Pacific Division and CPS Hold Joint Meeting in Vancouver

The Pacific Division met jointly with the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS) from June 21 to June 23, 2010, in Vancouver, British Columbia. There were more than 180 attendees at the joint meeting, with symposia covering climate change, genomics, and biological control.

During the evening of June 22, 2010, while enjoying a cruise on the Vancouver Harbor, Ebrahiem M. Babiker, Jeremiah K. Dung, Jessica A. Gigot, and Emily W. Gatch (Washington State University [WSU]) each received a $500 travel award to attend the meeting. Additionally, the following members were recipients of Student Paper Competition awards: Dung (first place), Gigot (second place), and Alejandro Ortega-Beltran (third place). Each member received cash awards of $500, $300, and $200, respectively.

In keeping with the division’s constitution, the 2011 division meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2011 APS-IPPC Joint Meeting in Honolulu, HI, in August. For future meetings, the Executive Committee will be looking to reduce travel and registration costs to further increase participation. For the 2012 and 2013 meetings, the division is planning to use university campuses in order to decrease costs. Potential locations include the University of California-Davis and Oregon State University campuses for 2012 and 2013, respectively.

During the business meeting, several items of business were voted on and passed. A Distinguished Service Award will be created to recognize individuals who have made an outstanding commitment to the division and are at the mid-career stage. Since the division continues to increase reserves, the student travel awards will undergo some changes; the number and amount will be dependent on the meeting location and the yearly membership dues. Up to eight travel awards will be made for each division meeting with the amount dependent on the costs to travel to the meeting. There was some discussion to make the awards a percentage of the cost to attend the meeting, thus encouraging students from across the full range of the division to attend the meeting.

During the meeting Barb Christ (APS president) and Jim Adaskaveg (division councilor) reported on the changes in the APS Council structure and what it will mean for the division (see July 2010 Phytopathology News for details). Basically, APS Council is reduced from 22 to 12 members. Division councilors will be members of the Divisional Forum, of which only one member will be a member of APS Council. This reorganization will require some constitutional changes that will be presented in future newsletters and voted on at a future meeting.

At the end of the meeting, Pacific Division President Walter Mahaffee handed the gavel to Jay Pscheidt. Debra Inglis (WSU) became the new president-elect.

2010 Northeastern Division Meeting

The 2010 meeting of the APS Northeastern Division will be held at the historic Hotel Northampton in Northampton, MA, October 27–29, 2010. Located in the Connecticut River Valley, Northampton is the perfect location to visit with fellow colleagues while enjoying the splendid New England fall foliage. Call for papers and online registration opened in July 2010. More information on the meeting and the formal invitation from Northeastern Division President Norm Lalancette is available on the division’s website at www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/ne.

New APS Divisional Forum Meets for First Time in Charlotte

One of the outcomes of the APS governance restructuring process included the development of a new APS Divisional Forum to promote interactions among APS divisions. The new group, composed of the current six APS Division Councilors and a Divisional Councilor who will serve on APS Council, met in Charlotte for the first time to outline the operations for this new group and begin development of an action plan for the upcoming year. Serving as chair of the Divisional Forum for 2010-2011 will be George Sundin of the North Central Division. David Schmale was selected by this group to serve in the APS Council position for a three-year term. The current councilors on the Divisional Forum include: Jim Adaskaveg (Pacific Division), Tim Brenneman (Southern Division), Wade Elmer (Northeastern Division), Kate Everts (Potomac Division) and Maria Mercedes Roca (Caribbean Division). The group plans to meet regularly to develop mechanisms for increasing collaborative activities, cooperative projects, and enhancing overall representation of the society’s divisions. If you have ideas or suggestions for this new effort, please contact George Sundin at sundin@msu.edu or +1.517.355.4573 with your comments. Updates will be provided in future issues of Phytopathology News.