

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CAPB members,

Another year has flown by, and we have been very busy – which means that we have a lot of exciting developments to report – possibly the most prominent of which is the development of a brand new logo and an entirely new [website](#), which provides an updated look, as well as vastly improved functionality and accessibility. A big thank you to our webmaster, Jordan VanderBurgt, for all his hard work! In addition, we have initiated a new [BlueSky](#) account and updated our [LinkedIn](#) page.

The CAPB participated in the Plant Canada 2024 meeting last summer in Winnipeg, where we led a wonderful plenary session featuring Drs. Louis-Philippe Hamel, Dan Voytas, and Nicola Patron, who provided presentations on the topics of molecular farming, gene editing platforms, and metabolic pathway engineering in plants. We also organized a workshop entitled 'A brief overview of the gene editing landscape in Canada', with presentations and a panel made up of Hannah Clouthier (CFIA), Jennifer Hubert (CropLife Canada), Dr. Steve Webb (GIFS), Dr. Pankaj Bhowmik (NRC), and myself, covering topics such as the basic science, regulatory landscape, commercialization, and implementation of gene editing in crop species. The CAPB awarded eight travel grants to students and postdoctoral members, as well as several prizes for best posters and oral presentations.

While there are no CAPB meetings scheduled for 2025, we are planning to work with the International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB) to organize a joint meeting in the summer of 2026 in Saskatoon. As always, there will be opportunities for travel bursaries and presentation prizes for our student members – check our website for more information. We hope to see you there!

Finally, many of you will have received an e-mail reminding you to register on our new website (as an active member) or renew your membership, which can be done through our website and will provide you with member benefits for 2 years. Having an active membership will allow you to participate in our student competitions and receive discounted registration rates at CAPB meetings, among other things.

I hope that everyone will take some time this summer to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family, and I wish you all the best in your research endeavors over the next year!

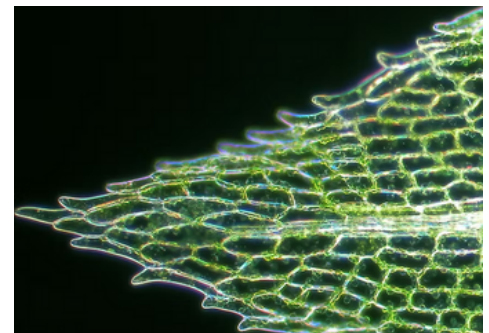
Best wishes,

Dr. Stacy Singer

CAPB President

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ABOUT US



The Canadian Association for Plant Biotechnology (CAPB) is a registered non-profit organization in Canada. It is part of the International Association for Plant Biotechnology (IAPB), formerly named the International Association for Plant Tissue Culture (IAPTC), which was formed in 1970-1971.

The goals of the CAPB are to:

- Promote interaction among plant biotechnology researchers in Canada
- Liaise with the International Association of Plant Biotechnology
- Advocate for plant biotechnology research
- Bridge the gap between academia/basic research and industry
- Serve as a contact point for plant biotechnology-related information in Canada

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CAPB!

Please visit our [website](#) to join the CAPB! Members enjoy many benefits, including:

- Reduced conference registration fees
- Eligibility for student research paper and presentation awards
- Eligibility for student travel awards for conferences
- Easy networking with the plant biotechnology community involving academia, government, and private industry
- Access to job opportunities on our [website](#)

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Dr. Pankaj Bhowmik (NRC Saskatoon)

For further details please visit our [website](#). We are currently seeking Postdoc and Student Representatives. Please email info@canadianplantbiotech.ca for more information



PLANT CANADA 2024

Congratulations to our graduate student presentation award winners at the Plant Canada 2024 conference in Winnipeg who received \$400 for 1st place and \$200 for 2nd place. All of the students did an amazing job!

Oral Presentation Category

1st place was awarded to **Solihu Kayode Sakariyahu** (University of Western Ontario), with a talk entitled '*Profiling environmental and seasonal variations in condensed tannins and metabolites of birdsfoot trefoil (Lotus corniculatus L.) cultivars*'.

2nd place was awarded to **Jared Bento** (University of Manitoba), with a talk entitled '*Genome-wide association and genomic selection for oil and fatty acid profile in rapeseed (Brassica napus L.)*'.

Poster Presentation Category

1st place was awarded to **Louie Cris Lopus** (University of Lethbridge), with a poster entitled '*Gene-editing for the improvement of photosynthesis, grain yield, and leaf rust resistance of wheat cv 'Fielder'*'.

2nd place was awarded to **Janani Radhakrishnan** (University of Alberta), with a poster entitled '*Gene expression analysis of Arabidopsis thaliana dehydrins and in silico expression profiling of Brassica napus dehydrins in response to clubroot disease*'.

The **2024 CAPB Plant Canada winner** was graduate student **Udaya Subedi** (University of Alberta), with a talk entitled '*Transcriptional repression of MsWOX13-2 in alfalfa enhances tolerance to waterlogging stress*'.



IAPB/CAPB MEETING 2026

There are no CAPB meetings scheduled for 2025, but the CAPB will be hosting a meeting in collaboration with the IAPB in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada from July 27-31, 2026.

There will be opportunities for travel bursaries and presentation prizes for our student members.

Stay tuned to the **IAPB** and **CAPB** websites for more meeting details coming soon!

2025 CAPB SEMINAR SERIES

The 2025 CAPB seminar series focused on aspects relevant to plant biotechnology including research and development, commercialization considerations, regulations, and public opinion. Thank you to our speakers for the excellent talks!



January 30th, 2025

Dr. Fernando Merwaiss

Instituto de Biología Molecular y Celular de Plantas, Valencia, Spain

Development of Plant Virus-Derived Nanoparticles Displaying Multivalent Nanobodies



February 27th, 2025

Dr. Ray Collier

Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center, University of Wisconsin - Madison

The Wisconsin Crop Innovation Center - In the Public Sector, Moving Plant Transformation Forward



March 27th, 2025

Dr. John McMurdy

Vice President for Plant Biotechnology and Seed Innovation, CropLife International

Regulatory and Trade Policy Impacts on Genome Editing use in Plants

Our 2025 Virtual Seminar Series has concluded, but current CAPB members may contact webadmin@canadianplantbiotech.ca to request access to recordings of these interesting seminars.

CONNECT WITH THE CAPB

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Bluesky](#) for news, updates, and to network with the Plant Biotechnology community!



E-LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

'[Stewardship Best Practices](#)' is available for those interested in biotechnology stewardship in agriculture. Registration is free for students and other members of the academic community.



RECENT PUBLICATION

"[Strengthening the future of science: Why joining a scientific society matters](#)" highlights the important roles of scientific societies.

2025 STUDENT RESEARCH PAPER COMPETITION

We are currently holding our 2025 Student Research Paper Competition. We encourage all eligible students to apply!

Awards

Two winners will be awarded \$500 each.

Process

This award will be presented to two outstanding research papers. All eligible papers will be evaluated by at least three experts in the field

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a current undergraduate or graduate student, or a recent graduate who completed their degree requirements on or after August 31st, 2023
- Applicants or their supervisor must be a CAPB member
- Applicants must reside in Canada



Submission Requirements

- The applicant must be first author to be considered for the award
- Multiple submissions by the same applicant will not be considered
- Must be an original research work of the applicant
- Original research articles published within 24 months of the current submission deadline will be eligible
- Submitted paper must have been accepted for publication at time of submission and have been assigned a DOI by the publishing journal
- Submitted paper must have been peer-reviewed prior to publication

Further details on how to apply can be found on our [website](#).

All submissions must be received by 11:59 PST on August 31st, 2025.

YOUR FEEDBACK IS APPRECIATED



We have been working hard to revitalize and improve our Associations' website, communications, and operations. We are open to any feedback our members have on these changes.

For comments regarding the website, please contact [**webadmin@canadianplantbiotech.ca**](mailto:webadmin@canadianplantbiotech.ca)

For comments regarding communications, please contact [**comms@canadianplantbiotech.ca**](mailto:comms@canadianplantbiotech.ca)

All other comments and inquiries regarding the Association can be directed to [**info@canadianplantbiotech.ca**](mailto:info@canadianplantbiotech.ca)