

Tyrone C. Spady, Ph.D.
Biosketch – 2015

Tyrone C. Spady, Ph.D., is the director of legislative and public affairs for the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB). He earned his B.S. in Biological Sciences from the University of Maryland Baltimore County. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in Evolutionary Biology from the University of New Hampshire studying visual sensitivity in East African cichlids, a rapidly evolving assemblage of fishes. Wanting to continue to his work on the evolution and genetic architecture of rapidly diversifying systems, he then turned to the domestic dog because of its more robust genomic resources and did his postdoctoral fellowship at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). While there, Tyrone participated in research focused on the genetic basis of breed defining traits such as dwarfism and coat type, work which resulted in several high profile publications. After his time at NIH, he transitioned into science policy, joining the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB), an umbrella organization of (then) 27 scientific societies advocating in support of investigator-initiated, basic biomedical and life science research. Tyrone began his work at FASEB as a part-time, short-term detailee and was quickly hired and, ultimately, promoted to the position of senior policy analyst. His portfolio included a broad range of the issues related to the NIH. In addition, he served as the managing editor of the *Breakthroughs in Bioscience* and *Horizons in Bioscience* series. He also organized a highly successful two-day workshop for postdoctoral trainees interest in transitioning to independent research positions. From there, Tyrone transitioned into congressional advocacy, becoming one of FASEB's two lobbyists. In this capacity, he was charged with advocating in support of the National Science Foundation, the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Energy Office of Science. Armed with both science policy and legislative experience, Tyrone then accepted his current position at ASPB, a member-based scientific organization of over 4500 plant biology researchers. There, he directs the legislative and educational program portfolio in an effort to increase federal support and public awareness of plant science.