



**ISPP**

## **International Society for Plant Pathology**

(Dr Greg Johnson, President 2013-2018)



### **Report to ISPP from an Associated Society for 2013-2018.**

Return the completed report by email to Greg Johnson, ISPP President, ([greg4d@gmail.com](mailto:greg4d@gmail.com)) with copy to Brenda Wingfield, Secretary General ([brenda.wingfield@fabu.up.ac.za](mailto:brenda.wingfield@fabu.up.ac.za)) by 1 June 2018

**Name of Society: American Phytopathological Society**

**Year Established:** 1908

**Web address for Society:** [www.apsnet.org](http://www.apsnet.org)

**Name (s) of personnel preparing report (Name, position):**

**David M. Gadoury and Pierce Paul  
Immediate past, and present Internal Communications Officer, respectively**

**Nominated Officers.** Is the list for your society on the ISPP website correct?  
(<http://www.isppweb.org/societies.asp>) No

See following URL for APS Governance:  
<http://www.apsnet.org/members/directories/Pages/Council.aspx>

**Will a Society member be making corrections to the ISPP entry for your society on-line?**

Yes

**APS ISPP Councilors:**  
<http://www.apsnet.org/members/directories/Pages/AffiliatedOrgs.aspx>

**Society Contact: Mary E. Palm (President)**

**Society membership :** 4670 members in 2013; 4664 members in 2014; 4716 members in 2015; 4579 members in 2016; 4531 members in 2017.

### **Report for 2013-2018.**

*Society Activities and publications.* A brief background, and information about the aims and achievements of the Society or indicate that the information is on the society website.

Throughout the period 2013 to 2018, the American Phytopathological Society has continued a practice of regular strategic planning, and currently operates under the following principal goals: (i) Secure the future of APS as the premier source of plant health knowledge dissemination in a competitive environment; (ii) Strengthen APS as a premiere professional organization for plant health science; (iii) Foster innovative conference strategy to meet member needs and expectations for knowledge exchange and networking.

With APS Press continuing as the largest publisher of references in the field of plant protection and plant health, the release of new and updated edition in the APS Compendia series, it's five journals (*Phytopathology*, *Plant Disease*, *Plant Health Progress*, *Plant Disease Management Reports*, and the newly-launched *Phytobiomes*), and the rising impact factors of its premier journals frequently

exceeding 3.0, the Society is well-aligned with Goal 1 above.

The Society has undertaken several initiatives to promote the discipline, and to facilitate engagement and networking of plant pathologists in the US, and around the world. Our society is based in the US, but a consistent third of our membership resides in over 90 other countries. We have conducted three successive censuses of the entire US University faculty and graduate student population, and have promoted cooperative activities among US departments. US faculty numbers have stabilized during this period, and cooperative activities have led to an increase of 40% in the number of US plant pathology graduate students. The Society actively promoted internship opportunities on APSnet, and outreach to undergraduates at its annual meeting, and by provision of free APS membership to engaged undergraduates via the Borlaug's Army Initiative. APS continues to explore strategies for strengthening interactions and relationships with the private sector. In 2017, the Office of Private Sector Relations (OPSR) contributed to this effort with a graduate student-organized special session at the annual meeting entitled "Preparing for Careers in Industry" and held its second biennial private sector and government institution tour in California.

APS Council brought together a diverse group of thought leaders at the 2018 annual meeting to think broadly about the challenges and issues facing our society. This Plant Pathology Advisory Team recommended that emerging and re-emerging diseases be the highest-priority focus for APS. A strategic document is under development.

Attendance at annual meetings of the Society is stable at approximately 1500 participants and guests per year, and there is a robust series of regional meetings every year among the six geographic division of the Society. At the national level, APS leadership has recently engaged a consulting firm (Velvet Chainsaw) to evaluate the meeting format and suggest improvements; some of which are underway.

APS has been busy planning and preparing for a stellar ICPP meeting, a truly international meeting, bringing together scientists and other plant health professionals from around the world to share the latest information on advances related to the theme "Plant Health in a Global Economy." We are thrilled to host this incredible congress from July 29 through August 3, 2018 in Boston Massachusetts.

We actively identify and reward excellence in teaching, research, outreach, and service to the Society through our Awards and Honors Committee, electing Fellows of the Society and awards of excellence in multiple categories every year. Members and sponsors also give generously to our charitable arm: APS Foundation, which has granted over 1000 travel awards to student members since it was formed 21 years ago. The Society has also initiated a family-friendly program at the annual meeting offering opportunities for members attending with children. Finally, the society has highlighted our Code of Professional Conduct and a Sexual Harassment Policy, which are part of the APS Constitution in order to reaffirm our commitment to protecting the rights of all of our members, and to offer an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere at our meetings for all interested in attending.

- *Society Conferences and Workshops. 2013-2018*

<http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/meetingarchives/Pages/default.aspx>

- *Funding opportunities*

<http://www.apsnet.org/members/foundation/Pages/default.aspx>