



2022 Election

American Society of Plant Biologists

Secretary-elect

(to serve as secretary 2023–2025)

Ian Wallace

I am an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Nevada, Reno. I received my BS and PhD degrees in Biochemistry from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where I worked under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Roberts and investigated the structure, function, and regulation of plant Major Intrinsic Proteins (MIPs). During this time, I became fascinated with plant cell wall polysaccharide biosynthesis and pursued a postdoctoral experience in Dr. Chris Somerville's lab at the University of California, Berkeley. My lab at the University of Nevada, Reno continues to be broadly interested in cell wall polysaccharide biosynthetic enzymes and understanding how these proteins are regulated at the post-translational level, particularly under abiotic stress conditions. Specifically, my lab seeks to understand the post-translational regulation of the Cellulose Synthase Complex, identify new glycosyltransferases that participate in cell wall pectic polysaccharide synthesis, and identify rationally designed inhibitors of cell wall glycosyltransferases. My group makes use of a diverse array of approaches, including advanced proteomics, chemical biology, and traditional biochemistry, to address these questions.

I attended my first ASPB Plant Biology meeting in 2003 as an undergraduate student supported by an ASPB Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship. This experience foundationally impacted my decision to pursue graduate education, plant science, and ultimately leading an independent research group. That first meeting (and many subsequent Plant Biology meetings) taught me a lot about what I believe is important and unique about these meetings. I believe that ASPB meetings should allow attendees to be exposed to incredible breadth and depth across a wide variety of topics in plant science. As a young scientist, I found it incredibly impactful to meet my scientific heroes at Plant Biology meetings and realize that they were interested in and supportive of what I was doing. And lastly, I felt an incredible sense of community that is quite rare to experience at such a large conference. As ASPB secretary, I would strive to uphold these goals by providing high quality major and focused symposia, increasing opportunities for networking and professional development among junior and established scientists, and maintaining a diverse and inclusive environment that is open to all plant biologists. ASPB and the scientists that make it have given me an incredible amount of support during my career, and it would be an honor to serve in this position to give back to this community.