PDMR Accepting Submissions for Volume 3

Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR) is now accepting submissions for volume 3 (2009). As in the past, PDMR will be published in two installments, allowing authors to submit reports twice a year. Submissions to the first installment are due to the editor-in-chief for assignment by December 8, 2008. Publication charges are $40 per report and are payable with submission of the final approved report by February 23, 2009. The submission date for the second installment will be in late spring or early summer 2009. The exact date will be announced on the submission instructions webpage and in Phytopathology News. Instructions for submission preparation and procedure can be found at www.apsnet.org/online/pdmr/guidelines.

Phytopathology Now Indexed in PubMed Central

Niklaus Grunwald, incoming Editor-in-Chief, Phytopathology

APS just received news that Phytopathology is being listed in PubMed Central (PMC). Phytopathology joins a very select list of plant pathology journals listed in PMC. Currently, Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions, Molecular Plant Pathology, and the Annual Reviews of Phytopathology are the only other plant pathology journals included in PMC. Phytopathology will be listed retroactively to January 1997.

PMC is the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH) free digital archive of biomedical and life sciences journal literature. PubMed is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine that includes more than 18 million citations from Medline and other life science journals for biomedical articles back to the 1950s. PubMed includes links to full-text articles and other related resources. A recent APS member survey showed that PubMed is the second most frequently used database by APS members to access scientific literature. Many of our young colleagues and graduate students rely heavily on PubMed to find their references. Thus, the listing of Phytopathology in PubMed is important to our society and our science.

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Start Planning for the APS Annual Meeting—2009 Call for Papers

Online submission of abstracts for the 2009 Annual Meeting in Portland, OR, will take place February 1 through March 17, 2009. The March 17 deadline applies to the submission of both oral and poster presentations. Acceptance of oral presentation submissions will be limited to the first 240, so you are encouraged to submit oral presentation abstracts early. There is a limit of one (1) oral presentation per submitter or presenter. There is no limit to the number of poster submissions. Remember to fully edit and proof your abstract before submitting.

This year’s annual meeting takes place August 1–5, 2009, at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC), known as the nation’s “greenest” convention center. Portland is the ideal location for plant lovers, boasting the nation’s largest urban forest and more than 150 miles of trails. The surrounding area—including Mount Hood, the Oregon Coast, the Columbia River Gorge, and Oregon wine country—comprise some of the nation’s most beautiful, unspoiled natural areas. Plus, speaking of “green,” Oregon has no sales tax, making accommodations some of the most affordable in the nation. Visit the meeting website at http://meeting.apsnet.org/ for more information.
APS Brings Centennial Celebration to ICPP Congress in Italy

After the centennial meeting in Minneapolis, MN, the APS celebration of 100 years of progress continued in Torino, Italy. “The APS delegation was pleased to be invited to participate in the highly successful 9th International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) in Torino,” commented APS President Jim Moyer. “More than two dozen APS members participated in a variety of activities, including the society-sponsored plenary session.”

The APS session was titled “In Celebration of 100 Years of The American Phytopathological Society” and was chaired by R. James Cook and Paul D. Peterson. “This session brought the APS centennial legacy to the international stage,” added Moyer, who also attended and reported at the International Society Consortium of Plant Protection Council meeting during the ICPP.

The society also participated in the exhibition, where free APS centennial posters were available and historical society artifacts were displayed along with the society’s latest offerings and current membership benefit information. The APS Office for International Programs prepared a poster for the APS exhibit showing the society’s outreach programs that benefit scientists in developing countries. The society journals and the Plant Management Network program were featured prominently along with the first announcements of the 2009 annual meeting in Portland, OR. APS PRESS titles were in high demand among the hundreds of plant pathologists who visited the exhibit. Authors had the chance to meet with APS PRESS Editor-in-Chief Margery Daughtrey and Acquisitions Editor Larry Madden about current and future projects. “The experience was very rewarding for APS, and we are looking forward to the 10th ICPP in China, where we have strong ties to the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology,” Moyer noted.

The APS shipment was delayed by Italian customs, but when it arrived, everyone helped to assemble the booth, including Jim Steadman, Jan Leach, Steve Nelson, and Jim Moyer.

Influence APS Leadership—Submit Your APS Officer Nominations

Your involvement in the APS officer nomination process is important. On November 18, an e-mail requesting participation was sent to all APS members. To submit your nominees for APS officers, simply use the web form at www.scientificsocieties.org/surveys/web.dll/aps/aps2009noms.htm. (Paper nomination ballots were only sent to those members without an e-mail address on file at APS headquarters.) All nominations must be received on or before Friday, December 19, 2008. Please exercise your right as a voting APS member to nominate fellow members for the offices of APS vice president and councilor-at-large.
The American Phytopathological Society Public Policy Board (APS PPB) is pleased to announce a call for applications for the fourth annual PPB early career internship. The internship, which is open to APS early career members (current graduate students or post-doctoral associates and junior professionals), allows a young plant pathologist to participate in PPB activities during 2009–2010. The internship begins immediately following the 2009 APS Annual Meeting and will terminate at the end of the 2010 APS Annual Meeting.

The goal of the early career internship is to provide an opportunity for the selected individual to gain hands-on experience in public policy at the national level that relates generally to agricultural science and specifically to matters of interest to APS. By working with the APS PPB, the intern will learn how scientific societies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), executive branch agencies (e.g., USDA, NSF, EPA), and the legislative branch interact in crafting public policy.

The 2009 intern should be able to attend the midyear governmental outreach meeting of the APS PPB in Washington, DC, in late February or early March 2010 (dates TBA). The intern’s travel costs for this activity will be covered. In addition, the intern should attend the APS PPB annual business meeting to be held in conjunction with the APS annual meeting. Following the internship year, the intern will prepare a written and/or oral report on the experience for delivery to the APS PPB and membership.

Other activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Participating in APS PPB monthly conference calls and policy agenda-setting meetings;
- Assisting APS PPB with development, tracking, and analysis of relevant policy issues; and
- Assisting APS PPB with planning Capitol Hill and agency briefings.

**Application Materials**
- **Cover letter.** One page describing the applicant’s interest in science policy issues and detailing how this internship would enhance his/her professional goals. Applicant should include the names of two individuals, other than the thesis advisor, from whom recommendations may be requested. These individuals should be able to address the candidate’s leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- **Resume.** Two pages emphasizing leadership and communication experiences, including graduate, undergraduate, or nonacademic activities. It should include education, work experience, honors and awards, memberships, presentations, and publications.
- **Statement on the importance of federal support for plant-pathological research** (500 words maximum). The statement should draw on the applicant’s own experience and/or research area and should illustrate how the applicant would try to convince his/her own congressional delegation that federal support for research, particularly in plant pathology, is important.
- **Letter of support/recommendation.** A letter from the applicant’s advisor or supervisor.
- **APS membership.** Applicants are not required to be APS members at the time of application but, if selected, must join the society prior to starting the internship.

**Application Submission**
Applications should be submitted as one portable document file (PDF file), saved as last name, first initial (example: SmithT_internship.pdf), and include all of the items described above. All application materials must be received by February 27, 2009, and should be sent to Jacqueline Fletcher, Public Policy Board Chair, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078 U.S.A. (Jacqueline[fletcher@okstate.edu](mailto:jacqueline.fletcher@okstate.edu)).

**Review and Selection**
The documents will be reviewed and the intern selected by the Public Policy Board. Announcement of the intern will be made by April 30, 2009.
Chronology of Fungicides and U.S. Herbicide Company Genealogies Available on APSnet

Eric Tedford, Office of Industry Relations board member, Eric.Tedford@syngenta.com

At the 2007 APS Annual Meeting, members of the APS Office of Industry Relations (OIR) agreed to produce a poster that would highlight the accomplishments in fungicide discovery over the years for display at the APS Centennial Meeting in 2008. A vast, but not fully comprehensive, list of fungicides was assembled along with best-known introduction dates. To add in visualization, Robyn Torkewitz, a graphic artist in the marketing technology group at Syngenta Crop Protection, used tree rings as her backdrop. Fungicide classes were color coded to enable comparisons within and among the classes, and some major catastrophic disease events and historical scientific events outside of plant pathology were included for a fun and historical perspective.

While researching the history of fungicides, we discovered an excellent genealogy of companies that Arnold P. Appleby (professor emeritus, crop science, Oregon State University) published on a website. Appleby said it had taken him many years to build this chart. He retired in 1992 and the idea came to him as a means of keeping current with an ever-changing industry. He was able to find information regarding dates of mergers, acquisitions, etc., by researching websites, reading books, and getting information from company headquarters. As his genealogy grew, so did the interest of colleagues and friends to have copies of their own. With that, Appleby kindly allowed us to include his company genealogy with our fungicide chronology.

The OIR poster at the APS meeting was 10-ft long by 8-ft wide. To accommodate readable poster sizes, we separated the two components into individual posters that you can now download for free at www.apsnet.org/members/oir. The posters can either be printed at 24 in. by 36 in. or scaled to fit on legal paper.

Save the Date!

Call for Papers

Online submission of abstracts will take place
February 1 – March 17, 2009.

The March 17 deadline applies to the submission of both oral and poster presentations. Acceptance of oral presentation submissions will be limited to the first 240, so you are encouraged to submit oral presentation abstracts early. There is a limit of one (1) oral presentation per submitter or presenter. There is no limit to the number of poster submissions. Remember to fully edit and proof your abstract before submitting.

Visit http://meeting.apsnet.org for more information.

IMPORTANT APS DATES TO REMEMBER

December 2008
8 Plant Disease Management Reports (PDMR) submissions due. www.apsnet.org/online/pdmr/guidelines

January 2009
15 Nominations for the I.E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium due. www.apsnet.org/foundation/icemelhus.asp
23 Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship applications due. www.apsnet.org/foundation/apsundergrad.asp

March 2009
Now Playing on APSnet...Webcasts of APS Centennial Meeting Plenary Sessions and More

APS webcasts are the most recent addition to our growing array of online resources. Prepared by experts in the field, these multimedia presentations combine both audio and video via streaming media technology on a broad range of topics. Now you can draw on the vast knowledge of APS members and experts in the field through this widely accessible platform at a time that is most convenient to you. Check out the following focus areas at www.apsnet.org/webcasts/ for the full list of webcasts and audio feeds that are now playing.

Society Issues and Initiative
These presentations provide an in-depth look at some of the critical issues facing the science of plant pathology and the future of the society.

Perspectives from Plant Pathologists
Hear directly from members of APS as they share stories about their unique experiences as plant pathologists in these informative video segments (also available in audio-only MP3 format).

Plenary Presentations
Didn’t have a chance to attend the plenary sessions during the annual meeting? Or you did, but would like to listen again? Now these sessions are available as voice-over PowerPoint presentations for your ongoing reference.

Scientific Presentations
Keep up to date on the latest scientific advances in plant pathology through these quick presentations featuring member research.

Have a Webcast Idea?
We are currently accepting proposals for future webcasts. A webcast gives you access to a full range of multimedia tools to enhance your message and connect with your audience. If you have a presentation that you’d like to turn into a webcast, please contact Michelle Bjerkness at bjerknessc@apsnet.org.

Save Time, Save Paper—Renew Your Membership Online!
Watch your e-mail for a notification when your membership term is up for renewal. You will be sent a link to your personal renewal form where you can pay with a credit card. Renew within a week or two of receiving the e-mail, before the paper invoice is sent, and save time, paper, and postage. To thank you for your online membership renewal and for helping us to go green, you will be entered into a drawing for a Solio Universal Solar Charger. This charger uses the power of the sun to charge your personal electronic devices, including cell phones, MP3 players, GPS units, and more—perfect if you’re out in the field or travelling. The drawing will be held at the end of 2009. Renew online and be entered to win today!

Widely Prevalent Plant Pathogenic Fungi of the U.S. Database Created

Carol Stiles, Department of Biology, Valdosta State University, cmsstiles@valdosta.edu

The Widely Prevalent Plant Pathogenic Fungi List working group met at the 2008 APS Centennial Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, to review the past year’s accomplishments and to plan for next year’s update. The working group codirectors are Carol Stiles, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, GA, and Carrie Harmon, assistant director, Southern Plant Diagnostic Network, University of Florida/IFAS, Gainesville, FL. Extension plant pathologists, mycologists, and state plant regulatory officers (SPROs) from 51 states and territories have now provided lists of widely prevalent plant-pathogenic fungi. APHIS-PPQ is currently contacting the SPRO in each state to get “preconcurrence” for the fungi on each state list. Fungi may be removed from the state lists during this process for various reasons, and some states may choose not to participate in the expedited permit process. Preconcurrence means that the SPRO has agreed the fungi are widely prevalent and that permits can be expedited—issued directly by APHIS-PPQ, if criteria for expedited permits are met. (See www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ for the list of criteria.) Once the preconcurrence process is completed, the prevalent fungus list by state will be posted on the APHIS website along with the bacterial and viral lists.

Over the past year, regional coordinators involved in the working group obtained new or updated lists from each state, resulting in more than 6,200 lines of Excel data. Joseph LaForest, with the University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health (the Bugwood Network), developed a database that is now available online at www.prevalentfungi.org. The lists can be browsed by state or by genus and species. Maps are also provided to allow users to easily see where a fungus is considered widely prevalent. We are currently recruiting high-quality, detailed images of key microscopic structures to be linked to each fungal name in the database (a link to guidelines for submitting images is available at http://www.prevalentfungi.org/). Other images associated with these pathogenic fungi, including disease symptoms, will also be accepted and helpful.

In the process of developing the database, each fungal name was cross-referenced with Index Fungorum (www.indexfungorum.org/), the USDA-ARS Systematic Mycology and Microbiology Laboratory Fungal Databases (http://nt.ars-grin.gov/fungal databases/index.cfm), and some other sources, to check for appropriate taxonomic name, spelling, and so on; this, of course, is an ongoing process as taxonomic and nomenclatural changes are published.

Funds received from APHIS-PPQ for this project are used to cover some travel expenses for the working group and for expenses such as the development of the online database. Other funds are used to help support speakers at annual meeting symposia sponsored by the APS Mycology Committee. At the 2008 APS Centennial Meeting, funds were used to support travel for all speakers at the symposium “Assembling the Fungal Tree of Life: From Linneaus to Deep Hypha and Beyond.” Speakers included Meredith Blackwell, David McLaughlin, Conrad Schoch, Cathie Aime, and André Levesque.

Phytopathology News 173
The APS Foundation Board is pleased to announce that our “100 for 100th” campaign is now complete. This campaign started in July 2004 and ended at our recent Centennial meeting. The original goals of this campaign were to increase the endowments of as many named student travel funds as possible to a minimum level of $10,000, so that they could be offered annually, and to also increase the endowment of the International Travel Award to support travel of early to mid-career international professionals to APS meetings.

Since the start of the “100 for 100th” campaign, the generous donations from colleagues and stakeholders received have totaled $41,652. The APS Foundation Board decided to distribute these funds as follows: $5,000 to the endowment of the International Travel Award; $9,756 for increasing the endowments of 11 named student travel funds to a minimum of $5,000 each (allowing every-other-year awards); and a total of $26,896 among named student awards that were below the $10,000 level, thus bringing 13 funds to $10,000 (allowing yearly awards). Unfortunately, there remain 24 student travel funds under the critical $10,000 level. Accordingly, please consider contributing directly to one of the following funds to bring it up to the $10,000 level and allow it to be awarded every year: Kenneth F. Baker, Kenneth and Betty Barker, John M. Barnes, Myron K. Brakke, William M. Brown Jr., H. J. Dubin (Peace Corps), Forest Pathology, Joseph P. Fulton, Dennis H. Hall, Stephen A. Johnston, Kyung Soo Kim, Landis International, Stuart D. Lyda, William J. Moller, Larry W. Moore, Joseph M. Ogawa, Roger C. Pearson, Malcolm C. Shurtleff, George Herman Starr, and Harry E. Wheeler.

During this 4-year campaign, we also saw significant growth in the number of named student travel funds developed, with 14 new student travel funds started between 2004 and 2008 (see www.apsnet.org/foundation/special.asp for the full listing). This brings our total number of named student travel funds to 46. In addition, a new endowment was also started, the Schroth Faces of the Future Endowment, which will be presented for the first time at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR. At the end of June 2008, the total endowed student travel funds of the APS Foundation, including the funds raised from the “100 for 100th” campaign, included more than $400,000 of the foundation’s $1.2 million total. Additionally, a record number of student travel awards were provided to 47 deserving students in 2008. This brings the number of student travel awards provided since the inception of this effort in 1996 to 321 awards, for a total of more than $135,000 awarded. What an accomplishment!

The APS Foundation would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the donors for their generous contributions in support of our diverse member needs and promoting our society and profession. A cumulative list of donors is available at www.apsnet.org/foundation/donors.asp. Please watch for an announcement in the upcoming months on our new campaign—the Second Century Campaign—which will be launched officially at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland.

Number of APS Student Travel Awards Provided Yearly Since Inception in 1996

Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship Award Available in 2009

Do you have undergraduate students in your laboratory conducting research? Do you know undergraduates who are considering graduate school and want to know more about research? If so, the APS Foundation’s undergraduate research award, the Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship, is now available, and we want you to consider having your students apply. Full details are available at www.apsnet.org/foundation/apsundergrad.asp.

In 2008, two outstanding undergraduates were selected as award recipients of this fellowship. Alicia Owens, Iowa State University, was awarded for her project “Developing a PCR-based assay for detection of *Erwinia tracheiphila* in striped cucumber beetle.” Rachel Zoe Blumhagen, Western Washington University, was awarded for her project “Loop-mediated isothermal amplification for rapid low-cost detection of aflatoxin genes.” Both students plan to present the results of their research at APS meetings in 2009.

If you have students who could benefit from the support of the Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship, we encourage you to notify them about this opportunity. The application is not involved or complicated and it is an excellent opportunity for you to mentor an undergraduate in the basics of research. The student must write a cover letter describing their academic and career goals and a proposal concerning their proposed work (no more than three pages). Other components to be included in the package are a copy of the student’s academic transcript (this can be an unofficial copy) and a letter from a faculty sponsor indicating their willingness to supervise and provide resources for the project. One award of $1,000 is available for 2009. The sponsor or student should plan to present the results of their research at a regional or national APS meeting following completion of the research. Six copies of the application package are due January 23, 2009, and should be sent to the contact below.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact David Shew, North Carolina State University, Department of Plant Pathology, 3141 Ligon Street, Unit 4, Campus Box 7903, Raleigh, NC 27695 U.S.A.; phone: +1.919.515.6811; fax: +1.919.513.1279; or e-mail: david_shew@ncsu.edu.
Applications for the “Schroth Faces of the Future in Bacteriology—A Look to the Future” Early Career Professionals Symposium Now Being Accepted

The Early Career Professionals Committee is pleased to again be sponsoring the Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium at the 2009 APS Annual Meeting in Portland, OR. For the first time, the Faces of the Future Symposium, thanks to an endowment established by Milt and Nancy Schroth, will provide funds of $400 each to the selected presenters to help support their travel to the meeting. The 2009 symposium will be entitled, “Schroth Faces of the Future in Bacteriology—A Look to the Future.” This symposium is designed to acknowledge the “up and comers” in bacteriology. The chosen speakers will be asked to present their research in a special session in which they will have the opportunity to highlight their current work and speculate on the future directions of their discipline. In addition, the speakers will have the opportunity to submit a mini-review where they can highlight their philosophy and futuristic thinking about the direction of their discipline. We encourage nominations of scientists in the early stages of their careers (assistant professor or equivalent) that are forward thinkers and are perceived to be the future leaders in the field of bacteriology. Speakers will be chosen by a selection committee composed of bacteriologists and members of the Early Career Professionals Committee. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m. (PST), March 2, 2009. Applications should be submitted as a single-merged PDF document to David G. Schmale III via e-mail at dschmale@vt.edu.

Applications must contain:

• A letter of nomination by an established scientist. This letter must include an evaluation of the nominee’s research, including a comment on the innovation and the impact that research completed by the nominee has on the discipline and the future of bacteriology.

• A one-page essay submitted by the nominee addressing their views on the future of bacteriology research.

• Current curriculum vitae of the nominee.

• Abstract of the proposed presentation (instructions for abstracts can be found at http://meeting.apsnet.org/callpapers/instructions.cfm starting on February 1, 2009).

Speakers must be APS members. Funding for this award was generously provided by Milt and Nancy Schroth through the APS Foundation. Milt Schroth is an internationally known expert on bacterial diseases, systematics, and biocontrol who retired from the University of California-Berkeley in 1994.

Anne Dorrance Publishes Phytophthora sojae Webcast

*Phytophthora sojae* is reemerging as a key soybean pathogen in much of the United States. In this presentation, Anne Dorrance, associate professor and extension specialist at Ohio State University, discusses why this is happening, explains how the different types of resistance work, and offers disease management strategies that can be implemented to reduce yield losses. Dorrance’s presentation is featured in the Plant Management Network’s Focus on Soybean resource, which is located at www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/fos.

All Focus on Soybean webcasts are available to current Plant Management Network (PMN) subscribers. Individual subscriptions are available online at www.plantmanagementnetwork.org/partners.

Call for Applications for 2009 Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation Awards

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

The foundation was established in 1987 to support graduate student research. To date, more than $335,000 has been awarded to 59 promising scientists. In addition to unrestricted cash awards, which range from $5,000 to $10,000 each, new awardees receive round-trip fares to the APS annual meeting and are presented their awards at a luncheon attended by their research advisors, previous awardees, and members of the Foundation Committee.

The research for which the award is given is expected to be performed by the applicant during the 2009–2010 academic year and a one-page progress report is due 1 year from the date of the award.

A major aim of the foundation is to encourage research by offering financial assistance to graduate students who are working on soilborne diseases of plants. The research must be done in the United States. Foundation policy is to contribute to the education of the student. Grants are made on a yearly basis and may be renewed upon review by the committee.

Applications must be received before May 1, 2009, for funding to begin September 1, 2009. Please submit six copies each of a short, two- to three-page research proposal containing a concise statement of the objectives, methods and materials, and projected impact of the proposed research; a one-page resume (i.e., a brief education and research background, including a telephone number and an e-mail address); and a letter (six copies) from the applicant’s major professor or research director. Send applications to A. Paulus, Chair Selection Committee, Storkan-Hanes-McCaslin Foundation, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, University of California, Riverside, CA 92521-0122 U.S.A. If further details are desired, Paulus can be reached by e-mail (albert.paulus@ucr.edu), by phone (+1.951.827.3431), or by fax (+1.951.827.4294).
NCSU Ornamental Workshop Provides Forum for Current Disease and Insect Problems Facing Ornamental Crops

Mike Benson, Department of Plant Pathology, North Carolina State University, mike_benson@ncsu.edu

More than 135 plant pathologists and entomologists from 27 states, plus Canada, participated in the 16th Ornamental Workshop on Diseases and Insects held biennially in the mountains of western North Carolina at the Kanuga Conference Center, in Hendersonville, NC, September 22–26, 2008.

APS President James Moyer, head of the Department of Plant Pathology at North Carolina State University (NCSU), welcomed the participants to North Carolina. The opening plenary session featured “Ornamental Pests and Diseases—Vectors and Viruses” with talks by Raymond Cloyd, Department of Entomology, Kansas State University, and Moyer. A poster session followed, featuring almost 20 posters on insect and disease problems related to ornamentals.

Concurrent sessions on plant pathology and entomology topics followed over the next two and a half days. The pathology sessions included presentations and discussions on diagnostics, host resistance, virus diseases, downy mildews, Phytophthora diseases, and a number of other important ornamental diseases. Margery Daughtrey, Cornell University, gave a synopsis of her emerging ornamental pathogens talk from the recent International Congress of Plant Pathology (ICPP) meeting in Torino, Italy, and Warren Copes, USDA ARS, Poplarville, MS, reported on Rhizoctonia web-blight in ornamentals and the recent International Symposium on Rhizoctonia, in Berlin. Disease management discussions focused on new materials and unique application methods as well as on industry updates on new products. Richard Baird, Mississippi State University, and Robert Trigiano, University of Tennessee, led a fungal foray as a workshop enrichment activity. The Ornamental Workshop and the IR4 Ornamental Program planning meeting will occur in alternate years in the future. Thus, a minisession on IR4 protocols and priorities for the plant pathology and entomology groups was facilitated by Cristi Palmer, IR4 Ornamental Program manager. The workshop closed with a special joint session on image management and on wikis as an educational tool for ornamentals led by Joe LaForest, the Bugwood Network, University of Georgia.

The complete program, meeting highlights, and many of the presentations are available at www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/ornamental. The workshop was organized and hosted by Steve Bambara, Department of Entomology, and Mike Benson, Department of Plant Pathology, NCSU.

A Special Opportunity—Become A Coop Member of the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology (CSPP)

Through a special agreement between APS and the Chinese Society for Plant Pathology (CSPP), APS members are able to join CSPP at a greatly reduced rate. This will allow you to access the resource of more than 6,000 plant pathologists worldwide, allowing you to exchange ideas and quickly learn about research done by CSPP members.

Add CSPP membership when you are renewing by checking the CSPP box when you renew online or by writing in “CSPP Membership” and the appropriate dollar amount on your invoice. If you have already renewed or want to add this special opportunity right away, contact Denise Kessler at aps@scioc.org or +1.651.994.3806 and ask her to add the CSPP membership option.

People

Dilantha Fernando, a professor in the Department of Plant Science, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, is the recipient of a University of Manitoba Merit Award for outstanding achievements in research and service for 2006. Fernando received the award in July 2008. Each year, eight academics are selected to receive this award from across all faculties of life sciences, natural sciences, and engineering in the research and service category. Fernando was selected for his outstanding contributions to research on wheat and canola pathology; supervising several M.S. and Ph.D. students, post-doctoral students, and visiting scientists; publishing 13 peer-reviewed articles; registering two rapeseed cultivars (world’s first two Roundup Ready HEAR cultivars) with the canola breeders; and being a coapplicant to a patent in 2006. In addition, the award recognized Fernando’s services as a board member and treasurer to the Canadian Phytopathological Society (CPS), for serving on the Scientific Programs Board of The American Phytopathological Society (APS), and as APS workshops chair in 2006. Furthermore, the award recognized his invaluable service to the farming communities around the world where he travels often to conduct workshops and participates in farmer training programs. Fernando was also the recipient of a University of Manitoba Outreach Award, the University of Manitoba Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award, a USDA Spot Award, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Sri Lanka Foundation based in Los Angeles, CA.

Agustin B. Molina, a senior scientist with Biodiversity International Commodities for Livelihood and a regional coordinator for Asia-Pacific, has received the Kadali Purashkar Award from the Association for the Improvement in Production and Utilization of Banana (AIPUB). Molina was recognized for his leadership in setting the Musa research agenda in the Asia-Pacific region, particularly in the area of Musa germplasm conservation and use. Currently, Molina is leading regional efforts in addressing banana production constraints of pests and diseases, specifically organizing a regional research and development effort in mitigating the region’s most pressing disease concern today: the dreaded Tropical Race 4 of Panama wilt. The award also cited his efforts to harmonize banana research by promoting the value of regional collaboration through the BAPNET.

Awards

Dilantha Fernando

Dilantha Fernando
New Positions

**Sudeep Bag** joined the laboratory of **Hanu Pappu** as a research associate. He completed his Ph.D. degree at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, India. Bag’s work focuses on biological and molecular aspects of tospoviruses in vegetable and ornamental cropping systems.

**Feng Qu** joined the Department of Plant Pathology at The Ohio State University (OSU) as assistant professor to establish a research and teaching program in molecular plant virology. He joins **Thomas K. Mitchell** as the department’s second new faculty member in the past year. Qu’s research areas include plant antiviral defenses, RNA silencing and resistance gene-mediated defense, interactions between plant gene products (DCLs, AGOs, and RDRs), and engineering virus resistance in crop plants by enhancing antiviral RNA silencing. Qu received his Ph.D. degree from the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Prior to joining OSU, he was at the University of Nebraska, where he worked with **T. Jack Morris** on the molecular dissection of *Turnip crinkle virus* (TCV) and its interaction with the model plant *Arabidopsis*. His research has been published in high-ranking journals, including *Plant Cell* and *EMBO Journal*, and more recently in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (*Arabidopsis* DRB4, AGO1, AGO7, and RDR6 participate in a DCL4-initiated antiviral RNA silencing pathway negatively regulated by DCL1; PNAS 2008 105:14732-14737). His interests involve silencing-based host defense against virus infections.

**Leonardo De La Fuente** recently joined the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology at Auburn University, Auburn, AL, as an assistant professor. De La Fuente obtained his B.S. degree in biochemistry and an M.S. degree in microbiology at the University of the Republic in his hometown of Montevideo, Uruguay. In 2005, he received his Ph.D. degree in plant pathology from Washington State University, working with beneficial rhizosphere fluorescent *Pseudomonas*, under the supervision of **Linda Thomashow** and **David Weller**. In the interim, he was a postdoctoral research associate at Cornell University’s New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, in the group of **Harvey Hoch** and **Tom Burr**, where he studied aspects of cell attachment and movement, colonization, and biofilm development by *Xylella fastidiosa* in microfabricated “artificial xylem vessels.” As an assistant professor at Auburn University, De La Fuente will be teaching molecular plant pathology and performing research involving different bacterial plant pathogens using microbiological, molecular, and nanotechnology approaches.

Meetings

**Kadirova Zarifa Nasirovna**, a virologist with the Institute of Genetics and Plant Experimental Biology, Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, and **Tri Asmira Damayanti**, a virologist with the Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia, received hands-on training in the detection of viruses infecting vegetables under the direction of **Naidu Rayapati**. Department of Plant Pathology, Washington State University. Nasirovna received the training June 1–14, 2008, and Damayanti received the training between May 31 and September 2, 2008. Funding for their visit was from USAID through IPM CRSP project awarded to Rayapati on “Thrips-borne tospoviruses in vegetable cropping systems in Asian countries.”

**George C. Kent** entertaining those gathered to celebrate the 50-year anniversary of the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University in 1957.

George Clarence “Shorty” Kent, professor emeritus of the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University and a Rhodes Scholar, passed away on September 19, 2008, in Ithaca, NY, at the age of 98.

Born in Keene, NH, on July 28, 1910, Kent was raised in Kansas and New Mexico (his father worked in agricultural education and as president of New Mexico A&M). The education and values he received from his parents and from life in the Midwest and Southwest provided him with a capacity for independent thinking, a strong work ethic, and an unwavering sense of fairness; attributes he displayed throughout his life.

Kent studied at New Mexico A&M for 3 years and then, as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, in England, he earned a B.A. degree with a First (High Honors) in botany in 1933. He excelled in sports as well as in academics. He viewed the years in Oxford and the opportunities afforded him by the Rhodes Scholarship as formative influences in his life.

Six graduate students from Cornell’s Departments of Plant Pathology and Plant Microbe Biology at Geneva and Ithaca attended the CSREES-USDA Grantsmanship Workshop in Washington, DC, on September 30 and October 1. The participants were **Amara Camp**, **Christine Layton**, **Michelle Moyer**, **Alan Chambers**, **Santiago Mideros**, and **Jonathan Oliver**. The two-part workshop showcased the diversity of grants offered through USDA competitive programs and also provided advanced instruction from USDA national program leaders and others on how to compose an articulate proposal with enhanced chances of success.

Kent received his Ph.D. degree in 1936 from the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology at Iowa State College in Ames, IA, under **Irving E. Melhus**. He was a faculty member of that department from January 1937 until September 1945, teaching and conducting research focused on diseases of corn and of orchard, nursery, and forage crops. In 1939, he coauthored *Elements of Plant Pathology* with Melhus.
Known as an outstanding teacher, he was hired by Cornell University in 1945 as a professor of plant pathology. In addition to teaching, he carried out research centered on the diseases of cereal grains. In 1950, he was appointed head of the department, a position he held until June 1970. Under his guidance, research emphasis in the department changed from treatment of diseases to a search for their causes and prevention. He inspired camaraderie among the staff by instituting weekly staff meetings during which each of the staff periodically summarized his work, inviting the support and involvement of the entire department. He mentored many graduate students, encouraging them and guiding them as they embarked on their professional careers.

For 4 years in the early 1960s, Kent served concurrently as the head of the Department of Botany at Cornell. He was the first coordinator of planning and development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell from July 1970 until his retirement in August 1975. For decades, he was a consultant to the USDA and the Department of the Army.

From October 1952 to March 1954, Kent worked in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of the Philippines College of Agriculture at Los Baños, under the Cornell contract, to help revitalize the college following WWII. He later returned for short periods of work at the college and at the International Rice Research Institute.

Kent was associate editor and then editor of Phytopathology from 1943 to 1952, elected APS councilor-at-large in 1951, and APS fellow in 1965. He was also a member of the Botanical Society of America, the British Mycological Society, the American Institute of Biological Sciences, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi.

His wife, Ruth, died in 1997 after 58 years of marriage. He leaves three children, seven grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren.

### Classifieds

#### Pathology Scientist, Disease-Resistance Testing, Testing Lead, NAFTA

At Seminis, a division of Monsanto, we are committed to recruiting and retaining the best individuals through our team-oriented culture that encourages creativity, decision-making, and entrepreneurial spirit. Seminis is the largest developer, grower, and marketer of fruit and vegetable seeds in the world. We lead the development of hybrids that improve nutrition, boost crop yields, limit spoilage, and reduce the need of chemicals. Research is the heart of Seminis and its future as we are committed to consistently introducing innovative products for our customers. It’s amazing to consider that improving human health, promoting environmental stewardship, and fostering greater economic growth for the agricultural community can all start with something as small as a seed. Seminis Vegetable Seeds has an opening in Woodland, CA, for a pathology scientist to manage and direct field, greenhouse, and laboratory disease-resistance testing in vegetable crops in collaboration with North/South American breeding programs. Responsibilities include the following. Compile, analyze, and translate current research techniques and state-of-the-art research developments to optimize disease testing strategies. Supervise feasibility studies in the implementation of new methods and recommend changes in testing direction and programs based on researched results. Establish and prioritize disease-resistance testing targets and prepare performance reviews for direct reports. With site leads, develop and manage the annual operating and capital budgets for pathology testing programs in North/South America. Organize and optimize resources to support strategic goals for the business. Organize and supervise disease-management training for research, technology development, sales, and production. Train sales, marketing, seed production, and other nonresearch Seminis personnel about the nature of vegetable diseases and the meaning of resistance. Manage field diagnostic support efforts. Requirements include a Ph.D. degree in pathology or an equivalent discipline with a minimum of 8 years of experience in a research and/or development environment and demonstrated success in technical proficiency, scientific creativity, collaboration with others, and independent thought. Some travel is required; exact amount to be determined. Relocation benefits available. To view a more complete and detailed job description of this exciting position, please visit our website at www.monsanto.com. We offer very competitive salaries and an extensive benefits package. Monsanto values diversity and is an equal opportunity employer. M/F/D/V.

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Calendar of Events

**APS Sponsored Events**

**February 2009**
1-2 — APS Southern Division Meeting. Atlanta, GA. www.cals.ncsu.edu/plantpath/activities/societies/aps/SouthernAPS.html

**March 2009**

**May 2009**

**June 2009**

**October 2009**
28-30 — 2009 APS Northeastern Division Meeting. Québec City, Canada. www.apsnet.org/members/div/northeastern

**December 2009**
9-11 — National Soybean Rust Symposium. New Orleans, LA.

**Upcoming APS Annual Meetings**
- August 1-5, 2009 — Portland, OR.
- August 7-11, 2010 — Nashville, TN.
- August 6-10, 2011 — APS/IAPPS Joint Meeting. Honolulu, HI.

**Other Upcoming Events**

**December 2008**
1-5 — International Research Congress on Citrus Huanglongbing (Greening Disease). Orlando, FL. www.doacs.state.fl.us/pi/hlb_conference/

**January 2009**
12-16 — XV Latin American Congress of Plant Pathology. Santiago, Chile. www.puc.cl/agronomia/congreso2009

TBA — Indian Phytopathological Society International Symposium on Plant Pathology. India. www.ipsdis.org

**March 2009**

24-26 — Sixth International IPM Symposium. Portland, OR. www.ipmcenters.org/ipmsymposium09/

**April 2009**

2-4 — Protein and Peptide Conference (PepCon 2009). COEX, Seoul, South Korea. www.bit-pepcon.com/

**May 2009**


31-June 4 — 14th International Sclerotinia Workshop. Wilmington, NC. www.cals.ncsu.edu/sclerotinia_conference/index.html

**June 2009**


**July 2009**
5-10 — XXI International Conference on Virus and Other Graft Transmissible Diseases of Fruit Crops. Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, Germany. www.icvf.phytomedizin.org/


19-23 — 14th Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions. Québec City, Canada. www.ismpminet.org/meetings

**October 2009**

**November 2009**
10-13 — Indian Phytopathological Society’s 5th International Conference. New Delhi, India. www.ipsdis.org

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