

## **Branch Report to the ESA Governing Board**

**Title:** International Branch Report

**Submitter:** Megha Parajulee

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### **Motion/Request for Action**

We recommend the ESA begin tracking the diversity of high-profile speakers (keynote and plenary) at the ESA Annual Meeting, and that individual Branches do the same. Collecting this data will help to determine whether support is needed to increase the diversity of speakers to reflect the wide range of backgrounds represented by ESA members.

### **Branch Leadership**

#### *2016-2017 IB Governing Board*

President: Megha Parajulee (USA) [m-parajulee@tamu.edu](mailto:m-parajulee@tamu.edu)

President-Elect: (2018) Maya Evenden (Canada) [mevenden@ualberta.ca](mailto:mevenden@ualberta.ca)

Past-President: Margaret C. Hardy (Australia) [m.hardy@imb.uq.edu.au](mailto:m.hardy@imb.uq.edu.au)

Secretary: Rory McDonnell (Ireland) [rory.mcdonnell@oregonstate.edu](mailto:rory.mcdonnell@oregonstate.edu)

Treasurer: Ayyasamy Regupathy (India) [ayyasamy.regu@gmail.com](mailto:ayyasamy.regu@gmail.com)

Governing Board Representative: Livy Williams (USA) [Livy.Williams@ARS.USDA.GOV](mailto:Livy.Williams@ARS.USDA.GOV)

#### Awards Committee

Robin Gunning (Chair, Australia) [robin.gunning@industry.nsw.gov.au](mailto:robin.gunning@industry.nsw.gov.au)

Arash Zibae (Iran) [arash.zibae@gmx.com](mailto:arash.zibae@gmx.com)

Gissella Vasquez (USA) [gmvasque@ncsu.edu](mailto:gmvasque@ncsu.edu)

Yulin Gao (China) [ylgao@ippcaas.cn](mailto:ylgao@ippcaas.cn)

#### Committee on Education and Outreach

Robert Ahern (Costa Rica) [robert.ahern@iica.int](mailto:robert.ahern@iica.int)

#### Committee on Finance

Ernest Delfosse (USA) [delfosse@msu.edu](mailto:delfosse@msu.edu)

#### Committee on Student Affairs

Brogan Amos (Australia), [brogan.amos@uqconnect.edu.au](mailto:brogan.amos@uqconnect.edu.au)

#### Committee on Membership

Gert Venter (South Africa) [venterg@arc.agric.za](mailto:venterg@arc.agric.za)

#### i-B Representative on ESA Certification Board

Juan Rodriguez (Saudi Arabia) [juan.mrodriguez@yahoo.com](mailto:juan.mrodriguez@yahoo.com)

#### i-B Representative on Diversity and Inclusion Committee

Juliana Amaka Ugwu (Nigeria) amakajul01@yahoo.com

i-B Representative on PIE Nominations Committee  
Mao Chen (USA) [mao.chen@monsanto.com](mailto:mao.chen@monsanto.com)

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Vitor Antonio Pavinato (USA) [vitor.pavi@gmail.com](mailto:vitor.pavi@gmail.com)

i-B Representative on the Early Career Professional Committee  
Isobel Ronai (Australia) [isobel.ronai@sydney.edu.au](mailto:isobel.ronai@sydney.edu.au)

i-B Representative on ESA STEP Committee for Award Judging  
Maya Evenden (Canada), [mevenden@ualberta.ca](mailto:mevenden@ualberta.ca)

ESA Special Committee on Science Policy  
Esther Ngumbi (USA) [enn0002@auburn.edu](mailto:enn0002@auburn.edu)

### **Current Activities and Recent Accomplishments**

#### 1. Notes from ESA Leadership Meeting in Chicago

The meeting was attended by President Hardy, President-Elect Parajulee, and Governing Board Representative Williams. The IB is planning to hold its first virtual meeting in 2017. Most branches raise the bulk of their funds through branch meetings, and so far the IB hasn't raised funds in this way. We were planning a branch meeting for 2016, but the timing didn't work out since ICE is earlier than the ESA general meeting.

Something the IB will consider in the future is switching a portion of our funding into an investment account. The ESA Finance Officer (Neil Willoughby) suggested a [TIAA-CREF](#) Segregated Fund option, which several other branches and sections have pursued. This approach is obviously not without risk but the branch leadership feels that investing a portion of the branch funds in this way is worth considering for the long term.

The global nature of entomology was discussed a great deal, and the IB Governing Board feels that this could be opportunity for the branch to become the leader in making global connections. We are currently discussing mechanisms (e.g. a database of calls for collaboration by using the ESA Networks platform) for achieving this.

#### 2. 2016 International Branch Awards

One of the chief concerns of the IB's Governing Board during 2015 was the low number of applicants for our awards. In an attempt to improve the exposure of our awards and increase the number of applicants, the IB Awards were launched in March and members were given two months to submit their application. Membership was encouraged to apply and to send the information to their colleagues in two separate newsletters before the deadline. The Governing Board also sent the award announcements to their collaborators located around the world and President Maggie Hardy tweeted about the IB awards on a number of occasions. This approach appears to have been successful because the Awards Committee received eight applications for the J.H. Comstock Award, six applications for our new Early Career Researcher Award, two applications for the Graduate Student Award, and two for the Distinguished Scientist Award.

The winners of the 2016 IB Awards were as follows:

Distinguished Scientist Award - Dr Charles Vincent from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada. Dr. Vincent is an international leader in agricultural entomology. He is well known for innovative research into non-conventional insect management methods. Dr Vincent has published some 177 peer-reviewed papers; 3 special publications; 9 technical bulletins; 24 edited books; 6 review articles (refereed); 48 book chapters; 142 conference proceedings; 17 research reports; and 12 book reviews. His articles have appeared in a wide range of prestigious journals. He has received numerous awards during his career. Dr Vincent is a former President of the International Branch of ESA.

Early Career Researcher Award - Dr Rajeswaran Jagadeesan is a Research Scientist with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Australia. He has a BSc. and MSc. from Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, India and a PhD from the University of Queensland, Australia. Dr Jagadeesan studies the genetics and molecular diagnosis of insecticide resistance in grain pests and made a significant contribution to the management of resistance by identifying the first gene for resistance in *Tribolium castaneum*. Dr Jagadeesan has won a number of awards and has published ten papers in high profile international journals including *Science*. He intends to use the \$2,000 award to look at fitness disadvantages of phosphine resistance in the rusty grain beetle, *Cryptolestes ferugineus*.

J.H. Comstock Award - Dr Kiran Gadhave recently graduated with a PhD in Biological Sciences from the University of London, Royal Holloway College. Dr. Gadhave has a Master of Professional Studies (Cornell University), an MSc in Entomology (Tamil Nadu Agricultural University) and a BSc (College of Agriculture, Kolhapur, India). His PhD studies were in a novel area of microbial-plant-insect interactions and resulted in a number of publications in leading entomological and microbiological journals.

Graduate Student Award - Isobel Ronai is a PhD student at the University of Sydney Australia, in the School of Biological Sciences. Ms. Ronai has a BSc. (Hons. Class 1), from the University of Sydney. She is working on the genetic and mechanistic basis of worker sterility in the honey bee. Much of her work has already been published in leading entomological journals. Ms. Ronai's supervisors describe her as a determined and brilliant student.

All of our winners were acknowledged at the ESA International Branch Business Meeting on Thursday, September 29, 2016 (11:30AM-1:00PM) in the Orange County Convention Center (Room: WF2) at ICE.

### 3. International Branch Governing Board Vacancies Filled

The ESA election ballots closed on 12<sup>th</sup> August and Maya Evenden was successfully elected to the position of **International Branch President-Elect**. There were a total of four candidates for the position. Ayyasamy Regupathy was successfully elected (unopposed) to the position of **International Branch Treasurer**. Branch representatives from *i*-Branch for all ESA Committees are complete and current.

## **Branch Meeting News**

### 2015 International Branch Annual Business Meeting

The 2015 International Branch Annual Business Meeting took place at Entomology 2015 in Minneapolis, Minnesota and was attended by 24 members. Items on the agenda included presentation of the 2015 International Branch Distinguished Scientist Award to Dr. Christian Borgemeister, an open discussion for the first Virtual Symposium hosted by the IB, discussion of strategies to increase the number of nominations and applications for the 2016 IB awards and confirmation of the 2016 IB Governing Board Members. Venues for future International Branch meetings and vision for the IB were also discussed.

### 2016 International Branch Annual Business Meeting

The 2016 International Branch Annual Business Meeting took place during the 2016 International Congress of Entomology in Orlando, Florida on September 29, 2016 from 11:30AM-1:00PM. The meeting was attended by 42 members and guests. President Hardy gave the status of the Branch and the award program followed. Dr Charles Vincent, Dr Rajeswaran Jagadeesan, and Isobel Ronai were awarded Distinguished Scientist Award, Early Career Researcher Award, and Graduate Student Award, respectively, onsite. Dr Kiran Gadhave was recognized with J.H. Comstock Award, but he was not in attendance to receive the award. A luncheon discussion was held amongst members and guests on ways to initiate the web-based meeting for the Branch. Branch leadership is exploring options to do 2017 annual meeting through the web, with the aim of increasing attendance as well as to generate funds. The value of physical meeting has been noted, but the distance, cost, and logistics associated with travel for International Branch members has necessitated a more creative way of conducting such meetings. We are still exploring mechanisms of such web-based conferences.

## **Current Membership and Financial Status**

The International Branch currently has 789 members (as of September 30, 2016). Branch membership was 482 in 2009 when this Branch was established and the numbers increased to 572, 676, 696, 818, 901, and 952 in the next six successive years. The IB accounts for 12.6% of ESA membership for this year, ranging from 7.5% in 2009 to 14.2 in 2014.

*Financial Status:* In the black.

*Branch Funds:* \$12,088.86 (as of September 30, 2016)

## **Other Information/Comments**

As mentioned above the Governing Board of the International Branch are currently working with Becky Anthony and Katherine Matthews at ESA National to amend the Branch Bylaws. These changes were voted on by membership in our online elections (July 13–August 12).

## **Motion/Request for Action Information**

Representation and increasing the diversity of speakers at ESA conferences is a concern for many of our Branch members, and ICE was widely critiqued this year on social media for its lack of diversity in plenary speakers and award winners. For example, two out of 11 plenary speakers were women, both ESA Founders' Memorial Awards were given to men, and the Wigglesworth Memorial Lecture Award was also given by a man. The speakers were overwhelmingly white, including all three persons who were awarded Certificates of Distinction (including the two women awardees).

For the ESA conferences, the Founders' Memorial Presentation has been given by a man every year since 2010 (when the IB member stopped searching). This despite the public questioning of "Why so few women in STEM?" since 2011, when [Christianna Corbett was the keynote speaker](#) at Entomology 2011. A number of exceptionally qualified women entomologists would give outstanding keynote presentations. Several IB members have volunteered to help find suitable international speakers if needed.

For a comprehensive policy on how to improve gender equity at conferences, the ESA could consider the "[Ten Simple Rules to Achieve Conference Speaker Gender Balance](#)" outlined by Jenny Martin in *PLOS Computational Biology*.