



International Society for Plant Pathology

Invitation to the International Congress of Plant Pathology

Dear Colleagues:

On July 26 1968, when the International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP) was established at the first International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP1968) in London, the world was a smaller place. Amongst the scientific highlights of ICPP1968 were first reports of in-vitro culture of an obligate parasite (Ken Scott), the first really systemic fungicide (Delp & Klopping) and a mycoplasma as a plant-pathogen (Asayama).

In the half century since, great progress has been made towards assuring global food security and reducing the adverse impacts of plant disease on environmental sustainability, the productivity and enjoyment of forests, fibre and recreational horticulture, and on human and animal health.

And in the 21st century, plant pathology has become a central node for discovery and development in biotechnology and plant-microbial molecular biology.

Plan to come to the 11th International Congress of Plant Pathology in Boston Massachusetts, U.S.A. from July 29 to August 3, 2018, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of ISPP, to celebrate great progress in our profession, and look to what the future holds for assuring plant health that is earth's wealth:

- A world of advanced IPM-tools, new genomic technologies, advanced monitoring and certification and improved biocontrol and better biostimulants to improve innate immunity.
- An emphasis on people focused science and technology delivery –underpinned by context, community and collaboration.
- An era of new microbiomics tools for research on the microflora in and around plants to devise ways of enhancing resistance, optimising biological balance and reducing disease loss.

Charlie Delp who has attended all of our Congresses, served as ISPP Secretary General from 1998 to 2003, facilitated the World Directory of Plant Pathologists, and is now ISPP Historian remembers:

“That 1st Congress was a turning point in my career as a research scientist with the DuPont Co. We had discovered and developed a unique broad spectrum systemic fungicide, T-1991, otherwise known as benomyl and later Benlate®. The compound had fantastic properties and our research was ready to be introduced to the international community. I couldn't have been more excited. Getting to meet new colleagues from around the world, participating in prestigious scientific sessions and witnessing the pomp and pageantry of the UK was a threshold experience. Since ICPP1968, my collaboration in workshops, seminars, and international organizations was launched. Participation in that Congress opened the world of plant pathology, outstanding pathologists and scientific adventures for me. Participation in ISPP and all of the Congresses since has enriched my life.”

Please join us, it is sure to be a great celebration and just maybe, it will also be a turning point in your career! For our profession, in the words of the late Harvard University Professor, Stephen Jay Gould, *Despite the wicked curves, detours, and delays, the rocky road towards scientific truth is a great trip.*

Greg Johnson

President, International Society for Plant Pathology