2014
One Hundred and Sixth Annual Report
Of the American Phytopathological Society

Annual Meeting

The 106th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society was held jointly with the Canadian Phytopathological Society at the Convention Center in St. Paul Minnesota, August 9-13 2014. Over 1500 attendees representing more than 50 countries were present. President **George Abawi** welcomed participants to two APS plenary sessions based on the meeting theme: Plant Health Connections. The first session, held on Monday, August 11, was entitled "Plant Health Connections - *Soil Health – Plant Health – Food Security – Human Health*, and featured three invited speakers. **Dr. Harold van Es**, (Soil Scientist, Cornell University) spoke on the emerging concept of soil health, assessment protocols, sustainable management practices and the overall impact on soil functions. **Dr. Jan E. Leach** (Plant Pathologist, Colorado State University) highlighted the impact of soil health, and in particular, soil health management practices on plant health and the role and connections of the Phytobiomes to plant health and productivity. **Dr. Jennifer Ann Thomson** (Microbiologist, University of Cape Town, SA) spoke on the connections of healthy plants and food availability on world food security and poverty issues. In a second plenary session on August 12, **Alan Bjerga** presented a talk entitled "Your Best Frenemy: Science, the Media and Making Your Point". Bjerga is the author of the book "Endless Appetites: How the Commodities Casino Creates Hunger and Unrest". He is also the Food and Agriculture Policy Reporter for Bloomberg News. His presentation was followed by a lively question-and-answer session. Complete videos of both plenary sessions are available under the annual meeting archives on APS.

Awards and Honors Ceremony

APS regularly honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the science of plant pathology. The awards were presented this year at the Opening General Session of the APS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN, to allow membership the opportunity to extend well wishes and congratulations throughout the meeting. The following were honored as this year's APS award recipients:
APS Fellows: James E. Adaskaveg, Christopher A. Clark, Thomas R. Gordon, Stewart M. Gray, Mary K. Hausbeck, George W. Hudler, Roger A. C. Jones, Gary W. Moorman, Tomonori Shiraishi, James R. Steadman, and Brett M. Tyler
Excellence in Extension Award: Mohamed F. R. Khan
Excellence in Industry Award: Steven Gylling
Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security Award: Kenneth C. Eastwell
Excellence in Teaching Award: Joseph-Alexander Verreet
International Service Award: Valerie Verdier
Ruth Allen Award: Ignazio Carbone
Lee M. Hutchins Award: Natalia A. Peres
Noel T. Keen Award for Research Excellence in Molecular Plant Pathology: Pradeep Kachroo
Syngenta Award: Alison E. Robertson

Additional details on the awardees are available at www.apsnet.org/members/awards/

Recognitions also included the APS Foundation International Travel Award, Books of the World Award, 14th I.E. Melhus Symposium Presenters, French-Monar Latin American Award, Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship, JANE International Research Award, the Schroth Faces of the Future Early Career Professionals Symposium Awards, Mathre Education Endowment Award and the Mathre Student Educational Award, the Raymond J. Tarleton Student Fellowship Award, Plant Pathologists of the Future: Showcasing the Top Graduate Students from APS Division Meetings Symposium Awardees, the APS Student Travel Awards, and the APS Public Policy Early Career Internship.

At the ***President's reception***, the following members were recognized for completing their terms in Council, Offices, Boards or Special Committees:
Mike Boehm, APS Immediate Past President
Jeff Jones, Senior Councilor-at-large

Year in Review

APS ICO (Internal Communications Officer), David Gadoury has prepared an article focused on the priorities and actions of Council as his annual report, which appears in the January 2015 issue of Phytopathology News. The balance of the "Year in Review" is included herein.

Society Affairs

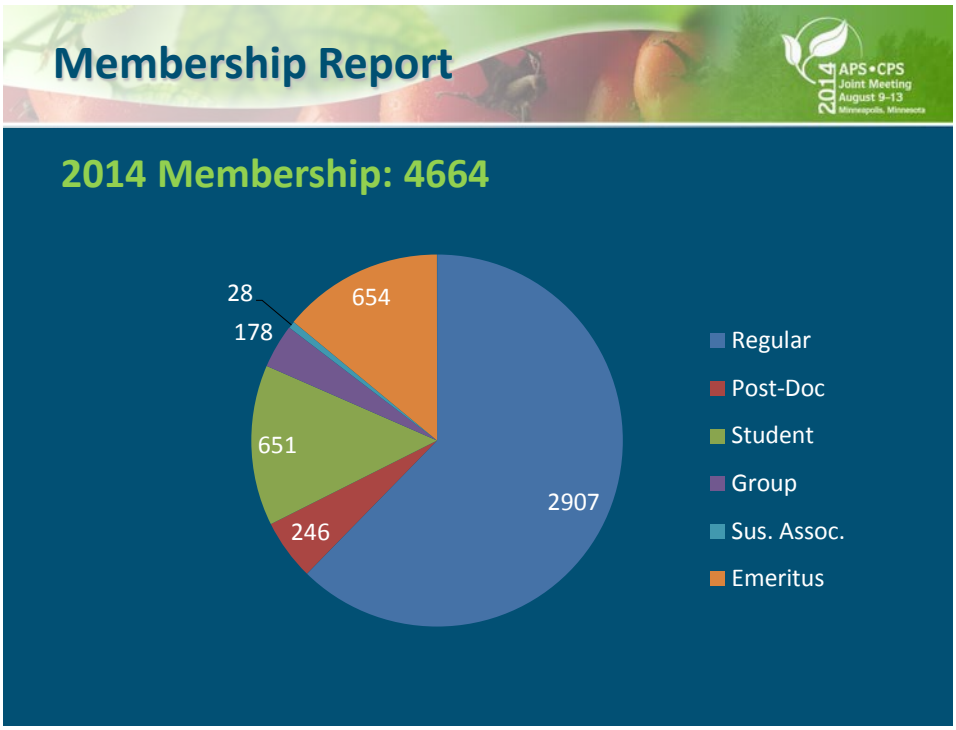
Membership

Total APS membership as of June 30, 2013 was 4664, virtually unchanged from 4670 for the same date in 2013.

- The percent of membership residing outside the United States remained stable from recent years at 35%. The five countries with the largest number of members in 2013 were China (261), Canada (168), Japan (111), Brazil (101), and Australia (77).
- Relatively small changes were seen in total membership and within most membership categories with one exception. There was a substantial increase in the number of group memberships (from 119 in 2013 to 178 in 2014). The trend of fewer graduating students finding it necessary to enter postdocs prior to finding permanent employment continued, despite the increased numbers of graduating PhDs over the annual average for the decade from 2000 to 2010.

Membership by Category:

Regular members - 2907	Down from 2960 in 2013
Student members - 651	Down from 683 in 2013
Post-doctoral members – 246	Up 234 in 2013
Groups –178	Up from 119 in 2013
Sustaining associates - 28	Down from 29 in 2013
Emeritus/life members - 654	Up from 634 in 2013



Deceased Colleagues – August 2013 - August 2014

A moment of silence was observed at the annual meeting for the following colleagues that passed away during the previous 12-month period.

Ellen M. Ball
Oscar E. Bradfute
J. Artie Browning
Richard H. Converse
Noel Cutright
John Dixon
Donald C. Erwin
Wayne S. Gardner
Eugene B. Himelick
Yasuyuki Hiratsuka
Norman L. Horn
Edward Jones
Kenneth A. Kimble
Charles Huston Kingsolver
Sagar Krupa
Thomas Laurent
Lee Ling
Herbert H. Luke
Glenn W. Peterson
A.P.K. Reddy
Milton C. Rush
Ko Shimamoto
Hugh D. Sisler
William A. Small
Martin F. Stoner
Homer D. Wells
Jay C. Wells
Ronald E. Welty
Stanley J. Zontek

Financial

The APS Report of the Treasurer for 2014 will be published in the March 2015 issue of Phytopathology News.

Future Annual Meeting Sites

2015 August 1-5 Pasadena, California
2016 July 30 – August 3, Tampa, Florida

Reports of Council Meetings in 2014

April 14-15, 2014 at Pasadena, California and University of California, Riverside. Council discussions were organized around the following focus topics:

Focus Topic 1. APS Program and Service Fit/Leverage Exercise: Amy Hope, executive vice president of Scientific Societies, discussed key concepts related to program and service fit. Council reviewed the top APS programs and services and identified solid connections, as well as potential room for better leverage existing in the current product/services mix. "Membership" occupied a central location in the above discussion, i.e., nearly all activities and products showed strong primary connections to our membership (a healthy indication in this sort of analysis). A common property of our most valuable products and services was "content". Some connections illustrated a less than ideal fit, e.g., OPRO and K12 education, which would seem to be a better fit to the mission of the Office of Education. The importance of "fit" and strengthening connections in an organization was discussed. For example, in the case of journals and membership: high quality journals attract members, and members then publish in these journals.

Council Business: **Strategic Plan Review.** Council reviewed the five goals and objectives of the current APS Strategic Plan. Council agreed to reaffirm goals periodically (every two years), and objectives annually. Objectives that have been reached, or have been surpassed in priority by new issues should be considered for removal. New higher-priority objectives could be considered annually, perhaps growing out of activities of the SEF. We should guard against developing a bloated document, as one of the strengths of the present version is that it fits on one page, and it is an efficient guide as we filter through issues at meetings of Council. Council agreed to pick goal #3 from the APS Strategic Plan for the 2014 Strategic Exchange Forum (Be the globally recognized resource for plant health information and knowledge dissemination**)**.

Focus Topic 2. Publications Strategy. Nik Grunwald **(**Chair of APS Publications Board) summarized innovations and technologies inherent in PLOS ONE, PeerJ. New journal models are disrupting the market with significant potential risk for APS's current publications model. There is anticipation of some decrease in loyalty for publishing in APS journals by members. It was suggested that Council take some action now to get ahead of this issue and promote the preferential submission of manuscripts by APS members to APS journals. Grunwald recommended to Council that we should begin the careful adaptation of APS publications to these new norms. Journals remain the principal revenue source for APS, so there is a need to cautious, but also nimble and adaptable. Key factors to be considered included:

- Fast publishing
- Open access (green or gold- we are already green)
- Interface consistent with PeerJ and PLOS ONE
- Contemporary and integrated tools (social media, alt metrics)
- Full ecosystem review to publish
- Constant updates

Focus Topic 3. APS Finances. APS Treasurer Steve Slack provided an overview of the APS finances and executive vice president Amy Hope provided financial narrative. Per Council's request, APS staff reviewed the current statues of APS Press titles. Several titles were behind schedule and therefore affecting the FY14 budget. APS Press had more proposals last year than in past years. Delays for FY14 will have positive impact on FY15. The full 2014 financial report will be provided in a separate report from the Treasurer in 2015.

Focus Topic 4. Documentation and Communication of Impact. This focus topic is contained in goal #5 of the APS Strategic Plan. Persuasively communicating why our discipline merits support is essential to the survival of our discipline. For this focus area, Council considered the following: **(**1) What outcomes do we seek in the activity of documenting and communicating impact for departments, government and industry? (2) Who are the target audiences? (3). What are the resources at our disposal to accomplish the task at hand? What are the highest priority short-term needs and longer-term needs? Who are the "outside-APS" groups and individuals who can help us? How will we know we are making progress towards a goal? Eric Tedford, senior Councilor at Large, provided a presentation on the status of the work by CALs during the past several months. The goal of CALs, with respect to their work with APS Subject Matter Committees, has been to develop an easy to use, consistent tool for collection of key information on the impact of plant pathology. There followed considerable discussion, much of which was related item #2 above (target audiences). The nature of the data collected and how it would be tabulated and communicated would be different for each possible audience:

- Dept and unit leaders for use in advocacy with their administration and stakeholders
- Advocacy with state-level legislatures and leaders
- Advocacy efforts at the Federal level (PPB and Eversole Assoc.)

Some efficiency might be gained in the long run by reverse engineering this process from the outcomes sought by each of the above groups. Communicating the specific information that is most influential in producing the desired outcomes will be the key to making this effort manageable with available resources, and worthwhile.

Stakeholder Input Requests for USDA Grants Programs. Subsequent discussion focused upon an organized effort within APS to insure fair and equitable access to Federal funding opportunities by responding to Requests for Stakeholder Input in agency Requests for Applications (RFAs). This has been particularly effective in the past when APS leadership and membership are engaged. Requests for stakeholder input are inserted into all RFAs, and are submitted by email. USDA is required to respond to stakeholder input annually. Advocacy in this area needs to focus on broad and fair access and a level playing field, and not gaming the system for the exclusive benefit of plant pathology.

Clarification is needed on next steps for progress on the above focus topic. President George Abawi indicated that he will appoint an ad hoc committee to address this critical issue.

Focus Topic 5. Dialogue with APS Public Policy Board: The Phytobiomes Initiative. President Elect Rick Bennett provided background on the Phytobiomes Initiative and the recent trip to Washington DC by the APS Public Policy Board (PPB) in March 2014. The concept was well received with the various agencies and legislative staffers with whom PPB met. PPB chair Jan Leach reviewed the Phytobiomes Initiative upcoming plans. Next steps will include: workshop, whitepapers with concrete plans for training/outreach/advocacy, engagement of broader scientific community, webinars, etc. Several activities are planned for the annual meeting to engage the membership, from a special symposium, a plenary presentation and a hot topic session to the PPB booth. New approaches included the placement of an APS Fellow in OSTP. This was subsequently accomplished with the appointment of Elizabeth Stulberg as the APS OSTP Fellow.

Meeting with faculty and students at UC Riverside. Council met with faculty and graduate student in plant pathology at the University of California/Riverside campus to discuss several issues of common interest. President George Abawi reviewed the Phytobiomes initiative and solicited feedback from department members. Council members discussed the publishing experiences of department members with respect to APS journals, and solicited suggestions to improve the experience. Graduate students requested information on career paths beyond those in academia, and in particular in industry. The day concluded with a tour of plant breeding facilities, with an emphasis on citrus. The role of department members as local hosts for the 2015 annual meeting was also discussed.

August 2014 at the APS annual meeting in St Paul, Minnesota. Council met briefly at the annual meting in St. Paul to review several new initiatives: The Phytobiomes Initiative, Borlaug's Army, and the 2nd Strategic Exchange Forum.

The Phytobiomes Initiative. This new APS-lead initiative targets an understanding of how the associated microbial community influences or is influenced by the plant and how that information can be used to improve crop productivity. "Phytobiome" is defined as the entire microbial community (bacteria, archae, fungi, oomycetes, viruses, and nematodes) associated with different plant compartments, including the rhizosphere, phyllosphere, and endophytic compartments. What makes the Phytobiomes Initiative unique is that it is focused on the biomes of plants used for food, feed, and fiber. The Phytobiomes Initiative spans foundational to applied science focused on downstream application, i.e., using the information on phytobiomes to help double production of safe and nutritious food, feed, and fiber. A key feature of the initiative is that it seeks 100 million dollars per year in new funding for agricultural research and extension (not redirected from other programs). The initiative was described in detail in Phytopathology News in November 2014.

Borlaug's Army. This new initiative launched at the 2014 annual meeting. Work by prior ad hoc committees of APS had identified undergraduate research opportunities as one of the most effective magnets to draw people into the profession. These are commonly referred to as internships or REUs (Research Experiences for Undergraduates). Just 10 years ago, our discipline faced plummeting applications to graduate programs nationwide. It was largely the work on this issue at the national level that turned this around. Today, enrollment in graduate programs is up about 20% over 2008 levels, and career opportunities for broadly-trained graduates are excellent: most graduate with multiple interviews and job offers. The development of REU and undergraduate internship programs by departments across the US has played a large part in this turnaround. Borlaug's Army in an APS initiative targeting undergraduates that seeks to build upon and maintain this level of interest in plant pathology as a career option. APS is offering a free one-year membership in APS to any undergraduate engaged in a recognized internship program anywhere in the world. The details of this program were described earlier in 2014 (Phytopathology News November 2014 page 152) and are also available on the APS website (http://www.apsnet.org/members/BorlaugsArmy/Pages/default.aspx).

Strategic Exchange Forum. The Strategic Exchange Forum (SEF) was developed in 2013 to provide more opportunities for Council engage with leaders of key administrative groups to generate ideas on meeting high priority strategic issues for our discipline and professional society. SEF meets during the annual meeting. Membership includes directors and chairs of key administrative groups, Council, and APS staff leaders and staff liaisons. The focus area for the 2014 SEF was APS publications; specifically, goal #3 of the APS strategic Plan: *Be the globally recognized resource for plant health information and knowledge dissemination. The 2014 SEF was organized around the following 3 issues.*

Issue 1: Publishing experience. *(i)* How does your APS experience compare to other journals where you have published? *(ii)* What could APS do to improve the experience? *(iii)* Do you strongly identify with APS journals? *(iv)* Do you publish less in APS journals now than in the past?
There were mixed experiences with the submission and review process across APS journals (average/slow speed, high to moderate quality of reviews, helpful vs unhelpful comments). However, when the discussion focused only on Phytopathology, strong negatives were sometimes expressed regarding fairness and consistency of reviews, clear reasons for rejections, harshness of comments from reviewers, as well as corruption of the system of preferred and non-preferred editors and reviewers. Many, but not all authors have begun to publish more in non-APS journals. Cost, speed, and frustration were cited as reasons. Most present still preferentially publish in APS journals, and would do so to an even greater degree if the above issues can be addressed effectively.

Recommendations included a clear, succinct, and effectively communicated guidelines for reviewers and authors, particularly in the case of Phytopathology. Next, the creation of a greatly expanded reviewer database with more opportunities for early-career (advanced graduate students) to participate, perhaps outside of the *Manuscript Central* system. If this can be accomplished, the policy of preferred/non-preferred editors/reviewers can be abandoned unless there are exceedingly persuasive circumstances. Also, the profession critically needs better mentoring to instill a sense of obligation upon all authors (especially at critical early career stages) to review papers when asked, particularly for journals of your professional society (lower the rate of "parasitism). From the top down, the mission of editors and reviewers should be to discover how a paper could be published, not why it should be rejected. APS needs to cultivate and then preserve in our authors a sense of loyalty towards APS journals. If not, then what will attract them from an ever-broadening list of options to publish their work elsewhere?

Issue 2: Reviewer Experience. (i) How does the APS reviewer experience compare to other journals? (ii) What could be done to improve the experience? (iii) Do you review less for APS now, more, or about the same? (iv) As a peer reviewer, how do you want to be recognized for your activity? (v) Do you associate peer review as a volunteer contribution to the Society? How important is it to you to remain engaged in reviewing activity?

Because of the widespread use of Manuscript Central, there are many common features of the reviewer experience across journals. There was a general perception that Instructions to Reviewers for APS journals are hard to find, and the critical aspects, particularly for new reviewers, are buried in the detail. Many present complained (and *not* mildly) about the clunky and awkward practice of editing a pdf compared to MSWord documents. Those present who had been reviewing for some time reviewed about the same number of papers for APS journals, but were now receiving many more requests from non-APS journals for reviewer services. Most reviewers were emphatic about remaining anonymous. Most were not interested in financial reward or gifts for reviews and considered it an obligation of the profession. There was great interest in developing more ways to document and objectively communicate to administration the service of reviewers and editors, and to have this information readily available for annual reporting by volunteer reviewers and editors. There was concern that the number of Disease Notes submitted to Plant Disease was stressing the reviewer population, and that the ease with which these were published was encouraging an ever-increasing number of dubious submissions, perhaps in the effort to pad resumes with what might appear to the uninformed as a full-length research paper in a top peer-reviewed journal.

Recommendations: A substantial majority indicated a strong preference for red pencils on hard copies, and track changes on MSWord documents when reviewing manuscripts. Thus, at least for the narrative portions of a manuscript, it would be useful to have an MSWord version available for reviewers, especially for those without Adobe Acrobat Pro, or unfamiliar with or hostile towards editing features peculiar to pdfs. As for Issue #1 above, most viewed reviewing as a professional obligation. Thus, it will be critical to the continued function of the system to pass this ethic along to new generations of scientists. There was general agreement that the reviewer population needs to be expanded so that we do not overload or alienate loyal reviewers. Authors and coauthors who publish in an APS journal should be in a database of reviewers that is cross-referenced with keywords from the article. We can also make better use of our student and postdoc members as reviewers. The need for clear, concise, and easy to find instructions to reviewers was repeated. There was a suggestion for a brief video or voice-over PowerPoint version of the instructions to reviewers, with examples of good reviews, and common errors (e.g., unhelpful, caustic, demeaning, or otherwise unprofessional comments).

Issue 3: Disruptive Publishing Forces. (i) How likely are you to publish in new open access journals such as PLOS ONE and PeerJ? (ii) When selecting a journal in which to publish, which metrics are most important? What other factors are involved in your decision? (iii) Do fees play a role in decisions on where to publish? (iv) Are "article-level" metrics important to you? Should APS offer these metrics to authors? (v) If APS developed an online-only open-access journal across all areas of plant pathology, how likely would you be to publish in it, vs the existing APS journals, or the new concept journals such as PLOS ONE and PeerJ?

Most participants indicated they would consider publishing in a new open-access journal, but most had not yet done so. Several commented on the low quality of many of the plant pathology papers in PLOS and PeerJ, and thought this was a weakness that APS might exploit if we offered a high-quality alternative. Among the participants, perceived quality of the journal was ranked highly as a determinant in where to publish. Cost was occasionally a factor, but generally was more commonly incidental to the overall cost of a project, and the need to place it in the best publishing venue. Article-level metrics were unfamiliar to many participants, but there was general enthusiasm for including metrics if the cost was low, particularly if the metrics are popular with younger authors and readers. There was general enthusiasm for an APS open access journal, but concern that it should not simply ape PLOS or PeerJ. The concern of loyalty and support of the discipline by authors was again discussed with reference to launching a new open access journal.

Recommendation: APS needs to provide a compelling economic, professional, and possibly ethical argument for preferential publication in the journals of the Society.

October 2014 at APS Headquarters in St. Paul, MN. APS Council met for 2 days at the headquarters of Scientific Societies/APS in St. Paul to consider the following issues.

APS International Engagement. The ad hoc Task Force on International Engagement chaired by Sally Miller made the following recommendations to Council: Redefine current role and responsibilities of ISRC. Change focus to the Vice President as the initial point of contact for identification, development and maintenance of strategic international relationships, with maintenance of relationships handled by ISRC. Having a presidential team member involved will ensure a higher level of interaction. Staff and ISRC will be charged with implementation of components for these relationships. The Office of International Programs (OIP) will be charged to develop and implement a strategy to increase awareness of APS offerings among international members. Potential areas of focus for future partnerships include: 1) Brazilian Society as they are very active and have the second highest attendance. 2) The Korean Society has significant interest in partnership. 3) Indian Plant Path Society could be another great partnership with membership growth and the biggest international user of the APS webpage. Council discussed the

concern brought forward regarding group membership and ineligibility to vote. The discussion expanded to encompass reconsideration of the group membership model. Sally proposed that staff organize a new plan based on other societies, for developing countries.

The Phytobiomes Initiative. Jan Leach provided an update to Council on activity within the APS Public Policy Board (PPB) to promote and advance the Phytobiomes Initiative. Council approved funding to support a workshop in Washington DC during the summer of 2015 on the initiative. It was announced that Elizabeth Stulberg has been appointed as the APS-sponsored Fellow in OSTP to work with Jo Handelsman on issues of relevance to plant pathology. It was proposed that some synergy could be gained in promoting both the Phytobiomes Initiative and the Borlaug's Army initiative by sending representatives from 2015 REU/Internships to participate in ceremonies for the World Food Prize, where thy could act as ambassadors for APS and the Phytobiomes Initiative. The recruitment period for 2015 REU/Internship programs is January-February. The Borlaug's Army initiative will be well-positioned for 2015 if AULF can be engaged to promote the opportunity to undergrads in REU and internship programs across the US.

Annual Reports of the Committees, Boards, and Offices of APS

Annual Meeting Board (AMB) Recent activities: We assisted in organizing the 2014 APS annual meeting. For this, we tried to choose among the submitted sessions for the highest quality sessions. We discussed ways to implement new types of sessions and to more efficiently plan and carry out our annual meeting. Focus: how to continue to solicit high quality session, workshop, and field trip ideas from our membership -how to improve scientific discourse at our annual meeting. Highlights: to assist in planning the 2015 annual meeting in cooperation with the presidential lineage and the headquarters staff. -to continue to solicit and identify high quality scientific sessions for our meeting -to help integrate our two new members onto the board and help them understand their role in the meeting planning process. -to continue to solicit ideas to keep APS membership engaged in the annual meeting -to re-evaluate AMB structure in order to find a way to have the AMB better incorporate new technologies into our meeting. For example, we may have fewer people involved in session organization once the sessions are chosen and instead ask AMB members to work on developing new session formats or incorporating social media into our annual meeting.

APS Foundation: Recent activities: Added new funding opportunities under the umbrella of the Mathre Education Fund. Partnering with industry to provide funding for the new "Plant Pathology Experiential Award" that allows individuals to participate in short-term experiences in industry. Focus: Continuing to solicit funding for all of the Foundation initiatives and developing concepts for the Nelson Early Career Endowment and the Mathre Education Experiential Award. Developing a new 5-year strategic plan. Highlights: Completing an analysis of the last 5 years and finalizing a new 5-year strategic plan.

APS Historian: No recent activities to report

Awards and Honors Committee (AHC): Recent activities: We reviewed 57 nominations for awards and honors for 2014. The number was significantly down this year; 10 less than in 2013 and 8 less than in 2012. The timing of the government shutdown may have had some impact; we were asked to extend the deadline due to the shutdown. No nominations were received for the Award of Distinction again this year. No qualified nominations were received for the Hewitt award, so this is the 2nd year in a row that this award was not given. The committee continues to be concerned about the low number of nominations for many awards (International, Industry, Hutchins, Hewitt, and Regulatory Affairs). Despite our efforts last year, additional Fellows were nominated for an excellence award for which they were not eligible – additional action items are discussed below. There was one new nomination for the Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security award, and there will be no carryover nominees next year. This remains troubling since this new award was pushed strongly by the Regulatory Affairs committee with the idea that there was a backlog of qualified members. Several issues related to nomination format were discussed and implemented. Changes to the cover page included clarification of the basis of the nomination and inclusion of a one to two-sentence summary for the basis of the nomination as well as changes to clearly indicate nomination carryover status. We recommend editing and republishing the 2004 discussion of the Awards and Honors Program and nomination information from Phytopathology News (September 2004, Volume 38, No. 9). Details of the current nomination package, such as the nomination cover page, have changed since this article was published. The article on how to write a good nomination, and how to obtain the required information without notifying the nominee, could be published together with discussion of the program. The article also could mention that Fellow is considered a terminal award and Fellows are not eligible for excellence awards for the same professional accomplishments. This updated article could be linked to the APS Awards web pages for the continuing access. APS staff members, including new staff member Holly Pinkerton, provided excellent service for the AHC by maintaining excellent records; collating and recording, and checking nominations; and helping with planning and logistics for our meetings. We also acknowledge retiring immediate past chair, Stephen B. Goodwin, for his excellent service.

Divisional Forum (DF): Recent activities: The Division forum met on 11 June prior to the North Central Division meeting in Madison, Wisconsin, and again on 11 August during the APS meeting in Minneapolis. In addition, the DF held conference calls 30 October 2013 and on 24 March 2014. At each meeting, the DF received an update on APS Council activities from Lawrence Datnoff, the APS Division Councilor, and the DF reps shared news of recent activities and/or concerns from within their divisions. The current practice of having the DF convene at a different division meeting each year has provided DF reps with a broader understanding of similarities and differences among the divisions (APS Strategic Goal 2).The DF supported and promoted the Graduate Student Showcase paper session at the 2014 APS meeting. At that session, the graduate student winner from each division presented the paper that had won the competition at the division meeting (APS goal 1). The presentations were impressive! The DF discussed options for improving the quality of abstracts that are submitted for division meetings (APS goals 1 and 3). The instructions for authors of division abstracts have been modified to suggest that abstracts should be reviewed by several colleagues prior to submission. The DF also discussed the dangers of allowing reports of new diseases to be included in abstracts because abstracts are not fully peer-reviewed and any errors in reporting of new diseases can have unintended and significant consequences on quarantines and international trade. The DF reviewed how division funds are handled by APS-central and discussed options that could reduce the risks of losing that money during market slumps. Losses incurred during the last recession contributed to a situation where one division was left with barely enough resources to operate. APS Council then asked the DF to consider strategies for ensuring the financial stability divisions. Steve Slack, chair of the APS Financial Advisory Committee, and Kim Davis met with the DF in Minneapolis and explained an option that would reduce both downside risks (and also potential for upside returns) for division funds held by APS. The proposal for modifying how division funds are invested was approved by the DF and forwarded to the divisions for a vote at their annual meetings. The proposed changes will be adopted

only if four of the six divisions vote in favor of the change. Focus: 1. The DF will continue to pursue options that will encourage more participation in division meetings by undergraduate students, as well as more consistent participation by other APS members within each region. 2. The DF is discussing how to foster better interactions at division meeting with scientists employed by various agriculture-related industries. 3. The DF will be further studying options for improving the quality of published abstracts, with special consideration of any abstracts that contain first reports of exotic pathogens and/or discovery of known pathogens in new geographic areas or on new hosts. Highlights: Continue to strengthen APS Divisions by exchanging information/ideas among division leaders. This information exchange is facilitated by continuing the current practice of having the DF meet in conjunction with a different division each year. In 2015, the DF will be meeting with the Southern Division in Atlanta in February. 2. Highlight the best student paper from each division at the Graduate Student Showcase event at the APS meeting in Pasadena. 3. Continue pursuing approaches for improving the quality of published abstracts from papers presented at division meetings. 4. Finalize guidelines for ensuring financial stability of divisions, with final recommendations somewhat dependent on whether or not divisions vote to approve changes suggested by the DF that would reduce risks of losses for division funds during market downturns.

Financial Advisory Committee (FAC): Recent activities: The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) worked closely with APS staff to update the APS Financial Strategic Plan and monitor the financial position of the society throughout FY2014, which ended June 30, 2014 with an unaudited net income of $605,307. The FY2015 budget approved by Council estimates a net income of $32,531. FAC met March 26-27, 2014 at APS HQ and developed a set of financial recommendations for the APS President and Council. On several occasions throughout the year, FAC reviewed financial motions that came to Council and provided recommendations for Council action. FAC supported the APS Foundation Board on their budget and financial requests to achieve strategic goals including revised language on crediting equity donations. FAC worked with the Headquarters Operations Committee on the fiscal health of the headquarters facilities and staff. Lawrence Datnoff was appointed to replace David Schmale, who completed his term on FAC at the August, 2014 annual meeting. Focus: FAC advises Council on proposals that have financial implications during the year and, additionally, develops a list of recommendations for the President and Council to consider to help guide and focus future actions that will help sustain APS financially. Eight recommendations were generated by FAC in March 2014 to emphasize the development of innovative technology based products, enhance value-added programming particularly associated with the annual meeting, invest in Phytopathology News for electronic formatting, develop a sustainable formula for sharing MPMI surplus with IS-MPMI consistent with electronic journal delivery, identify financial resources in advance for upcoming ICPP in 2018, and the highest priority being the time-sensitive need to determine delivery model(s) and platform for our journals to retain competitiveness. FAC utilized the financial dashboard to quickly monitor year-to-date progress on key indicators in the current annual budget for Council. Highlights: FAC will continue to monitor progress on current recommendations and to utilize the dashboard developed in the 2013 fiscal year. FAC plans to retain its annual meeting in the March/April time frame at APS HQ to provide more time in the current year to build next year's budget (July 1-June30 cycle) and to take advantage of participation by key staff supporting our various business centers. Current planning cycles include adoption of proposed budgets by Council at the April/May retreat or conference call as appropriate.

International Society Relations Committee (ISRC): No recent activities to report

Leadership Institute (LI): Recent activities: The APS Leadership Institute hosted the LI workshop 'Build Better Relationships – Leverage Conflict as Opportunity' at the APS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis. Because science is a social occupation, leaders at all levels need to build positive relationships and manage conflict in productive ways. The inability to do these things can stall or derail a career. Unfortunately, these "soft" skills do not come naturally to all people and are often overlooked in academic coursework. This pre-conference session focused on: Effective workplace behaviors and building relationships and developing skills to positively resolve conflict in the workplace. The session was facilitated by Sherry Harsch-Porter, Ph.D., president of The Porter Bay Group, Inc. The $95 cost for the workshop was substantially supported by the APS Council as a priority for leadership development within APS. In addition to the APS support, attendee fees help cover your individual work style assessment, workshop materials, coffee breaks and lunch. There were approximately 40 attendees. Additionally, attendees were given lunchtime presentations on six volunteer opportunities in APS, and attendees signed up on the spot for future participation in these critical need areas (e.g., Public Policy Board, Publications, Networking Workshop). We continue to provide a column on leadership issues for APS members in Phytopathology News. Focus: We are currently developing 2015 workshop, titled: Mastering the Art and Science of Influence. The average person spends 24 minutes of each hour attempting to influence other people. We sell our ideas, move people to action and build our credibility as scientists. This workshop will explore the principles of influence and persuasion and attendees will learn how to analyze their audience based on receptivity and decision-making style; develop an effective proposition; and, they will have the opportunity to draft an influence strategy using a current issue or topic they face. As per previous years, the $95 cost for the workshop was substantially supported by the APS Council as a priority for leadership development within APS. In addition to the APS support, the attendee's fees will help cover the individual assessment, workshop materials, coffee breaks and lunch. There is a cap of 50 attendees. We are also currently developing a survey for the APS and members of the associated professional societies (Weed Science, Agronomy) about leadership training opportunities and needs, and to inform future workshops. This survey will be released in January of 2015. In addition, APS LI is collaborating with CADRE and the Graduate Student committee to develop a Mentorship Program and career based training modules for APS early career members.

Nominations Committee: Recent activities: Working with Headquarters staff, we coordinated the nomination, application, and election process for the officers of APS. With a strong slate of candidates, the election was held in May 2014. Timothy Murray was elected Vice President and Lindsey du Toit was elected Councilor at Large. The percent of members voting was 21%, 3 points lower than in 2013. Focus: Continue coordinating the nomination, application, and election process for Vice President and Councilor at Large. Highlights: We will: 1) Oversee a robust process for soliciting nominations and applications for the CAL and VP positions; 2) Evaluate applications for these offices and select the two candidates for each office, based on the leadership needs of Council and the society, while being fully aware of diversity issues; and 3) Work with APS headquarters staff in coordinating all aspects of the election process. Future potential leaders of APS will be identified, and names will be given to directors of boards and offices.

Office of Education (OE): Recent activities: The office of Education has been highly active since August of 2013. Following the last meeting, a leadership change was made as Scott Gold rotated off as Director following three years of service and Tom Mitchell stepped into that role. On December 8-10, 2013. At that meeting, OE members discussed visioning on where they should be focusing their efforts and developed a list of initiatives / an Action Plan and assigned members to work on each. Met with CADRE to discuss video and on-line short discussions / lectures. OE will work with them to set up a schedule of videos and a booth at the 2015 Annual meeting. A re-design of the Ed center is moving forward.

A model has been generated and we are working with staff to establish a creation and implementation plan. Developed and disseminated a survey to all the Boards, Offices, and Committees of APS requesting information on their activities in the area of education so that OE can work to make strategic partners and identify synergies within the society. A report of the survey was generated and is being used by the OE. It will be reviewed further at our retreat in Dec. 2014.We have stopped pursuing PlantingScience for the time being. A list of the academic contacts at each Plant Pathology unit within APS is being developed for use by the OE, Ed Center, and OPRO. A proposal for the collection of syllabi from academic units from across the society to provide support for faculty building courses has been generated and will be enacted. A plan has been created to work in collaboration with other APS offices, forums and committees, to recruit top undergraduate students. Focus: Generating synergy between groups in APS active in the realm of education. Being the strategic body with regards to education activities within APS. Insuring that APS is providing educational materials and support to educators at all level with regard to Plant Pathology. Insuring that APS is recognized worldwide as the premier source of educational materials in Plant Pathology. Highlights: Convene a meet of the OE in December 2014 to review strategic initiatives for the following year. Work with CADRE to generate informational videos on a variety of topics to support the education and professional training of graduate students. Work with the Ed Center on their re-design and enrich their content. Continue close discussion with the AULF to support education at academic units throughout the society by attending that NCAC-15 and AULF meetings. Collect syllabi from academic units and make them available to instructors throughout APS. Develop a plan to support Plant Pathology educational needs of the international members. Host a symposium at the 2015 Annual Meeting and begin planning for a education-based program in 2016. Work with offices, committees, and forums across APS to develop an undergraduate engagement plan

Office of International Programs (OIP): No recent activities to report

Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR): Recent activities: OPSR is focusing on increasing the communication and engagement between industry and academia. A steering team met throughout the winter and spring to identify a key initiative. OPSR will host a biennial Industry Tour for graduate students and faculty. The tour will encompass multiple types of companies and highlight multiple types of jobs that are possible in the private sector. The first tour will take place in RTP, NC in 2015. Also, OPSR is working with APS Foundation in support of the OPSR Experiential Award, a part of the Mathre Education Endowment. Funds will be raised through 2014 and 2015 in support of a travel award for graduate students who wish to participate in an on-site learning experience with a private company. The award will be granted biennially in the same year as the Industry Tour. Recipients will choose from a menu of experiences, each organized and hosted by a different company. Lastly, OPSR will work with the Department Heads to organize opportunities to discuss careers in industry with their graduate students, either through their seminar series, courses, or stand-alone events. Focus: Increasing the communication between academia and industry, primarily through student engagement. Student engagement includes education about careers in industry, a student travel award, and a biennial Industry Tour. Highlights: Work with APS Foundation to raise funds in support of the OPSR Experiential Award; Organize and implement the first Biennial Industry Tour in RTP, NC; Visit Plant Pathology Departments to discuss preparing for and succeeding in Industry Careers - some films or presentations will be posted to the Careers in Industry website.

Office of Public Relations and Outreach (OPRO) : Recent activities: To support the APS Education Initiative and conduct outreach to the general public, OPRO attended the following events: Future Farmers of America, National Association of Biology Teachers, Agriculture Future of America, and USA Science and Engineering Festival. For the first three events, the APS booth was exhibited using the “Plants Get Sick Too” theme. Vertical banners provide examples of diseases, and the career banner provides examples of employment in plant pathology. The “Don’t Get Caught with Your Plants Down” T-shirts are worn and help to attract visitors. An informational packet is provided to all teachers with career poster, career brochure, APS Education Center information, Plant Pathology Department contacts and examples of disease lessons. At NABT, many teachers expressed an interest in plant pathology projects, especially for student science fairs, but did not know who to contact to obtain pathogens in their respective states. While some pathogens (e.g., Agrobacterium tumefaciens) are available from biological supply companies, a USDA permit is required before the product can be shipped. For many schools, this requirement raises a red flag and the purchase is usually not allowed. OPRO explained that there is a plant pathology group within each state who can provide some pathogens without a permit, and the contact information for each group was inside their teacher packet. While the annual NABT meeting is a national conference, it is apparent that many of the teachers who attend are within driving distance of the conference site. It would be useful to always have a faculty member or graduate student from the state where the NABT meeting is held represented at the APS booth. New this year was attendance at the USA Science and Engineering Festival in Washington, D.C. in April. While this event is targeted for middle and high school students, all ages were in attendance. Over 5000 people visited the APS booth, where the primary give-away was a band-aid magnet that read “Plants Get Sick Too” and “Become a Plant Doctor” with the APS logo. We used a new backdrop stating we were “The Plant Doctors”. The OPRO board developed a technique to demonstrate spore dispersal using colorful Orbeez™ as raindrops and coffee grounds as spores. A Penicillium plush doll and Penicillium mini-plush dolls in a petri dish were another fun way to introduce the concept of spores. A flat screen monitor continuously showed the 10 short videos produced the previous year. Focus: 1) Education Initiative (Outreach to Students and Teachers) Currently, the majority of our activities are focused on this initiative. Step 1: Attract K-12 students to science by interacting with the students and their teachers. Step 2: Attract science-oriented high school students to plant sciences/biology undergraduate majors, either directly or via their teachers. Step 3: Attract plant sciences/biology undergraduates to plant pathology graduate programs, either directly or via their professors. By interacting with students, we are indirectly interacting and engaging their parents and other adults, which provides the additional benefit of outreach to the general public. This was very apparent at the DC Science and Engineering Festival that we attended in April. 2) Provide APS members with materials to use in their own outreach efforts to students, teachers and the general public. Highlights: To facilitate our outreach efforts, OPRO board members and other APS members will be attending the events listed below on behalf of APS. We continue to update the booth and material to be given away at these events. In anticipation of the DC Science and Engineering Festival in 2016, another hands-on or active demonstration is being considered, specifically a wind tunnel. These types of activities are essential at the student and general public events, and are also good demonstrations for the more targeted events. Future Farmers of America Convention (FFA) National Association of Biology Teachers Conference (NABT) Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANNRS) Agriculture Future of America Leaders Conference and Opportunity Fair (AFA) AAAS Family Science Days (new for 2015) Career Center: The career center page on APS needs to be updated to attract students. This has been on our “to do” list for a number of years, and this year we hope to complete the task. Surveys: Surveys of past FFA and NABT attendees will be made to determine if they have used the materials provided in their classes or courses.

Publications Board (PUB): Recent activities: The APS Publications Board has started a process of fundamentally rethinking its journal publications strategies and implementing new technologies as appropriate. APS Journals are facing increased competition from Open Access

(OA) journals like PLoS One, PeerJ and others. While the number of APS papers published per year are flat, OA journals are increasing the numbers of plant pathology papers published per year exponentially. PeerJ has recently been adopted by many university libraries at land-grant universities allowing authors to publish for free on their campuses while the libraries pay a fraction of the cost of traditional publishing. Competition from OA journals combined with the drop in cost per paper pioneered by PeerJ provide an incentive to fundamentally rethink APS publishing. APS journal technologies have not been significantly updated since 2006 and are in need of several important upgrades or changes. APS is in a good position to develop and invest in a new generation of publication technologies. Several changes are required to make APS journals more competitive. APS needs to develop an XML first publication workflow and XML first will be implemented starting March 2015 using Dartmouth Journal Services as a provider. Journals need to enable altmetrics and social media tools. Similarly, journals need to develop a fresh, contemporary look. Review time needs to be reduced considerably and costs of publication per paper need to decrease. The whole publication process needs to become more nimble, adaptable and reactive. PubBoard and APS Staff have explored several scenarios ranging from a PeerJ like model - where the software technology is developed in house - to technologies outsourced to Atypon (or other journal platform vendors), Dartmouth Journal Services, and ScholarOne. PubBoard believes that APS is well positioned to face the increased competition, but has to act soon to adopt these new publication models and technologies. Focus: Fundamentally rethinking APS Publications strategies and making all APS journal more strategic by implementing milestones. Highlights: Implement strategies to improve turnaround times from submission to publication. XML first starting March 2015 for MPMI, Phytopathology, Plant Disease and PHP.

Public Policy Board (PPB) Recent activities: As charged by APS Council, APS PPB has focused our advocacy efforts on the Phytobiomes Initiative. The Phytobiomes Initiative has the goal of having a comprehensive understanding of phytobiomes and the capacity for their optimization by 2025. Our advocacy plan and progress in 2014 include: 1) Facilitating the development of a roadmap for the Phytobiomes Initiative (e.g., workshops and planning meetings). 2) Developed and submitted a proposal for funding for a Workshop to advance knowledge of phytobiomes and to develop a roadmap for use of phytobiomes knowledge to improve agriculture. This proposal has been funded by USDA-NIFA ($50K), and is pending for a decision on funding at NSF, USAID, DOE. The planning for this workshop (~June 21-25) is underway. 3) Identifying specific ways in which various funding agencies can engage to support the Phytobiomes Initiative; advocating for an interagency working group on Phytobiomes. 4) Promoted interagency working group to OSTP; we understand that an interagency group has been established on “Plant Microbiomes” which falls within the Phytobiome. 5) Leach was invited to present on the research gaps of the Phytobiomes at the The National Plant Genome Initiative -- Research Challenges and Resource Needs in Phenotyping, Cyberinfrastructure & Bioinformatics, and the Microbiome Workshop Speaker, XXIII Plant and Animal Genome meetings, San Diego, Jan 11, 2015. 6) Engagement of other partners, including other national scientific societies, industry, and the international research community. 7) Presentations to Dow Agrosciences, Soil Health Renaissance, USDA-ARS, i5K (entomology), IRD (France), etc to engage them in Phytobiomes. 8) Raising awareness (symposia, webinars, social media, newsletters, etc). 9) Eleven national and international presentations on the Phytobiomes Initiative, three webinars, Organized Workshop at the Plant and Animal Genome meetings on ‘Exploring Phytobiomes’, Phytopath News newsletters, Twitters, etc.; all are bringing awareness to Phytobiomes. 10) Placing an APS Policy Fellow in Washington DC. 11) Elizabeth Stulberg began her appointment in OSTP in November. She has been working with Jo Handelsman with a focus on plant microbiomes. In addition to the Phytobiomes Initiative, PPB provided comment and/or participated in 'listening’ and ‘stakeholder’ sessions for USDA-NIFA funding, NPDN funding, and other timely issues. PPB currently mentors four early career interns on policy work. We also mentor a Public Policy Fellow (Angela Records) and placed her with USAID in Wash DC; PPB has started discussions with USAID to possibly place another Fellow in the future. PPB informs/educates membership with a monthly newsletter, the Eversole blog and TWEETS, news capsules, Hot Topics session at APS meetings; co-sponsorship of sessions at APS Meetings, Get Engaged booth at APS Meetings. For example, at the APS Annual meetings in 2014, we hosted a Hot Topics session focused on (1) Phytobiomes and (2) RNAi. We also held a Symposium on Phytobiomes. We raised funding for and placed an EPA Subject Matter Expert (SME, Wayne Wilcox). On behalf of PPB, Eversole Associates continues to monitor important areas such as the Food Safety Modernization Act Guidance Documents and Regulations, and other regulatory issues, such as Biotechnology issues. Focus: Advocate for funding for Phytobiomes research to ensure a healthy, safe and secure food supply. This effort includes advocacy for ancillary needs such as: 1) Preservation of microbial collections important to plant pathology. 2) Education and training of plant pathologists to meet future demands of agriculture. Highlights: Focused advocacy for Phytobiomes Initiative, which includes: 1) Seeking funding for and holding a workshop to develop a roadmap for the Phytobiomes Initiative that includes inter-societal and international input. 2) Refining Phytobiomes message and advocating for Phytobiomes research funding.

APS Subject Matter Committees

Bacteriology: Recent activities: The APS Bacteriology committee is an active group of bacteriology researchers. This committee provides valuable insight and discussion opportunities in the area of bacterial plant pathology. The committee sponsored a special session and more than four technical session in the 2014 APS meeting. We have submitted three special session proposals and agreed to co-sponsor at two special sessions for 2015 APS meeting. Since August 2013, the committee works via an email group. Led by the committee members, a scientific book entitled “Virulence Mechanisms of Plant Pathogenic Bacteria” is being published by APS Press. The Committee has an agenda to enhance training of future bacteriologists by encouraging research collaborations and exchange teaching materials for plant bacteriology, which includes course syllabi and specimens. Some experts provide quest lecture for teaching plant bacteriology. A committee member sponsored one APS international member from Nigeria completed the application of the Borlaug LEAP fellowship and the applicant finally was awarded. Therefore, APS will derive significant benefits from continued activity by the bacteriology committee. Focus: 1) Promote fruitful collaborations of the bacteriology APS members to generate high quality research accomplishments. 2) Encourage our members to prepare teaching materials and lectures of the course plant bacteriology and to exchange the teaching materials and course syllabi for quality teaching. 3) The regulation policy on the bacterium Ralstonia solanacearum needs to be clarified and the committee is working on the issue with USDA APHIS. 4) Help to find a workable way to preserve a bacterial collection of approximately 6000 bacterial strains. Highlights: 1) Continue to promote fruitful collaborations of the bacteriology APS members to generate high quality research accomplishments. 2) Continue to encourage our members to prepare teaching materials and lectures of the course plant bacteriology and to exchange the teaching materials and course syllabi for quality teaching.

Biological Control: Focus: Numerous biological control organisms and bioactive byproducts with strong disease control potential have been discovered by academic and government researchers over the past 50+ years. However, few have been taken from the lab and developed into affordable, effective products for plant disease management. Therefore, the committee is currently focusing on developing biocontrol discoveries into products which end users can adopt. We are proposing a symposium for the 2015 APS meeting entitled "Effective Transfer of Disease Control Technologies from the Lab to Practice: Developing your discoveries into products growers can use". The speakers from the academia, industry, consulting and plant production will be invited to discuss the components necessary for transforming laboratory discoveries into affordable, reliable registered biopesticide products. They will also offer up-to-date information, options and perspectives about IP protection, registration, production, formulation, and technical support that participants should consider when looking into commercialization options for their discoveries. Highlights: Promote awareness of the Biological Control Committee - improve information exchange between the academia, industry and production - enhance sustainability, competitiveness and profitability of producers.

Biotechnology: Recent activities: The Biotechnology Committee is at a crossroads. As the intensity of public debate has cooled, interest in the committee among APS membership has waned. Committee membership is highly transient, and activities cannot be maintained without a firm commitment by established APS scientists. Though there has been considerable student interest in biotechnology, other APS scientists have not shown much interest. A motion was put to 2014 committee attendees, but was mooted for lack of a second, because no other committee member was present besides the chair. Some discussion was held about changing the title and scope of the committee to make it more relevant to society members. Note: This is the third year in a row that no members of the committee attended (i.e. all new attendees). Focus: The effects of the introduction of genetically engineered crops in developing countries. Highlights: None planned.

Chemical Control: Recent activities: Discussed the potential impacts of EPA's Endocrine disruptor screening program on future availability of plant protection products. Highlights: Plans to sponsor a special session on SDHI group fungicides

Collections and germplasm: Recent activities: Collections and Germplasm committee members are working closely with the National Center for Genetic Resources Preservation (NCGRP) to identify isolate collections for backup and distribution with the federal system. The Collaboration for Plant Pathogenic Strain Identification (CPPSI), a subcommittee of Collections and Germplasm with researchers at UC Davis have developed differential sets with limited availability to characterize strains of certain pathogens . Additionally, members have worked with the United States Culture Collection Network (USCCN - usccn.org) to develop best practices protocols for collection maintenance. These are resources that will benefit the general APS community and provide a standard for collecting and characterizing new strains. Focus: The committee is focused on: Identifying and backing up rare and orphaned collections Disseminating resources on culture collection standards. Highlights: Work closely with the NCGRP to identify orphaned collections Build stakeholder interest to develop a distribution system for the NCGRP Expand the set of host differentials available with CPPSI Promote the resources at USCCN.org.

Crop loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CARE): Recent activities: Members of the Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation Committee (CLARE) are active in research, concept evaluation, policy development or assessment of issues addressing crop loss and risk evaluation regarding plant disease. This committee provides APS members with the most recent information on these issues through meetings, special sessions, workshops and individual interactions. The mission is to improve crop loss evaluations and risk estimation procedures incorporating a multidisciplinary approach to assess disease, yield, and quality of the crop in the field. In 2013-14, the committee has been involved in various activities contribution to APS' strategic goals: 1. The committee has organized and discussed topics for symposia at the APS meeting in 2014/15, respectively (including potential co-sponsorship of symposia of mutual interest). Potential topics discussed for 2015 and included a proposal by Serge Savary from the previous year on wheat disease and global food supply, which is currently being fully developed for a special session in 2015. Other possible symposia topics were also discussed. 2. The 2013 Councilor's Challenge (a video concept to encourage potential graduates to pursue a career in Plant Pathology). Peter Oudemans and Eric Leveen developed these substantially. Alissa Kriss, Clive Bock and Peter Oudemans were instrumental in making contact with several students and colleagues in the discipline to obtain video clips for the 5-min video production. The video was the only one presented to the CAL, and the committee was awarded $1000 for the video contribution. The award money will be spent on committee activities. 3. Discussions amongst committee members questioned the most appropriate acronym for this committee. In 2013-14, the name was officially changed from CARE to the more appropriate, full acronym, CLARE (Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation Committee). 4. Members are discussing revising the mission statement to ensure that the global component of Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation is satisfactorily covered. This discussion is ongoing. 5. CLARE is hosting the 2015, 15th Melhus Graduate Student Symposium. Focus: Global food security. Emphasis on wheat health and on climate forecasting, and analysis and interpretation of data from disease cycles spanning multiple seasons. Highlights: Symposia preparation (2) Revising mission statement to incorporate a more global emphasis David Gent suggested that the committee could do much more than organize annual symposium sessions and suggested that steps be taken to encourage collaboration amongst committee members, secure funding, and work towards actionable research. Carla Thomas pointed to the Western Weather Workgroup as a model working group model that could be considered for CLARE. Dave, Alissa Kriss, Serge, Carla, Paul, and Karen will correspond about how to increase the visibility, communication, and impact of CLARE.

Diagnostics: Recent activities: During 2013, the Diagnostic Committee submitted a proposal for a symposium titled, "Diagnostics: A Pebble in the Pond of Plant Health Research". This symposium was aimed to highlight the influence diagnostics has had, and continues to have, on the field of plant pathology using specific case studies of past and present phytopathological events. The symposium was co-sponsored by Early Career Professionals, Extension, Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection and Mycology Committees. The symposium consisted of five topics covering the past, present and future of diagnostics, including Precision Diagnostics and Global Trade: The Story of Plum Pox, Late Blight and the Birth of Plant Pathology, A new world of pathogens discovered: Spiroplasmas, From the First Diagnosis of Sudden Oak Death: The Genus Phytophthora Then and Now and The Future of Diagnostics. Unfortunately, the symposium did not make the final cut. A survey to determine the diagnostic training needs was conducted during 2012 and 2013. The survey revealed that more training is needed in PCR and primer design for PCR diagnostics and use of sequence databases such as GeneBank, sequence data interpretation, morphological and molecular identification of Oomycetes and fungal groups. The committee felt that the survey did not reach all the targeted audience and at the request of new members it was decided to resend the survey this year. The members of the diagnostics committee were asked to help the USDA-APHIS-PPQ permits staff with communicating a change in how samples that are diagnosed to only the species level of Ralstonia solanacearum are handled and how diagnosticians and other plant pathologist notify appropriate officials. A smaller working group was established and charged with reviewing the changes, developing a survey and making modifications to existing stand operating procedures. Committee members continue to work on this

topic with a goal of ensuring diagnosticians and other APS members are aware of the proper processing and notification requirements. Focus: Some members of the Diagnostic Committee are concerned about the existence of several committees with same subject matter such as Diagnostic Committee, Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee and Emerging Diseases and Pathogens Committee. Members would like to find out if there is a way to consolidate them. Membership in these committees overlap and similar topics are discussed at the committee meetings. Highlights: The Diagnostic Committee in collaboration with the Pathogen and Disease Detection Committee has submitted a symposium proposal for the 2015 APS annual meeting titled, "Diagnostics at the Crossroads of Traditional and Advanced Tools". This symposium will present new technologies in use and on the verge of wider application in industry, government and university diagnostic labs as costs drop and protocols become more user friendly. The session will also discuss collaboration efforts between researchers and diagnosticians to make advances in diagnostic precision and reliability. The committee is also planning to showcase the Diagnostic Jeopardy poster at the 2015 APS meeting.

Diseases of Ornamental Plants: Recent activities: Prepared a mission statement. Focus: Maintaining positions in ornamental Plant Pathology at universities Highlights: none at this time.

Diversity and Equality: Recent activities: In the past 12 months, this committee has set raising awareness of diversity and equality issues in our profession as a priority. We have discussed communications strategies and allied APS committees that will help us accomplish this goal. Materials from the 2012 CDE workshop were submitted to CADRE. CDE Facebook and Twitter accounts were established. The communication strategy and allied committee framework of activity established this year will drive our efforts in the next 12 months. In connection with APS14, our committee sponsored a diversity workshop featuring University of Minnesota's Karl Lorenz, Director of the Office of Diversity for the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences. Focus: Raising awareness of diversity and equality issues within our profession and our society are top goals. We aim to help plant pathologists understand what diversity is and how to value it as a key component of our research, teaching, extension, and outreach activities. Raising awareness and visibility of our committee activities within APS is a related but secondary goal. Highlights: APS member Ruth Genger is spearheading a proposed special session tentatively called "Participatory plant disease research: growing sustainability through farmer-researcher partnerships" for APS15. This topic provides strong potential to include diversity issues (e.g., interaction with "non-mainstream" farmers, immigrant farmer populations, etc.), and our committee is a possible co-sponsor. We will be working closely with AULF in coming months to gain an understanding of diversity and equality issues, concerns, and resources at academic institutions and plant pathology and related departments across the country. This may take the form of a survey with emerging specific action items to be discussed and acted upon by our committee and AULF at next year's meeting. We intend to offer a diversity and equality workshop at APS15. We are exploring the possibility of committee members offering outreach activities at regional annual meetings. We intend to offer one or more diversity-related articles for possible inclusion in Phytopathology News.

Early Career Professionals: Recent activities: The committee is composed of members representing all facets of careers in Plant Pathology. During introductions and discussion new members and graduate students are able to learn about the many possibilities as a plant pathologist. During the 2014 meeting we also discussed new technologies various members are using in their laboratories to diagnose plant diseases. As well as symposium ideas for 2015 and 2016. Focus: Outreach to communities to raise awareness about plant pathology. Networking within the committee to bring together plant pathologists who work on a wide range of things. Highlights: We will host the Schroth Faces of the Future symposium. We are also working on a session highlighting the various aspects of outreach one can do as a plant pathologist.

Emerging Diseases and Pathogens: Recent Activities: On 15-16 April 2013, a National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS) Workshop was held at Falls Church, VA. Link to the agenda, presentations and minutes of the workshop was posted(http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/topicalmeetings/NPDRS/Pages/default.aspx) On September 2013, the Emerging Diseases and Pathogens Committee (EDPC) has been declared as a regular Subject Matter Committee per recommendation of the Councilors-At-Large of the APS Council. Julius Fajardo was recommended as Chair of the committee. On December 2013, a mission statement was drafted and submitted per requirement to the Councilors-At-Large. Updated link to the EDPC, mission statement and members was posted at the APS website (http://www.apsnet.org/members/apsleadership/comm/Pages/edpc.aspx) On July 2014, an agenda of the EDPC was distributed to members and other interested persons. Currently, the invitation to the meeting is open to the general public. Agenda as follows: I. Introductions II. EDPC - Doug Luster, Past Chair USDA-ARS A. EDPC is now a Regular Subject Matter Committee of APS B. Proposal for a 2016 APS Meeting Special Session on Select Agent Sequencing III. EDPC Way Forward - Julius Fajardo, USDA-OPMP A. Mission Statement Comments B. Vice-Chair Needed IV. Updates A. National Plant Disease Recovery System (NPDRS) - Julius Fajardo B. Phytobiomes Initiative - Yazmin Rivera, APS Public Policy Board C. Plant Pathogens Subcommittee of ITAP - Deb Fravel, USDA-ARS D. Microbial Forensics - Jacque Fletcher, NIMFFAB, Oklahoma State University E. APHIS Pest and Pathogen Response Guidelines - Russ Bulluck, USDA-APHIS F. National Plant Diagnostic Network (NPDN) - Carla Thomas, UC Davis G. Emerging Diseases on Ornamentals 1. Cristi Palmer, IR-4 2. John Hammond, USDA-ARS H. Select Agent List Revision - Chuck Divan, USDA-APHIS SAP I. Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) Group on Citrus Greening/HLB - Mary Palm, USDA-APHIS V. Emerging Diseases of Interest - ALL VI. Other Matters VII. Adjournment. Focus: Collaboration and sharing of information on identification and detection of newly introduced and emerging diseases/pathogens both nationally and internationally - need for international and industry representations in the committee - better mechanism in supporting/co-sponsoring special session/symposia with other committees in anticipation of next year's meeting for better use of resources. Highlights: Collaborate/co-sponsor special sessions with Plant Pathogen & Disease Detection Committee, Diagnostics Committee, Tropical Plant Pathology Committee, Nematology Committee, and Diseases of Ornamental Plants Committee - sponsor a special session/symposium on 'Emerging downy mildews: Where have we been, where are we going?"

Epidemiology: Recent activities: The Epidemiology Committee was very active again. The committee organized the 2014 Melhus Graduate Student Symposium and was able to secure travel awards to four students to present their work at the 2014 Annual Meeting. The committee also co-sponsored the special session: "Supply, Physical Access, Economic Access, and Utilization: How are the Four Dimensions of Food Security Affected by Plant Diseases?" scheduled for the 2014 meeting. Planning and organization are underway for special sessions in 2015. The committee organized and sponsored two statistical workshops at the 2014 Annual Meeting, one on Bayesian methods utilizing SAS and another on population genetic analyses in R. Committee members have developed an exercise using the STELLA program to illustrate aspects of host resistance on disease epidemics using simulation modeling. This exercise will be available in the Education Center and will be a useful teaching tool. The committee developed a list of resources for analysis of data commonly encountered in plant disease epidemiology research. The

resource is available on the Epidemiology Committee webpage. Committee members are working to prepare a Special Topics paper for Plant Disease that will present terms and concepts for sampling. Various ideas for virtual journal issues were put forward to Publication Board: (1) citrus greening; (2) Fusarium head blight; (3) mycotoxin contamination in harvested products; (4) pathogen detecting and samplings; and (5) crop biosecurity. The committee provided input to the Office of Education on materials and activities. Focus: Foster collaboration within The American Phytopathological Society (APS) on issues regarding all aspects of plant disease epidemiology (e.g. Ecological and quantitative epidemiology), • Serving as a bridge connecting applied and basic phytopathology; and • To coordinate the planning and organization of special sessions for APS annual meetings. • Foster international collaboration within the community of plant disease epidemiology and related disciplines. Highlights: Special sessions (proposals-to-be-submitted) include the following: o 50 year anniversary commemorating work of van der Plank o Wheat health and global food security (co-sponsored by CLARE committee) o Climate cycles, climate forecasting, and disease development over multiple seasons (co-sponsored by CLARE committee) Workshops (proposals-to-be-submitted) planned for the 2015 Annual Meeting include the following: o Mechanistic modeling workshop using STELLA. o Multivariate analyses using R.

Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics: Recent activities: The primary focus of the Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics Committee in 2013-2014 was to develop training workshops and educational symposia to update APS members on the latest advances in population genetic and genomic analyses and technologies. The workshop on Analysis of Population Genetic Data in R sold out with approximately 75 attendees. In addition, our members had numerous discussions and presentations with stakeholders to discuss and investigate how genetics and genomics tools are used in disease management. Focus: The committee is working to keep APS members up to speed on the latest genomic technologies and approaches applied to relevant plant pathogen biological questions. Technologies are changing so quickly that continuing education at APS meetings is a popular way to remain at the cutting edge of our science. In addition, climate change is impacting disease management and pathogen evolution, and is a topic of interest to members of the Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics Committee. Highlights: Our primary focus will be in developing exciting and engaging programs for the 2015 APS meeting in Pasadena, CA. Our committee will propose and co-organize up to 3 special sessions focused on the crossroads of genomic technologies and plant pathology. In addition, we are developing 2 workshops: 1) Analysis of Population Genetic Data in R (repeating an extremely popular session at the 2014 meeting) and 2) RNASeq Experimental Design and Analysis. Finally, we look forward to supporting APS initiatives to document impact of our plant pathology work and to recognize outstanding APS members by nomination for awards and leadership positions.

Extension: Recent activities: Arranged and conducted a crop protection field trip (From Seed to harvest) to highlight industries and crop protection issues in Minnesota. There were 67 participants who saw how sugar beet varieties were developed for resistance to Cercospora beticola; field symptomology of Goss's wilt of corn which is a relatively new disease in Minnesota; seed production and selection for sweet and field corn and new seed treatments that will become available soon; and to observe production problems in a vineyard used for wine production. There were about 100 participants at a symposium that discussed the past, present and future of Extension. The committee is also preparing a report on how best to articulate impact of extension; challenges of Extension; and vision on APS advocacy for Extension. Report will be submitted in late September. Focus: The major issue we are addressing is how to make Extension relevant for the future and how best to demonstrate to shareholders, legislatures, and advocacy groups the 'impact' of extension. Highlights: Organize a symposium/workshop to train Extension specialists (whose background have been mainly in research) how to plan and evaluate their extension programs so that they can have data which will show the impact (which may be economic, social, behavior etc) of their program.

Forest pathology: Recent activities: In preparation for the 2014 annual meeting, the Forest Pathology Committee exchanged ideas via email for special sessions for the upcoming 2014 meeting. The committee agreed that in order to represent the interest of our members, we needed to come up with several session ideas prior to the annual meeting to ensure representation at the 2015 meeting. We agreed on several priority topic areas including root diseases, pathogens as drivers of biodiversity, oak declines, pathogens and climate change, and forest soil metagenomes as drivers of plant disease. We contacted State and USFS pathologists in California to organize a field trip for next year's meeting. We also set up a SharePoint site to communicate with members, encouraged APS members who had trees and forest trees as their general commodities to join the forest pathology committee and attend the forest pathology committee meeting during the Annual Meeting. Lastly, we updated our public site. Focus: New and emerging diseases, forest pathology professors retiring and not being replaced, no emergency funding to address current introductions, lack of funding in general for forest pathology especially for forest restoration, and lack of understanding of the effects of climate change on native and exotic tree pathogens on forest ecosystems. Highlights: Our plans for next year are to communicate more frequently, possibly through conference calls. We have submitted proposals for two special sessions for the 2015 annual meeting and if these are accepted we will be organizing these exciting sessions. Lastly, as we have done in the past, we are working on organizing the forest pathology field trip for the 2015 and 2016 annual meetings. Some members also discussed the possibility of writing an article to create support for forest pathology.

Graduate Student: Recent activities: The graduate student committee (GSC) has made a strong effort this past year to increase graduate student presence and networking opportunities within the society. In order to successfully achieve this goal we have continued to focused our attention on utilizing social media such as Facebook https://www.facebook.com/APSGraduateStudentCommittee and encouraging student participation via Twitter @plantpathgrads. This has increased committee contact, communication, and member participation during the year to work towards a strong, proactive, and united professional organization (Goal 2) and increased opportunities for professional growth and development (Goal 4). We successfully spearheaded and collaborated with the Office of International Programs and the Early Career Professionals committee to put forth the special session symposium “Beyond Borlaug: How the next generation of plant pathologists are advancing the green revolution” for the 2014 APS-CPS Joint Meeting. This was one of two special sessions that were live-streamed. This symposium strongly supported all 5 of APS’s strategic goals, highlighting high quality research (Goal 1) carried out by members of our organization (Goal 2), including 3 graduate students (Goals, 4, 5), on disease-related problems around the world (Goals 3, 5). We have worked closely with the Office of Education on a series of workshops titled "Show me the money". These workshops are targeted toward undergraduates, graduates and early career professionals and focus on identifying potential funding sources available to plant pathologists. This year we have proposed "Show Me the Money: NSF Graduate Research Fellowships" (5 Goals)! This year the GSC won the 2013 Councilor’s challenge with the video idea "A day without a plant pathologist", further promoting our organization and communicating science to the public (Goal 2). This year, the GSC organized a very successful Graduate Student Social at the Annual meeting. The increased involvement by the GSC in organizing the social increased student attendance and networking opportunities (Goal 4), which were especially helpful for first timers and undergraduate students, strengthening our network and sharing our common interests (Goal 2). We continue to run the Art in Phytopathology competition, which supports Goal 2 of the strategic plan and our committee chair worked closely with APS Foundation to run the Student Travel Award Program, which directly relates to

Goal 4. Focus: Communication gaps within the graduate student members. The need for more student participation within the society. Identifying funding sources for professional development at a early stages of our career. Increasing awareness of APS Foundations awards Outreach activities: let us tell the public what plant pathologists do! Networking opportunities for graduate students and established professionals. Highlights: Communication gaps within the graduate student members. The need for more student participation within the society. Identifying funding sources for professional development at early stages of our career. Increasing awareness of APS Foundations awards Outreach activities: let's tell the public what plant pathologist do! Networking opportunities for graduate students and established professionals.

Host Resistance: Focus: 1) Improving phenotyping techniques to identify and characterize genetic resistance and better utilize the genomic data available 2) Need of providing the public with facts about GMO crops and its place in achieving food security, crop yield protection, less use of pesticides, etc. Highlights: 1) to identify local issues associated with committee goals and interests short meetings will be held at the division level by members of the committee attending the conferences. 2) "journal club" - monthly or quarterly identification and sharing with the committee members of journal articles relevant to committee goals and interests L links or article pdf will be share with via email and /or APS Facebook and twitter.

Industry: Recent activities: The Industry Committee has grown over the previous year with five individuals expressing interest throughout the year and seven new members joining at the committee meeting in Minneapolis. 21 Members met on August 10, 2014 during the National APS Meeting. Both the Graduate Student Lunch and Industry/Extension Social sold out this year. Highlights: The Industry Committee will continue to support the Graduate Student Luncheon and Industry/Extension Social for next year's annual meeting. Volunteers will be sought for providing opportunities for tours at Industry locations combined with Internships in conjunction with the Office of Industry Relations. The committee has been tasked with creating impact statements. The committee also sponsored a special session entitled "Careers in Industry". It is our goal to have private sector professionals from multiple areas talk to students interested in pursuing a career in the private sector.

Integrated Pest Management: Recent activities: The thrust of the last year's activities was to re-define the role of the IPDM committee so that we are more inclusive in our attraction to the membership. Emphasis over the last few years has been mainly horticultural in nature, which is important, but there is a lack of interest in the agronomic crop aspect of disease management. The goal was to be more inclusive. Secondly, we needed to define our role as far as educational endeavors to our membership beyond the occasional symposium. Discussion is ongoing. Focus: As listed above. Highlights: There will be a continuation of the "emphasis" and future direction discussion.

Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology: Recent activities: The molecular and cellular phytopathology committee is discussing new ideas for future APS meeting workshops and symposia that will attract broader audience. We need to spearhead innovative strategies to better communicate and disseminate advances in molecular and cellular plant pathology research. At the 2014 APS meeting, a motion was passed to co-sponsor a session with Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics (EGG) committee. Of the three topics that were proposed by EGG, the committee agreed to support co-sponsoring i) pathogen/plant interactions through genomics using next-generation sequencing and ii) Contribution from population genomics to plant pathology. Ignazio Carbone (NC State) and Randy Wisser (University of Delaware) were suggested as potential speakers. The committee also discussed other topics that may be of interest to the colleagues in the near future. The first is Gene expression/RNA-Seq, seeking to introduce the new developments in RNA-Seq technology and discuss the methods in this field that are being used to reveal molecular basis of plant microbe interactions. The second is Microscopy, recognizing that new microscopic technologies are invaluable in advancing molecular plant pathology research. Focus: Our committee recognizes the importance of training the next generation of scientists that can further strengthen the future of our discipline. Tom Mitchell, a member of our committee and Director of APS Office of Education, call on MCP and its members to be involved in APS educational programs by introducing basic and new knowledge on molecular plant pathology to K12 students and society. All members agreed on with this idea and suggested the corresponding tools and ways that can be used for this purpose, for example, video posted on APS website, newsfeed on social media. Highlights: The committee is planning to co-sponsor a Population Genomics symposium with Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics (EGG) committee. A proposal for the symposium was submitted to APS by EGG committee. The committee will continue to work on education outreach initiatives that can be drafted through on-line forum/wiki before next APS committee meeting.

Mycology: Recent activities: The mycology committee has continued to be active and provide input in regards to the “One name, One Fungus” changes being made after revisions to the Botantical Code of Nomencalture. By ensuring the voice of plant pathologists is heard during the process of deciding which name will be given to specific pathogen we will ensure the highest standards are met while ensuring names of relevance to the field of plant pathology are not neglected or forgotten. Members of the mycology committee have also been active and provided input in regards to the “1000 fungal genome” initiative begin sponsored by the DOE Joint Genome Institute. By encouraging members to take part in the initiative we are trying to provide opportunities for members to learn about new sequencing technology and efforts such as the “Comparative Fungal Genomics with MycoCosm” workshop offered each year at the JGI. Once again the foray sponsored by the Mycology Committee was well attended providing both mycologist and non-mycologist alike an opportunity to learn, share, and enjoy the chance to connect with colleagues. In fact, the Minnesota foray was one of the best on record as we collected and identified over 40 species of fungi. As many images were captured of these specimens, plans are underway to present a poster at the 2015 APS meeting demonstrating the value of this annual foray. Due to its success, another foray is planned for the 2015 APS meeting in Pasadena, CA. Finally, the committed sponsored or co-sponsored four special sessions at the 2013 meeting and plan to sponsor or co-sponsor several special sessions at the 2014 APS meeting. The committee is also continuing to work on developing online content for both college and high school to assistant in the instruction of mycology to high school and undergraduate students. This could be an excellent way to extend the reach of the Mycology committee as well as APS into classrooms of schools that do not have a traditionally strong agricultural link. Focus: The major scientific focus of our committee is to remain a conduit for the flow of knowledge between taxonomist, bioinformaticians, and plant pathologists to ensure the accuracy of fungal classification and the effect new taxonomical schemes may have on managing disease as well as potential for quarantine of specific species. As we begin to sequence more and more fungal genomes we need to ensure pathologist are included in the discussion as to which species should be sequenced as well as assisting with data analysis and ensuring that information is relayed to more applied researchers who may benefit from future discoveries and breakthroughs. The major societal issues the committee is pushing forward is the delivery of mycology related teaching materials to middle and high school teachers as well as undergraduate and graduate level teachers. There are a number of simple and easy experiments that can be done with fungi that can be “packaged” and made available to teachers. This is of utmost importance as fungi are left out of most middle and high school curriculum in large part due to the teacher having little knowledge of these organisms themselves. By making these resources available we

hope to ameliorate this issue. Highlights: 1) Develop a series of tools fro new teachers interested in developing a fungal component in their curriculum 2) Organize a fungal foray for the 2015 APS annual meeting in Pasadena, CA 3) Develop a website that will act as a hub for discussions regarding the status of the "one name, one fungus" initiative as well as allow APS members to provide feedback as to which species they are interested and what name the society deems preferable for species that currently have a teleomorph and anamorph name.

Mycotoxicology: Recent activities: The APS Mycotoxicology Committee has been actively involved in identifying the latest development in technology, research and knowledge advances that can help to better detect mycotoxins, or to better understand why fungal pathogens produce mycotoxins that in some cases do not offer obvious survival benefits. Therefore, new and more effective approaches to reduce mycotoxin contamination in crops, food and feed supplies may become feasible. With this focused goal, the Committee organized the symposium talk "Frontiers in Biosynthesis and Management of Mycotxins" at the 2014 APS Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, MN. The Committee proposed two symposium talks for 2015 APS annual meeting: "Mycotoxins: from production and secretion to effects on plants and mammals" and "Mycotoxins: occurrence, new tools for detection, and the economic and social impacts". These two symposia talks are to address some of the concerns/issues that were raised at the annual committee meeting. The committee is also actively working on two possible topics for the year of 2016. In addition, the Mycotoxicology Committee has been working closely with Host Resistance Committee and Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology Committee to sponsor symposium talks with focus on identifying new sources of resistance or developing resistant crops through either traditional breeding or modern genetic engineering approaches since we believe enhancing host resistance is the most cost-effective approach in reducing mycotoxin contamination in crops in the long run. Focus: During the annual Mycotoxicology Committee meeting, several issues were raised: one is the lack of information/knowledge/research on some of the less known mycotoxins, such as deoxynivalenol (DON) (or vomitoxin), zearalenone (ZEA), which have as important adverse impacts as the major mycotoxins; there is also a lack of knowledge on how the mycotoxins are secreted once they are synthesized and the impact of the presence of mycotoxins on grain quality (such as milling properties), on food and feed safety. In addition, there is an overall lack of knowledge on why fungi make various mycotoxins. Another issue is that the current popular detection methods often fail to recognize the respective metabolites (referred to as "masked" mycotoxins), which are also known to be harmful to mammals. Failure to detect these compounds could lead to significant underestimation of the toxic potential of a particular crop/food/feed. To address this concern, Drs. Hillary Melh and Zhi-Yuan Chen co-organized a symposium proposal with one talk each on ochratoxin and deoxynivalenol, 2 talks focusing on the latest immunological and LC-MS/MS methods in simultaneous detection of multiple mycotoxins (including masked ones), and one talk on the social and economical impacts of mycotoxin contamination. Highlights: During the annual committee meeting, several actions are planned for the next year (2014-2015): 1. Update the Mycotoxicology Committee website by adding the following information, such as who is doing what (through providing links to relevant scientists working in the mycotoxin field), providing links to various websites to get a comprehensive list of mycotoxins produced by various fungi, and links to social and economical impacts from individual scientists working with specific crop or toxins, as well as links to publications documenting the impacts of mycotoxins. This will help the committee to better address the impact priority outlined by the APS society. 2. Try to develop long term vision of the committee by discussing, developing, and submitting symposium topics two to three years ahead. 3. Solicit graduate students involvement in committee activities and get exposure to early career development

Nematology: Recent activities: Since last August, the APS Nematology Committee has worked to organize and propose a symposium for the 2015 annual meeting of APS. We also worked to get new people involved in the committee, with special focus on graduate students and early career professionals. Focus: The key issue in the field of plant nematology is dwindling number of academic and professional positions for graduating students in the research area. We fear that expertise in critically important sub disciplines in nematology, such as taxonomy and physiology, will be lost in the near future due to elimination of positions working in those research areas. Highlights: In the upcoming year, the APS Nematology Committee will follow through with organizing the proposed symposium for the 2015 annual meeting. We will do this by inviting a diverse set of speakers to present recent results on exciting topics of current research in the field of plant nematology.

Pathogen Resistance: Recent activities: Since late august 2013 the committee was engaged in the pursuit of constructing a glossary of terminology used in the study of pesticide resistance in plant pathogens. The glossary was refined to exclude terminology associated with host resistance (a different committee). The goal of the glossary is to provide a scientific standard for terminology used to describe phenomena in pesticide resistance in scientific publications and presentations. This activity primarily focuses on Strategic Goals 1 and 3. During the year, committee engaged in discussions on the use of fungicides "at risk for resistance development" for plant growth enhancement. The activity culminated in further discussions and concerns during the committee meeting and ended with an understanding of personal choice. This activity was primarily concerned with Strategic Goal 5 The committee continued to pursue the completion of the book entitled, Fungicide Resistance in North America. All of the chapters have been submitted and reviewed. The committee members responsible for the book are completing the final stages. This activity is concerned with Strategic Goals 1 and 3. Focus: A key social issue for the committee is use of fungicides "at risk for resistance development" in various cropping systems for plant growth enhancement. The industry wishes to market certain QoI fungicides for their minor effects on agronomic crop improvement. Some committee members are concerned that such marketing will promote off-label misuse practices that lead to fungicide resistance. Other committee members fail to see the risk if the labeled practices are followed. A scientific issue for the committee is the proper deployment of the newly released SDHI fungicides in each cropping system to minimize the development of fungicide resistance. A tangential scientific issue is related to the genetic factors that lead to the development of resistant isolates and the population changes that lead to practical resistance. Highlights: In 2014, efforts are being made to promote and refine our ideas and efforts with the chemical control committee to develop a symposium on SDHI fungicide efficacy and resistance. We also plan complete the book entitled, Fungicide Resistance in North America.

Phyllosphere Microbiology: Recent activities: As phyllosphere microbiologists, our discipline contributes directly to the knowledge base, research and educational priorities for the APS Phytobiomes Initiative. We are currently focusing efforts on making APS membership more aware of the recent innovations in detection technologies that reveal the greater complexity, diversity and functioning of phyllosphere micro-organisms. Our goal is to highlight the interactions among plant-associated microbes and their impact on plant and human health. Focus: Issues related to food safety and contamination of food crops has raised awareness and opened up the field of phyllosphere microbiology to those with little or no experience with the phytobiome. Our responsibility as plant microbiologists and plant pathologists is to educate and collaborate with non-traditional phyllosphere researchers. Highlights: We discussed at length the development for the Tampa APS meeting a special session entitled: "Challenges for characterizing the phyllosphere: Is it live, dead or something in between?" New methodologies for detection of cell viability have enabled more in-depth understanding of the ecology of plant and animal associated bacteria on plant surfaces. This session will

highlight these new methods and approaches for measuring viability of individuals and communities of pathogenic bacteria in the phyllosphere. Accurate assessment of bacterial viability will lead to improved prediction of risk for plant and human disease outbreaks.

Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection: Recent activities: The Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection (PPDD) deals with aspects related to diagnosis of plant diseases and detection of their causal agents. The committee comprises nearly 40 members from US universities, federal agencies (USDA-ARS and USDA-APHIS), private sector as well as scientists from Canada, Brazil and South Korea, and draws expertise from a wide range of disciplines in plant pathology. Members of this committee participated in various scientific meetings at the national and regional level as well as in multi-state collaborative project meetings (e.g. WERA-20, NPDN and NCPN) and presented research on a broad range of diagnostic methods for practical applications in the detection of plant pathogens and plant diseases under field conditions. Members also participated in several discussions related to the development and application of high-throughput methods for rapid diagnosis of plant disease agents and deployment of diagnostic methods for rapid responses to contain disease outbreaks in the field. The committee membership promoted public-private collaborative partnerships for the deployment of user-friendly methods for the detection of plant pathogens and participated in policy discussions pertaining to the validation and application of a broad range of diagnostic methods in research and regulatory issues. Members of the PPDD actively participated in several activities of the APS and made oral and poster presentations at the 2014 annual meeting. In addition, the PPDD committee co-sponsored the symposium "An Expanding Virome of Cultivated Plants: Home Grown or Imported?" in collaboration with the Virology committee, Diseases of Ornamental Plants committee; Emerging Diseases and Pathogens committee. The symposium was organized by Dr. Sead Sabanadzovic, Mississippi State University, MS, and Dr. John Hammond, USDA-ARS-FNPRU, Beltsville, MD, under the section: Diseases of Plants and well attended by research and extension faculty, graduate students and post-docs. At the 2014 APS annual meeting, the PPDS committee sponsored a symposium proposal: "Connecting science with regulatory requirements: a global approach" and co-sponsored with the Diagnostics Committee a symposium proposal: "Diagnostics at the Crossroads of Traditional and Advanced Tools" both for presentation at the 2015 APS annual meeting. Focus: Improved diagnostics for high-throughput detection of plant pathogens and diseases caused by fungi, bacteria, nematodes, viruses and virus-like agents for strengthening the American agriculture and its global competitiveness. Highlights: Encourage PPDD members to attend various scientific and multi-state project meetings and share research-based diagnostic methods for practical applications. • PPDD members organize/co-organize symposia and make presentations at the 2015 APS annual meeting.

Post Harvest Pathology: Recent activities: The committee had a half-day discussion meeting and two speakers presented their research updates. The committee also proposed a symposium titled " Pushing back the frontiers of postharvest science using cutting-edge technologies and approaches to solving real world postharvest and food safety issues" and cosponsored a field trip organized by the chemical control committee. Focus: 1. Pesticide residues in exporting markets. 2. Exporting barriers due to the quarantine fungal pathogens. 3. Food safety concerns in postharvest practices. Highlights: The committee submitted a special session proposal titled "Impact of cutting-edge postharvest practices on trade and food safety" to review and discuss the key issues the US fruit industry is facing.

Regulatory plant pathology: Recent activities: From August 2013 through August 2014, our committee's primary activities were seen in preparation for the 2014 meeting. During the course of the year, the committee did communicate via email on several occasions that focused on APS updates and preparation for the upcoming meeting. Our committee was additionally asked by President Abawi to serve as a liaison for APS with NAPPO. Correspondences with the NAPPO representative did occur and the representative was invited to the Regulatory meeting. This meets goals 1, 2 and 3. Focus: Promote collaboration between APS and NAPPO. Promote better understanding of permitting process from USDA-APHIS. Highlights: 1. work towards generating impact statements to demonstrate purpose/needs of APS. 2. Promote upcoming permitting webinar. 3. Continue to serve as a liaison for APS with NAPPO.

Seed Pathology: Recent activities: Over the past year, members of the seed pathology group have worked closely with USDA and the regional seed organizations to address growing concerns on seed health pathogens and potential movement via seed import. Focus: Key scientific issues revolve around the identification of new or emerging seed movement threats and the validity of these in relation to country and customer food security. Recent issues of discussions and action by members are the detection and identification of Phomopsis spp. (Diaporthe spp.) on spinach seed and Cucumber Green Mild Mottle Virus on cucurbit seed. Highlights: Continued participation with the USDA to address the risk associated with seed movement into the US.

Soil Microbiology and Root Diseases: Recent activities: The committee has initiated contact with the Soil Science Society of America interest group on Soil microbiology. The two subgroups are discussing exchange of information on expertise and the possibility of co-organizing a meeting in 2016 that has been proposed to SSSA. The committee also is investigating revising the Methods for Research in Soilborne Plant pathogens, published by APS Press. A proposal is being developed in consultation with APS Press. Focus: Soil health, interaction between organisms in the soil environment and rhizosphere, detection methods for diversity in this complex environment. Highlights: Propose a session on metagenomics, strengthen the interaction with the SSSA soil microbiology group and reach out to other groups (initiated contact with soil fungus group from Mycological Society of America, etc.

Teaching: Recent activities: In February, our selection committee reviewed applicants, conferred, and selected the recipient of the Frank L. Howard Undergraduate fellowship award. In March, the full committee also reviewed and provided feedback for the APS Education Center website design proposal, and in May, we held a virtual committee meeting to discuss and complete the Office of Education's educational activity survey. Through discussions before and during the annual meeting, we resolved to continue our efforts with the "syllabus project," but with a new approach, focusing on development of a published synopsis of undergraduate plant pathology education in the US. We also have a potential new project under discussion: development of a "virtual white paper" detailing the efforts and resources required to produce high quality online courses, and assessing the availability of those resources at different types of institutions. Members of our committee have also fully developed and submitted a session proposal on "flipped" classes for the 2015 annual meeting. Focus: We are currently focused on resources and continuing training for anyone involved in teaching plant pathology. While we have an emphasis on teaching in academic contexts, we also strive to develop workshops, symposia, and materials that are relevant for anyone needing to communicate information about plant pathology, including delivery of research presentations, extension talks, and outreach activities. Highlights: We will be pushing forward with the survey of undergraduate education in plant pathology (formerly regarded as the syllabus project), and possibly initiating the online education white paper. If accepted for the 2015 schedule, we will be organizing a symposium for next year's meeting, as well as completing the development of an educational research proposal for the 2016 meeting.

Turfgrass Pathology: Recent activities: This past year the Turfgrass Pathology Committee sponsored a special session in collaboration with our Canadian colleges in for the 2014 annual meeting organized by John Inguagiato, Young-Ki Jo, and Lee Miller. The session entitled "Banned: Turfgrass Disease Control in the Age of Restrictive Pesticide Legislation" focused on restrictions on pesticide use on turfgrass areas that have evolved in Canada and the United States in recent years and how turfgrass diseases are being controlled in areas where this legislation exists. Positive comments were provided about the session by those who attended. The committee also sponsored a field tour for the annual meeting that provided participants an opportunity to learn about turfgrass disease issues on golf courses and professional baseball fields in MN. The tour also featured a miniature "field day" at the Univ. of Minnesota turfgrass research facility. The Turfgrass Pathology Committee continues to serve as a valuable forum for members to exchange information and ideas about the current state of turfgrass disease management. Focus: Developing integrated disease management strategies for common turfgrass diseases. Understanding and managing fungicide resistance of common turfgrass pathogens. Investigating the biology and management of emerging turfgrass diseases. Highlights: We are organizing a special session on emerging bacterial diseases of turfgrass. This session will include presentations of recent research characterizing new bacterial diseases of creeping bentgrass putting greens, and discuss possible implications of turfgrass management practices that may influence the turfgrass microbiome and contribute to the emergence of these bacterial diseases of bentgrass. The Turfgrass Pathology Committee is planning to re-establish the Turf Working Group Meeting. Previously, this informal round-table meeting gave participants a forum to discuss new or emerging diseases and issues in turfgrass pathology. This exchange of ideas was a valuable addition to the Annual Meeting, and we hope to resurrect this activity for our members. The Turfgrass Committee would like to begin to explore options for updating the current edition of the Turfgrass Compendium. The current edition is nearly 10 years old, and several advances in our understanding of turfgrass diseases and their pathogens have occurred during that time.

Vector-pathogen Complexes: Recent activities: Organized the special session entitled: Interconnected Lifecycles: Multitrophic interactions between plants, pathogens, and insects. Focus: Use of technology for controlling vectors * Bridging the gap between society and researchers. Highlights: Organize a field trip centered on Citrus Greening and a special session on disrupting virus transmission for the 2015 APS Meeting. Several vector-related meetings and initiatives were announced that members of the committee will be involved in.

Virology: Recent activities: The APS Virology Committee provides a forum for discussing issues in plant pathology that are important to plant virologists. This year four excellent symposia were organized: (1). "Schroth faces of the future: virology"; (2). "An expanding virome of cultivated plants: home grown or imported?"; (3). "Potyviruses: Functional genomics and virus-host interactions"; and (4). "Interconnected lifecycles: multitrophic interactions between plants, pathogens, and insects". These symposia encapsulated abundant latest knowledge in plant virology in the areas of emerging new plant viruses, functional genomics of potyviruses, and interaction between plant pathogens, vectors and plants. These topics were discussed in the context of emerging viruses and discovery of several new plant viruses using the latest next-generation sequencing technologies. It is unbelievable that so many new plant viruses have been found by using next-generation sequencing technology. The special and technical virology sessions were very well attended. For the next year, a special session sponsored by Virology Committee was proposed by a Graduate Student, and two special sessions were co-sponsored by Virology committee. The committee actively solicits external funding for the sessions and gratefully acknowledges sources. This year three private and one governmental entity donated sufficient funds to cover the expenses of all the foreign and domestic speakers. The committee supports the creation and preservation of plant virus collections and associated reagents, etc., as a resource that will benefit all plant virologists. The membership of the committee was increased by about 22% this year. The committee continues to work closely with USDA/APHIS widely prevalent plant virus group in updating the list of viruses in different states. In conclusion, one more year, the Virology Committee actively served the membership of the APS. Focus: The Virology committee is sponsoring one session and co-sponsoring two sessions for the 2015 APS annual meeting. These sessions are subject to the approval of APS Planning Board. There are several proposals at the discussion level, which will be proposed for 2016 APS meeting. Highlights: The Virology Committee is sponsoring a special session for next year's annual meeting on 'Advances in gene silencing' and co-sponsoring a special session on 'Blocking the transmission of vector-borne plant pathogens, dream or reality?' and an APS-CSP joint symposium on "Plant Pathology and Disease Control"