

Our June member profile is of current CWSS 1st Vice President Dr. Rory Degenhardt. Rory is the Integrated Field Sciences Research Leader for Corteva AgriScience, the new agriculture division of DowDupont. Rory has worked for Dow since 2008 where he started as a Field Scientist. He then became the Canadian Cereal Herbicide Biology Team Leader and in addition to his current role is also the North American Cereal Herbicide Biology Project Leader. Rory served as the 2015 Local Arrangements Chair where he did an exceptional job planning for the 2015 meeting in Edmonton. He served as 2nd Vice President in 2017 and will be the CWSS President in 2019. Rory took a brief hiatus from weed science after his M.Sc., but luckily for us, saw the light and returned to the industry after his Ph.D. Rory's direct answers to the survey questions are below!



Previous work and volunteer experience in Weed Science:

2018: Integrated Field Sciences Research Leader in Canada with Corteva Agriscience, and North American Cereal Herbicide Biology Project Leader. Research focuses on development of novel herbicide tools to address the unmet needs and future challenges of North American farmers.

2008-2017: Field Scientist and Canadian Cereal Herbicide Biology Team Leader with Dow AgroSciences. Worked extensively on the characterization of new herbicides and use patterns.

2002-2004: MSc., University of Alberta. Research was focused on biology and control of field violet, a weed found predominantly in minimum disturbance fields in central Alberta.

How did you become involved with CWSS and when?

I first joined the society in 2002 and attended my first annual meeting that fall in Saskatoon. I had the great privilege of being Dr. Linda Hall's first graduate student!

What is your favorite memory/experience in your weed science career to date?

Working with the CWSS Board and Executive Committee has been memorable, enjoyable and enriching. The experience has given me a much broader appreciation of the amazing weed scientists and young professionals we have in Canada. I suppose another highlight for me was reading the papers that definitively identified the TIR1 auxin receptor and elucidated the auxin mode of action in the mid 2000's.

(Editor's Comment: I wonder if Rory can give us the authors and citation for that paper. Weed science trivia battle at the next meeting anyone? Rory is spoken for!)

What is your favorite weed and why?

Dead ones. Enough said. *(Editor's comment – If they're all dead we have no jobs Rory! Don't kill ALL the weeds!)*

I've got a high degree of respect for kochia due to its plasticity, genetic diversity and fantastic weedy traits. And I will always have a special place in my heart for field violet.

What are your career goals/future plans in weed science?

- Continue to learn from all the talented weeds science professionals in Canada and abroad.
- To the best of my abilities, train and mentor the future generations of weed scientists.
- Develop novel solutions and approaches for weed management that will help farmers maximize their productivity, sustainability and profitability.