

Date: February 26, 2008

To: Bruce Kaplan, One Health

From: American Phytopathological Society Public Policy Board

Re: Resolution to Support “One Health” Initiative

The American Phytopathological Society (APS) is an international scientific organization devoted to the study of plant diseases and their control. APS advances modern concepts in plant health management in agricultural, urban and forest settings. The Society was founded in 1908 and has grown from 130 charter members to nearly 5,000 plant pathologists and scientists worldwide. APS provides information on the latest developments and research advances in plant health science through its journals and its publishing arm, APS PRESS. APS advocates and participates in the exchange of plant health information with public policy makers and the larger scientific community; and provides opportunities for scientific communication, collaboration, and professional development.

APS appreciates this opportunity to contribute the support of the plant health community to the “One Health” initiative. Support of the “One Health” initiative is consistent with several objectives of the APS Strategic Plan, as shown in the attached excerpts from that document.

Justification:

- Emerging infectious diseases of humans, animals, and plants, including those occurring naturally or those introduced by bioterrorists or as bioweapons,, share common elements and require similar preparations and responses.
- By their nature, the fields of human medicine, veterinary medicine and plant pathology are complementary and synergistic. Each deals with confronting, controlling, and preventing pathogens from infecting across species. Each relies upon the development of reasonable and effective National laws and policies.
- Collaboration and communication between human medicine, veterinary medicine and plant pathology have been limited in recent decades.
- A “One Health” initiative has been established to improve the lives of all species— human, animal and plant -- through the integration of human and veterinary medicine and plant pathology.
- “One Health” is intended to promote and provide opportunities for close, meaningful collaboration/communication between practitioners of human medicine, veterinary medicine, and plant pathology, with the goal of hastening efficacy in each, as well as advanced health care options for humans, animals and plants via complementary research efforts.
- The challenges of the 21st century demand that our professions work together.
- The goals and concepts of “One Health” are consistent with and supportive of many of the priorities of the American Phytopathological Society’s Strategic Plan.

Resolutions

- The American Phytopathological Society (APS) supports the “One Health” initiative as a means to promote collaboration between human, veterinary, and plant disease practitioners and researchers.
- APS supports the “One Health” promotion of collaboration between plant pathology and human and veterinary medicine.
- APS supports potential joint educational efforts between plant, human, and veterinary pathology.
- APS encourages joint efforts to assess, treat, and prevent cross-species pathogen transmission.
- APS supports cross-species disease surveillance and control efforts in public health.
- APS supports joint efforts in the development and evaluation of new diagnostic methods, medicines, and treatments for the prevention and control of diseases of humans, animals and plants.
- APS will interact, as opportunities emerge, with other proponents of the “One Health” initiative to discuss strategies for enhancing collaboration between the plant, human and veterinary medical professions in education, disease prevention and management, and research.

We look forward to working together, in the months and years ahead, with others in the “One Health” initiative to promote understanding, communication and synergy among our health-based disciplines.

Sincerely,

Ray D. Martyn
APS President

Jacqueline Fletcher
Chair, APS Public Policy Board

APS Strategic Plan
Goals & Objectives Consistent with “One Health”
(2-23-03 Approved)

GOAL 1. PROMOTE HIGHEST QUALITY RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

Objective 1 E. Maximize opportunities to integrate resources relevant to the science and practice of plant pathology.

GOAL 2. MAINTAIN A STRONG, PROACTIVE AND UNITED PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION.

Objective 2A. Broaden the membership base by providing new and innovative options that add value to the membership, as well as more opportunities for involvement at the annual meeting, for students, members of industry, international scientists, members of sister societies, those who are working in plant pathology but who have non-plant pathology backgrounds, and others with interests in or ties to plant pathology.

Objective 2 D. Proactively identify nontraditional areas of science outside of plant pathology for programs, publications, and workshops.

GOAL 4. FOSTER PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Objective 4A. Develop and conduct opportunities for networking to foster professional growth and development for members.

Objective 4B. Develop and conduct opportunities for continuing education.

Objective 4C. Engage young scientists into the profession of plant health.

GOAL 5. PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND INCREASE AWARENESS OF PLANT PATHOLOGY AND THE PRACTICE OF PLANT PATHOLOGY.

Objective 5A. Identify and monitor emerging national and international issues and opportunities affecting policies and funding for plant pathology and plant health, and provide APS with information, advice and counsel regarding these issues.

Objective 5B. Provide timely (proactive as well as reactive) and credible science-based information to national and international policy and funding organizations and institutions that are engaged in defining critical issues, drafting position statements, making recommendations, as well as regulating and funding policies affecting plant health sciences.

Objective 5C. Increase awareness of agriculture by developing education research and promoting opportunities, independently and/or in cooperation with other scientific groups, to present fundamental positive messages about science, using examples from plant pathology.

Objective 5D. Develop a strategic umbrella to promote and fund plant health programs.

Objective 5E. Continue to develop an image for plant pathology as a vital and important profession and promote understanding of the contributions and roles of plant pathologists in science, environment, agriculture, and society.

Objective 5F. Promote understanding of plant pathology among allied sciences.