

2023 ELECTION

American Society of Plant Biologists

Elected Member, Board of Directors

(to serve 2023–2026)

JUDY BRUSSLAN

Judy Brusslan is a plant biologist at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). She earned her PhD at the University of Chicago with Robert Haselkorn studying DCMU resistance in the *psbA* gene family in cyanobacteria and then began working with Arabidopsis as an American Cancer Society-funded postdoc in Elaine Tobin's phytochrome/circadian rhythm laboratory at UCLA.

Judy's research aims to understand the molecular connection between leaf senescence and the transition from the vegetative to reproductive state. How does a leaf at the base of the rosette know it is time to senesce? Her lab has identified candidate regulatory genes and is producing mutants and overexpression lines to test function. Judy serves as an *ad hoc* reviewer for multiple journals and an Associate Editor for *Frontiers in Plant Science*.

CSULB is a minority-serving, primarily undergraduate institution with a focus on teaching and advancing diversity in research careers. Currently, 12 of Judy's research students are in PhD programs, and Southern California two-year colleges have many teachers trained in Judy's lab. Judy is the Principal Investigator of the NIH-

funded Bridges to the Doctorate Research Training Program at CSULB. This program provides financial and career skills support to underserved/underrepresented master's degree students who aim to earn a PhD. Judy has worked extensively with underserved/underrepresented populations at CSULB, and she is keenly aware that nascent researchers come from different backgrounds with their own perspectives. Speaking with her students and hearing their personal stories has taught her that diverse students have diverse needs, and that kindness and accountability work together to foster a supportive and challenging classroom and research environment.

Judy's Molecular Plant Physiology course is primary literature-based and brings new plant biology research to undergraduate students each spring semester. Students become genuinely engaged when they can understand current exciting research.

ASPB has been a part of Judy's career since she was a postdoc and attended an ASPB meeting in Savannah, GA. She has served as Chair of the Women in Plant Biology Committee and is now the Western Section representative to the Membership Committee and Council. Judy believes the regional Section meetings are vital to ASPB because they provide affordable means to increase inclusivity in plant biology.