

OIP News and Views

Pamela Anderson Named Next Director General of CIP



On March 8, 2004, **Pamela K. Anderson** was named as the next director general of the International Potato Center (CIP). Anderson, a native of the United States, is trained as an entomologist and ecologist and is an expert on emerging plant diseases (see *Plant Disease* 81:1358-1369). She joined CIP in June 2002 as deputy director general for research and was previously a senior scientist at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and coordinator of the CGIAR Whitefly IPM Project. On April 30, 2005 she will succeed **Hubert Zandstra**, who has led CIP since 1991. Best OIP wishes to Pamela as she transitions into this new position.

Bob Zeigler Returns to CGIAR

In January 2004 **Robert S. Zeigler**, former chair of the Department of Plant Pathology and director of the Plant Biotechnology Center Program of Kansas State University, became director of the CGIAR Challenge Program for Unlocking Genetic Diversity in Crops for the Resource-Poor (www.generationcp.org). He retains an affiliation with KSU as an adjunct professor.



Robert S. Zeigler

The Challenge Program is a public platform for accessing and developing genetic resources with advanced molecular technologies and traditional means and is a consortium of eight CG centers (CIAT, CIMMYT, CIP, ICARDA, ICRISAT, IITA, IPRI, and IRR) and institutions in developing (Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences and EMBRAPA [Brazil]) and developed countries (Cornell University [United States], John Innes Centre [United Kingdom], National Institute of Agrobiological Sciences [Japan], and Wageningen University [Netherlands]). Research is organized under five themes: 1) Genetic diversity of global genetic resources, 2) comparative genomics for gene discovery, 3) gene transfer and crop improvement, 4) bioinformatics, and 5) capacity-building. Those interested in the program should contact Bob Zeigler at r.zeigler@cgiar.org

Before moving to Kansas in 1999, Bob served in various international capacities, including positions at CIAT and IRRI. He is a long-time member of the OIP Advisory Board and received the APS International Service Award in 2001. OIP wishes Bob great success on his return to the CG.

Franco-Lara Receives 2004 International Travel Award

Liliana Franco-Lara, a member of the Faculty of Science, Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, Bogota, Colombia, is the 2004 recipient of the APS International Travel Award. She will attend the 2004 APS Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA, and will give a presentation on her research titled, "Detection of Phytoplasmas in Fraxinus Trees Affected by Ash Yellows in Colombia." Liliana can be reached at lfranco@umng.edu.co. The selection committee for this travel award consisted of **William Fry**, **Richard Bennett**, and OIP Director **George Abawi**. For more information on the award see www.apsnet.org/members/oip/travel.asp.

Ploetz becomes OIP Director in Anaheim



Randy Ploetz

Randy Ploetz will become the director of OIP at the APS Annual Meeting in Anaheim. He is a plant pathologist at the University of Florida's Tropical Research & Education Center in Homestead and immediate past editor-in-chief of APS Press. He is an authority on diseases of tropical fruit crops and recently edited and wrote a book on the topic for CAB International. Randy is looking forward to working with the OIP Advisory Board and current OIP Director George Abawi.

Please send items for OIP News & Views to rcp@mail.ifas.ufl.edu. ■