

**Plant Health Research Awards for Poster Presentations at the U.S. Congressional Reception
Celebrating International Year of Plant Health
March 3, 2020**

The year 2020 has been designated as the International Year of Plant Health by the United Nations General Assembly. This special designation provides an important opportunity for professional societies, agricultural organizations, and other entities to raise global and national awareness of Plant Health. Addressing a breadth of Plant Health issues - ranging from soil health to crop genetics, disease management, social and economic impact studies, and technologies to improve production - is vital to ending hunger, reducing poverty, protecting the environment, and boosting economic development.

To commemorate this special year, the American Phytopathological Society Public Policy Board will host a Congressional Reception at the U.S. Botanical Gardens in Washington, D.C. on March 3, 2020. This event will offer a unique opportunity for policy makers and plant health stakeholders to discuss critical plant health issues. **At this reception, we would like to showcase 5 high-quality poster presentations on diverse and impactful research projects in the broad area of plant health.** *These posters will serve to promote science and provide informative conversation starters for the members of Congress, staffers, and others that will be in attendance; hence, presenters should be effective communicators.*

Application Details:

- To be considered to present a poster, please submit a non-technical abstract of your research (no more than 250 words) and a current CV or resume (maximum 2 pages).
- Abstracts and CVs must be submitted by December 16, 2019 in a single Word document by e-mail to gallagher@eversoleassociates.com
- A number of finalists will be pre-selected and asked to submit a short 3-minute video of the presenter summarizing their research (i.e. “elevator pitch”). This will help the award committee evaluate how the applicant will communicate with the target audience.

Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria:

- Selection will consider diversity among the presenters as well as among the presented research topics. We invite applications from scientists of all career stages; ***early career scientists, including graduate students and postdocs, are highly encouraged to apply.***
- Scientific findings should be translated for a diverse, non-scientific audience of U.S. elected officials and their staff members. Communication of ideas in a relatable, broadly understandable way that clearly identifies the potential impact to plant health is critical.
- We would like to have projects that represent the spectrum of Plant Health issues – from soil health to crop genetics, disease management, social and economic impact studies, and technologies to improve production, etc.
- This is an open competition; no slots are reserved for specific topics or society members.

Award:

- Awardees will receive \$500 to support their travel to Washington, D.C.
- Awardees will be offered the opportunity to join in Public Policy Board activities including a Brunch-n-Learn for congressional staffers and visits to Congressional offices on March 3, 2020.
- Awardees will work with the Awards Committee to develop a poster that communicates their work clearly and highlights the potential plant health impacts.