

2017 One Hundred and Ninth Annual Report Of the American Phytopathological Society

Annual Meeting

The 109th Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) was held at the Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas, from August 5 to 9, 2017. There were 1,347 attendees, with the majority (86%) being from the United State, followed by China, Canada, Brazil, and Columbia. There were approximately 230 oral presentations in 21 technical and 25 special sessions, and 645 posters. President **Timothy Murray** welcomed participants during the Opening General Session on Sunday August 6 and introduced keynote speaker **Jack Bobo** (Senior Vice President, Chief Communications Officer, Intrexon) who delivered a talk entitled “*Can Agriculture Save the Planet before it Destroys it?*” The Plenary Session was held on Monday August 7, with three invited presentations based on the meeting theme “*Changing Landscape of Plant Pathology*”. **Greg Heck** (Science Strategy Operations Manager, Monsanto) presented a talk on “*RNA-Based Applications for Agriculture Productivity*”; **Erica Gross** (Assistant Professor, Plant Pathology and Emerging Pathogens Institute, University of Florida) covered aspects of “*Global Movement, Local Consequences: Using Population Genomics to Understand the Changing Landscape of Plant Pathogens*” in her presentation; and **Lav Khot** (Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Systems Engineering, IAREC, Washington State University) closed the session with a presentation on “*State-of-the-Art on Sensing Technologies for Plant Disease Detection*”.

Awards and Recognitions

The APS Fellows awards were presented during the Opening General Session, whereas the excellence and named awards were presented as part of the Plenary Session. The recipients of the **APS Fellows** award were **Thomas J. Baum** (Iowa State University), **Gary P. Munkvold** (Iowa State University), **Andrew F. Bent** (University of Wisconsin), **David M. Rizzo** (University of California), **Glen L. Hartman** (USDA ARS), **Wayne F. Wilcox** (Cornell University), **Seogchen Kang** (Pennsylvania State University), **Brenda D. Wingfield** (University of Pretoria South Africa), **Yong-Hwan Lee** (Seoul National University, Korea), **Xiangming Xu** (NIAB East Malling Research, United Kingdom), and **Jennifer H. McBeath** (University of Alaska Fairbanks).

Excellence in Extension Award: **Frank J. Louws** (North Carolina State University).

Lee M. Hutchins Award: **Megan M. Dewdney** (University of Florida).

Excellence in International Service Award: **Ranajit Bandyopadhyay** (IITA).

Noel T. Keen Award for Research Excellence in Molecular Plant Pathology: **Martin B. Dickman** (Texas A&M University)

Excellence in Teaching Award: **Brantlee Spakes Richter** (University of Florida).

William Boright Hewitt and Maybelle Ellen Ball Hewitt Award: **Lina Maria Quesada** (North Carolina State University).

Ruth Allen Award: **Hailing Jin** (University of California)

Syngenta Award: **Anna E. Whitfield** (Kansas State University)

Other awards and recognitions included Books for the World Award, Browning Plant Medicine and Health Travel Award, Frank L. Howard Undergraduate Fellowship Award; Don and Judy Mathre Educational Endowment Award, Don and Judy Mathre Student Educational Award, Plant Pathology Experiential Award, 17th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium, International Travel Award, JANE International Service Award, JANE Research Award, Raymond J. Tarleton Student Fellowship Award, Schroth Faces of the Future Early Career Professionals Symposium, Student Travel Awards, and Plant Pathologists of the Future Awards.

Year in Review

Deceased Colleagues

A moment of silence was observed at the annual meeting for the following colleagues that passed away during the months since the 2016 annual meeting:

Michael G. Boosalis
Bill B. Brodie
Merton F. Brown, Jr.
George W. Bruehl
Robert N. Campbell
Kenneth M. Corbett
Abraham H. Epstein
Kelvin Grant, PhD

Leonard J. Herr
William J. Jordan
Thor Kommedahl
Hennie F. Le Roux
Harold W. Lembright
Roland F. Line
Charlie A. Martinson
Arthur H. McCain

Stan Nemec
Bobby L. Renfro
Gene R. Safir
Mark W. Schwinghamer
Stephen J. Warnock
Ronald K. S. Wood
Milton Zaitlin

Summaries of a few highlights from 2017 and an audited financial report were published in the February issue of Phytopathology News. Excerpts from those summaries are presented below, and more details can be found in the “*Annual Reports of the Committees, Boards, and Offices of APS*” section of this report.

A family-friendly APS meeting

The 2026 Professional Development Forum (PDF) initiated several activities geared towards advancing the professional development of students and early- to mid-career APS members. One such activity was the successful organization of a Family-Friendly program of activities at the 2017 Annual Meeting. A subcommittee comprised of PDF and general APS members researched, coordinated, and delivered an excellent program for kids of meeting attendees. The Graduate Student committee also contributed to this effort by assisting with the development of the “Sprouts Kid’s Club. This initiative was very well received by those who participated, and PDF looks forward to developing and expanding Family-Friendly activities at future APS Meetings, building on lessons learned in 2017.

Interactions with the private sector

APS continues to explore strategies for strengthening interactions and relationships with the private sector. The Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) contributed to this effort with a graduate student-organized Special Session entitled “*Preparing for Careers in Industry*” at the annual meeting, and held its second biennial private sector and government institution tour in California. The latter gave students and postdocs exposure to agribusiness organizations (Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, Dupont-Pioneer, Monsanto, and Syngenta), the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the Citrus Research Board. OPSR also granted an Individual Experiential Award to a postdoc at USDA-ARS in Charleston, and a Departmental Experiential Award to the University of Georgia.

APS publications doing well

All journals did well in 2017, with Plant Disease, Phytopathology, and Molecular Plant Microbe Interaction (MPMI) having impact factors of above 2.9. Averaged across these journals, the time from submission to a decision was reduced to less than 35 days. The number of submissions handled by the editorial boards remained fairly stable for some journals, but increased considerably for others. For instance, the Plant Disease board handled a record number of manuscripts in 2016. Plant Management Network (PMN), Plant Health Progress (PHP), APS PRESS, Plant Health Instructor, and Phytopathology News are also doing well. Phytobiomes was successfully launched as a full open-access Journal in 2016 and is growing. The first article was published in early 2017, and the first full issue of the journal in May 2017. APS Publications Board continues to rethink journal publications strategies and is implementing new technologies and improvements in delivery, handling, and formatting to meet the needs of members. The lateral transfer of manuscripts among journals within Manuscript Central was successfully implemented and is expected to greatly facilitate the process of redirecting (instead of completely resubmitting) manuscripts to a sister APS journal.

APS finances

Plant Disease, Phytopathology, MPMI, and APS Press contributed approximately 70% of the total audited income of the society, whereas, Phytopathology News, Member Services, Plant Management Network, Auxiliary Meetings, and Phytobiomes were the lowest contributors, each with less than 7%. G & A, APS Press, and Member Services were the most costly, with more than 50% of the total audited expenses (Fig. 1).

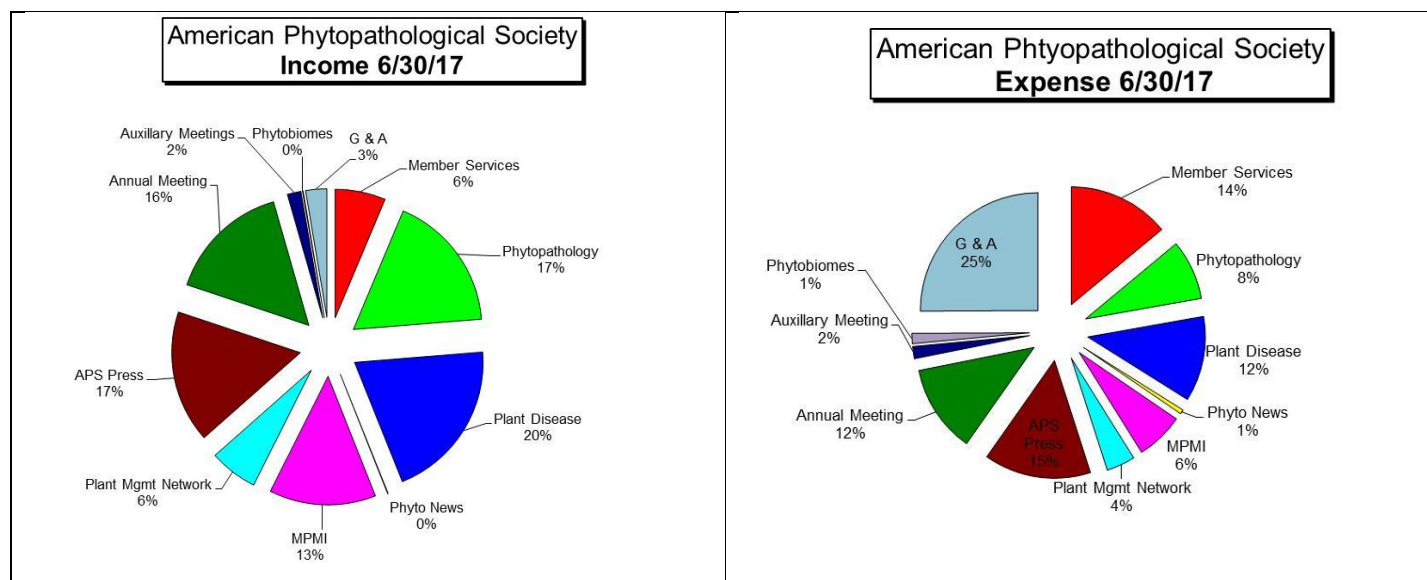


Fig 1. Pie charts sumerizing APS audited income and expenses for the fiscal for the 12-month period ending June 30, 2017.

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

Biological Control 2017 Biological Control

Special sessions titled “Translation of Basic Biological Control Research into Effective Grower Products and Practices” organized by Mollycadle Davidson, a member, was sponsored by the Biological Control Committee. The special session was held on Tuesday August 8, 2017. Attendance was about 120, which far surpassed initial estimation. Discussions were lively. Polling was done during the session and the results have been forwarded to Amy Charkowski, so it could get to APS meeting planning board. Committee meeting: The APS

Biological Control Committee meeting held with 29 attendees on August 5, 2017 at the Convention Center during the 2017 APS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, TX. The meeting was interactive. The 2018 ISPP concurrent meeting and the 2019 annual meeting were discussed.

Committee for Diversity and Equality 2017

The 2017 Committee for Diversity and Equality Meeting was held on Saturday August 5, 2017 at the San Antonio Convention Center, San Antonio Texas. It was attended by a diverse group of 38 participants, which included graduate students, early career professionals, professors and scientists from academia and government. The program started with the introduction of Past Chairs (2015- J. Bradeen, 2016- K. Gwinn), and present Chair Margarita Bateman and Vice-Chair JP Dundore-Arias and introductions of the rest of attendees. The meeting continued with the selection of the new Vice Chair, Sally Mallowa who was elected for 2017/2018. The CDE's incoming chair is Dr. JP Dundore-Arias. The Chair, Dr. M.L. Bateman reviewed the APS Councilors Challenge for 2018. On August 8, the CDE held three very successful and well-attended activities. These included: Idea Café: "Cultural Sensitivities and Cultural Shock" (8-8-17, 5:00-6:00PM, Exhibit Hall) which had about 12 participants and had a lively discussion. This was followed by the LGBTQA social (8-8-17, 6:30-7:30pm at Casa Rio, Veranda Room) and finally The Workshop: "STRIDE: Best Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence" by Dr. Bonnie Ownley (8-8-17, 7:30-9:00pm, Casa Rio, Veranda Room). More than 80 participants attended the LGBTQA social and workshop. There were announcements related to the 2018 ICPP Meeting relevant to the CDE.

Collections and Germplasm 2017

The USCCN initiative funded by a Research Coordination Grant of the NSF has continued to bring together scientists and experts in the area of microbial collections to share information on best practices and work for the safe and secure back-up of important microbial collections. A subcommittee of Collections and Germplasm, the Collaboration for Plant Pathogen Strain Identification (CPPSI) continues to make progress in their goals of developing and distributing host and pathogen strain differentials for distribution. They have received and additional three years of funding through member companies and are now working on 4 new sets to add to the 4 already developed. Phase three with additional sets is slated to begin next year.

Bacteriology 2017

The Bacteriology Committee has been active over the last year. The committee continues its effort in promoting the plant bacteriology by 1) providing a forum for discussion of current issues in bacterial plant pathogens and beneficial bacterial-plant interactions; 2) Proposing special sessions in plant bacteriology at the APS annual meeting and the ICPP meeting; 3) Taking on group tasks in plant bacteriology. We will describe the activities in these above three categories: 1. Committee members discussed issues related to agenda of bacteriology meeting (5 email communications), open postdoctoral positions (2 emails), planning of special sessions and concurrent sessions (10 emails), councilor's challenge (5 emails), and election of the vice-chair (through an online poll system). 2. Four concurrent sessions were proposed by the bacteriology committee for the 2018 ICPP meeting. We also co-sponsored three additional sessions with the ISPP Bacterial Taxonomy Committee. Three sessions were selected to be included in the meeting program. 3. We are currently working on two major tasks: 1) writing a review article for crop losses due to bacterial plant diseases, and 2) improving the taxonomy of plant bacterial pathogens through genomics. These tasks are led by Evan Johnson and Carolee Bull, respectively.

Epidemiology 2017

Period: August 2016 after the annual meeting to August 2017 up to the end of the annual meeting. 2016 minutes were approved. Two annual workshops were submitted, accepted and executed: Meta-analysis for combining results from multiple studies in plant pathology (L. Madden, P. Paul) (~55 attendees; 92% excellent rating and 86% level of workshop was ideal) and Design Matters! Experimental design in lab, greenhouse and field settings (A. Kriss, M. Nita) (~40 attendees, mostly graduate students). S. Everhart conducted the Introduction to R for plant pathologists workshop at the North Central Division regional meeting in June with A. Lipka, Z. Kamvar (~20 attendees). All workshops were excellently received. Suggestions from the annual meeting workshops listed Repeated measures and Advanced meta-analysis as future priority workshops. F. Nutter, P. Paul organized the 2017 Melhus Symposium: Today's students addressing tomorrow's challenges concerning plant diseases in phytobiomes, to which the Epidemiology Committee (EC) contributed \$500 from a prior Councilors' Challenge. The 2017 17th I.E. Melhus Symposium Award was awarded to four graduate students and was conducted during the annual meeting with attendance in and around the 50-person mark. The EC submitted 2 special sessions for the 2017 annual meeting: Real-time and near real-time information for plant disease management decisions (O. Carissee, W. Mahaffee; not accepted but agreed to submit for 2019 APS annual meeting) and Why light matters (D. Gadoury; not accepted for 2017 APS but see ICPP details). The EC cosponsored the 2017 submitted session Best practices in diagnostic test development and deployment. The EC submitted three concurrent sessions for the 2018 ICPP: Improving disease control through decision support with remote sensing (S. Pethybridge, I. Small; accepted), Multi-scale influence of weather on pathogens and disease development (O. Carisse, W. Mahaffee; accepted), and Why light matters: new concepts, tools, and practices to suppress plant pathogens and enhance plant health (D. Gadoury; accepted). The EC cosponsored the Pathogen transmission and fluids concurrent session (L. Bourouiba, D. Aylor). Candidate ICPP workshops were discussed: Network analysis (Garrett), GLM (Madden, Paul), Meta-analysis (Madden, Paul), Intro to R data manipulation/graphing (Everhart), Information theory (McRoberts), and Data mining/data analytics (Anderson). Kelsey Anderson was elected Vice-Chair.

Soil Microbiology and Root Diseases 2017

2017 Special Session with the title of "Adapt, Change, and Improvise: How to Control Diseases as the Climate is Changing" was

approved. ICCP 2018 Special session with the title of “Unlocking the Secret of Suppressive Soils: Insights from the Microbiome” was approved.

Forest Pathology 2017

The committee members met for the annual meeting, which was held prior to scheduled APS conference (August 5th 2017). Discussion included guest speakers related to forest pathology projects/issues/conferences: 1. Dave Rizzo (UC Davis) presented a proposed action to prevent the inadvertent spread of Phytophthoras to wildlands in California via restoration nursery stock installation. The committee members voted in favor of endorsing the proposed action and drafting a letter of endorsement. 2. Anna Conrad (University of Kentucky) promoted the upcoming 6th International Workshop of the Genetics of Host-Parasite Interactions in Forestry, Tree Resistance to Insects & Diseases: Putting Promise into Practice, which will be held in August 2018 in Ohio. The committee members voted in favor of endorsing the proposed conference. It was requested that our committee logo be included in their promotional material. The group also discussed potential session ideas for the upcoming 2019 meeting in Ohio. Further discussion regarding proposed sessions will be exchanged via e-mails, following the meeting. The committee also organized a forest pathology field trip for the upcoming ICCP meeting in Boston titled - New England Forest Health Issues: Drought, forest insects and diseases (organized in collaboration with by Isabel Munck, USDA - FS, Washington D.C.). In addition to two proposed sessions that were well attended for APS 2017 meeting in San Antonio, TX (over 80 individuals in each session), Phytobiomes 2.0: Functional Approaches in Forest Ecosystems and A Bridge Over Troubled Ecosystems: How Host Cultivation Creates Novel Pathogens, the committee was successful in organizing another session for the 2018 ICCP meeting. This session was titled The Most Wanted Global Tree Pathogens: Emerging Threats and New Big Data Approaches. Lastly, eighteen members that were present at the committee meeting selected Anna Conrad (University of Kentucky) as vice-chair and Rachael Sitz (Colorado State University) as secretary for 2018.

Mycology 2017

The Mycology Committee sponsored a workshop entitled “Morphological ID of Phytopathogenic Fungi” organized by Megan Romberg and Lindsey Thiessen. It was a very popular choice for a pre-meeting workshop and was highly successful. Attendance had originally been capped at 25, then was extended to 30. The morning of the workshop, 7 more attendees arrived for a total of 37 participants. The goal of the workshop was to address the need to provide training in morphological taxonomy of fungi. The workshop had been well organized and conducted; however, it became apparent that it was difficult to choose topics and activities to fit a one-day workshop and still address the main goal. An extended 4 – 5 day workshop addressing fungal morphological taxonomy is being considered for the future.

Diseases of Ornamental Plants 2017

The committee has been communicating electronically on a regular basis about 2017 annual meeting activities in San Antonio, TX. The committee members organized an ornamental field tour. Fourty five attendees had great experience visiting a production facility, zoo and botanical gardens in San Antonio. As a result of the members’ participation in the 2016 Chancellor’s challenge, the diseases of ornamental plants committee got awarded \$200.00. That money was donated to the APS-OIP with intention to be used for 2018 ICCP meeting. Joined special session proposal for 2018 ICCP with Turf committee got accepted. The title of the session is: Precision turf and ornamental disease management in 21st century.

Teaching 2017

The teaching committee's proposal for a special session titled, "Labs, A Mechanism to Enhance Learning in the Changing World of Plant Pathology" was accepted in 2016 and completed in San Antonio in 2017. During the past year the committee worked on the special session and had four excellent speakers and an engaging question and answer period following the presentations. We were pleased with our attendance at the special session, at one point we had a little over 80 attendees.

Pathogen Resistance 2017

Members of the committee collaborated to identify and invite speakers, and procure travel funding for several of these individuals to speak at a symposium at the 2017 APS Annual Meeting in San Antonio titled “The Rise and Management Challenges of Multi-Fungicide Resistant Pathogens”. The session was very well attended and the speaker panel Q&A at the end carried over past the allotted time with lively discussions. The update to the “Fungicide Resistance in North America” book is complete and the editors are waiting on publication. The committee also developed a Concurrent Session concept and list of speakers for the 2018 ICCP meeting in Boston titled “Population Dynamics of Fungicide Resistance”. This session was accepted, with a few modifications to the speaker list. The committee still needs to contact potential sponsors and procure additional travel funds. Stacey Haack (new member) was nominated and selected to be the incoming Pathogen Resistance Committee vice chair.

Extension 2017

The Extension Committee has encouraged networking and professional development by participating in the Industry and Extension Social. This event provides members of APS, including early career professionals and students, with an opportunity to network and cultivate fellowship among their peers in industry and extension. This event is always well attended and the 2017 event was no exception. The Extension Committee appreciates the sponsorship by industry for this event in 2017 and in previous years. The Extension Committee also submitted an idea for a 2017 symposium that was accepted, An Ever-Changing Extension Environment: Keeping a Foot in the Furrow and a Hand in Cyberspace, which had 45 attendees. The committee has been working to develop ideas for an ICCP 2018 field trip in collaboration with the Bacteriology Committee.

Diagnostics 2017

The Diagnostics committee sponsored a special session (“Best Practices in Diagnostic Test Development and Deployment”) at the 2017 APS Annual Meeting, supporting the APS goal of being the premier source of plant health knowledge dissemination in a competitive environment. The Diagnostics committee also presented the Diagnostics Jeopardy Poster at the poster session. The poster is both a challenge and a teaching tool, providing picture clues of plant problems or pathogens with answers provided under a flap beneath each picture. This annual effort continues to be very popular and is a way to promote knowledge exchange while providing a fun, engaging format for networking. The diagnostics committee was recognized as one of the largest and most active committees in APS and was invited to participate in a recorded session “Committees: How to Be Effective” at the 2017 annual meeting. In addition, the diagnostics committee participated in the APS Councilor’s diversity challenge and donated its second place monetary award to the ICPP 2018 bursary fund.

Seed Pathology 2017

We co-sponsored a special session with the Diagnostics Committee (and others) entitled “Best Practices in Diagnostic Test Development and Deployment” at the 2017 APS meetings in San Antonio Texas. This session addressed the need to optimize and deploy diagnostic assays for pathogen detection. Members were actively involved in writing chapters for the second edition of the APS Press book entitled “DETECTION OF PLANT PATHOGENIC BACTERIA IN SEED AND OTHER PLANTING MATERIAL”. This publication was completed and is now available through APS PRESS. We successfully submitted a proposal for a concurrent session at the ICPP 2018 congress in collaboration with the ISPP Seed Pathology Committee. This session is entitled “Global impact of international seed movement: Regulatory Implications of Seed Health Testing. We established the APS Lisa Shepherd Student Travel Award and the inaugural award was given to Ms. Shannon Carmody who is a graduate student at Washington State University with Dr. Lindsey DuToit. Finally, our members were actively involved in the coordination of a PhytoViews session at the 2017 APS meetings entitled: Seedborne vs. seed transmission: The curious case of *Phomopsis* spp. On soybean seeds. This session was well attended and highlighted the implications of seed-borne vs. seed transmitted status of plant diseases from the perspectives of academia, the seed industry and regulatory agencies.

Vector-Pathogen Complexes 2017

Prior to the 2017 committee meeting, a proposed agenda was sent to the members. No additions were suggested for the agenda so the following topics were considered and discussed by the Vector-Pathogen Complexes Committee at the 2017 meeting. 1) In our meeting, we highlighted in all presentations, special and technical sessions proposed and/or presented by our members and students at the 2017 Annual APS meeting. 2) Some currently available job opportunities were advertised/mentioned. 3) Details of the planned/proposed activities for ICPP 2018 were discussed. One proposed concurrent session titled, “Vector-Pathogen Complexes Around the World: What Could Be the Next Big Threat to Food Security?” was accepted. This session will explore selected vector-pathogen complexes that have emerged as agricultural threats in new geographic areas or might do so in the future due to increased international travel and a changing climate. A second proposed session had not been accepted at the time of our meeting. Finally, we agreed to co-sponsor a viroid workshop being proposed for ICPP 2018. 3) The vector-pathogen complexes also discussed special sessions for the APS 2019 meetings. As a committee, all members were encouraged to share ideas and discuss topics for special session proposals relevant to vector-pathogen interactions. It was agreed that these topics will be revisited during the APS committee meetings at the ICPP 2018.

Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics Committee 2017

Recent activities included the organization of a special session for the 2017 APS meeting and also one for the ICPP in 2018 entitled “Accessory genomes, genome islands, and dispensable chromosomes fuel rapid adaptations in plant pathogens”. The committee also discussed two different topics for the 2019 APS meeting.

Biotechnology 2017

Submitted special sessions for the 2017 (Epigenetics) and 2018 (Synthetic Biology) annual meetings. We are in the process of developing a Hot Topic session with the Early Career Professionals Committee for 2018 ICPP, regarding the topic of getting translational research into the field through start up companies. We had a larger group of 13 attendees this year at the committee meeting, which produced several special session ideas to develop for 2019 APS.

Postharvest Pathology 2017

One submission, which the committee thought would be quite timely, was made for the 2017 Annual APS meeting: Title: The Science Behind the Food Safety Modernization Act and Its Impact on post-harvest and Phytobiome Research Three speakers from the FDA, a practitioner, a plant pathologist, and an extension research specialist were to be the speakers. Unfortunately, our submission was not selected. Three submissions for symposiums were submitted for the 2018 ICPP meeting: 1) New and Emerging Postharvest pathogens and their impact on global trade and control (this was submitted by the APS Postharvest Pathology Committee -- after failed attempts to connect with the ISPP PP Committee, we decided to submit a suggestion regardless). The additional 2 were submitted independently by the ISPP Postharvest Pathology Committee (to note: the APS PP Committee was not solicited by the ISPP PP Committee Chair to participate in developing these symposium suggestions): 1) Pathogenicity and resistance in post-harvest diseases- Part I 2) Novel and integrated approaches to control postharvest diseases - Part II Unbeknownst to the APS PP Committee Chair and Vice Chair, the above suggestions were submitted by the ISPP PP Committee without consultation from the APS PP Committee. The APS PP Committee

was only made aware after these suggestions were selected to be a part of the 2018 program. The suggestion by the APS PP Committee was not selected. There was much discussion during the committee meeting in San Antonio about letting the ICPP organizers know about what happened (since we were shut out of having a say in the symposiums suggested), especially since it was encouraged/requested from the very beginning for the sister committees to work together to develop a joint suggestion. As a result, the APS PP Committee has modified our original symposium suggestion to be a Workshop submission for the 2018 ICPP meeting.

Integrated Plant Disease Management 2017

The committee submitted a special session proposal on Citrus Greening for the 2017 meeting. The session was not elected by the AMB. The committee revisited a discussion on the "shifting IPM Paradigm" and ideas for developing this into a special session at the 2019 meeting. The group discussed the changing definition of IPM, sustainability of IPM and strategies for measuring adoption and impact. The group discussed the upcoming National IPM Coordinating Committee meeting this October. Joe LaForest indicated that the National Roadmap for IPM will be revised. This has implications for anyone applying for USDA funding as the IPM roadmap guides all IPM programs administered by the Federal Government. North east IPM center is also developing a workshop on "what is IPM?" which is right in line with the ideas discussed at last year's meeting. Our committee will have a representative at these upcoming meeting (Joe LaForest). The group agreed that it would be a good idea to follow up in late Fall to get updates on what was discussed at the meeting and information on a revised IPM roadmap. Updates to the changing view/definition of IPM would make for a great special session in 2019 as this would have broad interest to researchers conducting IPM research and applying for federal funding. Follow-up discussions will be facilitated by the committee chair, Anissa Poleatewich.

Turfgrass Pathology 2017

In the last year leading up to the 2017 APS Annual Meeting, the Turf Pathology Committee contributed to multiple activities. Due to a conflict with another meeting held just prior to the 2017 APS Annual Meeting, the committee decided to forgo a 2017 session proposal. However, the committee did work together with the Ornamental Pathology Committee to develop a joint Session for the 2018 APS/ICPP meeting in Boston entitled: 'Precision Turf and Ornamental Disease Management in the 21st Century'. Second, the committee submitted an updated list of Common Turfgrass Disease Names as a part of a larger APS directive. Last, the committee officers developed and distributed a turfgrass pathology member-wide survey to assess methods to improve Turfgrass Pathology involvement with APS.

Early Career Professionals 2017

Major highlights □ The Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium – Host Resistance and Host Pathogen Interactions, sponsored and organized by ECP Committee and APS Foundation was well attended. Four early career professionals (1 Postdoc and 3 Assistant Professors) were selected to present their research. □ We had a large turnout of sustaining and new members at our committee meeting. □ We elected a new Vice-Chair Dr. Alejandra Huerta. □ ECP sponsored employer networking event was well attended. Employers like USDA and public sector announced jobs. However, absence of industry was greatly missed. □ Currently putting together a survey to get a better understanding of ECP committee members' expectations. □ We brainstormed about a workshop idea on developing a useful resource to help incumbent new faculty members for teaching a Graduate level Plant Pathology Course for 2018 ICPP meeting. Teaching Committee Chair Dr. Giovanna Danies is taking lead on this and ECP Committee will co-sponsor. □ We are planning to submit a Hot Topic idea on "Getting Translational Research into the Field" for 2018 ICPP meeting. Biotechnology, Graduate Student and Industry Committees have agreed to co-sponsor as well. □ Councilor-at-Large Dr. Peter Oijambo stopped by to inform about the friendly Councilors challenge to donate for Bursary Assistance Award supporting participation of international attendees to 2018 ICPP meeting. □ Following on last year's effort, the past-chair, chair and vice-chair Drs. Martha Malapi-Wight, Yazmin Rivera and Jagdeep Kaur, respectively, actively worked together throughout to strengthen the ECP committee and continue to pass on the tradition. Action items □ Conduct a survey to get better understanding of members' expectations and challenges. □ Solicit feedback from members regarding special sessions/ workshops ideas for 2019 APS meeting. □ Communicate with Industry Committee about having representatives come to ECP sponsored networking event and avoid conflict in future. □ Submit a Hot Topic ideas on "Getting Translational Research into The Field" for 2018 ICPP meeting. □ Communicate and collaborate with other committees to fulfill and expand on our mission. Council actions □ Ensure that ECP sponsored employment-networking event does not conflict with Industry Networking Event. This has been a repeated problem and attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Graduate Student 2017

In the past year, the APS Graduate Student Committee was focused on developing greater community participation through new activities and providing professional development to prepare students for a successful meeting. The Graduate Student Committee participated in re-imagining the First Timer's Orientation, which had a record number of participants this year. This committee also helped develop the "Sprouts Kid's Club" as part of the Family Friendly Initiative, which provided activities and resources for families attending the meeting. There were forty-four submissions to the Art in Phytopathology Contest, and we created a novel engagement opportunity where APS attendees could vote for a t-shirt design that will be available during the 2018 ICPP Meeting. Forty-one Named Student Travel Awards were distributed this year which supported students from twenty-two institutions around the country to attend the annual meeting. We had a record number of students attend the Committee Meeting and Grad Student Social, and many also attended an inaugural evening adventure at the Sister's Grimm Haunted History Walk. To help students be professionally prepared to attend the meeting, multiple newsletters were sent to the group throughout the year with tips on networking, business cards and CV preparation, and other suggestions provided by hiring managers both in Industry and Academia.

Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection 2017

1. PPDD committee members were interested in the topics related to pathogen detection. During the 2017 annual meeting, Members presented and discussed on topics (1) Principles of Diagnostic Assay Validation (2) Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) method policy challenges and gaps in scientific knowledge 2. PPDD committee co-sponsored a special session for 2017 meeting on 'Best Practices in Diagnostic Test Development and Deployment. Proposed a special session for the ICPP 2018 on Innovative Methods for Plant Diagnostics. Proposal was not accepted 3. The committee is co-sponsoring a symposium for 2018 on Global Challenges in Plant Diagnostics 4. PPDD committee is sponsoring a workshop on Oomycetes.

Molecular and Cellular Phytopathology 2017

MCP has been a major drive force of translating of basic knowledge of host-pathogen interaction into practical application of crop protection. Some members of this committee are distinguished plant molecular pathologists who have been making significant contributions to their respective employers in academia, government and industry. The committee meeting at annual meeting this year summarized continuous scientific leadership and effectiveness of translation research. Name a few, this committee organized special symposium presenting an update on molecular basis of plant disease resistance and its application to develop innovative strategies to manage plant diseases. This committee will also sponsor a symposium on CRISPR-CAS9 for disease resistance and crop protection at 2018 ICPP/APS in Houston. The committee is composed of large numbers of next generation of scientists with experiences with cutting edge science and technology, consequently they will be the effective leaders in plant pathology.

Phyllosphere Microbiology 2017

Organized the special session "Phyllosphere Microbial Assemblages: Friends, Foes, and Strangers" for the 2017 annual meeting.

Industry 2017

As always, the Industry committee prepared to host the 2017 Industry/Extension social as well as the Graduate Student/Industry lunch. Both of these meetings were sold out and the committee raised enough funding to support both of the events in full. Although we will not be hosting the Industry/Extension social in 2018, we look forward to hosting the event again in 2019. We discussed the 2017-2018 Councilor's challenge and encouraged all members to make donations to the Foundation. The committee leadership met with and provided updates to the OPSR on our activities. Discussion also included how industry could be more involved in APS through sponsored events such as those mentioned in the next section of this report. Additional topics of discussion during the committee meeting included making sure to make submissions for the "Outstanding Volunteer Award" and the "Excellence In Industry" Award.

Virology 2017

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 PM and new members signed into the committee and current members were asked to affirm their continued participation as committee members. There were 68 in attendance in the room. The committee approved minutes from 2016 Annual Meeting. The committee in 2017 engaged in number of activities including one special session titled 'Beautiful Efficiency: The multifunctional Nature of Virus Proteins'; and three technical sessions: 'Virus Biology', 'Viral-Host Interactions', and 'Virology Detection and Descriptions'. Additionally, there were following activities that were also involved with activities of the committee members at the meeting: Scientific Session-Hot Topic: 'Next generation of Plant Pathologists Understanding of Plant Virus-Insect Vector Interactions' (three talks), Idea Cafes: Endornaviruses – What Are They and What Do They Do To Plants? As Committee chair, I was able to get funding supports for the special session. The committee acknowledged funding support from Noble Foundation LLC and APS/APHIS Widely Prevalent Virus Committee for this session. The Chair recognized APS Excellence, travel awards, and other awards to virology and the following is the list of awards made by APS to researchers in virology. a. 2017 APS Excellence and Syngenta Award: Anna E. Whitfield b. Virology Student Travel Award: Will Cody c. 17th I. E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium: Elizabeth Cieniewicz d. International Travel Award: Diego Fernando Quito-Ávila e. Myron K. Brakke Student Travel Fund: Washington da Silva f. Robert W. Fulton Student Travel Award: Lauri Lutes g. William J. Moller and Kyung Soo Kim Joint Student Travel Award: Larissa Osterbaan, h. Zahir Eyal Student Travel Award: Lizbeth Pena-Zuniga Chair mentioned about changes to taxonomy and the International Code of Virus Classification and Nomenclature ratified by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses (2017). Adams et al. Arch Virol (2017) 162:2505–2538. Dr. Sead Sabanadzovic, current member of the International Council of Virus Taxonomy provided details on how taxonomy in future will work which will be sequence-based. He also invited members to send comments and suggestions which he can take to the council's future meetings. Chair invited members to send nomination for outstanding volunteer award and other awards from the APS. Dr. Dimitre Mollov was elected Vice-Chair of Virology Committee for 2017-18.

Regulatory Plant Pathology 2017

Since the APS meeting in 2016, one of the activities the Regulatory Plant Pathology Committee has been involved in is putting together a proposal for a special session at the 2018 ICPP meeting entitled "Plant Biosecurity in the Next Gen era." The scope of the proposed session was to cover next generation sequencing (NGS) technologies used for the improvement of diagnostics of plant pathogens how the technology of NGS can be used for data assessment of new and current plant pathogens that may or may not be of regulatory significance. We had hoped to bring in speakers from different countries to learn about how they use these diagnostic techniques and how they have been evaluating their regulatory policies. Unfortunately, we heard back from the organizers of the meeting and they were unable to approve our proposal.

Chemical Control 2017

Last year we were most concerned with planning a symposium for ICPP to highlight some of the historic accomplishments of chemical control in agriculture. This was to emphasize the past successes and future needs in this important sector of IPM. The session was ultimately not picked to move forward, which was a big disappointment. Discussions around the need for fungicide resistance management tools, including new FRAC codes, continue to dominate this committee. Industry is primarily developing SDHIs and it is not clear how to handle the different activity spectra and incomplete cross resistance among FRAC 7 subgroups.

Host Resistance 2017

Several members from the Committee involved in the preparation and submission of concurrent session proposals for the 2018 ICPP. Three proposals were submitted, including “Nonhost Resistance and Loss of Susceptibility for Durable and Broad-Spectrum Resistance”; “CRISPR/Cas9 Genome Editing for Plant Pathology and Disease Management”; “The Two-for-One Deal: Mechanisms of Plant Cross-tolerance to Biotic and Abiotic Stresses”, two of which were approved. The Host Committee co-sponsor two special sessions at 2017 APS meeting with Molecular and Cellular Plant Pathology Committee, including “Unfriendly and Beneficial Plant-Parasite Interactions” and “New Insights into NLR on Plant Immunity: Pathogen Recognitions, Molecular Interactions and Novel Disease Control Strategies”. Both special sessions had around 100 attendants and generated good discussion about the research, problems and idea in these areas. The annual committee meeting, led by the committee chair (Dr. Yanmin Zhu), was held in San Antonio during the APS meeting and had a total of 27 attendees including 12 new members. The attendees were from different US institutions and other countries and were at different stages of their career. In the meeting, several agenda and topics were discussed, mainly including ideas for the 2019 APS meeting special session, current research progresses and techniques related to host resistance, increasing visibility of the committee, facilitating and increasing the interactions among members within and outside of the committee. We confirmed and discussed the two special sessions that are co-sponsored by The Host Resistance Committee at the 2018 ICPP meeting. The vice chair was elected at the end of the meeting.

Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CLARE) 2017

The Crop Loss and Risk Evaluation (CLARE) committee have had several efforts in support of APS over the past year. The CLARE twitter account (https://twitter.com/aps_clare) has increased from 278 followers last August to 516 followers (as of 2017-08-14 13:30). This medium allows us to promote both APS as well as the need for crop risk assessment more broadly. CLARE committee were also instrumental in the 2017 special session ‘Show me the Money!’, which was widely attended (all talks were >60% capacity of room) and sparked wide discussion of the need for tying practice to the economics of our field. In addition to support of that session, CLARE gave \$500 of the committee funds to support Melhus symposium speakers at the 2017 annual meeting. The symposium this year highlighted the need for phytobiome-approaches to plant disease epidemiology.

Divisional Forum 2017

ADHOC The Division Forum met at the APS annual meeting in Tampa FL in August 2016, with the Northeastern Division in Ithaca NY in October 2016, held conference calls in April and June of 2017 and met in San Antonio TX at the 2017 meeting. Division Forum Representatives learn new ideas and activities at different Division meetings to take back to Divisions. Ongoing action items include updating the Division Forum engagement plan to include financial guidelines and collecting information on how each Division is involving undergraduate and high school students to document what is currently being done and how we may share approaches. High School student involvement in particular has difficulties associated with travel and timing of meetings either during or outside of the school year. Nicole Donofrio is collecting and collating information. The engagement plan has also been presented to each Division. A new component of the plan involves defining and evaluating Division Health. A summary has been posted at <https://www.apsnet.org/members/apsleadership/dfts/Resources/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2fmembers%2fapsleadership%2fdfts%2fResources%2fTemporary%20Working%20Documents&FolderCTID=%261051B8ADAEF0%7d> Feedback from Divisions indicated concern with increasing attendance at meetings, especially among students and early career professionals. A strength of Division meetings is the ability of students and early career professionals to give oral presentations. This fits in very well with the Plant Pathologists of the Future Symposium special technical session at the APS annual meeting for Graduate Students who have won their Division’s oral paper contest. Students are fully supported by Divisions. This has been well received by students and faculty. A survey of past students found many benefits of these sessions. We will see if this helps increase participation in Division meetings. Division Forum worked with participating societies to submit a proposal for such a session at the ICPP. Unfortunately, it was not to be, so 2018 winners will present at the Pacific Division meeting in Oregon in June 2018. Division Forum continues to work for formal peer-review of abstracts at Division meetings. Division Forum recommended that travel reimbursement for the DF meeting with a division be raised from \$1,000 to \$1,200 per person to allow 2 hotel nights to encourage participation in the Division meeting. APS approved this request.

Office of Private Sector Relations 2017

The Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) is charged with optimizing interactions between APS and the diverse industries related to plant disease management. OPSR is dedicated toward developing a visionary dialog for long-term health of APS and Industry interactions; optimizing interactions between APS and its Membership on matters pertaining to the diverse industries related to plant disease management; and strengthening advocacy for science-based public policy. OPSR contributed to a graduate-student organized Special Session “Preparing for Careers in Industry”, which was heavily attended with all seats filled plus many standing in the back and sides of the room. OPSR held their second biennial private sector and government institution tour on June 13–15 in California. Fifteen participants enjoyed exposure to five major agribusiness organizations (Bayer CropScience, Dow AgroSciences, Dupont-Pioneer, Monsanto, and Syngenta) as well as the California Department of Food and Agriculture and the Citrus Research Board.

Students and postdocs had the unique opportunity to discuss face to face what it was like to work at each organization as well as understand the potential careers available to plant pathologists. OPSR granted an Individual Experiential Award to Mihir Mandal, post-doc at USDA-ARS in Charleston. Funds supported a 3-day visit to HM.CLAUSE in Davis, California to learn about molecular breeding techniques and disease challenges in vegetable seeds. The Board also granted a Departmental Experiential Award to the University of Georgia. Twenty-one graduate students toured a wide array of locations in Florida, including IFAS Plant Disease Diagnostic Center at University of Florida, Dow AgroSciences, Florida Dept. of Agriculture, Syngenta, and USDA Horticultural Research Station. Following a 2016 review of the Society's organization and future direction by an outside consultant, APS is seeking opportunities to enhance the involvement and engagement of the Private Sector in the Society. As part of this initiative, OPSR has offered to provide input or review for Public Policy Board statements to the EPA where appropriate. The Board is happy to be involved and contribute in any other manner in addition to our current work toward career development and future PPB initiatives.

Emerging Diseases and Pathogens 2017

71 people signed up to become members (or continue membership) for the EDPC at the committee meeting. Committee chair Gretchen Kuldau was not able to attend the meeting, but Vice-Chair Matt Rouse led the committee meeting. Recent past chairs Joanne Crouch and Doug Luster provided necessary advice and assistance to plan the 2017 committee meeting. The committee meeting featured a total of 10 speakers who gave short presentations (most using Powerpoint) featuring emerging diseases or pathogens. Some presentations highlighted very recent data obtained within 1 week of the APS conference. 8 of the speakers were known before the meeting and 2 speakers presented information ad hoc.

Financial Advisory Committee 2017

The Financial Advisory Committee (FAC) works closely with staff and Council throughout the year to monitor the financial position of APS and to provide counsel on initiatives requiring financial input. FAC updates Council monthly via a Dashboard/Key Performance Indicator statement. FAC held its annual meeting March 20-21, 2017 with a recommended 2018 APS budget and 8 financial recommendations the primary outcomes. Emphasis in the 2018 budget discussions focused on presentations by business center with trends impacting the 2018 budget and beyond emphasized. FAC continues to provide strategic oversight rather than monitor specific income/expenditure actions of business centers. Publications, including journals and APS Press, comprise 77% of our Society income and all are in the midst of transitions in delivery and format to meet member needs in the future; a process that merits careful monitoring. Likewise, the Annual Meeting and our membership models are undergoing some re-envisioning as we look forward and the financial implications deserve continued attention. The concomitant impact has been to evaluate space, equipment and software needs consistent with trends. Lastly, we continue to work through the implementation of the new pension strategy consistent with federal guidelines. The FY 2017 fiscal year ended June 30, 2017, with an audited operating income of \$5,285,975 and operating expenses of \$4,859,186 for an operating net profit of \$426,789 and a total net profit of \$1,617,466 after gains on investments and adjustment to funded status of pension plan.

Academic Unit Leader Forum (AULF) 2017

The role that plant pathology plays as a discipline is only becoming more critical as the world's population increases, resources for food production decrease, and as the world's climate is becoming extremely variable and less predictable. New pathogens are introduced regularly due to increased international trade and travel, and plant (and hence pathogen spread or emergence) into naive areas as growers experiment with alternate specialty crops. However, in spite of this increased importance, plant pathology continues to lack visibility, at the federal, state and local levels, including in the grower's fields when issues arise. Many growers immediately think of agronomists or plant biologists when fields are doing poorly. Pathogen issues are considered only after more water and fertilizer inputs have been tried. This lack of widespread recognition has negative effects at the local university level, where competition for faculty, staff hiring, and infrastructure is intense. The AULF continues to work to enable Plant Pathologists to be effective advocates for our field in their research, teaching, outreach, and extensive activities. The AULF meeting during the APS annual meeting is the primary means by which academic unit leaders are able to meet in person, hear from leaders in government, industry and academia, and discuss issues critical to our discipline's success.

Nominations Committee 2017

Working with Headquarters staff, we coordinated the nomination, application, and election process for the officers of APS. Fifty-six nominations were received (25 for VP and 31 for CAL). This is a 12% increase in nominations from the previous year. The committee requested applications from many of these individuals and chose the slate of candidates for each office based on the applications and the goals of the society. With a strong slate of candidates, the election was held in May 2017. Lindsey du Toit was elected Vice President and Peter Ojiambo was elected Councilor at Large. The percent of members voting was 23%, 1 point lower than last year, but 4 points higher than for the 2015 election.

2026 Professional Development Forum 2017

The 2026 Professional Development Forum (PDF) because an official APS Forum in fall of 2016. Since that time we have established a regular meeting schedule and initiated a number of activities focused on advancing the professional development of students and early to mid-career APS members. Chief among our activities and accomplishments in 2017 was the organization of family friendly activities at the Annual Meeting in San Antonio. After receiving a challenge from former APS President Sally Miller, the PDF created a subcommittee, comprised of forum and general APS members, dedicated to answering this charge. The group researched, coordinated, and delivered a great initial family-friendly effort at this year's meeting. They received positive feedback and are eager to build from this year's learnings in future years. In addition to family-friendly initiatives, PDF worked with Lauren McGinty on new membership

models for APS and has formed two new subcommittees to focus on key focus areas identified by APS and forum member groups: A mentoring subcommittee, and a mid-career engagement subcommittee.

Office of Public Relations and Outreach 2017

Since August 2016, the OPRO board has represented APS-OPRO at the following conferences to interact with our target audiences (high school/undergraduate teachers, high school students, general public): FFA 2016, 2017, AFA 2016, 2017 (represented by Doug Jardine, former OPRO Director), NABT (2016, 2017). We have also met as a Board to discuss our goals, progress towards achieving them, and to brainstorm new outreach strategies and products. These meetings were: Mid-Year meeting (January, 2016, St. Paul, MN), National APS meeting (August, 2017, San Antonio, TX), monthly conference calls. We have worked closely with the PPB since spring 2017 to develop a Phytobiomes-themed video; specifically, Nicole Donofrio and Lauren McGinty worked with Linda Kinkel and Chakravarthy Mattupalli (PPB). The video content and narrative was vetted by members of both the PPB and the OPRO boards, and edits were discussed and incorporated. The content was completed by Lauren McGinty, and Dr. Rubella Goswami, a former OPRO board member, will be performing the video voiceover. Our goal is to complete this video by January 2018. A sub-group of Lou Hirsch (early career volunteer/soon-to-be-member), Dennis Halterman, Monica Lewandowski and Nikki Tate (former graduate student member), worked with Catrina Adams (plantingscience.org) as well as editors at the National Association of Biology Teachers (NABT) to generate modules geared towards high school classrooms. Nicole and Monica oversaw the process and took part in conference calls with Catrina Adams and Jodi Creasap from plantingscience.org. Lou, Nikki and Dennis developed the experimental modules, and the “potato rot” module was met with success by a middle school class Lou worked with. This module is being finalized for publication in the NABT flagship journal. We plan to send additional modules to Catrina Adams by January, 2018. Tim Friesen and Monica Lewandowski developed increasingly difficult sets of matching game cards, which were vetted at the APS National meeting in 2017. Finally, the OPRO board sponsored a networking event at the National meeting about pitching science in a meaningful and concise way, in layman’s terms. This was a well-attended event mostly by graduate students, with excellent feedback. We pitched a similar event for ICPP, but it was unfortunately not accepted. We will pitch it again for 2019, in order to keep momentum in training membership in this very important skill.

Annual Meetings Board 2017

1. Reviewed the data and participant comments from the 2016 and 2017 APS Annual Meetings at AMB meetings and conference calls in order to use this information to improve future meetings. 2. Welcomed new members to the AMB, including Jose Pablo Dundore-Arias, Ron Walcott, and Sydney Everhart. 3. Planned with Scott Adkins on how to best work with ICPP scientific planning committee to plan the 2018 ICPP meeting. 4. Studied the Velvet Chainsaw report and evaluated their recommendations based on our experience as APS and AMB members. Determined how we could implement some of the recommendations of this consultant group. We continue to try to improve opportunities for scientific education, discussion and networking among meeting attendees and to find formats that increase and improve discussions and that allow us to add late-breaking findings to our program. Some successful examples of this include Idea Cafes, Phytoviews, and PODs. 5. I had begun to plan for identifying my successor as AMB director. I’ve put this on hold due to changes at headquarters, which may result in changes in how the AMB is structured. If meeting planning is likely to change, the sooner the AMB is brought into the loop on this, the better the APS succession plan will be.

Public Policy Board 2017

Advocacy: The PPB polled the APS membership to engage them in identifying timely issues for prioritizing advocacy targets for 2017. We summarized the >500 responses into two major targets and developed white papers and strategies to advance these targets during our March discussions with >25 distinct federal agency offices and 15 visits with Congressmen. In response to comments from this poll, we expanded PPB expertise by electing a new member to represent issues in applied plant pathology. Promoting the discipline: The PPB successfully nominated an APS member to the National Genetic Resource Council, providing NGRC with its first representative for microbial genetic resources. We recruited an APS member to highlight plant pathology research at the Agricultural Research Congressional Exhibition for members of Congress. We identified members to represent APS on the Intl Phytobiomes Alliance Coordinating Committee and the Organizing Committee for the second Human Pathogens on Plants Meeting, and helped ensure plant pathology representation at the National Academy of Sciences Forum on Genetically Engineered Crops. We nominated two individuals for the NIFA Hall of Fame, Ann Lichens-Park and Marty Draper, to recognize their contributions to basic and applied plant pathology research funding. We promoted phytobiomes by recruiting and supporting two APS members to co-host a session on phytobiomes and a table on the Phytobiomes Journal at the European Foundation of Plant Pathology meeting, and we are collaborating with OPRO to produce an educational video on Phytobiomes. Science policy and regulation: We submitted comments in response to a range of potential policy changes, including to the EPA on pesticide resistance management, to NASS on continuing the collection of on-farm chemical use data, and to APHIS on the movement of plant pests. We joined with other science societies in letters to Congress or the President to advance agriculture, including by investing in science, supporting funding for AFRI and NSF, opposing funding reductions for agriculture, increasing agricultural research funding in the Farm Bill, and maintaining an international and multicultural environment for science in the US. Lastly, we provided input into the NSF strategic plan and a whitepaper on research needs to address biotic challenges to plant health. Communication: We published near-monthly articles in Phytopathology News and made our Public Policy Actions website up-to-date.

Office of Education 2017

1. Elite Webinar Series – Doug Jardine was brought on board to the OE as the Acquisitions Editor for the webinar series. The second webinar, Project Reporting and Writing Impacts: Who Cares? You Should!, was presented and attracted one of the largest attendance

for a webinar in the society. Additional webinars are planned with the next being in December 2017. Three are already planned for 2018 with additional topics / presented being added regularly. This project had gained momentum and we are excited to keep moving.

2. Survey – This project is to profile undergraduate plant pathology education throughout the United States. The data has been analyzed and is being prepared for a publication.

3. Change of CADRE – The OE disbanded CADRE and created a “Professional Development Center” (PDC). The PDC will have an Acquisitions Editor and Managing Editor. The AC and MC will co-lead the office and will be housed within the OE. In the first quarter, Kim Gwinn agreed to be the first AC for the PDC. She has developed operating documents and how she will like to see her advisory and MC. She has designed it so that some members of CADRE will continue as well as new members to broaden the perspectives represented. The new documents and operating standards will be incorporated into our MOO following vote and discussion at our December 2017 meeting.

4. Certificate Program – A series of short courses / workshops is being created where members can earn certificates at the end. The first certificate issued was How to Review a Manuscript following a special session at the 2016 Annual Meeting and was presented by the EIC’s. While no new certificate opportunities were offered in 2017, a number of members with existing workshops / forums have been approached and are generally interested in turing their work into a certificate for the society.

5. Undergraduate Task Force – A group has formed to specifically focus on undergraduate students. We have named a leader for this group in Lydia Tymon from Washington State University. Lydia has meet with the OE at the Annual Meeting and has formulated how she sees the group developing. At our meeting in December, we will be fleshing out the activities and timeline for this group in preparation for the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Summary: 2017 has been a year of action. We now have excellent leaders in key positions such as the webinars, PDC, and the undergraduate task force. At our 2017 December meeting we will be setting our agenda for 2018.

Publications Board 2017

The APS Publications Board continues to rethink its journal publications strategies and is regularly implementing new technologies and improvements as appropriate. APS journals are healthy and doing very well with all three core journals having a 2016 impact factor above 2.9. EICs have made major strides in reducing the time from submission to a decision below 35 days. The Plant Disease board handled a record number of manuscripts in 2016. MPMI submissions are stable and our journal metrics are strong and healthy. We continue to look at other improvements. Similarly, PMN, Plant Health Progress (PHP), APS PRESS, Plant Health Instructor, and Phytopathology News are doing well. PHP will move to the Atypon platform, after the implementation of the iMIS 20 headquarters database and PMN’s subsequent integration with the APS database. A range of suggested approaches are or will be implemented. Phytobiomes was successfully launched and is growing. Lateral transfer of manuscripts among APS journals within Manuscript Central upon recommendation from one journal for consideration in another journal has been implemented successfully. Our journals now provide a very positive author experience.

Awards and Honors Committee 2017

The AHC is very busy once a year - in late December/January - reading and evaluating the nominations before the late January selection meeting. In 2017, the meeting was held in Research Triangle Park, NC. Everyone was in attendance unlike the previous year where weather forced 2 members to call in. The number of nominations was up slightly from 2015 - 59 vs 51 (total). The Fellows stayed the same at 26 while there were increases in the excellence and named awards. There were no nominations in 2016 for Award of Distinction, Distinguished Service, Excellence in Industry, or Excellence in Regulatory and Crop Security. Eleven Fellows awards were available. APS Foundation informed me that due to be under-funded, they could not provide the monetary part of the Noel Keen award. After much discussion, it was funded and Foundation made an effort during the 2017 meeting in San Antonio to highlight that award for additional funding. This award receives the most outstanding scientist nominations. Almost all are Fellows and have conducted new research. While I don't believe the money is important - the award is very important - and should be consistent and not change every year. Every year there are questions are the eligibility of Fellows for other awards. We have put on the website the 'rules' regarding that the nomination be based on new research not covered by their Fellow award, and that it be 5 years since the Fellow. This is now on the named awards (where appropriated) and not just in the general section. We are also being more consistent with the other awards that stand for 3 years. After the 3rd year, we inform the nominator that it is recommended to wait for 3 years before re-submitting in order to be able to better update the package. However, if they do re-submit, it must be a whole new package. The committee recognizes that in some cases, 3 years would be too long.