



# 2018 Election

## American Society of Plant Biologists

**Election Procedures:** On the electronic ballot card, mark your choice of candidates for elected office.

### Secretary-elect

(to serve as secretary 2019–2021)

#### Wayne Parrott

Wayne Parrott is a professor in the Department of Crop and Soil Sciences at the University of Georgia. He received his B.S. from the University of Kentucky, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He did postdoctoral research at the University of Kentucky, which coincided with the early days of crop biotechnology, when the foundations for crop tissue culture and genetic engineering were being laid out. He joined the faculty at the University of Georgia in 1988. Since then he has been conducting research on the development, use, and safety of transgenic crop plants. A second line of research centers on elucidating the genetic basis of insect resistance in soybean. As such, his interests bridge basic and applied research in plant genetics and genomics. Wayne is actively engaged in training graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, and he teaches graduate-level courses in plant genetics. He also taught an undergraduate course in agroecology and sustainable agriculture for 15 years.

Wayne is a past director of the University of Georgia's Plant Center, and served as a program officer for the NSF's Plant Genome Research Program in Washington, DC. He served as elected

chair of the biotechnology section of the Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and of the plant section of the Society for In Vitro Biology (SIVB). He is a fellow of both of these societies, as well as of AAAS. Wayne has traveled extensively internationally, and he has advised legislators and regulators in various countries on the requisites for a functional regulatory system that ensures the safety of GM products. He has also served on taskforces that have developed best-practices guides for GMO food and feed safety evaluation, and he has published a guide for environmental risk assessment of GMOs.

Given that a key function of the Secretary is to chair the ASPB program committee that plans and organizes the national meeting, Wayne brings relevant experience to the table. He has helped organize the biotechnology and molecular genetics section meeting for the CSSA, and he has been chair of both annual and world congress meetings of the SIVB. Most recently he helped organize the 10th World Soybean Research Congress. His philosophy is that great meetings are those that stimulate creativity with exciting science, allow the exchange of ideas among people from different disciplines, and provide professional growth and career development opportunities for their participants.