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Cornell researcher named fellow of the American Phytopathological Society

By Joe Ogradnick

David M. Gadoury, senior research associate in the department of plant pathology and plant-microbe biology at Cornell's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, was named a fellow of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) at its centennial meeting held July 26-30 in Minneapolis. The APS awards fellowships for distinguished contributions to the field of plant pathology or to the society, and Gadoury joins six other Geneva plant pathologists as fellows.

"It is quite an honor to be named a fellow in the American Phytopathological Society since only a quarter of one percent of the membership are elected fellows each year. For David, the honor reflects his whole career, from his early work on apple scab in New Hampshire to his more recent work on grapes," said Geneva plant pathologist Bob Seem, who has worked closely with Gadoury during the past 20 years. "David has also recently taken on a major assignment for APS as chair of a committee tasked with the study of critical issues facing the profession. It is wonderful to have the opportunity to work with a person of this caliber."

Gadoury's research focuses on areas of pathogen biology, ecology, and epidemiology that are poorly understood, which limits scientists' ability to improve disease management programs. His research frequently spans disciplinary, institutional, and international boundaries, and has involved collaborations both in the U.S. and abroad.

The nomination statement for Gadoury reads in part: "David M. Gadoury has earned a reputation as one of the most innovative and productive fruit disease epidemiologists in the world. As a graduate student with William MacHardy, he pioneered the potential ascospore dose concept for apple scab, which provided growers worldwide with an action threshold of ascospore maturity to initiate fungicide sprays. Gadoury's participation in subsequent studies of ascospore maturation, discharge, and dissemination resulted in major revisions of infection period tables used in assessing scab risk.

"Prominent colleagues not only consider Gadoury an authority worldwide on apple scab and grape powdery mildew, but state that his papers should be required reading for all graduate students in plant pathology. He has lectured internationally on the topics of writing effectively for diverse competitive grants programs and on the process of preparing articles for refereed journals. He has advocated forcefully and effectively, both at Cornell and through APS committees, for a greater emphasis on undergraduate teaching and work experience in order to recruit future plant pathologists, and now chairs a committee tasked with identifying future challenges to the profession of plant pathology."

In addition to his membership in the APS, Gadoury is a member of the Deciduous Tree Fruit Disease Workers and the International Working Group on Grapevine Powdery and Downy Mildew.

Gadoury was previously honored with the Excellence in IPM Award from the New York State Integrated Pest Management Program in 1998 and the Lee M. Hutchins Award from APS (shared with Roger Pearson) in 1991.

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David M. Gadoury

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