



**ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICA
ONTA NEWSLETTER**

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

June 2020

SEVENTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF NEMATOLOGY

APRIL 2021 ANTIBES JUAN-LES-PINS-FRANCE



"Crossing borders: a world of nematode diversity and Impact to discover"



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Fig. 1. Antibes-Juan-les-Pins restaurants

We hope to see you all soon at the 7th INC

Message from the INC Chair and IFNS Officers

Dear ONTA Members,

The restaurants are open again in France (Fig. 1). And a week before that, the French beaches along the Mediterranean were reopened (Fig. 2). Small steps like these occur daily in countries around the world as we learn how to resume life while minimizing the risk presented by the COVID-19 virus. What life will be like – what precautions will be necessary – when ICN 2021 occurs more than 10 months from now is unknown at this time. However, there will be no international nematology meetings held in the year 2020, and ONTA will not hold a meeting in 2021, all of which highlights the importance of the 7th INC as an opportunity to again, finally, share our science among friends and colleagues.



Fig. 2. Antibes-Juan-les-Pins

As conveyed in previous messages, ICN 2021 could be the largest nematology congress ever, with well over 800 persons – 63 from Central and South America – approved for presentations at this time. The congress will conform as closely as possible to the program that was finalized by IFNS Vice President Ernesto San-Blas and the scientific

program committee this spring, although abstract modifications will be permitted at a future date. All hotel reservations made through the registration process will be honoured next year. Forty percent of all registrants at this time are students, nearly half of whom were awarded bursaries which remain valid, including 12 that were awarded to ONTA students and early career scientists in Central and South America (see Fig. 3). An exceptional amount of new information will be available in the form of 288 oral presentations, 12 workshops, 12 keynote speakers, and 350 poster presentations. The mid-meeting excursions will provide outstanding opportunities to explore the natural beauty and the amazing culture of the French Riviera.

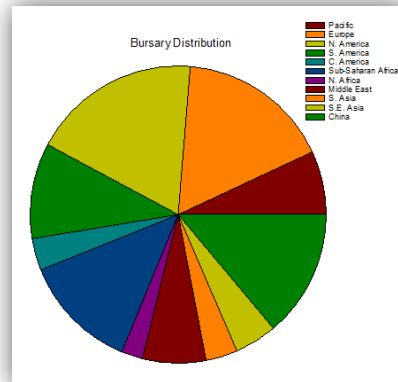


Fig. 3. Seventh INC awarded bursaries

Some of the major plant protection meetings remain scheduled for later this year, but have transitioned to entirely virtual formats. While it is unlikely that many prefer attending virtual oral and poster sessions, it is the only realistic option for meetings scheduled this summer or autumn. It will be interesting to see how these meetings proceed, and how well they serve the needs of their members to connect broadly and to exchange information. At this time there is no plan to provide a virtual option for ICN 2021. It is far

too early to plan non-traditional meeting formats; nevertheless, the extraordinary events this year dictate that the congress organizers and IFNS will stay abreast of contingencies that might be required.

We look forward to seeing you in Antibes next April (Figs 4 and 5). In the meanwhile, our best wishes to everyone as research programs are being restarted, teaching methods modified, and everyday life slowly begins to seem a little more normal.

Pierre Abad, 7th ICN Chair

Ernesto San-Blas, Scientific Program Chair

Larry Duncan, IFNS President

Andreas Westphal, IFNS Secretary



Fig. 4. Palais des Congress



Fig. 5. After South Africa 2014 we are looking forward to seeing you again soon at the 7th INC in France

FROM THE ONTA PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT



Fig. 6. Martín Augusto Delgado Junchaya



Fig. 7. Fabio Chaverri Fonseca

Dear ONTA members,

I hope you are in good health and in the best disposition to maintain the social confinement established by the health agencies to limit SARS-COVID-2 infection. Let's hope that we will be able to retake soon our outdoors normal activities and free of risk. The SARS-COVID-2 pandemic has convulsed the population, social organizations, health and financial systems and has forced the postponement of commercial, financial and scientific events. Congress, which historically have been carried out in person, have been boldly moved to a virtual system by some scientific societies.

The ONTA Vice-President (Fabio Chaverri) and I were in constant communication and reflection on repercussion of this pandemic on all kinds of things in the world including the Seventh International Congress of Nematology. Hence, at the beginning of April, we shared with IFNS President Larry Duncan our concern that ONTA next scientific meeting in Antibes (France) had been rescheduled for November 2020, and requested to consider postponing the Congress until May or June 2021 for several reasons, including the pandemic curves, which did not support that the pandemic could be over in the near future, and also that world economies, especially Latin American ones, will be devastated to a greater or lesser degree. A large number of our members come

from the "American tropics", that is, from those countries that are already experiencing much more economic difficulties and, therefore, our members will also have severe limitations to attend a meeting in November. Soon afterwards we were informed by Larry that the Local Organizing Committee decided to postpone the 7th International Congress of Nematology and 52nd ONTA meeting in Antibes (France) for April 2021.

In view of the above at the beginning of May we also communicated with the ONTA Executive Committee members about the election of our new Vice-President and officers current position changes, since it was expected that Fabio Chaverri had to assume the presidency in May. The opinion of the EC members was unanimous in keeping the officers positions as they stand and postponing all administrative tasks until our 52nd meeting of ONTA in Antibes.

We are looking forward to your opinions, and hope that we can meet in April 2021, without major health risks and in better economic conditions.

Keep in touch,

Martín A. Delgado Junchaya and Fabio Chaverri

ONTA President and Vice-President (Figs 6 and 7)

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Dear ONTA members,



Fig. 8. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López

I hope that all of you are fine and coping well with the many changes and challenges that the SARS-COVID-2 pandemic has brought into our everyday life. The pandemic may have stopped us attending labs, field trials, research and teaching activities but online education is becoming a useful tool to continue with these activities, although still in a limited manner. At this very moment many of our colleagues are exploring or using different platforms to teach and communicate with students and colleagues; even holding regular meetings and webinars online. We would like to hear your experiences in using these platforms, especially in teaching nematology courses online, and be part of the next Newsletter issue contributors.

It is also a time to be in contact with friends and, in ONTA, all of us have many friends willing to know how are we and how are we coping. Having this in mind, we have included pictures to share with you in this issue as a memento of past ONTA meetings and encourage you to keep in touch with ONTA while looking forward to our next ONTA meeting.

Our ONTA Newsletter April issue was delayed due to the SARS-COVID-2 pandemic events, and will be shorter on this occasion but we hope that you will enjoy the present issue.

Kind regards,

Rosa

OBITUARY

**PROF. SHAHINA FAYYAZ
(1959-2020)**



Fig. 9. Prof. Shahina Fayyaz

It is with intense feeling of grief to write that March 20, 2020 was the fateful day when my very dear family friend, long standing professional colleague and an eminent Nematologist of Pakistan, Meritorious Professor Dr Shahina Fayyaz breathed her last and left for her eternal abode.

Professor Shahina (Fig. 9) was born on April 4, 1959 in Karachi-Pakistan. She served the National Nematological Research Centre (NNRC) for 38 years with utmost dedication and enthusiasm. She played a key role in developing and strengthening the NNRC which led to its recognition by the FAO-UN as the Centre of Excellence in Nematode Taxonomy in the Near East Region in 1992. The Centre gained ISO Certification 9001:2015 for Diagnostic Services and Educational Programs in Nematology under her leadership.

Dr Shahina did her M.Sc. (Plant Pathology) in 1980 from the Dept of Botany, University of Karachi, Pakistan and joined the NNRC's original team as Research Fellow in 1981. She was appointed as Research Officer in 1982 and was selected as Scientific Officer in the Centre in 1988. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Karachi in 1989 under the supervision of Dr. M. A. Maqbool. Shahina became Senior Scientific Officer in 2000 and began to lead the Centre as In-charge in 2002 after the retirement of her

mentor/Director, Dr. Maqbool; she was appointed as Director of NNRC in 2003. In 2009, she was appointed as full professor and in recognition of her contributions, she was elevated as Meritorious Professor in 2013. She retired as Director of NNRC and as an accomplished professional nematologist on April 3, 2019, though continued supervision of her Ph.D. students till her death.

Dr Shahina Fayyaz had established herself as very accomplished researcher and had won and undertaken 33 research projects as Principal Investigator and as Co-PI funded by various agencies. She also won the European Commission's Marie Curie post-doctoral fellowship for research at CAB International labs at St. Albans in the United Kingdom. She pioneered research on entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) in Pakistan and added a state of the art EPN laboratory at the NNRC. She obtained industrial patents on EPN techniques and EPN use as bio-pesticides. She published over 200 research papers in peer reviewed journals of international repute; besides numerous books, booklets and proceedings. Professor Shahina had been a leader and organizer of various conferences and capacity building workshops in the field of Plant and Insect Nematology. Prof. Shahina was the Secretary General of Pakistan Society of Nematologists (PSN) and Managing Editor of *Pakistan Journal of Nematology* published by PSN till her departure. She was the winner of the competitive "Dr. Z. A. Hashmi R&D Gold Medal" of Pakistan Science Foundation in 2013 and also served as Member of the Technical Committees and Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

Her rather early departure from this world is a great loss for all of us- her friends, colleagues and students, farmers and anyone who had the privilege of knowing her.

Prof. Dr. Manzoor Hussain Soomro

President PSN/ Chief Editor, Pakistan Journal of Nematology (PJN)

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS

Annual Meeting Microbial Uptakes for Sustainable Management of Major Banana Pests and Diseases MUSA H2020 PROJECT 727624, Nairobi (Kenya) 24-28 February 2020

The third MUSA annual meeting (Fig. 10) was held at the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) organized by Danny Coyne (International Institute of Tropical Agriculture), Solveig Haukeland (ICIPE), Ruth Murunde and Daniel Nene (Real IPM). Meetings activities included an updating of the project last year's management by MUSA Coordinator Dr Aurelio Ciancio (Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche), and presentations of MUSA partners' research highlights. Research topics included banana field metagenomics, *Fusarium oxysporum* tropical race 4 (FocTR4) resistance, endophytic biological control agent (EBCA) interactions, effects of essential oils attractant/repellent on banana weevils (*Cosmopolites sordidus*, *Metamasius hemipterus*), phenotyping of banana root endophytes and rhizosphere associated EBCAs, root endophytes growth promotion assays, use of entomopathogenic fungi (EPF) to assist field management of banana weevils (BW), EPF volatile compounds attractants to BW, the effect of the combination of chitosan and EBCAs against banana pests (RKN) and pathogens (FocTR4), and the response of *Radopholus similis* isolates to banana plants inoculated at *in vitro* stage with fungal endophytes. A guest presentation on banana production constraints in Angola was given by Dr Adérito Pais da Cunha, Centro Nacional de Investigação científica (Angola).



Fig. 10. MUSA third annual meeting at ICIPE

Other activities included a visit to ICIPE nematology and arthropods pathology laboratories, and the insect program for food production and other uses facilities (Fig. 11A). Some of us even had the chance to taste some of the biscuits made of edible insects flour. (Fig. 11B). They were delicious!

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)



Fig. 11. A: Visit to the Insect program for food production facilities; B: Biscuits made with edible insect flour.

MUSA partners also visited the facilities of the East Africa leading biological control company Real IPM (now part of Biobest Group NV). The visit included the laboratories where EBCA inocula to control diverse pests is prepared, grown and formulated as biological (Fig. 12 A-C). There was also the opportunity to visit the farmers' demonstration parcels Fig. 12D).



Fig. 12. Visit to Real IPM facilities. A: Culture room; B: Packing Real IPM products; C: Red spider mite (*Tetranychus urticae*) and antagonist culture; D: Demonstration farm.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (cont.)

NemAfrica Lab

As part of the MUSA meeting activities we had the unique opportunity to visit a new nematology lab, which is located within ICIPE premises in Nairobi. Drs Solveig Haukeland (ICIPE) and Danny Coyne (IITA) kindly shared with us the following information about the history behind the creation of the laboratory, the students and staff working in the lab (Fig. 13). They also provided a list of the ongoing research topics and members of staff responsible of projects and support activities (Tables 1, 2).



Fig. 13. A: MUSA delegates visiting ICIPE/IITA NemAfrica Lab facilities; B: Nehemiah Ongeso (front row), back row from left to right: Solveig Haukeland, Danny Coyne, James Kisaaky.

According to Drs Haukeland and Coyne, ICIPE and IITA have in the last 5 years commendably managed to establish an impressive team of budding nematologists working in a laboratory dedicated to nematology (*NemAfrica*), which possibly is the most comprehensive in sub-Saharan Africa and outside of South Africa. Currently, the group is composed of about 20 team members covering research on potato cyst nematodes (PCN), banana plant-parasitic nematodes, banana weevil (BW), and entomopathogenic nematodes (EPN) among other important topics (Figs 14 and 15). In addition, the nematology laboratory is used by students conducting research with nematology components within the ICIPE Behavioural and Chemical Ecology Unit, and the Centre's Plant Health Theme. Moreover, *NemAfrica* has created a network of partnerships and collaborations with universities, national programs and the private sector in Kenya, across the region and around the world.

The success of ICIPE and IITA in establishing a nematology hub – one that is defined by high quality mentorship, resources, infrastructure and distinction as a space where students can efficiently and effectively conduct thesis practical work within an African context and according to world class standards – is evident in two ways. First, is the long list of pending internship requests, and second, the rise of nematology as an attractive postgraduate option. This latter aspect is supported by a recent comment by Prof. Waceke Wanjohi (Fig. 14F), Dean of Agriculture, Kenyatta University, Kenya (one of the key ICIPE-IITA partnering institutions), who noted that nematology is now the most popularly requested postgraduate MSc thesis topic, within the Department of Agriculture.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)

NemAfrica Lab



Fig. 14. A: Danny, Solveig and NemAfrica Lab students; B: Celestine Oduor demonstrating carrot disk cultures; C: James Kisaakye describing his research to MUSA partners; D: From left to right: Rosa, Calvince Orage, Celestine Oduor and Aurelio Ciancio; E: Jesús Mercado-Blanco (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Cordoba, Spain) and James Kisaakye; (F): Rosa H. Manzanilla-López and Prof. Waceke Wanjohi.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)

Table 1. *NemaAfrica Lab Students and staff at ICIPE, Nairobi (Kenya)*

Post-doc	Research Topic/Project
Harun Muthuri	Screening for resistance to red leaf blotch and other fungal diseases on soybean (using different soybean cultivars).
PhD students	
James Kisaakye	Antagonistic microbes for the management of banana nematodes and weevils (MUSA project).
John Ng'ang'a	Management of potato cyst nematode using a trap crop and selected biofumigants.
MSc Students	
Harrison Mburu	Identification and molecular characterization of potato cyst nematodes in Nyandarua, Elgeyo Marakwet and Taita Taveta counties, Kenya.
Margaret Nyaboke	Evaluation of fungal isolates in management of potato cyst nematode in Kenya.
Charity Wanjiru Ngubia	Prevalence and epidemiology of potato cyst nematode and bacterial wilt in Nyandarua county and their dual infectivity to selected cultivars.
Nehemiah Ongeso	Gene co-expression analysis to identify Hub genes responsible with <i>Meloidogyne incognita</i> developmental stages.
Interns (BSc)	
Francis Gitau	Data entry and statistical analysis Training in data analysis.
Helen Gichinga	Screening of selected potato varieties for resistance against potato cyst nematode in Kenya (BSc project).
Judy Nyaboke	Potential of selected non-solanaceous crops and green manure for the management of potato cyst nematodes in Kenya (BSc project).

MUSA = Microbial Uptakes for Sustainable Management of Major Banana Pests and Diseases.



Fig. 15. Banana trial on antagonistic microbes for the management of banana nematodes and weevils. A: James Kisaakye describing banana nematodes experiments to MUSA partners; B: Banana weevil infestation and damage.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)

Table 2. *NemAfrica Lab* technical support staff at ICIPE, Nairobi, Kenya

Technical/temporary staff	Research Topic/Project
Miriam Kung'u	Field evaluation of the potential of African nightshade as a 'dead end trap crop' for management of potato cyst nematodes. Field evaluation of potato varieties resistant to potato cyst nematode. (UK Innovate) Diagnostic tool for the identification and quantification of PCN.
Agnes Kiriga	Management of root-knot nematodes in pineapple. Identification of nematodes. (UK Innovate) Diagnostic tool for the identification and quantification of PCN. Experiments on the biology of PCN populations in Kenya.
Melvin Adhiambo	(UK Innovate) Diagnostic tool for the identification and quantification of PCN. Evaluation of African nightshade as a 'dead end trap crop' for management of PCN – root exudates experiments. Assisting in MUSA projects (banana weevil experiments). EPN cultures.
Shirlyne Masinde	Antagonistic microbes for the management of banana nematodes and weevils (working with PhD student, MUSA project). Field trials on potato varieties resistant to PCN.
Newton Nyagah	Biological assessment of PCN in Kenya and field trials on potato varieties resistant to PCN. Biology of PCN experiments.
Hildah Githinji	Maintaining Nematode cultures from finger millet collected in Meru and western Kenya. Evaluation of African nightshade as a 'dead end trap crop' for management of PCN – root exudate experiments.
Dennis Gatimu	Screen house technician. Maintenance of greenhouse experiments. Crop propagation.
Evans Wanjala	Use of chitosan in the management of PCN. Evaluating the use of black soldier manure, locust waste and silkworm excreta in the management of PCN. Evaluation of African nightshade as a 'dead end trap crop' for management of PCN – root exudate experiments.
Celestine Oduor	Screening for resistant on banana nematodes. Nematode culturing and population maintenance. Screening for resistant to red leaf blotch/nematodes on soybean.
Calvince Orage	Use of Abamectin in management of PCN (wrap and plant).
Elias Mwangi	(AMS) Mycorrhizae analysis on cassava roots.
Grace Nyambura	Use of Abamectin in management of PCN (wrap and plant).

EPN = Entomopathogenic nematodes; PCN = potato cyst nematodes, MUSA = Microbial Uptakes for Sustainable Management of Major Banana Pests and Diseases.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)

MUSA delegates enjoyed a welcoming reception and refreshments at Real IPM (Fig. 16A) followed by an evening taste of local ‘Nyoma choma’ (barbecue) and the Cats Dancers and Acrobats show at Safari Park Hotel & Casino (Fig. 16B). MUSA partners were also invited to visit the Maasai markets (Fig. 16C-D), the Nairobi National Park (Fig. 16D-E), the Giraffe Centre, where they came face to face with endangered Rothschild’s giraffes (Fig. 17A), and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant and rhino orphanage (Fig. 17B).



Fig. 16. A: Refreshments at Real IPM; B: Safari Park Hotel & Casino Cats Dancers and Acrobats; C-D: Sellers at Masai markets; E: Lioness at the Nairobi National Park; F (from left to right): Shirlyne Masinde, Ruth Murunde and Miriam Kung’u.

ONTA MEMBERS NEWS (Cont.)



Fig. 17. A: Rothschild's giraffes; B: Baby elephant being fed at David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust elephant and rhino orphanage.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Saroj!



On June 12 we received news of Saroj Mankau's 90 birthday (Fig. 18), and ONTA would like to send her our best wishes and also join Saroj and Ron in celebrating the occasion.

Fig. 18. Saroj Mankau

PAST ONTA MEETINGS

We hope that you can enjoy the memories of past ONTA meetings. On this occasion we bring to you the group picture of the meetings held in Mendoza (1998), Costa Rica (2006) and Brazil (2009).



Fig. 19. Mendoza, Argentina (1998).



Fig. 20. Viña del Mar, Chile (2005).

ONTA GALLERY (Cont.)

PAST ONTA MEETINGS



Fig. 21. San José, Costa Rica (2006)



Fig. 22. Maceió, Brazil (2009).

ONTA AGENDA

International Year of Plant Health

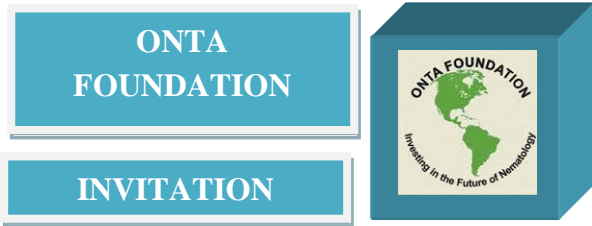
The United Nations has declared 2020 as The International Year of Plant Health (IYPH). This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to raise global awareness on how protecting plant health can help end hunger, reduce poverty, protect the environment, and boost economic development. For more information visit <http://www.fao.org/plant-health-2020/home/en/>

The first International Plant Health Conference will be convened in Helsinki on 5-8 October 2020 (unless the date is changed) on the theme “Protecting Plant Health in a Changing World”. Hosted by the government of Finland, the Conference

will be one of the key events of the International Year of Plant Health (Fig. 23).



Fig. 23. Paasitorni Conference Centre, Helsinki, Finland.



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 (Fig. 24); 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.



Fig. 24. Janete Brito

Nematropica EDITORS-IN-CHIEF INVITATION

From: Drs. Louise-Marie Dandurand and Inga Zasada, Editors-in-Chief

Update on *Nematropica*

Dear ONTA Members,

Greetings from the new Editor-in-Chiefs Louise-Marie Dandurand and Inga Zasada. We are excited about our tenure as EICs of *Nematropica*. We have almost cleared the backlog of manuscripts and since beginning our tenure in January 2020, *Nematropica* has posted 19 manuscripts that can be found in Vol. 49 No 2 (2019) and Vol. 50 No1 (2020). We have moved to immediately posting manuscripts once they are finalized - allowing for a quick turnaround from submission to publication. We will be releasing manuscripts as they are finished. In other words, we are moving away from releasing manuscripts as part of a volume that occurs only twice a year. We hope this will speed up the time from submission to publication and encourage more members to submit their research to *Nematropica*.

Our long-term goal is to increase the visibility of *Nematropica*, improve turnaround time on submitted manuscripts and the impact factor of the Journal. To achieve these goals we will need your help. Please consider submitting your next manuscript to *Nematropica* (nematropica@gmail.com). Manuscripts can be found at <https://journals.flvc.org/nematropica/index> and you can also find *Nematropica* on twitter @nematropica.

We would also like to acknowledge our Associate Editors and thank them for agreeing to serve: Drs. Johan Desaegeer, Danny Humphreys-Pereira, Claudio Marcelo G. Oliveira, and Travis Faske. If you are interested in serving as an Associate Editor please contact us. Big thanks to Cathy Howard, *Nematropica* Operations Manager for keeping *Nematropica* up and running.

Best wishes,

Louise-Marie Dandurand (imd@uidaho.edu)

Inga Zasada (inga.zasada@usda.gov)



Fig. 25. Louise Marie Dandurand and Inga Zasada

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 about your local nematology events and news.

Thanks,
Rosa
ONTA Newsletter Editor



Fig. 26. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López (ONTA Puerto Rico, 2017)

ONTA ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP
UPDATING

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 Maria Mendes (mlmendes@ufl.edu) if your membership status is not updated.

Thanks,

Maria Mendes
ONTA Secretary



Fig. 27. Maria Mendes

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for sending and sharing information through the year of 2020.

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA Newsletter Editor

ONTA Sustaining Members

ONTA gratefully recognizes the support received during 2019-2019 from the following sustaining members: **ADAMA, AGBIOME, AMVAC, BAYER, CORBANA, CORTEVA AGRISCIENCE, DUPONT, E-NEMA, KOPPERT BIOLOGICAL SYSTEMS, FMC, MARKETING ARM INTERNATIONAL, MARRONE BIO INNOVATIONS, EBIO-PIONEER CHEMICALS and SYNGENTA.**



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