



U.S. Wheat & Barley
Scab Initiative

Co-Chairs of the USWBSI

General Description:

The Co-Chairs provide leadership to a consortium of wheat and barley research scientists, producers and industry representatives who together form the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative (USWBSI; www.scabusa.org). The mission of the Initiative is to enhance food safety and supply by reducing the impact of Fusarium Head Blight (scab) on wheat and barley. The Initiative's budget of approximately \$5 million, is managed by USDA-ARS and is part of the ARS National Program for Plant Disease. In fiscal year 2015, USWBSI recommendations to USDA-ARS were awarded as grants to 125 projects carried out by 81 researchers at 24 land grant universities along with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

The two Co-Chairs of the USWBSI represent the research community (currently occupied by Dave Van Sanford, University of Kentucky) and the stakeholder groups (currently occupied by Art Brandli, grower from Warroad, MN). The Co-Chairs participate in the governance of the Initiative and serve as the principal spokespersons of the Initiative to US wheat and barley growers, the milling, malting and brewing industries, members of Congress and legislative staff, and the general public.

The Co-Chairs lead both the Executive Committee (EC) and the Steering Committee (SC) of the Initiative. The EC serves to review the research priorities and the annual call for pre-proposals, and aids in the development of the process for the evaluation of pre-proposals by review panels. The EC also reviews all of the pre-proposals and develops the annual research plan and budget for the SC's consideration, aids in developing the agenda for the Annual Scab Forum, and approves workshops to facilitate collaboration among scientists within the Initiative. The Steering Committee comprises broad representation of the research and stakeholder communities. The SC provides direction and guidance to the Initiative and is responsible for the review and approval of: research priorities of the Initiative, the process by which the Initiative requests research pre-proposals, and the Initiative's Annual Research Plan and Budget recommendations.

U.S. Wheat & Barley Scab Initiative Networking & Facilitation Office
Plant & Soil Sciences Building, 1066 Bogue St., RM. 372, East Lansing, MI 48824
Phone: (517) 353-0201 ■ Fax: (517) 353-3955
Email: nfo@scabusa.org ■ Website: <http://www.scabusa.org>

Volunteer Responsibilities & Expectations of the Researcher Co-Chair:

The researcher Co-Chair plays a vital role in both the governance and continued evolution of the USWBSI. In addition to the formally defined duties that are described below, the researcher Co-Chair must take the responsibility for initiating discussions and activities that will move the USWBSI forward, adapting to address the changing science, ARS directives and stakeholder needs. The researcher Co-Chair serves as the primary spokesperson for the US Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative, and the liaison with USDA-ARS and various stakeholder groups impacted by FHB. In this capacity he/she communicates research results and impacts to USDA-ARS and stakeholders. However, the Co-Chair also serves as the liaison transmitting information from the stakeholders to the PIs whose research is funded by the USWBSI. In this capacity, the Co-Chair communicates the problems of stakeholders and serves to remind the PIs that their research must be directed towards an expeditious solution to the problem of scab. Examples of previous communication activities carried out by the current researcher Co-Chair are listed below:

- Gave presentations to stakeholder and research groups on the USWBSI
- Developed white paper on The 2009 Southern SWW Scab Epidemic
- Worked with USWBSI scientists to develop the DON white paper
- Met with USWBSI pathologists in Nashville, TN to develop the FHB Alert program
- Wrote letter to US EPA urging expedited review of Section 18 for tebuconazole (Folicur)
- Gave interviews to news sources and other groups on the USWBSI
- Facilitated process for developing the USWBSI's Impact Statement document
- Represented the USWBSI on the organizing committee for FHB International Symposium (occurs every four years)
- Wrote letters to USW and NAWG about CODEX and attended USW meeting to provide information and stakeholder perspectives.

In addition to the items above, the Researcher Co-chair visits ARS Headquarters annually to solidify that relationship and underscore the importance of the partnership.

The researcher Co-Chair is also the Director of the NFO. In this capacity he/she must communicate frequently (sometimes daily) with the office manager of the NFO on matters

that pertain to the efficient operation of a 5 million dollar annual grants program.

Examples of these matters include:

- Address changes in federal regulations that impact the USWBSI grants.
- Requests from PIs for changes to grants, letters of reference, etc.
- Development of agendas for administrative meetings and conference calls.
- Requests for funding support of Forum Speakers and steering committee members.
- Implementation policy/procedure changes made by the Steering and/or Executive committees.
- Discuss issues impacting the Initiative's various web-based systems
- Inquiries from Stakeholder groups/news sources.
- Accounting issues pertaining to grant for the NFO/USWBSI Headquarters.

In addition to the activities listed above, the researcher Co-Chair should expect to attend the annual Scab Forum in December, the SC meetings in April/May (every other year) and December (the December meeting is held in conjunction with the Forum), the EC meetings in April/May and December (also held in conjunction with the Forum), to evaluate pre-proposals, meet with researchers and stakeholder groups as needed, and participate in weekly calls with the NFO staff and periodic conference calls with EC members. To offset the time commitment, there is potential funding for a post-doc to assist the Researcher Co-Chair with his/her ongoing research projects.

Nomination Process/Requirements:

We hope to identify the next researcher Co-Chair by the end of the calendar year so that he/she can join the NFO staff and learn the position before assuming the role at the end of 2017. To that end, we are soliciting nominations for the position. Self-nominations or nominations of others are acceptable. We request that interested parties submit a nomination packet comprising a brief (1 page) statement of interest and qualifications for the position, and a 2 page biosketch by September 1, 2016.