

Agenda CSSA C-09 Division 2015 Business Meeting Minutes

The 2015 Business Meeting of Div. C09 (Biomedical, Health-Beneficial and Nutritionally Enhanced Plants) was held Tuesday, November 17, 2015 during the ASA, CSSA, & SSSA International Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Lee Tarpley, C-9 Division Chair, presided.

Minutes from the 2014 meeting were accepted unanimously.

Shawn Kaepler, Editor of Crop Science, provided an update on the Crop Science journal metrics

Total manuscript submissions (~700) and acceptance levels, ~65% domestic and ~23% foreign manuscripts, were similar to previous years. The average time to first decision is ~28-29 days.

CSSA Board Representative Shannon Pinson led several discussion points

Introduced the 2016 division officers: Lee Tarpley, who will become past chair, Jason D. Gillman, 2016 Chair, and Mary Guttieri, 2016 Chair-Elect.

Led a discussion of imminent change in dues – Previously members could join as many societies (CSSA, ASA, and SSSA) as desired for a minimal cost. Now there will be a sliding scale (\$100 for one society, \$150 for two, and \$200 for three). This was done to mitigate a (long-term) unsustainable reduction in society funds.

Reported that the Digital Library continues to be under-utilized.

Led a discussion of the advocacy activities of the CSSA. She also presented several upcoming opportunities (white papers, press releases, CSSA affiliates) and challenged Division C-9 members to find ways to be included in efforts on improving the visibility and impact of the division and crop science society (e.g. “Why you are here”).

Reported on a new society journal “Agricultural & Environmental Letters” with a shorter format and rapid turnaround. The journal is intended for “unique observations” and small-scale studies (1 year field studies, method development studies, etc.), and will be indexed. As a promotion, reduced open access charges are offered to society members for the first few months.

Mark Brick, International Year of Pulses (IYP) TaskForce Chair, CSSA Program Planning Officer

Provided an overview of CSSA and Division C-09 events related to the “year of the pulse”. Mark indicated there will be a pulse special collection in the near future. This will be a Proceedings of the 2015 “Improving Pulses for Nutrition and Health” hosted by C-9. Papers are being accepted now, but the plan is to publish as one issue in 2016. The publication costs will be covered by Saskatchewan Pulse Growers Association/Global Pulse Confederation and the CSSA International Year of Pulses Taskforce. In addition, Mark is soliciting manuscripts on various aspects of pulses to be published throughout the year.

Michael Grusak, CSSA President, led a discussion on changes in the annual meeting format

Presented suggestions for changes to symposia and divisional meetings. The emphasis going forward is on more presenters, with a shorter duration for each talk. Although left up to each division, the model would be 3-4 talks of 10-15 minutes, and a large number of 5-minute talks that could, for example, provide an overview of presentations from the graduate competition. The division discussed these suggested changes, with some in favor and others disagreeing. No consensus was reached.

Mike reported that the division page is in need of improvement, and that the text in place is outdated and a small number of corrections are needed. Mike Grusak will provide details to Jason Gillman to update the page.

Lee Tarpley called for nominations for C-9 positions:

CSSA Board Representative: Two names were approved for nomination for CSSA board representative: Lee Tarpley (Texas A&M), and Paul Scott (Iowa State). Brian Waters (University of Nebraska) and Kristin Bilyeu (University of Missouri) declined invitations by proxy (University of Nebraska).

CSSA President-Elect: Stephen Kresovich (Clemson University) had been previously short-listed for consideration by C-09 past and present chairs and chair elects. He has been active in several divisions and will be presented with other divisions for consideration to be nominated.

C-9 2017 Chair-Elect: Three names were presented for consideration, and voting revealed a clear majority in favor of two candidates: 1) Om Parkash Dhankher (University of Massachusetts Amherst) and 2) Adam Heuberger (Colorado State University).

Discussion of the topic for the 2016 meeting.

Several C-9 members (David Brenner, Desalegn Serba, Kevin Murphy, and Dipak Santra) requested time at the meeting to present a proposal for consider of minor crops as a topic for the 2016 divisional meeting (e.g. millets, quinoa, amaranth, fenugreek, spelt, Einkorn wheat, tef, etc.). Jason Gillman indicated that was a possibility, but that he would prefer to have this as a separate symposium topic, preferably in coordination with other divisions. These crops have aspects of interest (stress tolerance, breeding efforts, metabolism, etc.), beyond just the interests of C-09.

The theme for the 2016 meeting is “Resilience Emerging from Scarcity and Abundance”. According to press releases, this meeting “Within this context, agriculture and ecosystems are challenged to withstand stressors, adapt, and recover quickly to meet the needs of our growing world...will focus on how we can optimize ecosystem and agricultural system resilience across local and global scales in the face of these extremes.” Several topics were suggested as appropriate for C-9’s main session, from anti-nutritional compounds in plants, legume/pulses (2016 being the “year of the pulse”) and agronomic biofortification.

Graduate Student poster competition

Winners for 2015 were Crystal Heim (University of Missouri), Alaa Alaswad (University of Missouri), and Dilooshi Weerasooriya (Kansas State University). Gratitude was expressed to past and present division officers for judging the competition. The pool of posters was quite small in 2015 and members are encouraged to have their students/post-docs bring posters in 2016.