European Society of Nematologists

Volume 79. Issue 1

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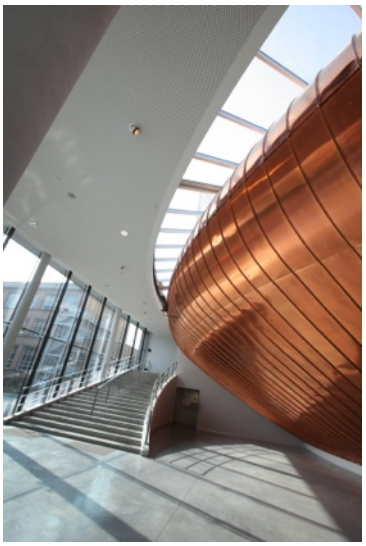
Nematology News

33rd Symposium of ESN, Ghent 2018
Registration now open!



For the third time in ESN history the medieval city of Ghent welcomes nematologists for its biennial symposium (9-13th September 2018). When we launched the idea of organising the 33rd ESN symposium, memories from 1994, the previous time in Ghent, were shared with us. Vivid memories of a splendid symposium means we now have a challenge to try to do better.

Since then Ghent has changed a lot. Historic buildings have been restored, the bar and restaurant scene gets high ratings in travel guides and the historic city centre is now one of Europe's biggest pedestrian zones. In 2017 Belgian beer culture was acknowledged as a cultural world heritage by UNESCO.

With Ghent University and the Flemish Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) the Ghent region can also be considered as a hotspot for nematological research and education. Both institutes will jointly organise the 33rd ESN symposium. Our team is enthusiastic and can also rely on the students of the International Master of Science in Agro- and Environmental Nematology, a unique master programme of Ghent University.

We will create the atmosphere but we count on your contribution, both scientifically and socially, to make ESN2018 a success. Registration is now possible through the ESN website (https://www.esn-online.org/conference). Deadline for **early registration** is **15/05/2018**. More info on page 9

Hope to see you in Ghent,

Wim Wesemael

2018 Governing board elections

Please cast a **vote** (ESN members only) for new Governing Board members **before 21 February 2018**.
Two members of the board (Jim Baldwin and John Jones) have come to the end of their mandate and need to be replaced. We have received three nominations, so please vote for a maximum of two candidates among the following (in alphabetical order):

Dr Raquel Campos-Herrera (Portugal)	Yes / No
Dr Catherine J. Lilley (UK)	Yes / No
Dr. Sara Sánchez-Moreno (Spain)	Yes / No

Please send your ballot by mail to Eric Grenier (eric.grenier@inra.fr) who will collect, count, and retain them.

This ballot and the candidate biographies are available at https://www.esn-online.org/about/vote-for-new-governing-board-members.

Eric Grenier

R. Campos-Herrera

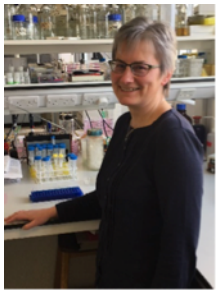
Centro para os Recursos Biológicos e Alimentos Mediterrânicos (MeditBio)
Campus Gambelas, Universidade do Algarve, Faro (Portugal)
rcherrera@ualg.pt

Dr. Raquel Campos-Herrera is currently under the "Investigator Programme" (Portuguese Government, FCT, Portugal, 2015-18), and will join the ICVV-CSIC in 2018 into "Ramon y Cajal" program (Spanish Government, Spain, 2018-2023). She received her PhD in 2006 from Complutense University of Madrid (Spain) thanks to her work at the CSIC, supported by two competitive grants: FPU (2002–05), and I3P postgraduate (CSIC, Spain, 2006). Her PhD was awarded with the European Mention and Annual Extraordinary Award (UCM, Spain). Subsequently, she worked as postdoctoral associated for >7 years at University of Florida (USA), Agricultural Sciences Institute (CSIC, Spain) and University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), supported by fellowships from the Ramón Areces Foundation (Spain), the Marie Curie Program (7FP, European Union) and the Swiss National Science Foundation. Besides self-funding her whole career, she has been Principal Investigator (PI) in various grants: 2 as PhD student (La Rioja Government, Spain 2002, 2003), the IOF Marie Curie lab-associated grant (EU, 2010-13), and one IF-Exploratory Grant (FCT, Portugal, 2015-18), collaborating in 12 national/international projects (EU, USA). She co–supervised various undergraduate students/short stages and PhD students. She team–taught formal courses in Biology, Master and PhD program in Entomology and Nematology, participated in summer schools and short postgraduate courses and enjoys developing outreach activities for high school students, farmers and the general public, accounting with > 20 invited lectures (Brazil, USA, France, Spain and Portugal). She serves as international expert for numerous project evaluation panels. Also, she receives frequent invitations as symposium and workshop organizer (SON, ONTA, SIP), and serves as chair and vice–chair of Entomophilic Nematode Divisions (SON 2010-12 and SIP 2016-2018). She has been keynote speaker in two meetings, the "Sociedade do Nematologia do Brazil" (2012) and the "Nematological Society of Southern Africa" (2017). She is Editorial Board member of *Frontiers in Plant Science*, *Journal of Nematology* and *Nematoda* and serves as reviewer for >25 international journals. As recognition to her scientific career as young scientific she was recently awarded "Syngenta Crop Protection Award 2017" for her contributions in Nematology.

https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Raquel_Campos-Herrera

Catherine J. Lilley

Centre for Plant Sciences
School of Biology, University of Leeds, Leeds (UK)



After graduating with a degree in Botany I completed a PhD at the University of Durham in 1991, investigating how inducible gene expression in Agrobacterium could be harnessed to deliver plant protection in the rhizosphere. A postdoctoral position working on regulation of seed storage proteins in oilseed rape was followed in 1994 by a move to the University of Leeds, where I joined the group of Howard Atkinson and began my long association with Plant Nematology. I still work within the Plant Nematology Group, now led by Peter Urwin.

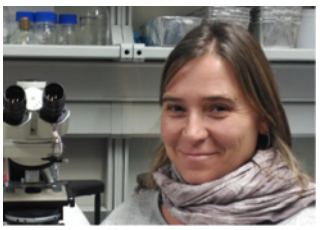
During my time at Leeds I have been involved in a wide range of research projects with many collaborators and have witnessed the huge progress that has been made in the understanding of plant-nematode interactions and nematode genomics.

From my earliest work to characterise proteinase genes of soybean cyst nematode through to the more recent genome sequencing projects for potato cyst nematode, I have always had a keen interest in the molecular aspects of the research. However, the beauty of the job is its varied nature that has taken me from field trials of GM potatoes in the UK to nematode problems of bananas on smallholder farms in Uganda to working with agribusiness in China. My current research projects span the application of biofumigation for nematode control and investigating the function of novel effectors of cyst nematodes. One of the most rewarding and enjoyable parts of my job has been the opportunity to support and encourage many postgraduate students over the years and introduce them to nematology. Student participation at ESN meetings is of enormous benefit both for the students themselves and the wider nematology community.

http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/staff/profile.php?tag=Lilley

Sara Sánchez Moreno

Instituto Nacional de Investigación y Tecnología y Alimentaria
Unidad de Productos Fitosanitarios, Madrid (Spain)



Dr. Sara Sánchez Moreno is a doctor on Biology by the University of Alcalá, Spain. She developed her PhD at the Natural History Museum in Madrid on nematode ecology in polluted areas and conducted post-doctoral research at the University of California at Davis, focusing on the role of soil nematodes in soil functioning in agroecosystems. Back in Spain, she joined the National Institute of Agriculture and Food Research and Technology, in which she was granted a Tenured Scientist position in 2010. Her research focuses on the role of beneficial nematodes in ecosystem services and the use of nematodes as bioindicators. She has been an invited speaker in national and international events, and supervised PhD and MSc students, and has collaborated with the industry in the search of environmentally friendly pesticides. Currently, she is involved in several projects at national and international levels focused on long-term effects of tillage on soil communities, nematodes as indicators in tropical systems, and nematodes as indicators of climate change effects on the soil system.

Membership renewal

If you have not yet paid your ESN membership for 2018, please RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP NOW!
Paid memberships include:

- Special individual e-only subscription rate to Nematology
- Discounted registration fees at the meetings of the Society
- ESN Newsletter “Nematolgy News” sent by email twice a year.
- Student members are eligible to apply for bursaries that provide a contribution towards the costs of attending ESN meetings.

How to renew your membership:

Please visit our website https://www.esn-online.org/. Memberships costs 20€/year. Please pay your dues on time and don’t wait until just before the next ESN meeting. Once logged in to your “Member” area you can update your profile and see if you need to renew your membership. Don’t delay – memberships run on a calendar year basis.

You can now also pay on-line by bank transfer. Contact your country representative if you prefer not to purchase online.

Remember that the names and the subscription years must be clearly indicated to the treasurer when a payment is made from another bank account than your personal one.
For any further questions regarding payment or website access, please contact, respectively, our treasurer (hans.helder@wur.nl) or our website manager (wim.bert@UGent.be).

Call for nominations for Fellows of the ESN

Election of Fellow of the Society is accorded to General Members in recognition of outstanding contributions to the science of Nematology or distinguished service in promoting the Objectives of the Society. The call for nominations for Fellows of the ESN to be elected in 2018 is now open.

Nominations for Fellow of the Society may be made by any member. All nominations must be accompanied by a written statement outlining the professional achievements of the nominee and giving reasons for the proposed election. All nominations must be supported by two other members.

For the current election, **nominations should be submitted to the Secretary (Eric Grenier) before 15 March 2018**. The selection of Fellows will be made by a committee appointed by the Governing Board which will inform the membership of its decision at the General Meeting in Ghent, Belgium.

Current ESN Fellows

Maurice Ritter (1986)
Julia Meridith (1990)
David Hooper (1994)
Pieter Loof (1994)
Nigel Hague (1998)
August Coomans (2000)
Marisa Vinciguerra (2000)
Virginia Ferris (2002)
David Trudgill (2002)
John Webster (2004)
Roger Cook (2004)
Maria Susana Santos (2004)
Richard Sikora (2006)
Antoine Dalmasso (2006)
Roland Perry (2008)
Maurice Moens (2010)
David Chitwood (2014)
Godelieve Gheysen (2016)
Wilfrida Decraemer (2016)
James Baldwin (2016)

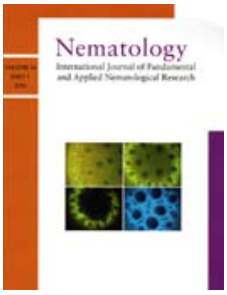
ESN 2022 host selection

?

Blagoevgrad 2006 Vienna 2010 Adana 2012 Braga 2016 Gent 2018

Bids for the organization of the ESN Symposium 2022 should be sent to the Secretary and Treasures (Eric Grenier and Hans Helder) **by 1st July 2018**. For further directions (Guidelines for the host selection) contact the Secretary Eric Grenier.

Discounted subscription to *Nematology* for ESN members



Members are reminded that they can subscribe to the 2018 Volume of *Nematology* at the special individual e-only member subscription rate of € 141/US$ 159 (excluding VAT). Please send your order to brill@turpin-distribution.com, quoting action code 70258. Price group/type to be entered as “society/member”

Highlights from recent Nematology issues can be found on pages 5-6

Nematology highlights

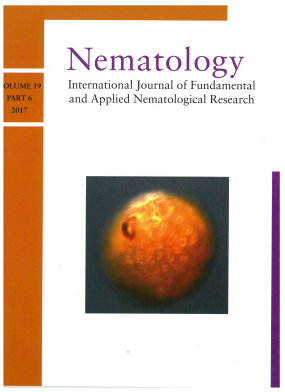
The last five issues of *Nematology* in 2017 complete volume 19. The papers reflect a good balance of subject areas with an interesting variety of topics. In total, the 10 issues of volume 19 contained 4 Forum articles, 82 full research papers, 3 short communications and 2 book reviews.

Nematology papers, including the earlier papers of *Nematologica*, are available on Brill's online platform at: http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/15685411; all articles are available online with a DOI immediately corrected proofs are returned and DOIs are available for all papers in *Nematology* and *Nematologica*. *Nematology* will now consider Review articles for publication.

Here, Roland Perry highlights a paper from each of the last five issues of volume 19.

Highlights of Vol. 19 (2017) Issues 6-10

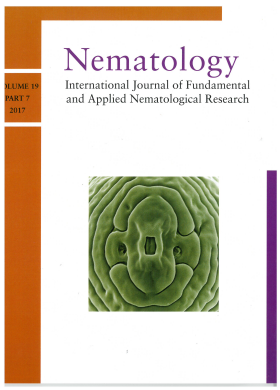
Issue 6



Caves and cave-dwelling biota have fascinated scientists for centuries but there is a lack of information on subterranean realms and the ecosystems they host. Nematodes play an important role in the functioning of epigean ecosystems but whether the same is true for subterranean ecosystems remains unknown. In a Forum article entitled *Nematodes in caves: A historical perspective on their occurrence, distribution and ecological relevance* (pp. 627-644), Du Preez *et al*. conducted an in-depth review on all reports related to cave-dwelling nematodes. A literature survey of 41 scientific works from over the last 138 years revealed 295 unique taxa reported from 78 different cave systems. The authors discuss the historical trends in cave nematology, peculiar findings from important studies, and an ecological classification system. Lastly, the trophic distribution of the reported taxa is presented, whilst nematodes from other (non-cave) subterranean environments are also considered.

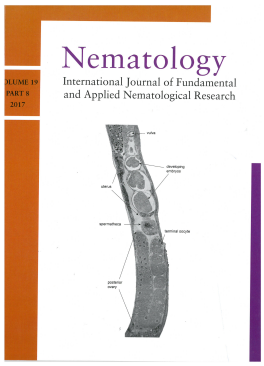
Issue 7

Potato is the fourth most important food crop in the world after corn, rice and wheat. It is essential to control and identify cyst nematode species, such as *G. pallida*, *G. rostochiensis* and *H. schachtii*. Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) has extended the number of genomic loci that can now be used for molecular identification and, in particular, NGS has increased opportunities for easier microsatellite isolation. In a paper entitled *Development and validation of real time PCR assays based on novel molecular markers for the simultaneous detection and identification of* Globodera pallida, G. rostochiensis *and* Heterodera schachtii (pp. 789-804) Gamel *et al*. screened hundreds of microsatellite primer combinations in *G. pallida*, *G. rostochiensis* and *H. schachtii* and combined the most interesting ones into a single real time PCR assay. The newly designed primers and probes enabled the detection of all target populations tested and with no cross reaction for closely related non-target species (55 populations tested). The authors determined the limit of detection as one juvenile for *G. rostochiensis* and *G. pallida* and five juveniles for *H. schachtii*. For monitoring potato cyst nematodes, this analytical tool would extend the number of cyst investigated as five juveniles can be detected among 50 cysts in a sample. In addition, this multiplex assay detects DNA of the three targeted species in template DNA obtained directly from float material after nematode extraction from soil.



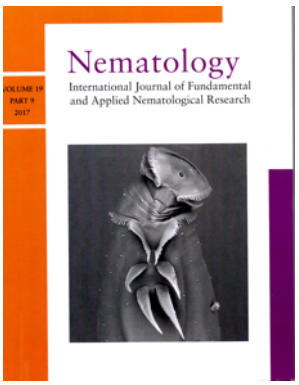
Issue 8

Transmission electron microscopy is essential for studying tissues and cells of nematodes, and rapid fixation using cryomethods is indispensable for high resolution and advanced approaches, including immunocytochemistry, tomography and 3D reconstruction, quantitative assessments of cytoplasmic elements, and correlative light and electron microscopy. In a paper entitled *Self-Pressurised Rapid Freezing (SPRF): an easy-to-use and low-cost alternative cryo--fixation method for nematodes* (pp. 871-881), Claeys *et al*. evaluated SPRF based on a comparative analysis of the ultrastructure of spermatozoa of the nematodes *Acrobeles complexus* and *Caenorhabditis elegans*. Sealed copper tubes, packed with active nematodes in water, were plunged into nitrogen slush, a semi-solid form of nitrogen. The water inside the capillary copper tube expands upon cooling due to the formation of hexagonal ice, thereby generating high pressure necessary for cryo-fixation of the sample. For sperm cells cryo-fixed by SPRF, the preservation of the ultrastructure was comparable to that achieved with high pressure freezing. SPRF fixation did not destroy antigenicity, based on the results of the immunolocalisation of the major sperm protein. The authors conclude that SPRF is a low-cost alternative cryo-fixation method for nematodes.



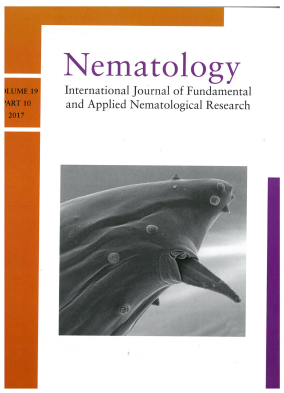
Issue 9

Plant-parasitic nematodes of the family Heteroderidae are divided into two major groups: cyst (female body turns into a hard-walled sac or cyst) and cystoid (female body does not turn into a hard-walled cyst) nematodes. Whereas the cyst nematodes have been studied extensively, the cystoid nematodes have received less attention. In *Molecular characterisation and phylogenetic relationships of cystoid nematodes of the family Heteroderidae (Nematoda: Tylenchida)* (pp. 1065-1081) Subbotin *et al*. collected nematode populations of species belonging to some of the cystoid nematode genera from different locations in the USA, Vietnam, Germany and Russia. The populations of cystoid nematodes represented seven valid species, two unidentified species of *Atalodera*, six unidentified species of *Cryphodera*, and three putative new species of *Rhizonemella*. Phylogenetic relationships within the family Heteroderidae were reconstructed based on the D2-D3 of 28S rRNA, ITS rRNA and mitochondrial *COI* gene sequences and the authors discuss problems of taxonomy and phylogeography of cystoid nematodes.



Issue 10

Molecular taxonomy and DNA barcoding provide a powerful tool for the identification of nematodes but some sequence data appear to be incorrect, with faults ranging from sequence errors over misassemblies to mislabelled, unlabelled, and misidentified sequences. In a paper entitled *The pitfalls of molecular species identification: a case study within the genus* Pratylenchus *(Nematoda: Pratylenchidae)* (pp. 1179-1199) Janssen *et al*. show that published ITS sequences of *Pratylenchus goodeyi* are actually sequences from distantly free-living bacterivorous 'cephalobids'. This incorrect labelling resulted in a cascade of erroneous interpretations, as shown by the reports of '*P. goodeyi*' on banana in China and on cotton in India. This clearly illustrates the risk of mislabelled sequences in public databases. The authors discuss other mislabelled *Pratylenchus* cases to demonstrate that this is not an isolated case. As sequence-based identification is growing rapidly the highlighted problem may yet increase and a strong link between morphology and DNA sequences will be of crucial importance in order to prevent, or at least minimise, sequence-based misidentifications.



Roland N. Perry

Editor-in-Chief, *Nematology*

Obituary

Dieter Sturhan (1936-2017)

Dr Dieter Sturhan, nematologist at the Institute of Nematology and Vertebrate Research of the former Federal Biological Research Center for Agriculture and Forestry (BBA) passed away in Münster, Germany, on 29 November, 2017.

Dieter Sturhan was born in 1936 in Meerbeck, Schaumburg-Lippe, Germany. He studied zoology, botany and geography at the Universities of Kiel, Erlangen and Munich. He received his doctorate in 1962 from Prof. Dr. med. H.J. Stammer at the Zoological Institute of the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg with a thesis entitled "On the systematics, biology and ecology of Longidorinae (Nematoda, Dorylaimoidea) with special reference to Longidorus maximus". The practical part of his doctoral thesis was performed by Dieter Sturhan from 1958-1960 at the Bavarian State Institute for Plant Production and Plant Protection in Munich.

From his youth onwards, Dieter Sturhan was a passionate naturalist. As a teenager, he spent most of his free time bird watching. At the age of 19, he published his first scientific paper entitled "Observations of the ring ouzel (Turdus torquatus) in the autumn of 1954 in Meerbeck at Stadthagen" in Beiträge zur Naturkunde Niedersachsens (Contributions to the Natural History of Lower Saxony), Issue 8, pages 60-61. Ten more ornithological publications followed before he published his first nematological work, "Appearance of nematodes on strawberries in Bavaria" in 1960 the journal Pflanzenschutz.

On October 1, 1962, Dieter Sturhan began working as a research assistant at the BBA in Münster. First employed on a DFG research project, he moved shortly afterwards to a permanent position and was appointed in 1973 to Senior Scientist and in 1978 to Scientific Director. His research focused on the taxonomy, ecology and distribution of nematodes. Major research interests included the race problem in Ditylenchus dipsaci as well as taxonomic work on economically important nematode taxa, in particular cyst nematodes (Heterodera) and root-knot nematodes (Meloidogyne). Dieter Sturhan also worked on nematodes as bioindicators for water quality, the distribution of entomopathogenic nematodes (Steinernema, Heterorhabditis) in Germany, and the importance of nematophagous fungi and bacteria as antagonists of plant-parasitic nematodes.

His taxonomic studies took him to the Canaries, Madeira, Azores, Iran, Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Egypt and New Zealand. However, his biggest travel activity was concentrated on Germany. His goal was to document the distribution of plant-parasitic nematodes in Germany. The plan was to study at least three soil samples per 10 km² quadrant, one each from arable fields, grassland and forest. Many family vacations were subordinated to this higher goal. The resulting data formed the basis of the German nematode collection, which was founded by Dieter Sturhan and today includes more than 5,000 permanent slides (including 800 types) of about 1,000 species from about 250 genera of about 4,000 sampling sites.

Starting in 1980 Dieter Sturhan accepted a teaching assignment at the University of Münster on "Applied zoology with special consideration of animal pests on cultivated plants", which involved the supervision of diploma and doctoral students. Dieter Sturhan developed identification keys for all plant-parasitic nematodes occurring in Germany and every year he conducted workshops on nematode identification for the employees of the plant protection service. He acted as 'final reference' for nematode identification in any request by colleagues of the official plant protection services. Dieter Sturhan was a member of several national and international societies and from 1980-1987 he coordinated the working group Nematology of the German Scientific Society for Plant Protection and Plant Health.

Dieter Sturhan published his research results in 299 scientific papers, of which 79 papers were produced after his retirement. His last papers appeared in 2016, "On the presence or absence of phasmids in males of Heteroderidae (Tylenchida)" in Nematology and a comprehensive review on "Nematodes of the order Tylenchida in Germany – the non-phytoparasitic species" in Soil Organisms, co-authored by Karin Hohberg from the Senckenberg Museum of Natural History in Görlitz.

(*continued p. 8*)

In total, Dieter Sturhan proposed 1 family, 1 subfamily, 12 genera and 76 species of plant-parasitic nematodes, including 11 species in the economically important genus Heterodera, six species in the genus Xiphinema and four species in the genus Longidorus. He also described a nematophagous fungus (Hirsutella heteroderae = H. rhossiliensis) and performed 44 synonymisations or assignments of individual species to other genera. A total of six nematode species were named after him (Hemicycliophora sturhani, Longidorus sturhani, Oriverutus sturhani, Ogma sturhani, Axonchium sturhani and Oxydirus sturhani). In 2001, Dr Dieter Sturhan was honoured as Fellow of the Society of Nematologists.

Until his last days, Dieter Sturhan worked on taxonomic issues in close contact with taxonomic experts from around the world. The latter will continue his work, being aware that with Dieter Sturhan an almost inexhaustible source of taxonomic expertise in the field of nematology is no longer available.

Dieter Sturhan was an internationally renowned nematologist but, above all, he was a committed fellow citizen, great colleague and a wonderful family person. We will always have good memories of Dieter Sturhan. His relatives have our compassion.

Johannes Hallmann

Julius Kühn-Institut - Federal Research Centre for Cultivated Plants
Institute for Epidemiology and Pathogen Diagnostics

First published in *Nematology* (2018) volume 20. Reproduced by permission of Brill, Leiden, The Netherlands

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ESN Bursaries for student members

The ESN is delighted to announce that bursaries of 500€ for European delegates and 800€ for overseas delegates are available, on a competitive basis, to student members of the Society to assist in their attending to the 33rd Symposium of the European Society of Nematologists in Ghent, Belgium (9-13 September 2018).

Criteria for application:

The call is open to all PhD students, except student in the first year (i.e. your PhD must have started before 15th march 2017).

Applicants should be a member of the ESN at the time of application and still be a member at the time of the congress/symposium (*).

Student needs to present an oral presentation or a poster at the congress/symposium

Applicants institution should not be in the Symposium organising country, but exceptions will be considered when the applicants institution is far from the symposium venue (at least 200 km away).

An application form is available on the ESN website. The completed form should be submitted to the Secretary (Eric Grenier) **before 15th March 2018**. Successful bursars will be required to give an oral presentation or to present a poster at the ESN Symposium (selection for oral presentations will remain in the hands of the Symposium scientific committee).

The ESN Governing Board will select the successful bursars on the basis of the scientific impact of the student's research findings.

(*) Please visit our website https://www.esn-online.org/ to join on-line. Memberships only costs 20 € / year.

33rd Symposium of ESN, Ghent 2018

Subscriptions for the 33rd ESN symposium are now open. We are looking forward to welcome you in Ghent. Here you can read an update on the preparations.

Some important deadlines:

- Student bursary applications: 15th March
- Early registration: 15th May
- Abstract submission: 15th May

We are delighted to announce six plenary speakers covering a wide area of nematology related subjects. Confirmed speakers are Peter Geldhof, Christine Griffin, Emile Frison, Melissa Mitchum and Samantha Marilde Guiderdone. A short bio can be found on the ESN website (https://www.esn-online.org/other-links/keynote-speakers).

On Sunday 9th September we organise a guided walk through Ghent which will give you a quick overview of the cities splendors, information on where to shop and how to get around. The walk takes you to the symposium venue and will end at the welcoming reception at 'Het Pand', an old Dominican monastry.

For the excursions on Wednesday afternoon we offer you a choice between Bruges, Ypres and legandary cycling roads. In Bruges a guided city walk and a visit of the local brewery 'De Halve Maan' (limited nummer of places available) is on offer. Ypres commemorates the end of the Great War (1914-1918) and is one of the destinations in the list '52 places to go in 2018' of The New York Times. Cycling lovers have the opportunity to join us on a biking trip on the legandary roads of the 'Ronde van Vlaanderen', a mythic cycling classic. All tours end at the Flemish research institute for agriculture, fisheries and food (ILVO) with a reception where brewery Huyghe will present its beers.

On thursday the banquet will take place at 'De oude vismijn', the oldest market place in Ghent opposite the castle of the counts. Bring your dancing shoes!

All information about ESN Ghent 2018 can be found on the website of ESN https://www.esn-online.org/conference

ICN 2020: Continuing a tradition we can all support

The nematology congresses have always been universal in scope, gathering scientists from countries spanning the tropics, subtropics, and temperate regions on both sides of the equator. The diverse venues of the past - Canada, Netherlands, Guadeloupe, Canary Islands, Australia, South Africa – reflect a tradition of making these congresses a reunion of the entire nematology family. This kind of special 'family' tradition is reason enough to look forward to the next congress in 2020. But the terrific opportunities afforded by the next venue and program are also why all of us should be sure not only to attend, but to help in our various ways to support ICN 2020.

During 3-8 May 2020 we will gather in Juan let Pins - Antibes, a Riviera community long famous for its hospitality, charm and affordability. The local organizers and the ESN host society have gone all out and are working hard to ensure that the congress will provide the best science in a wonderful place at a cost that is affordable to everyone who wishes to attend. Early May is the perfect time to be on the French Rivera, for the weather and to beat the summertime crowds. The convention center is just 17 km from the Nice airport – 20 minutes by bus. Juan-Les-Pins has an exceptionally large number of hotels at every price range including a hostel with 100 beds that will be dedicated to the congress. The convention hall is in the city center, with numerous cafes, restaurants and hotels within just a few blocks and the conference hotel next door. Cars are unnecessary. There are many cultural and leisure activities in walking distance for accompanying persons/ families – major art and history museums, medieval neighborhoods, beaches, parks, casinos, and shopping. Moreover, Antibes is central to other holiday destinations throughout Europe for those who want to extend their trip.

The International Federation of Nematology Societies works closely with the host society and the local organizers to develop the scientific program and to ensure that support is available to aid participation by as many speakers, students and scientists as possible. This work is done by the IFNS Vice President (scientific program) and by a fundraising committee comprised of IFNS councilors and interested colleagues. But regardless of how many individuals help with the formal operations, each of us can contribute substantially to these key activities.

The critical bits of a scientific program are the topics and the session chairs who will invite the speakers in each subject area to best cover the current states of the art. Ernesto San Blas has prepared a comprehensive list of topics and organizers based partly on topics from the last congress and on suggestions provided by some of the IFNS councilors. The list is circulating among all councilors who will work to narrow it down to a preliminary program. Next spring this draft program will be presented to all societies for comment and further refinement with the goal of having a final program in place by early 2019. There can't be too much input or too many ideas put forth during the early stage of program formation. What topics are most important or exciting to you? What novel or non-traditional areas might inform nematologists in important ways? Who do you think would best organize a given topic and do you know scientists outside of nematology that we should hear from (or who should learn what we do)? Is there a workshop that would be especially helpful? Your ideas are most welcome so please send your suggestions to your councilor(s) (http://www.ifns.org/home/; click 'membership') or Ernesto (esanblas@yahoo.com) and thanks in advance for your help.

(*continued p. 11*)

Another important ICN tradition is an emphasis on fundraising to support travel awards. Much of the money has come from commercial supporters, but a significant number of awards are traditionally provided by the foundations associated with some societies. The ONTA Foundation (http://www.ontaweb.org/mission/) and the Cobb Foundation (https://nematologists.org/about-us/n-a-cobb-foundation/) support, among other things, student travel to the annual meetings of ONTA and SON and they are an important source of travel grants at the congresses. Donating to such foundations represents a permanent gift to nematology, because our contributions grow the endowment funds that support activities such as travel grants from the interest they generate. Some foundations even provide donors a choice between different funds that support specific activities. So if you are wondering how best to contribute financially to the wellbeing of our science, don't forget the opportunities provided by the nematology foundations.

The ICN 2020 website will be launched immediately following the ESN meeting in September 2018. In the meanwhile, keep abreast of congress plans and many other things 'nematological' at the IFNS Twitter site @Nematologists.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Antibes!

Andreas Westphal	Ernesto San-Blas	Larry Duncan
Secretary	Vice-President	President

ESN representative on IFNS

For many years Johannes Hallmann (Julius Kühn Institut, Germany) served as IFNS councilor for ESN. Due to many other responsibilities Johannes asked the governing board to be replaced. During the last meeting of the governing board it was decided that Wilfrida Decraemer (Ghent university, Belgium) will take over as ESN representative on IFNS. As former president of IFNS her experience will be very valuable for ESN. On behalf of the members the ESN Governing Board and the ESN President would like to thank Johannes for his long year contribution as IFNS councilor for ESN.

Why join the ESN? - the movie

Please have a look at our video "Why join the ESN ?" made from some interviews during the last ESN meeting. You can access this video via the homepage of our website https://www.esn-online.org

Also available at this address

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ebk0lvge179crq2/AABu_zaqEM-YJayZB1Zr9ZC8a?dl=0

Twitter link : https://twitter.com/ESNematologists/status/869574031032365056

Upcoming meetings

The 70th International Symposium on Crop Protection, May 22nd, 2018, Ghent, Belgium. https://www.ugent.be/bw/crop-protection/iscp/en

57th Annual Meeting of the Society of Nematologists, July 22-25, 2018. Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA. https://nematologists.org/

ONTA Annual Meeting 2018, August 19-23, 2018. Arequipa, Peru. http://www.ontaweb.org

33rd Symposium of the European Society of Nematologists, September 9-13, 2018. Ghent, Belgium. https://www.esn-online.org/conference

Advances in Nematology, aab, 11th December 2018. London, UK.

http://www.aab.org.uk/contentok.php?id=184&basket=wwsshowconflist

ESN Governing Board

President: Ralf-Udo Ehlers

e-nema GmbH
Klausdorfer Str. 28-36
24223 Schwentinental/Germany ehlers@e-nema.de

Treasurer: Hans Helder

Laboratory of Nematology, Wageningen University, Droevendaalsesteeg 1, 6708 PB Wageningen, The Netherlands.
Hans.Helder@wur.nl

Secretary: Eric Grenier

INRA UMR IGEPP (Bât 320), BP35327,
35653 Le Rheu cedex, France
eric.grenier@inra.fr

Philipe Castagnone-Sereno

INRA Sophia-Antipolis
400 route des Chappes
BP167 – 06903 Sophia Antipolis Cedex France
Philippe.Castagnone@inra.fr

Soledad Verdejo-Lucas

Instituto de investigación y Fornación Agraria y Pesquera de Andalucía (IFAPA), Centro La Mojonera, 4745 Almería, Spain

Soledad.verdejo@juntadeandalucia.es

John Jones
James Hutton Institute, Invergowrie, Dundee, DD2 5DA, UK. john.jones@hutton.ac.uk

Editor Nematology News: Wim Wesemael

Flanders research institute for agriculture, fisheries and food (ILVO), Burg. Van Gansberghelaan 96, B-9820 Merelbeke, Belgium.
wim.wesemael@ilvo.vlaanderen.be

ESN Website: Wim Bert

Department of Biology, Ghent University, K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.
wim.bert@ugent.be

ESN representative on IFNS:
Wilfrida Decraemer
Department of Biology, Ghent University, K.L. Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.
wilfrida.decraemer@ugent.be

ESN Country and Regional Representatives

Country Reps

Country	Name	e-mail
Australia	Mike Hodda	mike.hodda@csiro.au
Austria	Ursula Eisendle	ursula.eisendle@sbg.ac.at
Belgium	Lieve Gheysen	godelieve.gheysen@ugent.be
Canada	Qing Yu	qing.yu@agr.gc.ca
China	Deliang Peng	dlpeng@ippcaas.cn
Czech Republic	Vladimir Gaar	vladimir.gaar@srs.cz
France	Geraldine Anthoine	geraldine.anthoine@anses.fr
Germany	Johannes Hallmann	johannes.hallmann@julius-kuehn.de
Greece	Eirini Karanastasi	ekaran@teimes.gr
Hungary	Peter Nagy	nagy.peter@mkk.szie.hu
India	Sharad Srivastava Mohan	srivastavasharad@yahoo.com
Iran	Ebrahim Shokoohi	eshokoohi@gmail.com
Ireland	Thomae Kakouli-Duarte	thomae.kakouli@itcarlow.ie
Israel	Sigal Horowitz Brown	sigalhor@agri.gov.il
Italy	Alberto Troccoli	a.troccoli@ba.ipp.cnr.it
Japan	Takashi Narabu	narabu@affrc.go.jp
Netherlands	Loes den Nijs	l.j.m.f.dennijs@nvwa.nl
Philippines	Joeseph Quisado	joesephquisado@yahoo.com
Poland	K. Ilieva-Makulec	k.makulec@uksw.edu.pl
Portugal	Manuel Mota	mmota@uevora.pt
South Africa	Driekie Fourie	driekie.fourie@nwu.ac.za
Spain	Reyes Peña-Santiago	rpena@ujaen.es
Switzerland	Sebastian Kiewnick	sebastian.kiewnick@acw.admin.ch
Turkey	Halil Elekcioğlu	halile@cu.edu.tr
UK	John Jones	john.jones@hutton.ac.uk
USA	James Baldwin	james.baldwin@ucr.edu

Regional Reps

Central Europe (Boznia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia)	Gregor Urek	gregor.urek@kis.si
Eastern Europe Bulgaria, Romania, Moldova, Macedonia)	Vlada Peneva	vpeneva@ecolab.bas.bg
Central America (Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Mexico, Panama, Cuba, Dominicana)	Rosa Manzanilla-Lopez	rosa.manzanilla@gmail.com
South America Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru)	Javier Franco	jfranco@proinpa.org
Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland)	Ricardo Holgado	ricardo.holgado@nibio.no
Russia & Baltic countries (Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania)	Alexander Ryss	nema@zin.ru nema@AR4280.spb.edu

Information needed for the newsletter

The ESN Governing Board would like this newsletter to be a Forum that is more widely used by the membership to share news and information. So, if you have any information and/or images that might be of interest to ESN members please send a note to the editor (Wim Wesemael - wim.wesemael@ilvo.vlaanderen.be). All that is needed is a small amount of text in a word file or an email message, along with an accompanying image.