

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT
2018 NCB-ESA MEETING
Madison, WI (March 18 -21)



To: NCB-ESA Executive Committee

Report prepared by: Joe Louis, Program Committee Chair (2018)

Committee Members: Joe Louis (Chair), James Campbell (Past Chair), Matthew Grieshop (2019 Program Chair), Sajjan Grover (Student Representative), John Jay Ternest (Student Representative).

Synopsis

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to John Ruberson (President), Erin Hodgson (Secretary/Treasurer), members of the Program Committee, Local Arrangements Committee (especially Christelle Guédot, Chair), Becky Anthony (ESA Central), and Amy Coli (Confex) for the effective collaboration and support.

The Program Committee received 17 high-quality symposium proposals for the meeting. Two to three symposia topics were similar in nature, and the committee requested the organizers to merge those topics. Finally, we ended up having a total of 15 symposia covering a variety of topics including Medical Entomology, Pollination Research, Plant-Insect Interactions, Insect Symbionts, Forest Entomology, etc. For this meeting, we have a total of **289 presentations**, and that includes symposium presentations, regular paper and poster presentations, as well as student competition papers and posters (highest number of presentations for the past five years of NCB-ESA meetings).

Symposia Submissions

Compared with the previous five NCB-ESA meetings, this year we saw an increase in the number of symposia submissions, subsequently the number of symposium presentations ([Table 1](#)). I believe directly contacting several people and encouraging them to submit a symposium proposal greatly increased the symposia lineup and topic diversity. The increased symposia submission rates may also have contributed to the increase in registrant numbers. 298 registered for the meeting (as of March 15, 2018), and we anticipate more registrants from on-site registration. Based on these numbers, it will be the second largest attended meeting (after 2014 meeting) in the recent five years.

Table 1: Number of symposia and presentations in the program for the previous five NCB-ESA meetings.

Location, Year	Number of Symposia	Total Presentations in Symposia
Des Moines, IA, 2014	11	81
Manhattan, KS, 2015	11	94
Cleveland, OH, 2016	11	92
Indianapolis, IN, 2017	9	67
Madison, WI, 2018	15	132

Student Competition Presentations

The student competition involves 58 oral presentations organized into 7 sessions (3 PhD sessions, 3 MS sessions and one BS session), and 34 posters (one each of PhD, MS and BS session) (Table 2). We have a great participation by students this year compared to the previous years. Since we received many submissions from undergrad students, we were able to schedule a separate session for BS student paper and poster competitions. It is a strong way to show our commitment to undergrad students who are interested in pursuing entomology as a career. Monday morning has been reserved only for student competition sessions to make it easier for attendees to view more of the student presentations, and to have larger audiences for student competition presentations.

Table 2: Number of student competition presentations in the program for the recent three NCB-ESA meetings.

Year	PhD	BS and MS	Total
2016 Ten-minute paper competition	25	20	45
2017 Ten-minute paper competition	20	15	35
2018 Ten-minute paper competition	30	28	58

Year	PhD	BS and MS	Total
2016 Student poster competition	10	11	21
2017 Student poster competition	13	11	24
2018 Student poster competition	10	24	34

Year	Total Student Presentations (oral and poster)
2016	66
2017	59
2018	92

Based on the topics, student oral presentations were divided into different sessions:

1. BS student Ten-Minute Paper (TMP) competition (5 presentations)
2. MS student TMP competition P-IE Session I (8 presentations)
3. MS student TMP competition P-IE Session II (8 presentations)
4. MS student TMP competition SysEB, MUVE, PBT Session (7 presentations)
5. PhD student TMP competition P-IE Session I (11 presentations)
6. PhD student TMP competition P-IE Session II (9 presentations)
7. PhD student TMP competition SysEB, MUVE, PBT Session (10 presentations)

Regular Paper and Poster Presentations

For this meeting, we have a total of 44 regular ten-minute paper presentations and 21 regular posters. Again, compared to previous meetings, we have a higher submission rate (Table 3).

Table 3: Number of regular paper and poster presentations in the program for the recent three NCB-ESA meetings.

Year	Regular Submitted Papers	Regular Submitted Posters	Total Submitted Presentations
2016	16	13	29
2017	19	10	29
2018	44	21	65

Program Enhancement Funds (PEF)

Five symposium organizers requested PEF support for external speakers. We were unable to provide the full requested amounts for the organizers, but were able to provide reasonable assistance to bring in external speakers for the meeting. Funds totaling \$4,850 (including \$1,000 from ESA Central to support Science Communication Symposium) were used to support 13 invited speakers for the meeting.

Challenges/Recommendations

1. Continue posting the “tentative meeting schedule” as early as possible. That would help the people to see the different symposium topics and start planning for the meeting. For the March meetings, mid to late November of the previous year is recommended for posting the “tentative meeting schedule”. Also, posting the full online program at least in early February for the March meeting is recommended.
2. Once the 2018 NCB program was posted online, several students contacted the Program Chair and other officers (especially Becky Anthony), requesting to change their submitted presentation from regular to the student competition. Some changes were allowed; however, some requests were made too late for the presentation to be reassigned. The problem arose because several students submitted them as “regular” presentations, and realized their error at dates too late for reassignment in the competition.
3. There were around 8-10 cancellations among all submissions once the program was posted online in early February. It includes around five student presentation cancellations and those occurred mostly due to lack of availability of funding to cover the meeting expenses. Other cancellations were mostly due to schedule conflicts/family emergencies. However, 3-4 presenters who contacted the program chair lately (after online posting of the program) were included in the program to fill those cancelled spots. Overall, these cancellations did not affect the program and in some cases organizers were able to find alternate speakers.
4. We had some issues with PEF allocations and reimbursements this year. Although we conveyed the message to the symposium organizers who were PEF recipients that the speakers receiving complimentary registrations need to register and will receive their registration reimbursement on-site at the meeting, some speakers failed to register and missed the early-bird rate. Perhaps we need to work with ESA Central (Becky) to setup registration waivers for speakers who receives the complimentary registration to avoid this issue in the future.

5. The different deadlines for the March meeting seems reasonable. This year we had the following deadlines:

Symposium submissions: Open September 1 to October 1, 2017
Awards nominations: Open October 1 to December 1, 2017
Paper/poster submissions: Open November 1 to December 1, 2017
Registration (early-bird): Open November 1 to January 15, 2018

However, some documents needed for the program book (e.g. Award winners' bio/picture, sponsors list) did not arrive on time as per the scheduled timeline, hence resulted in the delay of completion of program book layout/printing. For March meeting, December 1 was set as the deadline for award submissions, and it is imperative that all the Awards Committee announce their respective award winners by January 15. It will also allow the program chairs to coordinate with the Awards Committee Chair to get the required bios/pictures of award winners by February 1.