

Public Policy Update

Engage in DC Policy, Apply for the APS PPB Early Career Internship

The American Phytopathological Society Public Policy Board (APS PPB) is pleased to announce a call for applications for the fourth annual PPB early career internship. The internship, which is open to APS early career members (current graduate students or post-doctoral associates and junior professionals), allows a young plant pathologist to participate in PPB activities during 2009–2010. The internship begins immediately following the 2009 APS Annual Meeting and will terminate at the end of the 2010 APS Annual Meeting.

The goal of the early career internship is to provide an opportunity for the selected individual to gain hands-on experience in public policy at the national level that relates generally to agricultural science and specifically to matters of interest to APS. By working with the APS PPB, the intern will learn how scientific societies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), executive branch agencies (e.g., USDA, NSF, EPA), and the legislative branch interact in crafting public policy.

The 2009 intern should be able to attend the midyear governmental outreach meeting of the APS PPB in Washington, DC, in late February or early March 2010 (dates TBA). The intern's travel costs for this activity will be covered. In addition, the intern should attend the APS PPB annual business meeting to be held in conjunction with the APS annual meeting. Following the internship year, the intern will

prepare a written and/or oral report on the experience for delivery to the APS PPB and membership.

Other activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Participating in APS PPB monthly conference calls and policy agenda-setting meetings;
- Assisting APS PPB with development, tracking, and analysis of relevant policy issues; and
- Assisting APS PPB with planning Capitol Hill and agency briefings.

Application Materials

- **Cover letter.** One page describing the applicant's interest in science policy issues and detailing how this internship would enhance his/her professional goals. Applicant should include the names of two individuals, other than the thesis advisor, from whom recommendations may be requested. These individuals should be able to address the candidate's leadership, interpersonal, and communication skills.
- **Resume.** Two pages emphasizing leadership and communication experiences, including graduate, undergraduate, or nonacademic activities. It should include education, work experience, honors and awards, memberships, presentations, and publications.
- **Statement on the importance of federal support for plant-pathological research** (500 words maximum). The statement should

draw on the applicant's own experience and/or research area and should illustrate how the applicant would try to convince his/her own congressional delegation that federal support for research, particularly in plant pathology, is important.

- **Letter of support/recommendation.** A letter from the applicant's advisor or supervisor.
- **APS membership.** Applicants are not required to be APS members at the time of application but, if selected, must join the society prior to starting the internship.

Application Submission

Applications should be submitted as one portable document file (PDF file), saved as last name, first initial (example: SmithT_internship.pdf), and include all of the items described above. All application materials must be received by February 27, 2009, and should be sent to **Jacqueline Fletcher**, Public Policy Board Chair, Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK 74078 U.S.A. (jacqueline.fletcher@okstate.edu).

Review and Selection

The documents will be reviewed and the intern selected by the Public Policy Board. Announcement of the intern will be made by April 30, 2009. ■

