

2022 Phytochemistry Section Annual Report

Formation of a governance structure and elections

The proposal for a revived Phytochemistry section was presented to the BSA council in 2020 by Moghe and Smith. After council approval, an interim council was assembled to create by-laws and plan for future expansion. This interim council comprised Gaurav Moghe, Stacey Smith, Rahul Roy, Courtney Leisner and Mia Howard. The group examined the governance of other BSA sections, and proposed four elected positions: Chair, Secretary, International Representative and Trainee Representative. The [by-laws](#), including the description of these offices, were presented to the membership and received unanimous approval from those who voted. The interim council then organized a nomination process in early spring 2022 and presented a slate of candidates to the membership. These elected officers (Moghe, chair; Smith, secretary; Kira Tiedge, international representative; Thiti Suttiyut, trainee representative) began meeting as an elected council in April and have held monthly meetings to continue building the section.

Activities at Botany 2022

The council requested funds from the BSA to provide travel awards, awards for best poster and best presentation, and a social, and was generously awarded this support. The council reviewed talk submissions and made four travel awards for Botany participants giving phytochemistry talks. Our student representative (Suttiyut) will be attending Botany 2022 and will coordinate judging of the best talk and poster. The other members of council were only able to attend virtually this year, so it was decided not to organize a social and plan for such an event next year.

Planning for Botany 2023

The council has spent most of its efforts discussing events to organize for Botany 2023 that will bring together section members and foster the growth of the section. These activities may include a social, a symposium or colloquium, and/or a workshop. We consider that the workshop may serve our goals by providing training in an interactive format. While we are continuing to discuss topics, leading contenders are gene annotation and co-expression network estimation. Both of these would interest people outside of the section, but could be focused on biochemistry (e.g., enzymes and regulators of biosynthetic pathways).

We also hope to use our connections to identify potential sponsors for our section to help us to build funds. We are compiling a list of natural products companies and other possible industry partners and we plan to reach out in the fall.

Botany 365

In addition to events and activities centered around the annual meeting, we have been working to interact with our section throughout the year. Moghe and two other colleagues have founded a biweekly online series, "Phytochemtalks", which we have advertised to the section and posted on Botany 365's calendar. This series typically attracts 20 to 30 participants during the live session and many more view the talks subsequently on youtube. We plan to continue to support this series as an important venue for phytochemists working on a wide range of species to share their research and catalyze new collaborations.

