



7 September 2017

Dear ONTA Membership:

It is a pleasure to be at your service as President of ONTA this coming year. Ed McGawley will be working with Local Arrangement Committee and myself to develop the scientific program for the 2018 meeting.

Mark your calendars for 21-23 August 2017 and plan to join us in Arequipa, Peru at the National University of San Agustin of Arequipa. Faculty of the agronomy school will host the meeting that will include a rich scientific program and participation from university, private industry and government officials. Tentatively, the meeting location will be at the Hotel Libertador with a post-conference trip to Machu Pichu.

We solicit your thoughts and suggestions on a conference theme, topics and session types to make 2018 a particularly memorable meeting.

Theme:

- The Executive Board of ONTA proposes that we establish a new committee in the organization, Education. Do you like the idea of a theme on “Education Outreach in South America”? Do you have other ideas to propose?

Special sessions and topics:

- Identification workshop before or after the meeting, or two consecutive evenings.
- Symposium on the mechanics of suppressiveness, with each speaker focuses on a single mechanisms type (e.g., antagonist, hyperparasite, competition, niche exclusion) with case studies and examples.

We welcome nominations (including self-nominations) for speakers for these proposed sessions **as well as nominations for additional special topic sessions**. Please respond to both of us in the same email. If we do not get your feedback by 15 October 2017, we will assume you are in agreement with our suggestion.

Sincerely,

Deborah Neher, President (dneher@uvm.edu)

Edward McGawley, Vice-President (EMgawley@agcenter.lsu.edu)