

August 4, 2020

APS Officers and Board;

Subject: Wilder Award Selection Committee Report

“The Wilder Medal Award was established in 1873 by the American Pomological Society in honor of Marshall Pinkney Wilder, the founder and first president of the Society. The Wilder Medal is conferred on individuals or organizations which have rendered outstanding service to horticulture in the broad area of pomology. Special consideration is given to work relating to the origination and introduction of meritorious varieties of fruit. Significant contributions to the science and practice of pomology other than fruit breeding will also be considered.”

For 2020, the award selection committee consisted of the following individuals who have been appointed to 3-year terms on the committee:

Patrick Byers	University of Missouri Extension	(2018-2020)
Mercy Olmstead	E.&J. Gallo Winery	(2018-2020)
Daniel Ward	Rutgers University	(2019-2021)
Christopher Walsh	University of Maryland	(2019-2021)
Clive Kaiser	Oregon State University	(2020-2022)
Lee Kalcsits	Washington State University	(2020-2022)
Brent Black, chair	Utah State University	since 2020

The committee received and reviewed two nominations for the 2020 award, one for Dr. David Cain of International Fruit Genetics, Bakersfield California; and one for Dr. Robert Martin, recently retired small fruit virologist with the USDA-ARS Horticultural Crops Lab in Corvallis, Oregon.

The committee members were asked to determine whether each nominee was deserving of the award, and then to rank the nominees. The committee was unanimous in their recommendation that both candidates are deserving of the award, but unanimously ranked Dr. Cain’s nomination the highest. As per society by-laws, Dr. Martin’s nomination will be held over for re-consideration in 2021.

As selection committee chair, Brent Black will announce Dr. Cain’s selection at the annual society business meeting and give a brief biographical and career overview. After which, John Clark (Dr. Cain’s nominator) will share examples of the significance of Dr. Cain’s work.

This report is presented to the APS Board and Officers on behalf of the Wilder Award Selection Committee.

Sincerely,



Dr. Brent L. Black  
Chair, Wilder Award Selection Committee