2021 Host Resistance Committee Meeting

July 28, 2021

**15 Individuals were in attendance (almost all were postdocs or graduate students)**

1. Vice-chair nominations and election
* No one volunteered at meeting and an email was sent to the rest of the committee to solicit volunteers for the vice chair position. Two candidates (Janak Raj Joshi and Jagmohan Singh) volunteered following the email.
* A poll was set up for the two candidates on the community site. Jagmohan Singh was chosen via voting as the new vice chair.
1. Showcase new community site
* A new community site powered by higher logic was launched in mid July for the host resistance committee
* Community site was well received by attendees
* The link to the site is as follows: <https://community.apsnet.org/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=443c6ac5-8984-43d8-b321-4cff9a3a2e3b>
* Please check it out and introduce yourself on the new discussion page.
1. Report on sponsored events in APS 2021
* To best reach the general public about host-resistance related research, the committee decided to begin highlighting relevant research or news stories on social media by sharing them with the hashtag #HostResistance and tagging APS. This prevents the issues of having to maintain an official Host-Resistance Facebook profile or Twitter handle that would need to be transferred between users constantly. This hashtag was reiterated to the members of the committee to encourage usage.
* A guest lecture contact list was forwarded to the Councilor-at-Large for discussion with the Office of Education on how to implement this idea APS-wide. Discussions with the Office of Education occurred, however the Office of Education was more interested in carefully curated content for the APS website than supporting a list of individuals for live Zoom/web-based guest lectures.
* The host resistance committee submitted a proposal for a panel discussion entitled “Fostering impactful collaboration between plant pathologists and breeders”. This proposal was not selected for inclusion in the 2021 programming.
1. Discussion of how to improve host resistance proposal success
* Only 10% of proposals submitted are chosen for success
* Volunteer members may be overloaded with responsibilities that are tied to consequences. How can we improve volunteer member participation for developing APS programming?
* Using the discussion boards and messaging ability of the new community site
* Working groups with a lead to take ownership of the proposal. The group lead would communicate with Chair and Vice Chair to try and meet deadlines.
* Work to collaborate with other APS committees, as collaborative ideas might have more support.
1. Discussion of ideas to sponsor events (symposiums, workshops, special sessions) for APS 2022 meeting or during the year.
	* Plant Health 2022 theme is “Warming up to change” which will explore the profound changes in plant health research, education, and engagement driven by transformations in climate, technology, and society
	* The collection and germplasm committee discussed having a special session highlighting pathogen culture collections with subsequent workshops on how germplasm is managed. Jason Zurn will follow up with them to determine if they would be interested in collaborating on a proposal that features both host and pathogen germplasm collections.
	* An idea was proposed featuring how environmental change/variability influences disease resistance/plant-microbe interactions (e.g. R-genes that are more or less effective at higher temperatures and the mechanisms behind this). This idea was mentioned as a possible collaboration with the molecular and cellular phytopathology committee. Ye Xia is leading the efforts on this proposal.
	* A proposal could also be done featuring new techniques for R-gene discovery/resistance breeding. This idea may need more work due to similarity to a prior workshop proposal featuring high-throughput phenotyping through image analysis that was accepted by the host resistance committee two years ago. Ideas to maybe look into is MutRenSeq for identifying effector-R-gene pairs or speed breeding. More discussion can continue on the community site.
2. Councilors challenge: “Developing a Mentorship Toolkit for Professionals in Phytopathology”
	* <https://www.apsnet.org/members/leadership/apsleadership/Pages/CouncilorsChallenge.aspx>
	* Plant path big brother/sister-like program – create a list of individuals (Professors/Postdocs/Industry professionals) that would like to provide advice about specific topics for Postdocs/graduate students and establish pairs or small mentor groups. Create safe mentorship interactions to get advice about advancing in career. Provide students/early-career scientists to get outside opinions. Including industry would be key to this idea as many professors/postdocs might not have industry experience or know how to give advice about pursuing industry careers to graduate students/postdocs
	* Reddit/whisper/stackoverflow are great communities to get advice about life/research. The attractiveness of these communities is partially driven by the fact that users ask questions and post advice completely anonymously. Considering the new APS community sites, could a community site be set up that allows for anonymous posting of questions and advice. By hosting the site through APS rather than going through a public forum (e.g. reddit) we can ensure a safe and professional environment dedicated to plant pathology. This idea will be forwarded to the councilors as part of the annual report.