2002 First William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award. Recognizes a scientist who within 5 years of their Ph.D. degree has made an outstanding, innovative contribution directed toward the control of plant disease.

2002 First plant pathogenic fungus to be sequenced—Magnaporthe oryzae (formerly M. grisea). Sequence was first released in 2002. Fusarium graminearum and Ustilago maydis were released the following year.

2003 First Noel T. Keen Award. Awarded to persons who have made outstanding contributions in molecular plant pathology.

2004 APS joins The Essential Electronic Agriculture Library (TEAL). This made Phytopathology, Plant Disease, and MPMI available to developing countries in a CD-Rom format.

2004 First Friends of APS Award

2004 Soybean rust (Phakopsora pachyrhizi) is discovered in the continental U.S. It was likely introduced from South America following one of several tropical storms in the fall of 2004 and it has been found throughout much of the soybean production areas in the lower Midwest and southeastern U.S. This is a threat to the U.S. soybean industry because of a lack of resistance in the germplasm being used in this country. Efforts are underway to develop new varieties with resistance to this pathogen.

2005 First APS Outstanding Volunteer Award

2005 Citrus greening is discovered in Florida. This serious disease of citrus is caused by the bacterium ‘Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus’ and transmitted in the U.S. by the Asian citrus psyllid. This organism is listed on the USDA APHIS select agent list as a threat to citrus in the U.S. In endemic regions of the world, infected citrus trees live only a few years.

2006 First APS Outstanding Volunteer Award

2006 Nematoide broad-spectrum resistance via plant host-derived RNA—resistance to root-knot nematodes by interference with a parasitism gene.

2006 Discovery that viroid replication is resistant to RNA silencing

2007 Fungicide and Nematicide Tests and Biological and Cultural Tests are merged to form Plant Disease Management Reports. This became an online publication through the Plant Management Network. First editor-in-chief is D. S. Egel.

2007 Discovery that viroid replication is resistant to RNA silencing

2008 First complete genome sequence of phytoparasitic nematodes—Meloidogyne hapla

2008 100th Anniversary of APS, Minneapolis, MN, “History of Excellence, Future of Promise”