

North Central Division Meets in Madison

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The University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWM) Department of Plant Pathology welcomed the APS North Central Division to Madison, WI, for the 2014 meeting, featuring three days of field trips, meetings, oral presentations, posters, and more. The conference was held June 11–13, 2014, at the UWM Pyle Extension Conference Center and was attended by more than 150 participants from the North Central region and the nation. Two symposia were featured and included “Impact of Genomic Research and Advancements on Production Agriculture: Is Science Translating to the Field?” and “From Host Recognition to Transmission: Advances in Mechanisms of Infection.” Field trips included “Grapes & Grass,” which highlighted grape and wine production at Wollersheim Winery and a tour of the UW-O. J. Noer Turfgrass & Education Facility, and “Most of Madison,” which included visits to key sites and tastes of Madison by bike.

A special highlight was a centennial celebration of extension in a symposium and panel discussion entitled “Celebrating 100 Years of Extension in the U.S.,” featuring a presentation on the current status and future outlook of extension in Wisconsin and the United States by **John Shutske**, interim provost and vice chancellor of UW extension. The extension symposium panels offered topics geared toward young career professionals interested in learning more about activities of extension plant pathologists and creative funding approaches for both proactive and responsive programming.

The poster session included more than 60 outstanding academic posters covering a broad range of plant pathology topics. UW plant pathology graduate students offered special creative contributions, including a musical performance by the deBary-tones at the welcome reception and a plant pathology-themed art exhibit entitled “Portrait of a Pathogen: The Collision of Creative Minds and Destructive Pathogens Art Exhibit.” Additionally, Madison was honored to have been selected by both the APS Divisional Forum and the NCERA 184 North Central Wheat Working group as their 2014 annual meeting site.

The division honored members with special recognition at the awards banquet. The first-place winner of the Student Oral Paper Competition was **Erica Arcibal** (UWM). **Tiffany Lowe** (UWM) and **Suzanne Slack** (Michigan State University [MSU]) were the second- and third-place award winners, respectively. **Michael Millican** (Iowa State University [ISU]), **Gazala Ameen** (North Dakota State University [NDSU]), and **Jennifer Odom** (NDSU) earned first, second, and third prize, respectively, in the Student Poster Competition. **Loren Giesler** (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) was presented with the APS North Central Division Distinguished

Service Award. **Sam Markell** (NDSU) was presented with the APS North Central Early Career Award. Travel award winners included **Kyle Broderick** (University of Nebraska), **Chelsea Harbach** (University of Illinois), **Albert Kertho** (NDSU), **Gazala Ameen** (NDSU), **Michael Millican** (ISU), **Sally Mallova** (ISU), **Sidrat Abdullah** (South Dakota State University), **Nik Mohammed Nor** (Kansas State University [KSU]), **Junli Zhang** (KSU), **Anna Noveroske** (Purdue University), **Slack** (MSU), **Amber Townes** (MSU), **Bhupendra Acharya** (The Ohio State University [OSU]), and **Christine Balk** (OSU).

The conference was coordinated by **Amanda Gevens** (immediate past North Central Division president), along with many other UWM plant pathology faculty, staff, and student volunteers. **Tamra Jackson-Ziems** (Divisional Forum representative) and **Carl Bradley** (secretary-treasurer) also contributed greatly to the meeting’s organization. Full meeting highlight photos will be available on the APS website at www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/nc/meetings. The 2015 meeting will be held in East Lansing, MI, with coordination efforts led by current APS North Central Division President **George Sundin** (MSU). ■



Travel award winners (above)



Poster and oral student award winners



Divisional award winners Loren Giesler (left) and Sam Markell (right)