



Women in Plant Biology Committee American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee meeting March 5th, 2025

9:00 am Central Time US,

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://unl.zoom.us/j/95613173654?pwd=SaaTUR89lyg9O7WFc40TxDvN0X0mq4.1&from=addon>

Meeting ID: 956 1317 3654

Passcode: 504425

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Present: Lesley Murphy, Rosana Melo, Azam Noori, Chin-Mei Lee, Rebecca Roston, Sylvia Lee

Absent: Andrew Foudree, Balpreet Dhatt, Crispin Taylor

(GUESTS): [RECORD NAMES]

Minutes

1. Welcome: 9:02 central
2. Approval of minutes of the previous meeting (by email): unanimous by responders
3. Some random time assigned to current events (< 5 minutes)
 - i) Deep breath and we continue. Thanks to Azam Noori for her group awareness.
4. Plant Bio 2025 – Concurrent session update (Lesley & Balpreet, ~10 minutes, 1 decision)
 - i) Letter sent to Ian, reply was typical of experiences with him. It stated that he wanted to support diversity. The most clear response was that the goals of the concurrent were less clear than desirable. It seems likely that there is a higher burden of clarity for diversity-based symposia.
 - ii) Lesley's update: All 5 of our speakers are in, and all registered attendees can attend the sessions. At Bayer, 200 students will have access to all virtual content because of our agreeing online to have our meeting apart from the conference venue.
 - iii) Do we want to propose a concurrent again next year or go back to workshops?
Temporary planning decision: One workshop (and networking workshop).
5. Pioneer Awards (~5 minutes, updates from Rosana, Lesley, Rebecca)
 - i) Rosana – [Name redacted] (\$200 so far)
 - ii) Lesley – Rita Varagona was preferred. WiPB approves this decision.

- iii) Rebecca – Finishing awards requires posting a biography online. We can provide a starting place.
Please note the separate instructions sent with these notes. **This only applies to finished awardees**

Emailer	Nominee's Full Name	Status
Lesley	<u>Mechthild Tegeder (WSU)</u>	Finished
Andrew	Prof Alessandra Devoto	Finished
Rebecca	Janet P. Slovin	Finished
Chin-Mei	<u>Barbara Mazur</u>	Finished
Azam	Carolyn Rasmussen	Finished

6. Ruby and Balpreet, writing update (~10 minutes)
- i) Writing with Plantae on two topics
(Balpreet?) Empowering Women Scientists: Success Stories from Developing Countries
(Ruby) The Role of Policy in Shaping Opportunities for Women in Science: A Historical and Contemporary Perspective

Ruby met with Plantae fellows and is writing on the role of policy on shaping opportunities for Women in Science. Collaborating with someone from Plantae.

Jayson and Indrani, help. Partner is supportive.

7. Women's History Month planning (March) (~20 minutes, decision & action required)
- i) Suggestion from last meeting: highlight women travel awardees or pioneer awardees. (Celebrating women)
 - i. Could be a short series of social media posts with photo, research summary, quote from them on advice, link to them (#WomenInScience, #WomensHistoryMonth)
 - 1. The travel awardees from a previous time, what did that meeting mean for you?
 - a. Do we have a list of previous travel awardees? Sylvia knows! And can cross check with current registration.
 - b. Desire: Actual attendance at an in-person meeting.
 - c. Desire: 20 folks who Sylvia considers possible. :D
 - ii. "Then and Now" post, pair historical photos of pioneering women with current related research done by women.
 - ii) Virtual event, "Ask me Anything" style. Women scientists answer questions about being women and scientists. (Supporting women)
 - i. Could suggest topics as options, keeping the "ask anything" theme.

iii) Virtual panel event, “parenting, partner careers, interviews” (Supporting women)

i. Topic resonance? Could do some kind of group.

ASPB platform or not?

RR notes previously attended one with >600 folks. (Science session, may not be standard.) RR can ask if Plantae has similar attendee levels. Could compile some Plantae topics

AN notes that other events tend to be smaller. There are ways to attract larger audiences. PUIs and AWIS can advertise. Can WiPB have a LinkedIn account?

Decision: 2025, a media option. RR will look into virtual panel for later.

Action items: Emailing the 20 people Azam & Chin-Mei:

RR will supply a template. Supply respondents to RR.

RR will post Twitter/X and request ASPB to amplify on LinkedIn.

Deadlines/timeline:

Sylvia can probably do by the end of the week (done).

RR will send template by the same (done).

Azam and Chin-Mei: 10 emails sent by 3/14 with deadline for 3/21.

RR will post on Twitter/X. (And ASPB will also re-amplify).

8. Plant Biology of the future, childcare options (remaining time, may be tabled to next meeting).

- i) We voted to continue to provide at-site childcare based on the preferences of attendees and non-attendees of the 2024 meeting.
- ii) Childcare costs are increasing, and the only solution is raising funds to help support childcare at the annual meetings.
- iii) We proposed to help raise funds to continue offering high-quality childcare at the meeting. Progress on this has been slow because of the number of folks involved.

From Crispin: “We can [probably] create a single temporarily restricted fund that could be used either in rotation or as a collective holding place for folk that want to donate in support of childcare, travel awards, and SURF awards within a given year. In addition, donors who specifically want to support childcare and/or who want to have their donation permanently restricted (so we only use earnings on it) can donate to the existing Romanoff fund, which is used exclusively to support childcare. Finally, LSLC could petition the ASPB boards to direct some of the unrestricted funding that we have received (e.g., from donations in support of Pioneers) to provide additional support for childcare in MKE this year.”

9. Any other Business? **Please feel free to add any suggested changes here to the agenda document!**

10. Adjournment [10:05]