

“Blazing a Career Path in Plant Pathology” Workshop
July 30, 2005
APS National Meeting, Austin, Texas

Champions and Resource People

International careers

Champion: John E. Bowman, Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI), Bethesda, MD. John is a Principal Development Specialist at DAI with more than 20 years’ experience in the design, implementation, and evaluation of international agricultural development projects. He is currently in charge of a three-year, \$5.6 million project to strengthen the trading capacity of developing countries through improved understanding and application of international standards relating to food safety, plant health, and animal health, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. He also serves as an agribusiness consultant for DAI, specializing in the management of agricultural raw material supply chains, quality assurance programs for food processing companies, and the design and management of environmentally sustainable agricultural projects for international donor agencies.

Resource people:

- Kitty Cardwell, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, PAS, Washington, DC
- Sally Miller, Ohio State University, Plant Pathology Department, Wooster, OH

Government careers

Champion: Chris A. Wozniak, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (USDA, CSREES), Washington, DC. Chris is National Program Leader for Food Biotechnology and Microbiology for CSREES. He oversees the awarding of National Research Initiative and formula grant funds to land-grant institutions for research on a broad range of food safety issues, from prions to pesticide residues to mycotoxins to *Salmonella* in eggs. He also co-directs the Biotech Risk Assessments Grants Program, which awards funds for risk assessments related to experimentation with and use of genetically engineered plants, animals, and microbes.

Resource people:

- Kathy Kosta, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division (state government), Sacramento, CA
- Paul Lewis, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, FIFRA Advisory Panel (regulatory plant pathology), Washington, DC
- Mike Simini, U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (environmental toxicology), Aberdeen, MD

Industry careers

Champion: William E. (Bill) Dolezal, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, IA. Bill has 25 years of experience in providing pathology and entomology support for field crop breeding and crop genetics with Pioneer. He is currently Research Fellow-Plant Pathologist in Pioneer's Crop Genetics Research/Seed & Crop Technology group. He is an expert on phytosanitary issues in seed production and serves as lead liaison within Pioneer on crop biosecurity efforts involving USDA, the Department of Homeland Security, the American Seed Trade Association, and APS.

Resource people:

- Jessica O'Mara, Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc., Johnston, IA
- Eric Tedford, Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc., Roseville, CA
- Mike Irely, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (formerly of U.S. Sugar), Ft. Pierce, FL

Private Practice

Champion: Christopher M. Becker, BAAR Scientific LLC, Romulus, NY. Chris is president of BAAR Scientific, a private firm that specializes in contract research and knowledge-based pest management consulting in western New York. He has a diverse background that includes managing the plant pathology portion of the Massachusetts Apple IPM program and 11 years as a field research representative for American Cyanamid and BASF Corporation. He founded BAAR Scientific after being "downsized" from industry so that he could continue to conduct the applied agricultural research he enjoys.