

Ankit Yadav – Vice-President

Ankit Yadav is a second-year PhD student in Dr. Amit Jhala's Lab at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Growing up in Haryana, India, he earned his bachelor's in Agricultural Sciences from Haryana Agricultural University and completed his MS in Weed Science at Auburn University (2023–2024). His PhD research aims to develop integrated weed management systems for specialty corn and soybean. Passionate about the WSSA GSO vice-president role, Ankit draws on his previous experience with the organization to understand its commitments and responsibilities. Inspired by the impactful leadership before him, he seeks to build on their legacy by supporting student initiatives and promoting professional growth through events like student mixers, mock interviews, symposia, and topical webinars. If elected, he is confident he can work well with the officer team to advance the growth of graduate students in the society.



Jackson Alsdorf – Vice-President

I am beginning my second year as a Ph.D. student under Dr. Charlie Cahoon at North Carolina State University. As a master's student, I attended two different WSSA meetings, San Antonio and D.C. I am very involved in both the Northeastern (NEWSS) and Southern (SWSS) Weed Science Societies. I have spent the last year serving as the Weed Resistance and Technology Committee Representative on the SWSS GSO, where I act as a liaison between the Weed Resistance and Technology Committee and the students. It has been a great opportunity serving with the GSO,



working together to plan student events for our upcoming meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. I have also been recently elected Student Representative-Elect for the Northeastern Weed Science Society. This is a two-year position that oversees the events, communication, and organization for the students. Responsibilities also include being involved in board meetings for NEWSS. I have gained so much insight as to what it takes to organize and plan student events at meetings along with organizing virtual zoom webinars throughout the year. I would like to use these experiences to continue to strengthen the student organization within WSSA. It would be an honor to represent the student body and serve the societies at the National level.

Michael Dodde – Vice-President

Hello! I'm Michael, a first-year PhD student at Michigan State University under Dr. Christy Sprague. My research focuses on waterhemp control in Truvera sugarbeet, with an emphasis on evaluating strip tillage and cover crops as integrated management strategies. Truvera is a new sugarbeet trait that allows in-crop applications of glyphosate, glufosinate, and dicamba.

This is my third year as a WSSA member, and I would love the opportunity to give back to the society by serving on the Graduate Student Organization Executive Board. I believe I would be a strong fit for this role because I am committed to supporting and advocating for graduate students.

During my master's program at the University of Arkansas, I served as President of our departmental graduate student club, where I developed my leadership skills and worked to ensure all students' voices were heard.

As Vice President, I would work closely with the executive board to help coordinate graduate student events, strengthen communication between graduate students and WSSA leadership, and foster an inclusive and engaged graduate student community. I would be honored to serve in this position and look forward to seeing everyone in Raleigh, sharing ideas, and building lasting connections within WSSA!



Midhat Zulafkar Tugoo – Vice-President

My name is Midhat Zulafkar Tugoo, and I am a PhD student in the School of Integrative Plant Science at Cornell University, working under the guidance of Dr. Vipin Kumar. My doctoral research focuses on developing integrated weed management strategies for herbicide-resistant pigweed in the Northwestern United States. Through this work, I am actively engaged in weed science research, extension programming, and interdisciplinary collaboration aligned with the mission of the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA).

I bring strong leadership, organizational, and communication skills to the role of Vice President.

During my master's program at Kansas State University, I served as Social Chair and Graduate Student Representative, gaining experience in collaborative leadership and student representation. I currently continue this service as a Graduate Student Representative at Cornell University, where I remain involved in student advocacy, professional development, and community engagement.

As Vice President, I am committed to supporting WSSA leadership, strengthening member engagement, and advancing programs that promote scientific excellence, inclusivity, and professional growth for all WSSA graduate students.

