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Editorial

Surfing the Plant Sciences: A focus on Social Media

On page 8 of this issue of EPSO News, in the "Outreach and Public Dialogue Activities" section, we have a focus on Social Media in the plant sciences.

The first article is written by Anne Osterrieder, a Research and Science Communication fellow at Oxford Brookes University, and Alun Salt, from the Annals of Botany blog. They



introduce Twitter, the microblogging site in which messages can be a maximum of only 140 characters. The restricted length of the messages makes it useful for short updates, sharing of useful links, and quickfire messages and exchanges. You may follow EPSO on the username @EPSOEurope, where we are updating the feed with news pertinent to the European Plant Science community. Anne curates a list of plant scientists on twitter.

In the second article Sarah Shailes, a student from the John Innes Centre in the UK, writes about her experiences of blogging during her Ph.D. At EPSO we are starting a blog, where we hope in the coming weeks and months the empty pages will fill up and provide an open forum for plant scientists to share their interests, thoughts and experiences, and be involved in a project allowing interactions across borders. So whether you have seen a recent paper that interests you, would like to write about a broader topic, would like to practice scientific writing in English, or have a comment on the career and experiences of plant scientists, then please consider contributing some writing to the blog. We particularly invite young scientists to become actively involved and contribute to the running of the blog. If you have any ideas or questions please contact us. We will link to a list of bloggers writing about plant science, so if you know a good one, please tell us. We recently added an excellent contribution from John Davison entitled "GM Pollen in Honey: a constituent or an ingredient?" so please view it here: http://epsoblog.wordpress.com/, and join the discussion.

At the <u>FESPB/EPSO conference</u> we plan to host a session on science communication, therefore we encourage EPSO members to suggest short talks on interesting outreach or media activites by themselves or others at their institute. Furthermore, we encourage all scientists to join us in communicating the conference online. We will have various materials to those interested in helping us: a camera, camcorder, and audio recording equipment. Would someone be adventurous enough to attempt a podcast from the conference? At this point all possibilities remain open, so don't hesitiate to contact us if you would like to join us in these activities.

We look forward to helping to improve the online presence of the plant sciences in Europe, and we hope you will join us for the ride, by contributing and interacting with us on different platforms.

Contact: Calum MacKichan.

EPSO Activities

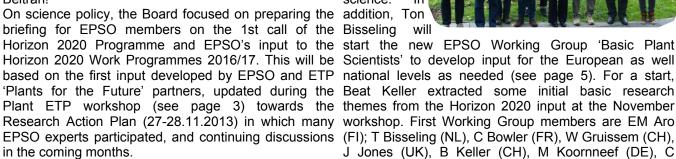
EPSO Board elected new President, discussed EPSO Horizon 2020, new EPSO Early Career Network and conferences Basic Research Working Group - 20 November 2013 and

The EPSO Board met in Brussels, Belgium, 14-15 issues for the March 2013 and elected the new President, José Pío future Beltrán!

On science policy, the Board focused on preparing the addition, Ton briefing for EPSO members on the 1st call of the Bisseling in the coming months.

To further increase support for scientists, the Board is Martin (UK), J Mundy (DK), D Scheel (DE), M Stitt (DE), developing the concept for the EPSO 'Early Career C Tonelli (IT) and D Weigel (DE). Scientist Network' - which started with a lively possible activities such as proposing speakers for 2014 in Dublin. Contact: Karin Metzlaff

brainstorming of science. In



discussion in the Board to ensure emphasis on We will take these activities further with the EPSO independent excellent scientists, the academic age, and representatives at the General Meeting on 22 June



EPSO Board During the Meeting, José Pío Beltrán was unanimously voted to become member of the EPSO Board in 2011. the new EPSO President. Pío is National

Saedler.

His scientific interests include the genetic control of floral transition and flower and fruit development in crop plants such as tomato and various legumes. He has published over one hundred scientific papers and holds three patents based on tools to make hybrids, to develop parthenocarpic fruits and to increase the

EPSO Welcomes José Pío Beltrán as New President number of flowers per plant. Pío has been a Member of the Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre of the European Union since 2003. He was the President of the FESPB from 2008 to 2010 and was elected as

Professor of Research at the Pío believes that EPSO should consolidate as the voice Research of plants in the European Union and is convinced of the Council (CSIC), at the Institute central role that plants will play in a European for Plant Cell and Molecular Knowledge Based Bio Economy. He is committed to Biology in Valencia, Spain. He continue EPSO's strong role as one of the three worked at the Montana State stakeholders in the 'Plants for the Future' European University in Bozeman with Prof. Technology Platform - with industry and farmers. The Gary A. Strobel on host-parasite application of knowledge and innovation in products and interactions and at the Max-Planck-Institute for Plant services is a consequence of scientific excellence, thus Breeding on the molecular genetic analysis of flower he would like to see more applications from plant development with Dr. Hans Sommer and Prof. Heinz scientists to the European Research Council calls. We should actively develop plans to favour plant research and innovation, paying special attention to the education of future European plant scientists, especially at the level of master and PhD degrees. Pío will devote special attention to the participation of young plant scientists in the activities undertaken by EPSO.

Contact: José Pío Beltrán

Johnathan Napier becomes interim board member

In December EPSO board member Maurice Moloney left characterisation of the omega-3 long chain PUFA his post as director of Rothamsted Research and moved biosynthetic pathway and its heterologous to a new post at CSIRO in Australia. Following his reconstitution in transgenic plants. departure EPSO warmly welcomes Johnathan Napier as research group relocated to Rothamsted a new representative and interim board member. Research in 2003 where he is currently Johnathan obtained his BSc from the University of Institute Assistant Director and Programme Nottingham, followed by a PhD in plant biochemistry Leader. Johnathan is also an Affiliated from King's College, London. He carried out post- Lecturer at the University of Cambridge and doctoral research in the Department of Plant Sciences, Visiting Professor at the University of Nottingham. University of Cambridge, then taking up a position at Contact: Johnathan Napier Long Ashton Research Station in Bristol.

Maurice Moloney moves to CSIRO in Australia; His research on the biosynthesis of polyunsaturated fatty acids has delivered some of the key advances in years, including the the last 15

Dublin Plant Biology 2014 Conferences



Over 300 abstracts were submitted to select oral presentations for the FESPB/EPSO conference in Dublin, 22-26 June 2014 'Learning from the past, preparing for the future', led by the Irish society and EPSO members.

Be a part of this exciting event and discuss your research with colleagues from around the globe!

Themes and invited speakers include: Plant Biology for Bioenergy - Gail Taylor; Plant Biology for Food Security - Steve Long & Bill Davies; Land Use and Greenhouse Gases - Axel Don; Plant-pathogen interactions - John Mundy & Jacek Hennig; Plant Metabolism - Christine Alisdair Fernie; Plant Evolution Phylogenetics - David Beerling & Isabel Sanmartin; Natural Variation in Plants - Carlos Alonso Blanco: Below Ground Processes - Hans Lambers & Sabrina are invited - a goal for you? Sabatini; Symbiotic Interactions - Giles Olroyd & Marc-Andre Selosse; Plant Development; Organelle Biology -Jim Whelan & Paul Jarvis; Abiotic Stress Responses -Javier Paz Ares & Graham Noctor; Plant Invasions and their Impacts - Phil Hulme & Heinz Muller-Scharer;

Plants and Environment - Ülo Niinemets & Jaume Flexas; Epigenetics - Claudia Köhler, Frank Johannes & Justin Goodrich; Photosynthesis and Respiration - Eva Marie Aro & Agu Laisk; Systems Biology - Dirk Inze; Phenomics - Uli Schurr; Science Policy; Synthetic Biology - Birger Lindberg Moller. The programme is at http://europlantbiology.org/preliminary-programme/ .

Register at http://europlantbiology.org/registration/ - the early-brid deadline is 1 March 2014. All scientists and students working at an EPSO member institute and EPSO Personal Members benefit from the reduced registration fee for EPSO members.

Submit your poster abstract europlantbiology.org/call-for-papers/ - deadline is 21 March 2014.

EPSO received over 50 applications for the EPSO Conference support grants. We will finalise the selection and award process by end February.

The first completely joint EPSO/FESPB conference will be held in Prague, 27.6.-1.7.2016. EPSO, as well as FESPB, members will be invited to contribute from the start to make this a big success.

Until May 2014, bids to hold the 2018 joint conference

Contacts: Karin Metzlaff (both), Bruce Osborne (2014) and Jana Albrechtova (2016)

ERA-CAPS reveals results of First Call



Inspired by the call theme: "Expanding the European Research Area in Molecular Plant Sciences", an overwhelming 500 research teams from 21 European mitted proposals to the First ERA-CAPS call which closed on 15

step evaluation process, the 14 best ranked proposals involving 72 research teams from 11 different countries required for proposals involving research teams from were funded. A total of 21 M EUR is hence invested in plant science research at the transnational level over the coming three years. The list of funded projects and investigators is available on the page: http:// www.eracaps.org/joint-calls/era-caps-funded-projects

Second ERA-CAPS call launched

In view of the success of this first call, the ERA-CAPS network launched a Second call for proposals that opened on 14 January 2014. The call will fund high quality collaborative transnational research projects in fundamental molecular plant science. Research themes include (but are not limited to): Food Security; Non-Food Crops; Adaptation to a Changing Climate; and Biotic/ Abiotic Stress. The expected duration of projects will be **Contacts:** three years while eligible consortia must comprise re- CAPS.CallSecretariat@dfg.de; search groups from a minimum of 3 different countries. Wiley; Communication: Freia Van Hee

In view of the high number of proposals received to the First call, the Second call is now operated following a two-step proposal stage to alleviate the workload for the investigators and the scientific evaluators. The submission period for step 1 (pre-proposals) ends on 14 March 2014, 12:00 CET.

and non-European countries sub- Moreover, the ERA-CAPS network is pleased to welcome new partners to the Second call: FWO (Belgium, Flanders); MTA-OTKA (Hungary); MIUR (Italy); and February 2013. Following a two SNSF (Switzerland) while NSF (USA) is now a full call partner, which entails that no parallel submission will be the US. In total, 19 ERA-CAPS partner or associated organisations from 18 countries participate: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Serbia, Switzerland, UK, USA.

> A novelty is also the launch of a partner search tool that allows potential applicants to view each other's profiles and get in contact with peers to build a consortium. The list of profiles can be viewed here or you can upload your own profile.

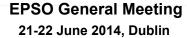
> All useful/required call documents can be accessed through this link.

> Call Secretariat: ERA-Coordination: Paul



















EPSO Representatives contact Karin Metzlaff to confirm participa-

Consult homepage or contact Karin Metzlaff for more information Contact Calum MacKichan for more information



EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents over 220 leading academic research institutes, universities and departments from 30 countries. Together they represent over 28 000 plant researchers and staff. In addition, EPSO has over 3000 personal members.

The mission of EPSO is to promote plant science and plant scientists, to represent plant scientists in discussions about future plant science programme priorities across Europe, to provide an authoritative source of independent information on plant science, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet 21st Century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science.

To achieve its mission, EPSO advises policy and decision makers at national and European level on science policy, as an independent body and as member of the Initiative for Science in Europe (ISE) and the European Technology Platform 'Plants for the Future' (Plant ETP). EPSO supports plant scientists via the EPSO conferences including support grants for junior and eastern scientists, workshops, tutorships and as information broker via EPSO News and its website.

EPSO's strategy is defined by the representatives at the General Meeting and further elaborated by the elected Board. Current Board members are José Pío Beltrán (President - ES); Eckhard George (DE) (Vicepresident); Eva-Mari Aro (FI), Ton Bisseling (NL), Aldo Ceriotti (IT), Svend Christensen (DK), Johnathan Napier (UK), Bruce Osborne (IE), Christophe Plomion (FR) and Tomas Vanek (CZ).

EPSO's strategy is implemented by its members and staff. Contact us to join our activities:

- Science policy (EPSO, ISE, Plant ETP), members, observers, association relations: Karin Metzlaff
- EU projects, Accounts: Karim Trabelsi
- Newsletter, website, communications: Calum MacKichan
- Meetings, office, database and personal membership: Katerina Karkala

Since its creation in 2000, the organisation has become a strong advocate of plant research in Europe and an important voice articulating the contributions and needs of plant scientists at national and European levels and beyond.





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As the information provided in EPSO News can only be a selection, EPSO is happy to receive further and updated information for distribution.

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