



ORGANIZATION OF NEMATOLOGISTS OF TROPICAL AMERICA
ONTA NEWSLETTER

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

December 2024

55th ONTA ANNUAL MEETING
CALI, COLOMBIA: 01–05 SEPTEMBER, 2025



Fig. 1. Colombia landmarks. A: Downtown Cali illuminated at night, showcasing the city’s nocturnal urban life; B: Landscape of Valle del Cauca, an agricultural region of Colombia known for its sugarcane and coffee production.

Inside this issue:	p.
55 th ONTA Annual Meeting	2
From the ONTA President	5
From the ONTA Vice-President	6
From the ONTA Newsletter Editor	7
Highlights ONTA-SBN Meeting	9
ONTA Foundation Travel Awards	11
Students Poster Competition	13
ONTA Officers Reports	14
Congratulations	24
ONTA Members News	27
Brian James Darby	32
Season Greetings	34
Invitation ONTA Foundation	35
ONTA Newsletter Invitation	35
Acknowledgements	35
ONTA Sustaining Members	36

ONTA Officers	38
Committees and Representatives	39



Fig. 2. 55th ONTA Annual Meeting Logo.

55th ANNUAL MEETING ONTA
CALI, COLOMBIA, 01-05 September, 2025

WE ARE PREPARING TO WELCOME YOU IN CALI - COLOMBIA



Fig. 3. Colombian sights. A: Colombian coffee farmer harvesting coffee cherries at a local plantation; B: Salsa dancers showcasing the city's vibrant culture in Cali, the 'Salsa Capital of the World'.

Dear ONTA friends,

Welcome to Colombia – 55th ONTA Annual Meeting

It is with great pride and joy that we welcome you to Cali, Colombia, for the 55th ONTA Annual Meeting from 01-05 September 2025! Known as the “Gateway to South America”. Colombia is a vibrant and diverse country that blends a rich cultural heritage with breathtaking natural landscapes. Our host city, Cali (Figs 1-4), offers a unique experience of Colombian spirit and warmth. Known as the “Salsa Capital of the World” (Fig. 2B), Cali pulses with musical rhythms, a lively atmosphere, as well as a welcoming and inclusive community.

Our Local Arrangements Committee includes a team of Colombian nematologists working in Colombia and abroad (Fig. 5) and we have set up several committees to ensure an excellent and enriching meeting. Each committee is working on different aspects, from logistics to sponsorship and program planning. We are evaluating hotel options to find the best venue that offers convenient access for participants within Cali at an

affordable rate. Our goal is to provide a comfortable, and accessible offer that balances quality with budget. We will keep ONTA members informed about registration fees and accommodation options, as soon as possible, in order to allow attendees to plan accordingly.

To immerse participants in local Colombian culture, we are planning various social activities, such as a city tour on a traditional “Chiva” bus, salsa dancing classes, and a tasting of regional cuisine. These experiences will showcase the vibrant culture of Cali and provide opportunities for networking in a relaxed environment.

For the technical field trip, we are considering a visit to the CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical), sugarcane fields, or coffee farms that include a tasting session. We aim to provide a range of options, allowing attendees to choose the experiences that interest them most, whether technical or cultural. Throughout the conference, as attendees engage in discussions to share their knowledge, we hope they also take time to explore Cali's vibrant culture, cuisine, and history. The city's mix of tradition and innovation ranging from its historic neighborhoods and iconic dance clubs to its

scenic Boulevard del Río, offers a rich experience that will make this ONTA meeting memorable.

¡Bienvenidos a Cali, Colombia! – we are honored to host the 55th ONTA Annual Meeting and look forward to welcoming you for a productive and enjoyable experience!



Fig. 4. Performers in colorful traditional costumes in front of 'Cristo Rey', one of Cali's iconic landmarks.

¡Bienvenidos a Colombia – 55. Reunión Anual de la ONTA!

¡Con gran orgullo y alegría le damos la bienvenida a Cali, Colombia, para el 55.º Reunión Anual de la ONTA en 2025! Conocida como la “Puerta de entrada a Sudamérica”, Colombia es un país vibrante y diverso que combina un rico patrimonio cultural con paisajes naturales impresionantes. Nuestra ciudad anfitriona, Cali, ofrece una experiencia única de espíritu y calidez colombiana. Conocida como la “Capital mundial de la salsa”, Cali vibra con ritmos musicales, un ambiente animado y una comunidad acogedora e inclusiva.

Nuestro equipo de arreglos locales incluye nematólogos colombianos tanto de Colombia como del extranjero, y hemos creado varios comités para garantizar una conferencia fluida y enriquecedora. Cada comité está trabajando en diferentes aspectos, desde la logística hasta los patrocinios y la

planificación del programa. Actualmente, estamos evaluando las opciones de hotel para encontrar el mejor lugar que ofrezca un acceso conveniente para los participantes dentro de Cali a un precio asequible. Nuestro objetivo es brindar una experiencia cómoda y accesible que equilibre la calidad con el presupuesto. Mantendremos informados a los socios de la ONTA acerca de los costos de registro y opciones de alojamiento, tan pronto como sea posible, para permitir que los asistentes planifiquen en consecuencia.

Para sumergir a los participantes en la cultura colombiana local, estamos planeando varias actividades sociales, como un recorrido por la ciudad en un autobús tradicional “Chiva”, clases de baile de salsa y una degustación de cocina regional. Estas experiencias mostrarán la vibrante cultura de Cali y brindarán oportunidades para establecer contactos en un entorno relajado.

Para las excursiones técnicas, estamos considerando una visita al CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical), campos de caña de azúcar o fincas de café que incluyan una sesión de degustación. Nuestro objetivo es brindar una variedad de opciones, lo que permite a los asistentes elegir las experiencias que más les interesan, ya sean técnicas o culturales. A lo largo de la conferencia, mientras los asistentes participan en debates y comparten conocimientos, esperamos que también se tomen el tiempo para explorar la vibrante cultura, gastronomía e historia de Cali. La mezcla de tradición e innovación de la ciudad, desde sus barrios históricos y sus icónicos clubes de baile hasta su pintoresco Boulevard del Río, ofrece una experiencia enriquecedora que hará que esta reunión de la ONTA sea memorable.

Bienvenidos a Cali, Colombia: ¡Es un honor para nosotros ser anfitriones de la Reunión Anual de la ONTA y esperamos a darle la bienvenida para que disfrute de una experiencia productiva y agradable!

Local Organizers Committee



Who is who behind the 55th ONTA Annual Meeting?

Fig. 5. Members of the Local Colombian Arrangements Committee. Top row: Adriana Sáenz Aponte: Laboratorio Control Biológico, Departamento de Biología, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogotá (Colombia); Francia E. Varon de Agudelo: Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Palmira (Colombia); Oscar A. Guzmán: Departamento de Producción Agropecuaria, University de Caldas, Manizales (Colombia); Claudia Holguin: Research Center La Suiza, Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria, AGROSAVIA, Santander (Colombia); Donald Rascos-Ortiz: Research Center Obonuco, Corporación Colombiana de Investigación Agropecuaria, AGROSAVIA, Nariño (Colombia). Young researchers and co-leaders: Julie G. Chacon-Orozco: Laboratório de Controle Biológico. Instituto Biológico. São Paulo-Brasil; María Del Mar González-Trujillo: Institute of Grapevine and Wine Sciences (ICVV), Logroño (España); Laura T. Mayorga: Nematology lab-GCREC, University of Florida, Florida (USA); Lizzete Dayana Romero Moya: State Key Laboratory for Biology of Plant Diseases and Insect Pests, Institute of Plant Protection, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Beijing (China); Andrea Chacon-Hurtado: Chemical and behavioral ecology, University of Liège, Liège (Belgium); Carlos Castañeda-Alvarez: Laboratorio de Nematología, Departamento de Sanidad Vegetal, Universidad de Chile, Santiago (Chile). Senior researchers: Ricardo Machado: University of Neuchatel, Neuchatel (Switzerland); Carlos Molina: e-nema GmbH, Ralsdorf (Germany); Paula Agudelo: CAFLS Administration Office, Plant and Environmental Sciences Department, Experiment Station (USA); Jose Lozano Torres: Laboratory of Nematology. Wageningen University and Research (The Netherlands).

From the ONTA President



Fig. 6. Dr Tristan T. Watson.

Dear Members and Colleagues,

Greetings from the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America (ONTA).

We hope this newsletter finds you well. It was great to see many of you at our recent joint meeting with the Brazilian Nematological Society in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, this past September. I would like to thank our outgoing president, Ernesto San Blas, for his leadership over the past year. Planning is currently underway for the ONTA 55th Annual Meeting, which will take place in Cali, Colombia. We will announce the specific date of this meeting in early January 2025, but anticipate the meeting to occur in early-September of 2025. The local organizing committee is working to put together a fantastic meeting and we look forward to welcoming you in Colombia in 2025.

Warm regards,

Tristan Watson,
ONTA President
(TWatson@agcenter.lsu.edu)

From the ONTA Vice-President



Fig. 7. Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

Dear ONTA members,

It is with great pleasure that I address this message to you as ONTA Vice-President (VP). I have been recently elected, and would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your vote and trust.

I am a full professor at Universidade Federal de Goiás, Brazil, teaching Plant Pathology at undergraduate level and Applied Plant Nematology and Disease Plant Resistance at graduate level. During the 30 years of my career, I have advised around 50 graduate students and over 100 undergraduate students. I organized the 27th Brazilian Congress of Nematology in 2007, and was the treasurer of the 36th Brazilian Congress of

Nematology in 2019; I also served as representative of the Brazilian Society of Nematology (BSN) at IFNS from 2014 to 2017. From 2020 to 2022 I was part of the BSN Executive Board, being the VP of the Society.

Being an ONTA member for over 20 years, and Member at Large for two years, I had a chance to attend several annual meetings and collaborate closely with the Executive Committee, which taught me a lot about the value and importance of this Organization for the science of Nematology. I hope that all my experience will help me to meet the Organization expectations during this year as VP.

As ONTA VP (Fig. 7), one of my responsibilities is to assist with the scientific program of the next ONTA Meeting, which will be held in Cali (Colombia). I am willing to give some of my time to help make this next Annual Meeting a great event. In advance, I would like to invite you to attend! Make plans to come to this meeting, bring your students and colleagues. The ONTA Annual Meeting is a great opportunity to share experiences, have close conversations with researchers from other countries, start new collaborations, bring more members to ONTA, and make this organization stronger. I hope to see you there!

Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha
ONTA Vice-President



Fig. 8. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.*

Dear ONTA members,

It is a pleasure to be with you again to share news and reports from ONTA officers, colleagues and ONTA friends.

We would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the ongoing work of the **Colombian Local Organizers Committee** to organize, with the support of ONTA President, Vice-President, Past-President and other ONTA officers, the next ONTA 55th Annual

Meeting in Cali, Colombia (1-5 September 2025).

We thank Dr Mara Rúbia da Rocha for preparing and sharing with our readers the highlights of the joint **ONTA - BSN** (Brazilian Society of Nematology) meeting that was held in Foz do Iguaçu, Paraná, Brazil (1-5 September 2024).

In this issue, we share news about different nematology activities, and encourage students to apply for the Ghent University International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology (IMaNema) 2025-2026 call.

We also remember Dr Brian James Darby who passed away on 26 July 2024 and thank Dr Deb Neher for preparing a remembrance of this young nematologist, his research and contributions to soil ecology.

Finally, we hope to meet you next September at the **ONTA's 55th Annual Meeting**.

Kind regards,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
Newsletter Editor

(*Image: R. H. Manzanilla-López.)

Prof. Mara Rúbia da Rocha

With the theme “Nematology beyond the Mercosur border” the 39th edition of the Brazilian Congress of Nematology which, on this occasion, was held in conjunction with the 54th ONTA Annual Meeting, in Foz do Iguaçu, PR, Brazil from Sept 1st to Sept 5th. The joint Meeting gathered over 700 participants including professionals and students from 18 countries such as Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Colombia, United States of America, and others. The scientific program was great, comprising 12 sessions (Figs 9-10), 40 oral presentations, and three poster sessions, which included a total of 246 presentations. Some relevant topics discussed included: Quarantine nematodes on the Mercosur and global market; Entomopathogenic nematodes; Plant – nematode interactions; Perspectives for new bionematicides; Nematode management in the tropics and subtropics; Nematodes in crops of economic importance in the Americas (e.g., strawberry, sweet potatoes, rice, coffee, sugar-cane and others); Advances in molecular nematode management, and *Aphelenchoides* in the Americas: an emerging problem. On the last day of the program we had the “Symposium on soybean nematode management” to update the nematode situation in the Americas and management experiences that promoted a rich debate.



Fig. 9. Oral sessions. A: Mara Rúbia (Universidade Federal de Goiás) coordinated the oral session “Insights on Nematode Management”; B: Sergio Mazarro (UTFPR) gave a talk on “Microorganisms on plant defense induction for nematode management”, and (C) Luciany Favoreto (Embrapa – Soybean) on “Management of *Aphelenchoides besseyi* in soybean”.



Fig. 10. Oral sessions. A: Kathy Lawrence (Auburn University) gave the talk “Nematode management for *Rotylenchulus reniformis* and *Meloidogyne incognita* in cotton” at the oral session dedicated to “Nematode management in tropical and subtropical regions”, coordinated by Tristan Watson; B: Johan Desaeger (University of Florida) talked about nematodes in strawberry in the oral session “Nematodes on Americas’ Crops”; C: Tristan Watson (Louisiana State University) talked about Nematodes in Sweet Potatoes in the USA.

ONTA-SBN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Cont.)

The scientific program sessions were followed by daily social events, which were held at the Grand Carimã Resort, such as cocktail, happy hours and gala dinner that allowed delegates moments of relaxed conversations, sharing of experiences, and gatherings with old and new friends. Some participants took the unique opportunity to do some tour activities considering that the host city, located on the triple border with Paraguay and Argentina, is one of the most important touristic attractions in Brazil.

We would like to thank local organizing committee members Drs Claudia R. Dias Arieira (President), Janete A. Brito (Vice-President), Fernando Godinho de Araújo (Treasurer), Santino A. Silva (Secretary), and the leaders of the scientific committee Drs Andressa C. Zamboni Machado and Tristan Watson that did such a great job! (Fig. 11)



Fig. 11. A: Brazilian Society of Nematologists directors board. From right to left to: Santino Aleandro (Secretary) Andressa Machado (President), Claudia Arieira (BSN Vice-President and President of the Congress) and Fernando Godinho (Treasurer); B: Mara Rúbia students. Front row: Denner and Lucas. Back row (from left to right): Lidia, Taynara, Anna Luiza, Mara, Douglas, Gabriel, Thais, Elaine, Jaciane, Sarah, José Neto and Daniela.

ONTA members also had the chance to attend the business meeting where President Dr Ernesto San Blas handed the ONTA flag to the new president Dr Tristan Watson (Fig. 12A). During the business meeting Dr Mara Rúbia da Rocha and Dr Carolina Cedano were respectively appointed as new Vice-President and Vice-President-Elect for the period of 2025 and 2026. One of the meeting highlights took place when Ernesto San Blas received the ONTA Past-President Award for his outstanding leadership and commitment in fostering ONTA activities (Fig. 12B). The Colombian team delegates (Carlos Castaneda Alvarez, Julie Chacon and Laura Mayorga) presented the Colombian proposal to host the next ONTA Meeting in Cali, Colombia (September 2025). The presentation included a video to show some of the beautiful places that can be visited in Cali as well as breath-taking landscapes of the country. For sure they will organize a great event! (Fig. 13.)

ONTA-SBN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Cont.)



Fig. 12. ONTA business meeting. A: Tristan, as new ONTA President, received the ONTA flag from Past-President Ernesto San Blas during the ONTA Business Meeting in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. B: Tristan Watson handing on to Ernesto San Blas the “Past President Award”.



Fig. 13. ONTA Delegates.

ONTA-SBN MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Cont.)



Fig. 14. ONTA delegates attending the gala banquet.

ONTA Foundation Travel Awards

On this occasion, the ONTA Foundation travel awards went to students from Colombia, Hawaii and Colombia (Figs 15-17).



Fig. 15. ONTA Foundation awardee students. From left to right: Laura Mayorga (Colombia), Landon Wong (Hawaii), Mara Rúbia (ONTA new Vice-President) and José Andrés Rojas Chacón (Costa Rica).

ONTA Foundation: Travel Awards (cont.)



Fig. 16. Landon Gee-Keong Wong.

Aloha ONTA,

Thank you so much for the US\$1000 travel award allowing me to travel to Brazil (Fig. 16). This meeting was unlike any other I have experienced. I have also heard it was a very different ONTA in general. This experience taught me how different scientific research regarding nematodes is in different countries.

The industry support for nematology in Brazil is something to envy and I was so happy to be able to talk with some (the ones that spoke English) of the industry members. The industry research to manage nematodes was impressive by how innovative and exploratory it often was. In particular I enjoyed my conversations with MS-Bioscience and their research innovations. I met many new people at this meeting and I hope they will become collaborators in the future. This was an unforgettable experience and I believe it made me a better scientist because of it. I learned much about coffee and the nematodes on it in other regions, and I met many other fellow coffee nematode researchers. Because of this experience, I will do all that I can to attend the next meeting in Colombia and hope that me and my fellow travel award winners will be able to attend as well. Thank you again for the award. I hope that ONTA continues to support student travel and grant them this career shaping opportunity.

Landon Gee-Keong Wong

Poster Competition

ONTA participants in the poster competition included José Andrés Rojas Chacón (Costa Rica) who would like to share his experience with the Newsletter readers (Figs 17, 18).

“I am immensely honored and grateful to have received this award at the ONTA Annual Meeting in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil. Presenting my poster and discussing my research with such esteemed experts in nematology and sustainable agriculture was a truly rewarding experience. Thank you to ONTA for this incredible opportunity to connect, exchange ideas, and deepen our shared knowledge in support of sustainable solutions. This experience has been inspiring and motivates me to continue advancing our field alongside such dedicated professionals”.

Kind regards, Jose Andrés

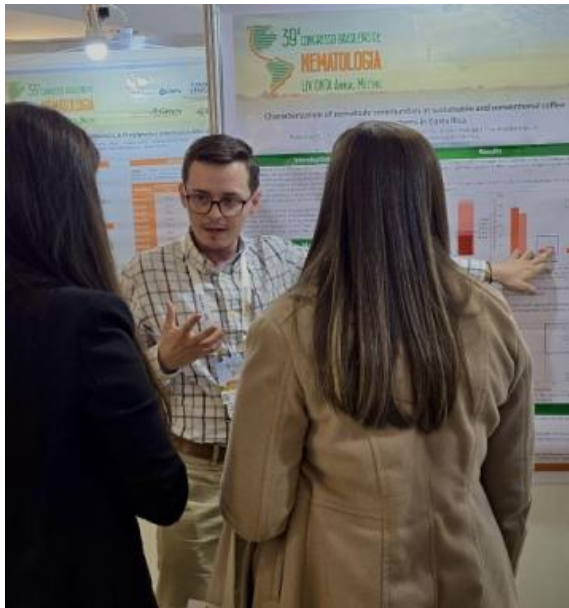


Fig. 17. José Andrés presenting his poster.

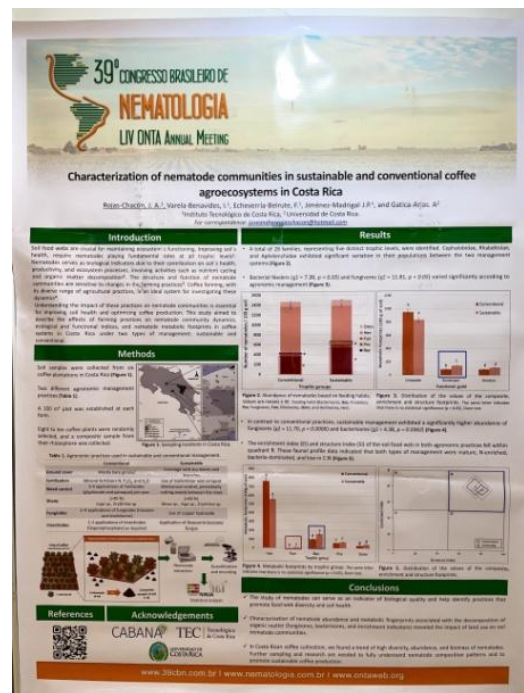


Fig. 18. Poster ‘Characterization of nematode communities in sustainable and conventional coffee agroecosystems in Costa Rica’.

President's Report (2023-2024)



Fig. 19. Dr Ernesto San Blas.

Dear Colleagues and Members of ONTA,

Welcome to our annual business meeting. As President (Fig. 19), it is an honor to present this report and reflect on the milestones we've achieved over the past year. Our society has continued to thrive, thanks to the dedication and hard work of each one of you. This report will highlight our collective efforts, the challenges we've faced, and the progress we've made in advancing the field of nematology. I am confident that our

discussions today will further strengthen our society and set a clear path for the future. Thank you for your ongoing commitment and contributions to ONTA.

ONTA has always been committed to the advancement of nematology, promoting research, education, and collaboration among scientists worldwide. Our mission is to provide a platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas, to support the professional growth of our members, and to contribute to the global understanding and management of nematode-related issues. Our goals remain focused on fostering innovation, encouraging collaboration, and enhancing the impact of nematological research on agriculture and ecosystems.

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of our society's activities and accomplishments over the past year. It serves as a reflection on our progress toward achieving our mission and goals, highlighting key initiatives, achievements, and challenges. Additionally, this report aims to outline our future plans and strategic priorities, ensuring that we continue to grow and strengthen our community while advancing the field of nematology.

ONTA Officers reports

Membership

Report on this subject is presented by the Secretary of ONTA Dr Karla Medina

Financial Status

Report on this subject is presented by the Treasurer of ONTA Dr Renato Inserra

Nominations Committee

Report on this subject is presented by the Nominations Committee Chair Dr Rosa Manzanilla.

Annual Meeting and Events

This year's Annual Meeting was a collaborative event held in conjunction with the Brazilian Society of Nematology, bringing together experts and researchers from across the globe. The program was enriched by the inclusion of 11 distinguished keynote speakers, who shared their insights on cutting-edge topics in nematology. Additionally, 21 papers were selected for oral presentations, covering a diverse range of subjects and showcasing the latest advancements in the field.

The president worked closely with colleagues from Colombia (led by Carlos Castañeda), collaborating to present their country as the host for next year's meeting. This partnership was instrumental in highlighting Colombia's vibrant academic community and its commitment to advancing nematology. The team's efforts have laid a strong foundation for what promises to be an exciting and impactful event.

Awards and Recognition

This year, the prestigious Honorary Member Award was proudly presented to Mayra Rodriguez. Her outstanding contributions to the field of nematology, along with her unwavering dedication to advancing research and education, have made her a deserving recipient of this honor. Mayra's work has significantly impacted our understanding of nematodes and their ecological roles, and her commitment to the scientific community continues to inspire her peers and students alike. The recognition of her achievements through this award reflects the high esteem in which she is held by her colleagues and the broader scientific community.

Ongoing Projects

The president, alongside a dedicated group of Chilean colleagues, organized and prepared the bid to host the International Congress of Nematology in 2028. This effort reflects their strong commitment to bringing this prestigious event to Chile. The second of September 2024 we received the news that we won the bid to organize the next ICN in Puerto Varas.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this year's activities and accomplishments highlight the strength and dedication of our ONTA community. From successful collaborations and events to the recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of nematology, we have made significant

strides toward our mission. As we look to the future, our collective efforts and ongoing projects, including the bid for the 2028 International Congress of Nematology, reflect our commitment to advancing research, education, and global collaboration. For me it was a real pleasure to serve our beloved organization and I wish good luck to the next President, Tristan Watson, and the new officers. Together, we will continue to foster innovation, support our members, and elevate the field of nematology on the world stage. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and contributions to ONTA.

Dr Ernesto San Blas

Treasurer's Report

Gainesville FL, 1st November 2024.

Dear Colleagues:

I have completed the treasurer's report for 2024. It includes the incoming contributions and expenses incurred by ONTA from December 2023 to 1st November, 2024. Deposits received are from regular and sustaining membership dues. A tabulated account is submitted in an attached file.

ONTA FL, Inc. is a tax-exempt 501(c) (3) organization; however, a tax return is required for the previous year and a corporation report must be filed for the current year. I filed electronically the federal tax return for 2023 and the corporation report for the state of Florida for 2024.

In the 11 months of 2024 covered by this report, ONTA's income decreased by - **US\$ 487.89**.

Membership dues collected were US\$ 1,850. The partial cost for formatting and posting *Nematropica* vol. 54 was US\$ 1,861.

I would like to mention that Dr Luis Payan (SYNGENTA) has consistently provided his sustaining member contribution of US\$ 1,000. His generosity is greatly appreciated.

Available funds for the organization are **US\$ 61,500.89** compared to **US\$ 61,988.78** in the previous year.

The efforts of Dr Larry Duncan in adjusting ONTA's website and Dr Deb Neher in managing ONTA's official communications list are greatly appreciated. I thank them for their valuable time, detailed work, dedication and loyalty to ONTA.

ONTA's financial status is sound as it enters 2025. However, more contributions from sustaining members are needed to support ONTA activities and future challenges.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Renato Inserra,
ONTA Treasurer

ONTA Officers Reports (cont.)

Table 1. Tabulated Treasurer’s Report December 2023 – November 2024

Total Funds Previous Year, December 2023 US\$ 61,988.78

DEPOSITS RECEIVED

Operational Funds Received by ONTA

Sustaining Member dues

SYNGENTA (Dr Luis Payan, 6/3/24) US\$ 1,000.00

Memberships US\$ 1,850.00

Total operational funds received by ONTA US\$ 2,850.00

TOTAL DEPOSITS US\$ 2,850.00

EXPENSES INCURRED

Expenses ONTA

Nematropica Vol. 54 US\$ 1,861.00

HostGator domain renewal 2024 + charges US\$ 469.91

Award plaques (Mayra Rodriguez and Ernesto San Blas, Brazil Meeting, 2024) US\$ 168.20

Reimbursement to Janete Brito costs of air ticket for Dr Kenyatta, Egypt meeting, 2023) US\$ 768.78

Fees for 2024 Annual report with State of Florida US\$ 70.00

Total Expenses incurred by ONTA US\$ 3,337.89

TOTAL EXPENSES US\$ 3,337.89

BALANCE (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR 2024 US\$ 487.89

TOTAL FUNDS (1 November 2024) US\$ 61,500.89

Renato Inserra
ONTA Treasurer

Business Manager Report (September 2023 – November 2024)

Total formatting charges for **NEMATROPICA (2023) Vol. 53, single issue**, amounted to **US\$ 2,548.00**. The total number of articles published in this issue was twelve, totally **US\$ 2,448.00**. The total amount charged for formatting **each article** was **US\$ 204.00**. The other costs of this issue were **US\$ 25.00**, which reflects posting online and repagination the Abstracts of the 53rd Annual Meeting of the Organization of Nematologists of Tropical America, preparation of the Table of Contents (**US\$ 50.00**) and Front matter and inside cover (**US\$ 25.00**).

At present, the total formatting charges for **NEMATROPICA (2024) Vol. 54, single issue** amounted to **US\$ 1,836.00**. The total number of articles published in this issue as of October 2024 was **nine**. The total amount charged for formatting **each article** was **US\$ 204.00**.

Respectfully,

Janete Brito

ONTA Officers Reports (cont.)

ONTA Secretary Report 2024

Karla Medina, Ph.D.

As of 24 November 2024

Dear Colleagues:

The report includes membership numbers presented in a set of Tables to include memberships paid on 2022, 2023, and up to November 24, 2024. The data are presented to show the total paid memberships by year, including the standing number of exempt members or Honorary members.

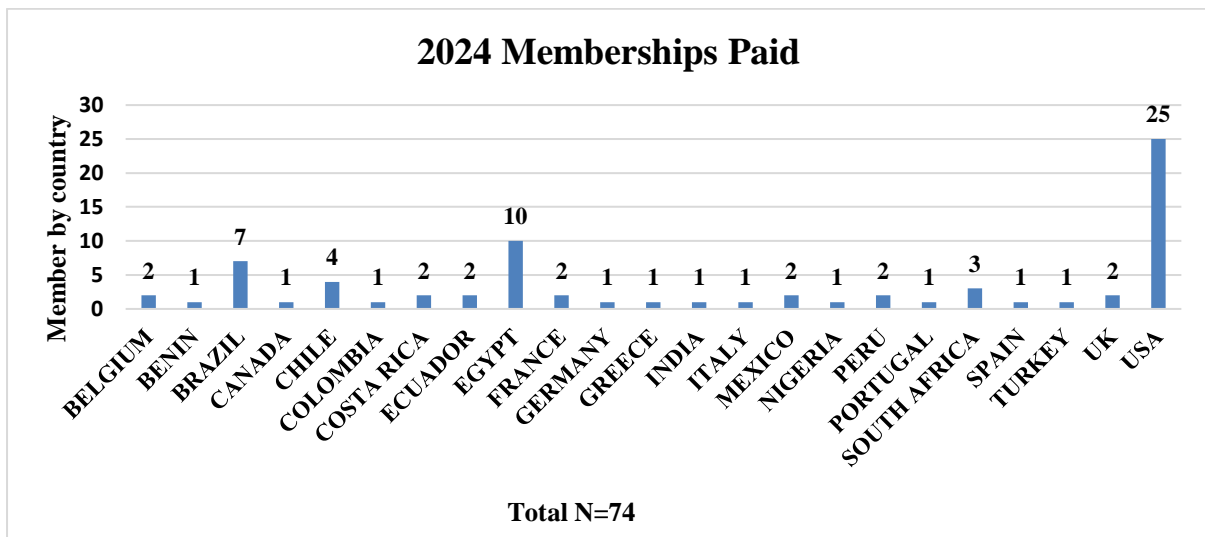
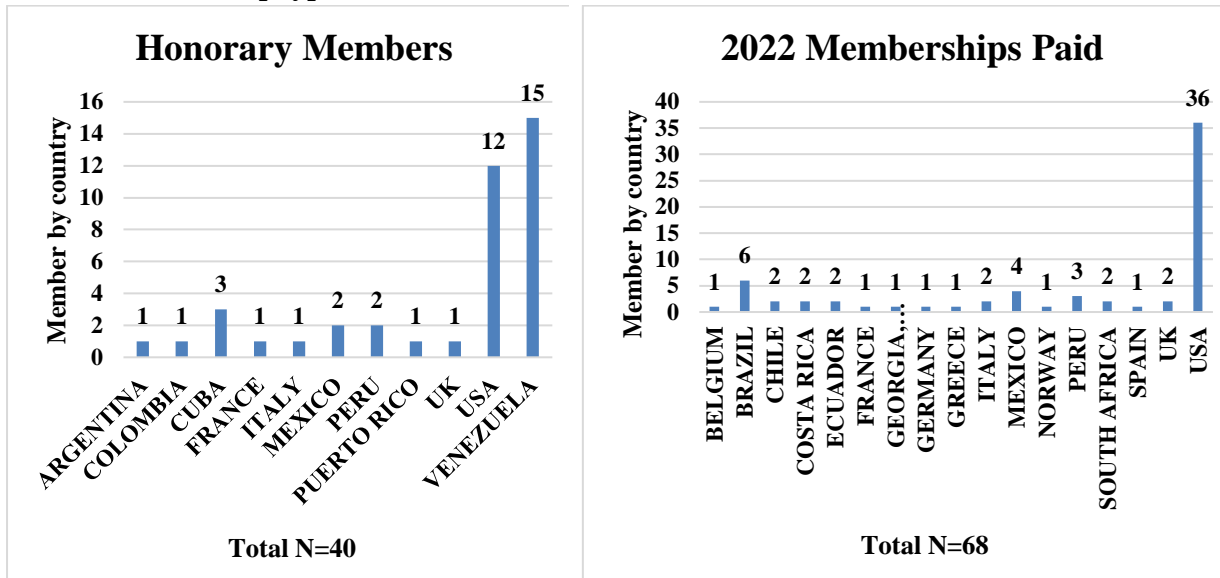
The active members of ONTA are as follows:

Table 2. Membership dues (2022-2024).

ONTA Members	2022	2023	2024
Honorary members (HM)	40	40	40
Paid Memberships	68	103	74
Total	108	143	114

Memberships paid	2022	2023	2024
2022	17		
2022, 2023	13	13	
2022, 2023, 2024	29	29	29
2022, 2024	9		9
2023		45	
2023, 2024		16	16
2024			20
Total paid per year	68	103	74
Different Membership types 2022-2024	149		

Table 3. Membership type (2022-2024).



ONTA Officers Reports (cont.)

Nematropica Report

Summary of submissions and published manuscripts for Nematropica

Year	Submitted	Published
2020		23
2021	27	13
2022	17	12
2023 (as of August)	22	12
2024 (as of August)	11	

The journal appears to be steady in the number of manuscripts received and published; however, this number is still down compared to pre-COVID. This is a trend that is being experienced by other journals. The transition to one issue/year instead of two has been successful and allows us to post manuscripts as they are finished.

Cathy Howard continues to be a joy to work with and we were happy that she was able to negotiate an increase in pay for her work on Nematropica. Without her continued efforts it is not clear how the journal could continue. Lesley Schumaker continues to actively post new manuscripts on twitter which we hope will get more clicks for the journal. We thank the other Nematropica Editors (Danny Humphreys, Johan Desaegeer, Lesly Schumaker, and Marcelo Oliviera) for their service.

Louise-Marie and Inga have let the ONTA Executive Board know that they will step down as Editors-in-Chief at the end of 2024. Inga had a discussion with Danny Humphreys about assuming the role as EIC of Nematropica. The EB needs to decide on how to proceed with talking with Danny to make this transition. We will support the new EIC every way we can to make sure that Nematropica continues.

Consideration:

- How to increase submissions to Nematropica
- Few manuscripts in Spanish and Portuguese are being submitted
- Need to solicit review articles
- Need to assign DOI to manuscripts
- Financial future of the journal

Editors-in-Chief Louise-Marie Dandurand and Inga Zasada

2024 Listserv Manager Report

During the past 12 months, I circulated 29 messages to the ONTA membership through the official listserv. The posts related to annual meetings, job postings, and membership information.

If you would like to post me a message to the listserv, please email me the message drafted in both Spanish and English if possible. The listserv engine can only use plain text in the messages. Therefore, if you want graphics included, please embed them into a PDF that can be attached to a text message.

Sincerely,

Deb Neher (dneher@uvm.edu)

ONTA Newsletter

A total of two semestral issues of the ONTA Newsletter were published online during the period of December 2023 until June 2024. The corresponding volume and issues were as follows: the second issue of Vol. 53 (2) and the first issue of Vol. 54 (1). They were prepared and posted on the ONTA website (<http://www.ontaweb.org>) for access by ONTA members.

The editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for sending and sharing information and images through the year of 2023-2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA Newsletter Editor

Nominations Committee

In the period of September 2023 to September 2024, The Nominations Committee carried out two election process: *i*) ONTA new Secretary (December 2023-January 2024); *ii*) ONTA new Vice-President and Vice-President-Elect (June-August 2024).

The candidates that were selected by the Nominations Committee to be in the ballots for the Secretary's office were: Dr Karla Medina and Dr Silvia Vau, and for the Vice-President and Vice-President-Elect's office: Dr Mara Rúbia da Rocha and Dr Carolina Cedano. According to procedures, each candidate sent their biography in both Spanish and English versions. The election results were communicated to all candidates, and their appointments were officially announced to ONTA members at the ONTA Annual meeting, which will be held in Fos do Iguaçu, Brazil, from 1 – 5 September 2024.

Dr Karla Medina was elected ONTA Secretary for the 2024-2027 term, and Dr Mara Rúbia da Rocha ONTA Vice-President for the 2023-2024 term, and Dr Carolina Cedano for the 2024-2025 term as ONTA Vice-President Elect.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all election participants for their enthusiastic participation in the pre-selection and post-selection process.

We also would like to acknowledge the support of Dr Deb Neher (LISTSERV Officer) for sending the ballots and receiving ONTA members votes via LISTSERV. We also thank Dr Julia Meredith for her support to the Nominations Committee.

Respectively submitted,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
Renato Inserra

ONTA IFNS Councillor

The process to select the next International Congress of Nematology (to be held in 2028), was carried out by IFNS officers from January till August 2024. The deadline to cast the votes by all IFNS councillors was 19 of August 2024. However, the ballot guidelines included only one vote per society.

As an ONTA councillor, and a former IFNS Vice-President, I wrote to the IFNS Board (Secretary, President and Vice-President) to inform them that according to IFNS statutes ONTA had the right to two votes (art. 9 Councillors; art. 15 Procedures for voting; art. 16 Changes to the constitution). This applied not only to ONTA but other societies in a similar situation (i.e., a membership greater than 200 members, art. 9).

To resolve the issue, I proceeded to send to IFNS officers a copy of the minutes of the IFNS Board meeting (Brisbane, Australia, 14 July 2008). The minutes contained the statutes of the IFNS Constitution. I received a reply from the IFNS Board on 21 August saying that, after revising the statutes, they agreed to correct the error, and that ONTA will be granted the two votes. Meanwhile, I kept informed ONTA's President Ernesto San Blas and ONTA's councillor Aurelio Ciancio about the process.

IFNS Officers later announced that Chile and ONTA will host the 8th International Congress of Nematology in 2028.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosa H. Manzanilla-López
ONTA IFNS Councillor

CONGRATULATIONS



Fig. 20. Dr Julieta Thougnon Islas.

Congratulations to Julieta Thougnon Islas (Fig. 20) for her successful viva (Balcarce, Argentina, 09 September 2024). Her doctoral research work on nematodes as indicators of soil health is both pioneering and much needed to enrich the present knowledge about nematode communities in crop rotation and soil health. Her Thesis Director was Dr Eliseo Chaves and Co-Director Dr Eduardo Mondino. Drs Eleodoro Valle, Rosa H. Manzanilla-López, and Sara Sánchez-Moreno participated as external examiners at Julieta's viva.

We wish her a successful career!

“Nematodes as Indicators of Soil Health in Molisols of Southeastern Buenos Aires, Argentina, under Different Crops and Production Systems”

Thesis abstract

The objective of this work was to evaluate the taxonomic diversity and trophic structure of soil nematode fauna under different crops and intensity of use, using nematological indices to determine the health of the soil ecosystem. For this purpose, soil nematodes were extracted from sites from the southeast of Buenos Aires province, Argentina, with different land use intensities: corn (2 consecutive years of conventional tillage (CT)), potato (1 year of CT), soybean (no-tillage) and pasture (with grazing animals). Forty-four nematode genera belonging to 5 trophic groups were identified. The most abundant nematode genera were *Helicotylenchus*, *Pratylenchus* and *Cruznama*. Significant differences in nematode community structure were found between land uses. Total abundance and abundance by trophic groups was higher in soybean and pasture. Free-living soil nematode community composition analysis was influenced by land use type, with the corn and soybean sites having a higher proportion of fungivores, while the potato and pasture sites had a higher proportion of bacteriophages. Plant-parasitic nematode communities differed between land uses, with pasture sites having a higher proportion of ectoparasites, potato and then maize having a higher proportion of semiendoparasites, and soybean sites having a higher proportion of endoparasites. It was observed that the community associated with sites with greater agricultural disturbance (maize and potato) presented a different and less diverse assemblage than those associated with sites with less disturbance (soybean and pasture). Environments managed with different intensities differed in soil health across the indices evaluated. Sites with lower intensity presented a less advanced successional stage (lower maturity index) than those with higher land use intensity. High enrichment index values (>50) and mean structure index values were recorded in all sites, which, through the diagnosis of the soil faunal profile, placed, independently of land use intensity, the food webs as mature, nitrogen-enriched, with a low C:N ratio, and with moderate to low soil disturbance. No contrasting conditions were found in the organic matter

decomposition channel explained through channel index, which evidenced that in all the evaluated sites organic matter decomposition was dominated by bacteria. The sites with higher intensity of soil use (Potato and Corn), presented a lower carbon flux through nematodes, which was evidenced by a lower composite, enrichment and structure metabolic footprint and lower metabolic footprint for all trophic groups studied, indicating that the agronomic practices of the most intense agricultural production sites, affect the magnitude of the functions in which the nematodes act. The functional metabolic footprint in the soybean and corn sites presented a metabolic balance where the enrichment indicator nematodes were sufficient to maintain the needs of predatory nematodes. This work constitutes the first report on the composition of soil nematode communities in agricultural and livestock production fields of the Balcarce district, southeastern Buenos Aires province, and contributes to the knowledge of the ecology of soil nematode communities impacted by different anthropogenic practices.

Key words: soil nematodes, trophic groups, nematode assemblage, soil health.

**Programa de Posgrado en Ciencias Agrarias,
Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias,
Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata,
Argentina**

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Danny Humphreys Pereira New Editor-in-Chief of *Nematropica*

After four years of service (2021-2024) Drs Louise-Marie Dandurand and Inga Zasada are stepping down as Editors-in-Chief of *Nematropica* (Fig. 21A, B). During their tenure they handled over 100 manuscript and are leaving the journal in good shape having just completed the 2024 issue. None of this would have been possible without the amazing support of Cathy Howard (Fig. 21C). Cathy has served *Nematropica* for 10 years, handling manuscript submissions, formatting manuscripts, and maintaining *Nematropica* on the University of Florida website.

Dr Danny Humphreys Pereira (Fig. 21D) is now the Editor-in-Chief of *Nematropica*, assuming the role 1 January 2025. Danny is a Professor at the University of Costa Rica. Danny is not new to *Nematropica* having served from 2021-2024 as the lead Editor of manuscripts written in Spanish.

Consider submitting your research to *Nematropica*. It is the journal of ONTA and submissions from membership are essential for the continued success of the journal. Publication cost is low - all that is required is current membership of on author in ONTA - a deal compared to escalating page charges of other journals.



Fig. 21. *Nematropica* Editorial Board. Editors-in-Chief (2021-2024): Inga Zasada (A); Louise-Marie Dandurand (B). Desk editor: Cathy Howard (C) and New Editor-in-Chief Danny Humphreys Pereira (D).

United Kingdom

Dr Matthew Back

Harper Adams University

6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Nematode Management

It was a huge pleasure and honor to welcome experts from the USA, Africa and Europe to the 6th Symposium of Potato Cyst Management at HAU on the 10-11th September (Fig. 22).



Fig. 22. Sixth Potato Cyst Nematode Management held at Harper Adams University, Shropshire, UK (10-11th September, 2024).

Potato cyst nematodes are ranked as the second most important pest worldwide and cause economic loss in the region of £31M to potatoes grown in the UK each year. A huge range of topics were discussed at the meeting (Fig. 23), including advances in breeding, new virulence, novel control strategies and new insights on the biology of the pest.



Fig. 23. Dr Inga Zasada (USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, USA).

The symposium, organised by Matthew Back and Katarzyna Dybal of the HAU Nematology Group, provided a fantastic opportunity to share ideas with fellow experts from across the globe – and to network with friends of old as well as meeting new friends and building new alliances.

Among those who attended were Dr Misghina Teklu, who had travelled from The Netherlands, and Emmanuel Anedo, Dr Danny Coyne and Serah Nganaga, who had travelled from Kenya. Dr Teklu, a researcher based at Wageningen University and Research, said: “We always like to share our research with the rest of the world at conferences like this – and to get new ideas from the rest of the world. You can network, share information and get to know other researchers in your field. “We want research like ours to be able to solve famers’ problems.”

Meanwhile Dr Coyne was accompanied to the conference by Serah Nganaga, a Masters student from Kenyatta University, with both representing the NemAfrica lab – a joint venture between the International Institute for Tropical Agriculture and the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology. While Dr Coyne is based in Nairobi, Kenya, his work takes him across the continent, and he explained: “At NemAfrica we have between 20-30 people at any one time, with students, interns and staff – we have integral partnerships with universities, agricultural institutions and others, with much of our work focused on staple African food crops, such as potato, banana, cassava and others. “We have a massive potato cyst nematode problem in East Africa, which was first detected in 2015. Events like this are useful to come and talk to like-minded people – and to find solutions to some of the problems which African growers are facing.”

NEMEDUSSA project successfully enhances Nematology education in Sub-Saharan Africa

By Inge Dehennin and Dora Scott
Ghent University, Belgium



September 2024, Belgium – A consortium of 16 institutes and universities across Sub-Saharan Africa and Europe, part of the Erasmus+ NEMEDUSSA project, spent more than 3 years developing educational materials about nematodes, upgrading research facilities and training staff and stakeholders on studying these roundworms. Now, their hard work is paying off.

- The Erasmus+ project, Capacity Building in Higher Education (CBHE): Nematology Education in Sub-Saharan Africa (NEMEDUSSA) was a joint effort by a consortium of Universities from Sub-Sahara Africa and Europe and coordinated by Ghent University, Belgium.
- 12 research laboratories were upgraded, more than 700 staff, extension workers, farmers, students and school children directly or indirectly trained on or informed about nematodes and 3 successful international workshops were held.
- A text book and BSc/ MSc course modules on nematodes (in English and French) were developed by experts in the consortium and can be incorporated to enhance Nematology study programs at any university.
- The teaching materials, knowledge clips, webinars and other information about nematodes can now be freely downloaded from the open-access Nematology Digital Learning Platform (NDLP).

Food security in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is threatened by plant-parasitic nematodes (PPN), which cause significant crop losses. Suboptimal nematology education has led to a shortage of trained professionals and practitioners, hindering effective PPN management. Including nematology in education is crucial to prepare informed graduates who can address nematology-related issues and provide sustainable solutions to communities, contributing to food security and environmental health in the region. The NEMEDUSSA project addressed this gap and increased awareness of nematodes, while expanding educational and research capacities in higher education and other institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa in this field.

Building on previous education initiatives, this project enhanced the quality of nematology science through staff training and laboratory equipment upgrades. The consortium developed curricula in nematology on BSc and MSc level for the integration into existing educational programs in English and French, for both lecturers and students. This material can now be freely downloaded as epub or .pdf. By offering specialised training, the nematological expertise of academic and technical staff was improved. More than 40 members of technical staff from the consortium partners received specialised training on various aspects of nematology and can now assist academic staff in teaching,

develop research projects, ensuring quality research in the new laboratories. The upgraded laboratory facilities have also led to an increase the number of student microscopes, lab and demonstration equipment. This in turn has augmented hands-on training and increased student and researcher numbers who use the facilities.

NEMEDUSSA further enhanced cooperation between nematologists in Sub-Saharan Africa by providing networking tools, training on relevant topics in nematology and sharing good practices in education, promoting collaboration with a focus on young nematologists. The Pan-African Nematology Network (PANEMA) was established to facilitate this cooperation. PANEMA hosted 3 workshops in Kenya, South Africa and Benin to reach as wide an audience as possible. Dissemination activities involved a range of different stakeholders such as farmers, extension service workers, policy makers, students and private and public sector, who not only participated in the PANEMA workshops, but also benefitted from the student clubs established at partner universities and attended specialised trainings on nematodes.

This three-year project (2021-2024) was co-funded by the European Union (Erasmus+ KA2 CBHE) and VLIR-UOS, and was linked to the objectives of the Erasmus+ Program. The Erasmus+ Program encourages cooperation between the EU and Partner Countries and support eligible Partner Countries in addressing challenges in the management and governance of their higher education institutions.

Ghent University (Belgium) coordinates NEMEDUSSA, in cooperation with:

- University Abomey-Calavi, Benin
- University of Parakou, Benin
- Haramaya University, Ethiopia
- Jimma University, Ethiopia
- Kenyatta University, Kenya
- Moi University, Kenya
- International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology, Kenya
- International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, Kenya
- Ahmadu-Bello University, Nigeria
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- North West University, South Africa
- Stellenbosch University, South Africa
- Makerere University, Uganda
- Muni University, Uganda
- University Côte d'Azur, France

For more information about the NEMEDUSSA project and its achievements, please see www.nemedussa.ugent.be or contact us at nemedussa@ugent.be.

International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology (IMaNema)

Dear ONTA members,

We are very excited to announce that students can now **apply for admission** to the *International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology* (IMaNema) program at Ghent University in Belgium (Fig. 24), to start September 2025! There are also VLIR-UOS ICP scholarships available to support students when travelling to and living in Ghent. All information on the program, scholarships and application process can be found on the IMaNema website: <https://imanema.ugent.be/apply/>

Kind regards,

Dora Scott

The image shows two side-by-side promotional posters for the International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology (IMaNema) program at Ghent University. Both posters feature the Ghent University logo and the program name in both Spanish and English. The left poster is in Spanish, and the right is in English. Both posters include the following information:

- Program Name:** MAESTRÍA INTERNACIONAL EN CIENCIAS EN NEMATOLOGÍA AGROAMBIENTAL (IMANEMA) / INTERNATIONAL MASTER OF SCIENCE IN AGRO- AND ENVIRONMENTAL NEMATOLOGY (IMANEMA)
- Website:** www.imanema.ugent.be and nematology.gent@ugent.be
- Application Information:** ¡APLICA PARA LA ADMISIÓN Y BECAS PARA EL AÑO ACADÉMICO 2025-2026! (scholarship deadline 1 February 2025) / APPLY FOR ADMISSION & SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2025-2026! (scholarship deadline 1 February 2025)
- Program Details:** 2 AÑOS / 120 ECTS / 2 YEARS / 120 ECTS
- Program Features (Spanish):** ÚNICO A NIVEL MUNDIAL, FORMACIÓN CIENTÍFICA ESPECIALIZADA Y APLICADA, IMPARTIDA POR EXPERTOS INTERNACIONALES, EXPERIENCIA DE CAMPO, MOVILIDAD Y PRÁCTICAS INTERNACIONALES
- Program Features (English):** GLOBALLY UNIQUE, SPECIALISED & APPLIED SCIENTIFIC TRAINING, TAUGHT BY INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS, FIELD EXPERIENCE, MOBILITY & INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS
- Logos:** vliruos (SHARING MINDS, CHANGING LIVES) and Belgium partner in development
- Image:** A photograph of students in a laboratory setting, wearing gloves and working with equipment.

Fig. 24. International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology (IMaNema) 2025-2026 call.

In Memory of Brian James Darby (1979-2024)

Written by Deborah Neher



Fig. 25. Department of Energy biological crust project team in Moah, Utah. Left to right: Brian Darby, David Housman, Deb Neher, Cheryl Kuske, and Jayne Belnap.

This world lost a shining star in nematode ecology with the passing of Brian James Darby (Figs 25-28) on Friday, 26 July, 2024. Brian was just getting on a roll in his career having recently earned a multi-state grant as PI and being promoted to Full Professor at the University of North Dakota.



Fig. 26. Brian Darby in his University of North Dakota lab, Soil Ecology and Ecological Genomics Laboratory (~2020).

Brian earned his MS degree from the University of Toledo (2004) and PhD at the University of Vermont (2008) under the mentorship of Dr Deborah Neher. His graduate research focused on desert nematodes and how their role in nutrient cycling by biological crust communities responded to climate change. He didn't stop at nematodes, but also examined protozoan communities and named a new species of tardigrade. He completed a postdoctoral position with Dr Michael Herman at Kansas State University where he mastered molecular techniques to complement his morphology skills. Brian spent the rest of his career as a professor in the Department of Biology at the University of North Dakota (UND).

Brian's research at UND focused on soil ecology — how the soil microbiota affects the health and function of the soil system — as well as identification of the fascinating nematodes, tardigrades, rotifers, mites, collembolans and protozoans that exist in soil environments. He also studied how the ecological genomics of organisms dictate their abundance and distribution in the world, and he used molecular tools to analyze wildlife genetics' relation to movement and behavior to assist management and conservation. Brian also was an expert in statistics/biometry, modeling quantitative data to test hypotheses, estimate parameters and predict future scenarios.

Brian was known for caring deeply about his student researchers – undergraduates and graduates – preparing them for their careers and contributing to the field of soil ecology.

During his relatively short career, Brian published 50+ peer-reviewed papers and (co)-authored 6 book chapters. In March 2024, Brian published a fun and informative article geared toward youth audiences around the world for the “Curious Kids” section of The Conversation: [“What is dirt? There’s a whole](#)

[wriggling world alive in the ground beneath our feet, as a soil scientist explains](#)". The piece gives you a peek into his curiosity, incredible insight, sense of humor, and ability to reach across generations as a dedicated and gifted educator.



Fig. 27. NSF Nematode species inventory, Costa Rica (2005). Left to right: Patricia Stock, Robin Giblin-Davis, Natsumi Kanzaki, Brian Darby.

Colleagues at UND describe Brian as “.. a valued mentor, friend and colleague in the biology family. He was well known for his kindhearted generosity and patience with the countless students he worked with over the years. Although his passion was always for soil nematodes, his impact on science and the projects he was willing to lend a thought to had no bounds.”

Deborah Neher at University Vermont explains “Brian and I had a mentor/protege relationship. He spent six years in my lab as a graduate student and we coauthored 12 publications. He learned everything possible as a student, and then put it into action and added his own twist and expertise with a side of critical insight and humor. I am so proud of Brian for the person he became and the international impact of his scientific research. Brian dedicated his life to learning both as a student and an educator. His passing is a huge loss to family, friends and colleagues.”



Fig. 28. Brian receiving the Clark Soil Biology Graduate Student Scholarship (2007) from the president of the Soil Science Society of America President, Dr Rattan Lal.

Christmas and New Year Season Greetings

Dear ONTA members,

On behalf of the ONTA Executive Committee and the ONTA Foundation we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Estimados socios de la ONTA:

A nombre del Comité Ejecutivo de la ONTA y de la Fundación ONTA les deseamos una Feliz Navidad y un Próspero Año Nuevo.



Fig. 29. Christmas and New Year card. Courtesy MSc Walter Peraza (Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica.)

INVITATION

ONTA
FOUNDATION



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.

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. 42); 2) credit card, same information required as for membership



Fig. 30. Dr Janete Brito.

ONTA NEWSLETTER INVITATION

Dear ONTA member,

Do you have a passion for nematodes and nematology? Would you like to share nematology news and pictures 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. 31. Rosa H. Manzanilla-López.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The ONTA Newsletter editor would like to thank all ONTA Newsletter contributors for kindly sending and sharing information and images through 2024.

ONTA SUSTAINING MEMBERS

ONTA gratefully recognizes the long-standing support received in 2024 from Dr Luis Payan (SYNGENTA). ONTA is very appreciative for the sustaining members contributions received in 2024 from AgBiome, and in previous years from Adama, Amvac, Bayer, CERTIS Biologicals, Corbana, Corteva Agriscience, E-Nema, Ebio-Pioneer Chemicals, FMC, Koppert Biological Systems, Market ARM International and Marrone Bio Innovations hoping that they will maintain their interest in helping ONTA activities.





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