Plant Health and Security in the Age of Genomics to be Highlighted at 2003 APS Annual Meeting

The 2003 Program Committee, chaired by Gary C. Bergstrom, has assembled an outstanding and diverse scientific program for the APS Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, August 9–13, 2003. This year’s Plenary Session, organized by President Jacque Fletcher, will focus on “Plant Health and Security in the Age of Genomics.” In addition, more than 35 “hot topics” and other special sessions are planned with invited presenters who are leaders in their disciplines, including CAST Charles A. Black Award winner K. L. Heong and World Food Prize Laureate Hans Herren.

Sessions include Animal and Plant Pathogens Shared Strategies; Biodiversity to Counter Bioterrorism; Detection of Plant Pathogens for Biosecurity; Fungicide Mode of Action and Deployment for Resistance Management; International Programs for Crop Protection in Developing Countries: Opportunities for Strategic Alliances; Methods for Plant Pathology Functional Genomics; Moving and Utilizing Plant and Microbial Germplasm: Navigating the New Biosecurity Regulations; The Nature and Application of Biocontrol Microbes: Bacillus spp.; Oak Disease Threats Worldwide; Science and the Legal System: When Worlds Collide; Teachers of Excellence; Techniques for Studying the Ecology of Phyllosphere Microorganisms; Virus Evolution; I.E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium on Novel Approaches to Minimizing the Global Impact of Toxigenic Fungi.

In addition to special sessions, there will also be a full program of contributed oral papers and posters, workshops, tours, exhibits, meetings, socials, and numerous other opportunities for networking with colleagues.

The beautiful queen city of Charlotte is filled with southern hospitality and charm. As the largest city in the Carolinas, Charlotte offers everything you’d expect from a city with the friendliness of a small town. The city boasts a commitment to linking the “new” and “old” South together. No matter what your interests, there is something for you and your family to do in Charlotte.

Mark your calendars—this is a meeting you will want to attend! For regular meeting updates visit www.apsnet.org/meetings/2003. See you in Charlotte!
Public Policy Update

APS Takes Part in National Dialogue on Scientific Openness and National Security

AP President Jacque Fletcher, Oklahoma State University and R. James Cook, Washington State University

A workshop entitled “Scientific Openness and National Security,” was held in Washington, DC, January 9–10, 2003. The brainchild of the American Society of Microbiology the workshop was cosponsored by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) and the Center for Strategic and International Security (CSS). Its goal was to bring bioscience publishers and national security-related agencies together to begin a dialogue about balancing (or integrating) the scientific need for open communication with the nation’s need for added security in the post-9/11 world.

Those in attendance included the editors and publishers of some of the most respected scientific journals, including Nature, Science, Cell, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Biochemistry, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Journal of Virology, Journal of Clinical Microbiology, Infection and Immunity, Journal of Immunology, The Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and Biosecurity and Bitarianism, as well as all 11 ASM journals and selected representatives from the NAS, government agencies, and the security community. Included among the invited participants were APS President Jacque Fletcher, who attended as a representative of APS and its journals, and APS member R. James Cook, who presented one of four case studies on “sensitive information” in the life sciences.

A presidential directive issued by President Ronald Reagan, which is still in effect, provides that fundamental research done with federal funding (e.g., NSF, NIH, USDA) shall be open and the knowledge potentially placed into the public domain unless designated as “classified.” However, current research and technology innovations may be subject to a new information category, described as “sensitive but unclassified.” The problem is that the term “sensitive” has not been precisely defined.

Examples of increased caution in the publication of certain types of scientific information were highlighted during the workshop through several case studies, including one discussed by Cook. Cook reviewed the NRC report, “Countering Agricultural Bioterrorism,” which the USDA requested and funded. Upon prepublication review of this report, there was concern that those wishing to do harm (even though the information was not classified) might misuse some of the information it contained. The NAS ultimately published the report but made one of the chapters (the one considered to contain the most sensitive information) available only as an appendix and only to individuals demonstrating a need to know.

The other three case studies of “sensitive information” were from the medical sciences and included information published in scientific journals on the topics of Variola virus, Polio virus, and Mouse pox virus. Each of these reports could have been withheld from publication but ultimately was published on the basis of a judgment call that the good from placing the information in the public domain far outweighed the risk that someone would use the information to do harm.

Workshop participants agreed that healthy scientific inquiry thrives in an environment of open communication. However, many held the view that the openness of the scientific process in the United States creates vulnerability. John Hamre, president of CSIS, pointed out that although life scientists are used to a tradition, indeed an expectation and responsibility, to publish and provide access to scientific output in their fields, scientists in areas of physics and the nuclear sciences directly or indirectly related to weapons development have been subject to additional regulation for years.

Several workshop speakers observed that since much of the world’s research occurs outside U.S. borders, the development of guidelines for openness in scientific research and communication must be a global process and not just a national effort. For plant pathologists, the recent 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology in Christchurch, New Zealand, presented an opportunity to discuss these issues with colleagues from around the world.
John Marburger, chief of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, acknowledged that the right of scientists to communicate their research findings is part of what the United States is dedicated to protect in its national security practices. Yet he stressed that the safety and security of U.S. citizens must be preserved, and it is our responsibility to look at this issue carefully. He suggested that our traditional guidelines are not working well for issues related to bioterrorism.

This changing reality has not been lost on the scientific community. The past year has seen various responses from authors, editors, and publishers of scientific journals. Among professional societies that have established enhanced measures for identifying potentially damaging papers and have publicly released statements on their positions are the American Society of Microbiology (publisher of 11 journals [www.asmusa.org]), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (publisher of the journal Science [www.sciencemag.org]), and the National Academy of Sciences (publisher of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences [www.pnas.org]).

CSIS President John Hamre, as well as other speakers during the day, proposed that it should be the scientific publishing community rather than the security community that defines the standards and framework for creating new processes designed to protect sensitive information. New policies are likely to be more reasonable, effective, and accepted by the scientific community if they arise from within their own disciplines. He suggested that policies developed by the security community without scientist input may be more stringent, less effective, and more difficult to enforce because they may not be perceived by scientists as reasonable. Nevertheless, we were assured that the security community will act to protect the United States, whether it is guided by scientists or not.

Those in the scientific publishing community had a measured reaction. In general, the feeling was that it was reasonable to reconsider the attention (or lack thereof) given to issues of security and the appropriateness of mass access to certain types of information. At the least, most felt it appropriate to reevaluate their own publishing guidelines, to begin discussion of what information in their fields of science might be considered “sensitive,” and to plan how they might respond if a questionable situation were to arise with one of their own journals. Despite concerns that publishers might be asked to remove methods and materials from certain papers, this measure was not supported by anyone present.

Recently, in its second white paper on agricultural biosecurity, entitled “Crop Biosecurity/Countering Agricultural Bioterrorism: Responses of The American Phytopathological Society” (www.apsnet.org/online/feature/bioterrorism), APS endorsed the long-standing position of the National Academy of Sciences on science versus security matters, expressed as “high walls around very narrow areas.” The question now is how to define these narrow areas in plant pathology. Would they include research involving the exotic pathogens on the APHIS list of pathogens to be regulated? What about details on how to produce a local plant disease epidemic to screen varieties for resistance in the field, or DNA sequences of virulence and pathogenicity genes?

APS has been a leader among the professional scientific societies in the United States in providing information and guidance to the executive and legislative branches of the U.S. government on infrastructure and basic research needs of homeland security as they relate to plant pathology. We are now in a position to provide leadership within the United States and internationally on publication guidelines for information and technologies intended for good but that could be used for harm. The APS Publications Board is currently reviewing the society’s publication policies in the new light of homeland security. While it is unlikely that most plant pathologists will discern any change in the processing of their manuscript submissions, it is important that we stay attuned to, and remain part of, the continuing national discussions on scientific openness.

A summary report of the workshop discussions and the resulting group recommendations will be drafted by Donald Kennedy, editor of Nature, and circulated among discussion participants in the near future. It is anticipated that this report will be published in the newsletters of each of the represented societies or in the journals themselves. In addition, the report will be distributed to members of Congress and to administrators of scientific and security-related agencies within the government. When the report is available, we will publish it in Phytopathology News. In the meantime, if you have questions, concerns, or thoughts to share on this issue, please contact Jacque Fletcher (jaf2394@okstate.edu), Jim Cook (rjcook@wvu.edu), or any member of the APS Publications Board (www.apsnet.org/members/ppb/board.asp).
Whither Plant Pathology?

Margaret Smither-Kopperl, Smither-Kopperl Consulting

The low level of public awareness of plant pathology is of concern to plant pathologists. We feel hurt that our science, which has contributed so much to ensure an ample and safe food supply, should be so little considered or understood. Yet, in light of the history of plant pathology and the atmosphere of unease that is permeating society today, I realize that the situation is reciprocal. As we have ignored the needs of society at large, they have forgotten us. How has this happened? What can we do to ensure the vitality of our science for the future?

At the start of the 20th century three-quarters of the U.S. population lived on farms or in small towns. Although the population at large was not as well educated as today, plant disease was well known as a fact of life and death. The Irish Potato Famine was a recent memory. Crop diseases meant hunger, higher food prices, unemployment, and economic ruin.

The past century saw massive improvements in agricultural productivity. Today, few people in developed countries are directly involved in agriculture, and plant diseases are largely controlled by a combination of disease management strategies and fungicides. Four-fifths of the U.S. population lives in metropolitan areas and is vastly more affluent and better educated. Folk memories of the consequences of plant disease have receded into the past, and the general public is ignorant of plant pathology. School science curricula are so crowded that plant pathology is usually omitted, and social sciences curricula include issues related to public health and the environment but not the importance of a healthy food supply.

As plant pathologists, we are all aware of the contributions made by our scientists to agricultural production and science in general. Our focus has been on efficient food production and increased understanding of the disease process though molecular approaches. Using these criteria we are very successful. However, if we look at the interests of the public, half of whom now live in the suburbs, we cannot claim to be so successful. Environmental issues are of huge concern, both with respect to a healthy food supply and the protection of natural areas. These issues fall within the scope of plant pathology as all plants are subject to disease, yet many crops cannot be efficiently produced without large inputs of pesticides, and our knowledge of disease processes in natural populations is poor or nonexistent. Organic farming is the fastest growing sector of the agricultural economy, yet research into disease development and control in these systems is negligible.

The recent problems relating to citrus canker illustrate the divide that has emerged between plant pathologists and the general public. Surely we can understand the concerns of homeowners who want to retain beloved citrus trees, and who may ask, “Why is there no cure for my trees?” The fact that good science was used to show that their trees must be cut down is not much of a comfort to them. It demonstrates how firmly plant pathology is rooted within the agricultural-industrial complex. We need to remain rooted there, as that is where the bulk of our food is produced; yet we also must spread our research net more widely.

As to the future, the major plant diseases are still with us. For instance, potato blight caused severe losses to the potato crop in Russia in 2002. Will we be able to maintain control of plant diseases as fungicides are withdrawn due to increased regulation, or become ineffective due to disease resistance? Molecular research is held up as the great hope for the future, but is this really the case? The crops that have made it to market thus far, such as Roundup Ready soybeans and Bt cotton, demonstrate that the main criterion for development as a marketable product is profit potential for the agrochemical companies. Increased activism and unease among the public against biotechnology and genetic engineering may decrease implementation.

We need to ask fundamental questions about the role of plant pathology at the beginning of the 21st century. Our science developed in response to desperate problems. Do we provide the best service that we can for society today? Global issues are important for all of us. The importance of public health is becoming recognized as a requirement for development of society, so surely crop health is of equal importance? We must remember our motto, “Healthy Plants, Healthy World,” and ask if we are doing all we can to make this a reality.
Notes from the APS North Central Division

Anne Dorrance, The Ohio State University

The APS North Central Division held its annual meeting in conjunction with the APS Annual Meeting in Milwaukee, WI, July 27–29, 2002. The graduate student paper and poster competition was challenging to judge due to the high quality of all of the posters and oral presentations, as well as the myriad activities to participate in at the annual meeting. The first place award for oral presentation was presented to Mary E. Lee, University of Wisconsin, for “Impact of Soybean Canopy on Aphid Immigration and Soybean mosaic virus Incidence.” Her major professor is C. R. Grau. The first place award for poster presentation was given to Leonor Leandro, Iowa State University, “Effects of Strawberry Plant Extracts on Conidiation and Appressorial Production by Colletotrichum acutatum,” with coauthors M. L. Gleason, S. N. Wegulo, and F. W. Nutter, Jr. There was a tie for the second place award for poster presentation, which was given to Jean Batzer, “Discrete Speck, A Putative Newly Discovered Fungus in the Sooty Blotch and Flyspeck Complex on Apples,” coauthors M. L. Gleason and L. H. Tiffany, Iowa State University, and Brooke Edmunds for her presentation, “Evaluation of Mulch Type and Placement for Management of Crown Rot of Hosta,” with coauthors M. L. Gleason and S. N. Wegulo, Iowa State University. Prizes awarded were $200 for first place and $100 for second place. In addition, 10 graduate students received travel funds ($150 each) from the North Central Division to attend the APS meeting this year (pictured above).

Newly elected North Central Division Officers include Ray Hammerschmidt, president; Craig Grau, past president; Jenny Juzwik, president-elect; Anne Dorrance, secretary-treasurer; and Ray Martyn, division councilor. Another member of the North Central Division, Mike Ellis, The Ohio State University, was elected by the APS membership as councilor-at-large. The next division meeting will be held in East Lansing, MI, June 25–27, 2003.

Outreach

New Agricultural Biotechnology Publication Available

If you are looking for a thoughtful, balanced publication that answers fundamental questions about why genetically engineered food crops are developed, whether they are safe for humans and the environment, and how they affect the global food system, download a copy of “Agricultural Biotechnology: Informing the Dialogue,” the newest publication from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station and Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS).

The 28-page, color brochure covers 14 broad subject areas with text, photos, and illustrations. The publication is part of CALS’ ongoing effort to inform the public about controversial issues. A committee on agricultural biotechnology appointed by Dean Henry developed the brochure over a period of three years. The publication was written by Anthony Shelton, professor of entomology, with assistance from Cornell professors with particular expertise: rural sociologist Tom Lyon, science communication specialist Bruce Lewenstein, educator Janet Hawkes, animal scientist Dale Bauman, and plant pathologist Herb Aldwinckle. Comments by focus groups in plant breeding and other players on the national ag biotech field were incorporated into the final publication.

These efforts and other information about agricultural biotechnology can be viewed at www.nysaes.cornell.edu/agbiotech.

First Call for Papers for the APS Pacific Division Annual Meeting

The APS Pacific Division is delighted to invite everyone to participate in the 2003 Annual Meeting, June 22–25, at King Kamehameha’s Kona Beach Hotel, in Kailua-Kona, on the Big Island of Hawaii. Participants will meet and discuss topics of current interest and importance for plant pathology in the Pacific region. Oral paper presentations and a mini-symposium entitled “Plant Pathology in Tropical Agriculture” with top researchers from Hawaii will be featured. There will be a field trip to learn about agriculture and aquaculture in the Kona district including visits to a weed biocontrol test site, cacao field and chocolate factory, coffee farm, and vanilla and orchid nurseries. An outdoor Hawaiian Luau feast for all participants and their families will be a highlight of the meeting.

Abstracts are due by April 22, 2003. Forms are available at www.apsnet.org/meetings/div/instruct.asp. Be sure to read the guidelines for abstract submission carefully. Submit abstracts to: Peter Bristow, secretary-treasurer, APS Pacific Division, WSU-Puyallup, REC, 7612 Pioneer Way E., Puyallup, WA 98371-4998. Please send $45 payment as check, money order or bank draft payable to The American Phytopathological Society Pacific Division.

For further information about the meeting program, please contact Heather Scheck, president-elect, APS Pacific Division, at hscheck@co.santa-barbara.ca.us or by phone +1.805.681.5600.
First International Workshop on Morphological and Molecular Identification of Fungi and Stramenopiles Associated with Seeds

Forty-three scientists from Mexico, Cuba, and Peru participated in the “First International Workshop on Morphological and Molecular Identification of Fungi and Stramenopiles Associated with Seeds” held August 26–30, 2002, at the Colegio de Postgraduados (CPG) and Universidad Autonoma de Chapingo (UACH) in Mexico. The event was supported by the Mexican Academy of Sciences and the Science Foundation Mexico-USA. Hilda Silva from CPG and Ernestina Valadez from UACH were the organizers.

Gloria Abad, Plant Pathogen Identification Laboratory (PPIL), Department of Plant Pathology-NCSU; Jorge Abad, Department of Plant Pathology-NCSU; Ernestina Valadez; and Hilda Silva were instructors. PPIL, a service center at the Department of Plant Pathology-North Carolina State University for research and extension programs (http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/ent/ppil/lab.html), provided educational materials and pictorial keys for identification of several fungi and stramenopiles.

Conventional and modern technologies used for the identification of fungi and stramenopiles were presented, with emphasis on morphological identification of the genera Phytophthora, Pythium, Fusarium, Rhizoctonia, and Colletotrichum to species, subspecies, and AG levels (by Gloria Abad). Through dynamic presentations and hands-on laboratory work, participants learned techniques for DNA extraction, PCR amplification, DNA fingerprinting, and ribosomal and mitochondrial DNA detection. Construction of phenetic and phylogenetic dendograms was discussed, and students generated phylogentic trees with their samples and sequences downloaded from the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) (under the direction of Jorge Abad).

PPIL is working to promote and strengthen international collaboration in the area of fungus and stramenopile identification through the creation of the Plant Pathogen Identification Collaboratory, a laboratory without walls. Both institutions, CPG and UACH, are participating in this effort, along with other institutions in Colombia, Bolivia, and Peru.

Forest Pathology Workshop Offered in North Carolina

Come to the Highlands Biological Station in North Carolina, August 4–16, 2003, for two weeks of hands-on forest pathology. Study the ecology, epidemiology, physiology, taxonomy, transmission and dissemination mechanisms, and associated pests of forest pathogens in a rich and diverse community of forest tree species and woody shrubs. See dogwood anthracnose, beech bark disease, conifer rusts, and chestnut blight. Study Phytophthora and discuss the potential impact of P. ramorum on the eastern forest system, wood decay fungi, forest nematodes, and more. The Highlands Station is located in the Blue Ridge Mountains near Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Field trips throughout the southern mountain range will accompany laboratory and lecture sessions. Participants will learn to establish field impact plots and to determine the extent of damage and disease progression associated with biotic and abiotic problems using GPS. The workshop fee is $600 and includes tuition for the two-week course, housing, handouts, laboratory supplies, and transportation during the course. Graduate credit is available. Space is limited to 12 participants. For more detailed information, including a list of instructors, contact Rich Baird, Mississippi State University, RBaird@PSS.MSState.Edue or visit http://www.mssstate.edu/courses/th131/forest.path/.

Veneman Appoints Sequeira to Newly Established Task Force

Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman recently announced the appointment of eight members to the Research, Education and Economics Task Force. APS member, Luis Sequeira, professor emeritus, Departments of Bacteriology and Plant Pathology, University of Wisconsin, will serve on the task force. The 2002 Farm Bill, signed by President Bush last May, created the task force to conduct a review of the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and to evaluate the merits of establishing one or more National Institutes focused on disciplines important to the progress of food and agricultural science.

“Research continues to play an important role in all aspects of the food system,” said Veneman. “This task force will provide critical input as we strengthen USDA’s ability to address key scientific research issues for food and agriculture.”

In September 2001, the Bush Administration released a publication, “Food and Agricultural Policy: Taking Stock for the New Century,” calling for the examination of ways to strengthen research activities within USDA and ensure research initiatives are meeting the critical demands and priority needs of today and the future. The National Academy of Sciences recently released a report, “Frontiers in Agricultural Research,” that agreed with the administration’s assessment of the future direction of agricultural research.

The task force is required to report its findings to the House and Senate committees on Agriculture and to Veneman no later than May 2003.
Rafael M. Jiménez-Díaz, professor of plant pathology at the Institute of Sustainable Agriculture-CSIC, College of Agriculture, University of Córdoba, Spain, is a recipient of the Rey Jaime I Award in the Protection of Nature for 2002. This is one of the most prestigious awards conferred in recognition of achievements in a research career in Spain. The award was established by the Foundation of Advanced Studies of the Regional Government of Valencia in 1995, and it is conferred annually by an international committee of 10 members that includes four Nobel Prize winners in medicine, chemistry, and physics. The 2002 award was presented by King Juan Carlos I of Spain during a ceremony held in Valencia on October 29, 2002. This is the first time that the Rey Jaime I Award has been conferred on a plant pathologist. Jiménez-Díaz, a graduate from the Polytechnic University of Madrid and Cornell University, was recognized for “His research activities and dedication to promote sustainable agriculture and protection of the environment by developing innovative, efficient and environmentally friendly strategies for the integrated management of plant diseases affecting crops of significance to Spanish agriculture.” Most of Jiménez-Díaz’s research deals with the integrated management of Fusarium and Verticillium wilt diseases. During his professional career, Jiménez-Díaz served as president of the Spanish Society of Phytopathology and vice president of the Mediterranean Phytopathological Society. He has also held positions as vice president for research at the University of Córdoba, national coordinator for agricultural research of the Council for Scientific Research of Spain (CSIC), and director of the Institute of Agronomy and Plant Protection of CSIC (now renamed Institute of Sustainable Agriculture). Jiménez-Díaz was elected a Fellow of The American Phytopathological Society in 1999.

Five undergraduate students, from left Bianca Rowlett, Sarah Doege, Alisha Sanny, Traven Bentley, and Indu Ramachandran, each received a $5,800 Adair or Bollenbacher Summer Internship Scholarship in 2002 from the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. The scholarship pays qualified junior or senior undergraduate students, or recent graduates, studying biology, plant science, microbiology, molecular biology, or agricultural science to conduct an independent summer research project supervised by faculty in the department. The program is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students interested in obtaining some hands-on research experience prior to pursuing graduate studies. For more information about this program, visit http://www.uark.edu/depts/plntpath/Undergrad.html.
The ARO Volcani Center seeks candidates for a position in research on diseases of fruit trees. Define and identify the problems in cooperation with other researchers, extension services, and local research centers. Prepare and submit research proposals for competitive grants, local and international, including cooperation with other researchers, required. Actively initiate research to be conducted in cooperation with other scientists in Israel and abroad. Report research results for supported grants and publish results via professional meetings and in scientific journals. Actively participate in local and international professional meetings and functions. Membership in professional societies. The candidate should be an Israeli citizen; hold a Ph.D. degree in agriculture or plant science, postdoctorate; have knowledge of and experience in control of plant diseases (preferably fungi) in fruit trees, vegetables, or other crops; have knowledge of and experience in plant pathology research: diagnostics, general biology, molecular biology, or anatomy, physiology, and biochemical aspects of plants at the whole plant level; reside in the vicinity of Bet-Dagan, ARO site (approximately 20 km distance). Candidates will be evaluated for this position by a special committee.

Classified Placement Policy
You can process your job listing directly through the newly expanded APS online job placement service at www.apsnet.org. Select “Careers and Placement” from the menu on the left, then select “Post a Job.” Your posting will go live within 3-5 business days and will remain on the website for up to three months or until a listed closing date, at which point it will drop off the listing. Fees for posting online are $25 member/$50 nonmember for graduate or post-doc positions and $200 member/$250 nonmember for all other positions. To publish in Phytopathology News, as well as online, there is an additional $30 fee. Jobs will print in the next available issue after posting.

Phytopathology News only ad costs: If you do not wish to utilize the online placement service the charge for a standard format classified listing (one-column width) is $70 per inch (approximately 24 cents a character). The charge for a display classified ad (with logo, border or other artwork) is $100 per column inch. These listings will not be posted on the website. Materials must be received on the first day of the month prior to the requested month of publication. Deadline for submitting ads for the May 2003 issue is April 1, 2003. Send your listing to the APS Placement Coordinator, 3340 Pilot Knob Road, St. Paul, MN 55121-2097, fax to +1.651.454.0766 or e-mail to apsplacement@scisoc.org.

Plant Protection
The ARO Volcani Center seeks candidates for a position in research on diseases of fruit trees. Define and identify the problems in cooperation with other researchers, extension services, and local research centers. Prepare and submit research proposals for competitive grants, local and international, including cooperation with other researchers, required. Actively initiate research to be conducted in cooperation with other scientists in Israel and abroad. Report research results for supported grants and publish results via professional meetings and in scientific journals. Actively participate in local and international professional meetings and functions. Membership in professional societies. The candidate should be an Israeli citizen; hold a Ph.D. degree in agriculture or plant science, postdoctorate; have knowledge of and experience in control of plant diseases (preferably fungi) in fruit trees, vegetables, or other crops; have knowledge of and experience in plant pathology research: diagnostics, general biology, molecular biology, or anatomy, physiology, and biochemical aspects of plants at the whole plant level; reside in the vicinity of Bet-Dagan, ARO site (approximately 20 km distance). Candidates will be evaluated for this position by a special committee.
There will be a trial period for the chosen candidate, during which the candidate will be supervised by a special committee. The final decision for tenure will be granted by the professional committee of the ARO. Closing Date: May 1, 2003 (This closing date is not adjustable.) Candidates are requested to send CV with letter of intent, list of publications, recommendation letters (doctorate supervisor, postdoctorate, and other places of work).
Contact: Dr. Yepheth Ben-Yepheth, Plant Protection Director, Volcani Center, Bet-Dagan, Israel 50250. E-mail: yephet@volcani.agri.gov.il. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?308.

Research Support Specialist
Cornell University—Long Island Horticultural Research & Extension Center has a 1-year position, available immediately, that may continue for additional years if grant funding continues. The main function is to support interdisciplinary study of root health in flower crops grown in greenhouses, with emphasis on plant diseases. Responsibilities will include: developing and carrying out sampling protocols for Pythium and Phytophthora; traveling to cooperating greenhouses; diagnosing root disease; preparing culture media; isolating oomycetes from roots, fungus gnats, benches, floors, and fertilizer solution holding tanks; identifying Pythium and Phytophthora to species; assessing pathogenicity and fungicide sensitivity of isolates; maintaining a culture collection; designing experiments; conducting literature searches and communicating with other researchers; performing statistical analysis of data; and reporting results in scientific literature and trade press. A M.S. degree in plant pathology, mycology, microbiology, or floriculture required. Should be experienced in microbiological lab techniques and greenhouse research, data analysis, and manuscript preparation. Competence in writing and computer skills is required. A valid New York State driver's license is necessary. The individual must function fairly independently and be able to present results at grower and professional meetings. (www.cornell.edu) Salary: $42,000 per year. Send letter of application and resume, list of pertinent courses, and full contact information for three references. Contact: Margery Daughtry, Cornell University – LI Hort Res & Ext Ctr, 3059 Sound Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901. U.S.A. Fax: +1.631.727.3611; E-mail: mld9@cornell.edu; Phone: +1.631.727.3595. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?310.

Distinguished Doctoral Fellowships
Distinguished Doctoral Fellowships ($30,000/year) are now available in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Arkansas for highly qualified students. Part of this support is made available from the recent Walton Endowment. Students interested in pursuing a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology or molecular biology are encouraged to apply. For more information about this fellowship, or other attractive graduate and undergraduate financial opportunities, visit www.uark.edu/depts/phpath/ Contact: Dr. Sung Lim. Phone: +1.479.575.2445; E-mail: smlim@uark.edu. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?316.

Professor and Head
Penn State University is inviting applications from individuals with outstanding leadership qualities for the position of professor and head, Department of Horticulture. Qualified candidates for this 12-month position will have an earned Ph.D. degree in horticulture or a related plant science discipline and will have demonstrated strong administrative leadership skills. Academic or professional experience in horticulture or a related plant science is expected, as is in-depth knowledge of university teaching, research, and extension functions. The department head reports to the dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences and has responsibility for maintaining and enhancing the growth of programs in resident instruction, research, and extension, as well as administrative responsibility for academic affairs, personnel, finances, and facilities. Additional responsibilities include strengthening relationships with other departments, horticultural industries, alumni, government, and other public and private clientele, and pursuing funding sources for departmental programs. (www.psru.edu) Salary: Salary is commensurate with background and experience. An attractive benefits package is available. Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce. Applicants should submit a letter of application, a resume (with documentation of teaching, research, extension, administrative, and leadership experience), a statement of leadership and administrative philosophy and vision, and the names and addresses of five professional references. Contact: Dan T. Stearns, The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Horticulture, 103 Tyson Building, Pos #: C-14719, University Park, PA 16802 U.S.A. Fax: +1.814.863.6139; Phone: +1.814.865.2571. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?317.

Director, Purdue Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center
The School of Agriculture, Purdue University has an opportunity to coordinate the designing, planning, marketing, promotion, and execution of the Purdue Crop Diagnostic Training and Research Center. Serve as a liaison between Indiana’s agricultural sector and university crop production programs and staff to identify, promote, and implement appropriate adult continuing education. Strong interpersonal skills are essential for this position. The director coordinates and supervises the establishment of field demonstrations for use in the educational activities at the center; engages faculty and staff educators; supervises an assistant director, hourly employees, and graduate students in the preparation, maintenance, and operation of the center and other continuing education programs. Responsibilities include preparation of annual budgets for the center, marketing training sessions, developing memoranda of agreement with clientele, and coordinating specialized field and classroom educational opportunities with industries and universities from other states. The director may assist with teaching academic courses related to the strengths and uniqueness of the center as a training facility. Other responsibilities include revising and marketing the Corn and Soybean Field Guide and the Forage Crops Field Guide, as well as participating in other extension education activities of the School of Agriculture. A M.S. or Ph.D. (or equivalent experience) degree in agronomy, entomology, plant pathology, weed science, or related discipline required. Candidates must have strong interpersonal skills, be familiar with the educational needs of professional adults, and have experience in developing and presenting effective adult education programs for a diverse private, public, and government audience, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and experience in coordination of diverse activities and supervision of students and staff. Knowledge of crop production and protection practices, field research techniques, electronic educational delivery systems, and teaching techniques suitable for nontraditional learners are essential. Applicants should have experience in establishing field plots and diagnostic problem solving. (www.agry.purdue.edu) Salary: Commensurate with education and experience. Closing Date: March 7, 2003 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Send a letter of application containing your philosophy or conceptual approach to professional adult education, resume, transcripts, and names, addresses, and telephone numbers for three references. Contact: Dr. Keith Johnson, Department of Agronomy, Purdue University, 915 West State Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2054 U.S.A. Fax: +1.765.496.2926; E-mail: johnsonk@purdue.edu; Phone: +1.765.494.4773. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?319.

Weeds/Plant Pathology/Pest Management
The Department of Plant and Animal Sciences in the College of Biology and Agriculture of Brigham Young University is seeking to fill a full-time, tenure-track facul-

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Assistant Professor, Microbial Ecologist/Phytobacteriologist

The Biological Sciences Department, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor position, microbial ecologist/phytobacteriologist beginning September 2003. Candidates must have a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology or related field with appropriate education and experience. The candidate must possess a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and research. Teaching responsibilities will be required of all finalists. (http://ag.tastate.edu/departments.asp)

Closing Date: Initial review of applications will begin March 10, 2003, and will continue until the position is filled. Materials submitted by the candidate will be available for examination by all tenured and probationary faculty of the department. Official transcripts will be required of all finalists.

Contact: Dr. John K. Chan, Chair of Search Committee, California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Biological Sciences Department, 3801 W. Temple Ave., Pomona, CA 91768 U.S.A. Fax: +1.909.869.4078; E-mail: jkchan@csupomona.edu; Phone: +1.909.869.4086. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?322.

Research Plant Pathologist

The Agricultural Research Service's, U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Arboretum, Floral and Nursery Plants Research Unit, in Beltsville, MD, is seeking a permanent Research Plant Pathologist, GS-11/12, to conduct research on soilborne diseases of floral and nursery crops leading to development of alternatives to methyl bromide in the production of ornamental plants. U.S. citizenship is required. USDA is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. Applicants are required to submit a letter of application, including teaching philosophy, research interests and plans, curriculum vitae, three current letters of recommendation, and names and contact information for two additional references.

Closing Date: Initial review of applications will begin March 10, 2003, and will continue until the position is filled. Materials submitted by the candidate will be available for examination by all tenured and probationary faculty of the department. Official transcripts will be required of all finalists.

Contact: Dr. Charlotte Bronson, Chair, Department of Plant Pathology, 351 Bessey Hall, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011-1020. Questions may be addressed to charris@iastate.edu or +1.515.294.1741. For more information visit: www.apsnet.org/careers/positions.asp?325.
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Phytopathology News
www.phytopathologynews.org
Calendar of Events

APS Sponsored Events

March 2003
16-19 — Potomac Division with Eastern Branch of Entomological Society of America. Harrisburg, PA.

April 2003
6-11 — 43rd Meeting of the APS Caribbean Division, 80th Meeting of the APS Southern Division, and 12th Meeting of the Latin American Association of Plant Pathology and the XXX Annual Meeting of the Mexican Society for Plant Pathology. South Padre Island, TX. http://firstone.tamu.edu/bp2003.htm

June 2003
22-25 — APS Pacific Division Meeting. King Kamehameha Hotel, Kailua, Kona, Hawaii.

25-27 — APS North Central Division Meeting. East Lansing, MI.

August 2003

26-28 — 49th Conference on Control of Soil Fungi. Sacramento, CA. Contact Doug Gubler <wdgubler@ucdavis.edu> or phone +1.530.752.0304

26-28 — North American Cereal Rust Workshop. University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN. Contact James Kolmer <jkolmer@umn.edu> or phone +1.612.626.1226

April 2003
8-10 — Fourth National Integrated Pest Management Symposium/Workshop. Indianapolis, IN. www.conted.uiuc.edu/ipm


May 2003


25-59 — Plant and Microbe Adaptations to Cold. Quebec City, Quebec, Canada. www.pmac2003.org

June 2003
2-7 — First International ISHS Conference on Turfgrass Management and Science for Sport Fields. Convener Panayiotis A. Nektarios <pan@aua.gr>


July 2003
6-11 — XVth International Plant Protection Congress. Beijing, China. www.ipmchina.net/ippc/


21-25 — 19th International Symposium on Virus and Virus-like Diseases of Temperate. Valencia, Spain. Contact Gerardo Llacer <fv2003@ivia.es>

Other Upcoming Events

Phytopathology

The American Phytopathological Society
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United States of America

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