

2019-2020 NAPB Education Committee Year End Summary

Accomplishments:

- Held monthly zoom calls to discuss committee business. Average attendance ~5 members.
- Through feedback provided by NAPB members, the focus has been in two domains,
 1. Development of R statistical skills through a series entitled “Plant Breeder’s Guide to R” and;
 2. Professional development.
- The webinars have been posted to the [NAPB channel](#) on YouTube. Viewership can range from 60-2k views.
- November kicked-off the winter schedule with a 3-hour workshop titled “R for Plant Breeders – Intro to R” hosted by Dr. Steven Anderson, a post-doc from the University of Florida. Dr. Matt Dziejewicz of Corteva hosted our second workshop in the Plant Breeder’s Guide to R series with a thorough walk-through of exploratory data analysis in R. After the break, Dr. Rex Bernardo from the University of Minnesota held a workshop entitled “Professional Skills for Plant Breeders” which discussed broad topics including the life cycle of a scientist, working in industry vs. academe vs. nonprofit, handling conflict, managing your boss, effective communication, and running meetings. In February, Dr. Jianming Yu and his team from Iowa State University dove deeper into R analytics for plant breeders with their comprehensive two-part series on phenotypic plasticity. Dr. Steven Anderson returned to deliver a highly sought-after workshop on statistical model analysis in R. The winter series workshops drew a crowd of 40 to 60 people and have been widely praised. During Spring, a workshop on Drone Image Analysis was hosted by Dr. Filipe Matais.
- We have also implemented adding a 2-min video presentation for the virtual meetings in 2021 in addition to the live 2 min presentation from the poster presenters at the meetings. A new evaluation method for the poster competition to normalize and improve the statistical analyses of the poster competition in 2020 has been implemented in 2021. In the 2021 annual meetings, the committee have received 56 poster entries from students and membership. A new rubric is designed to enable virtual judging and appropriate skill set.
- Going forward, the outgoing Chair of the Education Committee will help with the planning committee of the following NAPB conference to enable smooth transition for student contests and poster displays.
- The Education Committee typically selects 3 student speakers and 1 Early Career speaker for the annual meeting based on abstract quality and relevance to sessions. This was done for the 2021 Annual meetings as well

Activities for next year:



- Continue monthly Education Committee Meetings
- Continue monthly education webinars and interactive workshops
- Plan and manage the 2022 poster competition.

Leadership:

-Outgoing chair, Neha Kothari; Incoming chair, Amanda Hulse-Kemp; Incoming vice-chair, Kevin Falk; incoming secretary, TBD.