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Support for EarlyCareer Researchers



p. 7 **Plant Biology 2018** July 14–18 Montreal, Quebec



Gloria Coruzzi
Appointed
Distinguished
Counselor at New
York Botanical
Garden

ASPB News



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS

President's Letter

A Challenging Time to Assume the Presidency

BY HARRY KLEE University of Florida

t seems like only yesterday that the members of ASPB entrusted me with the presidency. My year as president-elect has flown by. When I was elected, I wondered, what exactly does a president-elect actually do, and is it necessary? A year later, I am pleased to say that the system devised by my predecessors is amazingly effective. It took literally a year for me to understand the breadth of the Society, the roles of its

many committees, the budget process, and the amazing job done by the permanent staff. My year started off when I was thrust into the Program Committee before I was

My year started off when I was thrust into the Program Committee before I was even officially the president-elect. I am still in awe at how hard this committee, led by Alice Harmon (and now Andrew Bent), works with the staff to organize virtually every aspect of the annual meeting. That meeting is our showcase, and a



Harry Klee

tremendous amount of work goes into every little detail.

No sooner is the annual meeting planning finished than the president-elect is tasked with appointing members to sit on all of the governance and award committees. But of course, to do that, you must understand what all of these committees actually do. It was a wonderful experience to meet with all of the chairs of the governance

committees in Honolulu, hear their perspectives, and see what each committee is doing to fulfill the Society's mission.

This is a very special Society, in large part because of the voluntary contribution of time by its members. Committee members and chairs do a tremendous amount of work because they believe they can make a difference. To appreciate just

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A Look Back at the First Season of the TapRoot Podcast

uly 2017 marked the debut of a new podcast that digs beneath the surface to describe how plant science publications are created. The TapRoot Podcast was developed and is hosted by Elizabeth (Liz) Haswell (Washington University in St. Louis) and Ivan Baxter (USDA-ARS Plant Genetics Research Unit, Donald Danforth Plant Sciences Center, and editor-in-chief, Plant Direct [plantdirectjournal.org]). Each episode focuses on a primary research article from the plant biology literature. Ivan and Liz discuss both the science and the story behind the science with their guest, an author of the article.

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ASPB Council

President Harry Klee Immediate Past President, chair Sally Mackenzie President-elect Rob Last

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Environmental and Ecological Andy VanLoocke **Plant Physiology Section**

> Council members highlighted in blue also serve on the Board of Directors.

ASPB Staff

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Copy deadline is the 5th day of the preceding even-numbered month (for example, April 5 for May/June publication).

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Nominations Opening Soon for 2018 ASPB Awards!

The Time to Recognize and Honor Excellence Among Our Fellow Plant **Scientists Is Approaching**

he 2018 Call for Award Nominations will open to ASPB members on January 3, 2018. Nominations will be due by Wednesday, February 14. ASPB encourages you to participate in the 2018 awards program by nominating highly deserving

individuals. For more information regarding past winners and the streamlined nomination process, please visit https://awards. aspb.org.

Awards to be given in 2018 include the Charles Albert Shull Award, the Charles F. Kettering

Award, the Charles Reid Barnes Life Membership Award, the Corresponding Membership Award, the Dennis R. Hoagland Award, the Early Career Award, the Excellence in Education Award, the Fellow of ASPB Award, the Lawrence Bogorad

Award for Excellence in Plant Biology Research, the Robert Rabson Award, and the Stephen Hales Prize. ■

PRESIDENT'S LETTER continued from page 1

how special ASPB is, you should know that of the dozens of people I recruited for committee service this past summer, not a single person turned me down. There is a special sense of community among our members, and I am very grateful for that.

And now my real work begins. I inherited a very challenging time to assume the presidency. You will certainly hear more details in upcoming letters. But let me touch on a few of the focal points for me in the next year.

Membership

Membership has been declining by, on average, 5% per year over the past several years. This is very disturbing, and I want to understand why this is occurring and

what we can do to halt the trend. We are a very diverse Society, covering public and private educational institutions of all sizes, government, nonprofits, and industry. Fully one-third of our membership now resides outside the United States. We are not just an "American" society. We need to understand what drives people to join ASPB, what they value in membership, and why, all too often, they choose not to renew their membership. We must understand what you, as members, value in our Society and deliver the best possible product to you.

Budgets

Historically, membership fees and publications have supported all of the good work we do. Journal subscription revenues help keep the lights on. But the journal

landscape is changing rapidly. There is increased competition from for-profit journals for the best submissions. And the increasing emphasis on open access puts us ever closer to a tipping point after which libraries will no longer pay for subscriptions. All of this means that we need to find new sources of revenue to continue to deliver all of the products you expect from us. Those new revenues, in turn, incur start-up costs that strain the bottom line. How we reinvent our Society is intimately tied to membership, and the products you expect from us and the choices we make today will impact the Society for many years.

Public Affairs

We spend much effort representing the plant biology community nationally and globally. It has become somewhat of a cliché to say that these are trying times for science. But I believe that having a strong voice for plant science is one of our most important duties. We have a vigorous and not inexpensive effort in place to educate our legislators, their aides, and you about issues regarding science policy. ASPB has been and must continue to be a leader in advocacy not just for plant biology, but for all science.

Over the next year, you will hear more from me on all of these topics. Please be an active participant in ASPB and in all aspects of public policy. Be a part of the solution to the challenges we face together.



Through this podcast, the hosts expose early-career scientists to the real world of scientific publications. Behind every article are other narratives that aren't represented in the final manuscript—stories of perseverance, serendipity, humor, integrity, and resilience. They are the experiences of individuals and teams, of following your instincts or living your principles, of inspiration and discouragement.

In the first season, Ivan and Liz chatted with six scientists.



Taproot Podcast was developed and is hosted by Ivan Baxter and Liz Haswell.



Episode 1

Extreme Open Science and the Meaning of Scientific Impact, with Sophien Kamoun

In Episode 1, the hosts talk with Sophien Kamoun, senior scientist at the Sainsbury Laboratory in Norwich, U.K. They discuss a collaborative article (Islam et al., 2016) that embodies the concepts of open science. It addressed the source and charac-

terization of a newly discovered Bangladeshi wheat blast and showed that RNA from the infected leaves from Bangladesh aligns with the genome of a Brazilian wheat blast strain. The authors concluded that the Bangladeshi isolate of wheat blast is phylogenetically related to the Brazilian wheat blast, rather than an unknown or new lineage.

Listen to this episode at https://tinyurl.com/yaqs6gqv to hear Sophien, Ivan, and Liz discuss the science in this article, how the project started, and how it developed into a peer-reviewed publication. Also discussed is the importance of redefining what is meant by *scientific impact* and new ways to do science in the plant pathology community and beyond.



Episode 2

Normalizing Nomenclature and the Idealism of Youth, with Carolyn Lawrence-Dill

In Episode 2, Ivan and Liz talk with Carolyn Lawrence-Dill, associate professor of genetics, development, and cell biology and of agronomy at Iowa State University. They discuss an article (Lawrence et al., 2004) from Carolyn's grad school days that has a great back

story about how to bring a large number of people together to agree on a common system of nomenclature. It turns out that this is both important and challenging to do, and the conversation touches on egos, politics, and grad student projects.

Listen to this episode at https://tinyurl.com/ybzyvb8v to hear Carolyn explain why she felt compelled to take on this "kind of crazy" project and how she navigated conventions, egos, and standard protocol to make the changes in her field that she knew needed to be made.



Episode 3

Academia, Industry, and Pivoting on Projects, with Luca Comai

In Episode 3, Ivan and Liz talk with Luca Comai, professor of plant biology at the Genome Center at University of California, Davis. They discuss an article (Koenig et al., 1992) published as part of Luca's transition from industry to academia that he feels illustrates a mistake he made in choosing a research direction. They talk

about the power and the peril of striking out in new research directions, and Luca gives advice on grant writing.

Listen to this episode at https://tinyurl.com/yau4284l to hear Luca, who won the 2017 ASPB Innovation Prize for Agricultural Technology, share stories and wisdom drawn from over 30 years of experience in both industry and academia.



Episode 4

Embracing Uncertainty in Science and Science Careers, with Siobhan **Bravbrook**

In Episode 4, Ivan and Liz talk with Siobhan Braybrook, a newly appointed assistant professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology at University of California, Los Angeles. They discuss two articles (Braybrook and Peaucelle, 2013; Peaucelle et al., 2011) as a launching point

for a conversation about how to handle the gray areas of science such as doubt and impact and how they affect scientific careers.

Listen to this episode at https://tinyurl.com/ydhhtq9x to hear Siobhan describe her recipes for balancing research career steps with real-world concerns, as well as her famous Kanban boards.



Episode 5

Finding GLOry: The Power of New Technology to Spur Innovation, with José Dinneny

In Episode 5, Ivan and Liz talk with José Dinneny, a staff member at the Carnegie Institute for Sciences in Palo Alto, California. They discuss an article (Rellán-Álvarez et al., 2015) that describes a novel system for imaging root growth that balances the need for visual-

ization with the need for more physiological growth conditions.

Listen to this episode at https://tinyurl.com/y7kpolmo to hear what inspired José to tackle the challenge of developing the GLO-Root system, how methodical trial and error as well as serendipity led to the final technology, and how this system is at the forefront of a range of new technologies for studying roots.



Episode 6

Population Genetics, Authorship Lists, and Work-Life Balance, with **Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra**

In this episode, Ivan and Liz talk with Jeffrey Ross-Ibarra, professor in the Department of Plant Sciences and faculty member of the Center for Population Biology and the Genome Center at University of California, Davis. They discuss an article (Hufford et al., 2012) from

Jeff's lab that illustrates the pros and cons of planning authorship lists in advance.

Listen to this episode at https://tinyurl.com/y9mkgq3f to hear honest discussion about publishing in high-impact journals as a pretenure professor and how Jeff's lab members made deliberate trade-offs in work-life balance to get experiments done quickly.

Stay Tuned for a New Season

The enthusiasm with which this podcast has been received has convinced Ivan and Liz to plan another season. "We had six great conversations and are really looking forward to more next season," said Ivan. The second season of the TapRoot Podcast is due out in early 2018.

Subscribe and download the TapRoot Podcast from iTunes (https:// itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/the-Taproot/id1258273678) or Stitcher (https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/american-society-of-plant-biologists/the-TapRoot). ■

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To join Plantae, visit http://community.plantae.org and register.

Support for Early-Career Researchers

SPB has been working hard on several new and continuing initiatives to support early-career researchers. The following are some of these initiatives:

Conviron Scholars

The Conviron Scholars program (https://tinyurl.com/y98s-8gll), generously supported by Conviron (www.conviron.com), provides competitively selected students with a set of experiential training modules to serve as a foundation for a career in plant science. Meet the first group of Conviron Scholars at https://tinyurl.com/y7ko6jle.

The Plant Cell Profiles of First Authors

For several years, The Plant Cell has invited the first authors of articles selected for coverage in an In Brief to submit a first author profile (https://tinyurl.com/ ycpogmr7). Since 2015, these first author profiles have been featured in monthly compilations on our blogs. Beginning this autumn, each profile is posted individually, and in recognition of the important contributions that all first authors make to the discipline, this popular option has been extended to the first authors of all articles accepted for publication in The Plant Cell.

Plantae Community Pages and Networks

The community pages (https:// community.plantae.org) of Plantae.org provide a place for plant scientists to share resources and network. The community is open to all, and we're working with several scientists to develop interest-based networks. For example, we're starting a network for the sharing of Methods and Protocols (see the call for contributions at https://tinyurl.com/ yb9clfdu). In the next few weeks we'll also be rolling out networks focused on Abiotic Responses, Careers in Industry, and other topics. If you haven't yet, fill in

your profile and explore the networks. If you don't see a network that reflects your interests, email community manager Melanie Binder (mbinder@aspb.org) about starting one!

Travel Awards for Plant Biology Meetings

Although not exclusively awarded to early-career scientists, most Plant Biology travel awardees are students and postdocs.

Applications for travel awards are due December 6, 2017. See more at https://aspb-travelgrants.secure-platform.com/a/.

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2017 Conviron Scholars

Top row (left to right): Mary Modupe Adewole, Beverly Agtuca, Nicole Choquette, Victoria DeLeo, Elizabeth Feldeverd, Sterling Field, Xinyu Fu. Middle row (left to right): Andika Gunadi, Juniper Kiss, Rachelle Lapham, Hannah Lucas, George Markou, Kari Miller, Mie Monti. Bottom row (left to right): Dev Paudel, Alex Rajewski, Veronica Sondervan, Maria Sorkin, DeQuantarius Javon Speed, Virginia Tartaglio, and Lucas Vanhaelewyn.



Major Symposia

Genome Evolution

Gibbs Medal Symposium

Organized by Ralph Bock. Featuring talks from Eva Nowack, Jeffrey D. Palmer, and Pamela S. Soltis

Translational Science

ASPB President's Symposium

Organized by Harry Klee. Featuring talks from Ian Graham, Marty Yanofsky, David Mackill, and Sherri Brown

Opening Research Avenues Through New Technologies

Organized by Anja Geitmann and Phil Taylor

Ecophysiology of Photosynthesis from the Leaf to Global Scale

Organized by Tom Sharkey

Cell Biology and Development: From Transcription to the Cell Wall

CSPB President's Symposium

Organized by Geoff Wasteneys. Featuring talks from Elizabeth Haswell, Mark Estelle, Daphne Goring, and Karin Schumaker

Get Ready for Plant Biology 2018

Arrange visas and other necessary travel documents. U.S. residents can find information at https://tinyurl. com/yacxld9e, and the Canadian government provides more information at http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/ visas.asp.

Join the Plantae Network (https://tinyurl.com/y8ojj45x) for ASPB conferences, follow #plantbio18 on Twitter, and keep an eye on developments in the Plant Biology 2018 program.

Register and submit your abstract, keeping in mind these key dates:

Early December 2017: Registration and abstract submission open

February 19, 2017: Last day to submit an abstract to be considered for a talk

July 14-18, 2018: Plant Biology 2018, Montreal, Quebec, Canada







Bienvenue à Montréal!

July 14–18, Montreal, Quebec

It may seem like you've just finished shaking the sand out of your shoes from Plant Biology 2017 in Hawaii, but it's time to start thinking about Plant Biology 2018 (plantbiology.aspb. org). To be held in beautiful, historic Montreal, Quebec, July 14-18, 2018, Plant Biology 2018 will be jointly hosted by ASPB (www.aspb.org), the Canadian Society of Plant Biologists/ Société canadienne de biologie végétale (http://www.cspb-scbv. ca/about.shtml), and the International Society of Photosynthesis Research (photosynthesis research.org).

In addition to world-renowned history and architecture, Montreal has a beautiful botanic garden (http://espacepourlavie. ca/en) known for its Insectarium, ecosystem-based Biodôme, and cultural gardens, including a First Nations Garden. Soak

up the natural beauty of La Fontaine Park (https://tinyurl. com/y76vh6mm), or go further afield for a hike in the Laurentian Mountains (https://tinyurl.com/ hpgfoko).

For lovers of Vitis vinifera, the climate of the Montreal region of Quebec has produced a unique wine industry with varieties adapted to cold cultivation (https://tinyurl.com/ydcztoxf) and the unusual production style of ice wines (https:// tinyurl.com/y9dp9t9h). You can explore these by heading out to wine country for a wine tasting (https://tinyurl.com/y952r58n). You can also sample local flavors at the year-round Jean Talon Market (https://tinyurl.com/ y9fm2hom), one of the oldest public markets in Montreal, or indulge in a cheese crawl (https://tinyurl.com/y8ne5n24) by visiting nearby fromageries.



ASPB Salutes Legacy Society Founding Members

SPB launched its Legacy Society in 2016 by inviting current and former leaders to commit to donating \$5,000 each. The generosity and commitment of these Founding Members, listed below, are greatly appreciated, and the Society looks forward to extending the invitation to join the Legacy Society as a Founding Member to Emeritus, Corresponding, and Life Members, as well as those who first joined the Society 30 or more years ago. Investment income generated by Legacy Society

funds will be used to support innovative programs and activities at ASPB related to education and outreach, publishing, community expansion and engagement, and, of course, professional development for future generations of plant biologists. Full or partial donations and legacy commitments have been received as of October 30, 2017, from the following Founding Members:

Nick Amrhein Charlie Arntzen Sally Assmann Bonnie Bartel Christoph Benning Wendy Boss **Becky Boston** John Boyer Ray Bressan Winslow Briggs Mark Brodl Bob Buchanan Dan Bush Judy Callis Nick Carpita Vicki Chandler Alice Cheung Ray Chollet Maarten Chrispeels

Jerry Cohen

Gloria Coruzzi Daniel Cosgrove John Cushman Jeff Dangl Debby Delmer Machi Dilworth Rick Dixon Gerry Edwards Beth Gantt Robert Giaquinta **Bob Goldberg** Sarah Grant Pam Green Mary Lou Guerinot Tom Guilfoyle* Gretchen Hagen Sarah Hake Andrew Hanson Maureen Hanson John Harada

Jeff Harper Eliot Herman Ann Hirsch Tom Hodges Beth Hood Mark Jacobs Andre Jagendorf* Alan Jones Russ Jones Stefan Kirchanski Harry Klee Leon Kochian Brian Larkins Rob Last Peggy Lemaux Sharon Long Steve Long Bill Lucas Sally Mackenzie Rob McClung

Sabeeha Merchant Ion Monroe Gloria Muday John Mullet John Ohlrogge Mel Oliver Neil Olszewski Don Ort Kathy Osteryoung Ralph Quatrano Natasha Raihkel Doug Randall Stan Roux Danny Schnell Lawrence Schrader Tom Sharkey Jane Shen-Miller Lou Sherman **Jim Siedow** Wendy Silk

Bijay Singh Chris Somerville Shauna Somerville Edgar Spalding Gary Stacey Chris Staiger Heven Sze Lincoln Taiz Elizabeth Vierling Rick Vierstra Linda Walling Sue Wessler Elli Wurtzel MariaElena Zavala Jian-Kang Zhu

*Deceased

EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS continued from page 6

Women's Young Investigator Travel Award

The goal of the Women's Young Investigator Travel Award program is to increase attendance of female investigators who are within the first five years of their appointment in academic faculty-level positions, government research positions, or industry research scientist positions, as well as experienced postdocs. Applications must be submitted by December 13, 2017. For more information, see https://aspb-wyita.secure-platform.com/a/.

Discounted Registration Fees at ASPB-Supported Meetings

- For information about discounted registration for graduate students at the Phenome 2018 meeting, see http://phenome2018.org/attend/#registration-fees.
- For information about discounted registration for graduate students and postdocs at the Plant Biology 2018 meeting, see http://plantbiology.aspb.org/attend/register/.

Gloria Coruzzi Appointed Distinguished Counselor at New York Botanical Garden

he New York Botanical Garden is a world leader in plant research and conservation, using traditional and cutting-edge tools to discover, understand, and preserve Earth's vast botanical diversity.

On November 16, ASPB member Gloria Coruzzi, New York University, will be inducted as a Distinguished Counselor to the Board of the New York Botanical Garden (NYBG). Distinguished Counselors represent the fields of botany, plant science, horticulture, and education, the principal areas of focus of the NYBG. Gloria's professional accomplishments in the field of plant science and her work as



Gloria Coruzzi

a collaborator with, and friend to, the NYBG faculty for many years were key factors in this appointment. Gloria added a few words of her own about NYBG and this recent honor:

"It has been my extreme pleasure to advise NYBG on its Pfizer Plant Genomics program since its inception. I have also had the pleasure of collaborating with NYBG scientists in plant science and education through an NSF training grant, and on genome projects funded by NSF Plant Genome and a recent DOE-BER sustainability grant. Our collaborative work to develop phylogenomic approaches to discover and explain the genes that underlie plant biodiversity is an accomplishment that none of us could have done in isolation; it involved

working together as a team of plant systematists in field and lab, plant genomicists, and bioinformaticians.

"I am overwhelmed by the honorary appointment as Distinguished Counselor to the Board of the New York Botanical Garden. I am especially humbled to be on a list that includes such luminaries in science and education as E. O. Wilson; Sir Ghillean Prance, FRS, VMH; Sir Peter Crane, FRS; Vartan Gregorian, PhD; Helen Dillon; Penelope Hobhouse, VMH; and the late Oliver Sacks." ■

ASPB 2018 Sharon Gray Women's Young Investigator **Travel Award Program** for Plant Biology 2018 in Montreal, Canada

Travel grant applications for eligible women are now being accepted.

> The submission deadline is December 13, 2017.

All applications must be submitted electronically at https://wyita.aspb.org.

> Recipients will be notified by mid-January.

ASPB Recognition Travel Award Program for Plant Biology 2018 in Montreal, Canada

Travel grant applications for eligible candidates are being accepted now.

The submission deadline is January 31, 2018.

All applications must be submitted electronically at https://rta.aspb.org. Recipients will be notified by April.

ASPB Travel Grant Program for Plant Biology 2018 in Montreal, Canada

Travel grant applications are now being accepted.

The submission deadline is December 6, 2017.

All applications must be submitted electronically at https://travelgrants.aspb.org. Recipients will be notified by mid-January.



ASPB/AAAS 2018 Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellows Program

Are you interested in science writing?

Do you want to help people understand complex scientific issues?

Apply for the ASPB/AAAS Mass Media Science & Engineering Fellows Program and learn how to increase public understanding of science and technology. Fellows in the 10-week 2018 summer program will work as reporters, researchers, and production assistants in mass media organizations nationwide. **Deadline: January 15, 2018.**

Visit http://www.aaas.org/mmfellowship for more details and to download an application brochure, or email mmfellowship@aaas.org for more information.



Some former host sites

CNN en Español

Discover magazine

KQED Science

The Los Angeles Times

The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel

National Geographic

National Public Radio (NPR)

NOVA

PBS NewsHour

The Raleigh News & Observer

Scientific American

Slate

Smithsonian Magazine

STAT

Univision

Voice of America

The Washington Post

Wired Magazine

Membership Corner

ASPB members share a common goal of promoting the growth, development, and outreach of plant biology as a pure and applied science. This column features some of the dedicated and innovative members of ASPB who believe that membership in our Society is crucial to the future of plant biology. If you are interested in contributing to this feature, please contact ASPB Membership at info@aspb.org.

Arif Ashraf

Title: Graduate Student

Place of Work or School: United Graduate School of Agricultural Sciences, Iwate University, Japan

Member Since: 2015

Research Area: Plant hormones, root development,

model plant Arabidopsis thaliana



What would you tell colleagues to encourage them to join

I especially encourage undergrads to become a student member of ASPB because it is the largest community of plant biologists and has two of the best plant science journals, The Plant Cell and Plant Physiology. The annual Plant Biology meeting is an awesome place to meet people, and having a travel grant to join this meeting was an excellent opportunity for a young researcher like me.

Was someone instrumental in getting you to join ASPB?

I used to follow ASPB, The Plant Cell, and Plant Physiology via Twitter. It seems really cool to me to be part of this. Later, I observed that my supervisor, Dr. Abidur Rahman, received the ASPB News. He inspired me to become a member of ASPB and the Japanese Society of Plant Physiologists (JSPP).

Why has being a member of **ASPB** been important?

It is like a family, in that we help and get support from others at the same time. Because of ASPB, I've connected with lots of researchers, postdocs, and students like me. I'm working as a graduate student ambassador, and it is helping me make connections for my future career. I translated My Life as a *Plant* into my native language (Bengali) hoping to encourage schoolchildren to become plant biologists in the future. I received a travel grant fellowship this year for Plant Biology 2017 and was really excited to meet some well-known researchers in person for the first time. None of these things would have happened without being a member of ASPB!

How has being a member of ASPB helped you in your career?

I became a member at the beginning of my graduate study, which I think was the perfect time. The most amazing thing was getting

access to The Plant Cell and Plant Physiology. Through my involvement in ASPB as a graduate student ambassador, I have interacted with prominent scientists, which would literally have been impossible by any other means. These connections may help me go further after the PhD.

What advice would you give to a plant scientist just starting out?

Observation is the key to everything. Everyone does science, uses the same plant materials, and has access to technologies, but not everyone can take their story to Nature, Science, or Cell. After reading high-impact journals, one realizes that one can also do the same work, but the way one observes an event and applies critical thinking to experiment design determines whether one produces good science or merely average observations. Keep in touch with your plants, observe what's going on, keep going when things get tough, and persevere when no one else believes what you are trying to explain. Eventually, you will succeed.

What person, living or deceased, do you most admire? Why?

Three people and three events have inspired me. The first is the observation of phototropism by Charles Darwin. I recommend the book *The Power of Movement* in Plants by Charles Darwin and his son Francis to every student. The second is the discovery of the principles of genetics by Gregor Mendel. The way most textbooks represent his story is quite awful. People should read how he combined his knowledge of biology with statistical analysis along with rigorous observation. Being a biologist doesn't mean we can avoid mathematics, statistics, and computing.

Last is the discovery of transposons by Barbara McClintock. The comprehensive biography *A* Feeling for the Organism by Evelyn Fox Keller covers McClintock's life and scientific insights. This book is inspiring for everyone. McClintock's quote "If you know you are on the right track, if you have your inner knowledge, then nobody can turn you off, no matter what they say" helps me a lot when things are tough.

What are you reading these days?

I'm afraid that the answer is long. I read several books at the same time. Recently I finished the biog-

continued on page 12

MEMBERSHIP CORNER continued from page 11

raphy Born a Crime by Trevor Noah, comedian and host of The Daily Show, and a book of poems, Egghead: Or, You Can't Survive on Ideas Alone by Bo Burnham, comedian, poet, and singer. I'm trying to read a political book, *Ahmadinejad: The Secret History* of Iran's Radical Leader, by Kasra Naji. It's tough to get insights because of my lack of background in that field. An amazing book about writing is The Sense of Style by Steven Pinker.

Sometimes on weekends, I like to read fiction. I'm reading a collection of short stories, Nocturnes, by Kazuo Ishiguro. Recently I learned from Joe Kieber's interview (ASPB News, July/August 2016, p. 12) that fellow ASPB member Eric Schaller is also a fiction writer. I was so excited I started his book Meet Me in the Middle of the Air and hoped to get his autograph during Plant Biology 2017 in Hawaii. Because of similar research interests, I follow both Ioe Kieber and Eric Schaller. It's amazing to read scientific and fiction writing by the same writer. Finally, I keep track of all recent journal articles and try to keep myself up-to-date on recent research. I like the ASPB blog series "What We're Reading" by Mary Williams.

What are your hobbies?

I love to watch football ("soccer," as you say) and am a great fan of Real Madrid. I feel that the life of a researcher is like that of a professional footballer; we move from lab to lab as a postdoc, work, and learn until we end up as principal investigators. As I said, I spend a good amount of time reading. Over the past few years, I've been trying to spread my own words through blogging about plant science at www.aribidopsis.com. I also play cricket during summer weekends and badminton with lab mates twice a week.

What do you think is the most important discovery in plant biology over the past year?

EIN2-directed translation regulation of ethylene signaling seems one of the major areas of work to me. I may like this work more than anything else because I am biased and inclined toward ethylene signaling. The impressive work of two groups, those of Hongwei Guo and José M. Alonso, was published in the same issue of Cell (Vol. 163, Issue 3, 2015). I was glad to attend a talk and spend some quality time with Hongwei Guo after that publication during the JSPP annual meeting in March 2016.

What do you think is the next "big thing" in plant biology?

Undoubtedly, CRISPR has huge promise for plant biologists. Big data from phenomics, genomics, and proteomics will open other paths for plant biologists to explore. Obviously, the next big thing in science is unpredictable. We should work hard "not for prizes, but for surprises," as we learned from the movie Piled Higher and Deeper 2 (https:// www.phdmovie.com/).

What do you still have to learn?

I have basic knowledge about coding in C, Python, and R. I wish I could master programming skills to build some tools on my own. I really love mathematics. I would love to spend some time off at some point to fit my real-life experimental data into mathematical equations. That's the thing I dream of learning and doing in the future. ■

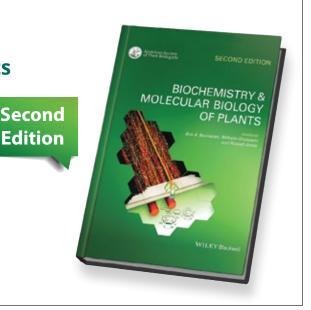
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Science Policy

Policy Update

BY LAUREN BROCCOLI Lewis-Burke Associates, LLC

President Signs Continuing Resolution to Fund Government **Through December 8**

In September, President Trump signed into law a continuing resolution (CR) that will fund the federal government under the fiscal year 2017 levels through December 8. The legislation included \$15.3 billion in emergency disaster funding as an initial installment of aid for Texas to respond to the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey and suspended the statutory debt limit through December 8. The bill passed with broad bipartisan support, with a Senate vote of 80-17 and a House vote of 316-90. This large funding package passed with unusual speed because of an unexpected deal forged between President Trump and Democratic leaders to avoid looming fiscal challenges and help focus efforts on hurricane response and recovery.

The CR will fund federal agencies and programs at essentially FY2017 funding levels. This means that although research programs will not see any funding increases until Congress negotiates a final FY2018 package, these programs will largely be spared from the drastic cuts proposed in the FY2018 budget request. However, the CR requires a 0.7% across-the-board cut for all federal agencies and programs to address sequestration and may result in federal agencies reducing some research grant funding for the length of the CR.

The CR makes clear that federal agencies cannot start new programs or projects, but also cannot terminate or withhold funds for any programs or projects previously funded and supported by Congress. To prepare for negotiations on final FY2018 spending bills, both the House and Senate continue to work on FY2018 appropriations bills. These bills generally reject the severity of cuts to research that were proposed in the FY2018 budget request.

Senate Holds Nomination Hearings for USDA Posts. **Confirms Censky and McKinney**

On September 19, the Senate Agriculture Committee held confirmation hearings for Steve Censky and Tom McKinney, the nominees for USDA deputy secretary of agriculture and undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs, respectively. Censky, former president of the American Soybean Association, and McKinney, former director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture, have been praised by the committee and the broader agricultural community for their experience and expertise. Both were confirmed by the Senate on October 3, 2017.

At the time of this writing, no confirmation hearing had been scheduled for Sam Clovis, the nominee for USDA's undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics and chief scientist.

Source and Additional Information

The full USDA press release following the hearing is available at https://tinyurl.com/ ybzjoogl.

Senators Schumer and **Schatz Call on President Trump to Withdraw Nomination of Sam Clovis**

On August 23, Sens. Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Brian Schatz (D-HI) released a joint public statement calling on President Trump to withdraw the nomination of Sam Clovis as USDA chief scientist and undersecretary for Research, Education, and Economics (REE). Sens. Schumer and Schatz cited controversial statements from Clovis on issues related to race and claimed that his nomination would further encourage racial tensions and discrimination.

The statement follows months of criticism from groups like the Union of Concerned Scientists about Clovis's lack of agricultural sciences expertise and his skepticism of climate change. Senate Agriculture Committee ranking member Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) has also criticized his lack of credentials, and Chairman Pat Roberts (R-KS) alluded to past controversial statements by Clovis on crop insurance. The Trump administration has yet to issue a public comment on the matter, and a date has not been set for Clovis's confirmation hearing.

Source and Additional Information

The full public statement is available at https://tinyurl. com/y7x4jnqw.

Trump Administration Announces FY2019 Science Priorities

On August 17, the Trump administration released a memorandum providing guidance to federal agency leadership on the research and development (R&D) priorities for FY2019. The memo, issued by Deputy Assistant Michael Kratsios at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Director Mick Mulvaney of the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB), provides direction to federal agencies on the administration's research and development priorities. In the coming weeks, federal research agencies will prepare draft budget plans for FY2019 and submit them to OMB for review.

The administration has identified the following science priorities: American military superiority, American security, American prosperity, American energy dominance, and American health. According to OMB guidance, implementation of these R&D priorities is directed to be budget neutral. STEM education is included as a priority because of the need for a well-prepared workforce. Additionally, "maintaining and modernizing research infrastructure" is recommended

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ASPB Works with Other Ag Organizations to Forge Consensus Community Priorities for the Next Farm Bill

BY TYRONE SPADY Director of Legislative and Public Affairs

he agricultural research community, long recognized for both its diversity and its lack of cohesiveness with regard to advocacy, is coming together like never before. Early this year, ASPB led a group of prominent ag organizations, including the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and the Supporters of Agricultural Research (SoAR), to organize a congressional exhibition of ag research that featured the work of researchers, educators, and extension specialists from across the country. This event and other community initiatives have laid the foundation for the community to better coordinate congressional advocacy in support of the research title of the next Farm Bill.

The Farm Bill is particularly important to the plant science community because it sets the policy and programmatic priorities and funding targets for most of the USDA Research, Education, and Economics (REE) mission area. These programs include the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) and its Agriculture and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) program, the Agricultural Research Service, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and other research-related units.

Among other provisions, the 2014 U.S. Farm Bill, formally known as the Agricultural Act of 2014, authorized \$700 million for AFRI, an onerous matching requirement for non-land grant institutions receiving USDA grant dollars, and the creation of the new Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR) with \$200 million in matching funds. Although congressional appropriators failed to meet the funding goals of the 2014 Farm Bill, this was an important statement of priority and served as the basis for the steady growth of AFRI while other research programs across the federal government saw stagnant or reduced budgets. The take-home message: the Farm Bill is tremendously important to the ag research community!

Despite the hard-fought legislative victories that ASPB and other research-focused organizations were able to get included in the 2014 Farm Bill, the community has struggled to develop a cohesive set of priorities. Individual segments of the community instead have pursued more parochial interests, at times to the detriment of the other sectors of the ag research enterprise (the above-mentioned matching requirement is one example).

By contrast, the biomedical research community has traditionally operated in a much more coordinated and disciplined fashion, advocating for the entirety of the National Institutes of Health, the primary federal funder of U.S. biomedical research. Though one could argue that the NIH budget has ballooned to over \$33 billion and at a more rapid rate than any of the other federal agencies supporting life science research for a complex variety of reasons, one can't ignore the relative lack of public infighting within the biomedical research community.

But the ag community may finally be recognizing the importance of coming together in support of the whole. To this end, ASPB participated in a series of facilitated discussions as part of a broad coalition of food and ag organizations convened by SoAR with the goal of developing consensus community priorities for the next Farm Bill. The following 10 recommendations are the product of those efforts and will be shared with Congress:

- 1. Establish an annual \$6 billion goal (in fiscal year 2019 dollars) for USDA food and agricultural research over FY2019-FY2023.
 - This figure would be expressed in the Farm Bill as the sum total funding of the following agencies and their respective programs: ARS, NIFA, Economic Research Service, and National Agricultural Statistics Service.
 - The goal of \$6 billion for USDA REE would double the baseline of each

- agency from the FY2017 enacted appropriations. Each agency would work with Congress to allocate their respective budgets across their programs and lines using measures of increased efficiency and high impact as guiding principles.
- 2. Renew and make permanent USDA competitive grant programs currently receiving direct mandatory Farm Bill funding.
 - Renew the permanently funded Specialty Crop Research Initiative at no less than its current \$80 million annual direct funding level.
 - Renew both the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program and the Organic Agriculture Research and Extension Initiative with permanent direct funding set at no less than \$50 million annually.
- 3. Renew FFAR with direct funding of \$250 million, with \$50 million obligated annually over FY2019-FY2023.
- 4. To increase the competitiveness and quality of applications, eliminate across-the-board matching requirements for competitive grants programs within



- NIFA currently selectively applied to some institutions.
- 5. Continue the current law designation of the REE undersecretary as the chief scientist of the department.
- 6. Establish a Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) to be under the direction of the REE undersecretary to improve collaboration in addressing emerging opportunities with respect to pressing social challenges, especially those requiring urgent emergency responses, those that may be high risk but have extraordinary potential impact, and those that require interdisciplinary systems approaches that involve more than one agency.
 - The SIF shall be funded via a 0.5% assessment on all NIFA and ARS funding, with the exception of NIFA capacity funding (including capacity grants for non-land grant colleges of agriculture) and ARS buildings and facilities, repair and maintenance, transfers, trust funds, and the National Agriculture Library.
 - SIF funding shall start in the first fiscal year in which the total funding

- increase (relative to FY2017 enacted levels) for the tobe-assessed funding lines exceeds the dollar amount of the assessment.
- 7. Retain the staff positions authorized by current law for the Office of the Chief Scientist as a means of increasing oversight and efficacy and avoiding potential research duplication. Clarify that these positions shall be filled through transfer of personnel from the program planning and evaluation offices and other appropriately trained personnel within the four REE agencies, with a term of service of at least three years, or through advertising and hiring through regular channels.
- 8. Establish enhanced stakeholder engagement opportunities on a no less than annual basis to strengthen the functioning and utility of the National Agricultural Research, Education, Extension, and **Economics Advisory Board** (NAREEEAB) and reinvigorate engagement of researchers and end users.
 - Expanded stakeholder sessions should be held on a rotating basis in different

- regions of the country, and the recommendations of the stakeholder sessions should be reviewed by the board, forwarded to the secretary along with additional recommendations of the board, and responded to by the secretary or deputy secretary within 60 days of submission as well as in person at the next board meeting.
- Establish a new Science and **Technology Assessment** standing committee of the NAREEEAB to undertake the current law duty of the board. The Science and Technology Assessment committee should include no fewer than two members of the board, but also draw additional members from among experts in the field of science and technology assessment.
- 9. Mandate that the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) produce a periodic report to identify scientific opportunities in food and agriculture and to institutionalize long-term strategic planning and priority setting for food and agricultural research.

- This report should be undertaken every 10 years and include a midpoint assessment.
- This report should be developed in conjunction with NAREEEAB and effectively engaged end users and other stakeholders.
- NASEM's current Science Breakthroughs 2030 study shall be considered the first such 10-year assessment (http://nas-sites.org/dels/ studies/agricultural-science-breakthroughs/).
- 10. Establish an Agricultural Cyberinfrastructure, Data, and Statistics Committee within the secretary of agriculture's office for the purpose of building a national strategic vision for cyberinfrastructure, data, and statistics that enables use of the data for the benefit of producers, consumers, and taxpayers. The committee should include USDA leaders, subject matter experts in economics and other sciences, and strategic stakeholders. ■

POLICY UPDATE continued from page 13

through innovative partnerships to share costs.

With respect to energy, the memo states that "domestic energy sources should be the

basis for a clean energy portfolio composed of fossil, nuclear, and renewable energy sources." Consistent with the Trump administration ethos, the guidance instructs research agencies to focus on early-stage R&D, with later-stage efforts an activity for the private sector.

Sources and Additional Information

- The OMB-OSTP memo is available at https://tinyurl. com/y9e5lugg.
- Additional analysis of the science priorities is available at https://tinyurl.com/ ydc994bl. ■

ASPB Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF)

https://surf.aspb.org/

ASPB's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) funds promising undergraduate students so they can conduct research in plant biology during the early part of their college careers. SURF recipients must present their research at ASPB's annual Plant Biology meeting in the year following the fellowship award.

Eligibility

Application is open to all full-time undergraduate students in a degree-granting program. Students completing their second year are preferred, but wellprepared first- and third-year students who provide evidence of a strong interest in plant biology may apply as well. Undergraduates needing more or less than the standard four years to earn a degree may still be eligible. International students or students following nontraditional academic calendars are welcome. In order to provide support to the maximum number of students, SURF awards are limited to students without other sources of stipend or salary for the proposed research. Supplemental funds for room and board are acceptable.

Faculty Mentors

Students must secure a mentor before submitting an application. The proposed research project must be pursued in the mentor's laboratory. Mentors must be a member of ASPB, have an ongoing research program of high scientific merit, and demonstrate a commitment to undergraduate education and research. Mentors are expected to attend Plant Biology 2018 in Montreal, Quebec, with their SURF student.

Need a Mentor? Students may work with a mentor at their own institution or at another institution. Additional guidance is available by contacting ASPB (see below).

Application

A complete application will include a research project statement and personal statement from the student, a research and mentoring statement from the mentor, a letter of recommendation from another faculty member (not the mentor or in the mentor's lab), and official undergraduate transcripts.

Selection Criteria

Competitive student applicants should have high academic achievement, strong motivation and skills for conducting research, and career objectives showing interest in or relevance to plant biology. Reviewers also will consider the contribution of the project to the mentor's research program, institutional commitment to the proposed research, and the mentor's commitment to undergraduate research.

Successful applicants receive a \$4,000 summer stipend, a one-year membership in ASPB, and \$700 (paid to the mentor or institution) for materials and supplies. Each fellowship also provides student

travel support to Plant Biology 2019, the ASPB annual meeting, to be held August 3-7, 2019, in San Jose, California. These travel funds are sent only to the 2018 SURF recipients who (1) register for the meeting, (2) submit proof of using social media or other outlets to communicate with the public or peers about the SURF project, and (3) author and submit an abstract about their SURF project to present as a poster at the meeting.

A Successful SURF Applicant's **Sample Timeline**

Contact potential mentors: NOW Discuss research topics: NOW

Request a reference letter: by January 2018 (from college/ university faculty member who is not the mentor)

Submit SURF application: by the deadline, March 15, 2018 (11:59 p.m. ET)

Look for emailed decisions: by mid-April 2018

Conduct research:

over 10 consecutive weeks when classes are not in session

Present research: August 3–7 at Plant Biology 2019 in San Jose, California.

Applications will be accepted December 1, 2017, through March 15, 2018 (11:59 p.m. ET).

Need additional help?

Contact Winnie Nham, ASPB Education Coordinator (education@aspb.org).



D.C. Teachers' Night at the United States Botanic **Garden: An Evening of Plant-astic ASPB Outreach**

BY WINNIE NHAM **ASPB Education Coordinator**

n September 22, ASPB participated in an evening of outreach at the United States Botanic Garden (USBG) in Washington, DC, as an exhibitor at the annual D.C. Teachers' Night. This event is hosted by USBG and the District of Columbia Environmental Education Consortium.

The evening featured dozens of exhibitors with hands-on activities, lesson plans, and resources for K-12 teachers to bring back to the classroom. Teachers learned about student and teacher field experiences, professional development opportunities, and more.

At the ASPB booth, teachers planted Arabidopsis garden cup necklaces and learned how to use the plant as a teaching tool in their classrooms. Other hands-on activity resources included creating solar dye cells and extracting DNA from strawberries. ASPB volunteers shared the ever-popular My Life as a Plant activity and coloring book for young scientists, the 12 Inquiry-Based Labs CD and bookmarks to explore the 12 Principles of Plant Biology, and picture books that teach about the plant sciences.

The booth was staffed by Winnie Nham (ASPB). She was joined by Tyrone Spady (ASPB) and Hemayet Ullah (Howard University), both D.C. Teachers' Night veterans and outreach superstars. Many thanks to

Hemayet Ullah for supplying Arabidopsis seedlings and providing teachers with an enthusiastic overview of the plant's many uses for teaching in the classroom.

Teachers at the event praised the variety and quantity of resources available at the ASPB booth for use in their classrooms. They enthusiastically engaged with ASPB volunteers, conversing about best practices for implementing hands-on activities and expressing enthusiasm for the materials they would bring back to their students. This energy and productive interaction are what make ASPB's outreach at the D.C. Teachers' Night a perennial hit. ■



Hemayet Ullah explaining how to use Arabidopsis as a classroom teaching tool.



Hemayet Ullah (left) and Tyrone Spady prepping the ASPB booth at D.C. Teachers' Night.

(right) Arabidopsis seedling necklaces for teachers to take home and use in the classroom.



ASPB Welcomes Clara Woodall as Director of Finance and Administration

lara Woodall joined ASPB on August 2 as director of finance and administration. Clara will lead the financial operations of the Society, including activities related to accounting, financial reporting, audit, budgeting, compliance, investment management, and operational strategy, and will provide executive leadership to the ASPB Council and Board of Directors.

Clara has over 17 years of experience working for nonprofit organizations. In her prior roles, Clara was chief financial officer at the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials. She was director of finance and operations at Gavi Alliance/Gavi Campaign and director of finance and adminis-



Clara Woodall

tration at the American Health Lawyers Association.

In addition, Clara has four years of public accounting consulting

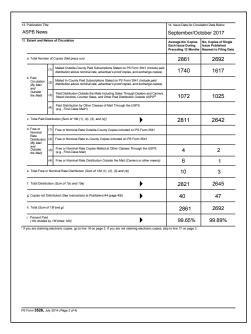
experience. She served as interim chief financial officer and interim chief operating officer on a longterm basis exclusively to nonprofit organizations when she worked for Tate & Tryon CPAs and Consultants and Vault Consulting. Some of her most notable clients were Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, National Park Foundation, Population Action International, Flight Safety Foundation, Council for Exceptional Children, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, and US-China Business Council.

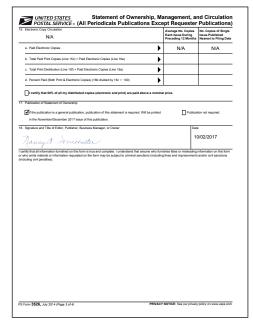
Clara has experience building a SharePoint Wiki Library, managing the implementation of association management systems and customer relations management systems, and working with several accounting systems.

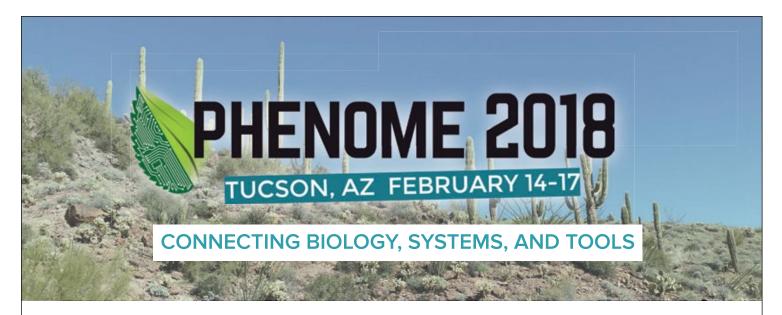
Clara is married and has two adult children. In her spare time, she loves to engage in obstacle training with her Standard Poodle, travel, and meet up with friends to watch and engage in lively discussions about popular shows such as *Game of Thrones*, *Stranger Things*, and *The Walking Dead*, to name a few.

Clara is a member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi. She has a master's degree in accounting and information technology from the University of Maryland University College and a bachelor of science degree in business and administration—accounting from Chicago State University.

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- Develop strategies to address problems related to climate change and agricultural sustainability

2018 ORGANIZING COMMITTEE











Josh Peschel



Pam Soltis

Alina Zare

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Join the Plant Phenomics network at community.plantae.org Follow @PlantPhenomics & #phenome 2018 on Twitter Keep an eye on www.Phenome2018.org for more program info.

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