PREPARING YOUR 2025 SPECIAL SESSION SUBMISSION

A guide to the submission form for Plant Health 2025.

The Annual Meeting Board (AMB) seeks to accept sessions into the meeting program that are timely, well-thought-out, and will bring value to the association and the membership. Creativity in session design is encouraged; interactive learning experiences lead to attendees who leave sessions with applicable ideas and valuable knowledge. In curating the program content, the AMB works to ensure a large variety of topic offerings – no two accepted sessions will cover the same topic area. There are limited programming slots available for submitted sessions; typically, about a third of the submitted sessions are accepted.

Any member of the phytopathological community may submit sessions.

In addition to the annual meeting, APS offers a variety of outlets to share your content. Please also consider these opportunities: Share Your Content with APS.

The AMB is seeking session topics that fall under particular focus areas supporting the 2025 meeting theme. The focus areas are listed below with *example* session topics for inspiration. The team is looking to build the program with these particular focus areas, however if your topic does not fit within one of the buckets below, it <u>will</u> still be considered for 2025 – it is not a requirement, only encouraged, that sessions fall within these focus areas.

- **Global Spread of Disease**
  - *Example Topics:*
    - Regulatory, IP Claims
    - Opportunities and challenges in disease management at different scales
    - Endangered Species Act
    - Spread of disease caused by seed trade
    - Pathogen spread via live plant trade; changes to pathogen distribution and/or dispersal due to climate change
- **Strengthening Diagnostics**
  - *Example Topics:*
    - AI in extension
    - Sensors for disease forecasting
    - 3D modeling & simulation of grower's fields

- Curating databases of plant pathogens to improve detection/diagnostic capabilities
- Development of validated protocols
- Strengthening diagnostic networks

- **Genetics and Resistance Management Across Geographies**
  - *Example Topics:*
    - Fungal genetics and genomics
    - CRISPR_CAS
    - Genomic Epidemiology
    - Bioinformatics
    - Research to slow MOA resistance development including new chemistries and combinations

- **Breeding and Host Resistance**
  - *Example Topics:*
    - Regulatory agencies opening up to transgenic traits for global food trade
    - Deploying host resistance genes across scales
    - Challenges for breeding against diseases caused by diverse pathogens
    - Identifying sources of host resistance
    - Bridging the gap from MPMI to the field

- **Culture, Communications and Global Connections**
  - *Example Topics:*
    - Storytelling in extension
    - Incorporating citizen science and disease management
    - Culturally appropriate programming (educational purposes, collaboration across networks, etc.)
    - Building global networks

SESSION CONTENT

Proposed Session Title
Use title case, capitalizing only the first letter in each word. Titles should be eye-catching but encompass the content of the session. AMB may recommend changes to your title should your submission proceed through the acceptance process. The title is the first opportunity to interest your audience; keep this in mind.

Submitter Email
This email will be used only if the submission process is interrupted. All future communications will be sent to the named Organizer.

Focus Area
The AMB is seeking session topics that fall under particular focus areas supporting the 2025 meeting theme. The team is looking to build the program with these particular focus areas, however if your topic does not fit within one of the buckets below, it will still be considered for 2025 – it is not a requirement, only encouraged, that sessions fall within these focus areas.

- Global Spread of Disease
- Strengthening Diagnostics
- Genetics and Resistance Management Across Geographies
- Breeding and Host Resistance
- Culture, Communications, and Global Connections
- My submission does not support any of these focus areas

APS Committee Sponsoring the Proposed Session
If an APS Committee is sponsoring this submission, indicate this here so that the committee can be listed in association with the session should it be accepted into the program. AMB does not require that a committee sponsor a session. If multiple committees are sponsoring, please list ALL committees. The AMB assumes any committee listed below has been involved in the planning and or/contacted by the submitter and notified of their support of the session proposal.

External Group Support/Co-Organization
If there is a non-APS group or organization supporting or co-organizing this session, please provide their name. This is not required, but APS is interested in strategically partnering with organizations to produce content.

Description

Describe the session with detail, being sure to include applicability to the entire APS audience or a specific audience. DO NOT include the title of the session. DO NOT list the session presenters or participants.

The description is your opportunity to tell the AMB and your future audience what to expect during this session experience. Well-written and clear descriptions will be best received by the reviewers. Your description should answer the question "why are you submitting this content?"

Plant Health 2025 Theme

The theme for Plant Health 2025 is "Global Communities Collaborating to Address Global Risks." This meeting will foster collaboration, share knowledge, and promote innovative strategies to enhance global plant health. It is a unique opportunity to be part of a worldwide movement dedicated to safeguarding plant health.

Alignment to the theme is an important consideration for AMB so that the entirety of the meeting program content can be threaded together to support a common message or topic. The meeting theme above illustrates this common thread and will provide a base of expectation to attendees regarding the curated content they will be offered.

Relevance

Describe the value your session will bring to the APS community in terms of novelty in phytopathology, timeliness of the topic, or the impact the topic will have on the community. This information assists AMB in ensuring that sessions with meaningful impacts on the APS community are considered for acceptance.

The following category selections will help ensure all disciplines within APS are covered in the session approval process. The categories will also help meeting attendees browse the content by keywords. Finally, APS will strive to use your answers to the following to target-market APS members and drive interest to your session.

Primary Category

Link to choices

Pathogen Type Keyword

Link to choices

Host Type Keyword

 Link to choices

Learning Objectives

Provide the attainable learning objective(s) that will be accomplished during this session's 75-minute time frame. Begin your learning objectives with phrases such as:

> *"This session will introduce…"*
> *"At the end of this session, attendees will be aware of…"*
> *"Attendees will be able to explain… "*

Learning objectives should be clear and realistic for the amount of time the attendees will spend in your session. These are important for AMB when reviewing your proposal as they demonstrate that the goals and purpose of your session are well-thought-out and that all your speakers/panelists will strive to provide these objectives during their participation. The learning objectives provide prospective attendees with clear expectations of what they should be able to take away from your session, thereby enticing them to participate.

FORMAT

The APS Program Team encourages your creativity in designing your Plant Health 2025 special session. The format does not need to follow a traditional session format.

Indicate your designed session format.

- Panel Discussion: All panelists on stage, each one gives a short introductory talk, followed by engaging discussion with the audience
- Phytoview: 2 or 3 panelists with differing viewpoints, each gives an introductory talk, followed by engaging discussion to explore the different points of view
- Ignite Session: Speakers have 5 minutes to talk accompanied by 20 slides. Each slide appears for 15 seconds and automatically advances - no script for the speaker. Talks can be followed by discussions or small-group breakouts.
- Campfire Session: Speaker begins with a 15-20 minute talk, then Speaker shifts to facilitator, allowing attendees to answer questions and provide comments to each other.
- Hands-On Learning: The session involves attendees physically completing a hands-on learning activity. Note - sessions are 75 minutes, so the activity must be able to be completed in that time frame.
- Podium Traditional Lecture: One speaker at a time, PowerPoint presentation followed by Q&A
- Other: Please provide details

Your preferred format should support your session's goals and objectives. For example, if your goal is to provide attendees with differing expert opinions on a topic, then a panel discussion or PhytoView format would work well to showcase the opinions in an interactive manner. A traditional presentation format would not be successful for comparing and contrasting viewpoints. Attendees enjoy creativity in session design; thus, when deciding between two sessions of similar content and impact, the level of interaction and creative elements will be a deciding factor.

PROPOSED SPEAKERS

Providing your desired or planned speakers/panelists is important for the review process. However, be careful not to finalize your speaker's participation until AMB has accepted your session. As you plan for your submission, it is perfectly acceptable to connect with planned speakers, with the caveat that the session must be reviewed and accepted before official plans are made.

AMB gives preference to sessions with a diverse group of speakers and panelists. This includes gender diversity, racial diversity, and diversity in professional backgrounds. The speakers should be experts in the subject matter of your session, and skilled at giving presentations and keeping audiences engaged. AMB does not give preference to sessions with speakers who have spoken frequently at APS meetings; it is of more value to the community to bring in new speakers with new ideas.

Indicate the person's name, affiliation, and proposed subject matter. AMB prefers in-person speakers at the conference, however if the only way for the expert to participate is by virtual format, please indicate this as well.

PROMOTION

Target Audience
Describe your target audience.

Your description and learning objectives should align with your desired target audience. Should your session be accepted, this information will be helpful for prospective attendees browsing the meeting program and for the Headquarters Marketing Team to promote your content.

Promotion
What statements would you use to promote this session to your target audience?

Should your proposal be accepted, the Headquarters Marketing Team will use these statements in promoting your session.

FUNDING

APS-Provided Funding Request
Note: Funding is limited and will not be sufficient to cover the expenses of all special session presenters.

All funding requests are subject to the Program Chair's approval, and it is not provided to speakers who are current members of APS. To receive funding, speakers and panelists must be non-members of the association. For those with expired APS membership, the membership term end-date must be at least 3 years prior to the Annual Meeting start date.

Review "APS Symposium Funding" in the Manual of Operations before indicating your funding requests.

Funding will be used for:
Describe how allocated funds would be used by speakers.

Special Requests:
If you have any special funding needs (besides speaker travel/expenses), please describe them there.

List the companies or organizations from which you may request special funding and the amount you anticipate requesting:
Provide the names of any organizations you plan to seek sponsorship dollars from to support your session. These funds are not subject to APS-provided funding guidelines.