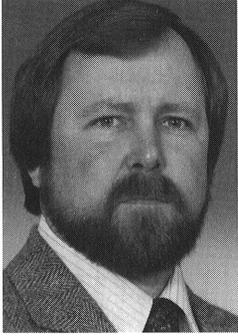


CIBA-Geigy Award

Sponsored by the CIBA-Geigy Corporation, this award is given to individual plant pathologists who have made significant recent contributions to the advancement of knowledge of plant diseases or their control. The award consists of a trophy and an expense-paid trip to Basel, Switzerland.

Michael A. Ellis



Michael A. Ellis received his B.S. degree in education and M.S. degree in botany from Eastern Illinois University in 1971 and 1973. His major advisor for the M.S. degree was Dr. Charles B. Arzeni. He received his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from the University of Illinois in 1976, where his major advisor was Dr. James B. Sinclair. He spent 1 year at CIAT (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical) in Cali, Columbia, conducting research on seedborne fungi of dry bean. He then

joined the faculty at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayaguez, as assistant professor to conduct research on internally seedborne fungi of tropical grain legumes and to teach tropical plant pathology.

In 1979, Dr. Ellis joined the faculty of The Ohio State University at Wooster as assistant professor and was promoted to associate professor in 1983. He has research and extension responsibilities for fruit crops and teaches a course on identification and control of fruit diseases. Much of his research has been directed toward the development of disease control methodologies using an integrated program involving cultural practices and biological and chemical controls. As part of this program he gives strong emphasis to the epidemiology, etiology, and ecology of fungal pathogens.

Dr. Ellis has made significant contributions to the understanding of the epidemiology, etiology, and control of seedborne fungi of grain legumes. He has published numerous refereed journal articles on legume seed pathology. He has also contributed to the understanding and control of several important

fruit crop diseases. His work with *Phytophthora* apple collar rot led to the first federal label of a fungicide (metalaxyl) for its control. Other studies described the effects of powdery mildew on the physiology of apple leaves and the etiology of *Alternaria* spp. in causing moldy-core of apple.

More recently, Dr. Ellis, co-worker L. V. Madden, and graduate students have made major advances in understanding the epidemiology of several important diseases of strawberry, grape, and brambles, particularly in the area of developing disease forecasting systems.

Leather rot of strawberry fruit, caused by *Phytophthora cactorum*, was a major problem worldwide but little understood. Dr. Ellis' research has resulted in an good understanding of the epidemiology of this disease. This information has been used to develop a microprocessor-based disease predictor for leather rot that is currently being evaluated.

A similar disease predictor for black rot of grapes was also developed. Its use in conjunction with sterol-inhibiting fungicide applications was successfully validated in grower's vineyards and it is now commercially available.

Dr. Ellis also is extensively involved in problem-solving research for fruit growers, and has written many state extension publications. With co-workers and students he has: 1) studied the epidemiology of grape downy mildew and *Botrytis* fruit rot of strawberry with the goal of developing disease forecasting systems; 2) studied the effects of row width on the epidemiology and control of spur blight of raspberry; 3) determined the etiology of several fungi causing cane cankers on thornless blackberry in Ohio; and 4) determined the efficacy of several new experimental fungicides for control of several diseases on apple, grape, strawberry, and brambles.

Dr. Ellis has served on the Seed Pathology, Chemical Control (chairman), and Extension committees of APS and as section editor for *Fungicide and Nematicide Tests*.