

APS Press: Organization, Operation, Aspirations

GEORGE N. AGRIOS
Editor-in-Chief, APS Press



APS Press is the arm of the American Phytopathological Society that is responsible for the Society's publication program other than *Phytopathology*, *PLANT DISEASE*, and *Phytopathology News*. APS Press, therefore, is responsible for publication of all types of books and miscellaneous publications dealing with phytopathological topics (textbooks, treatises, compendia, monographs, classics, popular books, proceedings of symposia, slide sets, videotapes, etc.). APS Press will consider proposals for such publications from any individual, group of individuals, or

committees interested in writing or editing a publication.

The creation of APS Press was proposed by the APS Council and was approved by the APS membership on August 15, 1984, at the annual meeting in Guelph, Ontario. APS Press was created to consolidate, better coordinate, and accelerate the publication effort of the Society. APS Press replaces the book, compendium, and monographs and reviews committees and the publications coordinator. In addition, all other books, visuals, etc., proposed by other committees or individuals must be submitted to APS Press for approval. Council has given APS Press final authority to approve or reject any proposal submitted for publication.

The editorial board of APS Press is composed of an editor-in-chief, eight associate editors, the APS treasurer, and an ex officio member from APS headquarters staff. The editor-in-chief is also a member of Council. All editors are appointed for 3-year terms but may serve for more than one term. Editors are selected so that each of the areas of teaching, extension, and research are represented. APS Press will also call on many other colleagues for expert advice or review and, of course, will depend on the administrative and technical staff at headquarters for technical advice and actual production. APS Press currently has a book list of 56 titles already published or in various stages of review and production.

APS Press is responsible for: 1) defining the scope of the Society's publication effort in a way that serves the broadest interests of plant pathology and related fields; 2) ensuring that all publications are scientifically accurate and of a technical level appropriate for their purpose and intended audience; and 3) ensuring that APS Press publications as a whole generate a surplus for the Society's general fund.

To fulfill its responsibilities, APS Press is expected: 1) to develop a comprehensive series of plant pathology publications that will be useful in the areas of teaching, extension, research, and commercial agriculture; 2) to evaluate the book proposals submitted to APS for publication in terms of need, significance, quality, and financial feasibility and marketability and to approve those deserving publication; 3) to determine areas (topics) in which publications are needed and to solicit publications on these topics from outstanding specialists or Society committees best qualified to write or edit them; and 4) to consider and approve revising or updating existing publications.

APS Press will pay royalties upon request to authors and/or editors of books that are not generated by APS committees or are not parts of existing series of the Society, i.e., compendia, monographs, symposia, classics. Royalties paid by APS Press will be competitive with those paid by commercial publishers.

Authors, editors, or APS committees interested in having a book published by APS should contact the editor-in-chief of APS Press. The editor-in-chief will attempt to answer all preliminary questions and will provide the prospective author(s) or editor(s) with book proposal, credentials, and marketing information forms. When completed, these forms together with an outline of the book should be submitted to the editor-in-chief, who will then send a copy of the proposal package and a proposal evaluation form to each associate editor, the APS treasurer, and headquarters staff for consideration to publish. Each recipient of the proposal package will complete the evaluation form for each book and return it to the editor-in-chief within 2-3 weeks. Proposals approved by the editorial board will be accepted for publication provided there are no compelling financial reasons for rejection.

When a proposal is accepted, the editor-in-chief will notify the author(s) and APS headquarters and will assign the book to an associate editor. APS staff will then draw up a contract and forward it for review and signature by the editor-in-chief and author(s). The assigned associate editor will subsequently act as author liaison during the manuscript preparation period, conduct the review of the finished manuscript, and ensure that the manuscript is complete and in acceptable form for the APS editorial office. Each book manuscript will receive two external reviews supervised by the assigned associate editor. For committee- or symposium-generated manuscripts that have already been reviewed, one external review may be waived. In all cases, each completed manuscript will receive an editorial review by APS staff before final acceptance and publication.

Any book published by APS Press unavoidably carries with it the implied approval and endorsement of our Society. It is therefore paramount that APS Press establish and maintain a publishing record based on the highest scientific and technical quality. APS Press aspires: 1) to publish new books and update older ones in all areas of plant pathology in which such books are needed by students, teachers, researchers, extension workers, and agricultural industries; 2) to produce books as economically as possible while at the same time generating sufficient revenue from most books to improve the Society's income and to help finance publication of significant or needed books that are not likely to generate sufficient revenue to cover costs; and 3) to be the main publisher of phytopathology books of all types that will be accessible and useful throughout the world. Our Society certainly has the expertise and the vitality to produce books of excellent quality and, through its journals, the advertising capability to give them the widest possible exposure among the people most likely to buy or recommend them.

APS Press invites your suggestions for improving its organization and operation. APS Press also invites your suggestions for new book titles to be considered for publication. Most important, however, APS Press invites you to submit your book manuscript for publication by APS. APS Press was created to serve you and the Society by publishing your books in the best and most efficient way possible. Please submit all inquiries for book proposals to the editor-in-chief of APS Press. The current editor-in-chief is Dr. George N. Agrios, Department of Plant Pathology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003 (telephone: 413/545-2280).