

## APS Committee Annual Report Examples

### Title **Graduate Student 2023**

Committee/Board Graduate Student

Group APSSGP

Recent Activities The APS Graduate Student Committee had its second APS Plant Diagnostic Bowl Competition at the Plant Health Meeting held in Denver, Colorado, and the turnout was impressive. We had over a hundred participants and a prize of \$50 gift cards to the APS bookstore was awarded to each of the 10 winners. Six winners were picked from the undergraduate and graduate student categories (three from each of the category) while two were picked from the early career and mid-late career researchers respectively. It was co-sponsored by the Extension, Integrated Disease Management, Diagnostics, Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection, and the Industry Committees. Also, at the Plant Health meeting, we had a networking hour where we met to network and talk about our research and the future. In December 2022, we had a webinar on mentoring and our speakers were Dr Carolee Bull and Dr Renee Rioux There was a notable turnout at our annual committee meeting with over fifty students in attendance, where we gave updates, elected a Vice Chair, and brainstormed ideas. Outside of the annual meeting, we organized monthly social meetings and invited ECRs to share their experiences. Also, we gave out 5 awards for the Art-in-Phytopathology contest; graduate students were spotlighted monthly in the Phytopathology News; helped to organize reviews for the Student Travel Award applications, and consistently posted on our social media platforms.

Objectives

- Increase opportunities for graduate students to be more involved in APS → Just as we did last year, we plan to organize APS webinars geared towards graduate students.
- Increase opportunities for graduate student networking and connection throughout the year → We will continue our monthly Zoom socials for members of the committee to better get to know one another and connect more. → Also, invite ECRs from different facets to speak to us at our monthly meeting. Presently, we are working on modalities of getting an extension officer to talk to graduate students about how they can relate with growers and pass information across without the use of ambiguous words.
- Continue to develop our online Community page → All communication from our committee will still be through our community → We will increase student engagement in our community through prompt updates and passing of necessary information

Outcomes

Actionable Items

- We will need approval and possible funding from Council for organized workshops/webinars.
- We intend to improve on the APS Plant Diagnostic Bowl competition by making it a divisional competition as against individuals. Therefore, we will need continual support from the APS, other committees and divisions, and if possible, external organizations to fund the event.
- The APS Plant diagnostic bowl was a success because we created a subcommittee saddled with the task of ensuring a smooth run of the event. Therefore, we decided to maintain the sub-committee.
- Our committee social media supervisors will continue to connect with all other APS social media coordinators. The increased connection between APS social media accounts would be beneficial for society and all APS committees/groups.
- For next year's Student Travel Award, we would still engage the help of members of other committees to review the applications, to lessen the burden on the student reviewers.
- For the networking program, we would like to have an in-person networking event at the Division level. These events might require organizational assistance from the APS Council to make them happen.

## APS Committee Annual Report Examples

Roster Chair: Temilade Fetuga Vice Chair: Kensy Rodriguez Social Media: Melinda Guzman and Shivreet Kaur Art-in-Phytopathology: Shiv Singla and Chelsea Newbold

### **Title Collections and Germplasm 2023**

Committee/Board Collections and Germplasm

Group APSSUB

Recent Activities At the Plant Health 2022 Meeting a special session was held called “There’s a collection for that ...”. This session was the beginning of a long-term goal within the Collections and Germplasm Committee (CGC) to 1) Raise awareness of various plant and microbe collections worldwide 2) increase APS community collaboration with the CGC and 3) Identify concerns related to the sustainability of these collections (e.g. funding concerns and loss of knowledge/collections due to retirements). In an effort to expand upon the success of the 2022 special session, we organized a field trip to the USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation in Ft. Collins, CO for Plant Health 2023. Agdia sponsored this tour. There were 16 participants that attended the tour where they interacted with USDA scientists involved in plant, microbe, and associated data preservation. The CGC also hosted an Idea Café at Plant Health 2023 entitled “The Importance of Preserving Our Microbial Collections for Future Generations”. The Idea Café was attended by 26 participants. A table on Monday and Tuesday for the APS Collections and Germplasm Committee Networking Hours was another event hosted by the APS CGC.

Objectives As mentioned previously, the CGC is currently focused on three main goals that have followed a 3-year arc/plan. Moving into 2024, the CGC will be organizing numerous webinars to further support goal 1 as well as act on some of the concerns related to knowledge transfer identified in goal 3. We also discussed the new APHIS pathogen permitting process and decided to reach out to other related committees and develop a fact sheet/video about this new permitting process. Finally, we will carry out a survey within the APS community, seeking insights into personal or institutional culture and germplasm collections. The outcomes of this survey, which we anticipate publishing in one of the APS journals, aim to facilitate the broader utilization and awareness of such collections among APS members. For Plant Health 2024 we plan on submitting a special session related to the new CHIPs and Science Act. This act has two major provisions that will have impacts on the plant health community. First, provision 10344 Research Reproducibility and Replicability and the second, provision 10355 Biological Research Collection, will require inclusion of a data/specimen management plans in NSF proposals. We expect this mandate will trickle down to other federal proposals. The CGC is in support of any activities to improve data and culture or germplasm availability, however, we are concerned about current collection sustainability due to loss of funding, personnel, and institutional knowledge.

### Outcomes

Actionable Items The CGC would appreciate a response from the public policy committee to formulate an outreach plan to congress regarding 1) the awareness of germplasm collections in their state 2) the awareness of the CHIPs and Science act and potential impacts on the plant health community and 3) promote additional funding/resources to public germplasm collections, such as the USDA ones, to support germplasm collection sustainability and the impacts having to maintain additional germplasm due to the CHIPs and Science Act.

*APS Committee Annual Report Examples*

Roster	Chair: Dr. Jason Zurn, Kansas State University (Will also serve as the fast response team member for the next two years). Vice-Chair: Dr. Shahin Ali, American Type Culture Collection (ATCC)
Comments	The CGC would like to bring to attention the CHIPS and Science Act and some of the impacts this will have on the plant health community.

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