



2021 Election

American Society of Plant Biologists

Elected Member, Board of Directors

(to serve 2021–2025)

Elena Monte

Elena Monte is a CSIC (Spanish National Research Council) researcher at the CRAG-Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics in Barcelona (Spain). She obtained her B.Sc. in Biology and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB). She conducted postdoctoral research at the Plant Gene Expression Center (PGEC)-USDA/U.C. Berkeley, and was a Ramon y Cajal fellow at the Institute of Molecular Biology of Barcelona (IBMB-CSIC).

Elena's research interests focus on how the light environment shapes the growth and responses of photosynthetic organisms, exploring the mechanistic interplay of light signaling with endogenous and ambient cues. Her objectives address how plants adapt to changing

environments. Using *Arabidopsis*, rice, and the microalgae *Chlamydomonas*, research in Elena's lab explores the fundamental cellular processes that lead from photoreception to photoprotection and adaptation, with the objective of contributing to building resilient crops.

For a better future for our planet and its inhabitants, Elena recognizes the interdependence of all living organisms and systems, and the leading role that the plant science community represented by ASPB needs to play. She supports the objectives outlined by the decadal vision 'Reimagining the Potential of Plants for a Healthy and Sustainable Future'; and, as we are starting the 2020 decade, Elena would like to inspire and emphasize the importance of supporting women and diversity in plant science, as well as improving engagement with minority communities. She envisions a future where collaborative and transdisciplinary science is more widely encouraged and incentivized, with direct support for early career scientists. She also has an interest in advancing the dialogue between arts and plant science by promoting collaborative projects to foster public engagement.