A Year of Plant Health Connections

George Abawi, APS President, gsa1@cornell.edu

Needless to say, 2013–2014 has been a special and fast-moving year for me. It has truly been a pleasure and an honor for me to serve as the president of our great society, and I am most appreciative to all for giving me the opportunity to work with so many dedicated colleagues and staff in moving APS and our profession forward.

I could not have performed my job without the outstanding support and collaboration of so many colleagues on APS Council and all the other groups within the complex structure of APS. My sincere thanks and gratitude go out to them all. I owe special thanks to the dedicated and resourceful staff that we have at APS Headquarters for making me and APS look good! Their dedication, organized and timely planning, and outstanding service to APS members are truly great and go beyond the call of duty. APS continues to be professionally and financially healthy, which is largely due to the hard work and caring of the staff and the many volunteering and loyal members and supporters.

This past year was an eventful and challenging year for APS, but progress on a number of high-priority issues was made and presented during the general session at the 2014 APS-CPS Joint Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. The latter included improvement in our electronic communication; development of new products, including the tomato and turf apps; implementation of mobile versions of the journals and ebooks on Amazon; initiation of the Academic Unit Leaders Forum (AULF); content development for Career Advancement and Development Resources and Education (CADRE)—a new professional development section on the APS website available later in the year; renewed agreement with the Chinese Society of Plant Pathology; value-added programming at the annual meeting; restructuring of the ownership of the Plant Management Network; the development and advocacy for the Phytobiomes Initiative by the Public Policy Board; and the continued, efficient efforts of APS Council and others.

About one-third of APS members live outside the United States and APS continues to work toward a more complete integration of our international members within the society. During my presidency, I charged an international task force to review all the international activities of APS and the enhancement of services provided to international members and provide recommendations for consideration. Another initiative I put into place during my presidency was a request for a report from the APS Extension Committee on the challenges facing extension programs and how APS can advocate more effectively for extension needs. The findings from both of these efforts will be reviewed by council and considered for action in the upcoming year. Watch for more information on these two key areas in the months ahead.

Submit Your Nominations for 2015 APS Awards

The call is now being made for 2015 APS and APS-sponsored award nominations to be presented in Pasadena, CA, U.S.A., at the 2015 APS Annual Meeting. Nominations are open for all major APS awards as listed below and must be submitted on or before November 1, 2014.

- Award of Distinction
- Fellow
- Distinguished Service Award
- Excellence in Extension Award
- Excellence in Industry Award
- Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security
- Excellence in Teaching Award
- International Service Award
- Ruth Allen Award
- William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award
- Lee M. Hutchins Award
- Noel T. Keen Award for Research Excellence in Molecular Plant Pathology
- Syngenta Award

Complete instructions and guidelines for submitting an award package are available at the link below. The Nomination Form must be completed and included in the package and all packages, including renominations, must be complete. The submission page link is included in the instructions at www.apsnet.org/members/awards/Pages/AwardsCallforNominations.aspx.

Stay Tuned for Highlights from the 2014 APS-CPS Joint Meeting

The October 2014 issue of Phytopathology News will feature photos and updates from the 2014 APS-CPS Joint Meeting in Minneapolis. Until then, be sure to watch the APS Facebook page (www.facebook.com/AmericanPhytopathologicalSociety), the APS Twitter feed (@plantdisease and #APS14), and our website (www.apsnet.org/meet). Mark your calendar now for the 2015 APS Annual Meeting, to be held August 1–5, 2015, in Pasadena, CA, U.S.A.
Editor’s Corner

I Saw It on BuzzFeed

Doug Jardine, Kansas State University, PhytoNewsEditor@scisoc.org

Plant pathology, as we know, is a discipline that sort of lurks in the background of the agricultural sciences. Tell someone you are an agronomist, horticulturist, or even an entomologist, and they usually have a good idea of what you do. Of course, tell them you are a plant pathologist, and you usually get that blank look of non-recognition. It’s only after you say “I’m a plant doctor” that the little light of recognition goes on in their head.

When I was director of the APS Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO), one of our goals was to engage the public and increase the awareness of who plant pathologists are and what it is we do. I hope that is still one of their goals. Over the years, we tried various means of outreach, some more successful than others. We created a journalism award for the best plant pathology-related story in the public press (not successful) and we participated regularly in events such as the FFA Career Fair, National Association of Biology Teachers annual meeting, and others (more successful).

Recently, however, plant pathology got a boost through social media from an online site known as BuzzFeed (buzzfeed.com). From their website, the company defines themselves as a social news and entertainment company. They claim to provide the most shareable breaking news, original reporting, entertainment, and video across the social web to its global audience of more than 130 million users.

One section on the site is known as BuzzFeed Community. Users can apply to be in the community by signing up for an account and then making a post they think would do well on BuzzFeed. The community editors then decide if the suggested post is good, fun, original, or interesting (or some glorious combination of those four things), and successful submissions are then featured on the site.

Recently, a community user identified only as “plantdiseasehunter” posted a feature on “11 Plant Diseases That Could Make Your Favorite Foods Disappear.” Under the title was the following information. “You know people and animals get sick, but plants also get sick. Plant diseases threaten some of the world’s favorite food sources. Luckily, plant pathologists (plant doctors) stand between plant diseases and the world’s food supply.” The list that followed contained 11 diseases and the food they threaten as well as one- to two-sentence snippets on their importance. Here is the list as enumerated by the submitter:

1. Stem Rust of Wheat—Pasta and Bread
2. Late Blight—French Fries
3. Panama Disease—Bananas
4. Witches’ Broom and Frosty Pod—Chocolate
5. Citrus Greening—Orange Juice and Mojitos
6. Downy Mildew—Quinoa
7. Coffee Rust—Coffee
8. Downy and Powdery Mildews—Wine and Beer
9. Aflatoxin—Peanut Butter
10. Laurel Wilt—Guacamole
11. Cadang-Cadang—Coconut Milk

The identity of “plantdiseasehunter” remains unknown, although a little Internet sleuthing gives me a strong suspicion of who it may be. You know who you are and I thank you for giving the discipline some visibility out in cyberspace. I first saw the article when a friend posted it on Facebook and who knows how many views it may have had.

In closing, we all need to take up the challenge of promoting our discipline to the public in whatever way we can. As social media continues to increase its presence and becomes more influential, that is where we need to be, and we need to tell our story in a way the public can understand. We can talk about citrus greening or hop downy mildew and it probably won’t be of interest to many people, but tell them it threatens their mojito or beer supply, and then suddenly we have their attention!

You can find the full article at www.buzzfeed.com/plantdiseasehunter/11-plant-diseases-that-could-make-your-favorite-to-puyf.
One of the highest priority issues for APS that has been debated for a long time is the documentation and communication of our impacts. It is embodied in the strategic plan of APS, and it is critical and timely to communicate better on who we are and the value we bring to society, both now and in the future. Recently, I appointed an ad-hoc committee to define this issue and chart a way forward to document and communicate exactly who we are and what we do to various audiences. A previous ad-hoc committee on the future of our profession observed that “there is little to be gained in remaining a well-kept secret.”

However, several major challenges remain and need continued attention, including a new publication strategy and enhancement of the APS journals, promoting international partnerships and engagement, recruiting new members, providing professional development opportunities, and developing innovative plant health products and other materials that impact the future financial health of APS. Above all, we need to communicate how we are relevant to the grand societal challenges of today.

Again, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as president and most appreciate for all the great help from colleagues and staff. I know that APS is in good hands and will continue to be the global leader in plant health issues with the incoming leadership, best staff, an army of loyal volunteer members, and the many generous supporters and partners. My hope is that all of you remain engaged and supportive of our professional home, APS.
The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), “inspired by the world community’s growing commitment to sustainable development,” was opened for signature between June 1992 and 1993; during that time it received 168 signatures, including that of the U.S. delegation. It entered into force in December 1993 after it was ratified by the thirtieth party. While the United States never ratified the CBD, 194 parties, including 193 countries and the European Union, have done so. The convention texts stipulate that biological diversity be utilized sustainably with fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from that use (Articles 10 and 15). The communication on this matter at the national level is organized through national focal points and each country designates a competent national authority on access and benefit sharing. In the United States, this function is provided by the Office of Conservation and Science at the U.S. Department of States. The United States is not a contracting party to the CBD, but has observer status.

CBD provides a framework for parties to establish national regulations and it is these national regulations on the transfer of biological materials that may impact research activities in phytopathology and especially international collaborations that require international movement of these materials. For instance, any transfer of biological material from one party to another should be with “prior informed consent” under “mutually agreed terms” (PIC, MAT). CBD specifically emphasizes that it should not hinder technical and scientific cooperation or technology transfer (CBD, Article 18). The Global Taxonomy Initiative (GTI), established under the convention as a cross-cutting initiative to facilitate implementation of CBD, has been able to make contributions to the discussion on access and benefit sharing. GTI continues to provide opportunities for engagement of taxonomists in biodiversity research and related scientific collaborations and is an important topic area for the engagement of plant pathologists.

CBD works through associated protocols and targets. The 2003 Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety addresses issues related to living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. In addition to establishing baselines for national legislation, the subsequent Nagoya–Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress emphasizes that national law creates an environment to promote the development of modern biotechnology and includes a requirement that legislation should address liability for damage to biodiversity. In 2010, the Conference of the Parties (COP) to CBD adopted the Nagoya Protocol that provides a transparent legal framework for the effective implementation of access and benefit sharing. The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 to 2020 establishes the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and, among them, target 16 states, “By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.” The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing, which enters into force October 12, 2014, and has spawned a number of initiatives to simplify and promote sustainable utilization of microbial resources. Among these, the TRUST program seeks to establish culture collections as the authoritative source of characterized material with well-documented provenance. TRUST, which stands for TRansparent User-friendly System of Transfer for Science & Technology, is an example of how the culture collection community envisions a robust system for managing the exchange of pre-approved material through a global network of collections and laboratories. Importantly, the Nagoya Protocol establishes pathways for academic research to transition to for-profit research and it recognizes that benefits are not simply financial and promotes the recognition of the value of non-monetary benefits, such as capacity building, training, and collaboration. Future technologies, including genomics and synthetic biology, may change how CBD and its associated protocols are interpreted and implemented.
There is a plethora of books, seminars, and workshops available about leadership and what makes a good leader and many, no doubt, have made some authors very wealthy. I don’t pretend to know all of the things that go into good leadership, but what I do know about leadership is that it embodies an individual’s skill set and style. Style is perhaps influenced more by our personality (who doesn’t know about the Myers-Briggs assessment?), but skills can be learned. Only a very small number of people, if any at all, are “born” leaders. Most of us have to develop the necessary skills and good judgment over time to become good, effective leaders. Will Rogers said, “Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.” Good leaders have, among other things, good judgment, but most probably developed that trait by “trial and error.” APS has long been concerned with identifying potential society leaders early in their careers and providing them with opportunities to hone their skills. The recently created Learning Institute within the society is a good example, as are the many opportunities graduate students and early career professionals have to participate in numerous APS committees and activities. The APS Foundation also has several funds that help assist with that process. I have had the honor and privilege of being in leadership roles within my universities, professional societies, and civic and community organizations and each has taught me valuable lessons. Some of those lessons were hard earned.

Leadership skills grow with experience. The College of Agriculture at Purdue University has an undergraduate leadership development certificate program that offers highly qualified and motivated students an opportunity to participate in a two-year program packed with academic, extracurricular, and community service requirements. When completed, students receive a leadership certificate that is amended to their diplomas. I had the pleasure of serving as a mentor for several of these students. As part of my initial interview with them, I asked them to jot down as many skills and attributes they thought good leaders possessed and which ones they thought they had. They listed many of the common traits: visionary, critical thinker, competent, trustworthy, multitasker, etc., and after some discussion and prodding, we had a combined list of more than 30 items. However, each thought they only had a couple of those traits and skills and wanted to develop more. This is the crux of good leadership—developing the critical skills you don’t have and improving upon the ones you do have. And that takes time and it takes making mistakes along the way. But, at the same time, one needs to be a quick learner and not repeat the same mistakes. There are many quotable quotes about leadership, but one I like is, “experience is what enables us to recognize a mistake when we make it again.” A critical attribute common among good leaders is that they are not afraid to make mistakes. Mistakes are how we learn. This is a must and it comes from having confidence in yourself, your vision, and your team, be it an academic unit, company, or professional society. Those who never make mistakes don’t do very much. Having said that, however, good leaders openly admit mistakes, accept responsibility, and do not pass blame onto others, all the while striving to attain additional information to modify and improve their decisions.

If leadership could be summed up in one sentence it might be that leadership is about having a clear vision and empowering others to help achieve that vision. Leadership is about team building and inspiring people to take ownership and pride, while pursuing the bigger vision. Good leaders recognize each individual’s skills and assemble team members that complement each other. Leadership is not about how much credit you get but encouraging and recognizing those who help make it happen. Good leaders freely and frequently recognize and reward those they lead.

Good leaders see the big picture but understand they cannot do it all. They learn to delegate responsibility. This not only spreads out the workload, but helps instill a sense of ownership in the project and allows the leader to focus more on the leading rather than on the doing. Many of us, however, do not delegate well. Too often we use the excuse “it’s easier if I just do it myself.” While this sometimes may be the case, it typically is not good leadership. Good leaders have many things on their plate, and time management is crucial to getting projects completed. Delegation of responsibilities helps, but it is not the end all. A mistake often made by leaders is that they spend much of their time doing the easy stuff, while putting off the difficult stuff. This is akin to “stomping ants and letting the elephants run wild!” Good leaders accept the challenges of the difficult stuff and roll their sleeves up to get them done—on time and on budget.

Perhaps the hardest thing to grasp about leadership is strategic planning. Most of us are all too familiar with the chore of developing strategic plans. At least we think we are. Most universities, companies, and organizations require their units to develop five-year strategic plans, a task many people find both difficult and useless. But it should not be either one. A well-conceived strategic plan provides a road map to where you want to go, but before you make the road map, you need to know where it is you want to be! This comes from vision. Good leaders have vision. Vision is about knowing where you want the unit to be, what you want them to accomplish, or how you want others to perceive you. To paraphrase a scene from Lewis Carroll’s Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, if you don’t know where you want to be, then it doesn’t matter which way you go.

A strategic plan begins with a shared vision and an understanding of what it will take to make that vision a reality. This requires anticipating challenges and obstacles likely to be encountered, as well as recognizing and seizing opportunities. It also entails a reasonable expectation of resources needed, both capital and human, as well as the support of higher administration. Few things get done if the big bosses don’t concur! Thus the vision needs to be shared by both the unit and those above the unit. The road map then becomes a plan that gets you to your vision and one that others can follow. There needs to be consensus and the belief that a “rising tide floats all boats.” If the unit gets better, everyone gets better by default.

(continued online at www.apsnet.org/members/apsleadership/pages/LeadershipInstitute.aspx)

“Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.”

—WILL ROGERS
Thank You APS Foundation Contributors

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Phytopathology News

The University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWM) Department of Plant Pathology welcomed the APS North Central Division to Madison, WI, for the 2014 meeting, featuring three days of field trips, meetings, oral presentations, posters, and more. The conference was held June 11–13, 2014, at the UWM Pyle Extension Conference Center and was attended by more than 150 participants from the North Central region and the nation. Two symposia were featured and included “Impact of Genomic Research and Advancements on Production Agriculture: Is Science Translating to the Field?” and “From Host Recognition to Transmission: Advances in Mechanisms of Infection.” Field trips included “Grapes & Grass,” which highlighted grape and wine production at Wollersheim Winery and a tour of the UW-O. J. Noer Turfgrass & Education Facility, and “Most of Madison,” which included visits to key sites and tastes of Madison by bike.

A special highlight was a centennial celebration of extension in a symposium and panel discussion entitled “Celebrating 100 Years of Extension in the U.S.,” featuring a presentation on the current status and future outlook of extension in Wisconsin and the United States by John Shutske, interim provost and vice chancellor of UW extension. The extension symposium panels offered topics geared toward young career professionals interested in learning more about activities of extension plant pathologists and creative funding approaches for both proactive and responsive programming.

The poster session included more than 60 outstanding academic posters covering a broad range of plant pathology topics. UW plant pathology graduate students offered special creative contributions, including a musical performance by the deBary-tones at the welcome reception and a plant pathology-themed art exhibit entitled “Portrait of a Pathogen: The Collision of Creative Minds and Destructive Pathogens Art Exhibit.” Additionally, Madison was honored to have been selected by both the APS Divisional Forum and the NCERA 184 North Central Wheat Working group as their 2014 annual meeting site.

The division honored members with special recognition at the awards banquet. The first-place winner of the Student Oral Paper Competition was Erica Arcibal (UWM). Tiffany Lowe (UWM) and Suzanne Slack (Michigan State University [MSU]) were the second- and third-place award winners, respectively. Michael Millican (Iowa State University [ISU]), Gazala Ameen (North Dakota State University [NDSU]), and Jennifer Odom (NDSU) earned first, second, and third prize, respectively, in the Student Poster Competition. Loren Giesler (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) was presented with the APS North Central Division Distinguished Service Award. Sam Markell (NDSU) was presented with the APS North Central Early Career Award. Travel award winners included Kyle Broderick (University of Nebraska), Chelsea Harbach (University of Illinois), Albert Kertho (NDSU), Gazala Ameen (NDSU), Michael Millican (ISU), Sally Mallowa (ISU), Sidrat Abdullah (South Dakota State University), Nik Mohammed Nor (Kansas State University [KSU]), Junli Zhang (KSU), Anna Novososke (Purdue University), Slack (MSU), Amber Townes (MSU), Bhupendra Acharya (The Ohio State University [OSU]), and Christine Balk (OSU).

The conference was coordinated by Amanda Gevens (immediate past North Central Division president), along with many other UWM plant pathology faculty, staff, and student volunteers. Tamra Jackson-Ziems (Divisional Forum representative) and Carl Bradley (secretary-treasurer) also contributed greatly to the meeting’s organization. Full meeting highlight photos will be available on the APS website at www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/nc/meetings. The 2015 meeting will be held in East Lansing, MI, with coordination efforts led by current APS North Central Division President George Sundin (MSU).
Student Degree

Jesse Ostrander recently completed the requirements for an M.S. degree from the Department of Plant Pathology at Kansas State University. Ostrander conducted his research in the laboratory of Megan Kennelly. His thesis project involved evaluating varieties of creeping bentgrass turfgrass for susceptibility to dollar spot as well as assessing sensitivity of Sclerotinia homoeocarpa to several fungicides. Ostrander is currently working in the Plant Diagnostic Lab at North Dakota State University as the assistant diagnostian.

Award

The National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) leadership is pleased to announce that two NPDN laboratories, the Plant Diagnostic Center at the University of Florida (UF) and the Plant Disease Diagnostic Clinic at Cornell University (CU), were awarded STAR-D laboratory accreditation as of May 1, 2014. In February 2014, both labs opened their doors and hosted external auditors for an intensive review of their procedures and materials. This was a significant achievement for Carrie Harmon and Anne Vitoreli (UF), and Karen Snover-Clift and Sandra Jensen (CU) who began implementing STAR-D practices in 2010. STAR-D was created to provide an assessment of laboratories within the NPDN system. Accreditation through the STAR-D program signifies that a laboratory has met essential requirement and standards by demonstrating technical competence to perform testing, using reliable methodologies and equipment, and having both qualified staff and appropriate facilities. NPDN leadership needs to recognize the extraordinary efforts of the external auditors who participated in the first accreditation audits. The University of Florida External Audit Team consisted of Dawn Dalley O’Brien and Snover-Clift (CU) (NPDN), and Ron French (Texas A&M University) (GPDN). The CU External Audit Team consisted of Jason French (New Mexico State University) (WPDN), Shouhua Wang (Nevada Department of Agriculture) (WPDN), and Judy O’Mara (Kansas State University) (GPDN), and Kathy Burch (USDA APHIS PPQ CPHST) attended both audits, participated in planning meetings, and served as a consultant for the auditors. Her 20-plus years as a quality manager were invaluable to the newly trained auditors. Additional laboratory accreditation evaluations are planned for this winter.

In Memory

Oscar Bradfute, professor emeritus at The Ohio State University, passed away in Davis, CA, U.S.A., on May 13, 2014, at the age of 84. Bradfute, who retired in 1994, conducted plant virus research at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) in Wooster. He was noted for the use of electron microscopy to detect and identify virus and virus-like agents in maize. He was part of the research group that first identified Maize chlorotic dwarf virus and other important viruses of maize. He was instrumental in designing OARDC’s microscopy center that is still in operation today. A native of Ohio, Bradfute received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from OSU and his Ph.D. degree from the University of California-Berkeley. He was an Air Force veteran.

A. P. K. Reddy passed away unexpectedly of a heart attack at his daughter’s home in Chicago, IL, U.S.A., on July 17, 2013. He is survived by wife Suseela Reddy, son, daughter, and four grandchildren.

Ankireddy Pally Krishna Reddy was born on June 10, 1940, in a village near Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh, India. He went to school in Kadapa and obtained his bachelor’s degree in agricultural sciences from Bapatla Agricultural College, Andhra University in 1962 and his master’s degree from Coimbatore Agricultural College of Madras University in 1964. He joined the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, to work toward his Ph.D. degree. He started working under the supervision of R. Prasada. Reddy was recognized as an excellent student by his teachers and peers in the class and obtained his Ph.D. degree in mycology and plant pathology in 1967.

His research career began as a plant pathologist at the USAID collaborative program at All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project (AICRIP), presently Directorate of Rice Research (DRR); ICAR at Hyderabad in 1967. I. W. Buddenhagen invited Reddy to join him at the University of Hawaii, Honolulu during 1970–1971 to work on the variability of Xanthomonas oryzae. Reddy felt that this was a great experience that helped him study the pathogen variability throughout his career.

For the following 33 years, he worked on major diseases of rice, bacterial leaf blight (BLB) and rice blast disease, that were causing enormous yield losses in all rice-growing areas of India and Southeast Asia. But his passion to work with Xanthomonas oryzae pv. oryzae, the causal organism of BLB, was what kept him contributing until the end of his career. In the early part of his career, he jointly worked with Herald E. Kauffman, Buddenhagen, and David R. McKenzie on several aspects of BLB disease and X. oryzae pv. oryzae, such as studying factors favoring disease incidence, developing rapid and improved techniques for bacterial inoculation for screening resistant varieties, and identifying strains of X. oryzae pv. oryzae.

One of Reddy’s contributions was identifying the role of wild rice in disease spread and establishing it as the source of origin of X. oryzae pv. oryzae. He felt the lineage may be native to wild rice and may have subsequently been transferred to cultivated rice. Reddy intensely studied pathogenic variability in bacterial strains and their multiplication and movement in rice varieties. He successfully conducted several experiments to control the disease and continuously screened rice germplasm for resistant genes.

Reddy made significant contributions toward understanding the nature of virulence of X. oryzae pv. oryzae, disease spread, and factors playing a role in disease epidemics. The relationship he established between the severity of BLB and yields allowed the construction of a critical point model to predict BLB-associated crop losses. In 1977, he jointly worked with McKenzie, Department of Plant Pathology, Pennsylvania State University, United States,
and developed mathematical models of BLB epidemics and forecasting. During the 1990s, Reddy was awarded a grant by the Rockefeller Foundation and extended his research toward molecular biology. Teaming with a few molecular biologists, he found three distinct pathotypes in the *X. oryzae pv. oryzae* populations that varied at the molecular level and he characterized several known functional resistance genes in different rice varieties for BLB for gene-transferring experiments. These genes were later used to develop transgenic rice resistant to BLB elsewhere.

After the epidemics of rice blast (caused by *Pyricularia oryzae* Cav.) especially in south India during 1984–1985, Reddy became associated with research on rice blast management, particularly disease resistance. In 1988, he accepted a position with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) in Manila, Philippines, as the resident pathologist and was stationed at the RRT Center in Sakha, Egypt. During his stay at the RRT Center, until 1991, Reddy organized the rice research pathology program in Sakha, identified inoculum sources of the rice blast pathogen, monitored the population variability of the pathogen, and identified appropriate sources of resistance to major races of the pathogen that were prevalent in the Nile delta of Egypt. He found that the blast pathogen readily overwinters in seed and infested straw under conditions in Egypt and presented ways to reduce the primary inoculum. Back in India, he was instrumental in identifying slow blasting genotypes.

As a principal investigator, Reddy successfully coordinated the rice pathology program for years and also several research centers involving a number of pathologists across the nation and at IRRI. These efforts resulted in the identification of varieties with broad-spectrum resistance to major rice diseases. Reddy actively and very effectively participated in the planning, monitoring, data processing, and formulating of this program, while also interacting with the farming community.

He also contributed individual articles on the subject of plant pathology to several books and was an editor of some of them during his long career. He served the Indian Phytopathological Society as a book reviewer. Reddy published more than 100 research papers in Indian and several reputed international journals. He also guided the research of a number of graduate students working in Ph.D. programs.

Reddy became principal scientist and head of the Plant Pathology Department at DRR in 1985 and continued there until his retirement. Reddy was a hard-working scientist and a good human being. Known to be a noncontroversial person, he considered his colleagues as a team. He thought more deeply about what he observed and about his experiments than most. After serving several years as a director at DRR (ICAR), he retired in June 2000. But he continued his deep interest in plant pathology and kept himself busy as a mentor for several students and young scientists until his last days.

An enthusiastic gardener, he developed a mango orchard in his village and took a great pride in nurturing the plants of the orchard to fruition. Surely the plant pathologist community misses an outstanding researcher and a modest humble human being. We who wished him well, pray that his soul may rest in peace.
Professor and Head, Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology

The Pennsylvania State University (PSU) Department of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology is seeking a dynamic individual to provide leadership and vision as department head. The department name has recently changed to reflect ongoing work and new initiatives in environmental microbiology. The department is recognized nationally and internationally for research and educational programs in plant pathology, mushroom science, and environmental microbiology and provides an intellectually stimulating, diverse, and inclusive environment with broad academic appeal. The department supports strong extension programs in fruit, mushroom, ornamental, turfgrass, and vegetable crops as well as basic and applied research programs on aerobiology, biological control, forest health, fungal biology, microbial ecology and evolution, and plant-microbe interactions. The department has a highly ranked graduate program in plant pathology and actively participates in the plant sciences undergraduate major and other academic programs. The person filling this position serves as the departmental program leader and administrative officer, reporting directly to the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences. Duties include academic program leadership in research, graduate and undergraduate instruction, and extension; administrative responsibility for academic affairs, departmental personnel, financial matters, and physical facilities; leadership and coordination of departmental relations with agricultural producers, agricultural industries, government agencies, and citizens of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; creating an environment that supports and encourages diversity and inclusion. Ph.D. degree in plant pathology, environmental microbiology, or a closely related field required in addition to excellence in research, education, and/or extension with a record of scholarship that would qualify the candidate for tenure; effectiveness in advocating research, education, and extension missions; program and administrative leadership experience or strong evidence of the potential for program and administrative leadership; excellence in written/oral communication; strong interpersonal/networking skills; and ability to provide an inclusive environment for all faculty, staff, and students. Applicants should submit a cover letter summarizing interest in the position and qualifications; CV; and names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of at least three professional references. Submit to Cindy Sackett, Search Committee Coordinator, The Pennsylvania State University College of Agricultural Sciences, 201 Ag Administration Bldg., University Park, PA 16802.

Field Development Representative—Plant Pathology

ISK Biosciences Corporation is seeking a field development representative in plant pathology. Define field development needs. Prepare and submit budget to meet those needs. Locate cooperators, develop trial protocols, and implement trials. Obtain field trial reports, review, and, when appropriate, prepare reports on the results. Provide the regulatory group with the use patterns necessary for the development and implementation of field residue studies. Write label use instructions in cooperation with headquarters and ISK distribution partners. Work with marketing and distribution companies to assure common understanding of product performance and positioning. Provide feedback on product performance in comparison to potential competitors and in relation to market needs. Represent the company in professional/industry meetings. Act as GLP study director if needed. Represent the company on resistance action committees. Job requirements include three to five years of post-graduate work in applied plant pathology; field experimental design experience; a background in U.S. production agriculture; a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology, plant science, or closely related area; ability to relocate; excellent communication skills; strong capabilities in the interpretation/communication of trial results; strong computer skills with ARM fluency and database management a plus; legally eligible to work in the United States.

Important APS Dates to Remember

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<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>August 2014</td>
<td>28 Submissions due for 2015 APS Special Sessions, Field Trips, Workshops</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2014</td>
<td>30 Submissions due for MPMI Focus Issue</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 2014</td>
<td>31 APS funding opportunity deadline</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2014</td>
<td>1 Nominations due for APS awards</td>
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</tbody>
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Here are just a few of the headlines you missed this month from the APS Twitter feed.

- Cornell experts working to manipulate the natural defenses of potato plants against pests to increase yields: [http://ow.ly/y9Kt](http://ow.ly/y9Kt)
- Tomato diseases that spread easily among plants by hands, tools, equipment showing up in OH fields: [http://go.osu.edu/jn3](http://go.osu.edu/jn3)
- French Grain Beset by Unprecedented Levels of Yellow Rust [http://buswk.co/1ph7nA0](http://buswk.co/1ph7nA0)
- The Next Green Revolution May Rely on Microbes [http://to.pbs.org/1l3Grhc](http://to.pbs.org/1l3Grhc)

Get the latest and greatest plant disease news as it happens!

www.twitter.com/plantdisease

Classified Policy: You can process your job listing at www.apsnet.org/careers/jobcenter. Please note: Your online job listing will be edited by newsletter staff to a maximum of approximately 200 words for the print listing in Phytopathology News. 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 have your job listing included in Phytopathology News, simply select the option on the online form (there is an additional $55 fee). If you have any questions, contact the APS Placement Coordinator (apsplacement@scisoc.org).
Phytopathology

August 2014, Volume 104, Number 8


Transmission of Pantoea ananatis and P. agglomerans, Causal Agents of Center Rot of Onion (Allium cepa), by Onion Thrips (Thrips tabaci) Through Feces.


Plant Disease

August 2014, Volume 98, Number 8


MPM

August 2014, Volume 27, Number 8


Plant Management Network

www.plantmanagementnetwork.org

Plant Health Progress

Attraction of Walnut Twig Beetle Pityophthorus juglandis (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) to the Fungus Geosmithia morbida.
Calendar of Events

**APS Sponsored Events**

**August 2014**

9-13  **APS Annual Meeting.**
Minneapolis, MN.
www.apsnet.org/meet
*(Held jointly with the Canadian Phytopathological Society.)*

**October 2014**

29-31  **Northeastern Division Meeting.**
Portsmouth, NH.
www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/ne

**January 2015**

31-Feb 2  **Southern Division Meeting.**
Atlanta, GA.
www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/south

**March 2015**

11-13  **2015 APS Potomac Division Meeting.**
Rehoboth Beach, DE.
www.apsnet.org/members/divisions/pot

**August 2015**

1-5  **APS Annual Meeting.**
Pasadena, CA.
www.apsnet.org/meet
1-5  **Pacific Division Meeting.** *(in conjunction with APS)*

**July 2016**

30-Aug 3  **APS Annual Meeting.**
Tampa, FL.

**Other Upcoming Events**

**August 2014**

7  **Sustainability Genetics, and Future Cultivars Workshop, presented by APS and AACC International.**
www.apsnet.org/meet/topicalmeetings/pages/SGFCworkshop.aspx

8-9  **North American Late Blight Symposium.** Minneapolis, MN.
http://oomyceteworld.net/lbs/main.html

**October 2014**

27-31  **Fourth International Rice Congress (IRC) 2014.** Bangkok, Thailand.
http://ricecongress.com/2014

**November 2014**

5-6  **29th Annual tomato Disease Workshop.** Windsor, Ontario, Canada.
https://sites.google.com/site/tomatodiseaseworkshop2014/

**March 2015**

23-27  **Eighth International IPM Symposium, IPM: Solutions for a Changing World.**
Salt Lake City, UT. www.ipmcenters.org/IPMSymposium15

24-26  **61st Annual Meeting of the Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens.**