

The APS African Division and the African Phytopathology Group calls for abstracts by graduate students based in Africa or the African diaspora carrying out research on plant disease systems to present their research at the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual virtual meeting of the APS-AD to be held on August 18, 2022. The theme of the meeting is **Ensuring Food Security through Innovative Thinking in Plant Pathology**. The goal of this meeting is to provide a platform for students to share their research and increase visibility of young and early career plant pathologists based in Africa or the diaspora.

### **Eligibility**

All current postgraduate students in Africa and the African diaspora at M.Sc. or Ph.D. levels and those who recently completed their M.Sc. or Ph.D. studies within six months of the abstract submission deadline (*April 30, 2022*) are eligible to apply.

### **Application Process**

Applications for the 2022 student competition award will run from *March 30, 2022 to April 30, 2022*. All applicants must submit an abstract of their original research of not more than 250 words, 1.5 line spacing, 1-inch margins, and 12 Times New Romans font. Additionally, an essay (500 words max.), in the same format as the abstract detailing how the award will improve/impact your research must be included with the application. Applicants must also submit a **support letter** from their research supervisor on an official headed paper confirming that they are current students or have finished their programs within the last 6 months. Send all application documents as a single PDF to [africanphytopathology.awards@gmail.com](mailto:africanphytopathology.awards@gmail.com) with the subject “African Phytopathology 2022 Graduate Student Award”. **There is no abstract submission fee for this application.**

### **Evaluation Criteria and Process**

Abstracts must report results of original research that has not been presented elsewhere. Abstracts should contain research that relates to phytopathology and must include the following elements: brief background, problem statement, objectives, materials and methods, results, and significance of the research to the science of phytopathology. Abstracts must not be simply a review or progress report but contain useful and new information; they must not include references or footnotes. Abstracts must be in final form as a single paragraph with no grammatical, typographical, or factual errors. Applications will be reviewed and recommended for acceptance for oral or poster presentation by a panel of scientists drawn from members of the APS-AD, African Phytopathology Group, and volunteers from the American Phytopathological Society. The panel’s evaluation will be guided by the goal of this award.

### **3-min pitch on innovation in plant pathology**

In addition to the call for abstracts and in line with the theme of the 2022 meeting, we invite young scientists in Africa and the diaspora to submit a 3-min pitch of an INNOVATION or idea in plant pathology developed as part of the applicant’s research. Interested students can send their 3-min video entries to [africanphytopathology.awards@gmail.com](mailto:africanphytopathology.awards@gmail.com) with the subject ‘3-min pitch on innovation in plant pathology’. *The submission deadline is April 30, 2022.* A cash prize will be awarded to the winning pitch.