



2021 Election

American Society of Plant Biologists

Elected Member, Board of Directors

(to serve 2021–2025)

Paula Casati

Paula Casati is Professor of Biochemistry at the University of Rosario in Argentina. She is also a Principal Researcher of the Centro de Estudios Fotosintéticos y Bioquímicos (CEFOBI) also in Argentina. Paula obtained her BSc in Biotechnology and then her PhD in Plant Biochemistry from the University of Rosario. She then conducted postdoctoral research at the Biology Department at Stanford University. Her research interests focus on understanding how plants respond to ultraviolet exposure. Paula's lab has investigated how chromatin structure, the cell cycle, and growth regulators modulate different responses in plants exposed to UV-B – in particular, plant growth, production of protective metabolites, and DNA damage and repair. In addition, Paula has had a long standing interest in plant specialized metabolism, particularly flavonoids. Her work has focused on biochemical and genetic approaches to characterize the fla-

vonoid pathway in maize and Arabidopsis. Her lab has also pursued questions on the link between flavonoid production and salicylic acid metabolism, in particular during microbial pathogen attacks.

Paula has been acknowledged with a number of awards, including the Angel Cabrera award in Biological Sciences, given by the Argentinian Academy of Sciences (2011); the Bernardo Houssay award in Biological Sciences, given by the Argentinian Ministry of Sciences and Technology (2016); and the L'Oreal-UNESCO “Women in Science” award (Argentina 2017).

Paula has been a member of ASPB intermittently since she started her lab in Argentina, and she looks forward to the opportunity to more actively participate in the society. She appreciates all the opportunities the ASPB has created with and for minorities, not only from the US, but also from different parts of the World. Paula considers the ASPB to be a leading worldwide organization for the plant science community, one that promotes science-based policy and public communication. She also thinks that the publication of the society's journals has an important impact in its overall contribution to the plant science community.