New Disease Management Reports Added to *PDMR*

Fifty new efficacy trials for chemical and nonchemical means of plant disease control have been added to *Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR)*, Volume 1, for a total of 571 reports. Access to the reports, as well as to thousands of reports from past *B&c Tests* and *F&N Tests* volumes, is available to subscribers and partners of the Plant Management Network. Subscription information is available online.

Watch for Highlights of the APS/SON Joint Meeting

The October 2007 issue of *Phytopathology News* will include photos and updates on activities held during the APS/SON Joint Meeting in San Diego.

APS Centennial Historical Timeline

Do you realize that physiological races of rust were first described 90 years ago? Do you remember when *hrp* genes were discovered? What were the key discoveries that made possible the research you are doing today? As our society approaches its 100th birthday, many members are taking time to remember the historical events that have helped to shape APS and the progress made in plant pathology. The Centennial Planning Committee has been hard at work to develop ideas and special features for display or presentation at the 2008 meeting. One project is the construction of a timeline to highlight major discoveries, pioneers, and events; chronicle epidemics in the United States over the past 100 years; and summarize major events in the evolution of APS.

Look for this display at the 2008 APS Centennial Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. It will provide a sense of pride and accomplishment for all society members and be especially informative for younger members and students, providing a unique perspective on the impact of APS and its members on plant pathology. This project is already underway, but we are welcoming new volunteers to help with the construction of the timeline. If you are interested in contributing to the content or reviewing the collection of information as it develops, please contact Kurt Schroeder (kschroeder@wsu.edu). Make sure that your research ancestors and discoveries are represented on the timeline. Visit the APS Centennial website (www.apsnet.org/centennial) for a preview of the timeline and give us your input.

APS Awards Call for Nominations

The call is now being made for APS and APS-sponsored award nominations for the 2008 APS Centennial Meeting. Nominators are referred to the following guidelines, which include a few revisions. Updated nominations should be modified to meet revised guidelines.

Nominations for the Award of Distinction, Fellow, Ruth Allen Award, Noel T. Keen Award for Research in Molecular Plant Pathology, Excellence in Extension Award, Excellence in Industry Award, Excellence in Teaching Award, International Service Award, Lee M. Hutchins Award, Syngenta Award, and William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award should be postmarked on or before November 1, 2007, according to the following procedures. Visit www.apsnet.org/members/awards/ for a description of each award and a list of previous winners.

Nominations should be made following the General Instructions below. All nominations for named awards are considered for 3 years, with the exception of the Lee M. Hutchins and Hewitt awards, which stand for only 1 year. Multiple letters of support should not be provided for a candidate’s nomination. If a nomination is not successful in the first year, the nominator is encouraged to update the nomination. A gap of 3 years between the last year of consideration and renomination is recommended. The Awards and Honors Committee may decide not to make a named award in years without suitable nominations. Deceased members are not eligible for any APS award if they died before nomination.

Nominations should be made following the General Instructions below. All nominations for named awards are considered for 3 years, with the exception of the Lee M. Hutchins and Hewitt awards, which stand for only 1 year. Multiple letters of support should not be provided for a candidate’s nomination. If a nomination is not successful in the first year, the nominator is encouraged to update the nomination. A gap of 3 years between the last year of consideration and renomination is recommended. The Awards and Honors Committee may decide not to make a named award in years without suitable nominations. Deceased members are not eligible for any APS award if they died before nomination.

Fellows are now eligible to be nominated for awards of excellence in an area of accomplishment different from that on which the Fellow was based, provided that the new accomplishment has occurred after recognition as a Fellow. A period of 5 years should elapse between recognition as a Fellow and nomination for an award of excellence. The nominator of a Fellow for an award of excellence should specify how the contributions in the current nomination differ from those on which the Fellow nomination was based originally.

*APS Awards Call for Nominations continued on page 114*
APS Awards Call for Nominations continued from page 113

General Instructions
Each member of the society may nominate one candidate a year for each of the above awards. Nominations should address the activities most relevant to the award, with a clear statement of the impact the nominee has had in his/her specific area of expertise. The nomination should include the following supporting material.

1. A cover letter with the candidate’s name and the award for which the nomination is made. The letter (not to exceed one page) may provide additional insight into the significance of the contributions that is not given in the nomination statement.

2. A nomination statement not to exceed 1,000 words that highlights the contributions of the candidate and includes the candidate's name, place of birth, and institutions, with degrees and years granted, as well as current position. The statement should be focused and succinct, and document the relevancy and impact of the candidate’s contributions to the advancement of science and plant pathology. See examples of citations for previous award recipients available online at www.apsnet.org/members/awards/pastlist.asp.

3. A 250-word abstract of the nomination statement to be read at the Awards Ceremony.

4. A curriculum vitae, not to exceed two pages.

5. A complete list of publications. The list should be separated into the following categories, with most recent publications first. Abstracts and manuscripts not yet accepted should NOT be included.
   a. Refereed journal articles
   b. Extension publications
   c. Books, reviews, and book chapters
   d. Technical publications (e.g., monographs, reports, symposium papers, proceedings, etc.)
   e. Popular publications
   f. Invited presentations

Submission of Nominations
Nominations should be submitted as ONE (1) portable document file (PDF file) saved as last name, initial of first name (example: SmithT_nomination.pdf). Each page should have the name of the nominee included in the page header. The following sections should be included in order within the file.

• Cover letter
  • Nomination statement
  • Abstract
  • Curricula vitae
  • Publication list

The nomination PDF should be e-mailed to APS Staff Coordinator Linda Schmitt (lschmitt@scisoc.org) by November 1, 2007. Please include “APS award nomination” in the subject line of the e-mail. The nomination will be acknowledged by reply e-mail within 5–7 days. If acknowledgment is not received, please call Linda Schmitt at +1.651.994.3828.

Those who receive awards will be notified by the APS President by March 14, 2008.

Closing Date
Nominations are due by November 1, 2007.

Committee Members
(Do not e-mail nominations directly to committee members. Nominations must be received at APS Headquarters for forwarding to committee members.)

2007–2008 Awards and Honors Committee

Robert Seem, Chair
Cornell University
Geneva, NY

Christopher L. Schardl, Vice Chair
University of Kentucky
Lexington, KY

Carol E. Windels, Immediate Past Chair
University of Minnesota
Crookston, MN

Bryce Falk
University of California
Davis, CA

Marcia P. McMullen
North Dakota State University
Fargo, ND

L. W. Timmer
University of Florida
Lake Alfred, FL

David M. Weller
Washington State University
Pullman, WA
Public Policy Update

Authorization of Movement of Plant Pathogens by Regulation

Michael J. Firko, Ph.D., Director, Permits, Registrations, Imports and Manuals; United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine, Michael.J.Firko@usda.gov

The USDA's authority to issue permits for importation and interstate movement of plant pests—including plant pathogens—was granted originally in the Federal Plant Pest Act (FPFA) of 1957. When FPFA was superseded by the Plant Protection Act of 2000 (Title IV of the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000), the United States Congress and the President recodified—using essentially the same language as in the 1957 FPFA—the USDA's authority to issue permits. But with the PPA, Congress introduced a new concept, the USDA's authority to list in the regulations plant pathogens (and other plant pests) that do not require a permit for movement. In Section 411 of Subtitle A, Congress describes the approach: “Authorization of Movement of Plant Pests by Regulation.” To remove the permit requirement for specific plant pathogens, the USDA must list those pathogens in the regulations. The process would proceed according to the Administrative Procedures Act, whereby the USDA 1) publishes a “Proposed Rule” proposing to remove the permit requirement for specific plant pathogens, 2) requests comments from interested stakeholders, 3) opens a comment period, 4) receives and reviews comments, and then 5) makes decisions based on comments received whether to proceed with the proposed regulatory changes. Should the USDA decide to proceed with removing the permit requirement for some or all of the proposed organisms, a “Final Rule” would be published, including responses to comments received and a description of any new regulatory requirements. As specified by Congress, the USDA either can take the initiative (i.e., without a specific request) by proposing to remove the permit requirement or can respond to petitions from “any person.”

In order to remove the requirement for a permit, the USDA will need to document the scientific and regulatory justifications for why specific plant pathogens can be moved safely without a permit. Justification will be based on the biology (including current distribution) and risks to plant health of unregulated movement. Petitioners requesting removing the permit requirement for specific plant pathogens can facilitate the process by providing scientific and risk information to the USDA. Should anyone want to propose removing the permit requirement for a specific plant pathogen, the listing of needed scientific and risk-based information can be obtained from the PPQ permit unit (see contact below).

I invite any interested person to consider how the USDA's statutory authority to remove permit requirements may facilitate their research or other activities and to submit petitions or supporting scientific information. Petitions and supporting information can be delivered directly to me or to other PPQ-PRIM officials at: USDA-APHIS-PPQ, Permits, Registrations, Imports and Manuals, 4700 River Road, Unit 133, Riverdale, MD 20737.

People

Kathy Munkvold
Kathy Munkvold received a Ph.D. degree in January 2007 from the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University under the direction of Alan Collmer. The title of her thesis was “Characterization of the conserved Pseudomonas syringae pv. tomato DC3000 effector protein, HopAA1-1.” She discovered that HopAA1-1 acts in a domain-specific manner to kill both yeast and plant cells and that 25% of the effectors in the DC3000 effector repertoire appear to affect broadly conserved eukaryotic cellular processes as indicated by toxic effects when expressed in yeast. Munkvold is currently a post-doctoral scientist in the laboratory of Gregory Martin at The Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, where she is studying plant targets of the DC3000 effector AvrPtoB.

Grace O’Keefe
Grace O’Keefe was named the USDA, APHIS, PPQ domestic identifier for the eastern region in December 2006. Her laboratory is located in University Park, PA, where she has established a cooperative working relationship with the Penn State Department of Plant Pathology. The plant pathologist domestic identifier positions provide diagnostic support to Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) programs within the USDA, Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) unit. The primary role of the domestic identifier is to help states diagnose their CAPS samples. In addition, this year her lab at Penn State has been designated to receive suspect potato cyst nematode (PCN) samples from the eastern region states participating in the PCN National Survey. O’Keefe began her career as a horticulturist with the New Jersey Department of Agriculture in 1979 and has held positions with the Georgia and Maine departments of agriculture. Most recently, she was state plant pathologist for the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Throughout her career, she has collaborated with the USDA, APHIS, PPQ, and other federal and state agencies on a variety of issues. O’Keefe is a graduate of Rutgers University.

The Penn State Department of Plant Pathology hosted a Plant Biosecurity Short Course and Tour for members of the urban forestry program at Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA, during May 2007. Southern University faculty members Dan Collins, Zhu H. Ning, Kamron K. Abdollahi, and Andra D. Johnson and graduate students Thomas Nyatassa, Legiandenyi, Jason Preuett, Kathy Johnson, Vanessa Ferchaud, and Christopher Chappell attended the short course, which included presentations and field trips at the University Park campus, a tour of the Penn State Fruit Research and Extension Center at Biglerville, and a tour of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture in Harrisburg with Seong-Hwan Kim and Ruth Welliver. The group also spent a day at the USDA-ARS Foreign Disease and Weed Research Lab in Ft. Detrick, MD, hosted by Doug Luster. The program was sponsored through a USDA CSREES 1890 Capacity Building Grant awarded to Southern University that is designed to enhance M.S. and Ph.D. programs in urban forestry at that institution through plant biosecurity training. Fred Gildow organized the program at Penn State with assistance from faculty and staff in the Plant Pathology Department.

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People continued on page 116
Vihanga Pahalawatta recently received her Ph.D. degree from the Plant Pathology Department at Washington State University. Her thesis research was on biological and molecular studies on *Dahliea mosaic virus* and was conducted under the guidance of H. R. Pappu. Pahalawatta will be returning to Sri Lanka to resume her position as a lecturer in the Department of Botany at the University of Kelaniya.

Leigh Ann Harrison, Ph.D. student in the Department of Plant Pathology at Washington State University (WSU), has been awarded a $5,000 fellowship from the Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation in support of her thesis research on Fusarium wilt in spinach seed production. The award also covered the cost of airfare for Harrison to attend the 2007 APS/Son Joint Meeting in San Diego, CA. A major aim of the Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation is to encourage research by offering assistance to graduate students who are working on soilborne diseases of plants. Harrison is completing her research in Lindsey du Toit’s vegetable seed pathologist program at the WSU’s Northwest Washington Research and Extension Center.

Retirement

Pete Timmer retired on May 31, 2007, after 29 years of service at the University of Florida, CREC, in Lake Alfred. Timmer grew up on a farm in western Michigan and received his B.S. degree in botany and plant pathology from Michigan State University in 1963. He did his doctoral dissertation at the University of California, Riverside, but took 2 years during that time to work on a Ford Foundation Fellowship in Argentina. He completed his degree in 1969 and assumed a position with the Texas A&I Citrus Center in Weslaco, where he spent 9 years working on citrus diseases prior to moving to Florida.

Timmer spent his entire career working on citrus diseases and investigated many different pathosystems. In Texas, he first described *Citrus necrotic ringspot virus* and demonstrated that it was actually *Citrus parosin virus*, which was eventually found to belong to a new family, the ophioviruses. He was instrumental in developing diagnostic techniques for citrus blight and demonstrating its transmissibility through root grafts. He developed assay procedures for *Phytophthora* populations in groves and evaluated cultural and chemical control methods.

In the late 1980s, he began a successful career on foliar diseases of citrus. He described the life cycle of postbloom fruit drop (PFD), caused by *Colletotrichum acutatum*, defined and reclassified the causal organism, and determined its relationship to lime anthracnose with Juan Agostin. Timmer developed a model for forecasting PFD and scheduling fungicide applications in Florida and, with Natalia Peres, developed and evaluated a computer-assisted decision system, PFD-FAD, that allowed growers to better time sprays for PFD. Timmer and his lab group defined the environmental conditions required for infection by *Alternaria* spp. on citrus and developed a model, the Alt-Rater, for Alternaria brown spot. With Tobin Peever, he has used molecular and pathological methods to improve understanding of the taxonomy and the genetic basis for toxin production by pathotypes of *A. alternata*. With S. N. Mondal, he has described the mating types and the conditions for reproduction of *Mycosphaerella citri*, the causal agent of greasy spot. With Pat Barkley in Australia and J. W. Hyun in Korea, he has clearly defined the species, pathotypes, and host ranges of *Elsinoe* species on citrus and developed specific PCR methods to differentiate the species. For melanose, caused by *Diaporthe citri*, he determined the activity of copper fungicides for disease control, the appropriate rates, and the best programs for control and, with Mondal, described the conditions required for production and survival of the pathogen on dead twigs. Long before canker was known to be present in Florida, Timmer conducted research projects on citrus canker in Argentina. Information generated from these projects has been useful in the eradication campaign in Florida and in dealing with the disease currently.

Timmer has been very active internationally and conducted considerable work on diseases exotic to the United States. He has had cooperative projects in Japan, Spain, Ghana, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, and Korea and has had numerous visiting scientists come from around the world. He receives frequent invitations to speak at international congresses, to consult, and to review projects.

Timmer has been active in APS as an associate and senior editor of Phytopathology and Plant Disease and edited the Compendium of Citrus Diseases and Citrus Health Management. He received the Lee Hutchins Award from APS for excellence in research on tropical fruits for his work on PFD and is a fellow of APS.

In Memory

Myron Kendall Brakke died on June 15, 2007, at the age of 87. He was born in Fillmore County in Minnesota on October 23, 1921. He received his B.S. degree at the University of Minnesota in 1943 and his Ph.D. degree in chemistry in 1947. In that year, he married Betty Jean Einbecker and was hired as a research associate at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden by Lindsay M. Black to work on plant viruses. In 1952, he moved with Black to the University of Illinois in Urbana, IL, and in 1955, became research chemist for the USDA at the Plant Pathology Department in Lincoln, NE, remaining there, also as professor of plant pathology, until his retirement in 1986. His seminal invention of sugar gradient centrifugation was made while working with *Potato yellow dwarf virus* and *Wound tumor virus* at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in 1948. Its worldwide application for the purification of viruses has led to, among others, the development of the polio vaccine and several other viral vaccines, saving millions of lives around the world. Brakke was extremely modest and he never bragged about his inventions and his profound influence on the whole field of virology. Ironically, just before the polio vaccine became available, one of Brakke’s sons contracted severe polio and required an iron lung to survive the disease.

At the University of Nebraska, Brakke trained many students who have gone on to successful careers at universities, government agencies, and industry. Brakke became an editor of *Virology* in 1960. He contributed a large number of scientific articles, including fundamental studies of soilborne viruses, to professional journals. The University of Nebraska honored him with the honorary D.Sc. degree, and APS honored him with election to fellow and the Award of Distinction in 1988. He was a member of the U.S. National Academy, the Chemical Society, APS, Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Gamma Sigma Delta, and Alpha Zeta. He is survived by his wife Betty, sons Kenneth Allen and Thomas Warren, and two daughters, Joan Patricia and Karen Elizabeth. Those who knew Myron personally, who were influenced by him and stimulated, and who became devoted to basic research as a result, will always remember his warm personality and unselfishness. He will be greatly missed by his friends, former students, and associates.
Senior Researcher
The incumbent will independently execute research in consultation with the program director, conduct statistical analyses and prepare photographic and graphical presentations of the data, and prepare final reports and publications in peer-reviewed scientific literature. The incumbent is expected to supervise technical staff; assist with the training of graduate students, undergraduate students, and post-doctoral scientists; and provide expertise with regard to laboratory protocols, procedures, and troubleshooting. The incumbent will act as de facto manager of the program director’s research projects, laboratory, and staff. In close collaboration with the research director, the incumbent will develop research projects and write grants and contracts as well as prepare written reports to sponsoring agencies. The incumbent will ensure that the laboratory has the requisite permits and safety materials to perform the planned research. In addition to the essential duties, it is desirable that the incumbent be able to perform the following: give occasional facility tours, lectures, or talks on research results at campus, state, regional, national, and international scientific meetings; effectively communicate research objectives and accomplishments to the general public, funding agencies, and industry stakeholders; act as liaison with domestic and international scientific colleagues and research communities; edit written materials from staff, students, and program director; and provide oversight of expenditures and project budgets. Also desired are an established record of publication in relevant peer-reviewed scientific literature; working knowledge of research methods used to study fungal pathogens of plants; working knowledge of techniques used in molecular biology, genomics, bioinformatics, and fungal biology; ability to develop and manage new research projects conducted at multiple locations; and possession of excellent oral and written communication skills. Salary: $50,000. Closing Date: September 20, 2007 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Only applicants submitted electronically will be considered. Contact: Marci Walker, North Carolina State University, Department of Plant Pathology, Campus Box 7616, Raleigh, NC 27695 U.S.A. Fax: +1.919.513.7716; E-mail: marci_walker@ncsu.edu; Phone: +1.919.513.6498; Web: www7.acs.ncsu.edu/hr/employment.

Faculty Positions in Plant-Related Microbiology
The Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology, Academia Sinica, Taipei, is enthusiastically inviting applications for faculty positions in the research areas of microbiology with preference for plant-microbe interactions and plant-related microbiology. These positions are at the levels of assistant research fellow, associate research fellow, and full research fellow (equivalent to assistant professor, associate professor, and full professor). Excellent facilities and starter grants will be provided for these positions. Applicants are expected to have a Ph.D. degree plus post-doctoral training. Chinese language skills are NOT required and international scientists are encouraged to apply. The review of applications will start on September 20, 2007, until the positions are filled. Closing Date: October 23, 2007 (This closing date is open until the positions are filled.) The application folder should include curriculum vitae, a statement of research accomplishments, and future research plans. The application folder and at least three letters of recommendation should be sent. Contact: Dr. Na-Sheng Lin, Chair of Search Committee, Institute of Plant and Microbial Biology, Academia Sinica, Academia Road, Nankang, Taipei, Taiwan 11529. E-mail: ndlin2@sinica.edu.tw; Fax: +886-2-2782-1605; Phone: +886-2-2789-9590; Web: http://ipmb.sinica.edu.tw/.

Graduate Research Assistant
A graduate assistantship is available in the Plant Science Department at South Dakota State University (SDSU). The primary focus of the research will be the epidemiology of Puccinia graminis (stem rust of wheat) but may also include disease management and/or the genetics of resistance. Both M.S. and Ph.D. candidates are invited to apply, and this assistantship is available for fall 2007. The individual will become part of an active, developing research program and will have opportunities for publication, interdisciplinary collaborations, grantsmanship, and professional development outside of SDSU. An earned B.S. degree in plant pathology, plant science, agronomy, botany, horticulture, microbiology, or similarly related field is required. Candidates must meet the academic requirements of the Graduate School and Plant Science Department. Effective oral and written communication skills are essential; experience with data processing and statistical analysis is preferred. Some travel and physical labor may be expected. Salary: Depends on level (M.S. or Ph.D.). Closing Date: October 23, 2007 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Send CV or resume. Contact: Jeff Stein, 107 PSB, Box 2108, 1205 Jackrabbit Dr., Brookings, SD 57006 U.S.A. E-mail: jeff.stein@sdsstate.edu; Phone: +1.605.688.5540; Web: http://plantsci.sdsstate.edu/smallgrainspath/.

Director of Research
The Morton Arboretum invites nominations and applications for a director of research to lead and manage the program’s applied research on planting, care, and conservation of woody plants. The director will administer the program’s personnel, budgets, grants and contracts, safety, and facilities; promote collaborative external relationships; lead fundraising for the program; write and speak to diverse audiences on behalf of research and of the arboretum as a whole; participate in overall leadership of the arboretum; and foster the research’s integration with other program areas. The arboretum’s research and allied programs focus on tree health, emphasizing roots and the below-ground environment; tree improvement, including introducing new plants for landscape use; and woodland conservation, concerning the restoration and management of diverse biotic communities. The director will be one of seven scientists in the program and will be expected to devote significant time to conducting her/his own research in a relevant field, publishing in scientific journals, obtaining extramural funding, contributing to the scientific and green-professional communities, and participating in arboretum education and collections programs. Special consideration will be given to researchers in plant pathology, urban horticultural stress physiology, or applied forest ecology. Qualifications: Ph.D. degree in horticulture, botany, forest science, ecology, or related field; at least 7 years of experience conducting top-level research relating to woody plants; record of effective written and oral communication with academic, professional, and public audiences; knowledge and interest encompassing the arboretum’s disciplinary breadth; significant experience in administrative leadership in a public garden, government agency, academic institution, or similar organization; record of securing grant and/or philanthropic support for science; and effective interpersonal skills. Closing Date: October 23, 2007 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Review of applications will begin October 8 and will continue until the position is filled. For further information or to nominate candidates, please contact Vice President of Arboretum Programs, Dr. Clem Hamilton, at +1.630.719.2423 or chamilton@mortonarb.org. Applicants should send a letter of application and curriculum vitae. Contact: The Morton Arboretum, Human Resources, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle, IL 60532 U.S.A. E-mail: jobs@mortonarb.org; Fax: +1.630.725.2040; Phone: +1.630.968.0074; Web: www.mortonarb.org.

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Post-Doctoral Research Scientist
A post-doctoral research scientist position is available immediately for a molecular plant virologist at the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology of the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, to conduct research on the interaction of Soybean mosaic virus (SMV) with Rsv1 resistance gene from soybean. A solid foundation for this project has already been established (see J. Viroal. 2005, 70:1215-1222; Virology 2006, 345:156-166). The main emphasis would be on P3 cistron of SMV; however, the possible role of other virus cistrons in evading Rsv1-mediated recognition will be also examined. The project involves site-directed mutagenesis, synthesis of virus chimeras, transient gene expression, bacterial expression of viral genes, and immunocytocchemistry. Candidates with a Ph.D. degree and expertise in molecular plant virology, genetics, or biochemistry are encouraged to apply. Closing Date: October 12, 2007 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Send a cover letter that includes timing of availability and describes interest and expertise, a CV, and contact information for three referees.

Contact: Reza Hajimorad, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, 2431 Joe Johnson Drive, 205 Ellington Plant Science Bldg., Knoxville, TN 37996-4560 U.S.A. Fax: +1.865.974.4744; E-mail: mrh@utk.edu; Phone: +1.865.974.1620.

Research Bioinformaticist/Computational Biologist/Molecular Geneticist/Plant Pathologist
The USDA-ARS, Crops Pathology and Genetics Research Unit located in Davis, CA, is seeking a permanent, full-time scientist to conduct genomics-based research on Phytophthora ramorum, the causal agent of sudden oak death. The successful candidate will develop an independent, innovative research program that focuses on understanding the genetic, biochemical, and molecular mechanisms of P. ramorum pathogenesis with the goal of developing effective disease control strategies. Research areas include, but are not limited to, computational analyses of the sequenced genomes of Phytophthora spp. and characterization of plant host infection and colonization by P. ramorum through global gene expression studies and/or proteomics approaches. The incumbent will participate in collaborative efforts with ARS and university researchers involved in the sudden oak death research program. Requirements include degree in plant pathology, biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to position; knowledge of research theories and methods of molecular genetics/genomics (structural and functional, comparative genomics, proteomics, bioinformatics, and/or molecular genetics plant-fungal interactions); knowledge of oomycete/fungal/eukaryotic genome organization, gene structure and gene regulation; ability to conceive, plan, and conduct research using a bioinformatics/computational biology approach as evidenced by recent publication in peer-reviewed journals; and skill in presenting information to scientists, producers, and government agencies using conventional, electronic, or multimedia technologies. U.S. citizenship is required. The USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer. Salary: GS-12/13/14: $66,993.00–$122,379.00. Closing Date: September 7, 2007 (This closing date is not adjustable.) For details and application directions, see www.usajobs.com announcement number ARS-X7W-0251. Contact: Daniel Kluepfel, USDA-ARS, CPGRU, 259 Hutchison Hall, Plant Pathology Department, UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616 U.S.A. Fax: +1.530.754.7195; E-mail: dkluepfel@ucdavis.edu; Phone: +1.530.752.1137; Web: www.ars.usda.gov/main/site_main.htm?modecode=53-06-15-00.

Ph.D. Graduate Assistantship—Molecular Plant Root-Microbe Interaction
A Ph.D. research assistantship is available to study the molecular basis of root-microbe interactions. A plant’s survival and fitness in nature largely depends on its ability to interact with microbes. While the genetic and molecular basis of aboveground plant-microbe interactions draws considerable attention, the below-ground root-microbe interactions have not been well studied. Using Arabidopsis thaliana root-bacteria interaction model systems (Plant J. 42:417-432; Nature 434:217-221; Infection Immunity 73:5319-5328), the successful candidate will investigate the molecular events that lead up to the establishment of pathogenic and beneficial interaction; identify genes and gene products of the plant and the bacteria that facilitate or impede such interactions and develop physiological and molecular markers of such interactions in Arabidopsis. Ph.D. students at Nova Scotia Agricultural College (NSAC) are officially registered at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, but are located on the NSAC campus. Qualifications: The successful candidate must have a first-class thesis master’s degree in molecular biology, biochemistry, plant biology, or microbiology with demonstrated experience in biochemical analyses, standard molecular biology techniques and plant transformation, and demonstrated ability to perform research at an advanced level. Superior communication skills are essential. Experience in Arabidopsis system is desirable but not required. Salary: $21,000. Closing Date: Open until a suitable candidate is found. Please send a resume, statement of career goals, and the contact information (address, e-mail, and phone number) of at least three references. Contact: Dr. B. Prithiviraj, Department of Plant and Animal Sciences, Nova Scotia Agricultural College, PO Box 550, Truro, Nova Scotia B2N 5E3, Canada. E-mail: bprithiviraj@nsac.ca; Phone: 902.893.6643, Fax: 902.895.6734; Web: http://nsac.ca/pas/staff/bpr/lab/.

Post-Doctoral Positions
A post-doctoral researcher position is available to study the function and regulatory mechanism of pathogen-induced small RNAs in plant immunity. Endogenous small RNAs have emerged as important players in gene expression reprogramming during disease responses. The candidate will focus on the identification of pathogen-regulated small RNAs at the genome level. The functions of selected small RNAs and small RNA targets will be characterized by molecular, genetic, and biochemical approaches. Applicants should have a Ph.D. degree and a strong background in molecular genetics, biochemistry, and bioinformatics. Experience in microarray and deep parallel sequencing analysis is highly desirable. Salary: Start from $33,000. Closing Date: August 9, 2007 (This closing date is open until the position is filled.) Please send a letter of interest, CV, and names and addresses of three references. Contact: Hailing Jin, University of California, 900 University Ave., Riverside, CA 92521 U.S.A. E-mail: hailing@ucr.edu; Phone: +1.951.827.7995; Web: www.ucr.edu.
Challenges in Adaptation of Plant Disease Warning Systems to New Locations: Re-Assessment of Billing’s Integrated System for Predicting Fire Blight in a Warm Dry Environment.

A Crop Loss-Related Forecasting Model for Sclerotinia Stem Rot in Winter Oilsseed Rape.


Temporal Dynamics of Brown Rot in Different Apple Management Systems and Importance of Dropped Fruit for Disease Development.

A Statistical Comparison of the Blossom Blight Forecasts of MARYBLYT and Courageblight with Receiver Operating Characteristic Curve Analysis.

Characterization of Resistance Mechanisms to Erysiphe pisi in Medicago truncatula.

Effect of Infection Timing on Fusarium Head Blight and Mycotoxin Accumulation in Open- and Closed-Flowering Barley.


Identification of Maize Kernel Endosperm Proteins Associated with Resistance to Aflatoxin Contamination by Aspergillus flavus.

Genetic Diversity and the Presence of Two Distinct Groups in Ophiostoma clavigerum Associated with Dendrocortus ponderosae in British Columbia and the Northern Rocky Mountains. Identifying Pigmentation-Related Genes in Ophiostoma pineae Using Agrobacterium-Mediated Integration.

Selection for Pathogenicity to Strawberry in Populations of Colletotrichum gloeosporioides from Native Plants. Genetic Differentiation of Puccinia triticina Populations in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

Molecular Diagnostics for the Sigatoka Disease Complex of Banana. Diagnostic Values and Utility of Immunological, Morphological, and Molecular Methods for In Plant Detection of Phytophthora xanorum.

Colonization Dynamics and Spatial Progression of Verticillium dahliae in Individual Stems of Two Potato Cultivars with Differing Responses to Potato Early Dying.

Investigation of an Outbreak of Fusarium Foot and Fruit Rot of Pumpkin Within the United States.

Plant-Parasitic Nematodes Infecting Grapevine in Southern Spain and Susceptible Reaction to Root-Knot Nematodes of Rootstocks Reported as Moderately Resistant.


First Report of Southern Blight of Silvery Mesmorschmidia Seddings in Taiwan.


Calendar of Events

APS Sponsored Events

October 2007
10-12 — APS Northeastern Division Meeting. Cape May, NJ. www.apsnet.org/members/div/northeastern

December 2007
12-14 — National Soybean Rust Symposium. Louisville, KY. www.apsnet.org/online/SBR/

February 2008
2-5 — APS Southern Division Meeting in conjunction with SAAS. Dallas, TX. www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/aps/southernAP5.html

September 2008

Upcoming APS Annual Meetings

July 26-30, 2008 — Minneapolis, MN. (Centennial Meeting) http://meeting.apsnet.org/centennial

August 1-5, 2009 — Portland, OR.
August 7-11, 2010 — Nashville, TN.

Other Upcoming Events

October 2007
8-12 — IISH Second International Symposium on Tomato Diseases. Kusadasi, Turkey. www.2istd.ege.edu.tr
9-14 — 4th International Rice Blast Conference. Changsha, China. www.4thirbc.org
10-12 — 2nd Conference on Precision Crop Protection. Bonn, Germany. www.precision-crop-protection.uni-bonn.de

November 2007
19-21 — 1st International Phytophthora Capsici Conference. Islamorada, FL. http://conferences.dce.ufl.edu/pcap
27-30 — 5th Canadian Workshop on Fusarium Head Blight. Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. (atekauz@agr.c.g.c)

January 2008
8-10 — Western Disease Conference. Portland, OR. (tamlz.blunn@colorstate.edu)
14-17 — 43rd Tobacco Workers’ Conference. Savannah, GA. www.TWConference.com

February 2008

April 2008


June 2008
28-July 2 — 8th International Oat Conference. Minneapolis, MN. (stuth001@umn.edu)

July 2008
13-18 — 5th International Congress of Nematology. Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. www.5icn.org/

August 2008
30-September 2 — 10th International Fusarium Workshop. Alghero, Sardinia, Italy. www.cdl.umn.edu/scab/10th_fhb_wkshp.htm

September 2008
22-26 — 16th Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Pests. Hendersonville, NC. www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental/

October 2008
26-31 — IV International Silicon in Agriculture Conference. Wild Coast Sun, Port Edward, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. www.siliconconference.org.za

November 2008
4-7 — 2nd International Symposium on Biological Control of Bacterial Plant Diseases. Orlando, FL. http://grove.ufl.edu/~biocon/

For the most current listing go to www.apsnet.org/meetings/calendar.asp.

Phytopathology News

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