



2020 Election

American Society of Plant Biologists

- **Election Procedures:** On the electronic ballot card, mark your choice of candidates for elected office.

Enid MacRobbie Corresponding Membership Award

Asaph Aharoni

Weizmann Institute of Science

Asaph Aharoni is a Full Professor in the Department of Plant and Environmental Sciences at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel. Asaph has led a research group in this institution since 2005, during which time he has made substantial contributions to our understanding of how plants control the biosynthesis of secondary metabolites in time and space and how they employ and translate a vibrant chemical language to harmonize their own growth and reproduction with complex environmental parameters. Asaph has demonstrated outstanding multidisciplinary expertise that combines analytical chemistry, biochemistry, molecular genetics, computational biology and microbiology.

This amalgamation of knowhow in a single laboratory represents a major driving force leading to key discoveries and technological breakthroughs in the field of metabolic biology. The more prominent scientific accomplishments of Asaph's group include: (i) identifying and characterizing the first riboswitch element in plants, (ii) deciphering the mechanisms of cuticular layer assembly and epicuticular wax formation, (iii) elucidating the biosynthetic pathways and transcriptional control of Solanum alkaloids, and (iv) resolving the entire reaction steps of the cholesterol biosynthetic pathway in plants and its evolution from the phyto-sterol pathway. Asaph has also made significant contribution to advancing metabolomics methodologies through increasing the resolution and comprehensiveness of metabolic analysis and the development of computational tools for identifying metabolic gene clusters in plant genomes. Asaph also performs an impressive service to the international research community, carrying out a significant amount of editorial board work and manuscript reviewing.