

Pacific Division News

Spring 2009



From The President-Elect

Dear Pacific Division,

Another year is moving by all too rapidly but hopefully continues to bring interesting scientific discoveries that move both our science and agriculture forward. Soon many of us will be attending the Joint Pacific Division and National APS meeting in Portland, Oregon. This meeting is a great time to see the incredible talent developing in the divisions graduate students, form new relationships and collaborations, and reconnect with old friends. There will be a lunch Business meeting on August 4, 2009. You can register for the business meeting (\$26.00 includes boxed lunch and drink) as part of registering for the National meeting. Look for the line items on registration form – “Pacific Division Business Meeting”. You may attend without ordering a lunch.
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Volunteers needed

We need volunteers to help judge the competition. There are 17 presentations, interspersed into the subject sessions, to judge over August 2-3. Thus, we are in need of a lot of volunteers or a few very dedicated ones. We want to have >3 judges for each talk with each judge assigned 5 talks, or more if you are willing, to allow us to account for differences among judges. Please join me and Doug Gubler in volunteering to judge.

Alberta
British Columbia
Saskatchewan
Alaska
Arizona
California
Colorado
Hawaii
Idaho
Montana
Nevada
New Mexico
Oregon
Utah
Washington
Wyoming



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Student Travel Awards

Each student below will receive \$500 to help offset their travel cost to attend 2009 division meeting.

Ernesto Moya, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT

Suman Mukherjee, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM

Grant Poole, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Hongyan Sheng, Washington State University, Pullman, WA

Fushi Wen, University of Arizona, Tucson AZ

Mohammad Yaghmour, University of California, Davis, CA

More information page 2

2010 Pacific Division Meeting

Mark your calendars for June 20-23, 2010, We will meet in conjunction with the Canadian Phytopathological Society June 20-23 on the campus of the University of British Columbia. More information see page 3



Nominations for Division Awards

Please send your Nominations for Early Career and Lifetime Achievement for Pacific Division members to Dennis Johnson (dqjohnson@wsu.edu) by June 30.
More information on page 2

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Nominations for Early Career and Lifetime Achievement Awards

Nominees must be active members of the Pacific Division (e.g. attendance of division meetings). Nominations must be accompanied by a statement of no more than 2 typewritten pages, double-spaced, giving name, years and names of institutions granting degrees. A comprehensive vita that list description of the accomplishments and supportive citations or other material that qualify the nominee for the award should be also included.

EARLY CAREER AWARD, The award will honor a selected plant pathologist or nematologist belonging to the Pacific Division with 10 or fewer years of postgraduate experience and/or service. The award can be for a single outstanding contribution or for sustained significant and notable contributions to plant pathology in extension, research, teaching, or industry.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD: This award is given to senior members of the Pacific Division who have distinguished themselves by their contributions to plant pathology and service to the Pacific Division. The contributions may be in research, teaching, extension, or any other aspect of plant pathology in either an academic or nonacademic environment.

Student Presentations Competition

This year we have 17 entries in the student competition. They will be presenting at the following time.

Date	Time	Session	Student	Title
2-Aug	1:15 PM	Quantitative Epidemiology	Dipak Sharma-Poudyal	Prediction models for potential yield losses caused by wheat stripe rust in the US Pacific Northwest
2-Aug	1:45 PM	Biocontrol	Patcharavipa Chaijuckam	Efficacy of natural plant products on the control of aggregate sheath spot of rice.
2-Aug	2:15 PM	Quantitative Epidemiology	Clare Elliott	Comparative epidemiology of <i>Phytophthora ramorum</i> and other <i>Phytophthora</i> species
2-Aug	2:45 PM	Host resistance	Hongyan Sheng	Identifying resistance genes for eyespot of wheat in <i>Aegilops longissima</i>
2-Aug	3:15 PM	Molecular Biology-Fungi	Suman Mukherjee	Development of a transformation system in the swainsonine-producing fungi, <i>Undifilum oxytropis</i>
2-Aug	3:45 PM	Molecular Biology-fungi	Fushi Wen	Another 'extracellular polysaccharide' functioning in plant defense: Role of structural DNA in border cell-mediated defense of the legume root tip
3-Aug	2:30pm	Fruit and Nuts	Mohammad Yagmour	Biology and sources of inoculum of <i>Geotrichum candidum</i> causing sour rot of peaches and nectarines in California
3-Aug	8:45 AM	Fungal Biology	Peng Cheng	Somatic hybridization in <i>Puccinia striiformis</i> revealed by virulence patterns and microsatellite markers
3-Aug	9:15 AM	Pathogen Biologys	Xiaodong Bao	Common and dwarf bunt of wheat: One or three species?
3-Aug	9:45 AM	Disease detection and Diagnosis	Laura Costadone	Development and evaluation of detection-based air sampling programs for grapevine powdery mildew in eastern Washington
3-Aug	10:30 AM	Host resistance	Jeremiah Dung	Evaluation of <i>Mentha longifolia</i> for resistance to <i>Verticillium dahliae</i> isolates from various hosts
3-Aug	11:15 AM	Fungal Biology	Nicholas Garber	Systemic infection of sugarcane plants in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas by non-native B and G aflatoxin-producing <i>Aspergillus</i> section <i>Flavi</i> fungi.
3-Aug	1:00 PM	Biology of bacteria and Viruses	Olufemi Alabi	Molecular diversity and recombination in a foveavirus infecting grapevine
3-Aug	1:15 PM	Population genetics	Evans Njambere	Genetic diversity of <i>Sclerotinia trifoliorum</i> infecting chickpea based on mycelial compatibility grouping, rDNA introns and multi-locus haplotypes
3-Aug	1:45 PM	Disease of plants	Alejandro Ortega-Beltran	Maize land races from Mexico harbor resistance to diverse aflatoxin-producing fungi
3-Aug	2:00 PM	Diseases of plants	Grant Poole	Evaluation of inoculation methods to assay wheat for resistance to <i>Fusarium</i> crown rot
3-Aug	3:00 PM	Field Crops	Ernesto Moya	Determining distribution and prevalence of <i>Fusarium</i> crown rot and common root rot in Montana wheat using real-time qPCR

From the President elect – continued

Since this year's division meeting is joint with the National APS meeting the student presentation will be incorporated within the sessions on August 2 and 3. This year we had 17 abstracts submitted for the travel awards and oral presentation competition. Having read all the abstracts, I can say that the competition was very stiff and the judges had an extremely difficult task. We were able to fund six awards (page 1) but many more were deserved. I encourage each of you to take the time and see the quality of science being conducted by next up and coming generation of plant pathologists (see page 2 for complete list and times).

It is never too early to start planning for the next meeting, Thus I ask everyone in the division to consider joining our fellow members from Alberta, British Columbia, and Saskatchewan in Vancouver, BC at the University British Columbia for the 2010 Joint Pacific Division meeting with the Canadian Phytopathological Society. In addition to great science, Vancouver has many interesting sites nearby and amazing scenery.

Report of our Councilor - Melodie Putnam

March, 2009

The governing body of APS, Council, assembled for its mid-year meeting in St. Paul February 20-22nd. There are a number of issues before Council right now that bear watching, and member input will be important.

Governance

Perhaps the biggest news is that Council is again considering reorganization, last tackled in 2001. At the time, I was the Division President, and I thought the proposed structure was an ill-conceived idea, due largely to what I saw as an inevitable result: the decline of the Divisions (see <http://www.apsnet.org/members/div/Pacdivfall01Nwsltr.pdf>).

This time around, Jim Moyer, the current President of APS, said up front that the Executive committee "gets it": they understand the divisions are important to the membership and the health of the Society. They have heard that loud and clear. The current effort at reorganization is not intended to do away with the Divisions, but to improve the structure of the Society overall and address some long standing inequities.

Last year an ad hoc committee on governance was appointed by then-President Ray Martyn to imagine what sort of structure would best serve the needs of APS right now and in the future. An article in Phytopathology News announced this committee and its charge (page 159 at <http://www.apsnet.org/members/phyto/2008/11/081101.pdf>).

In February, the committee presented a *draft* structure, a bare-bones skeleton of one way in which governance could be organized. It remains to be seen if the skeleton can bear the weight of the Society once it is fleshed out, and it may be there is a hand where a kneecap should be. But the draft proposal does provide a preliminary structure with which Council can start to work. Some of the issues under consideration, which shaped the skeletal structure, were:

- Plant pathology is becoming more global, diverse and interdisciplinary.
- Members associate more by discipline, sub-discipline or functional group more than by geography.
- The mean age of members in the society is increasing.
- Younger members are not seeing the same value in APS with regard to career preparation, advancement, or fellowship as was the case with previous generations.

- Global warming and bio-based economies will alter how and where crops are grown and the pests that affect them.
- APS needs to have a global perspective.
- APS needs to be able to respond promptly and efficiently to issues relevant to plant health and agriculture in the broadest sense.
- Council needs to be strategic in function.
- Representation on Council is lopsided, and does not represent the diversity of the membership adequately.

So what was the proposed structure? As I mentioned, the details have not been worked out yet, but the proposal includes the following:

- Restructuring of the Executive Committee (Exec) to consist of the four Presidents (past, current, Vice President, and President-elect), Treasurer, and Executive Vice President (an APS staff position) only, with removal of the Secretary (this position will be eliminated) and the Senior Councilor-at-Large from Exec.
- Council will be reduced from 21 members to 16, consisting of the Exec and six elected Councilors and five appointed Councilors.
 - The six elected Councilors will be elected by vote of the entire APS membership and will have assigned liaisons to specific boards and offices (to see the boards and offices of APS, see <http://www.apsnet.org/members/boards.asp>).
 - The five appointed Councilors will include one to represent the Publications Board, one to represent the Scientific Programs Board, and three assigned to represent specific boards/offices determined at the time of appointment based on current issues/needs.
 - The annual meeting will be used for Councilor liaison meetings with the boards and offices that Council Represents.
- A new Membership Committee will be established to address membership issues.
- A new Leadership Development Committee will identify and screen nominees to put forward for officers as well as elected and appointed Council positions.

There are other suggested changes, including increasing the frequency with which Council meets and changes in the duties of the officers.

The greatest change here is there will no longer be Councilors-at-Large and no Divisional Councilors. The new structure is intended to allow a clear path for engagement of larger numbers of members, and more active engagement.

There are a lot of issues that need to be fleshed out here, including how will the Divisions interact with this new structure? Council is trying to support and redefine the divisional role in APS leadership, and an ad hoc committee was proposed to look at the role of the Divisions under this new structure.

Other questions were raised during the meeting, but most germane to the Divisions is “What do you as a member of the Pacific Division need from Council? What do you get now from representation on Council? What input do you want to give back to Council? What avenue do you need to do this?”

This process of looking at reorganization is ongoing, and this will not be the last time the issue will be before you. It will be discussed at the national meeting in Portland, and any changes in structure will require a vote by the entire membership. However, Council wants to move forward quickly, and not drag out the process. I urge you to consider the

issues and speak up if you have any concerns. You can address them to me (putnamm@science.oregonstate.edu), to any of the Councilors-at-Large, or to any of the officers of the Society (<http://www.apsnet.org/directories/council.cfm>.)

Other items discussed at the mid-year meeting:

Finances

The current year ('09) budget is on track. In the longer term, there are concerns about the health of the society in the face of the larger economic situation.

- Reserves are down about a million dollars from where they were in December, 2007 due to the downturn of the stock market.
- The proposed '10 budget is pretty flat – similar overall to the current year budget of \$4.5 million.
- Half of the Society's surplus still comes from the 3 journals. *Phytopathology* brings in more than *Plant Disease* and *MPMI* combined.
- The Plant Management Network is scheduled to break even in '10 for the first time.
- The Financial Advisory Committee made a recommendation to the **look at the annual meeting to see if it could be done differently**. The charge was to see if the current annual meeting model meets member needs. Is there a way to reduce the expense of the meeting while maintaining or enhancing scientific content and value to plant health professionals?
- The financial health of the Society is a concern: How do we prepare for the future, given the bleak economic prospects? One option is to reduce expenses by reducing discretionary spending. One suggestion was to stop providing drink tickets for the opening reception at the annual meeting. One concern with this approach is that members may feel they are getting less for their membership dollars.

Publications

- Changes will be coming to the journals in an effort to attract more readers and authors.
- *Phytopathology* will increase the number of review articles published, and reduce the time the articles are available as open access from 24 to 12 months.
- Color page charges will be reduced (see <http://www.apsnet.org/journals/apsupdate/APSResearchUpdate15.htm>.)
- General society news will be moved from *Phytopathology* to *Phytopathology News*.

Ad Hoc Committee on International Societal Relations

This group is exploring associations with sister societies, with the intention of focusing on societies in developed countries to establish mutually beneficial relationships.

If you have any questions about any of this, or wish to voice concerns or opinions on matters relevant to the Society, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Putnam

Pacific Division Councilor

People around the Pacific Division



Dr. Johan Leveau joins the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis as an Assistant Professor. His main focus will be the structure and activity of microbial communities associated with plants. He aims to develop a systems-level understanding of plant microbiomes which will improve our ability to predict, prevent, or reduce plant disease in natural and/or agricultural systems.



Ellen Michaels Goheen, USDA Forest Service's Southwest Oregon Forest Insect and Disease Service Center Central Point, OR, recently received the David F. Thomas Award for Excellence in Customer Service. The award is given to a member of the Forest Health Protection staff who has demonstrated significant contributions in (1) furthering the Forest Health Protection mission, (2) sustaining internal and external customer service, and (3) helping build a team environment for their unit.



Dr. Lori Carris, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology, has been selected to receive WSU's 2009 Woman of Distinction Award. The award recognizes Dr. Carris' accomplishments in academic work, career, leadership, and service, and her contributions to the personal growth and success of others, especially women, through education, research, or public or volunteer service above and beyond her expected job responsibilities.

Classifieds

Upcoming Meetings

APS – International Seed Federation (ISF) Collaboration to Implement a System to Standardize Naming of Plant Pathogen Races and Strains, 1:00 – 3:30 p.m., Monday, August 3rd, 2009 at the APS Meeting in Portland, OR: Your input is sought on the development and implementation of a network of private and public research laboratories and seed companies in the US for the maintenance, storage, multiplication and distribution of reference pathogen cultures and seed of differential host cultivars, to facilitate standardizing the naming of plant pathogen races and strains. The symposium will outline the complexity and challenges of implementing this system, demand for such a system, and proposed protocols with ample time for discussion and input. The development of this system is a collaborative effort between APS, the American Seed Trade Association and the International Seed

Federation. For more information on the symposium or the ad hoc committee, contact Lindsey du Toit (dutoit@wsu.edu).

Annual meeting of the Potato Association of America; Aug 9-13 in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada. Besides the usual papers and poster sessions there are two special symposia: “Alternative methods of controlling pests and diseases” and an international symposium on Potato virus Y. More information at: www.paa2009.org.

Phyllosphere 2010 the 9th International Symposium on the Microbiology of Aerial Plant Surfaces will be held at the campus of Oregon State University from August 14-18, 2010. The meeting seeks to bring together researchers from the plant and the microbial side and will include the areas of aerobiology, anatomy, bacteriology, biochemistry, biological control, micro-meteorology, mycology, plant physiology, plant pathology, and molecular biology in order to further our understanding the ecology of foliar plant surfaces in both aquatic and terrestrial environments.