



American Malting Barley Association, Inc.

740 North Plankinton Avenue, Suite 830 / Milwaukee, WI 53203 / (414) 272-4640 / Fax: (414) 272-4631 / <http://www.AMBAinc.org>

Press Release: Barley Researchers from Around the World Meet in Minneapolis

Contact: Scott E. Heisel, AMBA VP & Technical (414) 272-4640

Minneapolis, MN – July 27, 2016 – A very successful 12th International Barley Genetics Symposium (IBGS) was held in Minneapolis, MN June 26-30, 2016. It was a worldwide gathering with over 300 barley researchers representing 30 countries and all the continents except Antarctica. The last time the IBGS was held in the US was 1969, when Washington State University in Pullman, WA hosted the second symposium. It was noted that Udda Lundqvist of the Nordic Genetic Resource Center in Sweden has attended all twelve symposia dating back to 1964. Lundqvist is an expert in the study of barley mutants and her keen eye has led to the discovery of a number mutations that have proven to be traits of value and incorporated into commercial varieties.

With over 40 oral presentations, more than 200 posters, and many workshops, there was a broad range of material covered. Investigations of the role barley genetics plays in how the plant handles climatic or disease stress, quality for the end user or consumer, barley crop diversity, and so much more were topics of discussion. In addition to the informative



presentations and workshops, the symposium also offered ample opportunities for networking among the participants. The Wednesday night dinner cruise on the Mississippi river aboard an old time paddle wheeler was a highlight of the gathering and good weather ensured everyone had a marvelous time.

Kevin Smith, University of Minnesota barley breeder and Chair of the IBGS Organizing Committee stated that “Students are the foundation for future barley research and a primary objective for the Committee was to get graduate students directly involved in the program. In addition to their substantial participation in the poster sessions, we had at least one

presentation from a student in each of the eleven oral sessions.” This turned out to be an excellent way to introduce new faces to the barley community.



On the final day of the symposium, participants headed to the University of Minnesota, St. Paul field plots for a firsthand look at some of the barleys discussed during the week. It was an examination of the practical output of genetic research that promises improved varieties throughout the barley supply chain. Historic lines, bulk populations, mutants, and genomic mapping populations

were all well organized in field demonstration and provided all participants with something interesting to see. The 12th IBGS came to a close with a pig roast among the barley plots.