



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow CSA members,

The Canadian Society of Agronomy (CSA) is dedicated to enhancing cooperation and coordination among agronomists, recognizing significant achievements in agronomy and providing the opportunity to report and evaluate information pertinent to agronomy in Canada.

Attending annual meetings, volunteering for service, and contributing to our society journal help our members to network and connect to fellow agronomists. CSA membership stands at 150 as of June 1, 2019.

The CSA also offers a robust yearly awards and recognition program.

The Ali Navabi Student Travel Awards were established in 2013 to encourage student attendance at the CSA Annual Meetings and is available to any graduate student CSA member. The award is \$500 and up to 4 are awarded annually. Students participate in oral and poster presentations at the AGM Conference. Recently, CSA board named the travel awards after Dr Ali Navabi's in his memory and for his contributions to the society.

The CSA Graduate Student Pest Management Award of \$500 is made available annually to qualified graduate students enrolled at Canadian universities with research programs relevant to pest management. The award comes with a travel grant of up to \$1,000 to allow the successful applicants to attend and present at the CSA annual conference.

The Graduate Student Presentation and Poster Awards are awarded to CSA student members. These awards are given to acknowledge the contributions that graduate students make to the society and to encourage excellence in graduate student research and presentation. The awards range from \$250 - \$700.

The Early Career Agronomist Award is given to a candidate who has made an outstanding contribution to Agronomy, is within 10 years of the start of his/her career or within 10 years of earning his/her last degree. The award includes \$500 and an inscribed plaque.

The CSA Fellow Award is awarded to a member of the CSA with at least 10 years membership and a distinguished record of service in agronomy. The recipient is named "Fellow of the Canadian Society of Agronomy" and is presented with \$500 and an inscribed plaque at the AGM.

The Best Paper Award is given to the best agronomy-related paper published that year in The Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS). This award is based on reviews by the agronomy Editor of CJPS and a panel of CSA members. The award is an honorarium of \$500 plus and invitation to give an oral presentation of the best paper at the CSA AGM.

The Distinguished Agronomist Award is given to a duly nominated member with 15 years or more of regular membership who is nearing retirement (or is retired) and has a distinguished record of service to the CSA and in the field of agronomy. The award includes an inscribed plaque and \$500.

In addition, the CSA also gives awards for oral and poster presentations.



President's Message (Con't)

Student travel to society meetings and conferences is sponsored in part by the Agricultural Institute of Canada (AIC). Canadian Science Publishing (CSP) also provides financial support to CSA for the awards and recognition program. The CSA is grateful to AIC and CSB for their support.

The Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) is our society journal and members participate by contributing manuscripts, providing peer review, and serving on the editorial board. The CJPS is supported by three societies: the CSA, the Canadian Weed Science Society (CWSS), and the Canadian Society of Horticultural Sciences (CSHS). The board was restructured in 2018 and now has three technical editors (TE), Dr. Bourlaye Fofana (CSHS), Dr. B.W. Thomas (CSA) and Dr. Amit Jhala (CWSS). The goal when recruiting TE's is to ensure the representation of all three societies and corresponding disciplines/expertise. The Editor-in-Chief is Dr. Brian Beres.

CSA members are eligible for a deeply discounted rate for The Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS) and the Canadian Journal of Soil Science (CJSS). The regular rate for CJPS or CJSS is \$526 for the electronic version and \$634 for print and electronic. CSA Members pay \$50.00 for the electronic version and \$125 for the print and electronic versions.

In 2018, the CSA executive organized a joint ASA-CSSA-CSA conference *Enhancing Productivity in a Changing Climate*, which took place in Baltimore, Maryland, USA from November 4 to 7, 2018. The CSA plant breeding committee hosted a symposium entitled *Germplasm exchange and the future of plant breeding*. The CSA awards and recognition luncheon and annual general meeting was held during the conference. 25 CSA members were in attendance. Outstanding scientific oral and poster presentations were recognized.

The CSA executive is organizing a joint CAPB-CBA-CPS-CSA-CSHS-CSPB-CWSS conference *Communicating Innovation in Plant Science*, which will take place in Guelph, Ontario from July 7-10, 2019. The CSA will host two sessions entitled *Plant Breeding & Germplasm Exchange* and *Cropping Systems & Agronomy*.

The 2019 CSA awards recognition luncheon and Annual General Meeting will be held during Plant Canada 2019 on Wednesday, July 10 at 11:30 am - 1:00 pm. Outstanding scientific oral and poster presentations will be recognized by the CSA Graduate Student Oral and Poster Awards Program. There will also be a graduate student social event at Plant Canada on July 8th in the evening which is supported by CPS, CSHS and CSA.

The 2020 CSA Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with The International Crop Science Congress 2020 from June 21-25, 2020 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. I personally encourage you to participate in CSA's activities. This is your society!

For more information on CSA Membership or our awards program contact Nancy Zubriski, PO Box 637, Pinawa, Manitoba, R0E 1L0, 204 299-2327, nzubriski@gmail.com or visit our website at agronomycanada.com and follow us on twitter [@agronomycanada](https://twitter.com/agronomycanada).

Jaswinder Singh, President
Canadian Society of Agronomy

2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards

2019 CSA Distinguished Agronomist Award



Dr. Rigas Karamanos
2019 CSA Distinguished Agronomist

Rigas/Dr. Karamanos received his BSA from the University of Thessaloniki, Greece and his M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Soil Chemistry and Fertility from the University of Saskatchewan. He has taught at the University of Saskatchewan and McGill University, and has served as the Senior Research Agronomist with Esso Chemical Canada, Director of the Saskatchewan Soil Testing Laboratory and Enviro-Test Laboratories Saskatoon and Manager of Agronomy with Westco and Manager of Agronomic Solutions for Viterra. Dr. Karamanos is the Sr. Agronomist with Koch Fertilizer/Koch Agronomic Services in Canada. He was awarded a fellowship in the Canadian Society of Agronomy in 2013 and was inducted in the Saskatchewan Agricultural Hall of Fame in 2015.

2019 CSA Early Career Agronomist Award



Dr. Sheri Strydhorst
2019 CSA Early Career Agronomist

Sheri Strydhorst is a cereal agronomic research scientist at Alberta Agriculture and Forestry based in Barrhead, Alberta. She is also an adjunct professor at the University of Alberta. She completed her BSc, MSc and PhD at the University of Alberta. Her MSc work centered on developing agronomic practices for low tannin faba bean production and her PhD studied rotational benefits of pulse crops. Her current research activities focus on cereal crop agronomy. She works on advanced agronomic practices including: nitrogen fertility, plant growth regulators and foliar fungicides. Sheri focuses on extension of her applied research so that it can be implemented on-farm. Sheri authored or co-authored 11 peer-reviewed papers and has made over 100 invited presentations at producer meetings to over 6000 producers, agronomists and scientists.

2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards (Con't)

2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Awards



Nate Ort

2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Award

Nate grew up in Carman, Manitoba where he graduated from high school in 2009. After that, he worked on a grain farm for two years before starting the Agriculture Diploma program at the University of Manitoba in 2011. After graduation he continued into a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Agronomy). Immediately following completion of this degree he was a part of a winter breeding harvest crew in New Zealand, and then traveled around the rest of the country, eventually making his way to Europe for the remainder of 2017. In the beginning of 2018 he began a MSc program in the Department of Plant Science at the University of Manitoba under the advisement of Dr. Yvonne Lawley and Dr. Malcolm Morrison. Nate is an avid runner, hiker and enjoys all things outdoors.



Mahnoor Asif

2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Award

Mahnoor Asif is studying plant science as a Master's student at the University of Alberta. She completed her BSc in crop science in April 2018 also at the University of Alberta. After graduation, she started a position as a MSc student with Dr. Sheri Strydhorst and co-supervisor Dr. Stephen Strelkov. As a previous pathology summer student at Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada in Lacombe, Alberta, she developed an interest in crop diseases which drove her to pursue further education. Apart from her studies, she enjoys playing video games, travelling, and fashion. She is currently working at the Crop Diversification Centre North in Edmonton, Alberta. Her work involves looking at the value of early fungicide applications in wheat at different growth stages and its influence on yield, quality and disease severity of wheat plants. Mahnoor is aiming to complete her MSc by July 2020 and hopes to continue to work in research in the future.



Surendra Bhattarai

2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Award

Surendra Bhattarai is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Saskatchewan. He completed his B.Sc in Agriculture from Tribhuvan University, Nepal in 2013 and M.Sc in Plant Science from the University of Saskatchewan in 2017. His research focus in his master's program was studying the genetic diversity of Sainfoin, from whereon he developed further interest in forage crops. Therefore, he decided to pursue a Ph.D. under the supervision of Dr. Bill Biliget to study the mechanism of salt resistance in alfalfa using synchrotron as a novel tool and molecular approaches. With his range of experience in forage crops, plant breeding, and plant physiology, he intends to further expand his expertise in the field of abiotic stress plant breeding.

2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards (Con't)

2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Awards



Gurcharn Singh Brar
2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Award

Gurcharn Brar is a Research Officer at the Crop Development Centre and the Department of Plant Science at the University of Saskatchewan. He obtained his PhD from the same department in March 2019. Originally from Punjab, India, Gurcharn came to Canada to pursue an MSc after obtaining a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (Honours in Crop Protection) degree from the renowned Punjab Agricultural University, India. Gurcharn's graduate training focused on the study of plant pathogens, genetics/genomics of pathogen populations, genetics of host-pathogen interactions, resistance breeding, and plant imaging obtained through the University of Saskatchewan, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, National Research Council of Canada, the Canadian Light Source, and the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre. Currently, Gurcharn is working in the areas of gene cloning and functional pathogenomics with collaborators from across Canada, the USA, the UK, and Australia. Gurcharn has published 14 peer-reviewed full-length research papers and 13 peer-reviewed (not refereed) disease survey reports in the Canadian Plant Disease Survey journal; supervised 5 undergraduate students for their six-credit thesis research; chaired a conference/symposium in 2017 and many sessions at scientific meetings of professional societies across North America; and delivered many research presentations (including many invited talks) to his peers, extension talks on field days to growers. In the past, Gurcharn has served on several positions and committees in the Canadian Phytopathological Society, Canadian Society of Agronomy, Saskatchewan Advisory Council on Grain Crops, Plant Science Graduate Student Association of University of Saskatchewan, and Saskatoon Science Fair Committee. Gurcharn is a regular member of several professional societies including Canadian Society of Agronomy.



Wei-Yuan Chen
2019 Ali Navabi Student Travel Award

Mr. Wei-Yuan Chen is from Taiwan, and received his bachelor and masters degrees from National Tsing-Hua University, Taiwan. In 2017, He joined Dr. Jaswinder Singh's Lab at McGill to pursue his Ph.D. His research interest is to understand how the plant physiology is regulated at the molecular level. He is also interested in applying the ideas from basic research to real work in the field. His current project focuses to understand the germination and dormancy decision made by DNA methylation, which has shown an association with pre-harvest sprouting in small grain cereals. The study could provide a new type of resources for the development of pre-harvest sprouting resistant cultivars.

2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards (Con't)

2019 CSA Pest Management Award



Sara Stricker

2019 Pest Management Award Winner

Sara Stricker is currently a Ph.D. student in the Plant Agriculture Department at the University of Guelph, specializing in plant pathology. Her current research, with Dr. Mary Ruth McDonald, focuses on disease management in an integrated pest management system to predict and control *Stemphylium* leaf blight of onion.

Sara completed her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science at the University of Guelph, in addition to a Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario. As a plant pathologist and educator, Sara is very involved in several professional organizations. In addition to being a member of the Canadian Agronomy Society, she is also a member of the Canadian Phytopathological Society Education Committee, the Chair of the Canadian Society for Horticultural Science Student Committee, a member of the Plant Agriculture Graduate Student Liaison Committee, and the Social Media Coordinator for the 2019 Guelph Corteva Plant Science Symposium. She has a passion for science, education, and plant pathology and enjoys giving presentations at meetings like this.

2018 CSP and CSA Best Paper Award



Dr. Laura Van Eerd

2018 CSP and CSA Best Paper Award

Dr. Laura Van Eerd has been awarded the 2018 CSP CSA Best Paper Award for, 'Comparing soluble to controlled-release nitrogen fertilizers: storage cabbage yield, profit margins, and N use efficiency', published in the Canadian Journal of Plant Science (CJPS). Dr. Van Eerd is a Professor of Sustainable Soil Management at the University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus. The goal of her internationally-recognized research program is to understand anthropogenic impacts on agroecosystems, with a focus on nitrogen and carbon biogeochemical cycling. Dr. Van Eerd's research has improved the understanding of N dynamics in horticultural systems to mitigate N losses and improve fertilizer nitrogen use efficiency in order to develop best management practices and technologies that benefit growers and the environment. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers, with 29 publications in the last 6 years alone. She is a recipient of the *Caring for Ontario's Land and Water Award* for her excellence in research. In addition to numerous keynote/invited talks nationally and internationally, her research contributed to key policy documents on soil health and cover crops for government and grower organizations. Dr. Van Eerd has supervised nearly 20 senior HQP, and was recognized for her mentoring with the *Pitblado Teaching Excellence Award*.

2018 Outstanding Associate Editor Canadian Journal of Plant Science

- Jennifer Mitchell-Fetch, Brandon Research Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

2018 Outstanding Reviewers Canadian Journal of Plant Science

- Parthiba Balasubramanian, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Lethbridge, Alberta
- Parminder Chahal, Agronomy and Horticulture, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- Charles Geddes, Lethbridge Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Awards (Con't)

CSA 10+ Year Membership Awards

- Jaswinder Singh, McGill University
- Rosalind Bueckert, University of Saskatchewan
- Kevin Vessey, Saint Mary's University

2018 C.D. Nelson Award Winner



Jaswinder Singh
McGill University
2018 C.D. Nelson Award Winner

The C.D. Nelson Award in Plant Biology has been given for outstanding research contributions to plant biology by the Canadian Society of Plant Biology (CSPB), since 1977. Special consideration is given to originality and independence of thought. In 2018, Dr. Jaswinder Singh was chosen for this prestigious award (http://www.cspb-scbv.ca/awards_nelson.shtml). Dr. Singh is an Associate Professor at McGill University and the current President of the Canadian Society of Agronomy. Following citation was read during award ceremony at the joint meeting by the American Society of Plant Biology and the CSPB in Montreal. Dr. Jaswinder Singh's research contributions are prolific, high-calibre and multi-faceted, blending molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics and plant breeding, and deploying tools of genomics, proteomics and genetic engineering to significantly advance our understanding of basic plant biology with promising socio-economic benefits. Highlights of Dr. Singh's research include: (1) the introduction of the *Ac/Ds* transposable element system into barley to make this crop amenable to transposon-mediated insertional mutagenesis; (2) the first demonstration of the "re-awakening" of a transposable element following its

previous silencing, which is a milestone in our understanding of epigenetic reprogramming during plant development from generation to generation; (3) use of the transposon system to dissect important genes in barley and other cereals, notably the revelation of a novel regulatory switch in the "RNA-dependent DNA methylation" pathway that controls seed dormancy and post-harvest sprouting, providing a new approach to increasing cereal yields and decreasing losses due to excessively humidity; and (4) most recently, discovery of a thaumatin-like protein that plays a major role in determining the malting quality in barley – a finding of major interest for the brewing industry. Dr. Singh is an author on 47 original peer-reviewed research papers, including 34 since the start of his independent research position in 2008 at McGill University, and 11 peer-reviewed book chapters. The diversity of high impact journals in which his research articles have been published is a testament to this quality and breadth. For more details about Dr. Singh's research explore:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/plant/faculty/singh>

A Tribute to Dr. Alireza Navabi



I first met Dr. Alireza Navabi in grad school at the University of Alberta (1999) when Ali was a PhD student and I was a master's student. We also worked together while serving in roles as Editor and Associate Editor of the Canadian Journal of Plant Science. Alireza's skills set, high professional and ethical standards lent themselves well during his successful tenure as Editor-In-Chief. Back in grad school, and right up to his passing this year, Alireza was so bright, optimistic and always willing to provide help and guidance. His background story and struggles that led him from Iran to Canada make his accomplishments all the more impressive and perhaps explain his exemplary work ethic and skills set. His efforts while working as a Research Associate for Dr. Spaner at the University of Alberta's wheat breeding program (2003-2008) greatly improved the field research program and contributed to the release of five wheat varieties

and germplasm lines that will have a lasting impact on wheat production in the Parkland region of the Prairies. At the U of A, Alireza also guided and mentored graduate students, resulting in six theses and 20 refereed scientific articles. His relatively short tenure with AAFC-Guelph (2008-2014) produced several dry bean varieties and germplasm lines. Not surprising, in 2014, he returned to his true passion – wheat, and was a successful candidate for the Grain Farmers of Ontario wheat breeding Chair at the University of Guelph. He served as an Associate Professor in the Department of Plant Agriculture (May, 2014-2019). His love of wheat breeding and enthusiasm for teaching and mentoring students was always on display in person at meetings or on social media platforms such as Twitter. Those of us in the wheat community were fortunate to meet up with Alireza this past winter at the Canadian Wheat Symposium and again at the Canadian Society of Agronomy AGM. He was a true hero, a Lion that faced struggles head on including his battle with pancreatic cancer. In all aspects of his life, Dr. Navabi set a standard we should all strive to meet - we will miss him greatly.

Brian L. Beres, Ph.D., P.Ag.
Senior Research Scientist - Agronomy

Save the Date!

The 8th International Crop Science Congress (ICSC 2020)
June 21 - 25, 2020 | Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



The 2020 Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meeting will be held in conjunction with The 8th International Crop Science Congress (ICSC 2020). Details on the event are available at <https://www.icsc2020.com>

More information will be available soon.

2019 Canadian Society of Agronomy Annual General Meeting

The CSA Annual General Meeting will be held during Plant Canada 2019, July 7-10, 2019 in Guelph, Ontario. Details are below.

Canadian Society of Agronomy Business Meeting and Awards Wednesday, July 10, 2019 | 11:30 am – 1:00 pm

- 11:30 am Introductory Remarks
- 11:35 am Division Business Meeting and Awards Presentations
1. Approval of 2019 Agenda
 2. Approval of 2018 AGM Meeting Minutes
 3. Report of Executive Board
- 2019 Awards
1. Distinguished Agronomist
 2. Early Career Agronomist
 3. Ali Navabi Student Travel Awards
 4. 2019 Pest Management Award
 5. Canadian Journal of Plant Science Best Paper Award
 6. Canadian Journal of Plant Science Outstanding Associate Editor Award
 7. Canadian Journal of Plant Science Outstanding Reviewers Award
 8. CSA 10 Year Membership Award
 9. CSA Photo Contest Awards
 10. 2019 Annual Meeting Student Poster and Oral Presentation Awards
- Financials
11. Treasurers Report and Appointment of Auditor for 2019
 12. Upcoming Conferences and Next AGM
 13. Retiring Executive Members
 14. A Tribute to Ali Navabi
 15. Introduction of New Board
- 12:05 pm CSA Overview of Membership Benefits – Dr. Jaswinder Singh
- 12:10 pm 2018 Best Paper Award Presentation – Dr. Sean Westerveld
'Comparing soluble to controlled-release nitrogen fertilizers: storage cabbage yield, profit margins, and N use efficiency'
L.L. Van Eerd,^a J.J.D. Turnbull,^a C.J. Bakker,^b R.J. Vyn,^c A.W. McKeown,^b S.M. Westerveld^b
- 12:30 pm Lunch
- 12:35 pm Concluding Remarks
- 1:00 pm Adjourn

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Reviewed Financials for the Year Ended December 31, 2018

Anita Drabyk
Deer Woods Imagery and Services
Box 324
Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0

June 21, 2018

Canadian Society of Agronomy
Box 237
Pinawa, MB R0E 1L0

Dear Canadian Society of Agronomy,

I have reviewed the accounting books for the Canadian Society of Agronomy for FY 2018.

I have summarized the information below:

1. The items listed for the Income and Expense matched the cheques, other debits and credits.
2. I found the Profit and Loss and the Balance sheets (as attached) to match the actual income and expenses, including all deposits and debits.

All the financial records for the Canadian Society of Agronomy for 2018 were found to be accurate and balanced according to the statement attached. All amounts on the bank statements were checked against the deposits and the receipts and invoices.

Sincerely,



Anita Drabyk

Canadian Society of Agronomy

Profit and Loss as of December 31, 2018

Canadian Society of Agronomy

PROFIT AND LOSS

January - December 2018

	TOTAL
INCOME	
Corporate Sponsorship	11,000.00
Member Fees & Subscriptions	7,029.39
Sponsorship for Awards	1,000.00
Total Income	\$19,029.39
GROSS PROFIT	\$19,029.39
EXPENSES	
Advertising and Promotion	543.35
Awards	607.88
Awards and Grants	
Cash Awards and Grants	4,000.00
Total Awards and Grants	4,000.00
Bank Service Charges	30.20
Book keeping & Registrar	4,677.80
Bundled Subscriptions	30.00
Business Licenses and Permits	20.00
Conference Expenses	3,867.57
Insurance	918.00
Internet website	585.45
Office Supplies	
Software Monthly Fee	56.72
Total Office Supplies	56.72
Postage and Shipping	385.24
Professional Fees	157.50
Quarterly Fee Exec Dir	5,856.90
Subscriptions	1,541.15
Total Expenses	\$23,277.76
OTHER INCOME	
Interest Income	1,697.17
Memb, dues and fees (non-rec'd)	145.00
Total Other Income	\$1,842.17
OTHER EXPENSES	
Reconciliation Discrepancies	186.01
Total Other Expenses	\$186.01
PROFIT	\$ -2,592.21

Canadian Society of Agronomy Executive Committee 2019/20

CSA Executive to be Appointed at 2019 Annual General Meeting

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A Thank You Retiring Executive Members



**Harpinder
Randhawa**



**Helen
Booker**



**Mumtaz
Cheema**

Canadian Society of Agronomy Executive Committee 2018/19

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