



Spring 2019
Issue 1/2019

EAPR Newsletter

HEADLINES

Dear all,

Welcome to the Spring 2019 European Association for Potato Research (EAPR) newsletter. It's a new format which we hope you like. Find out more about the 21st EAPR Triennial Conference in Poland in 2020 (page 2) and the four Section meetings in 2019 but be quick as registration deadlines are fast approaching (page 4—**Virology section meeting abstract deadline 15th March!**). Read the report from the Breeding and Varietal Assessment section meeting that took place in December 2018 (page 5) and meet the latest EAPR Officers and Councillors (page 6). Catch up with our featured 'In Profile' potato expert—Lukie Pieters—editor of 'Global Potato News' and 'Potato News Today' with all the latest potato news from around the world (page 7).

We are currently looking for new Councillors and an organiser for the 23rd EAPR Triennial Conference in 2026, who will also become our President Elect in 2020-23 before becoming President in 2023-26 (page 3).

We encourage you to continue to submit articles to Potato Research and would encourage those with an interest in becoming an editor to contact the Chief editor Paul Struik at paul.struik@wur.nl (page 4).

Thanks to all those who have already renewed their membership and, for those who are still to do so, this can now be done simply and swiftly through the new electronic system on our revamped web site (page 8).

We look forward to working with you in 2019 and beyond.



Follow us on Twitter @EAPR_potato

For more information on EAPR and to renew membership go to:

<https://www.eapr.net>



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Points of interest

- Potato conferences 2019
- Imagine a world without potatoes
- Potato News



EAPR2020

Key Dates:

**Abstract submission
open: August 2019**

**Registration open:
October 2019**

21ST EAPR TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE

It is with great pleasure that I invite you, on behalf of the Organising Committee, to the 21st Triennial Conference of the European Association for the Potato Research (EAPR). We look forward to welcoming you in Warsaw, the capital of Poland and a city of rich history, culture and science.

The main organiser of the Conference, the Plant Breeding and Acclimatization Institute – National Research Institute (IHAR-PIB) is the largest Polish research centre in the multi-disciplinary area of crop improvement, biotechnology, germplasm conservation and enhancement, with potato playing an important role.

We plan to prepare an inspiring program and bring together a wide and diversified range of potato specialists from all over the world. The Conference aims to cover all potato-related topics from fundamental and applied research, potato breeding, extension services and technology transfer, to technical and economic issues of potato production, storage and processing. We hope that during the Conference scientists will find new questions and challenges to solve, while industry repre-

sentatives of will have an opportunity to learn about the newest scientific discoveries. We trust that the 21st EAPR Triennial Conference will be a platform enabling a wide exchange of ideas and will also inspire the new projects and boost further cooperation.

The Conference will be organised in the Hilton Warsaw Hotel and Convention Centre in the very heart of the city, with excellent access to all means of transport and tourist attractions, including museums and the Old Town. We will organise social events and excursions combining potato places of interest with cultural experiences.

I am looking forward to meeting you in Warsaw in 2020!

Jadwiga Śliwka (President of EAPR)

For more information visit:

<http://www.eapr2020.pl/gb/>

“The 21st EAPR Triennial Conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland on 6th—10th July 2020”

POTATO CONFERENCES 2019

Potato Association of America conference will take place 28th July to 1st August 2019 in Winnipeg, USA.

<https://paaevents.org/>

African Potato Association 11th triennial conference will take place 26th-29th August 2019 in Kigali, Rwanda.

www.africanpotatoassociation.org

DR MIKE STOREY - FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT RETIRES

For the past 35 years Mike has been a driving force in research and innovation within the British potato industry, initially at the Potato Marketing Board and then through its transformations over the years to AHDB. Mike retired in December 2018 and we wish him the best of luck and thank him for his contribution to the Association—most recently the development of our new web site:

<https://www.eapr.net/>





BECOME AN EAPR COUNCILLOR

According to the EAPR Constitution and Bye-Laws (article X), new councillors are required for election at the next Triennial Conference in Warsaw, July 2020. We invite each member interested in participating in Council activities to declare your intention before the end of April 2020 by sending a motivation letter with CV, including your activities in the field of potatoes research, to our secretary Catherine Chatot.

EAPR members interested in becoming Councillors are welcome to contact any current Council member (page 6) to discuss the work carried out within the Council. Any ideas for future Council discussions are always welcome to ensure we remain as relevant to our members as possible, with a desire to progress and develop around Europe and the world!

Thank you for sending your letter and CV in due course to our secretary Catherine Chatot.

Email: chatot.catherine@gmail.com

“Support us by becoming an EAPR Councillor and / or bidding to host the 23rd Triennial Conference in 2026”

AN ORGANISER FOR THE 23RD TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN 2026

We are looking for bids to organise for the 23rd Triennial Conference of the EAPR, 2026.

During the next Ordinary General Assembly of EAPR members, which will be held in Warsaw in July 2020, the choice will be made for the location of the 23rd Triennial Conference in 2026 and concomitantly the name of the President Elect for the period 2020-2023. The President elect will become President of our Association after the 22nd Triennial Conference to take place in Norway in 2023.

Organising the 23rd Triennial Conference is a huge but very exciting task. We hope that you will consider this opportunity and send your proposals to President Jadwiga Śliwka.

Proposals should contain:

- Declaration of intention to organise the conference including expected place and provisional date.
- Name of the proposed President Elect for the EAPR, chief conference organiser.
- Curriculum vitae of the proposed President Elect specifying her/his contribution to potato research.

We eagerly await your quick and numerous responses!

Email: j.sliwka@ihar.edu.pl

SECTION MEETINGS AND DEADLINES 2019

The EAPR activities focus around five sections that perform the invaluable function of promoting research and knowledge exchange within specific scientific disciplines (see below). The EAPR sections meet regularly to discuss problems and results of research. They set up working groups for the study of special problems, for standardising methods of research or terminology.

Four section meetings will take place this year and deadlines for registration and abstracts is fast approaching. More details of the meetings are available on our web site: <https://www.eapr.net/meetings>

POST HARVEST—<https://www.eaprpostharvest2019.com/>

Date of meeting: 12th to 14th March 2019

Location: Norwich, United Kingdom

Deadlines: Registration— February 2019

VIROLOGY—<http://pmk.agri.ee/eapr2019/>

Date of meeting: 18th to 21st June 2019

Location: Laulasmaa, Estonia

Deadlines: Abstracts—15th March 2019; Early bird registration—31st March 2019

Associated meetings: 10th Annual meeting of PVY wide organisation

AGRONOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY—<http://www.kis.si/eapr2019>

Date of meeting: 30th June to 4th July 2019

Location: Ljubljana, Slovenia

Deadlines: Abstracts—1st April 2019; Early bird registration—1st May 2019

PATHOLOGY AND PESTS —www.eapr-pathology2019.ch

Date of meeting: 2nd to 5th September 2019

Location: Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Deadlines: Abstracts and Registration—31st March 2019

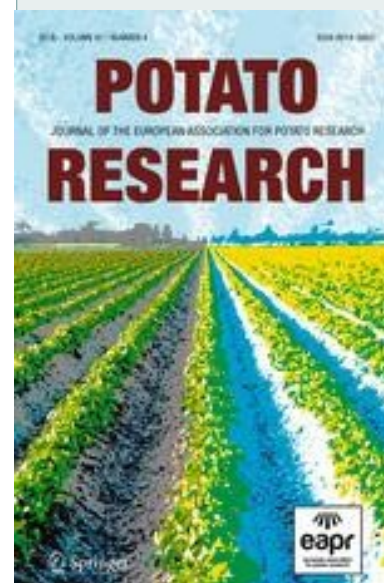
Associated meetings: International *Spongospora* workshop

POTATO RESEARCH

The first issue of the 2019 volume was published on time and, with a healthy stock of articles on line and in preparation, we expect other 2019 issues to also be published on time. The editorial board is working very hard to reduce the time between submission and first decision, and the first signs that these efforts are succeeding are already visible.

The 2018 volume contained a large proportion of articles that did not originate from Europe. Although Potato Research is a global potato journal we would welcome more submissions from Europe, certainly given the many newly emerging issues in the potato industry from this continent.

Members are invited to propose topics for special issues, especially if their ideas are associated with a willingness to act as guest editors.



MEETING UPDATES

The **Breeding and Varietal Assessment** section meeting took place 3rd to 6th December 2018 in Rostock-Warnemuende, Germany. A short report on the meeting is given below:

- The Gross Luesewitz Potato Collections (GLKS) of the IPK Genebank hosted the 19th joint meeting of the EAPR department "Breeding and Varietal Assessment" and the EUCARPIA section "Potatoes" in Rostock-Warnemuende from December 3 to 6, 2018.
- We welcomed 122 participants from 27 countries.
- With 10 keynote presentations, 31 further presentations and 29 posters, the meeting provided an up-to-date overview of the scientific status of potato breeding and research. Topics included allele diversity in potatoes, resistance genomics assisted breeding, genomic selection, genome editing and high throughput phenotyping, breeding of diploid or organic potato varieties, next generation genebanks and anthocyanins as ingredients of potato tubers and their effects.
- An excursion to Gross Luesewitz, the Mecca of German potato research, and a visit to the Rostock Christmas market, the largest in northern Germany, rounded off the conference.
- The meeting was financially supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG), EAPR, EUCARPIA and other sponsors.

Look out for more reports in the next newsletter.



Image: Potato breeding programme. Credit: James Hutton Institute

IMAGINE A WORLD WITH- OUT POTATOES

The International Potato Centre (CIP) has launched a campaign to promote the use of potatoes by asking the question 'Imagine a world without potatoes'.

CIP writes 'This thought-provoking message encourages consumers to rediscover the potato and its importance in their lives. By trying to imagine a world without it we will bring back memories of comfort, of the warmth of home, of the simple joys of life.'

'The campaign will strengthen a bond that has been somewhat lost, it will increase the tuber's visibility, demand and consumption therefore safeguarding its future by increasing production, encouraging scientific research and promoting consumption.'

For more information visit :
[https://
worldwithoutpotatoes.org/](https://worldwithoutpotatoes.org/)

**IMAGINE
A WORLD
WITHOUT
POTATOES**

2019 EAPR OFFICERS AND COUNCILLORS



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IN PROFILE — LUKIE PIETERSE (CANADA)

Lukie Pieterse is the Editor-in-Chief of the print magazine **Global Potato News**. The launch issue of the magazine, a first of its kind dedicated to the international potato industry, was recently published in print - view it online:

www.globalpotatonews.com

He is also the editor and publisher of the daily updated online magazine **Potato News Today**:

www.potatonewstoday.com

Lukie is originally from South Africa where he majored in Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, and completed a Masters degree in Community Development, lectured in Sociology, and was employed as Social Planner in the Office of the Prime Minister of South Africa. He owned and operated a 2,500 acre arable farming operation in that country, specialising in the production of drip irrigated potatoes for major processing companies, including McCain, Frito-Lay and Heinz.

He established a potato consulting business after moving to Canada in 1996. Since then, he was involved in several projects as a potato consultant in Canada, Europe, Brazil and Russia. Over the years he also consulted for the International Potato Center (Peru), the World Potato Congress (Canada); the Little Potato Company (Canada), the FAO and companies in Europe. He was involved as a speaker and organiser of several international potato meetings in North America and Europe.

As freelance writer, he wrote several technical articles for specialised potato print publications in the past, contracted as columnist and editorial advisor for Spudsmart magazine (Canada); editor of the World Catalogue of Potato Varieties (published in Germany); and co-founder/technical editor of Potato Storage

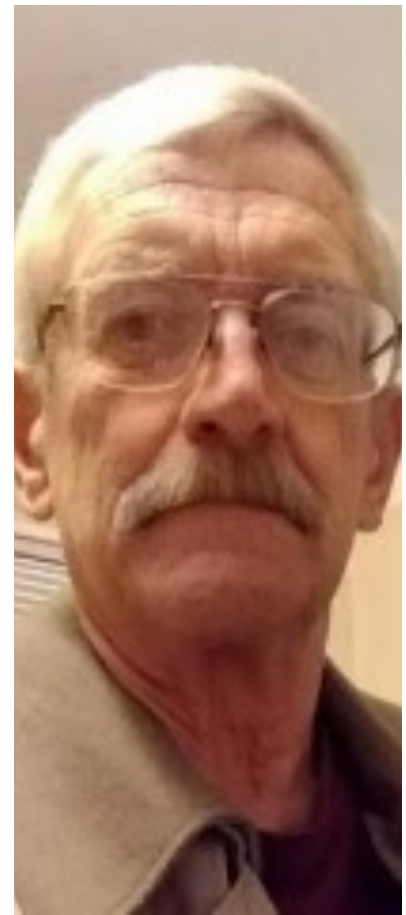
International (UK). He became active on the internet in 1997 when he co-founded a web development company in Canada during the early days of the internet, and launched a first internet based news portal for potatoes.

Lukie welcomes people getting in touch via:

Email: lukie5555@gmail.com

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[@potatonewstoday](https://twitter.com/potatonewstoday)



POTATO NEWS

New 'sustainable' diet underestimates value of potatoes.

A recent report on improving global diets in a sustainable way has gathered a lot of attention, both positive and negative. *EAT-Forum* advocates a big switch to plant-based foods, but has seemed to overlook the contribution of one of the world's most versatile, nutritious and sustainable foods – the potato.

Read more at :

<https://potatocongress.org/news/>

MEMBERSHIP—JOIN NOW!

The Association has three membership categories: Ordinary, Sustaining and Honorary membership. Although membership is open to both European and non-European individuals or organisations, only Europeans can hold official office, such as membership of the EAPR-Council. At present the Association has over 170 Ordinary members, 12 Sustaining members and 9 Honorary members. Membership is drawn from many countries in all five continents.

For more information on membership and to join using our new easy-to-use electronic system visit:

<https://www.eapr.net/membership>



“New ‘sustainable’ diet underestimates value of potato”

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WEB SITE AND TWITTER

There is only so much we can put in a newsletter so for more information on our activities please visit the web site (www.eapr.net) or follow us on Twitter.

