

19th IPGSA meeting in conjunction with the Plant Growth Regulation Society of America (PGRSA) and the Japanese Society for the Chemical Regulation of Plants (JSCR).

Over 430 participants from 32 countries attended the 19th IPGSA meeting in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico from July 21-25, 2007. A full scientific program covered latest ground-breaking research in all aspects of plant growth substance research. Our thanks go to Gladys Cassab for heading up the local IPGSA organizing committee, and the program committee comprising Joe Kieber (Chair), Gladys Cassab, Gary Custis (representing the PGRSA), Mark Estelle, Peter Hedden, Paula Jameson, Yuji Kamiya (representing the JSCR), Hitoshi Sakakibara, and Dominique Van Der Straeten for putting together such an excellent scientific program.

The conference opened with two lectures given by Yuji Kamiya and Joe Ecker who received Silver Medals at the 18th IPGSA Conference in Canberra in 2004. Joe Kieber gave an appreciation of the work of the late Tony Bleecker who also received a Silver Medal in Canberra. Four plenary sessions were held: Hormone Biosynthesis and Metabolism, Long Range Signaling and Hormone Transport, Hormone Signaling, and Hormone Interactions, together with sixteen oral sessions on a wide range of topics including MicroRNAs in Hormone Signaling, Peptide Hormones and Abiotic Stress. The session on Novel Hormones/Hormones in other Systems, chaired by Peter Hedden, was dedicated to Bernie Phinney on the occasion of his 90th birthday on July 29, 2007. Although Bernie was unable to attend the meeting in Puerto Vallarta, his 90th birthday was well-celebrated at several other venues over the summer.



Bernie Phinney, a long time member of IPGSA, celebrating his 90th birthday with his wife, Jean, and friends and colleagues.

At the IPGSA Business meeting on July 24, several Officers and Council Members stepped down after completing their terms, and IPGSA extends thanks to them all for their dedicated service over the years. IPGSA is particularly grateful to Peter Hedden (Rothamsted Research, UK) for his six years of service to the Association as President from 2001-2004 and past President from 2004-2007. Shigeo Yoshida (RIKEN, Japan) who has served as President from 2004-2007 will serve as past President for the next three years. New IPGSA Officers and Council Members were elected to serve the 2007-2010 term. Jerry Cohen (Minnesota, US) was elected President of IPGSA for 2007-2010, and Valerie Sponsel (San Antonio, US), IPGSA Secretary and Treasurer from 2004-2007, was re-elected for a second term. Frank Gubler (Australia), Goran Sandberg (Sweden) and Tai-ping Sun (US) have completed their six-year terms as Council Members. Joe Kieber (US), Annie Marion-Poll (France) and Shinjiro Yamaguchi (Japan) were elected to the IPGSA council for 2007-2013.

The venue for the 20th International Conference on Plant Growth Substances was announced at the Business meeting. It will be held in summer 2010 in, or close to, Barcelona, Spain. Montserrat Pages (CSIC, Barcelona) will head-up the local organizing committee.

Three Silver Medals were awarded to scientists who have made outstanding contributions in the plant growth substance research. The recipients of the 2007 Silver Medals are Joanne Chory, Mark Estelle, and Takao Yokota.