

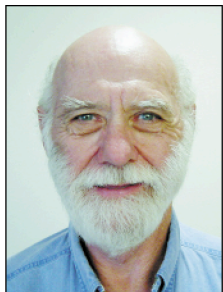
## OIP Begins Second Decade: A Look Back at Its Origins and Development

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International affairs have always been of great importance to APS members and the society as a whole, but no more so than during recent years. International issues were mentioned frequently by respondents to the recent APS Member Survey and were discussed at length during the Leadership Forums prior to the 2003 and 2004 annual meetings.

As this new year begins, OIP starts its 20th year. In this column I will reflect on how and why OIP was created and will briefly discuss some initial and new activities of the office. Much of this history has been chronicled in *Phytopathology News*.

The seed for OIP was planted at the annual meeting in 1985 in Reno. During that meeting, APS President **John Lockwood** offered, and council approved, a resolution on the food and human population issue that had been discussed in the society since 1975. The resolution stated, in part, "...APS reaffirms its commitment to encourage plant health research and education, particularly in developing countries."



Charlie Delp, director of OIP from 1986 to 1994.

Later that year, **Charlie Delp** was named a Congressional Science Fellow. Charlie had just completed a long and distinguished career with DuPont. As the first Congressional Fellow from the Intersociety Consortium for Plant Protection, Charlie devoted much of his

time to hunger and international agricultural issues. Charlie educated Congress on the role and benefits of USAID-funded research and raised awareness in Washington DC of the importance of assisting agricultural scientists in the developing world.

Charlie's activities in Washington DC mirrored a heightened awareness of and interest in international issues in APS that coincided with **Luis Sequeira's** term as APS president in 1986. (Together, Charlie and Luis were to have a major impact on the development and direction of OIP). The theme of the annual meeting that year in Orlando was "International Cooperation," and international issues were discussed throughout the week. During the plenary session,

"Food and Population: A World Challenge to Plant Pathology," speakers addressed rapidly increasing human populations in the developing world, the impact of increased food production on developing economies, and the role APS should/could take in international food production. The plenary session was followed by a panel and open forum on international issues chaired by Charlie. Discussions on these topics continued during the APS business meeting and culminated with the creation by council of OIP.

As outlined in 1987, OIP's charge was to 1) provide continuity and coordination for the society's international affairs, 2) promote collaboration among plant pathologists and other scientists worldwide, and 3) facilitate teaching, research, and extension with an aim toward increased food production and improved plant health. These objectives have remained essentially the same, as have many of the initiatives that were started by Charlie. For example, the Library Assistance Program is still very active. Although digital information is changing the publishing landscape, printed materials remain important resources for libraries worldwide (note plea for materials below).

As OIP looks toward the future, it is appropriate to mention a few changes that have occurred since 1986. Electronic information has dramatically changed publishing and international communication. OIP now has a web presence that facilitates its communication role ([www.apsnet.org/members/oip/](http://www.apsnet.org/members/oip/)). As Internet capabilities improve worldwide, it will become increasingly important for this site to be populated with new, useful information, and an ad hoc committee, chaired by **Sally Miller** ([miller.769@osu.edu](mailto:miller.769@osu.edu)), has been created for this purpose. Ultimately, her committee intends to make the website a significant clearinghouse and source of international information.

Another digital initiative is being led by **Nik Grunwald** ([grunwald@onid.orst.edu](mailto:grunwald@onid.orst.edu)), who is coordinating the translation of lessons in the Education Center to other languages. The initial focus will be on tropical diseases and Spanish and Portuguese, and three Spanish translations are already in review (black Sigatoka, citrus canker, and coffee rust). **Gail Schumann** ([gail.schumann@marquette.edu](mailto:gail.schumann@marquette.edu)) would welcome additional lessons on tropical

diseases, and Panama disease of banana, frosty pod of cacao, *Phytophthora* root rot of avocado, lethal yellowing of coconut, Moko disease and blood disease of banana, and papaya ringspot are but a few that have been suggested. Please contact her or Nik if you would be willing to write a lesson on an important disease (see current list at [www.apsnet.org/education/LessonsPlantPath/](http://www.apsnet.org/education/LessonsPlantPath/)) or if you have an interest in translations in other languages. In cooperation with Gail and the Education Center, OIP's ultimate goal is to create a multilingual body of lessons that would be freely available online.



Luis Sequeira, director of OIP from 1994 to 1998

In closing, I will note that OIP is constrained in what it does by funding. Thus, we are grateful for the support that has been provided by **John and Anne Niederhauser** and APS Foundation.

Without their help, the JANE and International Travel awards would not be possible. Another travel award in which OIP is interested is one to recognize **Bill Brown** (see *Phytopathology News* 37:161). Bill was a long-time friend and supporter of OIP. APS Foundation currently needs an additional \$1,500 to meet the amount that is needed to establish a Bill Brown Travel Award. When making a contribution to APS Foundation, please consider these funds.

### OIP Library Assistance Program Needs Materials

The OIP Library Assistance Program continues to be an active part of OIP (watch for an update on recent activities in a forthcoming OIP column). Recently, **Mohammad Babadoost** shipped the last of the materials that had been donated for this program. Mohammad asks that you contact him if you have books, journals, CDs, slides, or other resources to donate to libraries of educational/research institutes in developing countries; if you know of libraries that need assistance; or if you could help defray the costs of shipping materials to these libraries. He can be reached at: University of Illinois, N-533A Turner Hall, Crop Sciences Department, 1102 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana, IL 61801-4798 USA; Phone: +1.217.333.1523; Fax: +1.217.333.1289; E-mail: [babadoos@uiuc.edu](mailto:babadoos@uiuc.edu). ■