**S-1083 - Annual Business Meeting 2024**

**Minutes**

**Date:** April 14th, 2025 (Wednesday)

**Time:** 10 am - 11 pm (CST)

**Online meeting Recording:**

<https://mediaspace.msu.edu/media/Re%3A+S1083+annual+meeting/1_nh3bqkoq>

**Chair:** Alejandro Rojas (transitioning leadership to Sara Thomas-Sharma)

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| **10:05 am – 10:15 am** | **Introductions**  **In attendance**: Alejandro Rojas (MSU), Sara Thomas-Sharma (LSU), Sharifa Crandall (PSU), Sean Toporek (SDSU), Sydney Everhart (UCONN), Soledad Benitez (OSU), Shankar Ganapathi (Mississippi State), Bonnie Ownley (UT), Nathan Slaton (Advisor – UARK). |
| **10:15 am – 11:30 am** | **Group update** |
| **11:30 am – 11:45 am** | Opportunities to collaborate |
| **11:45 am – 12:00 pm** | Other business:   * Preparing the 2024 report |

**1. Introductions & Project Background**

* Many members are new or recently returning to the group.
* Focus areas include soilborne pathogens, microbiome dynamics, biocontrol, ecology of soilborne pathogens and effects of management practices on the dynamics of those population, and dispersal mechanisms of pathogens.

**2. Reports & Administrative Reminders**

* Members must submit project reports using a provided template (created by Sydney Everhart) within **15 days** (by **April 30th, 2025**).
* Reports will help complete the [2024 annual NIMSS report](https://nimss.org/projects/19062), necessary for compliance and planning.

**3. Leadership Transitions**

* **Sara Thomas-Sharma** will serve as the new chair.
* **Sharifa Crandall** will take over as secretary and future chair after Sara.

**4. Collaborative Research Opportunities**

* Multiple ideas were shared for cross-institution collaboration:
  + **Soilborne diseases in high tunnels and small farms**.
  + **Biostimulants and biological seed treatments** (need for regulation, evaluation, and standardization).
* Sharifa Crandall volunteered to draft a **Google Doc with survey questions** targeting high tunnel farmers.
  + Key aims:
    - Identify disease pressures and management challenges.
    - Understand farmer usage of biocontrols and biostimulants.
    - Engage diagnostic labs and extension partners.
* **Challenges Discussed:**
  + **IRB processes** vary across institutions; a streamlined or centralized approach is preferred.
  + **Diagnostic clinic data** could be valuable but may vary in standardization and access.
  + **Extension gaps**: Few members have direct extension appointments, limiting farmer engagement logistics.
    1. **Suggestions for Moving Forward – Dr. Slaton advice**
* Revisit and complete the **review paper** that was started previously.
* Continue momentum from this meeting by:
  + Setting clear deadlines.
  + Using shared docs for idea development.
  + Planning for a **mid/late summer follow-up meeting**.
* Consider **in-person meetings** using available funding (Check with your institution since this could vary across universities).

**Action Items**

* **Everyone**: Submit reports by **April 30, 2025**.
* **Sara & Alejandro**: Compile and submit [NIMSS report](https://nimss.org/projects/19062).
* **Sharifa**: Draft survey framework and initiate white paper for collaboration.
* **Everyone**: Explore collaboration possibilities within their institutions and networks (e.g., diagnostics, IRB tips, etc.).
* Follow-up meeting to discuss survey refinement and review paper, could be done as groups or subcommittees.