

ANNUAL REPORT

Ninety-Forth Annual Report of the American Phytopathological Society

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Note: This Annual Report along with the reports of the APS Treasurer, the APS Foundation, the Public Policy Board, the Office of International Programs, Office of Public Affairs and Education, Office of Electronic Communication, Office of Industry Relations, the Society publications, the representative/liaisons to other agencies, the APS committees, and the division councilors are available on APSnet at <http://www.apsnet.org/members/Pages/default.aspx> .

Annual Meeting Overview

The 94th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society was held at the Midwest Express Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 27-31, 2002. Over 1,500 plant pathologists from more than 30 countries attended the meeting. A brief report of the meeting was published in *Phytopathology News*, in September 2002

(http://www.apsnet.org/publications/phytopathologynews/Past%20Issues/2002_09.pdf).

President Jacqueline Fletcher welcomed participants to the APS plenary session “Call to Action: A Critical Shortage in U.S. Agricultural Research Funding.” The late APS President **Noel Keen** developed the theme. It was his hope and passion that a plenary on this topic would be a vehicle for change.

G. E. Schuh, regents professor of agricultural economics, University of Minnesota, spoke on “Financing Agricultural Research in an Open International Economy.” He outlined trends in U.S. agricultural research funding. He proposed that investing in international cooperation, research, teaching, and policy would have long lasting positive impacts on food quality, abundance, and public support for agricultural research.

R. Boeding, National Corn Growers Association, contributed “Perspectives from a Commodity Organization on Agricultural Research Funding.” He acknowledged APS for providing rational, science based information that commodities such as NCGA can use to promote and educate the public on food safety. NCGA supports several agricultural research-associated activities, such as the genomics initiative of the National Science Foundation, congressional testimonies for budget support for NSF, Department of Energy, and USDA, and individual research programs at universities. NCGA and other commodity associations play an important role in facilitating aggregation of resources from government agencies, research institutes and business.

D. Zeloski, Muck Farms Inc., Lake Mills, WI, spoke on “A Grower’s Perspective on Federally Funded Agricultural Research.” He spoke of the many benefits gained since the 1940’s from partnerships with the University of Wisconsin. Lowered pesticide use, and improvements in conservation tillage, pest control, and fertility have lead to overall yields on less than half the acreage. But shrinking budgets in state and federal funding for agricultural research have eroded the number of faculty positions dealing with the needs of growers. He challenged state and federal agencies to find the resources to promote research for an abundant and safe food supply.

R. Brown, deputy under secretary for research education, and economics, and **K. Eversole**, Eversole Associates, and APS legislative liaison, presented Washington perspectives. “Science: The Foundation of Agriculture” has become a slogan for **Dr. J. Jen**, Secretary of Agriculture, and **R. Brown** because it underscores the need for good solid science in agriculture. In 1940 the average farmer in the U.S. fed 19 people, today the number is 129 people. While productivity from 1948 to 1994 increased by an average of 9.4% every year, the number of people working in agriculture decreased, as did the number of voices speaking to the issues of agriculture. The percentage of income on food in the U.S. also declined to only 10% in 1999. The actual dollars for agricultural research has increased, but after adjusting for inflation, the amount has declined. He suggested the USDA budget is not seen as a research budget. There is a need to flag the research part of the budget so it can be identified for increases.

K. Eversole’s presentation on “Increasing Funding for Agricultural Research: Getting Out of the Bunker” concluded the plenary. Given the present funding situation, she suggested an approach based on reality. Since 1991, USDA research has increased by 19% constant dollars. In appropriation terms, USDA research has increased by almost 70% since 1991. Most of the increase has been in noncompetitive programs. But the bunker mentality of comparing USDA’s budget to other federal agencies, animal versus plant research, ARS versus CSREES, and formula funds versus competitive grants has left a divided and conquered arena for agricultural research. She advocated a new paradigm for agricultural research funding, stressing the importance of the new 2002 Farm Bill and a focus on actual appropriations. She sees a current lack of understanding of the appropriation and budget process. Agriculture must grow up, and can begin by focusing on overall research dollars, maintaining a united front, setting priorities for funding increases, and demanding that the administration request an overall increase for agricultural research.

There were more than 715 presentations, including 24 symposia, 152 contributed oral papers, 525 contributed posters, 11 discussions, 3 workshops, 3 field trips, and one teach-in. Thirty-two exhibits and APS Press were popular for many of the attendees, as were guest tours.

Twenty-one graduate students were awarded named travel grants in honor of **John M. Barnes**, **C. Lee Campbell**, **Eddie Echandi**, **Zahir Eyal**, **John F. Fulkerson**, **Joseph P. Fulton**, **Richard L. Gabrielson**, **Raymond G. Grogan**, **Dennis H. Hall**, **Janell Stevens Johnk**, **Arthur Kelman**, **Tsune Kosuge**, **Don E. Mathre**, **John S. Niederhauser**, **Joseph M. Ogawa**, **Luis Sequeira**, **Malcolm C. Shurtleff**, **H. D. Thurston**, **Harry E. Wheeler**, the **Caribbean Division**, and **Virology**. Three students were recipients of APS Council and Foundation travel awards. The first award of the International Young Scientist Travel Fund was made at the APS 2002 meeting.

The **APS 3rd I.E. Melhus** Graduate Student Symposium, coordinated by the APS Foundation, featured three graduate student speakers, **J. B. Scott**, **S. L. Rideout**, and **A. L. Mila**, who were chosen competitively to present their thesis research on “New Thesis Research Contributions to Plant Disease Epidemiology.” Proposals by **P. J. Oyarzun**, **A. Taibe**, and **N. Hidalgo**, by **J. L. Gabriel et al**, and by **S. Fernandez-Pavia** received the 2002 John and Anne Niederhauser Endowment (JANE) awards.

Once again the all-pro team of APS Council was no match for the five Division teams in the deBary Bowl. The team of **P. Vincelli**, **P. Heist**, **K. Cox**, **F. Dixon**, **J. Flowers-Doyle** and **L. Sconyers** from the Southern Division broke the winning streak of the **Pacific Division**.

Sincerest gratitude is extended to the local arrangement committee chaired by **G. Stanosz** for their contributions to the success of the meeting.

The APS Awards & Honors ceremony was held on Sunday and was followed by the Opening Reception. **O. W. Barnett** received the Distinguished Service Award, the highest honor bestowed by APS. Ten APS members were honored as Fellows of the Society at the 2002 Annual Meeting: **Tim Denny, Said A. Ghabrial, Craig R. Grau, Everett Hansen, Harvey C. Hoch, Scot H. Hulbert, Denis McGee, Tom (Twng-Wah) Mew, Charles W. Mims, and Linda S. Thomashow.** The Excellence in Extension Award was presented to **Thomas A. Zitter.** The Ruth Allen Award was presented to **David C. Baulcombe.** **Wolfram Köller** received the Lee M. Hutchins Award. The Syngenta Award was presented to **T. Erik Mirkov.** The Excellence in Industry Award was given to **Allison Tally.** The APS International Service Award went to **Sally A. Miller.** The APS Excellence in Teaching was awarded to **Larry F. Grand.** The Hewitt Award was presented to **Shuijin Hu.**

Society Affairs

Membership counts for June by fiscal year end indicate a slight increase in members from 2001 to 2002 (4887 vs. 4904 an increase of 17 members). When looking at the numbers by demographic location, domestic members were up 22, Canada down 9, and International up 4. By membership type emeritus members were up 10, group member/leaders were up 13, life members were the same, post docs up 14, students up 109, sustaining associates down 10, and regular members down 120. For calendar year 2001 the member retention rate was down slightly to 89%. The following members were reported as deceased at the Annual Meeting: **Jack E. Bailey, Donald M. Boone, Dermot P. Coyne, A. Morgan Golden, Noel T. Keen, Claude L. King, Edward J. Klos, Clark T. Rogerson, Eugene B. Smalley, Michael Szkolnik, Marvin D. Whitehead, and Robert A. Zabel.**

The unaudited May 31, 2002, balance sheet of the Society for 2001-2002 shows an operating surplus of \$195,402 from income of \$3,770,525 and expenses of \$3,575,123. This compares to a budgeted income of \$3,854,822 and expenses totaling \$3,901,580. Actual income came in under budgeted revenue by \$84,297 while expenses were under budget by \$350,996 for the year. A complete report of the finances is available on request from APS Headquarters and the Treasurer's and Auditor's Reports will be published in *Phytopathology*.

APS Future Meetings

The 2003 Annual Meeting will be held in Charlotte, NC, August 9-13. Hotel and convention center contracts are complete. The 2004 Annual Meeting will be in Anaheim, CA, July 30-August 3, 2004. The 2005 Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, TX, July 30-August 3, 2005. The 2006 Annual Meeting will be in Quebec City.

Report of the APS Business Meeting

The Ninth Annual Networking Breakfast and 94th APS Business Meeting was held on July 30, 2002 in the Midwest Express Center. Following breakfast, President **J. Fletcher** called the business meeting to order and welcomed attendees. The International Travel Awardee, **Z. Saeed** was asked to stand and be recognized. Also recognized were the 21 recipients of named Foundation Awards: **M. Williams, M. Nita, N. Montes, R. Cramer, R. S. Goswami, L. Penman, L. Brownback, K. Schroeder, X. Bai, P. Weyman, M. A. McGill, B. Menelas, Z. Lan, S. Thomas, M.-Y. Wong, O. Mavrodi, C. Friel, K. Salinas, R. French, and A.**

Whitfield. The recipients of APS Council and Foundation Travel Awards: **L. G. Alpizar, M. Lyons, and R. Chaouch**, were also recognized. Pres. Fletcher extended appreciation to the over 500 members who volunteered in APS over the past year. Their green badge stickers marked “APS Volunteer” distinguished the volunteers. Secretary **C. Ishimaru** reported on the membership of the Society and gave the necrology report. Treasurer **J. Sherwood** gave the APS financial status report, as summarized in the business meeting pamphlet. **C. Bender** presented a tribute to the late **N. T. Keen**, highlighting his many scientific contributions and leadership in APS. President Fletcher reviewed the accomplishments of the past year. She expressed deep appreciation to Council and Executive Committee for their support during the presidential transition in May following the death of N. T. Keen in April. Featured snapshots of Council activities included presentations by **O. W. Barnett** and **Richard Stuckey** on behalf of the Public Policy Board and Plant Management Network, respectively. **C. Delp** invited participants to the 8th International Congress of Plant Pathology in Christchurch, New Zealand. Plaques of appreciation were given to members completing terms in Council, Offices and Boards: **B. I. Hillman**, Editor-in-Chief *Phytopathology*; **R. Ploetz**, Publication Board Chair; **J. MacDonald**, OEC Chair; **O. W. Barnett**, PPB Chair; **S. Tolin**, PPB member; **S. S. Hurtt**, Senior Councilor-at-Large; **S. Cantrell**, Caribbean Division Councilor, and **F. W. Nutter, Jr.**, North Central Division Councilor. APS Immediate Past-President **S. Slack** transferred the gavel to **J. Fletcher**. Pres. Fletcher extended an invitation to the Charleston meeting in 2002, which will have the theme “Plant Health and Security in the Age of Genomics.”

Report of APS Council Meetings

The late President N. Keen presided at the midyear Council meeting held at APS headquarters on March 1-2, 2002. A report of that meeting was published in the May 2002 issue of *Phytopathology News* or can be found at http://www.apsnet.org/publications/phytopathologynews/Past%20Issues/2002_05.pdf.

J. Fletcher presided at the 2002 Annual Council meeting in Milwaukee, WI, July 26, 27 and 31. All Council members were present except **H. Spaink**, **A. Grybauskas**, and **D. Mathre** (ex-officio). Persons completing terms on Council are listed in the Report of the Business Meeting. New Council members are Vice President, **J. D. MacDonald**; Treasurer-Elect, **E. L. Stromberg**; Editor-in-Chief-Elect, *Phytopathology*, **C. C. Mundt**; Junior Councilor-at-Large, **M. A. Ellis**; Councilor of the Caribbean Division, **J. K. Brown**, and Councilor of the North Central Division, **R. D. Martyn Jr.** The new director of OPAAE will be **D. Jardine**. **S. A. Slack** will continue on as Immediate Past-President for an additional year, filling the vacancy left by N. T. Keen.

Several invited participants attended this year’s annual Council meeting as part of an APS experiment to foster communication between various offices, boards and committees of APS and to help in the development of a new governance structure that will enable Council to focus on strategic planning. The expanded Council participated in strategic planning exercises on July 26 and July 27. In addition, regular Council met on Saturday, July 31. The expanded council heard presentations on strategic planning before participating in strategic planning exercises. **S. Nelson** emphasized a goal of strategic planning is development of a consensus of what APS should look like in the future. Council’s role in strategic planning is to develop the “what” so that the “how” can be done by committees, staff, boards, and offices. This approach can enable rapid and proactive adaptation to issues and challenges facing APS. Strategic planning also enables decisive not just incremental changes in an organization. **J. Sherwood**, treasurer, emphasized that financial concerns are tied with strategic goals.

J. Fletcher invited presentations from specific groups whose activities exemplify focused efforts on specific objectives in the strategic plan. These included small group activities focused on young professionals, new communities software, and journals, as well as the activities of the Scientific Programs Board, the Public Policy Board, Plant Management Network, and the ad hoc Alliances Committee.

J. Fletcher and **G. Bergstrom** emphasized a goal of the process was to engage everyone to think about his or her role in APS from a different frame of reference with regard to strategic planning at both conceptual and fiscal levels. Strategic planning must continue regardless of the structure of governance. Planning happens all year round in groups larger than Council.

Reviews of the exercise in strategic planning were overwhelmingly positive. **S. Nelson** discussed ideas on how to move to incorporating strategic planning into governance. He noted the need to help committees find a role in strategic planning and to increase awareness of the processes of how APS functions.

Council approved the recommendation presented by **J. Andrews**, junior councilor at large, to meet in San Diego July 29- August 3, 2007 at the Town and Country Hotel complex. The date and location of the 100th anniversary meeting in 2008 was also discussed. Council agreed to pursue the possibility presented by **S. Nelson** and **J. Andrews** of hosting the ICPP in Minneapolis for the APS centennial.

S. Slack reported that the Headquarter Operation Committee continues to provide an arena for discussion of issues impacting APS. **G. Bergstrom** informed the extended Council of the recent movement to establish the Plant Diagnostic Centers across the U.S.

Council discussed the structure of the midyear Council meeting. Several suggestions were made, including inviting people to contribute to specific topics on the midyear agenda. Overall the conclusion was to have a somewhat expanded Council, including regular Council and select guests. Feb 21-23, 2003 was set for the midyear meeting at headquarters.

Three committees have completed their work: Bioterrorism, Chair **J. Cook**; Awards Issues, Chair **M. Matheron**; Alliances, **C. Windels** chair. Five other committees are still completing their tasks. They are the Emerging Diseases and Pathogens, Chair **D. Luster**; Journal Issues, Chair **G. Shaner**; Private Practice, Chair **C. Mellinger**; Divisional Issues, Chair **B. Christ**, and Council Governance Committee, Chair **G. Bergstrom**. **Pres. Fletcher** appointed two new committees: New Products and Services, and Centennial Planning (2008).

Some of the letters sent from APS during the year including one supporting competitive funding for US agricultural research, support for biotech-enhanced products, and a response to the list of plant pathogens to be regulated for bioterrorism.

A great deal of Council's discussions during the past year focused on the governance structure proposed by the ad hoc Council Governance Committee. These discussions are expected to continue in 2003. Some of the issues still to be resolved are the role of Section Chairs on Council, new structures for the Executive Committee and Council, representation of Pub Board on the Council, and the development of a new strategic plan for the Society.

The 94th Annual Report of the Treasurer can be found in the January 2003 issue of Phytopathology, or at <http://apsjournals.apsnet.org/doi/pdf/10.1094/PHYTO.2003.93.1.16> .