

# Secretary-Elect

## Candidate Statement



### Georg Jander

I am a professor at the Boyce Thompson Institute, with an adjunct appointment in the School of Integrative Plant Sciences at Cornell University. Prior to starting my current position in 2002, I received a PhD in Microbiology from Harvard Medical School, conducted Arabidopsis research as an NIH postdoctoral fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital, and worked for four years as a plant scientist at the Monsanto Company.

Current research projects in my lab at the Boyce Thompson Institute involve investigation of cardiac glycoside biosynthesis in wallflowers, previously unknown maize metabolites that provide resistance against pests and pathogens, and aphid salivary proteins that suppress plant defenses. I am a strong advocate for promoting plant research by early-career scientists. For the past 20 years, I have had NSF and USDA funding for a plant-focused summer internship program at the Boyce Thompson Institute and Cornell University. We focus on providing research opportunities to undergraduate students from small colleges, as well as groups that are traditionally underrepresented in plant science. My own lab has hosted more than one hundred undergraduate and high school researchers, thirty of whom became co-authors on our research publications.

**In this role, I would work to develop a high-quality scientific program for the Annual Meeting, foster diversity among the attendees, and increase the participation of undergraduates and other early-career researchers.**

ASPB membership is a central component of my career as a plant scientist. My past service to the society includes serving a monitoring editor for *Plant Physiology*, as well as a co-editor for a plant-herbivore interactions focus issue of the journal. I served three-year terms on the Publications Committee and the Program Committee for the Annual Meeting. Currently, I am a member of the ASPB Science Policy Committee and recently promoted ASPB policy interests by presenting in a Congressional Lunch-and-Learn series in Washington. In April, I was co-organizer of the ASPB Northeast Section annual meeting at Cornell University.

Among the many membership benefits, I particularly enjoy the ASPB Annual Meeting, with its extensive opportunities for scientific interactions. If I am chosen to continue my service to ASPB as Secretary, I will serve on the Program Committee for four years, two of them as chair. In this role, I would work to develop a high-quality scientific program for the Annual Meeting, foster diversity among the attendees, and increase the participation of undergraduates and other early-career researchers. Additionally, I would contribute to ASPB as a member of the Board of Directors, acting as scribe for regular meetings and actively participating in the development of new strategies to promote the success of ASPB and the wider plant research community.