



2020 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: **E6 Research and Competitive Grants**

Committee Chair: **Daniel C. Brainard**

Committee Members: (See also attached for additional details of committee members).

	Name	WSSA Region	Term End	Email
1	Besijn, Joost	W	2021	Noxiousweeds@co.jefferson.wa.us
2	Boyd, Nathan	S	2021	nsboyd@ufl.edu
3	Clay, Sharon	NC	2021	sharon.clay@sdstate.edu
4	Doohan, Doug	NC	2021	doohan.1@osu.edu
5	Jugulam, Mithila	NC	2021	mithila@ksu.edu
6	Kumar, Vipan	W/NC	2021	vipan.kumar@montana.edu
7	Devkota, Pratap	S	2022	pdevkota@ufl.edu
8	Young, Steve	W	2022	stephen.young@usda.gov
9	Brainard, Daniel	NC	2023	brainar9@msu.edu
10	Haramoto, Erin	NC	2023	erin.haramoto@uky.edu
11	Leon, Ramon	S	2023	rleon@ncsu.edu

+Kells, Jim, NIFA Fellow

+Van Wychen, Lee, Ex. off.

Board of Directors Liason: **Marty Schraer** (marty.schraer@syngenta.com)

Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements: **See above list (members 1-6). We will discuss replacements at our next meeting. Note however, that we added two members recently (Haramoto and Leon) so we will still have 5 members after rotation.**

Summary of past year's activities:

- *Committee goals.* Following the Manual of Operating Procedures our general goals were to: 1) Prepare and publish a list of weed science research priorities; 2) communicate with WSSA members information relating to various federally funded competitive grants programs; 3) identify and address Society concerns related to the amounts and types of funding.
- *Committee accomplishments/activities.*
 - *Research Priorities.* The committee reviewed and discussed (both in person at annual meeting and subsequent emails) the current list of research priorities (see attached), as well as strategies for developing and updating this list with broader input from WSSA members. The current list was initially developed in 2018 by integrating recommendations submitted by 3-4 individuals from the E6 committee. Although no major changes have yet been suggested by the research committee, several committee members felt polling/surveying the broader WSSA membership would be helpful for ensuring that the process is more inclusive and that our published list reflects the views of the broader WSSA membership. We also discussed inclusion of more

specific sub-priorities within the current broad categories and have begun developing an initial list for feedback.

- *Communication of information related to federally funded competitive grants.* The committee relied on NIFA fellow Jim Kells for this goal, noting his successful efforts to communicate via email, webinars, and updates to the WSSA website (<https://wssa.net/society/funding-and-grants/>) highlighting grant opportunities.
- *Identify and address Society concerns related to the amounts and types of funding.* Several general and specific concerns were raised by individuals on the committee including 1) general lack of funds for basic research on weed biology/ecology; 2) increasing emphasis on very large multi-institute grants which may favor established researchers and those at institutions with strong administrative support compared to young and emerging investigators at smaller institutions; 3) lack of information related to opportunities for non-governmental research support (e.g. private sector; foundations); 4) lack of WSSA connections to private and public sector leaders in applied engineering (robotics; physical weed control), computer science (AI) and other disciplines that are likely to play increasing role in weed management in the future.
- *Other.* Helped connect non-WSSA members (representatives of one non-profit and one private sector) to potential WSSA research collaborators in their fields of interest.

WSSA funds requested if any? None

Current state of the committee's projects or activities? We are continuing discussion of research priorities and development of a possible membership survey to get broader input on 1) research priorities; 2) concerns related to the amounts and types of funding (see above).

Any new information posted on the WSSA website? Not directly by our committee, but research opportunities page appears to be updated regularly.

Summary of plans for next year (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.): The plan may change after our committee meeting in Feb, but it will likely include: 1) development and implementation of a member survey to identify research priorities and funding concerns; 2) analysis of survey results to develop updated research priorities list, including more specific sub-priorities; 3) promotion of member networking to facilitate research collaborations based on themes identified through the survey and committee discussion.

Recommendations for Board or Membership action (funds or other requests): Recommendations for consideration include: 1) support for development of formal survey process for soliciting member input on research priorities and grant concerns; 2) support for research discussion forums to facilitate research project networking; 3) strengthening of WSSA connections to private and public sector leaders in applied engineering (robotics; physical weed control), computer science (AI) and other disciplines that are likely to play increasing role in weed management in the future.

Research Committee Details

Name	Production Region	WSSA Region	Term End	Email	Phone	Affiliation	Title	Website	Expertise
Besijn, Joost	Pacific	W	2021	Noxiousweeds@co.jefferson.wa.us	360 379 5610 ext 205	Jefferson County, Noxious Weed Control Program	Coordinator	https://www.co.jefferson.wa.us/directary.aspx?EID=33	Noxious Weed Control
Boyd, Nathan	Southeast	S	2021	nboyd@ufl.edu	813 419 6613	University of Florida, Gulf Coast Research and Education Center	Associate Center Director and Associate Professor	https://gcrec.ifas.ufl.edu/gcrec-facultystaff-directory/nathan-boyd/	IWM for vegetables, strawberries and ornamentals
Brainard, Daniel	Lake	NC	2023	brainar9@msu.edu	517 648 7928	Michigan State University	Professor	https://www.canr.msu.edu/people/dr_daniel_brainard	IWM in vegetable crops; weed biology/ecology; physical and cultural weed control
Clay, Sharon	Northern Plains	NC	2021	sharon.clay@sdstate.edu	605 688 4757	South Dakota State University, Dept of Agronomy	Professor	https://www.sdstate.edu/directory/sharon-clay	Weed biology/physiology; crop weed interactions; precision ag; non-chemical options; IR4
Devkota, Pratap	Southeast	S	2022	pdevkota@ufl.edu	850 983 7102	University of Florida, West Florida Research and Education Center	Assitant Professor	https://wfrec.ifas.ufl.edu/directory/dr-pratap-devkota/	IWM for field, forage and emerging crops
Doohan, Doug	Corn Belt	NC	2021	doohan.1@osu.edu	330 202 3593	Ohio State University, Dept of Hort and Crop Sci	Professor	https://hcs.osu.edu/our-people/dr-doug-doohan	Risk analysis; herbicide drift; herbicide development; IWM for fruits and vegetables; organics
Haramoto, Erin	Appalachian	NC	2023	erin.haramoto@uky.edu	859 218 0745	University of Kentucky	Associate Professor	https://pss.ca.uky.edu/person/erin-haramoto	IWM for grain crops; cover crops for weed suppression
Jugulam, Mithila	Northern Plains	NC	2021	mithila@ksu.edu	785 532 2755	Kansas State Univ, Dept of Agronomy	Professor	https://www.agronomy.ksu.edu/people/faculty/jugulam-mithila/jugulam-lab/	Physiology/biochemistry/genetics of herbicide resistance; temp effects on herbicides; herbicide tolerant crops
Kumar, Vipan	Northern Plains	W/NC	2021	vipan.kumar@montana.edu	785 625 3425 ext 214	Kansas State Univ, Dept of Agronomy	Assistant Professor	https://www.hays.ksu.edu/programs/weeds/index.html	IWM for irrigated dryland cropping systems; biology and management of herbicide resistant weeds
Leon, Ramon	Appalachian	S	2023	rleon@ncsu.edu	919 515 5328	North Carolina State Univ, Crop and Soil Sci Dept	Associate Professor	https://cals.ncsu.edu/crop-and-soil-sciences/people/ramon-leon/	Weed biology/ecology; IWM; Image technologies; weed population dynamics modelling
Young, Steve	Mountain	W	2022	steve.young@usu.edu	435 797 0139	Utah State University	Assistant Professor	https://psc.usu.edu/directory/faculty/young-steve	Ecology and management of Invasive species