Evans (ISPP Treasurer (2008-2013) ISPP Vice President (2013-2018)

Charlie was my mentor for all things related to plant health in the developing world. He convinced me to serve as chair of the American Phytopathology Society's Library Assistance Program for a decade and then later urged me to I run for the Treasurer of the International Society of Plant Pathology that led me to 5 years in that job and 5 more years as a Vice-President of ISPP and the organising chair of ICPP 2018 in Boston. Charlie was a gentle person with a great heart.

He is greatly missed. Tom Evans

ROUNDTABLE "A WINDING ROAD TO BIOPESTICIDES REGISTRATION: BOTTLENECKS AND OPPORTUNITIES" - IOBC MEETING, TORINO, 12 JUNE, 16.30-18.30 CET

GIANFRANCO ROMANAZZI, CHAIR OF ISPP SEED PATHOLOGY SUBJECT MATTER COMMITTEE

Following the last IOBC-WPRS meeting of the Working Group "Biological and integrated control of plant pathogens" held in Wageningen in June 2023, the University of Torino will organize the conference "From single microbes to microbiome targeting One Health" between 11 and 14 June 2025 (https://www.iobctorino2025.org/). The Chairs are Davide Spadaro ad Monica Mezzalama. Within the conference, since there is a huge interest in solutions that can be registered and approved for use in plant protection, a roundtable is planned aiming to update the audience on the state of art of registration bottlenecks and opportunities, and on expected evolution of Regulation. The roundtable, which is taking place at 16:30 CET on June 12th, will allow interaction of scientific community, companies producing biosolutions, European authorities and representatives of farmers, that requires innovative and sustainable strategies to address the requests from the consumers and from the market. Confirmed speakers are Domenico Deserio – European Commission, Jennifer Lewis – IBMA Executive Director, Baldissera Giovani – Euphresco Coordinator, and Gianfranco Romanazzi – AIPP President. Further interactions will be onsite with stakeholders, and a zoom streaming is planned at the link https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/P5KHlq3cT2iTtDJyCIVp9w

IOBC-WPRS

XVII Meeting of the Working Group

Biological and integrated control of plant pathogens

From single microbes to microbiomes targeting One Health

June 11-14, 2025

Università degli Studi di Torino (Italy)

ALL SESSIONS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE AUDITORIUM ALDO MORO

DAY 1 | Wednesday 11/06		DAY 2 | Thursday 12/06		DAY 3 | Friday 13/06		DAY 4 | Saturday 14/06	
		8.30	SESSION III - Single strains, synthetic consortia, and microbiomes: challenges in characterization, storage, and use. *Invited Speaker: Gabriele Berg*	8.30	SESSION VII - Soil and plant biodiversity: unexplored sources of potential biocontrol agents. *Invited Speaker: Birgit Jensen*	8.30	SESSION IX Mechanisms behind microbe-microbe and plant-microbe interactions. *Invited Speaker: Magnus Karlsson*
		9.00	Flash talks	9.00	Flash talks	9.00	Flash talks
		9.30	Oral communications	9.30	Oral communications	9.30	Oral communications
		10.30	Coffee break	10.30	Coffee break	10.30	Coffee break
		11.00	SESSION IV	11.00	SESSION VIII	11.00	SESSION X
		11.00	Flash talks	11.00	Flash talks	11.00	Flash talks
		11.30	Oral communications	11.30	Oral communications	11.30	Oral communications
12.00	Registration of particpants	13.00	Lunch	13.00	Lunch box	13.00	Lunch
14.00	Opening ceremony	14.00	SESSION V mass production, formulation, and application of biocontrol agents. *Invited speaker: Neus Teixido*	13.30	Field visit - Departure to Langhe Area. Departure to Fontanafredda, Langhe Area	14.00	Departures
14.30	SESSION I - Biocontrol for resilient cropping systems tackling climate change. *Invited speaker: Olubukola Oluranti Babalola*	14.30	Flash talks				
15.00	Flash talks	15.00	Oral communications				
15.30	Oral communications						
16.00	Coffee break	16.00	Coffee break				
16.30	SESSION II	16.30	SESSION VI - ROUND TABLE: A winding road to biopesticides registration: bottlenecks and opportunities. *Organizer: Prof. Gianfranco Romanazzi*				
16.30	Flash talks						
17.00	Oral communications						
		18.30	Free time - Torino Sightseeing	19.00	Social dinner at fontanafredda farm		
18.45	Welcome cocktail Auditorium Aldo Moro	20.00	Free dinner	21.00	Return to Torino		

INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON PLANT PATHOGENIC SCLEROTINIACEAE

GEORGE KARAOGLANIDIS AND STEFANOS TESTEMPASIS

The International Symposium on Plant Pathogenic *Sclerotiniaceae* (BotryScleroMoni2025 https://botryscleromoni.com/) was successfully held at the Porto Palace Hotel from 25-30 May 2025 in Thessaloniki, Greece. Organised by the Laboratory of Plant Pathology and co-hosted by Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, the conference brought together over 175 experts and scholars in the field of *Botrytis*, *Sclerotinia* and *Monilinia* research from 27 countries of all the 5 continents. Participants came from Greece, Italy, Spain, USA, China, Australia, France, Colombia, Israel, Canada, the Netherlands, South Africa, Germany, India, Switzerland, UK, Chile, Serbia, Peru, Brazil, Belgium, Hungary, Mexico, New Zealand, Japan, Lithuania, and Montenegro.

The opening ceremony of BotryScleroMoni 2025 featured speeches from the Symposium Convener, Professor George Karaoglanidis and Professor Thomas Kotsopoulos, President of the Department of Agriculture of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. They welcomed international attendees and highlighted the importance of collaboration in advancing innovation related to the research on Plant Pathogenic Sclerotiniaceae, enhancing sustainable disease control, and supporting food and environmental security. The inaugural talk was provided by Professor Jeffrey Rollins, University of Florida. Professor Rollins provided a comprehensive overview of the current knowledge on the main biological and epidemiological characteristics of *Botrytis*, *Sclerotinia* and *Monilinia* and reviewed novel molecular genetic tools developed recently and facilitating research regarding pathogenicity, multicellular development, mating, environmental sensing and response, fungicide resistance mechanisms and much more.

The Symposium program included 9 keynote and 6 invited presentations, respectively, 59 regular presentations and 82 posters. Keynote and Invited speakers from around the world discussed the latest developments in research related to Plant Pathogenic *Sclerotiniaceae*. Regular oral and poster presentations covered a wide range of topics, including research on the Biology and Genetics of Plant Pathogenic *Sclerotiniaceae* using "omic" approaches, on the epidemiology of the diseases that they cause, studies on the interactions of *Botrytis*, *Sclerotinia* and *Monilinia* with their hosts with emphasis on the virulence factors of these fungal species and the defenses mediated by their hosts. Several sessions of the scientific program were dedicated to the recent advances made in the Biological, Chemical and Integrated control of these diseases as well as in the development of biotechnological tools for the control of these diseases.

The conference concluded with a closing round table by Jan Van Kan, University of Wageningen, Matthias Hahn, University of Kaiserslautern, Xin Li, University of British Columbia, Rosario Torres, IRTA, and Jeffrey Rollins, University of Florida. They summarised the main conclusions of the Symposium, expressed gratitude to the participants for their contributions to the conference and renewed the appointment of the *Sclerotiniaceae* community for 2028 in Eger, Hungary.

INTEGRATED DISEASE MANAGEMENT, ADAPTATION AND GENOMICS OF FUNGAL PLANT PATHOGENS IN CROPPING SYSTEMS

A review by Hayley Wilson *et al.* titled "Integrated disease management, adaptation and genomics of fungal plant pathogens in cropping systems" was published on 12 May 2025 by *Plant Pathology* (early view). The abstract is as follows:-

Crop production systems contribute significantly to maintaining global food security. These systems often involve the cultivation of single cultivars in highly homogenised environments to meet demands. Agriculturally important plant fungal pathogens can be destructive constraints in such systems. Integrated disease management strategies comprising the tactical use of cultural, chemical and host genetic controls are deployed to reduce the impact of plant pathogens. The homogenous nature of these cropping systems combined with evolutionary forces on the often-flexible fungal genome increases the potential for rapid adaptation of plant pathogens to current integrated disease management practices. This review explores the genomic features of the fungal genome (such as transposable elements and copy number variation) that influence the adaptation of pathogen populations in cropping systems. Furthermore, the interactions between such genomic features and the evolutionary forces that drive fungal adaptation are discussed relative to the three major components of integrated disease management in agricultural systems. This review specifies the need for a cohesive analysis of fungal plant pathogens within cropping systems to maintain sustainable food production in the face of future pathogen adaptation and evolution.

Read paper.

EXPLOITED MUTUALISM: THE RECIPROCAL EFFECTS OF PLANT PARASITIC NEMATODES ON THE MECHANISMS UNDERPINNING PLANT–MUTUALIST INTERACTIONS

A paper by Krzysztof Wieczorek and Chris A. Bell titled "Exploited mutualism: the reciprocal effects of plant parasitic nematodes on the mechanisms underpinning plant–mutualist interactions" was published on 3 April 2025 by *New Phytologist* (vol. 246 (6), pages 2435-2439). The abstract is as follows:-

We are quickly gaining insights into the mechanisms and functions of plant–mutualist relationships with the common overarching aim of exploiting them to enhance food security and crop resilience. There is a growing mass of research describing various benefits of plant-mutualistic fungi, including increased nutrition, yields, and tolerance to biotic and abiotic factors. The bulk of this research has been focused on arbuscular mycorrhiza; however, there is now an expansion toward other plant mutualistic fungi. Contrary to the established 'mycorrhizal induced resistance' principle, increasing evidence shows that certain plant pests and pathogens may, in fact, exploit the benefits that mutualists provide their hosts, resulting in enhanced pathogenicity and reduced mutualist-derived benefits. In this Viewpoint, we propose that studying plant mutualistic fungi under controlled artificial conditions indeed provides in-depth knowledge but may mislead long-term applications as it does not accurately reflect multi-symbiont scenarios that occur in natura. We summarize the reciprocal impacts of plant pests, such as plant parasitic nematodes, on plant–fungal mutualisms and highlight how glasshouse experiments often yield contradictory results. We emphasize the need for collaborative efforts to increase the granularity of experimental systems, better reflecting natural environments to gain holistic insights into mutualist functions before applying them in sustainable crop protection strategies.

Read paper.

HOW BACTERIA SUBVERT PLANT IMMUNITY

A paper by Frank C. Schroeder titled "How bacteria subvert plant immunity" was published on 17 April 2025 by *Science* (vol. 388 (6744), pages 252-253). The abstract is as follows:-

Early detection of the enemy is a central tenet of an immune system's fight against microbial pathogens. For this purpose, plants and animals have evolved dedicated receptors to detect pathogen-associated molecular patterns (PAMPs) that trigger a host of defense responses (1). These ancient and conserved surveillance systems detect equally conserved PAMPs, which have diverse chemical structures, including bacterial flagellin and lipopolysaccharides. The ability of plants and animals to recognize such microbial signatures has driven the evolution of sophisticated countermeasures by pathogens to evade detection. On page 297 of this issue, Sanguankiattichai et al. (2) report that pathogenic bacteria undermine plant perception of flagellin by producing an iminosugar, called glycosyrin, that inhibits a plant glycosidase required for flagellin detection and thereby suppresses plant immune responses. The finding has broad implications for the role of glycobiology in plant-microbe interactions and also drug discovery.

Read paper.

CONGRATULATIONS DAME ALISON STEWART

FOUNDATION FOR ARABLE RESEARCH (FAR) NEWS, 2 JUNE 2025

The ISPP community are delighted to congratulate, Alison Stewart, on her appointment as a Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

This Honour, which recognises her pre-eminent contribution to plant science and the arable sector, is well deserved and recognises years of commitment. It seems fitting that it is announced just a few weeks before she steps down from her role with FAR.

In response to the appointment, Professor Stewart, whose full title is Emeritus Distinguished Professor, says she is absolutely thrilled.

"It seems redundant to say it, but it really is a great honour. And it's an honour I'm pleased to share with the plant science community and the arable sector, both huge, but often unrecognised contributors to New Zealand's agriculture and horticulture industries.

"I've been involved with plant science and plant pathology for my whole working career, with the shift to arable coming about when I joined FAR in 2018. Working in the arable industry has been an absolute pleasure and privilege. The sector is an exemplar of a sustainable and resilient farming system, and we should be really proud of it."

Dame Alison was made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit in recognition of services to biology in 2009. Other career honours and achievements include:

- PhD in Plant Pathology from the University of Stirling (1984)
- First female Professor at Lincoln University (1998)
- Bayer – NZ Innovators Award (2012)
- Founding Director of the Bio-Protection Research Centre at Lincoln University (2003-2011)
- AgResearch Technology Transfer Award (2002)
- Agricom Significant Achievement Award for Research Excellence (2001)
- MAFBNZ Biosecurity Award for Excellence (2008)
- Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology, Lincoln University (2011)
- Fellow of the NZ Institute for Agricultural and Horticultural Science (2006)
- Fellow of the Australasian Plant Pathology Society (2011)
- Lincoln University, Excellence in Rersearch Award (1997)

REPORT OF THE POLISH PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE, SEPTEMBER 2024

MALGORZATA JEDRYCZKA

In September 2024, the triennial conference of the Polish Phytopathological Society (PPS) "Plant Health Facing Current Challenges" was held in Warsaw, Poland. It brought together 135 scientists from 32 research institutions and agribusiness organisations. Apart from the members of PPS and other researchers from Poland we invited international speakers, who addressed the following topics during the plenary sessions:

- President of the International Society for Plant Pathology, Yong-Hwan Lee (Seoul National University, Korea), emphasised that plant diseases and increasing extreme weather events caused by climate change pose a significant threat to stable food production. He highlighted the need to continuously strive for effective and sustainable strategies for plant health protection by deepening our understanding of how different types of plant-pathogen and pathogen-pathogen interactions affect plant growth and health, and by translating this knowledge into implementable solutions.
- President of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology, Jonathan Yuen (Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden), discussed the status of plant pathology in Europe. He noted that current European Union regulations and directives influence plant pathology research and practices in various member states and they also affect countries outside the EU. He pointed out that despite harmonised legislation at the EU level, there are discrepancies in how plant pathogens are handled at the national level due to different climatic conditions and production systems.
- Anhelina Kyrychenko (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine) presented the use of nanotechnology and nanomaterials in agriculture, using liposomal bionanocomposites as potential means of regulating virus-plant interactions.
- Shaobin Zhong (Department of Plant Pathology, North Dakota State University, USA), presented newest results on the hybridisation of wheat and maize combined with genome editing technology.

During the plenary session, Polish speakers addressed the following topics:

- Forest dynamics on traditional forest stands and post-agricultural land (Marta Wrzosek, Botanical Garden, Warsaw University and Zbigniew Sierota, University of Warmia and Mazury, Olsztyn);
- Old and new challenges in breeding cereals resistant to rust (Paweł Czembor, Institute of Plant Breeding and Acclimatization, National Research Institute, Radzików);
- New trends in agriculture in the context of climate change and pro-ecological initiatives (Joanna Puławska, Institute of Horticulture, National Research Institute Skierniewice);
- Research on clubroot using the model plant Arabidopsis thaliana (Robert Malinowski, Institute of Plant Genetics, Polish Academy of Sciences, Poznań).

There were 23 talks and 90 posters presented at four sessions dedicated to the following topics: viruses – 3 presentations, bacteria – 6, fungi – 7, and plant protection/environmental impact – 7. Several innovative approaches in the field of plant pathology that are currently being implemented were presented:

- Application of nanotechnology: the use of silver nanoparticles in plant protection, offering effective solutions to control pathogens;
- New approaches to diagnosis and control of plant diseases;
- Modern genetic techniques to develop disease-resistant plants;
- Introduction of advanced methods for monitoring the health of plants and ecosystems, considering dynamic changes in the natural environment.

These innovations aim not only at improving plant health but also at ensuring food security and protecting biodiversity in view of global ecological challenges.

There were also three parallel field sessions at the:

- Forest Research Institute (topics related to forest pathology);
- Plant Breeding and Acclimatisation Institute – NRI (pathology of agricultural crops); and
- Botanical Garden of the University of Warsaw (pathology of ornamental plants).

The table of contents and abstracts in Polish and English are available here: https://sparrow.up.poznan.pl/konferencja2024/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Ksiazka-abstraktow-PTFit-24-26.09.2024.pdf

The General Assembly elected new Board of the Polish Phytopathological Society: for the years 2024-2027, consisting of 19 researchers representing different branches of the Society, with: Małgorzata Mańka –President, Małgorzata Jędryczka and Barbara Wiewióra – Deputy Presidents, Dorota Szopińska – Secretary, Zbigniew Karolewski – Treasurer. Currently the Polish Phytopathological Society has 303 members in 9 branches. Email: ptfit@up.poznan.pl.

SOCIAL MEDIA IN PLANT PATHOLOGY: CONSIDERATIONS ON THEIR ROLE AND POSSIBLE APPLICATIONS

A review by Maria Lodovica Gullino1 *et al.* titled "Social media in plant pathology: Considerations on their role and possible applications" was published on 28 April 2025 by *CABI Reviews* (vol. 20 (1), 0030). The abstract is as follows:-

While considerable attention is being given to negative aspects of social media on individual well-being, this article focuses on its use for knowledge sharing, networking, and outreach in plant pathology which is the multidisciplinary study of plant diseases and their management. The authors summarize key features of various platforms highlighting their strengths and limitations for different communication goals, such as disease diagnosis, management, and extension services and note that many plant pathology societies, other plant health sector organizations and individual plant pathologists use social media for outreach and networking. Key findings from an International Society for Plant Pathology 2023 c. 800 respondent survey on social media use in plant pathology are summarized, revealing diverse practices and attitudes towards the tools including that 43% of respondents never use social media, while users find 'plant pathology' social media most valuable for accessing conference/workshop news and the latest research findings. The paper also discusses the use of social media for crowd-sourcing data, citizen science initiatives, and influencing policy decisions as well as fostering peer camaraderie. The authors conclude that social media networking provides considerable benefits in the work of plant pathologists; and emphasize a need for strategic planning and collaboration between researchers and communication professionals when planning outreach strategies. More structured research on the use of social media in plant pathology is necessary to broaden and maximize positive engagement, while addressing potential challenges such as misinformation and algorithmic bias. The conclusions underscore the transformative potential of social media for bridging gaps between researchers, practitioners, policy makers, and the public.

Read paper.

CURRENT VACANCIES

Assistant Professor, Department Plant Pathology, Washington State University (Position # R-13240)

The successful candidate will be part of a dynamic research and extension team comprising WSU and USDA scientists over several academic units based in Pullman and the Research and Extension Centers in Prosser and Mount Vernon, WA. Washington is the second largest producer of processing potatoes in the United States and has substantial table and seed potato production. The successful candidate is expected to participate in transdisciplinary teams, collaborate with faculty at WSU as well as with state, federal, and industry scientists in the region and beyond. Potential research areas may include, but are not limited to, the etiology, ecology, epidemiology, diagnostics, population biology, and management of pathogens relevant to processing, table, and seed potato production in Washington, with a primary focus on fungal, oomycete, and bacterial diseases. The candidate will develop an integrated extension program that engages with diverse stakeholders in the Pacific Northwest potato industry. The successful candidate is expected to acquire competitive grant funding from national, regional, state, and industry sources.

Teaching duties include a graduate level course in epidemiology and management of plant diseases and contributions to a team-taught introductory plant pathology course. The person filling this position is expected to serve as an effective mentor to both undergraduate and graduate students, and to serve as major advisor and committee member for students working toward M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. The successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to student recruitment and retention, and participate in departmental, university, and professional service activities. The successful applicant will be expected to conduct a program of research and effective engagement consistent with the mission of the WSU CAHNRS Office of Research (https://cahnrs.wsu.edu/research/). The person will also contribute to WSU's strategic focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This is an 11-month appointment for the first three years, then a 9-month appointment thereafter. The candidate may supplement their salary for the additional month(s).

Deadline: Application screening will begin on 21 April 2025.

More information on job and submit application.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to Grahame Jackson, Greg Johnson , George Karaoglanidis, Gianfranco Romanazzi, and Stefanos Testempasis for contributions.

COMING EVENTS

14th Conference of the European Foundation for Plant Pathology (EFPP)
2 June – 5 June, 2025
Uppsala, Sweden
Website: www.efpp2025.com

XVII Working Group "Biological and integrated control of plant pathogens." From single microbes to microbiome targeting One Health.
11 June – 14 June, 2025
University of Torino, Torino, Italy
Contacts: Davide Spadaro and Monica Mezzalama
Email: iobc2025@symposium.it
Website: www.iobctorino2025.org

17th International Cereal Rusts and Powdery Mildews Conference
15 June – 20 June, 2025
Vancouver, Canada
Website: icrpmc2025.ca

International summer school: "Plant Pathogenomics for Sustainable Future Food"
23 June – 27 June, 2025
Bologna, Italy
Website: www.2p4s2f.com

17th Congress of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Union - New phytopathology frontiers of research and education for plant health and food safety
7 July – 10 July, 2025
Ciheam-Bari, Italy
Contact and Email: Anna Maria D'Onghia
mpu2025@iamb.it
Website: www.mpunion.org

13th International Workshop on Grapevine Trunk Diseases
21 July – 25 July, 2025
Ensenada, Baja California, México
Contact and Email: Rufina Hernández
13iwgtd@cicese.mx
Website: 13iwgtd.cicese.mx

Plant Health 2025
2 August – 5 August, 2025
Honolulu, Hawaii
Website:
www.apsnet.org/meetings/annual/PH2025/Pages/default.aspx

Plant Pathology 2025
9 September – 11 September, 2025
Nottingham, UK
Contact and email: Richard Oliver
meetings@bspp.org.uk
Website: www.bspp.org.uk/conference-info-plant-pathology-2025-ppath2025-and-early-careers-plant-pathology-2025-ecpp2025/

Conference of the IOBC/WPRS Working Group "Integrated Protection in Viticulture"
13 October – 15 October, 2025
Mikulov, Czech Republic
Website: event.fourwaves.com/ipvc/pages

14th Arab Congress of Plant Protection Sciences
3 November – 7 November, 2025
Algeria city, Algeria
Contact and Email: info@acpp-aspp.com
Website: acpp-aspp.com

Plant and Animal Genome Conference (PAG 33)
9 January – 14 January, 2026
San Diego California, USA
Website: https://intlpag.org/PAG33/

8th International Bacterial Wilt Symposium (IBWS)
22 March – 26 March, 2026
Wageningen, the Netherlands
Website: event.wur.nl/ibws2026

13th International Congress of Plant Pathology 2028
19 August – 25 August, 2028
Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia
Website: www.icpp2028.org


ICPP2028
13th International Congress of Plant Pathology
19-25 August, Gold Coast Convention & Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PLANT PATHOLOGY (ISPP)

WWW.ISPPWEB.ORG

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Should you need further information please contact business.manager@issppweb.org

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