



ADVANCE Postdoctoral Researcher Travel Funds Application Form for travel January 2026 to December 2026

Name Your Name

Email Address youremail@ksu.edu

Department Your Department

College Your College

Office Address Your Campus Address

Faculty Advisor's Name Your Advisor's Name

Year at K-State as Postdoctoral Researcher Your year

Expected end of Postdoctoral Research position at K-State Your expected end month/year

Meeting Name American Phytopathology Society Annual Meeting

Meeting web address <http://www.apsnet.org/meetings/annual/Pages/default.aspx>

Meeting Location Tampa, Florida

Dates of Meeting July 30 – August 3

Dates of Travel July 29 – August 4

Meeting Format

Please describe the format of the meeting in one paragraph (number of participants, talks running in parallel or serial, and anything unique about the meeting).

This meeting has >350 oral presentations and >600 poster presentation covering all aspects of plant pathology with talks running in parallel with 3-4 sessions each day with between 6-8 speakers in each session. There is a meet and greet session at the beginning of the meeting and a banquet at the end. There are a number of committee meetings that also occur during this meeting including the Vector- Pathogen Complexes committee and Virology committee that I am part of that offer opportunities for socializing with professionals of specific interest. The APS meeting also hosts Career Advancement and Development and Education (CADRE) activities that I find very helpful for interacting with industry and academic professionals. This year is very special to me personally as my former PhD advisor, Dr. Michael Goodin, will give an invited talk during the same session as my current Post-doctoral supervisor, Dr. Anna Whitfield. As such, this is the only national meeting each year to cover such a broad range of categories all related to plant health and disease in such a way as to attract a larger, more diverse group of scientists with which to converse and learn.

Purpose

Please include a copy of your accepted abstract below. We understand that deadlines for conferences vary and therefore, the abstract you ultimately write/submit may be slightly different. You may include a draft of an abstract if the conference has not yet released a call for abstracts.

The plant Nucleorhabdovirus, Maize mosaic virus (MMV), is vectored by the corn planthopper, *Peregrinus maidis*. Previously, we conducted an RNAseq project to identify differentially expressed (DE) transcripts in adults during infection with MMV. We identified a total of 144 transcripts, with 77 genes upregulated and 67 genes downregulated. To identify conserved transcriptome responses in vectors to propagative viruses, we compared the differentially expressed transcripts in our system to two other systems: white backed planthoppers, *Sogatella furcifera* exposed to Southern rice black-streaked dwarf virus (SRBSDV, fijivirus), and the black-faced leafhopper, *Graminella nigrifrons* infected with Maize fine streak virus (MFSV, nucleorhabdovirus). In a tblastx analysis with a cut-off value of 10⁻³, we identified DE transcripts that are shared between systems. Twenty three transcripts were shared between all three systems. Two transcripts were unique to *P. maidis* and *G. nigrifrons* and 38 transcripts were unique to *P. maidis* and *S. furcifera*. Protein binding was the largest category of the 144 *P. maidis* transcripts (19), 10 are shared in all three systems. Functional characterization is underway on transcripts potentially involved in viral replication, intercellular movement and defense. The responsive genes identified in these vectors of propagative viruses may represent a conserved anti-viral strategy and could be targets for resistance against a diverse range of viruses.

Anticipated Expenses

Transportation type and cost	\$620 Airline Ticket
Lodging Expenses	\$950 for 6 nights
Meeting Registration	≥ \$380 Last Year's Registration
Meals not covered as part of registration	\$300 for all but one dinner
Total Funds Needed	\$2,250
Total Funds Requested	\$500

**please note the Postdoctoral Travel Fund Award is \$500 max*

Other Travel Support

Please describe the source and amount of funding. (Are travel grant opportunities available from the meeting/event? If so, do you plan to apply? Will any of your travel costs be covered by your advisor, department, or any other scholarships?)

Travel grants are not available for post-doctoral researchers for this meeting. Additional funds will be provided by my advisor, Dr. Anna Whitfield, please see attached letter of support.

Activities relevant to Enhancing the Postdoctoral Research Experience

In one paragraph, explain what plans you have to participate in activities relevant to enriching your postdoctoral research experience. Factors that enhance the postdoctoral researcher experience will include the link between your research goals and your presentation and the extent to which you will participate in informal and formal networking opportunities.

I attended this meeting last year and found it to be very helpful in networking. I attended one of the newer “Idea Cafés” which involved a round table discussion about a topic of interest, it was “Balancing a successful career and family”. This year, this topic has been expanded into a special session with more than one round table specific to certain circumstances. As last year, I was able to talk with a group of people in an informal manner, I plan to attend at least one Idea Café (although topics have not been announced) and also this special session about Balancing careers. I will also attend meetings related to - 3 - the committees I joined last year including Vector-Pathogen complexes committee and Virology committee. I plan to attend the banquet at the end and any of the meet and greet sessions present in the schedule when announced.

Activities relevant to enriching the lives of people in STEM

In one paragraph, explain what professional development opportunities you will participate in that are relevant to enriching the lives of people in STEM disciplines. Some professional organizations, such as [SWS](#) and the [American Sociological Association \(ASA\)](#), provide professional development activities leading to enriching the lives of people in STEM disciplines. Examples of activities might include hosting panels on topics such as life/work balance, navigating disproportionate service demands, and how to be an empathetic administrator. If the conference you are attending does not have this, what do you propose to do at the conference that might allow you to be mentored on relevant topics such as these?

Last year, I attended a session entitled “Teaching Plant Pathology” and in this session I learned about a program called “Planting science” which mentors younger kids in projects at their schools relating to plants. As a result, I joined this effort and I was able to mentor a mixed group of kids and one group of all girls in the subject of pollination. I plan to continue mentoring as part of this group and also look for other opportunities at the meeting as well. Here at K-state, I participate in the Grow and Excite! Programs with my advisor, Dr. Anna Whitfield, and will continue to do so when possible

Career Chat Plans

In one paragraph, please explain your plans for hosting a Career Chat for our SUCCEED program (undergraduate and graduate students) upon your return from the conference. You can get more information about KAWSE’s Career Chat program from the [KAWSE SUCCEED page](#) or by contacting KAWSE at 785-532-6088. Examples of past Career Chats are: 1) “Navigating a Professional Meeting”; 2) “Implicit Bias Seminar”; and 3) “How do I Become a Postdoctoral Researcher?” 4) “Tips for Informal/Formal Networking at Conferences.” Preference will be given to applications that are based on your attendance at relevant professional development workshops at the conference.

The subject of balancing career and family has become a popular topic at the APS meetings and I would like to host a Career Chat entitled, “Balancing Career and Family, insights from a national meeting”.

Additional Space As Needed

Please see attached letter of support.