



ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY

2023 SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE & CAREER PATHWAY COMMITTEES

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Overall Annual Report Themes

1. Committees have been successful and active throughout the year. Many of them had impressive highlights that shows that they take this role seriously and value the opportunity to contribute to the content of APS in multiple ways.
2. Would like to improve interactions and collaborations between committees, and among committee members within a group. Assistance needed with communication among committees. Opportunities for funding to support satellite meetings for collaborations.
3. Staff time to help advertise and recruit, earlier, for application-driven sessions (i.e. Schroth Faces of the Future). Increased reliance on online activities, seminars, workshops, etc that may require increased IT capacity.
4. It is unclear whether all committees are meeting on a regular basis outside of the annual meeting. One committee conducted a survey and determined that meeting quarterly was best. Another said that they asked someone to present to their committee as a guest speaker and it drew engagement for the committee.
5. Several committees reported issues in getting good attendance at meetings (online and in-person). Low engagement. A major challenge was getting new people to join the committee meetings when only existing members of the committee are able to be contacted about the committee. May be related to low visibility (e.g., Nematology)
6. One committee, Nematology, brought up an issue of visibility; some members of Society of Nematologists and other APS members did not know this committee existed. How can we raise visibility?

Leadership Institute Vice Chair Onboarding Themes

1. Engagement is an issue for 10+ committees. People with experience motivating/engaging committee members are retiring and senior members dropping out. How can we connect and broaden interest in our committees? How do they get students involved?
 - a. Some strategies for engagement discussed, but perhaps it might be nice to have examples from successful committees?
 - b. Engagement hard to maintain if only meeting once a year on topics that aren't of interest to the members. Identify issues that matter to many committee members, do work that makes a difference, and make involvement fun.
 - c. Missing out on people that used to drop in on in-person meetings because online meeting invites are only sent to people on the committee member roster.
 - d. Online committee meetings are here to stay because of post-pandemic meeting room costs.
2. How do committees move beyond just submitting special sessions?
 - a. Again, would real life examples be useful?

3. There is an interest in a regular meeting between chairs and vice chairs to learn from each other and more experienced committee members.

Nicole Donofrio

Bacteriology

Plant Health 2023:

- They sponsored or co-sponsored special sessions at the National meeting: Translating Science to Seed (Seed Pathology committee); Battle at the City Gate: understanding bacterial-plant interactions at host entry points; Molecular determinants of vector transmission (Virology)

Additional activities:

- Continued to host “Pathways to Bacteriology” webinar with 3 panelists and 15 student attendees.
- They routinely updated their committee members about relevant news items and job postings through twitter, etc.
- They plan to continue outreach events to connect ECP and students with members of the bacteriology field.

Action for Council: They would like to see more efforts made to improve collaborations between committees – organizing events together or cross-listing seminars throughout the year.

Biological Control

Plant Health 2023:

- Co-sponsored a special session: Alternative approaches and biocontrol strategies to manage postharvest pathogens.

Additional activities:

- Had two virtual meetings during the year, but want to increase it to 3 or 4
- Pitching session for upcoming APS 2024 – diversifying the toolbox for disease control including taking advantage of microbiome data (they have a lot of ideas in the works)
- They wish to create a catalog of current biocontrol products available for use and testing (this is one of their action items to work on this year)

Action for Council - none

Chemical Control

Additional activities:

- Hosted two online presentations about the use of pesticides to the general public – speakers were from the US and from East Africa, which provided contrast and perspective.
- Held meetings to decide on topics for the following year and chose the Endangered Species Act – they have partnered with PPB to sponsor a session in 2024 – they are focused on this Objective for next year as extensive review by EPA is really going to impact fungicide use.

Action for Council: Depending on current and upcoming discussions with PPB, they may require some funding for a joint session on ESA education.

Crop Loss Assessment and Risk Evaluation (CLARE)

Plant Health 2023:

Additional activities:

- Sponsored workshop: Introduction to Python and machine learning in Phytopathology; this was in Nov 2022, and they had 70 attendees.
- They created a secretary position to help engage more members among the committee.
- They met during committee week.
- They plan to continue creating and hosting workshops, based on feedback gathered from members throughout the year – “on demand” workshops; engage more APS members in CLARE and increase CLARE’s visibility; encourage more networking.
- They have solid plans for engagement through in person workshops on R and Python, co-sponsoring sessions with Epidemiology and continuing to increase their social media presence.

Action for Council: None

Early Career Professionals

Plant Health 2023:

- Schroth Faces of the Future Symposium
- Social event including speed mentoring and social networking hours (great turnout and great success in 2023)
- Led First Timer’s Orientation (excellent turnout)

Additional activities:

- Officers meet once/year to divvy up these events and discuss workshop and session proposals for the coming year.
- Interested in co-sponsoring workshops as well.
- They did a great job listing where their efforts intersect with Objectives 1 and 2.

Action for Council: For 2024, they would like help from APS staff in advertising the Schroth Faces of the Future much earlier than in the past – they would like to send announcements in January, February and March. This helps to better meet Objective 1 of the strategic plan. **IMPLEMENTED by staff for 2024 and going forward.**

Emerging Diseases and Pathogens NO REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2023

Epidemiology

Plant Health 2023:

- Networked at the committee networking session, but only 6 people showed up and they have a huge group

Additional activities:

- Discussed potential workshops and sessions to pitch for National meeting 2024, including Melhus Symposium.

Host Resistance

Plant Health 2023:

- Collaborated with Virology to propose a co-sponsored session for 2024 on “Viruses evading host defenses: mechanisms of resistance breaking” which will include some emerging disease.

Additional activities:

- Vice chair and Chair attended all APS Leadership training throughout the previous year; Chair is member of the Fast Response Team
- Virtual committee week meeting had 29 members in attendance.
- They plan to continue actively engaging committee members and fostering interactions between committees.
- They plan to host online presentations throughout this year and organize meetings between Chairs and Vice-Chairs of collaborating committees.

Action for Council: While they did not ask for this, I think Council should support and encourage them to host some online webinars throughout the year – this is a huge committee with no one really stepping up in leadership – Jaghoman Dhillon did a great job last year... from India! Their new Chair and Vice-Chair should be great as well but might be coming for financial help or staff time to get some webinars launched this year (this is my impression of what is going to happen, even though they didn't state it explicitly).

Industry Committee

Plant Health 2023:

- Continued to sponsor and host industry-student networking event – this remains very popular and went over the allotted time (hosted by Chenglin Yao)
- Industry-extension event hosted by Cruz Avila-Adame, continues to be a popular event and had over 80 attendees.
- Sponsored “New products and special services” session – had over 120 attendees and was attended by Nik G and asked them to come up with ideas for keynote speakers for next year's meeting.
- Committee Networking hour was productive and active, and they got new members to join

Additional activities:

- They plan to continue sponsoring all of these events.
- Throughout the year, they offer one-on-one mentoring activities for students and ECP.
- Plans to: recruit more members to their committee; recruit more engagement at New products session; train graduate students specifically for industry-based CV and interview skillset

Mycology

Plant Health 2023:

Additional activities:

- Met in Fall 2022 to discuss workshops and other virtual offerings during the year
- Met during committee week and discussed the importance of teaching in the classroom and promoting a special session on this topic for 2024

Mycotoxicology

Plant Health 2023:

- Hosted the 22nd Melhus Graduate Symposium and leadership had lunch with the awardees
- Committee Networking hour – members met and presented “Most Mycotoxic Member”

Additional activities:

- They hosted a webinar called “Demystifying Mechanisms”
- Committee met several times throughout the year, and also had meetings of sub-committees to tackle specific activities

- They plan many levels of engagement among members, among outside constituencies, and to increase their presence and engagement by recruiting ECP and graduate students to the committee and using various social media platforms.
- The “Most Mycotoxic Member” was well-attended and the committee enjoyed it – they plan to continue such events and thinking outside of the box in terms of more engagement and excitement.

Action for Council: The committee report specifically thanks APS staff – Linda Schmitt for her time and hopes their time and help will continue when needed.

Office of Private Sector Relations

Plant Health 2023:

- Meeting at APS National meeting (luncheon); included APS incoming and outgoing Presidents, other members of APS staff and other Industry reps.

Additional activities:

- Their Office met quarterly over the last year, like clockwork! The meetings were well-attended, productive and stayed on task.
- Industry tour was successful in 2023 – this was a large undertaking and it was in CA; they plan to continue it next year (provide opportunities for 15 APS students to visit sites)
- Connected APS with BPIA at a meeting in DC (the PPB intern)
- They discussed at their quarterly meetings more CDEI representation, and to this end, would like a representative from CDEI to be on their board.
- They are looking for more connections with PPB.

Action for Council: support for mentor matching program between FFAR and industry members, and for more connection points with PPB, and OPSR would like more guidance/specifics on how they can support.

Phyllosphere Microbiology

Plant Health 2023:

- Sponsored and led a special session: Harnessing the phytobiome for sustainable agriculture.
- Sponsored and led a pre-workshop on it called: Learning the basic metagenomic tools for disease diagnostics and microbiome analysis.
- Productive session at committee networking hour – worked on developing special sessions and workshops for next year and talking with other committees about co-sponsors.

Additional activities:

- One of their co-chairs is a member of NMDC, and they plan to host a workshop on how to use their portal and data and reach out to other committees to get involved as well. If there is enough interest, they will pitch a workshop for 2024.
- They plan to have regular online presentations and would like to engage more industry members to be part of these.

Action for Council: They want to learn how to better engage the members of their committee to get more feedback, ideas, and communication.

Bioengineering Applications

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Special session on Utility and Effect of Bioengineering on Ecosystems was not accepted.
- Additional activities:
 - One online committee meeting.
 - Webinar on career pathways in biotech with about 50 attendees. Event helped raise awareness about differences in interview questions between industry, academia, and government. Aiming to repeat webinar in Spring 2024.

Collections & Germplasm

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Organized field trip to USDA-ARS National Laboratory for Genetic Resources Preservation in Ft. Collins
 - Hosted Idea Cafe on importance of preserving microbial collections.
 - Hosted networking hours event.
- Additional activities:
 - Developing webinars to continue raising awareness about plant and microbe collections and to act on concerns raised about collections sustainability.
 - Developing fact sheet/video about APHIS pathogen permitting process.
 - Want to conduct survey of APS committees to learn about personal and institutional culture and germplasm collections with the aim of improving collection use.
 - Developing a Special Session related to CHIPs and Science Act that will require data and specimen management plans in NSF proposals. This is expected to impact other federal proposals as well.

Action for Council: Expecting response from Public Policy Board to formulate an outreach plan to congress regarding: 1) awareness of germplasm collections in their state, 2) awareness of CHIPs and Science Act and impacts on the plant health community, and 3) promote funding/resources to public germplasm collections to support maintenance of additional germplasm due to CHIPs and Science Act.

Graduate Student

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Successful second APS Plant Diagnostic Bowl Competition with over 100 participants. 10 winners of \$50 APS bookstore gift card included 3 undergraduates, 3 graduate students, 2 early career researchers, and 2 mid- late career researchers. Event cosponsored by Extension, Integrated Disease Management, Diagnostics, Plant Pathogen and Disease Detection, and Industry Committees.
 - Hosted networking hour
- Additional activities:
 - 2022 webinar from Carolee Bull and Renee Rioux on mentoring.
 - Annual committee meeting had >50 students.
 - Organized monthly social meetings.
 - Helped organize reviews for Student Travel Awards.
 - Highlighted students monthly in Phytopathology News.

- Posted on social media accounts.
- Inviting early career researchers to speak at monthly meetings.
- Working on getting an extension officer for tips on how to talk to growers.
- Continue developing online community page.

Action for Council

1. Need approval and possible funding from Council for organized workshops and webinars.
2. Need continued financial support from APS, other committees, and perhaps external organizations to fund APS Plant Diagnostic Bowl. Considering option to this a competition among divisions.
3. Need continued support from Foundation Board and other committees to assist in reviewing Student Travel Fund applications.
4. Would like networking event at the Division level, which require organizational assistance from APS Council.

Evolutionary Genetics & Genomics – NO REPORT SUBMITTED IN 2023

No response to emails about Annual Report. Last report submitted in 2022. I don't have them on my list of people who attended Vice Chair onboarding training.

- Plant Health 2023:
- Additional activities:

Molecular & Cellular Phytopathology

- Plant Health 2023:
 - None described.
- Additional activities:
 - Held two online committee meetings to discuss councilor's challenge and elect vice chair.

Action for Council

1. Request support communicating with Early Career Professionals or Biotechnology Applications Committees to host webinars where early career researchers can present research.
2. Request support in identifying stakeholders for developing mentoring, teaching, and career content for APS members.

Nematology

- Plant Health 2023:
 - None described.
- Additional activities:
 - Interest by APS Community following a post on APS Commons for the Nematology Committee to host a nematode identification webinar. Paul De Ley and Manuel Mundo-Ocampo to conduct webinar followed by an in-person workshop in Las Cruces, NM for more advanced training.
 - Interested in exchanging promotional materials with the Membership Committee of the Society of Nematologists (SON).
 - Potential future symposia ideas include emerging nematode diseases, beech leaf disease, and guava-root knot nematode.
 - Some members of SON and APS were unaware of the APS Nematology Committee.

Action for Council: Will need assistance with advertising for nematode identification workshop. Request permission to pursue cross society advertisements for workshop between Society of Nematologists and APS.

Pathogen Resistance

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Three Special Sessions: 1) Antimicrobial Resistance (in collaboration with Bacteriology and Virology Committees), 2) Strategies to prevent selection for resistance (in collaboration with IPM and Epidemiology Committees), 3) Marker-related and food dose resistance management (in collaboration with Diagnostics Committee).
 - Webinar about slowing and combating pesticide resistance.
- Additional activities:
 - Online committee meeting (7 members attended).
 - Working on workshops and webinars in collaboration with other committees about pathogen resistance worldwide and about fungicide resistance specifically.
 - Starting initiative to actively involve committee members.
- Interested in participating in Fast Response Teams.

Action for Council: PRC is compiling information on fungicide and bactericide resistance and wants help to post on APS website.

Postharvest Pathology

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Special Session (in collaboration with Biocontrol Committee) on alternative approaches and biocontrol strategies to manage postharvest pathogens (>50 attendees).
- Additional activities:
 - Hosted seminar in May about chitosan and other substances for managing postharvest diseases (speaker Gianfranco Romanazzi).
 - Lina Quesada and Shyam Kandel are leading review manuscripts to cover recent advances in etiology, biology, and management of postharvest diseases of tuber and root crops, and fruit crops.
 - Interested in topics on increased regulatory restrictions on postharvest pesticide registrations and focus groups on postharvest pathology.
 - Interested in working with Public Policy and Publication Board for sharing knowledge through symposia, workshops, or other means.

Action for Council: Interested in working with the PPB and the Publications Board for sharing knowledge through symposia, workshops and other means.

Seed Pathology

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Special Session on translating science to seeds was rejected. Special Session on Safe Seed Movement was organized by Gary Munkvold.
 - Covered high plains virus and wheat streak mosaic virus at the Vegetable & Flower Seed Industry Breakfast.
 - Roundtable discussion on pospiviroid seed transmission.
- Additional activities:

- Organized a 12 part series of webinars covering seed pathology to be broadcasted from Sep – Dec with >160 registrants.
- Working on Special Sessions: 1) Seed transmission of pospiviroids in tomato and pepper, 2) high plains and wheat streak mosaic virus, and 3) reconfiguring and resubmitting translating science to seed topic.

Action for Council: Consider submitting a consensus opinion on the review of ToBRFV regulation with APHIS (this was not noted as a note for Council in the Annual Review, but the CSLs think it might merit coordination with the PPB and perhaps Regulatory Seed Pathology).

Tropical Plant Pathology

- Plant Health 2023:
 - Held Idea Cafe about connecting tropical plant pathology community was approved and attended by 20 participants.
- Additional activities:
 - Online committee meeting had 16 participants.
 - Twitter account has 702 followers.
 - Planning to meet twice before Plant Health 2024 meeting.
 - Interested in increasing membership. Currently have 45 members on committee. Working on social media platforms to reach broader audiences (Facebook and Instagram).
 - Looking to develop webinars to garner new members for APS from developing and non-developing countries.
 - Working to partner with APS Caribbean Division, APS African Division, and Office of International Programs to develop a Special Session for Plant Health 2024.
 - Planning a tour or workshop for Plant Health 2024.

Action for Council: None

Vector-Pathogen Complexes

- Plant Health 2023:
 - In-person meeting at Plant Health 2023 had very limited attendance.
 - Special Session on molecular determinants of vector transmission was not accepted. Presented as a Technical Session.
- Additional activities:
 - Online committee meeting had 25 attendees.
 - Considering virtual networking sessions to promote collaborations among researchers studying vector-pathogen-plant interactions. Platform would be used to discuss research findings, share insights, and make professional connections.
 - Working on another Special Session for 2024.
 - Working on an online meeting to facilitate idea exchange and to feature student presentations on VPC topics.
 - Working on hosting webinars on practical applications of VPC research.
 - Working on launching online discussion forums.

Action for Council

1. Need technical infrastructure for virtual networking sessions and online forums, including assistance in posting timely announcements about events.
2. Request in-person committee meetings at Plant Health 2024.

Diseases of Ornamental Plants Committee

- Plant health 2023:
 - Online committee meeting had 16 attendees.
 - Concerns about new diseases – Vascular Streak Dieback and Beech Leaf Disease
 - Organized Ornamentals Field Trip with about 50 participants
- Additional Activities:
 - Many committee members are editors and coauthors on Diseases of Woody Ornamentals and Trees in Nurseries book project (eds. Jay Pscheidt and Fulya Baysal-Gurel).

Action for Council: None

Diversity and Equality Committee

Plant Health 2023:

- Three events:
 - LGBTQIA+ Networking event
 - Two special sessions
 - (1) Beyond the Land Acknowledgement
 - (2) Envision Accessible Science.
- “Quiet Room” again for Plant Health 2023

Additional activities:

- CDEI hosted three committee meetings
- Published a Phytopathology News article announcing the IS-MPMI Interactions article, HELPFUL TIPS FOR MAKING PRESENTATIONS ACCESSIBLE from 2021.
- CDEI hosted a webinar, LGBTQIA+ Disparities in STEM: Missing Data Leads to Missing Representation for Gender and Sexual Minorities in Science with speakers Drs. S. G. Crandall, E. Perez Lopez and I. Moroenyane.

Action for Council

1. Want award nomination process to reflect APS diversity
2. Want APS Council to address issues in systemic racial disparities in NSF funding
3. Include live captioning for meetings
4. Greater transparency on AMB process and priorities for selection of speakers / sessions

Extension Committee

Plant health 2023:

- Chair and Vice-Chair met at Extension Plant Pathologists breakfast and networked about a proposal for Idea Café or Special Session on “AI and sustainable disease management” or “AI in extension”

Additional Activities:

- Meet during committee week on July 28: discussed special sessions and planning for 2024; AI in extension; bridge gaps through webinars and types of webinars
- Examining committee practices to ensure there is DEI inclusion

Action for Council: None

Forest Pathology Committee

Plant health 2023:

- Special session "Interacting biotic and environmental stressors threatening culturally and ecologically important tree species in an uncertain climatic future"
- Committee networking hour
- Organization of forest pathology field trip "Diseases, pests, and fire, oh my, forest health issues in alpine forests of the Southern Rockies"
- Co-sponsorship of the special session "A More Diverse Plant Pathology Community: Sharing Innovative Teaching, Mentoring, and Career Pathways"

Additional Activities:

- At ICPP 2023:
 - Special session "Understanding emergence of pathogens in commercial and public forest ecosystems"
 - Special session "Advances in the use of exotic sentinel trees and novel monitoring programs to detect incipient threats posed by forest pathogens"
 - Special session "Social and cultural dimensions of international forest health"
 - Participation at ICPP 2023 Forest pathology subject committee meeting

Action for Council: None

Soil Microbiology and Root Diseases Committee

- Plant health 2023:
 - Worked on Special Session idea 'New Dimensions of Sanitation'
 - Discussed how to advertise committee's work to universities to attract students to SMRD research.
- Additional Activities:
 - Two online meetings this year. On 5/5/23 had guest speaker Dr. Timothy Paulitz (USDA-ARS) present 'The Wheat Microbiome and Soil Health – Making the Connections', which resulted in greater attendance and participation by committee members.
 - Discussed APS Fast Response Team assignment to Ecosystem Health.
 - SMRD and Diagnostic Committees working together on Councilor's Challenge by preparing videos on diagnostics and contributing to diagnostic guides.
 - Conducted poll of committee members – most want to meet quarterly.
 - Would like to continue inviting guest speakers to present during committee meetings.

Action for Council: None

Teaching Committee

Plant health 2023:

- Organized "Undergrad Primer"
- Hosted three lunch sessions with undergrad and grad students
- Two Idea Café tables related to teaching
- Special session: A more diverse plant pathology community: Sharing innovative teaching, mentoring and career pathways"

Additional Activities:

- Help make the Ed Center more accessible by adding tags to webpages that lead to helpful online resources
- Promote Goal 2 by continuing efforts on promoting Plant Health Instructor
- Develop mini-workshops for Plant Health 2024.

Action for Council: None

Turfgrass Pathology Committee

- Plant health 2023:
 - Hosted Ideas Cafe on Committee Engagement and on Turf Diagnostics.
 - Held informal networking and team-building activities and one member won the Pitch 101 Competition with a turfgrass talk.
 - Turfgrass Student Travel award won by Kabita Shah, Penn State U.
- Additional Activities:
 - Twitter account (@APS_Turfgrass) has gained 420 followers.
 - Future plans to add 'Turfgrass pathologist of the month' on social media
 - Submitted 2023 APS Councilor's Challenge
 - Working to re-nominate Bruce Martin for an award
 - Committee engagement through Turfgrass Happy Hour/Talking Turf Sessions in Oct, Dec, Feb, and Jul.
 - Hosted online webinar together with APS Diagnostics committee with 100+ attendees.
 - Discussing future collaborations with Diagnostics, IPM, and Nematology committees.
 - Opened and secured new position of Student Representative – Emily Braithwaite (OSU), who will create and host an Instagram account.
 - Resubmit Special Session for Plant Health 2024 cosponsored by Ornamentals and Nematology committees.
 - Preparing Workshop with Diagnostics committee on Turfgrass Diagnostics for Plant Health 2024.
 - Proposing Liaison Roles within Turfgrass Committee, asking members to join a second committee to act as a connection for future collaborations.
 - Proposing specific roles within committee for membership, nominations, annual meeting, communications, and policy.
 - Asking graduate students and researchers to present a brief talk during virtual meetings.
 - Working relationship with USDA Office of Pest Management Policy to create a resource for chemical control of turfgrass diseases and to support interim decision for PCNB.

Action for Council

1. Seek input on funding, resources, and viability for a turf diagnostic workshop at Plant Health. How does the committee proceed on creating a workshop?
2. Seek input regarding funding, resources, and viability for a Special Session on Nematodes because session was not previously accepted, but no comments about why (this is a matter for AMB – Does AMB comment on these decisions?)
3. Seek comment on improving nomination of Bruce Martin for APS Fellow. Asked for comment in 2022, but got no response (this is a matter for nominations board – do they provide comment?)

Virology Committee

Plant health 2023:

- Co-sponsored sessions: Lightning updates on emerging and re-emerging diseases; Emerging viruses in cucurbits working group; Plant viruses' evolution and ecology and divergence in the genomics era.
- Idea Café: Risk assessment of pospiviroid seed treatment
- Their committee week meeting in July featured recognition of committee members receiving awards, including APS travel and a Ruth Allen, and did memorial for T.O Diener

Additional Activities:

- Webinars: Launched a series called "Virology Then and Now" and had two webinars which were attended by over 74 participants.
- Some members went to ICPP and organized several virus-related sessions
- They created a Secretary in 2021, and voted in a new one this past year – a female minority graduate student. They always keep eyes open to increase diverse perspectives.

Action for Council: They wish to thank APS staff for their time and effort to keep Virology, Then & Now webinars running smoothly.