



ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICA ONTA NEWSLETTER

<http://www.ontaweb.org/>

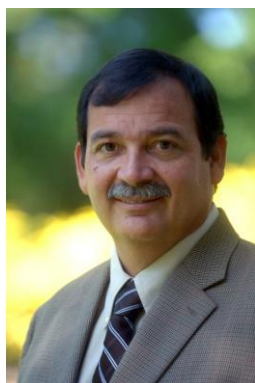
November 2016

ONTA 2017 XLIX Annual Meeting and 50th Anniversary



The Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America will be hosting its annual meeting during the week of July 10-14, 2017. The Local Arrangements Committee and the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez (www.uprm.edu) is planning a special conference in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, to celebrate the “50th Anniversary of the ONTA Foundation”. The meeting program will include: a welcome cocktail at the MUSA Museum on July 10, three symposia, two days of technical presentations, an anniversary banquet on July 13, and a one day tour.

Local Arrangements Committee



Dr Roberto Vargas-Ayala

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is chaired by Dr Roberto Vargas-Ayala, UPR-Mayaguez (roberto.vargas1@upr.edu) and the Office of International Program at the College of Agricultural Sciences-UPRM (fatima.ortiz@upr.edu).

Venue

The conference event will be held at the Business Administration Amphitheater at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayagüez.

The main lodging is at the **Mayaguez Resort & Casino** (US\$110-US\$120+Tax). Tel: 1-787-832-3030.

[http://www.mayaguezresort.com/res_rooms.html]

Other lodging options: **Holiday-Inn Mayagüez** (US\$140+Tax). Tel: 1-787-833-1100

[<http://holidayinn.com/mayaguezpr>]

Howard Johnson Downtown Mayagüez (US\$99.50+Tax). Tel: 1-787-832-9191
[reservaciones@ihphospitality.com]

Mayagüez is considered the “capital” of the West Coast and is the third largest city of Puerto Rico. Mayaguez has its own distinct look with European charm and is known for its port, the UPR, the Teatro Yagüez (theater of arts). It also houses the only zoo on the island.

Technical Program Committee

The Scientific Program is being handled by Drs Deborah Neher (Deborah.Neher@uvm.edu) and Roberto

Vargas-Ayala. The preliminary technical program includes: 6 Oral Paper Sessions, 3 Symposia, 1 Master Lecture, 1 International Forum on Banana and Plantain, and a Poster Session.

Visas: Please check if you will require a USA visa and how long will it take to be granted at your country



Mayagüez downtown

Registration Rates

ONTA Members = US\$300* or US\$350**

Students = US\$175* or US\$225**

*Early Bird Registration by May 10

** May 10 – Onsite

Travel (Airports)*

Mayagüez, Puerto Rico (MAZ)

Borinquen, Aguadilla (BQN)

San Juan, PR (SJU)

*Airport Transportation to Hotel should be coordinated with LAC

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ONTA FOUNDATION

OUTPUTS

Dr Charles Overstreet kindly sends the following message regarding the support received from the ONTA Foundation for the SON/ONTA meeting in Montréal:

“I would just like to say that the Foundation was very active in supporting the joint meeting this year. We were able to offer financial support for a number of students to attend the meeting through our Student Travel Awards. We were able to sponsor the poster competition again this year and had a record number of participants from both organizations. We had to modify the way we presented awards this year because of the large number of students. Rather than offer first, second, and third place like we have done in the past, this year the students were assigned to a topic group and a winner selected from that group. The Foundation was also able to support several of our key scientists presenting symposia with some additional funding to be able to attend the meeting (Table 1). The Foundation would also like to thank all of those who contributed during this past year both financially as well as their time to make this a successful year. We are looking forward to next year and will be active in supporting the ONTA meeting in Puerto Rico.”

Charlie

Table 1 ONTA Foundation. Joint SON/ONTA - 2016 meeting Activities

Activity	Number	Amount (US\$)	Total (US\$)
Student TG	3	800	2,400
TG - Regina Carneiro	1	1,000	1,000
TG - Peña Santiago	1	1,000	1,000
TG - Javier Franco	1	1,000	1,000
Student PC	4	400	1,600

TG = travel grant; PC = Poster competition

From the Newsletter Editor

Dear ONTA Member,

It is a pleasure to be again with you and share the news that our colleagues have sent to the Newsletter. We will also use the opportunity in this issue to have a quick look at the minutes, ONTA officers reports, highlights of the SON-ONTA meeting, ESN meeting and nematology courses that were held this year in Cuba and Mexico.

We would like to start with the highlights of the SON-ONTA joint meeting in Montréal (Canada).

The very successful and enjoyable joint meeting SON-ONTA (July 17-22, 2016) was made possible thanks to the hard work and dedication of many ONTA and SON officers. We would like to thank all of those involved behind the scenes, especially the Local Organization Committee led by Guy Bélair, Mario Tenuta, Benjamin Mimee and Éléonore Tremblay. The scientific program was organized by Drs Patricia Timper and Ignacio Cid del Prado. It was indeed, the meeting of the Americas for several reasons, among them: the scientific program quality, and the large number of students attending the meeting. There was a total of 231 submitted abstracts. The program included 8 symposia covering important ongoing nematology research topics such as: New nematicides, Nematode-microbe

symbioses, World-wide impact of potato cyst nematodes, *Heterodera*: Complexity of IPM in field crops, the genus *Nacobbus*: Identification, management and regulatory measurements, Role of effectors in Host-Nematode interactions, and Modern Approaches to taxonomy and characterization of nematode diversity. There were also two workshops of which the workshop 'Advice on publishing and reviewing papers' was very popular among students. The workshop on 'Morphological and molecular diagnostics of *Globodera* spp.' reflected the great interest of the Northern countries in *Globodera* spp. and it was a great opportunity to have Javier Franco (Peru) and Ingrid Moreno (Chile) to share their knowledge and expertise with SON colleagues. Both SON and ONTA did their best to bring in speakers and encourage student attendance.

The meeting started on July 17 with registration and a welcoming cocktail, followed by 2 days of technical program, a 1 day tour, and finally a 1 day technical program and banquet on July 21.



Welcoming cocktail

The meeting opened with speeches given by Presidents of both societies and we have also reproduced in this issue for you the speech of Alejandro Esquivel, then ONTA President.

Afterwards, the plenary session continued with the first session on 'Ecology and bioindicators of soil function', a perfect topic that framed a tribute to Howard Ferris for a long career dedicated to nematode ecology.



Plenary session

The meeting represented a great opportunity for nematologists from North, Central and South of the Americas, Europe, Asia, Australia and Africa to come together.



Alejandro Esquivel Hernández

SON and ONTA members had opportunity to socialize during the one day tour to Montréal which enabled us to visit bee keepers and allotments in former industrial areas, hydroponic and aquaculture units, vegetables grown on top of buildings open spaces, tour and lunch on board a ship and, finally, a visit to the botanical gardens.

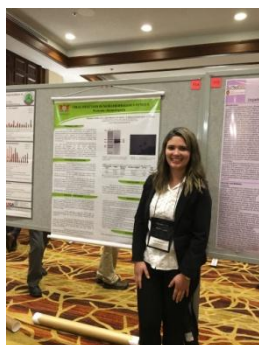


Urban allotments visit



Hydroponic and aquaculture units

The student participation was outstanding with 62 students pre-registered and 23 students who received travel awards provided by Bayer, Dow Agrosiences, the N.A. Cobb Foundation and the ONTA Foundation. There were two student competitions: the John Webster outstanding student award Presentation (SON Oral Paper Competition) and the Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana best poster competition organized by ONTA. The Honors and Awards Committee of SON selected the 16 top students for the competition and 40 students entered the poster competition (see also SON Newsletter). Due to the large number of posters entered for the competitions, two poster sessions were organized, and four, instead of the usual three, awards were given.



Thalita Monteiro (poster competition)

Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana Student's Best Poster Competition

The students were divided into five groups:

Group 1: Resistance/Host-parasitic interaction/population dynamics – Winner Meredith Hall

Group 2: Biological control agents – Winner Francesca Stubbins

Group 3: Nematode survey/Identification/plant host – Winner Rebecca Sandoval Ruiz

Group 4: Nematode management – No winner was selected from this group

Group 5: Biochemical/Embryology/others – Winner Valeria Orlando

Each of the four winners received US\$400



Student travel and Rod Rodríguez-Kábana poster competition award winners with Charles Overstreet. From left to right: Bianca Barrante-Infante (Travel grant), Rebeca Sandoval Ruiz (Poster competition), Thalita Suelen Monteiro (Travel grant), Clemen de Oliveira (Travel grant), Charles Overstreet, Valeria Orlando (Poster competition)

Students Travel award winners

Clemen De Oliveira (Brazil)

Thalita Suelen Monteiro (Brazil)

Bianca Barrantes-Infante (USA)

Each of the four winners received US\$800

We also would like to thank Dr Patty Timper for giving young nematologists the opportunity to co-chair the sessions, which undoubtedly was very exciting and a unique opportunity for them to gain a valuable and memorable experience.



Drs Patricia Timper and Reyes Peña-Santiago

The meeting ended with a banquet and the recognition of services given to both societies by the distinguished members that received awards.



The banquet

Finally, we would like to acknowledge the Chairs, Co-chairs and all the volunteers that helped with the planning and organization of the different symposia as well as the speakers.

Kind regards,

Rosa



Lunching onboard the river cruise

Minutes XLVIII ONTA Annual Meeting

ONTA Business Executive Committee Meeting

Venue: Habitation A

Hotel Marriott Chateau Champlain. Montréal, Canada

SON/ONTA Joint Meeting

17 July, 2016

In attendance: Alejandro Esquivel (President), Ignacio Cid del Prado (Vice-president), Renato Inserra (Treasurer), Janete Brito (Business Manager), Julia Meredith (Honors and Awards), Charles Overstreet (ONTA Foundation), Terry Kirkpatrick (EIC *Nematropica*), Rosa Manzanilla (Newsletter), Larry Duncan (IFNS President), Paula Agudelo (Member at large).

The meeting was called to order at 2:07 p.m.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and printed copies were provided at the meeting. **Larry Duncan** moved to approve the past minutes as posted. **Charles Overstreet** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Annual reports. Reports (2015-2016) from EB members and Committees were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and printed versions of such reports were provided to the members attending the meeting.

The President, Alejandro Esquivel, presented his report. He commented on fundraising efforts, and reported having delivered over 20 letters soliciting support from industry. There was discussion on the importance of coordinating efforts particularly

to avoid duplicate solicitations to the same company (e.g. from society and meeting organizers). Alejandro thanked **Johan Desager** for his service as new Chair of the sustaining memberships committee. **Renato Inserra** commented that there was a need to follow up with **Axel Elling** from Bayer to complete the documentation they requested for their pledge. Alejandro mentioned it was important to be mindful of proper acknowledgement and logo placement in meeting materials. A good example of this was the T-shirt fundraiser. **Charles Overstreet** mentioned that he and **Ed McGawley** were able to raise US\$3,000 pledged via the T-shirts that were distributed at registration.

Alejandro summarized the status of the ONTA flag initiative and distributed copies of the designs that had been submitted for consideration. Several designs from Alejandro and one design from **Alcides Sánchez** were discussed. There was consensus on the fact that the design from Alcides was too similar to the logo of the Society of Nematologists. **Rosa Manzanilla** asked that Alcides be recognized for submitting a design. The members of the EC agreed and acknowledged the importance of having young scientists becoming interested in the society. Alejandro suggested raising the flag item at the Business Meeting to solicit input from the membership so that a vote can happen soon.

Alejandro thanked **Roberto Vargas** and **Deborah Neher** for their willingness to run for the position of Vice-president, and congratulated Deborah for being elected.

The Vice-president, **Ignacio Cid del Prado** expressed he was honored to have served as Vice-president for ONTA this past year. He mentioned he had pursued a donation from Bayer to support an award, and that he would contact the ONTA Foundation to make the funds available through them. He also mentioned that this company would support a

Nematology course to be offered 4-10 Sept. of the current year in Mexico.

The Secretary report was submitted by **Paola Lax** before the meeting. There was no discussion. Paola was unable to attend the meeting and accepted **Paula Agudelo** to serve as Secretary on her behalf.

The Treasurer report was presented by **Renato Inserra**. He thanked Alejandro for his fundraising efforts. Renato went over the figures in the report submitted before the meeting and noted that the books are in good shape. **Rosa Manzanilla** and **Julia Meredith** offered to collect membership dues during the meeting. It was decided that we make the announcement of this possibility of payment of membership fees during the meeting. **Terry Kirkpatrick** reminded the Executive Committee (EC) that it is very important to keep an updated database of current members so that the publication fees waiver can be properly enforced. There was discussion on the best way to maintain such a database. Ideally, this should be available online for authorized users.

The Nematropica report was presented by Editor-in-Chief (EIC) **Terry Kirkpatrick**. He mentioned he expects a flush of manuscripts after the meeting, as in past years. Terry reminded the EC that it is time to start making invitations for the new EIC, as his tenure ends this year. He solicited names of potential candidates for the position. The EC agreed that Terry should contact the following people, one at a time: Howard Ferris, Ken Evans, Gary Lawrence, Reyes Peña-Santiago, Steve Koenning. Terry ended his report by acknowledging the support he gets from **Kathy Snyder** in processing manuscripts. Several EC members commented positively on Terry's tenure as EIC and thanked him for all the hours devoted to the journal.

The ONTA Newsletter report was presented by **Rosa Manzanilla**. She

mentioned it would be useful to have regional representatives that can solicit contributions for the newsletter and coordinate all other ONTA business regionally. She solicited lab profiles for publication in the Newsletter, and indicated that it would be helpful for her to have access to a listserv to send the newsletter directly (as opposed to through the Secretary). **Larry Duncan** offered to help send communications whenever the Secretary Paola Lax had issues with connectivity.

The *ONTA Website* report was presented by **Larry Duncan**. He mentioned he has access to a new person who should be able to help with the needed overhaul of the website. He solicited photographs that we want to include in the website. He added that he may be able to help update listservs and databases as part of the website update.

The *Honors and Awards* committee report was presented by **Julia Meredith** before the meeting. There was no discussion.

Charles Overstreet presented the *ONTA Foundation* report before the meeting. There was no discussion.

New Business: 2017 Puerto Rico Meeting. **Roberto Vargas** was unable to attend this meeting in Montréal, but Alejandro conveyed that Roberto had obtained permission from the University to promote and host the meeting in July 2017. Roberto has requested ONTA to provide funds to initiate arrangements. **Renato Inserra** asked that Roberto provided a specific figure that he would need so that the EC can approve. Roberto also requires support in the planning of any special commemorative events (50th anniversary). **Paula Agudelo** proposed that an ad hoc committee could work with the Program Chair, **Deborah Neher**. After discussion of two possible cities for hosting the meeting, the EC indicated that **San Juan** would be more appropriate because attendance would likely be higher (more attractions in San

Juan for visitors). **July 10-14, 2017** was proposed as the date and an expected cost of registration was estimated to be US\$400-500/person, with a discount rate of ~US\$300 for students. A website with the information for the meeting should be made available as soon as possible.

Sites of Future Meetings: Briefly, the following countries were discussed as possible sites to host future meetings.

- 2017 Puerto Rico
- 2018 Peru (Javier Franco) or Costa Rica (Alejandro Esquivel)
- 2019 Costa Rica (Alejandro Esquivel) or Cuba (Leopoldo Hidalgo)
- 2020 Antibes, France (IFNS)

Larry Duncan asked to include in the minutes a mention of the outstanding job that Alejandro Esquivel did as ONTA President this past year. He added that Alejandro has been the most active and best president we have had in recent years.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Paula Agudelo (for Paola Lax, ONTA Secretary).

ONTA Executive Board Meeting

Venue: Salon Cartier C
Hotel Marriott Chateau Champlain. Montréal, Canada
SON/ONTA Joint Meeting
21 July, 2016

In attendance: Alejandro Esquivel (President), Ignacio Cid del Prado (Vice-president), Renato Inserra (Treasurer), Janete Brito (Business Manager), Julia Meredith (Honors and Awards), Charles Overstreet (ONTA Foundation), Terry Kirkpatrick (EIC Nematropica), Rosa Manzanilla (Newsletter), Larry Duncan (IFNS President), Paula

Agudelo (Member at large), other members of ONTA.

Meeting was called to order at 3:38 p.m.

Approval of minutes of previous meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and printed copies were provided at the meeting. **Larry Duncan** moved to approve the past minutes as posted. **Renato Inserra** seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved unanimously as submitted.

Moment of Silence. ONTA members who passed away recently, **George Fassuliotis** and **Wilson R.T. Novaretti**, were remembered and honored with a moment of silence.

Annual reports. Reports (2015-2016) from EC members and Committees were distributed electronically prior to the meeting and printed versions of such reports were provided to the members attending the meeting.

The President, **Alejandro Esquivel**, delivered a few highlights of the officer reports, as follows:

1. ONTA Finances. He reminded members to pay their membership fees, and thanked **Rosa Manzanilla** and **Julia Meredith** for collecting fees last year in Cuba and this year in Canada. He also thanked DuPont, Corbana, AMVAC, Syngenta, Adama, and Bayer for their support of ONTA. He also expressed appreciation to the new chair of the sustaining memberships committee, **Johan Desaegeer**.
2. ONTA Flag. Alejandro summarized the status of the ONTA flag initiative and explained that the deadline to submit designs will be extended for another 3 months. After this time, the Executive Board will choose the top 3 designs and

will submit to the membership for voting. **Greg Noel** said he was in possession of the “original ONTA Flag” and that he had actually brought it to the meeting. There was no further discussion.

3. *Nematropica*. Alejandro reminded authors that ONTA members can publish in *Nematropica* free of charge. He thanked **Terry Kirkpatrick** for his excellent work as Editor-in-Chief of *Nematropica* and added that his tenure as EIC ends on 31 December, 2016.
4. Newsletter. Alejandro thanked **Rosa Manzanilla** for her leadership as newsletter editor, and solicited contributions for the publication from the attending members.

Future Meetings. Alejandro announced that our next meeting will be in **San Juan, Puerto Rico** from **July 10 to 14, 2017**. The chair of the local arrangements, **Roberto Vargas**, was unable to attend this meeting. Alejandro explained that the website with more information on this special meeting to commemorate the **50 years of ONTA** was coming soon.

Larry Duncan, President of IFNS, invited the members to the 7th International Congress of Nematology to be held in **Antibes, France** from **May 3 to 8, 2020**. The selected proposal was presented by **Pierre Abad** on behalf of the European Society of Nematologists. Larry took the opportunity to thank **Mara da Rocha** for submitting a bid for Brazil. He added that a third proposal from China was also considered. Larry showed a video invitation to the 2020 meeting to happen at the “heart of the French Riviera”. Registration is expected to be €700 (regular member), €450 (students), and €500 (members from developing countries). The target is to have 100 student attendees.

Alejandro talked about ONTA meeting sites beyond 2017, while presenting a

chart with the statistics of the countries were previous meetings have been held. The meeting has been in the United States of America 6 times, and in Mexico 5 times. Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Chile, and Argentina have organized the meeting 3 times each. He invited **Javier Franco** to consider hosting the meeting in Peru in 2018. Javier said that he would consider it and would give the Executive Board an answer in 2 weeks.

Alejandro offered to present a proposal for the meeting in 2018, and organize it with Fabio Chaverri as part of the celebration of the 20 years of the Instituto de Sustancias Tóxicas at the Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica. He added that if Peru hosted in 2018, he would be willing to propose for 2019. **Leopoldo Hidalgo** expressed interest in competing for hosting the meeting in Cuba in 2019.

Alejandro thanked **Deborah Neher** and **Roberto Vargas** for running for the Vice-president position respectively, and expressed appreciation to **Paola Lax** for processing the ballots. He introduced the new ONTA President, **Ignacio Cid del Prado**, who expressed he was honored to have served as Vice-president for ONTA this past year and that he looked forward to his service as President.

Alejandro Esquivel thanked the Executive Committee and the members for the opportunity to serve ONTA.

Ignacio Cid del Prado thanked Alejandro for his effective leadership and guidance of ONTA during his tenure as President.

With no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

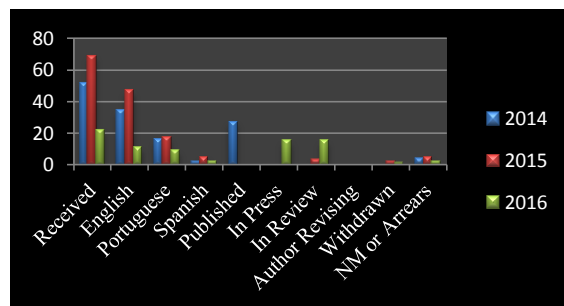
Respectfully submitted by Paula Agudelo (for Paola Lax, ONTA Secretary).

ONTA Officers Reports (Highlights)

Nematropica Editor-in-Chief

The December, 2015 edition of *Nematropica* contained 16 articles plus the abstracts from the 47th ONTA meeting held in Cuba. The June, 2016 edition, will have 15 papers. We have received a total of 22 manuscripts since January 1 2016 in English, Portuguese, and Spanish. A comparison of 2014, 2015, and 2016 (to June 1) activities appear in Fig. 1.

Fig. 1 *Nematropica* manuscript statistics (2014-to present)



NM = Non members or at arrears

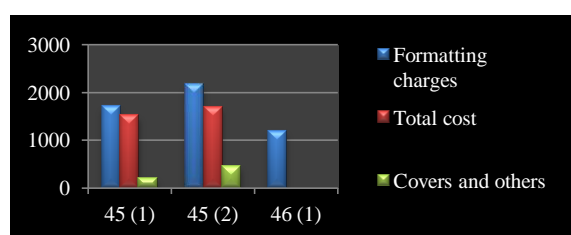
Thanks once again to our senior and associate editors for their efforts, the many reviewers of manuscripts for their expertise and time, and special thanks to Ms Cathy Howard, University of Arkansas, and Ms Kathy Snyder, our copy editor.

Dr Terry Kirkpatrick
Nematropica, Editor-in-Chief

ONTA Business Manager

Total formatting charges, total cost for the published (manuscripts), formatting Table of Content and front cover edits for *Nematropica* Annual meeting, 18-22 May, 2015, Varadero, Cuba were published in Vol. 45 (2). The formatting charges up to June 28, 2016 for The cost for formatting each submitted article was US\$100 (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2 *Nematropica* Volume 45 (1, 2) and 46 (1) costs in US Dollars



The Business manager received a gift of US\$3,000 made by a Company to ONTA. Additionally, an amount of US\$1,007 was received from two Companies concerning their Sustaining Member membership applications.

Dr. Janete A. Brito
Business Manager, *Nematropica* – ONTA

ONTA Newsletter

Two issues of the ONTA Newsletter [Vol. 45 (2) and Vol. 46 (1)] were prepared and posted on the ONTA website (<http://www.ontaweb.org>) for access by ONTA members. Volumes 45 (2) and 46 (1) were posted in December (2015) and May (2016), respectively

Dr Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

Vol. 45 issues 1 and 2 (2015) and Vol. 46 issue 1 (2016), are shown in Fig. 2. Fifteen manuscripts and one obituary were published in Vol. 45 (1) and sixteen manuscripts and the abstracts of the XLVII ONTA *Nematropica* Vol. 46, No. 1 (2016) amounted to US\$1,200. Fifteen articles will be published in this issue.

ONTA Honors and Awards Committee

The Honors and Awards Committee submitted to the President and Executive Board the potential list of awardees for 2016. The committee conferred the following awards based on the nomination and qualifications of each candidate.

Dr Gregory L. Noel (Special Award)

Dr Reyes Peña-Santiago (Special Award)

Dr Larry W. Duncan (Award of Appreciation)

Dr Javier Franco Ponce (Extraordinary Service in Nematology)

Dr Terrence L. Kirkpatrick (Distinguished Service Award)

MSc Alejandro Esquivel H. (Past President Award)

Nahum Marbán-Mendoza
Chair of Honors and Awards Committee

The awardees:



Greg Noel

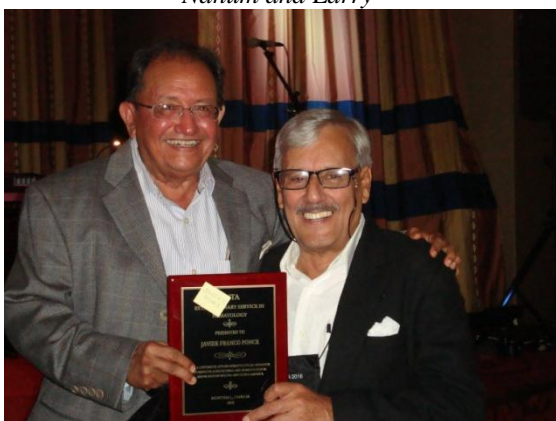
The awardees (cont.)...



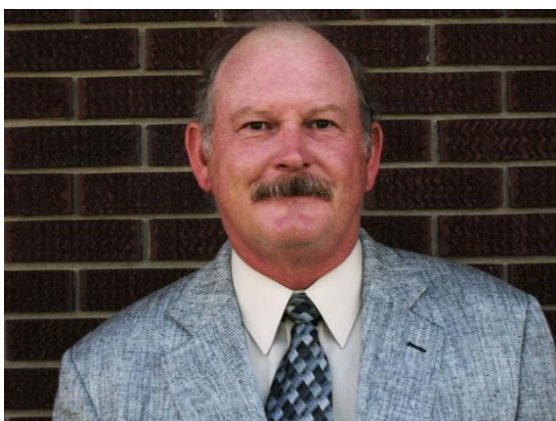
Reyes and Nahum



Nahum and Larry



Nahum and Javier



Terry Kirkpatrick

ONTA President

I would like to express to all of you my sincere gratitude. It was a year of lifelong learning for me as ONTA President. I hope I have fulfilled the duties and responsibilities. Thanks for your wise advice during the past year. My special appreciation goes to **Renato Inserra**, he was always willing to show me the way.

Drs Paula Agudelo and Danny Coyne were appointed Members at Large. Their contributions were very valuable. I was very fortunate to have them on board. I would to highlight the interest of the Chairs to continue working another year for ONTA Committees. I am grateful for their hard work and dedication. I thanked to Dr Luis Payan (Previous Chair) for his long term contribution, and I expressed to him my interest to remaining active in this committee as an ONTA member. Dr Johan Desaegeer was appointed the new Chair of the Sustaining Committee.

Last year the Executive Committee (EC) unanimously supported the convenience of having an ONTA flag. We started a campaign called "PUT COLOR TO OUR FLAG". The invitation letter was circulated twice between ONTA members as well in ONTA Newsletter. Unfortunately, the response was not as expected. The EC should take a decision to maintain the idea alive or discard it.

Special attention was paid to fund raising efforts through letters that were sent to different companies, corporations and institutions. We received some positive answers from Banana Corporation (Corbana) and AMVAC Chemical Corporation (US\$500 each). Letters thanking their contributions were sent to Jorge Sauma (Corbana General Manager) and Peter Porpiglia (AMVAC Vice-president). The work done by Dr Johan Desaegeer was essential to raise more money for the ONTA Foundation. The cooperation of Janete Brito and Renato Inserra was very important to get the money in our accounts.

Thank-you letters were sent to Cliff Watrin (Syngenta), Dave Leva (Dupont, Research Manager) and Benjamin Robles Sánchez (Adama, Marketing & Development Director). If we wish to have a better economic situation to provide support to our students and scientists, to sponsoring short courses and other activities, we should pay more attention to this matter.

The Joint meeting brought me a lot of activity during the year in many aspects. The most important issue, was our contribution to the planning of the technical program. ONTA was very active in suggesting topics and organizing symposia, contacting speakers as well as in the poster competition organization. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Patricia Timper and Dr Ignacio Cid del Prado who were in charge of the Technical program as Chairs, and to the speakers who accepted our invitation. As an ONTA President, I kept in touch with the Chairs of Local Arrangements Committee and Technical program to inform them about our needs. My appreciation goes to Dr Mario Tenuta (Chair of the Local Arrangements Committee) for his hard work to planning all the logistics related to the meeting.

I would also like to express my gratitude to Charles Overstreet (Chair of ONTA Foundation), ONTA Foundation Directors, Dr Brito and to the USDA-Aphis Project for economically supporting the participation of some of our colleagues.

A critical point was to arrange the next ONTA meeting in Puerto Rico. The information and support received from Dr Agudelo was essential to hold ONTA 2017 in Puerto Rico. Dr Roberto Vargas accepted to organize the meeting with the support of the Local Arrangements Committee members.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Drs Larry Duncan (IFNS President), Rosa Manzanilla and Aurelio Ciancio (IFNS councilors) for their big labor in relation with the venue of the Seventh International Congress of Nematology. To Renato Inserra for taking on

his shoulders the hard work of ONTA finances. To Paola Lax for her permanent activities as ONTA secretary. To Janete Brito for her enthusiasm in the poster competition organization. To Terry Kirkpatrick for his excellent work as Editor in Chief of *Nematropica*. To Rosa Manzanilla for her labor as ONTA Newsletter Editor. To Charles Overstreet and Julia Meredith for their tireless work with ONTA Foundation. To Nahum Marbán for his long term compromise with ONTA and to Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana for supporting ONTA Poster Competition. Thanks all for guiding ONTA during the past year.

Alejandro Esquivel



Ignacio, Mario, Nahum and Alejandro

ONTA Secretary

The activities carried out by our ONTA Secretary, Dr Paola Lax, are summarized as follows. Paola kept ONTA members informed about: i) different aspects about the ONTA meeting (Montréal, Canada) such as abstract deadline, ONTA Honors and Award Nominations, Travel Award, Student Poster Competition and program to the members of our Organization, ii) the request of the ideas by ONTA members to design an ONTA flag. The few suggestions received were sent to the President, Alejandro Esquivel. Paola also was in charge of preparing, sending and counting the ballots for the new Vice-president election.

The election results were sent to the President and members of the Executive Committee. Deborah Neher obtained 53% of the votes and Roberto Vargas 47%. Drs Janete Brito, Julia Meredith and Paola Lax have updated the list of membership dues. At this moment, there are 287 members (92 from USA and 195 from the rest of the world). Dr Lax is preparing a list with the new members to be posted soon in the website.

Paola Lax

ONTA Treasurer

I am submitting, in an attached file, a tabulated account of deposits received and expenses incurred by ONTA from May 07, 2015, until June 21, 2016. Deposits were divided in different categories including regular member dues, sustaining member dues and other payments.

During 2015-2016, we had an increase in income of US\$**3,208.57** due to the fact we received contributions from Sustaining Members, including ADAMA (US\$507), Corbana (US\$500), DuPont Corp. (US\$5,000) and Syngenta Corp. (US\$500). I would like to emphasize the generous gift of US\$5,000 from DuPont, of which US\$2000 was shared with ONTA Foundation. DuPont and Syngenta are not only sustaining members but supporters of our organization. Let me point out that this financial support was obtained by the action and constant solicitations made by our President Alejandro Esquivel, the Past-President Larry Duncan, and the Business Manager Janete Brito, all of whom deserve the gratitude of ONTA members. As a result of these contributions, funds available on June 21, 2016, are US\$**34,777.03**, an amount greater than that of US\$31,568.46 of the previous year 2014-2015.

However, for your knowledge, I provide you with the figures for *Nematropica* Volume 45, 2015 (see Fig. 2). Costs of Volume 45 were almost 34% greater than

those (US\$2,550) of the previous Volume 44. However, the cost of a volume of *Nematropica* averages around US\$4,000, if we take into consideration that in 2013 the cost of Volume 43 was US\$4,150. This cost may be covered by membership dues that this year were US\$4,798, a larger amount than that of the previous year's US\$3,098. This cost may be covered by membership dues that this year were US\$4,798, a larger amount than that of the previous year's US\$3,098.

The unreliable flow of membership dues in ONTA emphasizes the need to obtain contributions from Sustaining Members. So far, we are not in financial trouble, mainly due to the persistent efforts of our President Alejandro Esquivel, Larry Duncan (Past President), Janete Brito (Business Manager), Paula Agudelo (Member at Large) and Paola Lax (Secretary) in requesting and obtaining sustaining member contributions and reminding ONTA members to be current with their membership in order to cope with the increasing costs of publishing *Nematropica*. The accounting skills of Julia Meredith (Financial and Legal Assistant) in promptly cashing payments by credit cards and complying with requirements to have the system she operated properly accredited and secure have been extremely helpful and crucial for ONTA and ONTA Foundation. These two corporations cannot function without the capability of processing credit cards.



Julia Meredith

**Opening Ceremony Speech by
Alejandro Esquivel (ONTA President)**

Dear colleagues: On behalf of ONTA EC, we wish you a very warm welcome. I would like to express my gratitude to the Local Arrangement Committee; as well as to the Technical Program Committee, for all the effort in preparing this wonderful meeting. I would also like to express my appreciation to those colleagues who have worked very hard behind the scene to make all this happen.

It is truly an honor for me to be here, and I am extremely delighted to have all of you here together. Thanks so much for answering the call to this meeting.

We need to recognize the “**Nematology Meeting of the Americas**” joint experts not only from the Americas, but from all around the globe. We should feel very proud and happy to be here. The motivation to travel long distances (from Central and South America, Europe and from other distant locations) tells us about the importance of this meeting. I’m sure it will be compensated by the nematodes new information that will be discussed during this week.

In 1984, Canada hosted the first international Nematology Congress, and now we have a great and new opportunity. Two nematology societies from the Americas (SON and ONTA) have come together to have a joint meeting. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to improve our knowledge. However, the most important thing for me is to strengthen links between the two societies, hopefully through more cooperative projects.

The information discussed in this international forum should reach growers and decision makers in different fields worldwide. This information should be passed on in a clear and precise manner to all pertinent parties. Our work should improve the quality of life and protect the environment with friendly management practices. These should be our goals because our planet demands nothing less from us.

ONTA and SON members, I wish you success this week, and continue please supporting our societies.

Thank you very much.

MSc Alejandro Esquivel H.
President of ONTA

Something to remember...



Howard Ferris



Erwin Aballay and Nahum Marbán-Mendoza



Gardens



Montréal downtown



Don Dickson, Janete Brito, Ole Becker, Thalita Monteiro



Byron Adams and Rosa H. Manzanilla-López



Nahum Marbán-Mendoza, Julia Meredith and Rosa H. Manzanilla-López



Getting ready for the banquet



Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya



Janete Brito, Javier Franco, Ingrid Moreno



Janete Brito, Mara Rubia



Nahum Marban and Éléonore Tremblay



Zafar Handoo and Rosa H. Manzanilla-López



From left to right: Rebeca Sandoval-Ruiz, Janete Brito, Axel Elling, Bianca Barrales-Infante, Danny Humphreys Pereira

ONTA OFFICERS FACING NEW DUTIES

From the ONTA New President

Our annual meeting in Montréal, Canada, gave us the opportunity to greet each other and to share experiences with our colleagues of the Society of Nematologists and with friends and colleagues of our organization (ONTA). Thanks to the excellent program developed by the organizing committee, we had a very successful meeting.

This first meeting between the two societies of Nematologists (SON and ONTA) gave us the opportunity to hear the advances in knowledge of nematodes, this amazing group of organisms. Presentations by nematologists from America, Europe and Africa were important contributions.

I was Vice-president at the time of the meeting and I am very grateful to Dr Patricia Timper who made excellent contributions to the organization of the scientific program; thanks to its effective organization, content and quality, the program was very well received by the audience. I am personally very grateful to Dr Timper for her intelligent leadership and her friendly acceptance of the suggestions that were sent to her.

The organization of the eight symposia by the coordinators, and the quality of the presentations by the participating colleagues, determined the excellent overall quality of the congress. On behalf of Dr Timper and myself, I thank the organizers and presenters for completing their work effectively and in a timely manner.

The amount of work presented by the students, in the form of both oral and poster presentations was a big surprise to me. It gave students the opportunity to study various posters and it confirmed the importance of encouraging participation by young researchers. Evaluations and discussions of

their work by other scientists provided them with valuable experiences and will contribute to the development of new generations of nematologists. We congratulate the students for the quality of their work. I am sure the experience will serve as encouragement as they develop into bright and productive nematologists.

A very important part of the meeting was the banquet where the important career contributions of members of both societies were recognized. Dr Greg Tylka was elected Fellow of the Society of Nematologists, and outgoing presidents of both societies, Dr Byron Adams (SON) and MSc Alejandro Esquivel (ONTA) were honored. Dr Edward Caswell-Chen was honored for his teaching contributions. Members of ONTA honored for their service were Dr Terry Kirkpatrick, Dr Javier Franco, and Dr Larry Duncan; Dr Greg Noel and Dr Reyes Peña-Santiago received special awards for their career contributions to Nematology. To all of them, our sincere congratulations and our thanks for their contributions in training and development of human resources and to the quality of life.

I do not want to leave out the important contributions of support staff and students who participated in the success of this historic event; to all of them, our sincere thanks.

Ignacio Cid del Prado Vera



Ignacio and Alejandro

ONTA OFFICERS (CONT.)

From the Vice-president



Deb Neher ONTA Vice-president

Dear ONTA members,

I am honored to be elected as Vice-president of ONTA for 2016-2017. I have a fondness for ONTA and treasure the collegiality and collaboration that exists among its members. The meetings are always fun and insightful. One of my first tasks will be organizing the scientific program for the July 10-14, 2017 meeting. This meeting is extra special because we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the society and return to the site of the original meeting, University of Puerto Rico on the Mayagüez Campus. Dr Roberto Vargas-Ayala

has graciously agreed to lead the local arrangements committee. I hope that many of you participate in the program to be a leave a lasting historical signature in July 2017!

Sincerely yours,
Deborah (Deb) Neher
ONTA Vice-President

NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

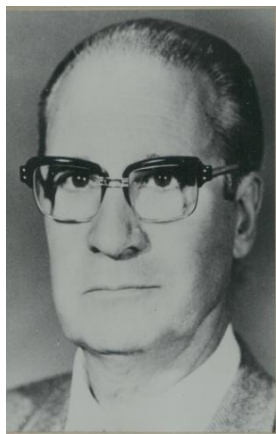
Extra! Read all about it!

Nematropica has a new editor-in-Chief. Dr Brent Sipes (Department of Plant & Environmental Protection Science, University of Hawaii) has accepted Dr Terry Kirkpatrick's invitation to step in as new Editor-in-Chief. We welcome him and thank Terry for his hard work, dedication and continuous effort to keep *Nematropica* quality and up to date publication.



Brent Sipes new Editor-in-Chief of Nematropica

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS

*In memoriam***Dr Fernando de la Jara Alcocer (1926-2016)***Fernando De la Jara Alcocer*

Dr Fernando de la Jara Alcocer passed away on August 25, 2016 in Mexico City. He was a tireless promoter of agricultural nematology in Mexico. Through nearly 40 years of teaching he was mentor of many generations of nematology students attending the national school of biological sciences (Escuela Nacional de Ciencias Biológicas [NCB]) of the National Polytechnic Institute of Mexico where he created the Agricultural Nematology cathedra.

Fernando de la Jara Alcocer was born in Madrid (Spain) on September 1, 1926. He was 13 years old when he arrived to Mexico with his family on the ship *Sinaia* in 1939. He was awarded his degree as chemist and bacteriologist parasitologist and later on the degree of Doctor in Science by ENCB. He worked for more than 20 years in Shell where he also participated in an educational program-campaign for the safe use of pesticides. He combined very successfully his activities in

Shell and ENCB teaching. It was in Shell where he learnt agricultural nematology, the knowledge and training that he acquired on the subject was going to be the basis for the creation of the ENCB laboratory of nematology and the agricultural nematology cathedra. The annual course on agricultural nematology was originally opened as part of the curricular plan for biologists, bacteriologists, and parasitologists in the ENCB but later on the course was opened to students from other universities and colleges in the country. This way, he contributed to the training of a large number of Mexican students in this specialty. He was also an ONTA member and participated in the International *Meloidogyne* Project that was co-ordinated by Carlos Sosa-Moss in Mexico in the mid-1980s.

Dr de la Jara studies in insecticides were important contributions to use and safe application of these products in Mexican agriculture. He was twice head of the Parasitology Department of the ENCB. He also received many distinctions from the IPN, the Mexican Ministry of Education and Industry. Dr de la Jara Alcocer professionalism and dedication were also very much appreciated by his students.

Sent by Dr Alejandro Tovar Soto

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (CONT.)

CUBA (Mayra Rodríguez)

Course and workshop: Preparation and Publication of the scientific paper

A course-workshop on the preparation of the scientific paper, peer review and publication process was held at the National Centre of Phytosanitation and Husbandry (Centro Nacional de Sanidad Agropecuaria, CENSA) in Mayabeque Cuba from July 11-15, 2016. The course was coordinated by Dr Mayra Rodríguez-Hernández, Editor-in-Chief of *Revista de Protección Vegetal (Journal of Crop Protection)*. Lectures, exercises and 'hands on' application to delegates own papers were in charge of Mayra, Dr Said Infante Gil, Editor-in-Chief of the journals *Agrociencia, Agricultura, Sociedad y Desarrollo (Agriculture, Society and Development), Agroproductividad (Agroproductivity)* and the book collection series of Biblioteca Básica de Agricultura (Basic Library of Agriculture) produced and published by the Postgraduates College of Agriculture (CP, Mexico), and Dr Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.

Thirty three delegates and students from agriculture-related professions attended the course. They came from six different Cuban Institutions. Three of them belonging to the Ministry of Higher Education (Ministerio de Educación Superior): CENSA, Universidad Agraria de La Habana, Universidad de Camagüey, three more to the Ministry of Agriculture (Ministerio de la Agricultura): Institute of Forestry (Instituto de Investigaciones Agro-forestales), Phytosanitation Laboratory (Laboratorio de Sanidad Vegetal). Three of the six students attending the course are currently doing research in agricultural nematology (one MSc and three PhD). The course was considered by the delegates as very useful and amenable also with a high level of expertise. This was the second time that the course-workshop has been

organized by Mayra and soon afterwards numerous persons were already asking Mayra to organize a second course. The course counted with the personal contribution and effort of the teachers to support the editorial work and publication in scientific journals related with crop protection, phytopathology, and nematology in Cuba.



Students with Mayra, Rosa and Said at CENSA

Fourth International Course of Agricultural Nematology

The fourth International Course of Agricultural Nematology was held in CENSA (Cuba) from the September 26-30, 2016. The topic was Food Biosecurity: Nematode pests of potato with emphasis on nematodes of quarantine importance. These annual courses are sponsored by CENSA and the Norwegian Institute for Bioeconomic Research (NIBIO) by on this occasion due to the relevance of the topic for the country, the Phytosanitation Department of the Ministry of Agricultural also joined the organizers.

At present, the scientists linked to the agriculture sector are facing the challenge of providing producers with technology and knowledge that can contribute to improve food production for an increasing population, in the context of climate change, biodiversity loss, soil impoverishment and movement of merchandises through global markets. These factors pose a risk for food production due to the impact of emergent and re-emergent pests in diverse regions.



Lecturing in Cuba (Mayra and Ricardo)

Yield reduction, attributed to the noxious action of pests, is a worldwide common fact. Plant nematodes represent important pests that are frequently unknown to farmers. Hence the importance of agriculture extension workers and technicians being well informed for nematode diagnostics and management, especially of species that are of quarantine importance.

Mexico

Diagnostic and management of plant pathogenic nematodes in horticultural crops: One day course

Drs **Ángel Ramírez Suarez** and **Alejandro Tovar Soto** reported on the one day pre-congress course on 'Diagnostic and management of plant pathogenic nematodes in horticultural crops' that was held on July 3, 2016 in the University of Occident campus facilities (Universidad de Occidente [UdeO]) in Mazatlan, Sinaloa (Mexico). This course was included as part of the activities of the annual congress of the Mexican Plant Pathology Society (SMF). As in previous years, attendance was high with 50 delegates attending the nematology course, demonstrating the interest in the subject by the Mexican phytosanitation authorities. The delegates included representatives from the private sector, accredited nematode diagnostic laboratories, undergraduate and graduate students, lecturers from different Mexican agriculture-related universities such as

Autonomous University of Sinaloa, (UAS), Autonomous University of Chapingo (UACH), Autonomous University of Nayarit (UAN), Technological Institute of Conkal, Yucatan (ITC), Autonomous University of Estado de Morelos (UAEM), Autonomous University of Sonora (UAS) among others. Topics that were covered by specialists included classification, microscopy, molecular tools, sampling, symptomatology, and management strategies including biofumigation, plant resistance, chemical and biological control. The course final session dealt with practical examples of plant nematode management in vegetables that are grown in agricultural regions of Sinaloa and 'El Bajío' (Michoacan).

'Nematology Capacity Building' course

Dr **Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera** sent information about the 'Nematology Capacity Building' course sponsored by Phytosanitation (Mexico), Bayer (Mexico), the Postgraduate College, and Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera, which took place from September 4-11, 2016 in the ecological station of La Mancha of the Institute of Ecology of Jalapa (Veracruz).



Ignacio and students at La Mancha

The course was attended by delegates representing each laboratory that is currently accredited by the Phytosanitation authority of Mexico to carry out diagnostics and identification of plant-parasitic nematodes of economic and quarantine importance. There were 16 delegates from

diverse institutions and Mexican locations (Mexico, Morelos, Nuevo León, Sinaloa) plus private companies such as Savannah S.A. de C.V. Lectures were given by Dr Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera and technical support was provided by MSc Judith Hernández Alfonsina and BSc Verónica Espinoza Trujano. The course syllabus included trophic groups diversity in agricultural, wetland, dunes, rainforest, marine, brackish and fresh water habitats but with emphasis in plant-parasitic nematodes. The course had a time schedule from 9:00 am till 22:00 pm. There was a final examination as well. The delegates considered that the knowledge acquired through the course was very useful and that the beautiful location of La Mancha was suitable for nematology courses. All of them agreed that, after all, the heavy course schedule was worthwhile.



Students at work

Across the Atlantic

We'll always have Braga: Stories from the 32nd ESN Symposium

Dr Clara Vieira kindly accepted our invitation to share with ONTA members the highlights of the ESN meeting of 2016.

When I was invited to write a small report about the 32nd European Society of Nematologists held in Braga from August 28 to the September 1, 2016, I promptly accepted. As a member of the local Organizing Committee I would have a privileged insight

view so the job would be an easy one. I couldn't be more wrong! A couple of hundred words will be meager to summarize the memories of such a successful event. I am sure that the 386 delegates, one third of whom were students, from 45 countries and 5 continents, will agree with me!



1. Official Group Photo. Check out the funny time-lapse video at <https://vimeo.com/180815028>



2. This picture says it all regarding the Local Organizing Committee! In the front we have one of the volunteer students who contributed to the success of the organization and in the background: Isabel Abrantes (University of Coimbra) and Teresa Almeida (University of Minho)

From a scientific point of view the success was guaranteed. The quality of the 150 oral and 190 poster presentations was evident in the impressive book of Abstracts available at <http://esn2016braga.com>. Every day began with two excellent lectures given by invited speakers that revealed the recent advances and insights from different areas of Nematology. Following the opening lectures, three parallel

sessions in a total of 21 topics provided delegates with the opportunity of sharing and discussing their findings in a wide range of fields including biocontrol, biodiversity, biology, ecology, epidemiology, genetics, management, phylogeny, quarantine, systematics and taxonomy. I had the opportunity to attend excellent lectures by well renowned names in the field of Nematology and to listen to interesting presentations of young students and researchers showing that the future of Nematology is assured. Also worth mentioning are the interesting discussions during Q&A where people engaged in really enjoyable conversations exchanging ideas on future research topics. On Monday, an enthusiastic and inspiring talk on the design of biocontrol options by Keith Davies started with the motto: “What is now proved was once only imagined”, by W. Blake. At the last day of the symposium, another exciting talk on root-knot nematode comparative genomics was the opportunity for David Lunt to promote the need for sharing data and networking: “Better science will be done, and more problems will be solved, with data freely and immediately available” (<https://speakerdeck.com/davelunt/meloidogyn-e-comparative-genomics>). These two key points are an excellent synopsis of this symposium!

A few highlights will give you a hint of the well-planned social events that contributed immensely to the wonderful and the relaxing atmosphere experienced throughout the week. On Monday, the opening session was enlivened by classical music pieces with a hint of surprise and charm. Later, the 1st ESN Symposium Football Tournament (thanks to Carlos Molina!) was great fun as an ice-breaking event! Four teams representing different groups of nematodes competed between them under the watchful eye of an enthusiastic crowd of supporters. The fierce Plant-Parasitic Nematodes Team won the final against Free-living Nematodes even though the latter had the valuable participation of a shoeless Hans Helder! Wednesday afternoon

was reserved for the Symposium Tour. Two options were available between an instructive tour with scenic views of the lovely and historic city of Guimarães, the birthplace of Portugal, and a scenic tour along Porto which included a visit to the cellars and Port wine tasting. Although I enjoyed the Guimarães Tour very much, it is not very difficult to guess which of the options was more popular! Both tours ended up in the beautiful gardens of *Palácio dos Biscainhos*, an 18th century palace, where delegates were greeted by a classical music ensemble dressed in baroque costumes. A magnificent gala dinner, that marked the end of the Symposium, was held in a restaurant on top of *Bom Jesus do Monte*, a place with a privileged view and where it was possible to enjoy traditional Portuguese folk music and dance.



3. *The ESN 2016 Fellows Frieda Decraemer, Lieve Gheysen and Jim Baldwin along with the President of the society Ralf-Udo Ehlers showing their awards received during the Symposium Dinner*



4. *A scenic view of delegates enjoying Portuguese folk dancing at the Symposium Dinner*

Undoubtedly, the huge success of this symposium is due to Teresa Almeida (University of Minho) and Isabel Abrantes (University of Coimbra). The atmosphere they conveyed throughout the week was well symbolized in the symposium logo: the typical Portuguese filigree heart drawn with nematodes around the ESN logo. With their outstanding organizational and management skills they provided a wonderful, friendly and relaxing environment to exchange ideas and establish collaborations. They say a picture is worth a thousand words so take a look at the following selected pictures of the 32nd ESN

Symposium kindly provided by Henrique Almeida. All the official pictures are available at <http://esn2016braga.com/>. It was an honor and a pleasure to be part of such an unforgettable meeting, and we are all now looking forward to the next ESN Symposium in Ghent in 2018!

M. Clara Vieira dos Santos
Centre for Functional Ecology
Department of Life Sciences
University of Coimbra
Portugal

ONTA GALLERY

We have started a new section and we would like to invite you to send your favorite pictures. Reinhold and Saroj Mankau sent us this memento to share with you. Enjoy it!

The Survivors!
Nematology Party



The picture was taken by Dr Ole Becker at a Dept. of Nematology dinner party for new Nematology Faculty at the home of Dr Phil Roberts, Riverside California. From left to right they are: Dr Ron Mankau, Dr Saroj Mankau, Dr Seymore Vangundy and Mrs Vangundy

ONTA NOTICE BOARD

Please note ONTA's new membership fees

At the last ONTA business meeting it was approved to raise ONTA membership fees from US\$30 to US\$40

Paola Lax (ONTA Secretary)

INVITATION

ONTA FOUNDATION



Get busy! ONTA Foundation, Inc. status is clear and high. Open your wings and take a flight!

Dear ONTA member,

ONTA Foundation is ready for a campaign to request donations and expand its contributor base in a big way. ONTA Foundation can receive funds through several means: 1) checks made out to the ONTA Foundation and mailed to Janete Brito; 2) credit card, same information required as for membership payment; 3) wire transfer. Janete Brito and Renato Inserra have full codes for wiring if requested.

Please give generously to support the activities and projects of the ONTA Foundation.

The Foundation's Board of Directors and Officers stand as:

- Registered Agent (RA) – Janete Brito
- Director, Chairperson/President (DCP) – Charles Overstreet
- Director, Treasurer-Secretary (DTS) – Janete Brito
- Director (D) – Jimmy Rich
- Director (D) – Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana
- Director (D) – Larry Duncan
- Director (D) – Lee Simmons

NEMATOLOGY AGENDA

APS-CD Meeting in San José, Costa Rica February 26 – March 1, 2017

Topics: 1. Biology, management and impact of post-harvest microorganisms, 2. Biology, management and impact of non-quarantine plant pathogens, 3. Biology, management and impact of quarantine diseases, and 4. Tropical nematology (also temperate nematodes). The meeting theme is “Crop losses, phytosanitary risks and tropical plant diseases: Advances and challenges” (also temperate nematodes). The meeting theme is “Crop losses, phytosanitary risks and tropical plant diseases: Advances and challenges”. More details at [https://apscd2017.fundacionucr.ac.cr/home.html].

Student registration is US\$150 until December 31 (includes lunch).

More information: Danny Humphreys Pereira [danny.humphreys@ucr.ac.cr]

VIII Phytosanitation International Scientific Seminar ‘The transition of the Cuban Agriculture to sustainability’. Havana (Cuba) April 10-14, 2017.



This international seminar will host the first scientific meeting between INISAV, the University of Florida and the University of Havana. The program will include a workshop on nematodes.

Contacts: Migdalia Luna Cisneros [migdalia@palco.cu], Raúl Gonzáles Castro [raulg@palco.cu; www.cpalco.com]. More information at: [seminariointernacional2017@inisav.cu]

Third international Symposium on nematodes as environmental indicators (June 21-22, 2017). Institute of Technology Carlow, Ireland. More information at: <http://www.aab.org.uk>
John Andrews [john@aab.org.uk]

Seventh International Congress of Nematology



Antibes Juan-Les Pins

Antibes Juan-les-Pins offers an exciting and very accessible destination, with low cost travel and accommodation options for delegates. Significant support for students and participants from developing countries is included in the ICN 2020 budget. The new convention center is located in the heart of the city and only at 20 minutes from the Nice Côte d'Azur airport. Exciting social program will be matched by wonderful tour options to view the best of French Riviera, including agronomical tours. We look forward to welcoming ONTA delegates to the French Riviera in 2020.

For further information please contact Pierre Abad [pierre.abad@inra.fr]

**PUT COLOR TO OUR ONTA
FLAG**

Dear ONTA members,

At the recent ONTA meeting in Montréal (Canada), the executive committee supported again the motion to create a flag to give identity to our organization. For the first time, ONTA will have a visible symbol that will highlight our identity in all official activities, especially in the opening and closing ceremony of regular meetings. The flag will also be a symbol of commitment by future host countries to organize the annual meeting.

We request your ideas in the development of the flag. We are confident that some excellent, innovative proposals will be received for evaluation by the Executive Committee. The person submitting the winning design will receive a plaque at the next meeting of ONTA in Puerto Rico. The deadline for submission of designs is **30 March 2017**.



Hurry-up to put color to our flag!

**ONTA NEWSLETTER
INVITATION**

Dear ONTA member,

Do you have a passion for nematodes and nematology? Would you like to share nematology news with our ONTA members? If so, welcome aboard!

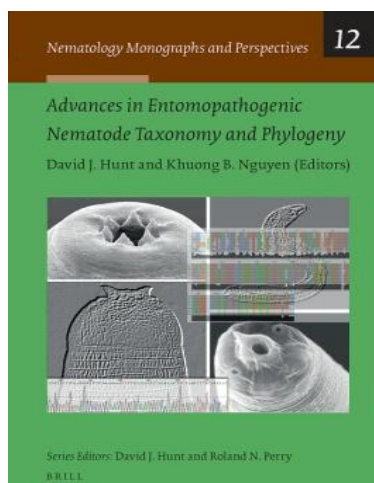
We would like to extend to you a warm invitation to send or share information for our next ONTA Newsletter issue.

Please contact us. We are looking forward to hearing from you and to learn of your local nematology events and news.

Kind regards,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA Newsletter Editor

NEMATOTOLOGY NEW BOOKS



New book: *Advances in Entomopathogenic Nematode Taxonomy and Phylogeny* the numerous species of *Steinernema* and *Heterorhabditis*, edited by David Hunt, *CABI Europe-UK* and Khuong Nguyen, *University of Florida*.

In *Advances in Entomopathogenic Nematode Taxonomy and Phylogeny* the

numerous species of *Steinernema* and *Heterorhabditis* described since the previous volume, published in 2007, are evaluated and discussed. Valid species proposed from 2007-2015 are covered in detail, each taxon having an illustrated diagnostic description and additional data on molecular characterization, distribution and biology, etc. An addendum gives brief details of species proposed during 2016. An overview of the taxonomy of the two families provides an up-to-date list of species for both genera, including new synonyms and detailed commentary on specific status where appropriate. Tabular keys to all valid species of *Steinernema* and *Heterorhabditis* assist in diagnostics. A chapter on phylogeny and phylogeography completes the book.

<http://www.brill.com/products/book/advances-taxonomy-and-phylogeny-entomopathogenic-nematodes-steinernematidae-and-heterorhabditidae>

We wish all ONTA members a happy and productive 2017



ONTA Sustaining Members

ONTA gratefully recognizes the support received during 2016 from the following sustaining members: **Bayer, CORBANA, DuPont, E-nema, Koppert Biological Systems, Syngenta and SynTech Research.**



ONTA OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT: Ignacio Cid del Prado-Vera, Colegio de Postgraduados Montecillo. Km 36.5 Carretera México-Texcoco, Montecillo CP 56230. Texcoco, Edo. México. Tel: 595-20200 Ext. 1667; FAX: 015959520200 Ext. 1632; email: icid@colpos.mx

VICE-PRESIDENT: Deborah Neher, Department of Plant & Soil Science, 63 Carrigan Drive, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405 USA. Tel: 802-656-5390; Fax: 802-656-4656; Web: www.uvm.edu/~dneher; email: Deborah.neher@uvm.edu

PAST PRESIDENT: Alejandro Esquivel, Lab. Nematología, Escuela de Ciencias Agrarias, Universidad Nacional, AP 86-3000, Heredia, Costa Rica. Tel: 277 32 99; FAX: 261 00 35; e-mail: [<aesquive@una.ac.cr>](mailto:aesquive@una.ac.cr)

SECRETARY: Paola Lax, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Laboratorio de Nematología, Centro de Zoología Aplicada, Casilla de Correo 122, 5000 Córdoba, Argentina; Tel: 54-351-433-2055 ext. 105; FAX: 54-351-432055 ext. 101 e-mail: <laxpaola@gmail.com>; <plax@efn.uncor.edu> and <laxpaola@yahoo.com.ar>

TREASURER: Renato N. Inserra, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industry, Nematology Section, P.O. Box 147100, Gainesville FL 32614-7100, USA. Tel: 1-352-395-4755; FAX: 1-352-395-4614; e-mail: <renato.inserra@freshfromflorida.com>

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