

Year-End Report

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ASPB Alliance Board member

This year was an eventful one for me, both personally and within the Alliance community. Although my external engagement was more limited than in previous years due to transitioning from Co-Chair to Outgoing Chair, I am proud of the work I contributed, and work with other with and excited for the direction the new appointee and Andrew will take this coming year.

Ambassador Activities

Collaborative Game Night Event (Ambassadors and Early Career Section): This year, I helped organize a major social event in partnership with us the Ambassadors and the Early Career Plant Scientists (ECPS) section. This was our first Game Night event, and it was extremely well received; attendees enjoyed having a fun, relaxed space to network and build community beyond scientific talks. Due to its success, the decision has been made to run the event again in 2026 with a similar structure and goal of fostering connection among plant scientists.



The workshop “Game Night”, hosted by Ambassadors and ECPS

Chairing a Scientific Session at Plant Biology 2026: Plant Biology 2026 was a major highlight for me. Not only was it a great environment for learning and connecting with new colleagues, but it also marked my first time chairing a scientific session, specifically the Mineral Stress session. This session featured speakers from both the U.S. and abroad,

covering diverse perspectives and research approaches in plant mineral nutrient responses.



The session “Mineral Stress”, chaired by Janeen Braynen, PhD, featured researchers presenting about how plants respond to various mineral-related challenges, including salt, zinc, phosphate stress, and traits linked to climate resilience. Speakers highlighted how diverse genetic and phenotypic traits enable plants to adapt and respond to challenging mineral stress environments. From left to right: Vanessa Jawahir, PhD; Maryam Rahmati, PhD; Harsh Raman, PhD; Imani Madison, PhD; Oskar Siemianowski, PhD. Photo Credit: Janeen Braynen, PhD.

Post-Conference Blogging & Science Communication Outreach: Following the conference, I co-authored a blog with Audra Olson (Ware Lab, CSHL) for Sorghumbase and Gramene. The article highlighted scientific themes, community moments, and major takeaways from the meeting. [Link](#)

Plans for the Upcoming Year Looking ahead, my goals as an ambassador include:

1. Expanding Community Outreach; participating more actively in outreach and science communication activities.
2. Increasing ASPB Committee Engagement; seeking involvement with additional ASPB committees to serve and support members more broadly.
3. Developing Ambassador Resource Materials; contributing to the creation of outreach materials and resources that support the mission of the Alliance and Ambassadors.