The International Turfgrass Society (ITS) celebrates its 48th year with more than 300 delegates and 100 accompanying persons from 21 countries attending the 2017 International Turfgrass Research Conference (ITRC) during July 2017 in New Brunswick, NJ, USA. The ITRC is one of the largest and most comprehensive gatherings of turfgrass scientists and professionals, and reflects the interest and activity in turfgrass education and research throughout the world.

The success of ITS was built upon the vision of early leaders: James B. Beard, Bjarne Langvad, John R. Escritt, and James R. Watson, who organized the 1st ITRC held in 1969 at Harrogate, UK. The ITS is indebted to the 78 participants representing 12 countries at the 1st ITRC; their contributions laid the groundwork for the pursuit of turfgrass science in all parts of the world.

The ITS facilitates international communication among turfgrass scientists, educators, and industry professionals through the publication of papers presented at conferences. A permanent record of the concepts, research results, and descriptive information presented at the ITRC were first published as a proceedings in 1969, and ITS began publishing this record of papers as a journal for the 1993 ITRC in Palm Beach, FL, USA. The ITS is pleased to collaborate with the ACSESS Digital Library in publishing papers of the 2017 ITRC in a digital format as well as across three journals: Agronomy Journal, Crop Science, and ITS Research Journal. The digital format offered through the ACSESS Digital Library will greatly improve accessibility of papers, and the multiple journals provide more options to meet the publishing needs of ITRC delegates.