Pacific Division News

Spring 2010

From The Treasurer

Dear Pacific Division members,
It seems like here in Idaho, we are battling alligators. Every time we turn around, there are new issues confronting the College and the University: continuous financial crises have forced staff reductions, reduced travel, shifted research priorities, and shattered morale. I know Idaho is not alone in her struggles.

Is there something, *ANYTHING* to look forward to?

Without spouting the same old rhetoric ("thinking outside of the box", "increasing efficiency", "doing more with less"), I think there is something we CAN do. Have fun.

Have budgets cuts forced a reduction in your travel money? Do you need to make alliances with research colleagues closer to home? Do you need to strategize with fellow collaborators to develop new or additional grant proposals?

Please join us for the annual **APS Pacific Division meeting** to be held in beautiful **Vancouver**, on the campus of the University of British Columbia. Organizers, especially our Canadian colleagues, have worked very hard to develop an interesting and exciting meeting, including three

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

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2010 Pacific Division Meeting

Mark your calendars for **June 20-23, 2010**. We will meet in conjunction with the Canadian Phytopathological Society on the campus of the University of British Columbia. **Register by May 15th!!** More information see page 3

Photo Contest

The organizing committee for this Joint Annual Meeting invites participants to submit their own original plant path related photographs in one or more of four categories.
More information on page! 2

Post Conference Tour!

Delegates can choose to attend the Post-Conference Tour of the Fraser Valley Agriculture on June 24, 2010. This is an optional tour and registration for the tour will be handled separately.
More information on page 2

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Post Conference Tour, June 24

Delegates can choose to attend the Post-Conference Tour of the Fraser Valley Agriculture on June 24, 2010. This is an optional tour and registration for the tour will be handled separately. The tour, which will run from 8.00 a.m. to 6 p.m., will showcase the diverse crop production in the fertile Fraser Valley. It will include visits to a state-of-the-art *Burnaby Lake* floriculture production facility, *Krause All Berries* farm (a modern U-pick and commercial berry production facility), *All Seasons Mushrooms* organic farm, and end with a final stop at the region's oldest winery, *Domaine de Chaberton*.

The cost of the tour will be $70.00 and delegates must register for the tour on or before **May 15, 2010.** Please make your cheque payable to "CPS 2010" and mail it to Attn: CPS 2010, *Dr. Siva Sabaratnam, Abbotsford Agriculture Centre, Ministry of Agriculture & Lands, 1767 Angus Campbell Road, Abbotsford, B.C. V3G 2M3*. The number of delegates for the tour will be limited to 45 people maximum. Tour will be subjected to cancellation if the number of delegates is less than 25 people. You may contact Dr. Siva Sabaratnam Siva.Sabaratnam@gov.bc.ca for more information.

From the Treasurer, continued from page 1

symposia: 1) Emerging stresses on forests and agroecosystems resulting from climate change, 2) Contributions of Genomics to Plant Pathology, and 3) Canadian Forum on Biocontrol. **Just another meeting?** Sure, you can make it that way. Or you can make it an opportunity to connect with other Pacific Division researchers, establish international collaborations, and still be "in our own backyard," so to speak. This will be the first time in probably 20 years that I have opted not to attend the national meeting, and just attend the regional PD meeting. **BUT THERE'S MORE!** (Nope, I am not selling Ginsu knives…..)

The opening reception will be in the evening on June 20. We are having a Harbour Cruise and on-board banquet on Monday, and an opportunity to showcase your original photography in the Photo Contest! There is an optional post-conference tour of Fraser Valley Agriculture to include the floriculture, berry, mushroom, and wine industries.

Best of all, will be the opportunity to explore beautiful Vancouver! I vacationed there in 1991, and have been very eager to return ever since. The campus and city offers many opportunities for entertainment and sightseeing, including museums, gardens, dining, performing arts, and exploring the many parks. Bring your spouse or significant other for some quality time, or bring the whole family. I guarantee that with very little effort you can have a very wonderful escape. Even if it is in conjunction with a meeting!

Visit http://cps-scp2010.ubcconferences.com/ to obtain registration and conference information. And I hope to see you there!

Cheers,
Juliet Marshall Windes,
APS PD Secretary / Treasurer

100 years of Inquiry

Oregon State University Dept of Botany and Plant Pathology - 1909-2009

We have come a long way in 100 years from **E.R. Lake** (on leave head of department) and **H.S. Jackson** (acting head) in 1909 with a handful of faculty teaching out of 2 laboratories, a dark room and small herbarium to **Lynda Ciuffetti** in 2009 with approximately 120 professorial and research faculty. We're still in Cordley Hall and celebrated on two very special occasions. Firstly on August 5, timed to coincide with the last day of American Phytopathological Society annual meeting held in Portland, we hosted a picnic in Avery Park, Corvallis for our many faculty, staff, students, alumni, and friends.

Then on October 8 we held a symposium featuring our very Distinguished Professor and National Academy of Sciences Member, James Carrington, alumnus Steven Lindow; and guest speakers Jacqueline Mohan and Claude dePamphilis. This was followed in the evening with dinner at the Clubhouse, Adair Village for more than 110 guests where tribute was paid to the many people who have made and are still making significant contributions to the department over the years. With much conviviality, laughter and even tears everybody enjoyed the occasion.

Photo Contest

2010 Joint Annual Meeting of the CPS with the Pacific Division of the APS

The organizing committee for this Joint Annual Meeting invites participants to submit their own original plant pathology-related photographs in one or more of the following four categories:

1. A plant disease/symptoms of a plant disease
2. A plant pathogen/signs of a plant pathogen
3. Plant pathologists at 'work' in the field or office
4. A micrograph of a plant pathogen or some aspect of a plant **pathogen-host interaction**

Here's how to enter:

- This contest is open to anyone who will be attending the meeting; photos submitted by individuals who do not actually attend the meeting in person will not be considered.
- You can submit a maximum of three of your own original photographs per category.
- Contest submissions must each be sent separately as JPEG files (minimum of 2 Megapixels, maximum of 5) by email to Rona Sturrock (Rona.Sturrock@nrcan.gc.ca) no later than 12:00 midnight of Friday June 11, 2010
- Along with your photograph(s) please provide your name and organization/company/institute and the category you want each of your submissions to be considered for.

A panel of objective judges will consider all qualifying photographs submitted and reserve the right to not declare winners in any one or more categories. Contest results will be announced during the meeting.
If you have questions about the contest please contact Rona by email or by telephone at 250-363-0789.

Report of our Councilor – Jim Adaskaveg

Dear APS Pacific Division Members,

In May 2010, our society will be asking you to vote on changes to the way APS governs itself. Over the last fifty years, our governance structure has essentially remained the same, yet the world has changed dramatically. APS is a strong organization and is one of the premier organizations of plant pathologists

worldwide. Over the years, APS has added journals (Plant Disease and MPMI), established a successful publishing unit (APS Press), and now offers online content (APS net, and Plant Management Network). More recently, APS has increased the society's outreach efforts by establishing offices and boards (e.g., the Public Policy Board, the Office of International Programs, the Office of Industry Relations, the Office of Public Relations and Outreach) that have served to strengthen us as a recognized source of information at the national and international levels and has helped our membership develop professionally and scientifically. Changes to our governance structure have been developed and proposed by the Governance Ad Hoc Committee over the last three years and refined by APS Council in February 2010. The proposed changes will allow APS Council to have more representation from our membership and function more efficiently and effectively. In the past, one of the main concerns with changes in governance was the fate of the divisions. Under the new structure, not only are the current functions of divisions preserved, but a new forum, the Divisional Forum, will be established that gives the divisions new opportunities to interact with each other and to have a more focused and enhanced opportunity to shape the future of APS. The Divisional Forum will also have a representative on council.

More information about the proposed changes can be found on the APS website at http://www.apsnet.org/members/govstructure/, in an article by APS President Barb Christ in the April edition of Phytopathology News, and in my summit meeting and mid-year reports posted on the APS Pacific Division website. As Pacific Division Councilor, I encourage you to participate in this process to constructively change APS governance. I am available to discuss any questions that you may have on the proposed changes (e-mail: jim.adaskaveg@ucr.edu, Phone: 951-827-3880) or you may contact any of the members of the Ad hoc committee, the Councilors-at-large (e.g., Carolee Bull, carolee.bull@ARS.USDA.GOV), as well as Council members of APS.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Adaskaveg
Pacific Division Councilor

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People

Meet our new Vice-President: Dr. Debra Inglis. Associate Professor, Department of Plant Pathology, Mount Vernon Research Center, Washington State University Mount Vernon, WA

Debra Ann Inglis is a plant pathologist at Washington State University's Northwestern Washington Research & Extension Center (WSU-NWREC) near Mount Vernon, WA. Inglis is interested in the biology and control of oomycete plant pathogens, and her research and extension program focuses on diseases of fresh market potatoes and other specialty vegetables. She served as Interim Director/Assistant Dean of WSU-NWREC from 2004 to 2008 when she oversaw the revitalization of the 60-year-old center. The completion of a new $8-million Agricultural Research & Technology building, a successful

$2.25-million capital campaign, and significant increases in new programs and faculty recruitment were hallmarks of her efforts, along with those of WSU and numerous community partners. She was awarded the WSU College of Agricultural, Human & Natural Resource Sciences' National Women's History Month Award for Professional and Academic Leadership in 2009. Currently, she is project director for an interdisciplinary SCRI SREP project, which is evaluating, in part, the effects of high tunnels and biodegradable mulches on plant health and root diseases.

A VERY special thanks goes to Dr. **Akif Eskalen,** Assistant Specialist in Cooperative Extension and Plant Pathologist in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology at the University of California, Riverside, for volunteering to run for office. Our volunteers have and continue to make this organization what it is today.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY!

Luisa Santamaria

Luisa received her B.Sc. in Biology at the Pontifical Catholic University, Quito-Ecuador, and a M.Sc. in Horticulture and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of Delaware. She conducted postdoctoral research on *Phytophthora* spp in nursery crops at Otis L. Floyd Nursery Research Center – Tennessee State University. She joined Oregon State University in March 2009, based at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center in Aurora, as Extension Nursery Crop Plant Pathologist (Assistant Professor) with an academic home in the department of Botany and Plant Pathology. Her main goal in the area of extension is to develop a bilingual education program in plant health based on the needs assessment of the Oregon nursery industry. Her research areas of interest include: best management practices to control plant diseases in nursery crops and ornamentals, and applied research in soil-borne pathogens.

Inga Zasada

Inga joined the department in 2009 as a Courtesy Assistant Professor; she is a Research Plant Pathologist/Nematologist in the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Research Lab. Inga received her Bachelor's degree in Crop Science from Oregon State University and a Master's degree in Crop Science from North Carolina State University. She then served as a United States Peace Corps Volunteer on the Maltese Islands where she was responsible for Nematology research, extension, and education. From the Peace Corps, Inga went to the Department of Nematology at the University of California, Davis where she received her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology. After completing her Ph.D., Inga continued to research the use of cover crops and amendments to control plant-parasitic nematodes as a Research Plant Pathologist at the USDA-ARS Nematology Lab, Beltsville, MD. Inga's current research interests include: the identification of resistance to economically important plant-parasitic nematodes in small fruits and the evaluation of current and novel nematode management strategies relevant to the small fruit and nursery crops.

People AWARDS / PROMOTIONS

Congratulations to **Dr. Alan Dyer, Montana State University faculty member in the Plant Sciences and Plant Pathology Department,** on his promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Alan studies the adoption of minimal tillage practices in Montana, which has enhanced the survival of residue and soil-borne pathogens of small grains. By studying residue and the survival of soil-borne plant pathogens, his research helps to define cultural practices that will mitigate the negative impacts of these pathogens. He also conducts research on fungal diseases of small grains, teaches introductory plant pathology, team-teaches advanced plant pathology and advises graduate students in plant pathology.

Congratulations to **Dr. Juliet Marshall Windes, University of Idaho faculty member in Idaho Falls,** Plant, Soils, and Entomological Sciences for her promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Juliet's research includes everything wheat and barley: variety trials, agronomics, and diseases, concentrating on Fusarium foot rots. Dryland grain research focuses on agronomic practices to reduce foot rot diseases, and irrigated grain research investigates seed treatments and foliar fungicides in disease control. Juliet's appointment is extension and research, and also advises graduate students.

People, continued…

RECENT RETIREMENTS
OSU Everett Hansen and Robert Spotts

IN MEMORIUM
John Robert Hardison Sr. Jan. 12, 1918 - Oct. 27, 2009

RECENT THESIS TITLES
Robin Mulvey (MS, Hansen) *Castilleja* and *Pedicularis* are confirmed as telial hosts for White Pine Blister Rust in Whitebark Pine ecosystems of Oregon and Washington

Molly Botts (MS, Hansen) Histological examination of *Phytophthora ramorum* in *Notholithocarpus densiflorus* bark tissues

The American Phytopathological Society Stakeholder Meeting Comments – April 13, 2010

The USDA held a stakeholders meeting on April 13, 2010, regarding the programs in the recently released Request for Applications (RFAs) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) offered by the National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Stakeholder comments presented by President-Elect John L. Sherwood, are now online and reprinted here. Additional written input will be provided to the leadership of NIFA later this spring. If you have concerns on the current AFRI RFAs, please share them with the APS Council or members of the APS Public Policy Board

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments at this 2010 Stakeholder Meeting. I am Dr. John Sherwood and serve as the President-Elect of The American Phytopathological Society (APS). Founded in 1908, APS is the premier educational, professional, and scientific society dedicated to the promotion of plant health and plant disease management for the global good. The Society represents nearly 5,000 scientists whose work advances the understanding of the science of plant diseases and its application to plant health. The APS has served as an unbiased resource on plant health for USDA and other Federal agencies for many years. The progress made in plant health programs in the United States through support of research, teaching and extension from Federal, state and private sources has facilitated the sustainability and profitability of America's plant production industries.

As indicated in previously submitted written comments due for this stakeholder meeting before the release of the Requests for Applications (RFAs) for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI), the APS supports many of the broad areas of endeavor covered in the RFAs for AFRI. We fully agree that priorities for the extramural programs of AFRI should include improved opportunities for education and training of undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral students; that food safety research may be enhanced by collaboration between food scientists and plant microbial biologists; that understanding of the biology of plant associated and soil matrix microorganisms is essential; that insight into managing how the needs of society for food and fuel in a changing environment is vital, and that global food security is critical for sustaining society. Future timely releases of RFAs with an appropriate response window will facilitate the development of the best proposals to address these and other issues. The APS also appreciates the desire of the agency to try to have a significant and major impact on societal issues with a constrained budget. The APS has long been a robust proponent of increased funding for competitive programs in USDA, and appreciates the agency trying to provide larger and longer grants.

However, as the RFAs have now come to fruition there are several concerns of the plant health community on the approach the agency is taking in directing the scientific endeavor. Again, the issue is not with the priorities of the agency, but what many of the APS membership feel are missed opportunities to engage and support a breadth of community driven scientific research, education and extension activities. While a goal of the current RFAs may be to provide immediate solutions to current problems, providing sound, viable and sustainable solutions requires a broad base of knowledge resulting from scientific inquiry. There has been a history of excellence in the science of plant health in the approach taken under the previous National Research Initiative Competitive Grants Program (NRI-CGP) in which the scientific community played a significant role in working with the agency to establish priorities that served the goals of the nation in the science of plant health and ensuring that the best science was funded through a rigorous peer review process.

This sentiment is captured in the “Portfolio Annual Report 2009: Plant Systems” released in January of this year in which the NRI-CGP is noted to have “shifted its areas of emphasis over the years and is in alignment with the current state of plant science,” and that “productivity was high” for the programs; along with other supportive comments of the Plant Systems programs. ⍰⍰

Hence, we are not so dismayed that a favorite funding program may have been cut as the community has come to realize that opportunities shift as science moves forward. The plant health community has been a proponent of the agency’s competitive programs investing in the science of genomics, microbial communities, microbial-plant associations, plant biosecurity, and food safety as each of these became priorities. Although sometimes stressful to portions of the plant health community, the scientific community historically has worked with the agency in establishing natural program progressions that permit the community to identify the best creative science to make progress in the foundations of plant health from which solutions follow. The result of this comprehensive interaction is that USDA competitive programs have complemented, not overlapped with, the mission of other Federal agencies. For the breadth of plant health science that supports agriculture and feeds the world, it is important that the USDA competitive programs continue to support a unique core mission that is not and will not be supported in the funding portfolio of other Federal agencies. ⍰⍰

We are concerned that the current AFRI structure discourages the involvement of the plant science community in identifying priorities and facilitating recognition of the best science, and that the discontinuous funding of knowledge areas will impact the broad foundation necessary for sustained growth of the science of plant health. For example, although more than 8,000 species of true fungi cause diseases on plants, in the RFA for this year there is a singular focus on research on diseases caused by the fungal-like Oomycetes. As a group, the true fungi cause more than two-thirds of infectious plant diseases and the most agricultural losses due to disease. All economically important crops are affected by one or more fungal diseases. The RFA seemingly has removed mention of the true fungi which cause a plethora of diseases, and it seems striking that the program direction is no longer aligned with need or importance and overlooks the potential for further leveraging of the significant investment made by the agency in research on true fungi. Without even the potential for competitive funding support, programs addressing these other important issues may not survive in an atmosphere of uncertain funding. ⍰⍰We are concerned that the agency may be limiting the potential to meet the goal of solving the most pressing agricultural problems by directing the scientific approaches that can be used by investigators. For example, is “epigenetic regulation of crop plants” necessarily the best way to enhance water use efficiency? Would the advances that have occurred in genomic sequencing, regulation of transgene expression, and microbial signaling have occurred if the agency had previously predetermined the best way to advance these fields? Had it been left to the funding agencies, support for genomics would not have occurred and we would not have the transformative science that we have today. Peer review panels, feedback from sessions such as this, and discussions with representatives of scientific societies and industry organizations have worked to make significant advances in the plant science that has been supported by the agency. We find that the opportunity for meaningful input necessary for rational program changes was lacking in the current RFAs.

While we are pleased to find a new project for National Loblolly Pine Genome Sequencing under the Sustainable Bioenergy Program, and a National Cereal Germplasm Phenotyping project under Climate Change, they are not inclusive enough to consider other sustainable approaches to bioenergy and opportunities to address climate change or global food security. For example, the Unites States is well-poised to lead an international effort designed to genotypically characterize all animal and plant microbial pathogens and

establish a well-curated genotype library available to the international community. The benefits of genetically characterizing the pathogens of the world will be enormous for global food security and meeting our bioenergy needs. Comparative genomics and bioinformatics will identify the genetic basis of microbial pathogenicity and virulence, and enable rapid development of intelligently designed diagnostics. The cost of characterization will be recovered and dividends compounded over time as disease outbreak interventions become better targeted and effective. ⍰⍰

In closing, the APS appreciates the efforts underway by the agency to raise the visibility of and hopefully associated funding for the plant sciences. We agree with the agency that the recommendations of the National Research Council document, "A New Biology for the 21st Century: Ensuring the United States Leads the Coming Biology Revolution" provides an insightful roadmap for implementing change. However, a significant recommendation from this report, that "the national New Biology Initiative be an interagency effort, that it have a timeline of at least 10 years, and that its funding be in addition to current research budgets" was overlooked in the transformation of competitive programs offered by USDA. As a significant stakeholder in the competitive grants portfolio, APS hopes the agency would stay true to its unique mission in the portfolio of Federal competitive funding so that the scientific community that protects the health of our nation's plant production systems has the resources to undertake the science to achieve that goal, and the agency moves forward in an interagency effort to address issues that will require a significant commitment across the entire Federal funding portfolio. Again, thank you for this time on the agenda.

Upcoming Meetings

2010 Pacific Division Annual Meeting the 2010 annual meeting will be held in junction with the Canadian Phytopathology Society on the campus of the University of British Columbia. June 20-23, 2010. in Vancouver, British Columbia Canada. Jay Pscheidt (pscheidj@science.oregonstate.edu) will be the lead organizer for our division and Tom Forage is the lead organizer for the meeting. When available more information can be found at www.cps-scp.ca/meetings.shtml.

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. See http://oregonstate.edu/conferences/phyllosphere2010/ for more information.