

PRESS RELEASE

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Plant Disease Experts to Present New Research Findings in Honolulu

St. Paul, Minn. (Apr. 26, 2011)—Plant health scientists from around the globe will gather August 6–10 during the Annual Meeting of The American Phytopathological Society (APS) at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu. The 2011 APS Annual Meeting with the theme of “Implementing Change: Meeting Global Plant Protection Challenges” will exceed all expectations by reaffirming its position as the premier society for plant pathologists dedicated to high-quality, innovative research.

This event is expected to attract as many as 1,500 of the world's top plant health scientists representing a breadth of disciplines and countries. Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in scientific and technical sessions, present research results, attend special events, learn about new products and services, and connect with others who share their interests. Arriving from more than 35 countries worldwide, attendees will come from academia, government, industry, and private practice.

2011 APS President John Sherwood, along with Program Committee Chair Carol Ishimaru and the Scientific Planning Board, have put together an outstanding scientific program, including thirty-five special sessions on today's most relevant plant disease topics and critical issues, such as ag and food biosecurity: a decade of progress and reality; innovation chemical and biological approaches to plant protection; invasive weeds as a threat to agriculture and human health; parasitic weeds – the drawback of the hungry world; plant protection and food security in a changing world; and many more. The program also includes 165 oral technical presentations and more than 1,000 posters (the highest number of submissions in years!).

The 2011 Plenary Session will reflect the breadth and depth of APS and IAPPS (International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences) as two leading scientific societies focusing on plant health. The session will feature speakers that have an international perspective on challenges and changes in plant health, and the global issues facing agriculture and in feeding a growing population. The speakers will examine issues in research, outreach, education, and funding that are impacting science and efforts to address societal needs.

This year's plenary speakers include:

- Roger Beachy, Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S.A.
- Elske Van De Fliert, Co-Director, Center for Communication and Social Change, University of Queensland, Australia
- Richard Tapia, Director, Center for Excellences and Equity in Education, Rice University, U.S.A.
- Robert Zeigler, Director General, IRRI, U.S.A.

Members of the media will receive complimentary registration to the Annual Meeting.

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is a non-profit, professional scientific organization. The research of the organization's more than 5,000 worldwide members advances the understanding of the science of plant pathology and its application to plant health. The International Association for the Plant Protection Sciences (IAPPS) is a global forum of scientists providing information and policy advice on sustainable plant health management practices. Its goals are to insure the production of sufficient quality food/feed/fiber for a growing world population.