

Pacific Division News

Winter 2014-Spring 2015



Wishing You a Wonderful
Ending of 2014
and
a Healthy New Year 2015!

Soum Sanogo
Secretary/Treasurer
APS-Pacific Division



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



PRESIDENT
Juliet Marshall
Univ. of Idaho,
juliet.marshall@uidaho.
edu

PRESIDENT-ELECT
David H. Gent
USDA-ARS/Oregon
State Univ.
gentd@onid.orst.edu

PAST PRESIDENT
Judy K. Brown
Univ. of Arizona,
jbrown@ag.arizona.edu

SECRETARY-
TREASURER
Soum Sanogo
New Mexico State Univ.
ssanogo@nmsu.edu

Divisional Forum
Representative
Jay W. Pscheidt
Oregon State Univ
pscheifj@science.
oregonstate.edu

Mark Your Calendar to attend
the 2015 APS Pacific Division
Meeting!

We are joining the APS annual
meeting

August 1-5, 2015
Pasadena,
California



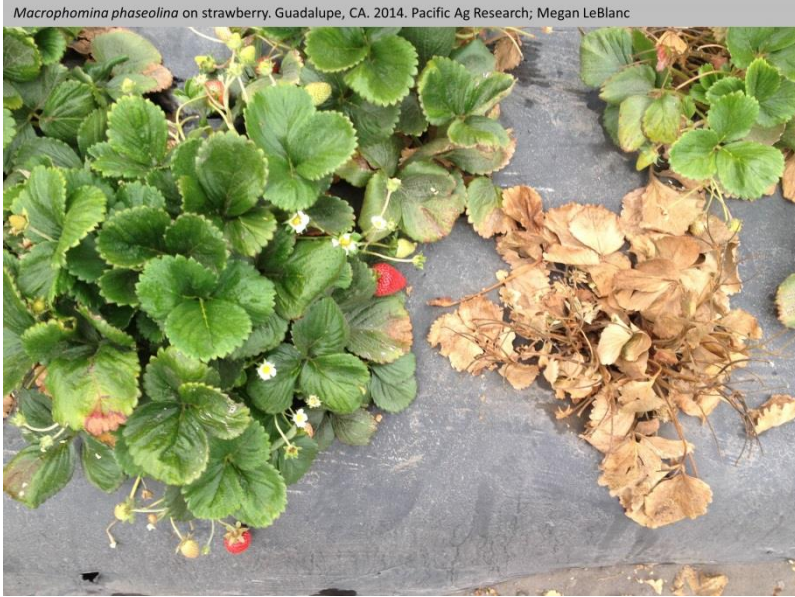
<http://www.epodunk.com>

Look for more information on the
meeting venue, lodging, abstract
submission and scientific programs
at the websites of APS and APS-
Pacific Division

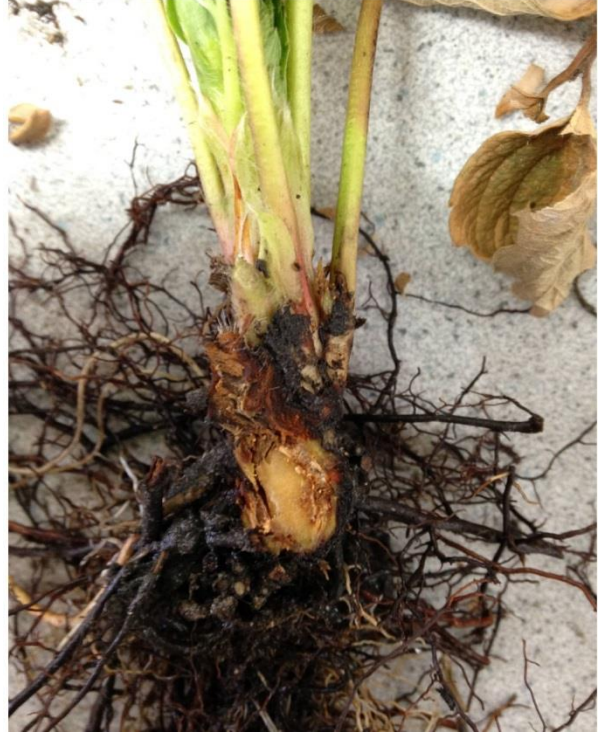


Images From The APS-Pacific Division Field Album (Log on the Collaboration Site to upload your images)

Macrophomina phaseolina on strawberry, Guadalupe, CA. 2014. Pacific Ag Research; Megan LeBlanc



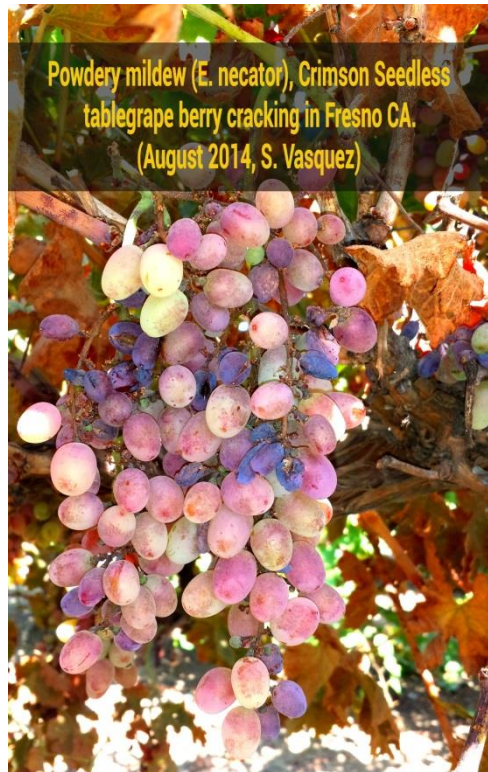
Close up of infected root of strawberry with *Macrophomina phaseolina* (Charcoal Rot). Pacific Ag Research. Kory Jackson (2014)



Powdery mildew (*E. necator*) in Crimson Seedless table grapes in Fresno CA. (August 2014, S. Vasquez)



Powdery mildew (*E. necator*), Crimson Seedless tablegrape berry cracking in Fresno CA. (August 2014, S. Vasquez)



Images From The APS-Pacific Division Field Album

(Log on the Collaboration Site to upload your images)



Update From Division Forum Representatives

Increasing Abstract Quality at Divisional Meetings Through Peer Review

Jay W. Pscheidt, Pacific Division Forum Representative

Ronald D. French, Caribbean Division Forum Representative

We need to start with the statement that abstract quality remains good throughout APS at both annual and Divisional meetings. When discussing this topic, most people are able to remember reading abstracts at either extreme, those of high or low quality. These abstracts seem to be the exceptions rather than the norm. APS is the premier society dedicated to high-quality, innovative plant pathology research. Our goal is to discuss ways to encourage even higher abstract quality at APS meetings.

We discovered that some students who prepare abstracts for Divisional meetings did not encounter any guidance on abstract content beyond what they might get from their advisors. And in some cases, not all co-authors have edited the abstract. Sure, there is plenty of information on submitting an abstract with parameters such as word limit, font size, or when to capitalize words. But shouldn't they also know that all abstracts should have a justification, objectives, methods,

results, and significance of the research to the science of phytopathology? Students will encounter "Criteria for Abstract Acceptance" when developing abstracts in the rush before the deadline for the annual meeting.

New for 2015, your Division Forum has implemented the annual meeting "Criteria for Abstract Acceptance" now for all Division meetings. But wait, there is more that you might not find when preparing an abstract for the annual meeting.

Some of us not-so-old plant pathologists remember the "Good ole days" when we had to prepare camera-ready abstracts that had to fit inside a blue lined box on a sheet of paper. That same sheet of paper had to be signed by two reviewers before being sent in for publication to the annual meeting. The review requirement was dropped for the 1991 annual meeting. When discussing this topic many professors suggest we go back to something similar where abstracts are more formally reviewed. In this age of technological advances this should not be a difficult task, with email, document pages, boxes, and other storage and sharing computer programs.

Students have no problem with an additional requirement to have abstracts reviewed especially if it means better abstract quality. In fact, they are quick to suggest possible electronic methods to implement such a system. (For example, check boxes showing an

abstract writer's willingness to help review other abstracts.) Headquarters staff is equally quick to resist any increase in their workload to implement such a system. It may be possible to develop a system in the future but we need to start with the suggestion to have abstracts reviewed.

New for 2015, your Division Forum has implemented abstract peer reviewed for all Division meetings. The following is additional wording for abstract acceptance at APS **divisional** meetings: "Abstracts should be reviewed by all authors and peer reviewed by two additional people for scientific merit as well as grammatical, typographical, or factual errors." At this point there is no formal system for policing this policy. It will be up to the abstract authors to implement this on their own.

First Disease Reports

The issue of "first disease reports" (FDRs) takes on special consideration. It is no trivial matter to report on a new disease, on a new crop, in a new geographic area. The report can have major implications for transporting commodities between regions or countries. The publishing of a non-reviewed abstract that is electronically available to the world can have serious economic consequences. The possibility also exists that if not fully vetted this first report of a pathogen may well indeed be a new species or not the actual species being reported. We feel

abstracts of first disease reports should have the same scrutiny as any Disease Note found in Plant Disease.

At the same time, it is important to have open communication among APS members on all issues of plant disease including first reports. Many first detectors need to be aware of new plant disease developments in their geographic region. The need to take action may precede our ability to thoroughly review the information. It may be wiser to include a non-reviewed abstract just in meeting proceedings but not go on to have that abstract published in a Phytopathology supplement. That way information is still disseminated, still available for others to search and see, but not peer-review material. However, non-reviewed abstracts should not be of the FDRs type. These non-reviewed abstracts can include teaching material, general project reports as required by grants, invited speaker talks with already-published data, or society and network informational abstracts for posters or oral presentations.

The Division Forum is still considering several suggestions such as the following additional wording for abstract acceptance at APS meetings: "First reports of new diseases should be refereed (anonymously reviewed by two different people that are not authors)." If you have comments or other suggestions about this topic we would love to hear from you.

The majority of abstracts at annual and Divisional meetings are of good quality. There are cases, such as the 3 sentence abstract cited by a major professor who did not have time to review their students abstract before the deadline, that get culled before publication. Or a title where the pathogen name was misspelled? Or where “not significant differences” was erroneously stated as “significant

differences”. However, these seem to be the exceptions rather than the rule. We think that suggesting a peer review before submission will help increase the quality of meeting abstracts. Certainly, without a formal mechanism, people will ignore this suggestion but at least students and others writing abstracts will know that these are criteria we all stand behind and support.

Criteria for Abstract Acceptance

Remember to fully edit and proof your abstract before submitting. Early submissions are encouraged to avoid delays on the last day.

- Abstracts must report results of original research or other activity of significant merit that relates to phytopathology and related industries.
- **Abstracts should be reviewed by all authors and peer reviewed by two additional people for scientific merit as well as grammatical, typographical, or factual errors.**
- Abstracts must include the following elements: justification, objectives, methods, results, and significance of the research to the science of phytopathology.
- Abstracts must not be simply a review or progress report, but must contain useful and new information. Abstracts must not include references or footnotes.
- Abstracts must be in final form with no grammatical, typographical, or factual errors.
- No abstract that has been presented or is intended to be presented at another meeting shall be submitted for consideration.
- Publication of tables, charts, and graphs projected onto screens or posted at the annual meeting by anyone other than an author or presenter is prohibited unless a release has been requested and received in writing from an author or presenter.

Call for Applications for 2015 Storkan-Hanes- McCaslin Foundation Awards

The Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Awards are named in honor of Richard C. Storkan, Gerald L. Hanes, and Robert L. McCaslin. Each had a long history of cooperation with the scientific community, and they were pioneers in developing effective soil fumigation through experimental research.

The foundation was established in 1987 to support graduate student research. To date, more than \$431,000 has been awarded to 71 promising scientists. In addition to unrestricted cash awards (which range from \$5,000 to \$10,000 and can be used for any purpose that will benefit the education of the student including personal expenses), new awardees will also receive round-trip fares to the APS annual meeting and are presented their awards at a luncheon attended by their research advisors, previous awardees, and members of the Foundation Committee. **The 2014 Foundation Award winners were: Timothy Frey, The Ohio State University; Peter Henry, University of California, Davis; and He (Helen) Jiang, The University of Maine.**

A major aim of the foundation is to encourage research by offering financial assistance to graduate students who are working on **soil-borne diseases** of plants. The research must be done in the United States, Canada or Mexico. Foundation policy is to contribute to the education of the student. Grants

are made on a yearly basis and may be renewed upon review by the committee. Since the award is highly competitive, we encourage unsuccessful applicants to update their proposal for future consideration. The research for which the award is given is expected to be performed by the applicant during the academic year 2015–2016 and a one page progress report is due one year from the date of the award. It would be appreciated if the Foundation were acknowledged in research publications stemming from this Award.

To be considered for funding, each proposal should be carefully prepared in accordance with the instructions given below and submitted **electronically, no later than May 1, 2015 to:**

Dr. Michael Stanghellini (Chair of the Selection Committee), e-mail address:

michael.stanghellini@ucr.edu

Please submit:

- (i) a short, two–three page research proposal containing a concise statement of the objectives, methods and materials, and projected impact of the proposed research (note: a budget is not required),
- (ii) a one page resume (i.e., a brief education and research background, including a telephone number and e-mail address), and
- (iii) a letter from the applicant's major professor or research director.

(Continued page)

Preference will be given to those proposals containing innovative, creative, and/or novel research approaches to the stated objective(s), and to the overall quality (organization, correct English grammar and spelling) of the written proposal. Funding will begin September 1, 2015.

Meeting Announcement

The 61st Annual Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens and the 47th Annual California Nematology Workshop will be held on March 24-26, 2015 at the University of California, Riverside. There will be a field trip on Tues, March 24, a social/dinner that evening, and talks on Weds. March 25 and Thurs. morning, March 26.

The conference will open with keynote talks by Drs. R. J. Cook and Phil Roberts. This meeting has a relatively informal and highly interactive format that allows for provocative, short oral presentations on research and development discoveries, new or increasing disease problems, new applications, products and equipment, and other subjects, followed by questions and discussions. Student travel scholarships will be offered, with a deadline of Jan. 31 for applications.

Information and registrations can be found at <http://soilfungus.wsu.edu>. Ole Becker, local arrangements chair, (ole.becker@ucr.edu) or Tim Paulitz, program chair, (paulitz@wsu.edu) can also be contacted for more information.

Position

POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLAR POSITION, College of Agricultural Sciences - Department of Botany and Plant Pathology

LOCATION: Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

AVAILABLE: Dec 1, 2014

CLOSING DATE: Until filled

POSITION SUMMARY: A postdoctoral scholar position (1.0 FTE; 12-months) is available in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology (BPP) at Oregon State University. The position provides a competitive stipend and health insurance for up to three years, subject to satisfactory performance.

The successful applicant will be responsible for assisting with all aspects of natural products extraction, isolation, purification, structure elucidation and bioassay, in addition to sharing basic laboratory duties. The project is part of a large, multi-laboratory trans-disciplinary research effort aimed at, in part, discovery and evaluation of new (and existing) compounds for prevention and control of disease of plants caused by *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* and *Rhodococcus fascians*. There will be opportunities to contribute to other projects, including determination of biodistribution of the pathogens in production settings, and deployment of molecular diagnostics. Responsibilities include conducting independent research in the field, greenhouse and laboratory settings; maintaining accurate and detailed research operations records;

isolation and maintenance of bacterial cultures; development and execution of appropriate experiments; collection and analysis of data, interpretation of results, formulation of conclusions, and documentation in final written form.

The successful candidate will possess 1) effective interpersonal skills including the ability to collaborate successfully with a diverse team of researchers, students, and staff, 2) the ability to work independently and maintain effective attention to detail, meet deadlines, and prioritize competing demands 3) display an aptitude for problem solving and facilitating the work of others 4) demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with internal and external collaborators and 5) act as lead and support in manuscript and grant proposal writing. The position will be in the laboratories of Dr. Taifo Mahmud (College of Pharmacy) and Melodie Putnam (BPP).

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Recent Ph.D. graduates in Natural Products Chemistry or a closely related discipline and experience in purification and structure elucidation techniques including HPLC, 1D and 2D NMR, MS, UV, IR, are required. Applicants must also possess basic computer skills, and have a record of completing projects in a timely manner. Candidates must be able to communicate effectively and have excellent oral and written English skills.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

Strong research experience as demonstrated by first author publications.

Familiarity with antibacterial assays, both in vitro and in vivo, is highly desirable.

A demonstrable commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity is preferred.

APPLICATION PROCESS: To apply, please provide a CV and cover letter which includes a summary of past accomplishments, a statement of research goals, and contact information (including e-mail addresses) for three references. Application material may be sent electronically to:

Melodie Putnam
Department of Botany and Plant Pathology
Oregon State University
2082 Cordley Hall
Corvallis, OR 97331
(541) 737-3472
putnamm@science.oregonstate.edu

Position

Assistant Research Scientist- Plant Pathology: Plant Sciences Department

The University of Wyoming Plant Sciences department invites applications for a full-time non-tenure track assistant research scientist position to work with the Extension plant pathology group. Required is a M.S. degree in plant pathology or a related discipline and one year practical field research experience. The main duties of this position are to perform lab and field research protocols following primarily fungicide efficacy trials. Must have valid driver's license and ability to

travel, and be willing to work with pesticides. The successful candidate must be an effective communicator with a wide variety of audiences both orally and written. There is travel required during the growing season and working with minimal supervision at times. As is common with field work the candidate must be physically able to walk considerable distances (up to a couple of miles) in an agricultural field environment in sometimes harsh climatic environments, and lift 35 pounds. The successful candidate will have to acquire a pesticide applicators license for the state of Wyoming. This position is located in Laramie, WY.

Preferred: Related field experience in conducting industry research protocols. Experience with culture methods of fungi and/or bacteria and prior experience with sugar beet, dry bean, small grains and potato production. Possess a working knowledge of ARM software (Agricultural Research Manager) and have experience in analyzing and interpreting agricultural research data.

Essential Duties: Perform lab and field research protocols following direction and guidance. Assist with experimental design, treatment applications, data collection, data analysis and report writing to granting agencies. Assist in grant proposal preparation in plant pathology. Establish and manage replicated research trials. Supervision of undergraduate and graduate students as the need arises. Assist in maintaining and producing bacterial and fungal inoculum for field research.

Participate and assist in Extension education efforts of the Extension plant pathology program. Completion of a PhD related to plant pathology is possible depending on the individual's motivation.

The University of Wyoming is located in Laramie, Wyoming, a community of approximately 31,000 people. Laramie is located at 7220 feet above sea level and is surrounded by beautiful and commanding mountains and treeless plains. The region offers many outdoor advantages, including camping, hiking, and skiing activities. Because of the elevation the air is quite dry and the evenings are cooler in both winter and summer. Summer temperatures range from approximately 59F to 90F, while winters are usually in the -4F to 41F range. On the average there are more than 320 sunny days per year, and the average precipitation is 14.5 inches.

To apply, please submit the following documents as PDF files to Ms. Cassandra Thomas:
(kbrainar@uwyo.edu)

- Cover letter
- Curriculum vita or resume
- Statement of interest in plant pathology research and extension
- Names and contact information of three references

Questions may be directed to Dr. William Stump (wstump@uwyo.edu). Review of applications will begin on December 8, 2014 and continue until a suitable candidate is identified. Salary and benefits will be competitive and commensurate with experience.