



2022-2023 WSSA Standing Committee Report

Committee Name and Code: E6 Research and Competitive Grants

Committee Chair: Daniel C. Brainard

Committee Members (includes sub-committee members):

	Name	WSSA Region	Term End	Email
1	Jugulam, Mithila	NC	2022	mithila@ksu.edu
2	Devkota, Pratap	S	2022	pdevkota@ufl.edu
3	Young, Steve	W	2022	stephen.young@usda.gov
4	Brainard, Daniel	NC	2023	brainar9@msu.edu
5	Haramoto, Erin	NC	2023	erin.haramoto@uky.edu
6	Leon, Ramon	S	2023	rleon@ncsu.edu
7	Barney, Jacob	NE	2024	jnbarney@vt.edu
	+ Kells, Jim, NIFA Fellow			
	+Van Wychen, Lee, Ex. Off			

Board of Directors Liaison: Alan Helm

Committee members rotating off: Jugulam, Devkota and Young

Recommended members to replace those rotating off: TBD (soon!)

Summary of past year's activities including:

- **Committee goals.** Following the MOP are goas 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; and

3) identify and address society concerns related to the amounts and types of funding.

- ***Committee accomplishments/activities.***

- *Research Priorities.* The committee implemented an online *Research Priorities Survey* that had been developed by the committee during 2021. Survey responses were analyzed, summarized and discussed during frequent meetings throughout the year, resulting in submission of a manuscript summarizing key findings to Weed Science (recently accepted pending revisions). Results of the survey will be presented to WSSA and discussed as part of the Symposium “*WSSA Research Priorities Survey Results: 13 Federal Agency-Perspectives and -Funding Opportunities*” at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
- *Communication with WSSA members regarding federally funded grant programs.* As usual, 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 highlighting grant opportunities. As noted above, our jointly-sponsored symposium at this years Annual Meeting will facilitate further communication of grant program opportunities to members.
- *Identify WSSA concerns related to funding.* As part of the Research Priorities Survey, several questions were asked regarding sources of funding among respondents. Responses suggest some areas of concern including a declining share of research funding from public sector sources and potential mismatches between priority areas and funding availability. We anticipate that the Symposium will help generate continued discussion of these concerns and potential solutions.

- **Impact of activities on membership, publications, policy, education, etc.**

- It is too early to evaluate impact, but we anticipate that publications, presentations and discussions generated from our activities will benefit research and funding success of our membership.

- **WSSA funds requested if any?**

- We request that publication fees associated with our Weed Research Priority manuscript (see above) be covered by WSSA.

- **Current state of the committee’s projects or activities?**

- We are in the process of revising our manuscript and look forward to discussion generated from the survey through upcoming symposium.
- **Any new information posted on the WSSA website?**

Summary of plans for next year

- Revise and publish research priorities manuscript.
- Consider next steps to meet committee objectives based in part on discussion with federal funding agencies generated through symposium
- Identify new chair and at least two new committee members to inject new energy and ideas!

Recommendations for Board or Membership action:

- Cover publication fees for manuscript.
- Integrate survey findings into strategic plan as appropriate
- Encourage and fund future symposia and initiatives that align with research priorities especially in the areas of *Cultural and Preventative Weed Management, Precision Weed Management and Robotics, and Genomics.*