



ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICAS
ONTA NEWSLETTER

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

November 2018

51st ONTA ANNUAL MEETING
SAN JOSE (COSTA RICA)



Fig. 1. San Jose neighborhood



Fig. 2. Braulio Carrillo National Park

The Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA) and the ONTA Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee greets you and cordially invites you to participate at the 51st (LI) ONTA Annual meeting to be held in San Jose, Costa Rica, from 21 to 25 July 2019. Costa Rica is one of the most biodiverse countries in the world; it contains about 5% of the world's species. The lush wild natural environment can be experienced throughout the country. Costa Rica is a safe paradise providing visitors with a tranquil setting for their stay. It is one of the few countries in the world with no army. Costa Rica offers dreamlike landscapes, kind people willing to share their culture and a safe country to experience natural wonders.

The capital San Jose (Fig. 1) hosts most government services, but other provincial capitals – Alajuela, Heredia and Cartago – offer a number of commercial and quality tourism services.

The Central Valley has two areas of extraordinary beauty that are tourist

destinations in and of themselves: Turrialba and the Valley of the Saints. Rural villages offer great scenic beauty and a glimpse of Costa Rica's past with adobe houses, large coffee plantations, mills and dairy farms.

San Jose, Central Valley offers a variety of cultural and natural attractions, including the best museums in the country: Gold, Jade, National, Costa Rican Art, La Salle Natural Sciences, Insects at the University of Costa Rica, Contemporary Arts & Design and Children's, among others. Also, the architectural jewel of Costa Rica, the National Theatre, is located here.

National parks located in the Central Valley protect the region's primary volcanoes: Poás, Braulio Carrillo (Fig. 2), Irazú and Turrialba, all of which have transport and viewing infrastructure allowing visitors to enjoy the birds, landscapes, craters and forests. If you would like to know more about San Jose and the other tourist attractions of Costa Rica, please visit the Instituto Costarricense de

Turismo website
(www.visitcostarica.com/en/costa-rica).

Local Arrangements Committee

We want to offer you all an attractive scientific program in Nematology in addition to social activities and a field trip that will make your visit to Costa Rica an unforgettable experience. The meeting program will include: a welcome cocktail, symposia, technical presentations, banquet, and a one day

tour. Please visit the ONTA website of the meeting (www.onta2019.com) where you can find all relevant meeting details such as dates deadlines, registration fee, abstracts submissions, hotel, program, etc.

The Local Arrangements Committee (LAC) is chaired by Fabio Chaverri Fonseca, from Universidad Nacional (fabio.chaverri.fonseca@una.cr) with the support of other ONTA members in Costa Rica.

Wyndham San Jose Herradura Hotel



Fig. 3. Hotel Wyndham San Jose Herradura facilities

The ONTA annual meeting will be held at the Wyndham **San Jose Herradura Hotel and Convention Center**, a five star destination (Fig. 3), just 12 km from San Jose and 5 km from Juan Santamaria international airport. There are other optional hotels nearby, but we

strongly recommend using the main hotel, not only for the special meeting rate, excellent conference facilities, location, and restaurants but because Costa Rica has a big problem with traffic jams.

Technical Program Committee

The Scientific Program is being organized by the LAC (Fig. 4), with support of ONTA Vice-President Dr Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya (mdelgadoj@upao.edu.pe). The preliminary technical program includes: Oral Paper Sessions, Symposia, Key note Lecture, Poster Session and a Technical Field Trip.

Registration Rates

Before 15 March 2019

Members = US\$545.00

Non ONTA members = US\$645.00
Students = US\$300.00

After 15 March 2019

Members = US\$595.00
Non ONTA members = US\$695.00
Students = US\$350.00

Travel:

Juan Santamaria International Airport (SJO)

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

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Fig. 4. Planning the next Costa Rica meeting at Cusco

From the ONTA Newsletter Editor

Dear ONTA members,

We have enjoyed in Arequipa another excellent ONTA annual meeting, which was also one of the best attended in recent years. We had the opportunity of not only enjoying the scientific program and related activities but also the magnificence of the Andean landscape, the history, archaeology, art, and food but, above all, the warmth and friendship of locals and ONTA colleagues from Peru. Those colleagues who visited Machu Picchu will have unforgettable memories of one of the most breathtaking archaeological sites in the world and, to celebrate the occasion, we would like to share with you some extracts from the poem ‘Alturas de Machu Picchu’ written by Pablo Neruda, the Chilean poet and Nobel prize of Literature, who rendered homage in this poem to this architectural wonder of the Inca civilization.

Next year we will go to San Jose, Costa Rica, where we will have the opportunity to share experiences in different nematology research topics, visit banana and coffee plantations and other crops, but also have the unique opportunity to visit some natural parks. We invite you to start preparing yourself for our next meeting in San Jose 19-25 July 2019 – you will have a great time.

XL ONTA Annual Meeting Highlights

Registration started on Sunday followed by an evening welcome reception at the Hotel Libertador (Fig. 5), the official hotel and meeting site, where we were also given a taste of Arequipa’s folkloric ballet, which made many of us experience once more the traditional ONTA spirit of camaraderie that prevails in our annual meetings. ONTA delegates had during four days the opportunity to attend six different symposia, four oral paper sessions and two poster sessions.

Best wishes,

Rosa

Alturas de Machu Picchu fragment (Pablo Neruda, 1947)

“Entonces en la escala de la tierra he subido entre la atroz maraña de las selvas perdidas hasta ti, Machu Picchu.

Alta ciudad de piedras escalares,
por fin morada del que lo terrestre
no escondió en las dormidas vestiduras.
En ti, como dos líneas paralelas,
la cuna del relámpago y del hombre
se mecían en un viento de espinas.”

Heights of Machu Picchu

“Then on the ladder of the earth I climbed through the lost jungle’s tortured thicket up to you, Machu Picchu.

High city of laddered stones,
at last the dwelling of what earth
never covered in dressings of sleep.
In you, like two parallel lines,
the cradles of lightning and man
rocked in a wind of thorns”

(Fragment translated by Janus Head
<http://www.janushead.org/10-1/Neruda.pdf>)



Fig. 5. Registration desk. Left to right: Maribel Quispe H., Alberto Anculle A., Jessenia L. Aguilar Q., Lisbeth Lupaca C.



Fig. 6. From left to right: Alberto, Deb and Javier



Fig. 7. Oral Presentations

The annual meeting started on Monday with ONTA's President Deb Neher, Javier Franco, Alberto Anculle and Martín A. Delgado (Local Arrangements Committee) opening remarks (Fig. 6). The scientific program opened with the '**Nematode Systematics, Molecular & Resistance**' session, which was followed by the symposium '**Local Peruvian Agricultural Production Constraints**' (Fig. 7). The second symposium of the day, the '**Potato Cyst Nematode**' (PCN), included international speakers who covered different aspects of this major nematodes group. Titles included: Potato cyst nematode eradication and containment in the United States: successes and struggles (L. Dandurand, Fig. 8), *Globodera pallida* in the potato-growing areas of Costa Rica and its interaction with other nematodes (D. A. Humphreys-Pereira), The North and South American *Globodera ellingtonae* connection (I. Zasada, Fig. 8), PCN-Potato cyst nematodes in the UK: understanding the problem and the search for new control measures (S. Eves-van den Akker), *Globodera* species in Chile: current status, geographical distribution and perspectives (B. Pacheco), From genotype to phenotype, a worldwide comparison of *Globodera* species (**B. Mimee**), Potato cyst nematode *Globodera* spp. occurrence, biology and management in Norway (R. Holgado).



Fig. 8. Louise Dandurand and Inga Zasada

On Tuesday, the first session on '**Biological Control**' covered relevant aspects of *Pasteuria penetrans* genomics and entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) life cycle, mass production and improved lines of *Heterorhabditis bacteriophora*. The '**Chemical management**' session, included talks on grapevine and potato nematodes control using the sulfonamide nematicide salibrotm, the development of management zones for nematodes in soybean (C. Overstreet), and non-fumigant nematicides for Florida's plasticulture (J. Desaeager). The second session on biological control included papers on organic amendments, soil suppressiveness, biological nematicides, and microbial-based metabolites. The third symposium '**Teaching nematology**' was focused on multimedia materials for teaching nematology (E. McGawley), and the training of a new generation of nematologists (I. Cid del Prado). The symposium on '**The Future of Plant Nematology**' covered different aspects

related to the present and future of nematology on The Americas and Europe starting with Central American countries (F. Chaverri), followed by nematology in South America (E. Aballay), the future of nematology in the USA (L. Duncan), current status and future perspectives for nematology research in Europe (A. Ciancio), the future of plant nematology [the Mexican case] (N. Marbán-Mendoza), and the conundrum of a career in plant nematology: whether to remain or leave (R. H. Manzanilla-López). The **Soil Bio-Suppressiveness Symposium** included talks on foodweb indicators of soils naturally suppressive to soybean cyst nematode (D. A. Neher), depressive interaction of thermo-resistant bacteria on populations of plant-parasitic nematodes (M. A. Delgado), microbiome-based services for sustainable

nematode management (A. Ciancio), rhizobacteria to improve soil suppressiveness (E. Aballay), and suppression of nematode galls in horticulture crops (I. Cid del Prado-Vera).

Thursday was dedicated to the symposium '**Plant-parasitic nematodes of Peru**', which was divided in three sessions: 1) Advances in the characterization of phytoparasitic nematode species in Peru; 2) Biological control; 3) Integrated management of phytopathogenic nematodes. There was plenty of time to interact with colleagues (Figs 9, 10). The day ended with the ONTA business meeting and the Awards Ceremony and Banquet. There was an optional tour post-congress to Cusco, Machu Picchu and other sites from Friday (24 August) onwards.



Fig. 9. Coffee break



Fig. 10. From left to right: Julia Meredith, Renato Inserra, Mariella Finetti, Rosa Manzanilla, Aurelio Ciancio and Javier Franco

Field Day Trip

The field day trip on Wednesday (Figs 11-26) included a visit to '**La Joya**' where we had the opportunity to see nematode problems in grapevine (Fig. 12), pomegranate (Figs 13-16), garlic (Fig. 17), and cochineal culture 'grana cochinilla' (Fig. 18). We attended a welcome reception organized by the local authorities (Figs 19-21); afterwards we also had the opportunity to taste the local cuisine at Campo

Albergo de Sambambaias lunch. The day ended with a short visit to the downtown of Arequipa (Figs 22-24), a local sunset (Fig. 25) and the famous cheese ice cream (Fig. 26). Local attractions also included the Arms square (Plaza de Armas, Fig. 22), Saint Catalina monastery (Figs 23-24) and MUSA (museum "Santuarios Andinos") of the Catholic University of Santa Maria where the mummy 'Juanita the Ice Maiden' is kept.



Fig. 11. Preparing for a day out



Fig. 12. Visit to vineyards



Fig. 13. Pomegranate trees



Fig. 14. Juan Carlos Magunacelaya and Elizabeth Miranda



Fig. 15. Rinsing pomegranate root samples



Fig. 16. Galled roots (Meloidogyne sp.)



Fig. 17. Garlic affected by Ditylenchus dipsaci



Fig. 18. Cochineal culture on cactus



Fig. 19. Local authorities reception



Fig. 20. ONTA Annual Meeting delegates



Fig. 21. Group picture



Fig. 22. Plaza de Armas



Fig. 23. Monastery of Santa Catarina



Fig. 24. Monastery of Santa Catarina



Fig. 25. Sunset view of the volcanoes



Fig. 26. Queso helado (cheese ice cream)

Poster Sessions

Two poster sessions and students poster competition judging were held on Monday and Tuesday evenings (Figs 27-32), refreshments were provided including a taste of excellent cheeses and wines.



Fig. 27. Ed McGawley ONTA poster



Fig. 28. Poster exhibition venue



Fig. 29. Cheese and starters table

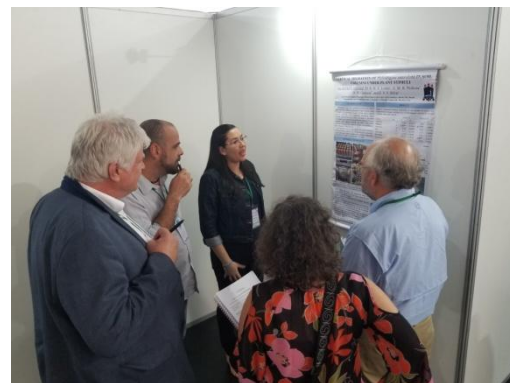


Fig. 30. Student poster competition



Fig. 31. ONTA delegates attending the poster exhibition



Fig. 32. Danny Humphreys-Pereira and Carlos Araya

Awards Ceremony and Banquet

The awards ceremony and banquet was one of the most expected events, specially for the students awaiting the results of the **Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana student best poster competition and travel awards**. The ONTA Awards for 2018 included the **Local Arrangements team Dr Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya, MSc Carolina Esther Cedano Saavedra, Ing Mg. Sc. Alberto Anculle Arenas**

and Dr Javier Franco Ponce (Fig. 33). Additional awards included the **Special Award** to Dr **Daniel Leigh “Danny” Coyne** for his many years of intense field research, teaching and agricultural extension work in 10 countries across equatorial Africa. **Honorary Memberships** awarded to **Dr Rosa Helena Manzanilla-López** (Fig. 34) and **Dr Patrick Quénéhervé** for their many years of continued contributions to ONTA and the science of nematology. A **Past President’s award** was also presented to **Dr Deborah Neher** (Fig. 35). Delegates enjoyed the banquet (Figs 36-37), alive music and the traditional ONTA dancing session (Fig. 38) that ended until Friday morning very early hours.



Fig. 33. Local Arrangements awardees (from left to right): Javier Franco, Martín A. Delgado Junchaya, Carolina E. Cedano Saavedra, Alberto Anculle



Fig. 34. Honorary member award (from left to right): Deb, Rosa (awardee) and Erwin Aballay



Fig. 35. Past-President award. Deb Neher (awardee) and Erwin Aballay



Fig. 36. At the banquet. From right to left: Larry Duncan, Leandro Freitas and his wife



Fig. 37. Thalita S.A. Monteiro, Janete Brito and Don Dickson



Fig. 38. Dancing time

Student Competition Awardees

Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana student best poster competition winners (Fig 39): Nora Yessenia Vera Obando (first place), Universidad Nacional Agraria La Molina, Lima, Peru (PhD program); **Bruno Leonardo Mendes (second place)**, Federal University of Goias, Goiania, Brazil (MSc program); **L. Núñez-Rodríguez (third place)**, University of Costa Rica, San Pedro, Costa Rica (MSc program).

Travel Grant winners (Fig. 40): Tristan Watson (Canada/USA), Arely Perez Espindola (Mexico), Jamie Orr (UK), Samara Azevedo de Oliveira (Brazil/USA).

ONTA Foundation Special Grant Brazilian students (Fig. 40): Bruno Leonardo Mendes (Brazil).

It is worth mentioning the enthusiastic and tireless participation of students in the Local Arrangements Committee that was also recognized and much appreciated (Figs 41, 42). We would like to say a big thank you to all of them.



Fig. 39. Rodrigo Rodríguez-Kábana students best poster competition. Left to right: Charles Overstreet, L. Núñez-Rodríguez, Bruno Leonardo Mendes, Nora Yessenia Vera Obando



Fig. 40. Travel grant award. Left to right: Tristan Watson (Canada/USA), Jamie Orr (UK), Samara Azevedo de Oliveira (Brazil/USA), Arely Perez Espindola (Mexico), Bruno Leonardo Mendes (Brazil)



Fig. 41. A special acknowledgment went to Javier Cáceres Torres for his support in Spanish/English translation during the meeting



Fig. 42. Students Local Arrangements Committee. Left to right: Elizabeth A. Miranda B., Jessenia L. Aguilar A., Lisbeth Lupaca C., Alberto Anculle, Maribel Quispe H., Javier Cáceres, Yasiminia Quispe Chacnama

Excursion to Cusco and Machu Picchu

Fabio Chavarri Fonseca



Fig. 43. Machu Picchu



Fig. 44. Ollantaytambo



Fig. 45. Handicrafts cooperative visit

After the annual meeting in Arequipa ended, many participants went on Friday 24 for a three days tour to the city of Cusco, with the professional support of the local travel agency Gamero Travel (Figs 43-46). Fabio Chaverri Fonseca kindly accepted to write and share his experiences with our Newsletter readers as follows: On day one, we visited the Plaza de Armas, the Cathedral and the Santo Domingo convent that was built on the famous Koricancha temple in the city of Cusco, and the nearby archaeological remains of Kenko, Puca Pucara, Tambomachay and Sacsayhuaman fortress.

We started our guided second day tour visiting the Sacred Valley of the Incas and the majestic ruins and town of Pisac, where we find a colorful craft market; along the Sacred Valley route we passed through various typical towns until reaching the province of Urubamba. In the afternoon we visited the fortress of Ollantaytambo, located very close to a typical Inca village and on the slopes of an imposing mountain.

We leave early from the hotel to the railway station on day 3 to board the train to the village of Machu Picchu. Once in the village we boarded to the majestic Machu Picchu archaeological complex, there we had a guided visit to the shrine, we met the Royal Palace, three Windows, the sacred Plaza, Intihuatana, the Condor, and el ‘Torreón Circular’ all of them built with an amazing architectural perfection. To visit Cusco and their surroundings in the company of several ONTA fellow participants was a unique experience, which we always will fondly carry in our memory.

Thanks Peru!



Fig. 46. Mañuca Gamero (travel agent) and Maria Mendes

**Reports of the Executive Committee
Members of ONTA**

**ONTA Financial account annual meeting in
Arequipa**



Fig. 47. Right to left: Javier Cáceres T., Julia Meredith, Javier Inserra

Julia Meredith (Fig. 47) kindly prepared an updated financial account from ONTA's August meeting in Arequipa, Peru. It should be noted that over one hundred persons

President's Report 2017-2018



Fig. 48. Deb Neher

My first task as President was to insure continuity for the society journal, *Nematropica*. I inherited a publication delay that occurred in the transition of Editor-in-Chief. Several members of the executive board volunteered to expedite the review of submitted articles. The June issue (Volume 47) was published in August and included the

attended this meeting, making it one of the best attended in recent years. Total cost (all expenses) was US\$34,500. The Local Arrangements Committee (LCA) repaid ONTA for its loan of US\$5,000, which was used to secure the contract with Hotel Libertador. Membership dues collected by on-line registration or at the meeting itself totaled \$1,400. Contributions to ONTA Foundation were US\$120.00, which Renato Inserra has transferred to the Foundation account. We can happily report that ONTA has made a monetary profit from this meeting, a surplus that will add approximately US\$1,000 to ONTA's Treasury. Carolina Cedano and I have become international accounting and banking experts and look forward to more lucrative personal employment in future years. Congratulations everyone!

15 October 2018.

abstracts from the 2017 meeting in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Special thanks to Paul Agudelo for translating abstracts written in Spanish to English. Since December 2017, Brent Sipes has assumed full reign as Editor-in-Chief and Cathy Howard serves as editorial manager and copy editor.

It was my honor to appoint both Danny Coyne and Maya Rodriguez Hernandez as members-at-large. I also reformulated the composition of the Awards and honors committee. Composition of the committee is Forest Robinson (Chair, USA), Erwin Aballay (Chile), Ignacio Cid del Prado (Mexico), Larry Duncan (USA), Alejandro Esquivel (Costa Rica), and Paula Agudelo (USA/Columbia). With the leadership of Forest and assistance from Julia Meredith and Renato Inserra, the committee compiled a complete historical list of award recipients and honorary member and translated the operations guide and awards booklet to both Spanish and English.

I corresponded with colleagues in Costa Rica to confirm the 2019 meeting for July 21-25. The local arrangements committee is Fabio Chaverri, Walter Peraza and Alejandro Esquivel. The committee has contracted a company to assist with logistical support and is soliciting funding from their government among other sources. Fortunately, Society of Nematologists opted to have their 2019 meeting July 7-10, in Raleigh, North Carolina to avoid a time conflict.

Julia Meredith and I have been sharing the responsibility of society secretary in the absence of a dedicated secretary. Julia prepared minutes for business meetings, managed membership lists, and processed dues payments. I managed the communications to the membership through an e-mail list. Running the list through my Outlook email at the University of Vermont resulted in the list being hacked and countless bounce-backs especially from international addresses. In August, I was able to establish a more secure moderated listserv (ONTA@LIST.UVM.EDU) that works well at the moment. It is imperative that we elect a secretary to assume these responsibilities in the near future.

I spent considerable time communicating with Edward McGawley and Larry Duncan on distributing news about the 2018 meeting in Arequipa, Peru. It took considerable effort to establish a functional meeting website and secure means to receive registration payment. The local arrangements group was unable to handle credit cards, so Larry established a Paypal site. I worked with Ed to solicit ideas and themes for the meeting,

and sort out unexpected changes in the dates, hotel and venue. I adopted Ed's suggestion to initiate a presidential reception in Arequipa as a means to express my sincere appreciation to the many people that help keep the organization functioning. Thanks to Rosa Manzanilla-López, Meredith Niles and Google translator for helping Ed and I read correspondence with the local arrangements committee. We thank Alberto Anculle, Javier Franco Ponce, and Martin Delgado, Carolina Cedano Saavedra for their time and dedication as members of the local arrangements committee. I am also grateful to Johan Desaeger and the sustaining membership committee for soliciting and procuring sponsors for the meeting including the student competitions.

This was a year of insuring the organization is on sound footing with its journal, finances, and membership base. These activities were a priority over new projects. Next, we can take action on other tools that help the organization run smoothly. First, we need to elect a secretary and update the constitution to allow the election to occur electronically. Second, we need to update our web page, operation manual/constitution. Third, there is interest in establishing industry award(s). Finally, the education committee proposal of 2017 has yet to receive any action.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Neher
ONTA President (Fig. 48).
August 17, 2018

ONTA E.C. McGawley Vice President report-2018



Fig. 49. Ed (center) at the Presidential reception in Arequipa

Ed McGawley ONTA Vice-President (Fig. 49). All preparations for the 2018 committee were completed. Thanks are extended to all persons involved. All planned activities went well and the meeting was a success and well attended. For a successful meeting, there must be close and consistent communication between the Local Arrangements Committee (LAC), the Vice President, who is responsible for the scientific program, and the Executive Committee (EC) of the society. Frequent interaction among these individuals will result in a productive gathering of like-minded scientists. To this end, I offer the following suggestions for consideration by the EC:

1. By the end of January, the meeting website should be established and checked by each member of the LAC and EC's BEFORE going on-line. Once the site is active, the LAC chair and VP should communicate this to the membership via email and that email should be posted on the ONTA website. The 2018 meeting website can be used as a guide and improvements/modifications made where necessary.

2. In early March, there should be a video-conference involving ALL LAC MEMBERS, the VP and at least one representative of the EC. Topics for discussion would include but not be limited to symposia and workshops planned and prospective organizers, fund-

raising activities, acknowledgement of industry sponsors, social activities and the mid-meeting field trip.

3. Abstract deadline should be in mid-May. A clear mechanism for handling abstracts should be established AND ADHERED TO. On the meeting website, the "submit abstract" tab should forward the submission to a designated member of the LAC who acknowledges receipt to the author and checks the abstract for format (as detailed in an example posted on the meeting website). The abstract is then forwarded by the LAC member to a "topic reviewer" (with expertise in the subject area) who checks the abstract for CONTENT and then forwards it to the VP who, in turn, indicates a decision via a second email to the author.

4. Early registration can be enhanced by making the late registration fee significantly more (15%) and on-site registration 25% more than the early fee. An accurate registration estimate is critical in planning and can save a lot of money via more accurate planning.

5. In mid-June, a second video conference involving the same parties as in the first conference should be held.

6. LAC members should live in or have easy access to the meeting site venue.

Current Committees (SON website)

Executive, honors and awards, nominations, sustaining members, archives, local arrangements (6 committees).

Suggest Formation of: Education, Website and Membership committees.

Suggest Submission of: Committee objectives by committees and mid-year progress report by each chairperson.

Suggested Compensation: Complimentary membership for officers and chairs of standing committees.

ONTA Secretary Report

The year 2017-2018 was one of intense work for the Secretary's office. Membership dues and donations for ONTA Foundation were collected during ONTA's July 2017 meeting in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting and General Business Meeting were recorded and published in the Newsletter Vol. 47 (2).

During 2018, secretarial work continued to update member information with current email addresses and dues payments. Dues notifications were sent to members and potential members in the US by regular mail service and contained stamped envelopes to return to Janete Brito, Business Manager. Members outside the US were notified about dues payment status by email with indications as to how payment could be made. These emails were sent individually, by country, or in small groups for countries with numerous members. Request and explanation of methods for payment were sent in English, Spanish and Portuguese, according to the country. Some ONTA officers deserve special thanks for working with members in their respective countries: Alejandro Esquivel, Costa Rica; Ignacio Cid del Prado, Mexico; and Janete Brito, Brazil. Communication was effective and resulted in good response. An updated Membership Directory was posted on ONTA's website. Janete Brito and Renato Inserra receive special thanks for their part in this tremendous task.

When it was decided to offer registration in the US for ONTA's meeting in Arequipa, Peru, I collaborated with Renato Inserra, ONTA Treasurer, and Larry Duncan, ONTA Web Manager, to obtain and establish a Pay Pal account to accept registration payments via credit card on the ONTA website. I monitored ONTA's Pay Pal account, recorded registrations, transferred funds from Pay Pal to ONTA's bank account and informed the Treasurer of availability of funds that could be transferred by wire to Peru. In addition to registration of participants through

the web, I prepared invoices and receipts for agencies and institutions that required other ways to pay registration or membership costs. Much correspondence requesting details of the meeting, in addition to providing registration information, was conducted with ONTA members and other interested persons. The Secretary's Office served as a central pivot for transferring registration information from the US to the LAC in Peru.

As of July 31, 2018, ONTA has 267 members in active status, 25 being new members or former members that reactivated their memberships. ONTA has members in 38 countries.

Julia Meredith
Secretary *Ad Interim*

ONTA Treasurer Report



Fig. 50. Renato Inserra

Dear Colleagues:

I am submitting, in an attached file, a tabulated account of deposits received and expenses incurred by ONTA from June 24, 2017 to July 24, 2018. Deposits were divided in different categories including regular member dues, sustaining member dues and other payments related to ONTA activities.

ONTA FL, Inc. is a tax-exempt corporation, which is considered by the state of Florida and the US federal government a charitable 501 (3)(c) organization operating for scientific and educational purposes.

However, a tax return must be filed each year. I filed the return for 2017 electronically, following new procedures for this type of filing.

I should emphasize that the report of this year is not complete. It should be considered an ongoing and partial report because it includes a financial account of the funds received in the US and utilized for the organization of the 50th Annual Scientific Meeting in Arequipa, Peru. For the first time in the history of our organization, ONTA has been directly involved in financing the meeting by using ONTA funds and collecting in the US registration fees by PayPal and credit cards. Larry Duncan should be commended for activating a payment system for meeting registrations using PayPal on the ONTA website. Funds from ONTA treasury (US\$5,000) have been delivered in person by our Vice-President Ed McGawley to the Local Arrangement Committee (LAC). Registrations received via PayPal or credit cards have been transferred via wire from ONTA's bank account to the Peruvian Society of Phytopathology (Asociación Peruana de Fitopatología) (APF) in Trujillo, Peru, to be utilized by the LAC for the organization of the meeting. This report, however, does not include any detailed financial account of the deposits received in Peru by APF and expenses incurred by the APF-LAC for the organization of the meeting. APF and LAC will need to prepare a financial report of the meeting at local level. These ongoing financial activities for the preparation of the meeting are reflected in the following report.

During 2017-2018, we had a decrease in income of **US\$1,170.48**, even though we received contributions totalling US\$11,120.00 from Sustaining Members, including the following donors, cited in alphabetical order: Bayer, Bayer Mexico, Corbana, Corteva Agriscience, Dr. J. Desaeger, E-Nema, Marketing Arm Int., Pioneer DuPont and Syngenta Corp. as shown in the tabulated report. Some of these contributions are for the year 2017 and others for 2018.

I would like to emphasize the generous gift of US\$5,000 from Corteva Agriscience made possible by Dr. John Wiles. Let me add that Bayer, Corteva Agriscience, Pioneer DuPont and Syngenta are not only sustaining members but also supporters of our organization. We welcome also the contributions from e-Nema, Marketing ARM International and that personally donated by Dr. Johan Desaeger who co-chairs the ONTA Sustaining Member Committee. These sustaining members maintain the financial vitality of ONTA and should receive the gratitude of ONTA members. So far, no commitment has been received from Koppert Biological Systems officials who contributed in 2015, but, so far have not renewed their membership in 2017 and 2018.

The action and constant solicitations made by the Co-Chairs of the Sustaining Member Committee Johan Desaeger and Luis Payan make our organization financially sound. The commitment of Alejandro Esquivel and Mario Araya to ONTA has continued this year resulting in a donation to the ONTA Foundation by AMVAC and a possible renewal of membership to ONTA for 2018 from CORBANA and ADAMA. The efforts of the Past President Ignacio Cid del Prado in obtaining funds for ONTA should be acknowledged. These financial activities have resulted in the availability, on July 24, 2018, of **US\$38,825.34** in the treasury. This amount is smaller than that of \$39,995.82 of the previous year 2016-2017. This figure includes US\$10,033.40 that is kept as an emergency reserve fund. It is not locked in a certificate of deposit because of low interest rates offered by the banks.

I am listing only the costs of publishing part of issue 1 (June) of *Nematropica* Volume 47, 2017 (US\$3,665.00), the entire issue 2 (December) of Volume 47, 2017 (US\$2,452.00) and issue 1 (June) of Volume 48, 2018 (US\$1,875.00) because the costs of these issues incur in different years. However, for your knowledge, I provide the figures for *Nematropica* Volume 47, 2017.

Costs of this volume were US\$3,805 for issue 1 and US\$2,452 for issue 2, for a total of US\$6,257.00. Costs of Volume 47 were almost 53% greater than those of the previous Volume 46 (US\$2,940.00). This increase was due to many factors that occurred during the transition from the editorship of Terry Kirkpatrick to that of Brent Sipes. The report of the Business Manager Janete Brito provides more details about the costs of *Nematropica*.

Collection of membership dues from regular members improved dramatically this year because of the efforts of the Financial, Legal Assistant and Secretary *at interim*, Julia Meredith, who updated membership files and corresponded with many members. Dues collected amount to US\$4,083.00. A portion of these dues (US\$1,160.00) was collected during the ONTA meeting in Puerto Rico by Julia Meredith. Another portion was collected from US members by mailing request letters with stamped returns. Emailed requests were sent to members outside the US, either individually, or in small groups by country, for payment by credit card or other means. Julia's work along with cooperation received from Janete Brito made this collection possible. Dues collection can be improved substantially if membership dues can be paid directly by credit cards on ONTA's website via PayPal. Payment via PayPal will encourage non-US members to use this system that works well for other scientific societies.

This increase in collection of membership dues, however, does not cover the cost of *Nematropica*. The need to obtain contributions from Sustaining Members is an imperative necessity for the survival of our organization. Let me add that our Business Manager J. Brito has facilitated financial transactions concerning payments of members and by assisting authors of papers submitted to *Nematropica* in joining ONTA. The time and accounting skills of J. Meredith (Financial and Legal Assistant) in promptly processing payments by credit cards and complying with new global requirements for system security and accreditation have been crucial for ONTA

and ONTA Foundation. These two corporations cannot function without the capability of processing credit cards or the adoption of a new payment system via PayPal.

I would like to make some concluding remarks about the involvement of ONTA in the organization of the meeting in Peru. As stated previously, ONTA provided the LAC in Peru with US\$5,000 from ONTA's Treasury that were delivered in person by the Vice-President Ed McGawley for the organization of the meeting. ONTA collected via PayPal and credit cards the registration fees of the persons attending the meeting in Peru that corresponded with us in the USA. Other persons had the prerogative to pay the fees directly to Local Arrangement Committee (LAC) in Peru. These registrations should be included in the LAC report. Registrations collected in the US by PayPal and credit cards has been US\$26,439.09. At present, the funds delivered in person and transferred by wire to APF and LAC in Peru total US\$30,500. Other costs faced directly by ONTA for this meeting include US\$135.00 in bank fees and US\$300.00 in supplies and clerical assistance, resulting in a grand total of US\$30,935. This amount exceeds by US\$4,495.91 the registration fees of US\$26,439.09 collected in the US. If additional registrations are not collected in Peru by the LAC and by ONTA per previous agreement with some registered members to pay cash, the loss for the treasury will be significant. The exact amount of these potential losses, if any, will be known at the end of the meeting in Peru.

Let me thank again the above-mentioned persons for their generous time and loyalty to ONTA. Their detailed work and dedication have strengthened the financial status of our Organization.

Please contact me anytime if you need more explanation concerning this report.

Respectfully submitted,

Renato Inserra
ONTA Treasurer (Fig. 50)

***Nematropica* Editor in Chief Report**

Nematropica received 43 submissions in 2017 of which 23 were accepted for publication (53% acceptance). As of July 2018, 16 submissions have been received. *Nematropica* Volume 47 contained 17 articles and the abstracts of the annual meeting. Ms. Cathy Howard, a new editorial manager and copy editor came on board with Volume 48. She has facilitated and moved papers in a professional and impressive manner. It has been a pleasure to work with her.

Possible improvement and changes that we should consider include continuous publication and assignment of DOIs. Continuous publication would see only a volume number but not issues. As soon as the galley is completed and upload to the web, the manuscript is considered published. More and more publications have a DOI assigned to them. I have received a couple of inquiries about DOI for *Nematropica* publications. To receive a DOI for our papers, initial investigation suggests that we would need to pay a US\$275.00 annual membership plus US\$1.00 per article assigned a DOI. We might also need to include active links to other DOI papers in our Literature Cited. There would also be the labor associated with filling in the information for the DOI and uploading. Some European Scientists are required to publish only in venues that assign DOI. Assignment of a DOI will become necessary for the journal sooner than later.

Challenges faced by the journal include finding willing reviewers and receiving reviews in a timely period. This contributes to extra work and slows down the process for the EIC.

Respectively submitted,

Brent Sipes
EIC, *Nematropica*
August 2018

**ONTA Business Manager Report
(July 2017-July 2018)**

Total formatting charges for *Nematropica* (2017) Vol. 47, No. 1 amounted to **US\$3,430.00**. Nine manuscripts were published in this issue. The cost for formatting each submitted article was **US\$100.00**. The total cost for the articles published (manuscripts) in this issue amounted to **US\$900.00**.

The other cost amounted to **US\$2,530.00** (US\$3,430.00-US\$900.00) reflect expenses for administrative assistance (**US\$2,270.00**), formatting Table of Contents, edits tables and figures, and front cover edits for *Nematropica*.

Total formatting charges for *Nematropica* (2017) Vol. 47, No. 2, amounted to **US\$2,827.00**. Eight articles and the abstracts of the IXL ONTA Annual meeting, 10-14 July 2017, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (US\$624.00), administrative assistance (US\$1,267.00) formatting each submitted article was **US\$100.00**. The total cost for the articles published (manuscripts) in this issue amounted to **US\$800.00**.

The other cost amounted to **US\$2,027.00** (US\$2,827.00-US\$800.00) reflects the expenses for formatting and edits to abstracts of the IXL ONTA Annual meeting, 2017, Mayaguez, Puerto Rico (US\$624.00), administrative assistance (**US\$1,267.00**) formatting and edits of the Table of Contents, and front and inside cover for *Nematropica*.

The total costs of *Nematropica* (2017) Vol. 47, Nos. 1 & 2 amounted **US\$6,257.00** (US\$3,430.00 + US\$2,827.00).

Total formatting charges for *Nematropica* (2018) Vol. 48, No. 1 amounted to **US\$1,875.00**. Fifteen manuscripts were published in this issue. The cost of formatting each submitted article was **US\$120.00**. The total cost for the articles published (manuscripts) in this issue amounted to **US\$1,800.00**.

The other cost amounted to **US\$75.00** (US\$1,875.00-US\$1,800.00) reflects the expenses for formatting Table of Contents and front and inside cover for *Nematropica*.

The Business Manager received a donation of US\$500.00 made by an individual to the ONTA Sustaining Committee. Additionally, a donation of **US\$500.00** from Syngenta Corp, and another donation of **US\$500.00** from Marketing ARM International were received concerning its

Sustaining memberships' annual dues. We greatly appreciated their support.

Should any ONTA member or contributor have any questions, comments or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

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

ONTA Newsletter Editor Report

Dear ONTA members,

Two issues of the ONTA Newsletter [Vol. 47 (2) and Vol. 48 (1)] were prepared and posted on the ONTA website (<http://www.ontaweb.org>) for access by ONTA members. Volumes 47 (2) and 48 (1) were posted in December (2017) and May (2018), respectively.

Kind regards,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

Honors and Awards Committee Report

As recommended in the ONTA Operations Manual, a first call for awards proposals was sent to the membership by electronic mail, on 18 Feb 2018, with a 2nd call published in the April Newsletter, which was released in mid May. Honors and Awards Committee members were also encouraged to propose awards as they are among the most highly qualified persons to do so within ONTA. Proposals were carefully considered by all Honors and Awards Members, and unanimous agreement was achieved via discussion and voting by all members on 14 June 2018. On 18 June, the Honors and Awards Committee's recommendations were forwarded to

President Neher, and within 24 hours Dr Neher informed the Honors and Awards chair that the Executive Committee had unanimously approved the proposed awards.

The ONTA Awards for 2018 include 4 special awards to the Local Arrangements team in Arequipa, Peru, with one plaque each to be presented to Dr Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya, MSc Carolina Esther Cedano Saavedra, Ing Mg. Sc. Alberto Anculle Arenas and Dr Javier Franco Ponce. Additional awards include the Special Award to **Dr Daniel Leigh "Danny" Coyne** for his many years of intense field research, teaching and agricultural extension work in 10 countries across equatorial Africa (Fig. 51).



Fig. 51. Danny Coyne and his Kenyan student interns

Honorary Memberships awarded to **Dr Rosa Helena Manzanilla-López** and **Dr Patrick Quénehervé** for their many years of continued

contributions to ONTA and the science of nematology. A Past President's award will also be presented in 2018, in the form of a plaque, to Dr. Deborah Neher.

The Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee chair found the committee exceptionally dedicated, helpful and prompt, and wishes to express special gratitude to **Larry Duncan** for volunteering to make the awards plaques as well as for gathering essential information for the biographical sketches, to Ignacio Cid del Prado for his carefully considered thoughts regarding past, current and future awardees, and to Alejandro Esquivel, Erwin Aballay and Paula Agudelo for their suggestions and excellent job with quick turnaround times in preparing and editing biographical sketch translations. With their help, it was possible to get the booklets for the annual awards banquet written, translated, edited, formatted, printed, bound and mailed to President Neher on 9 July 2018, only about 3 weeks after obtaining Executive Committee approval, and well ahead of the meeting in Arequipa. The booklet also includes attractive colored logos of all confirmed current sustaining members on the

Nominations Committee Report

Dear ONTA and Executive Committee Members,

As Chair of the ONTA Nomination Committee I would like to emphasize that since Vice-President nominations are going to be held every two years there was no need to call for a Vice-President election in 2018. The

back cover, with an extra large logo inside for the biggest donor.

This year, the Honors and Awards Committee also carefully examined the relevant historical information on ONTA officers and awardees recorded in the ONTA Newsletter and *Nematropica* over the last 20 years, and concluded that the Executive Committee should carefully consider two issues :1) the need to address a backlog in deserving honorary members by awarding Honorary Membership more frequently in the near future than on average during the last 20 years and 2) drafting and approval by the Executive Committee of specific qualifications and procedures to be used by the Honors and Awards Committee for bestowing a new industry award so that proposals for that award can be solicited and evaluated concurrently with proposals for all other awards, facilitating bestowal of that award with the same rigor and stature as other ONTA awards.

Respectfully submitted,

Forest Robinson, Chair
9 July 2018

next Vice-President election call will be held in 2019.

I would like to thank all EC members for their hard work and commitment to our organization during 2018.

Kind regards,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, Chair
14 August 2018

ONTA OFFICERS FACING NEW DUTIES

ONTA President

Dear ONTA community,

The 2018 meeting of ONTA has come and gone now and we look ahead to Christmas, New Year and not so far in the future, ONTA 2019 in Costa Rica. The planning committee has already made significant progress and the website will be “On-Line” soon after the new year. Progress on the items I mentioned in my 13 September message (website renewal, journal related issues and establishment of an education committee) is proceeding but there is nothing new to report at this time. Stay tuned. Meaningful progress takes time and volunteerism!



Fig. 52. Ed McGawley and Danny Coyne (Varadero, Cuba, 2015)

The Executive committee of ONTA sends you sincere holiday best wishes for you and yours. If you have comments or concerns about any of this information in this message, contact me and I will relay your remarks in my next communiqué. There was no feedback to the 13 September message.

Until next time,

Ed McGawley, President (Fig. 52)

7 November 2018

ONTA Vice-President

Dear ONTA members,

The 50th ONTA Annual Meeting in the city of Arequipa, Peru, under the leadership of Ed McGawley and the great effort made by the members of the Local Arrangements Committee, the meeting was, in the opinion of many of our visitors, very successful. A few months after our Arequipa meeting we resume contact to greet you and wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year 2019 with much personal and family fulfilment.

Regarding our 51st Annual Meeting, we are already called to meet again from 21 to July 25, 2019 in the beautiful city of San José de Costa Rica, a beautiful Central American pearl. On the website of the ONTA you will very soon find details of the city and tourist centers to visit.

The Local Organization Committee, led by Fabio Chaverri Fonseca, is finalizing the logistical details. The program will have several conferences of colleagues who will share the results of their latest research as well as their practical experiences.

A warm hug (abrazo),

Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya (Fig. 53)



Fig. 53. Manuel Canto S. and Martín A. Delgado J.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS

The 2018 European Society Of Nematologists (ESN) Symposium Highlights

Ivania Esteves



Fig. 54. The Venue – “Agora Hall”, Ghent University

The 33rd Symposium of the ESN was held at Ghent University, Belgium, from 9th-13th of September 2018 (Fig. 54). The local organizing committee (Wim Wesemael, Lieve Gheysen, Tina Kyndt, Nicole Viaene and Wim Bert) did an excellent job in many ways. A new era was definitely brought in by the organization through offering an internet application that the participants could download in advance on their mobile phones. From tourist information to participants list, scientific and social program, abstract book, message and chat channel, were available in the App within the reach of a finger. The conference started on Sunday, the 9th of September, with a guided city tour followed by registration and a welcoming reception at “Het Pand”, an old Dominican monastery located in the heart of the city on the banks of the river “Leie”. The pleasant feeling given by the warm evening and relaxed atmosphere of city, hinted that the next days could well be quite memorable. And in my opinion, it so they were. The meeting was a great opportunity for researchers and professionals from around the world to network and discuss their ideas and findings regarding a broad and

interdisciplinary Nematology topics. This year, a quite impressive number of students attended the conference, many were sponsored by the ESN and delivered high quality presentations. The scientific program included three plenary sessions given by six inspirational keynote speakers (Jaap Smedema – Bayer AG, Emile Frison- IPES-Food, Sofie Derycke – ILVO/UGhent, Melissa Mitchum – Missouri University, Peter Geldhof – UGhent and Christine Griffin – Maynooth University). They described the recent advances and insights in different areas of Nematology. Some good news were given in terms of current nematode control options using new generations of nematicides which can offer efficacy at lower use rates and favorable less toxic profiles, however, a lot of more knowledge is still needed in order to understand interactions between chemicals and biocontrol agents, and the importance of “measuring what matters” was reinforced. Other interesting messages were taken from the different talks, for example, that a lot of work remains to be done on the bioinformatics side before metabarcoding of nematodes can be reliable (Fig. 55).



Fig. 55. Sofie Derycke – ILVO/UGhent/KBIN delivering her presentation on “Metabarcoding”

The talks made me realize that no matter what scale we look, the impacts of nematodes in our lives are huge and reminded me how challenging and able to constantly surprise us nematodes are. Following the opening lectures, three parallel sessions, in a total of 30

sessions, covered important ongoing nematology research topics such as: biocontrol, ecology, genetics, management, model organisms, plant-nematode interactions, systematics and phylogeography. The quality of the 144 engaging presentations provided a lot of food for thought. In addition to talks, two poster sessions took place on Monday the 11th and Tuesday the 12th afternoon and a poster competition for students took place. Concerning the social program, on Wednesday the 12th Sept, delegates had opportunity to socialize during the afternoon either by cycling over “bergs and cobbles” (yes, you are reading well – from what I have heard, the tour consisted of 30 km of pure cycling fun!), touring in monumental city of Bruges or visiting the historical Ypres. The tours ended at the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO), where a reception was offered accompanied with beers from the local breweries and tasting of the traditional “Belgium fries”.



Fig.56. ESN delegates arriving to “The Oude Vismijn” where the Banquet took place

On Thursday the 12th, at the ESN general meeting, Cordoba (Spain) was announced as hosting venue for the ESN 2022. The conference ended with a banquet at “The Oude Vismijn” (restaurant built in an old fish market), preceded by a pleasant evening boat trip around Ghent city (Fig. 56). During the dinner, the 2018 Masters in Agro- and Environmental Nematology from University of

Ghent were awarded and the winners of the best student poster and student presentation were announced, proving that the future of Nematology is assured and there are lots to be proud of.



Fig. 57. Professor Isabel Abrantes

From my personal point of view, and for sure to all Portuguese colleagues who attended the dinner, the announcement made next by Professor Ralf-Udo Ehlers, President of ESN, was the most emotional moment of the whole evening: the nomination of **Professor Isabel Abrantes** (Fig. 56) from Coimbra University (Portugal) for 2018 ESN fellow, as a recognition for her outstanding contributions in Nematology. The “Pick Hardo Bros” ruled the party for the rest of the evening and the disco floor seemed small for so many dancing shoes! Memorable times indeed (Fig. 58). Wim and his colleagues have put the level high for ICN2020.



Fig. 58. Gala dinner

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)

Mexico

Mexican Plant Pathology Society Congress 2018

Pre-conference Course-workshop Sampling, diagnosis and management of plant-parasitic nematodes workshop-course

Alejandro Tovar and Ángel Ramírez

On August 20 and 21, in the framework of the XX International Congress/XLV National Congress of the Mexican Society of Phytopathology in conjunction with the Network of Agricultural Nematologists of Mexico (RedNeMex), the pre-conference workshop-course "Sampling, diagnosis and management of plant-parasitic nematodes", was taught in the facilities of the Department of Parasitology of the Agraria Autonomous University Antonio Narro (UAAAN), the host of this event. The course was well attended, which demonstrates the interest in different aspects of this group of plant pathogens.

The course was attended by a large group of enthusiastic undergraduate and postgraduate students, as well as professors from several institutions and universities related to agricultural sciences (Fig. 59), among them the UAAN-Salttillo, Chapingo Autonomous University, University of the West, University of Guanajuato, Autonomous University of the State of Mexico, La Salle-Bajío University, Autonomous University of Baja California Sur, Autonomous University of Sinaloa, Autonomous University of Nuevo Leon, Postgraduates College, as well as other public research centers such as the National Institute of Forestry, Agricultural and

Livestock Research (Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones forestales, agrícolas y pecuarias, INIFAP) and Development Research Center (Centro de Investigación en Desarrollo CIAD) Culiacan. It also had the participation of private and public nematology laboratories. We had as speakers specialists from various institutions who highlighted and addressed topics of great interest such as: Economic impact of phytopathogenic nematodes in agriculture, Classification, diagnosis and importance, and Sampling materials for phytopathogenic nematodes.

Practical sampling sessions were carried out in different crops at the University Campus, demonstration and development of basic techniques for the extraction of vermiform and cyst nematodes from soil and plant tissue. Topics related to ecological alternatives to nematodes management, cyst nematodes in vegetables, and grapevine virus vectors nematodes were covered. Special thanks are given to the organizing committee of the Mexican Society of Phytopathology led by Dr Eduardo Raymundo Garrido Ramírez and to the local organizers who at all times gave us their support.



Fig. 59. Course participants

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)**Peru**

Basic Nematology Course 21 – 26 May 2018. Trujillo, La Libertad (Peru)

Augusto Delgado Junchaya

The Peruvian Association of Phytopathology (APF) with the sponsoring of the National University of Trujillo of Peru (UNT), ONTA and the NEOAGRUM Company, organized from May 21 to 26 a specialized course called "Phytoparasitic Nematodes: Basic Techniques, Symptomatology, Traditional Taxonomy and Population Management" taught by Dr Ignacio Cid del Prado Vera (Fig. 60). The participation of Ignacio Cid, an ONTA member, was very dynamic and with an accentuated pedagogical character that widely fulfilled participants expectations. Ignacio expressed at all times great willingness to receive in his laboratory

young and enthusiastic people such as those attending the course. Likewise, Ignacio shared experiences and enthusiastically cooperated in capacity building at field level, travelling to the departments of Piura (northern Peru) and Ica (southern Peru) under the sponsorship of the NEOAGRUM company, leaving a pleasant impression in the technicians of the different agribusiness companies visited.



Fig. 60. Dr Ignacio Cid del Prado (second from right) at the poster session in Arequipa

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC

Italy

Second Annual Meeting Microbial Uptakes for Sustainable Management of Major Banana Pests and Diseases (MUSA 2020)

Aurelio Ciancio and R.H. Manzanilla-López

The European Union recently funded the H2020 project MUSA, for management of Panama disease (*Fusarium oxysporum* f. sp. *cubense*), nematodes and weevils on banana and enset, in Canary Islands, Caribbean and Africa. The four-year project is coordinated by A. Ciancio (IPSP CNR, Bari, Italy) joining a Consortium of twelve partners from EU (Spain, UK, Belgium), Caribbean (Costa Rica, Cuba) and Africa (Nigeria, Kenya, Ethiopia). The second annual meeting of the MUSA Project (H2020 PROJECT 727624) was held in Costa Rica (17-19 September 2018), organized and hosted by Dr Luis Pocasangre at EARTH University, Campus Las Mercedes (Fig. 61). The program included three days of intense activities and oral presentations on project advances made during the first year of the project by partners CNR, UA, CSIC, COPLACA, UNEXE, KU Leuven, IITA, RealIPM, CENSA and EARTH. The annual meeting also offered project participants an opportunity to interact and exchange experiences with local banana researchers, national laboratories (CORBANA) and managers/proprietors of private companies that produce biological control agents

(BCAs) and biological products for Costa Rica and other Central America countries. Three local visits were arranged (one per day), including a visit to the commercial banana farm and packing station at EARTH University (17 September), Agribiotechnology of Costa Rica commercial nursery (18 September), and CORBANA (19 September). After the annual meeting ended, project participants gave invited talks at an international biological control congress (21-23 September) organized and hosted by EARTH University. This activity contributed to show/promote among congress delegates the importance of EU sponsored projects such as MUSA, and at the same time enhancing project participants' international links with biological control users and stakeholders (e.g., farmers, small companies, policymakers, students).



Fig. 61. MUSA Meeting and Biological Control Congress at EARTH University (Costa Rica)

Spain: Antonio Bello Street

Dr Javier López-Cepero Jiménez

On 26 September took place the act of naming a square in the town of **San Miguel de Abona** with the name of **Professor Antonio Bello** (Fig. 62). This tribute from his hometown is one of those that have been happening almost continuously since Antonio left us 3 years ago.



Fig. 62. Francisco Bello (left) and Javier López-Cápero (right) next to the plate celebrating Antonio Bello



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF NEMATOLOGY SOCIETIES

**IFNS President
Larry Duncan**



Fig. 63. Mr Mohamed A. Diab (left), and woman harvesting lettuce at a MACO farm (right)

ICN 2020 Update: Investing in Local Nematology

Mr. Mohamed A. Diab (Fig. 63) is the managing director of **PICO Group**, a large consortium of diverse companies operating in Egypt, Middle East, Europe, and North America. Mr. Diab has arranged for PICO to generously contribute to the International Federation of Nematology Societies project that will support travel by graduate students and scientists to attend the International Congress of Nematology in 2020 (www.icn2020antibes.com). Why is he doing this? Because one of PICO's companies, **MACO**, produces high value food crops in Egypt that are exported widely throughout Europe and the Far East, as well as serving local markets. MACO's farms propagate, cultivate and market their commodities; thus, they recognize the constraints to crop production and the value of agricultural research. Mr Diab knows well the importance of investment, which is why PICO is helping train Egypt's current and future nematologists through these travel grants.

PICO is just one of several companies who have pledged to support participation by Egyptian students and scientist in ICN 2020. **Mr Hussein Zidane** (Fig. 64) has arranged a

donation by All Green, a large farm in the reclaimed desert lands of Behiera Province.



Fig. 64. Mr Hussein Zidane



Mr Patrick Ballew (Fig. 65), CEO of Ekland Marketing Co., a California firm that supplies improved berry and citrus varieties to producers in Egypt (and

worldwide), has pledged support. Additional companies in Egypt have expressed interest.

Traditionally IFNS has gotten travel grant funding through the major agricultural product companies and some nematology societies and their foundations. Grants from

these sources are usually given on a worldwide competitive basis. However, many nematologists work very closely with corporate farms, local providers of crop protection products and services, and local divisions of the major ag product companies. Individuals in all these enterprises rely on local nematologists to address the ever-changing requirements of effective nematode management programs. Such close ties between nematologists, farmers and farm suppliers provide many of us the opportunity to encourage our clients to invest in training the next generation of local nematologists.

We are looking for colleagues willing to help in this effort. The concept is simple: each donation will be used exclusively for travel by students or scientists from a country or region specified by the donor. Donors can be confident that they are investing in an individual who will serve local needs now and in the future. The execution is also easy - nematologists who volunteer to help in this effort simply provide a list of potential donors in their country or region. IFNS will then provide a donation request letter and a

document that describes the nature of the travel grants. Colleague volunteers then use these documents when contacting the companies to request support.

The IFNS and past congress organizers have been remarkably successful at providing the wherewithal to ensure wide participation in these meetings. We must follow their lead and continue this important tradition. But with just a little extra effort we can greatly expand our opportunities. Besides North Africa there are local efforts ongoing in several countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South America. But there are opportunities virtually everywhere food is grown in the world. Please consider helping IFNS identify potential donors in your country or region. To help, or for more information, contact any of us at the email links below.

Larry Duncan President (lwduncan@ufl.edu)
Ernesto San-Blas Vice-President
(esanblas@yahoo.com)
Andreas Westphal Secretary
(andreasw@ucr.edu)

ONTA NOTICE BOARD

Congratulations to Ron Mankau on his 90th birthday!

We would like to share with you the news of Ron's birthday that Saroj (Fig. 66) sent.

Greetings,

We celebrated Ron's 90th birthday with an overnight stay in HMS Queen Mary in Long Beach Harbor, with some friends, who arrived with champagne, orchids, etc. We took that ship from New York to Southampton in 1956 on our way to India, as part of Ron's Fulbright assignment. Our Cabin was below the water line, a cabin without toilet and bath (Cheap) as 80% of the ship was for 1st class. We were stuck in England for a few days as the Suez war was starting and British ships were no longer using the canal. We finally found a polish boat SS Batory, built for the North Atlantic. Hence no air conditioning, and no English spoken, the "service" was comical to say the least.

It was the first of our journey abroad together, that triggered the WANDER LUST, which over the years, took us to all the continents, (even Antarctica) and many, many countries. It has been a WILD RIDE, ever since!!!

Saludos,

Saroj
August 2018



Fig. 66. Saroj (Varadero, Cuba, 2015)

Congratulations to Barbara Pembroke on her early retirement!



Fig. 67. Barbara Pembroke

Dear Friends,

I'm sending this email just to let you know I have taken **early retirement!** I am however continuing as **Honorary Fellow** on a voluntary basis – so not quite gone yet!! **Nigel Hague** and **Simon Gowen** supervised over 100 PhD Students between them and by default I had the privilege of knowing most of them. I've had such an amazing time and so many friends, I would just like to thank everybody for making my 43 (and a bit) years such fun!



Barbara Pembroke (Fig. 67)
Reading University, UK
November 2018

NEMATOTOLOGY AGENDA

Cuba



Fig. 68. Varadero, Cuba

Varadero, Cuba (6-10 May 2019)

The National Center for Animal and Plant Health (CENSA) is pleased to invite you to

participate in the III International Seminar on Animal and Plant Health to be held in Meliá Marina Varadero, Cuba (Fig. 68), from the 6th to 10th of May, 2019, with the central motto “The agricultural sciences for One Health”. This third edition will be dedicated specially to the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of CENSA.

During the Seminar, meetings, workshops, symposia, magister lectures, round tables, technical visits and other encounters will be held such as the 59th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society - Caribbean Division (APS-CD) III Workshop: “The agricultural sector in the coping of disasters and climate change”.

For further information visit our website (www.censa.edu.cu) or contact us (1health-sisa2019@censa.edu.cu)

Seventh International Congress of Nematology



Fig. 69. Antibes Juan-Les Pins

Antibes Juan-les-Pins (Fig. 69) 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)

ONTA GALLERY



*Fig. 70. Pat Quénéhervé (ONTA at Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, in 2017). Pat was awarded **Honorary Membership** in Arequipa, Peru, this year*

ONTA
FOUNDATION

INVITATION



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.

ONTA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Dear ONTA Member,

A list of active members with their e-mail addresses and countries has been posted on the ONTA website (<http://www.ontaweb.org/onta-membership-directory/>). Please verify your membership status on the posted list. Contact Julia Meredith (jmeredith@cox.net) if your membership status is not updated.

Thanks,

Julia Meredith
ONTA Acting Secretary

**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.

Acknowledgements

The editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for sending and sharing information through the year of 2018. Cartoons and greeting cards were kindly provided by Dr Ed McGawley.

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA Newsletter Editor

We wish all ONTA members a happy season and productive
2019



Courtesy Dr Ed McGawley

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