

# **The American Phytopathological Society**

## **Code of Professional Conduct**

### **I. Preamble**

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is a professional organization with a code of professional conduct which encompasses the values important to the profession and expresses the profession's responsibilities to the public, clients, and colleagues.

Membership in APS assumes an obligation of self-discipline with compliance to these professional standards. The APS Code of Professional Conduct is intended to guide members in the performance of their professional responsibilities and conduct.

### **II. Principles**

1. Members accept the obligation to serve the public interest, honor the public trust, enhance the welfare of humanity, encourage environmental stewardship, and demonstrate a commitment to professionalism.
2. Members perform all professional responsibilities with the highest sense of integrity, and maintain objectivity and freedom from conflicts of interest in discharging their professional responsibilities.
3. Members strive continually to improve their competence and the quality of services, and discharge all professional responsibilities to the best of their ability.

### **III. Canons**

1. Members have the duty to observe all laws and regulations of the land pertaining to the profession, uphold the dignity and honor of the profession, and expose illegal or unethical conduct in the profession.
2. Members will act in such a manner as to protect the resources of the natural and agricultural environments in which they work and will strive to avoid direct or indirect adverse effects on people or the environment that might result from their presence, activities, or equipment.
3. Members will not allow the use of their names, reports, or other technical materials by any enterprise known to be illegal, fraudulent, of questionable character, or contrary to the welfare of the public or the environment.
4. Members will neither seek employment, grants, or personal gain, nor attempt to injure the reputation or opportunities for employment of other scientists by false or undocumented claims or accusations, or by offers of gifts or favors.
5. Members will strive for accuracy in reporting observations made by themselves and others, and will recognize contributions of others whenever appropriate.
6. Members will work and act in a strict spirit of truth and fairness with employers, clients, contractors, and employees, and in a spirit of personal helpfulness and collegiality toward other members of the profession.
7. Members will endeavor to recognize conflicts of interest and to avoid the abuse of privileged positions or circumstances. Such include, but are not limited to:
  - (i) review and evaluation of manuscripts and grant applications,
  - (ii) establishment of program directions and responsibilities,
  - (iii) evaluation of candidates for employment or promotion,
  - (iv) service in APS or other leadership positions,
  - (v) service in consulting activities,
  - (vi) student guidance,
  - (vii) simultaneous service in profit-making and not-for-profit organizations, and
  - (viii) use of any position or resources to compete unethically or unfairly with colleagues.
8. Members recognize responsibilities to students, technicians, and other associates working under their supervision and will treat them with dignity, respect, and consideration, provide them with training where required, and by direction and example teach them to adhere to the professional standards herein.