



# FEDERATION OF EUROPEAN SOCIETIES OF PLANT BIOLOGY

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## ***FESPB Newsletter***

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No. 1 (1) June 2007

**Welcome to the new issue of the FESPB Newsletter.**

This newsletter has been put together with the help of our newly-formed publications committee. As you can see, we have representatives from a number of our member states but I welcome any other representatives who would like to help. Please contact your national representative if you wish to be nominated- details can be found on the FESPB website.

Dr Alyson Tobin, Chair of Publications Committee and FESPB Newsletter Editor

**In this issue:**

- Introduction to the publications committee
- Research news
- Forthcoming meetings
- Positions available

# Introducing the new FESPB publications committee:

## Chair and UK representative:

Dr Alyson K Tobin, School of Biology, Sir Harold Mitchell Building  
University of St Andrews, Scotland, UK Email [at6@st-andrews.ac.uk](mailto:at6@st-andrews.ac.uk)

Alyson Tobin is a Plant Cell Physiologist with research interests in mitochondrial and plastid form and function, ammonium assimilation and the integration of nitrogen and carbon metabolism in higher plants, and UV-B-induced DNA damage and repair. She is a Reader in Plant Sciences at the University of St Andrews, Scotland.

## National members of the FESPB Publications committee:

### Albania

Dr Arjola Bacu

Institute of Biological Research  
Academy of Sciences of Albania  
Email [a\\_bacu@yahoo.com](mailto:a_bacu@yahoo.com)

### Belarus

Dr Halina Alekseichuk

Senior research scientist  
Institute of Experimental Botany,  
National Academy of Sciences of Belarus,  
Academicheskaja str,27,  
Minsk, Belarus  
fax:+375-17-284-18-53  
Email [alekseichuk@biobel.bas-net.by](mailto:alekseichuk@biobel.bas-net.by)

Halina Alekseichuk is a Senior Research Scientist at the National Academy of Science of Belarus. Her research interests are in seed germination, seed vigour, acquisition and loss of desiccation tolerance, DNA damage and repair in seeds and the function of carotenoids in seeds.

## **Bulgaria**

Dr. Kalina Ananieva

Institute of Plant Physiology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences  
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1113 Sofia, Bulgaria  
Email [kalivanova@yahoo.com](mailto:kalivanova@yahoo.com)

## **Croatia**

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fax: +385(0)1 48 26 260  
e-mail: [sbosak@biol.pmf.hr](mailto:sbosak@biol.pmf.hr)

## **France**

Dr Martine Miquel

Institute Jean-Pierre Bourgin  
Seed Biology Laboratory  
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F - 78260 VERSAILLES CEDEX  
Tel. +33 1 3083 3320  
Fax +33 1 3083 3111  
Email [Martine.Miquel@versailles.inra.fr](mailto:Martine.Miquel@versailles.inra.fr)  
French Society of Plant Biology website:  
<http://sfbv.snv.jussieu.fr/>

## **Slovenia**

Dr Ales Kladnik

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Email [ales.kladnik@bf.uni-lj.si](mailto:ales.kladnik@bf.uni-lj.si)

## Spain

Dra. Dolores Rodriguez

Dpto. Fisiología Vegetal. Facultad de Biología  
Plaza Dres. de la Reina s/n  
Universidad de Salamanca  
37007- Salamanca. Spain  
Tel. 34 923 294471. FAX. 34 923 294682  
Email: [mdr@usal.es](mailto:mdr@usal.es)

Dolores Rodriguez is a Professor in Plant Physiology at the University of Salamanca, Spain. She conducts research into the Physiology and Molecular Biology of seed dormancy and germination in *Fagus sylvatica* (Beech) and *Arabidopsis thaliana* and in the general area of hormonal regulation and signaling.

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Please submit items for the newsletter to your representative on the publications committee. We are still looking for national members of this new committee- please send nominations to your national representative on FESPB executive committee- contact details on the FESPB website.

## Research news

### Carbon isotopes and corn-fed chicken

You may well be familiar with the use of stable isotope analysis as a means of distinguishing between C3 and C4 photosynthesis. Recently, a laboratory at York, UK, has adopted this technique in order to track down unscrupulous poultry farmers. The group, at the Central Science Laboratory, has been testing whether chickens sold at supermarkets with the label 'corn-fed' really were reared on corn (*Zea mays*, a C4 plant). Corn-fed chicken sells at three times the price of 'conventionally-reared' chicken, and some farmers have been accused of cheating by adding yellow colouring to the feed- the only visible sign

of corn-feeding is a yellow coloration to the flesh. Hence, the ability to distinguish between the flesh of corn-fed (which has a typical C4 isotope discrimination ratio) and conventionally-reared chicken (fed on C3 grains, such as barley and wheat) is important for maintaining quality control within the poultry industry.

Further details can be found at:

<http://www.csl.gov.uk/newsAndResources/showNews.cfm?id=126>

## Plant Journal podcast

The on-line issue of The Plant Journal (March 2007) contains its first downloadable podcast, an interview with Ian Baldwin. The link is at:

<http://www.gabcast.com/casts/1696/episodes/1179221776.mp3>

Ian Baldwin discusses his paper (with Danny Kessler) on the role of secondary metabolites in nectar. The group looked at the effects of nectar repellents, such as nicotine, on interactions between pollinators, nectar 'thieves' and *Nicotiana attenuata* plants in the field. Transgenic plants with reduced nicotine content were used as a comparison to wild type. It was found that nicotine in the nectar resulted in a reduction in the amount of nectar that was removed at each visit to the plant. It is suggested that nectar repellents, such as nicotine, may serve to optimise the number of flower visits for a given amount of nectar-allowing plants to keep their nectar volumes small without compromising pollination.

## Spotlight on recent publications: Spanish members and collaborators

### ***ABA Is an Essential Signal for Plant Resistance to Pathogens Affecting JA Biosynthesis and the Activation of Defenses in Arabidopsis***

Bruce A.T. Adie<sup>1</sup>, Julián Pérez-Pérez<sup>1</sup>, Manuel M. Pérez-Pérez<sup>1</sup>, Marta Godoy<sup>1</sup>, José-J. Sánchez-Serrano<sup>1</sup>, Eric A. Schmelz<sup>2</sup>, and Roberto Solano<sup>1\*</sup>

1 Departamento de Genética Molecular de Plantas, Centro Nacional de Biotecnología-Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Campus Universidad Autónoma, 28049 Madrid, **Spain**. 2 U.S. Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service, Center for

Medical, Agricultural, and Veterinary Entomology, Gainesville, Florida 32608-1067. E-mail: rsolano@cnb.uam.es.

**Plant Cell**. Published on May 18, 2007; 10.1105/tpc.106.048041

**A Mutant of the *Arabidopsis* Phosphate Transporter PHT1;1 Displays Enhanced Arsenic Accumulation.** Pablo Catarecha, M<sup>a</sup> Dolores Segura, José Manuel Franco-Zorrilla, Berenice García-Ponce, Mónica Lanza, Roberto Solano, Javier Paz-Ares, and Antonio Leyva  
**Plant Cell** 19: 1123-1133; 2007

Departamento de Genética Molecular de Plantas, Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Cantoblanco, E-28049 Madrid, Spain. E-mail aleyva@cnb.uam.es; fax 34-91-585-4506.

**Oxylipins Produced by the 9-Lipoxygenase Pathway in *Arabidopsis* Regulate Lateral Root Development and Defense Responses through a Specific Signaling Cascade.** Tamara Velloso, Marta Martínez, Miguel Angel López, Jorge Vicente, Tomas Cascón, Liam Dolan, Mats Hamberg, and Carmen Castresana  
**Plant Cell** 19: 831-846. 2007

a Centro Nacional de Biotecnología, Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Campus Universidad Autónoma, Cantoblanco, E-28049 Madrid, Spain

b Cell and Developmental Biology Department, John Innes Centre, Colney, NR4 7UH Norwich, United Kingdom

c Division of Physiological Chemistry II, Department of Medical Biochemistry and Biophysics, Karolinska Institutet, S-17177 Stockholm, Sweden

E-mail ccastresana@cnb.uam.es; fax 34-91-5854506.

***Arabidopsis* BRANCHED1 Acts as an Integrator of Branching Signals within Axillary Buds.** José Antonio Aguilar-Martínez, César Poza-Carrión, and Pilar Cubas  
**Plant Cell** 19: 458-472. 2007

Departamento de Genética Molecular de Plantas, Centro Nacional de Biotecnología/Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Campus Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 28049 Madrid, Spain. E-mail pcubas@cnb.uam.es; fax 34-915854506.

**Impairment of Cellulose Synthases Required for *Arabidopsis* Secondary Cell Wall Formation Enhances Disease Resistance.** Camilo Hernández-Blanco, Dong Xin Feng, Jian Hu, Andrea Sánchez-Vallet, Laurent Deslandes, Francisco Llorente, Marta Berrocal-Lobo,

Harald Keller, Xavier Barlet, Clara Sánchez-Rodríguez, Lisa K. Anderson, Shauna Somerville, Yves Marco, and Antonio Molina  
**Plant Cell** 19: 890-903. 2007  
E-mail [yves.marco@inra.toulouse.fr](mailto:yves.marco@inra.toulouse.fr) or [antonio.molina@upm.es](mailto:antonio.molina@upm.es); fax 33-61285509 or 34-913365695.

## **Forthcoming Meetings**

### **Nitrogen 2007**

Lancaster, UK  
July 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>  
Deadline for abstracts: June 4<sup>th</sup>  
(if you wish it to be considered for an oral presentation)

Registration: June 18<sup>th</sup>

Organising committee: Brian Forde, Peter Lea, Hama Zhang

Contact: Brian Forde [b.g.forde@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:b.g.forde@lancaster.ac.uk)

Further information:  
<http://biol.lancs.ac.uk/nit2007/>

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### **PHOTOSYNTHESIS 2007**

The Photosynthesis Congress, held every three years, is coming to Glasgow, Scotland, UK from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July 2007. There is still time to register for the meeting.

Closing date for registration is 13<sup>th</sup> July 2007.

Further information at:  
<http://www.sebiology.org.uk/Meetings/pageview.asp?S=2&mid=84>

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## **Plant Biology & Botany Joint Congress 2007**

Chicago, U.S.A.  
7-11<sup>th</sup> July 2007

ASPB's annual Plant Biology meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Fern Society (AFS), the American Society of Plant Taxonomists (ASPT), and the Botanical Society of America (BSA).

The schedule of this Joint Congress will consist of a combined set of scientific sessions and events from all of the above societies. Attendees will be able to participate in any of the events available.

Further information:

<http://www.aspb.org/meetings/pb-2007/>

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## **3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Polish Society of Experimental Plant Biology** (PTBER website [www.ptber.org.pl](http://www.ptber.org.pl) )

Warsaw, Poland  
26-30<sup>th</sup> August 2007

Further information:

[www.ptber.org.pl/III\\_konf](http://www.ptber.org.pl/III_konf)

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## **XIV International Workshop on Plant Membrane Biology**

Valencia, Spain  
26-30<sup>th</sup> June 2007

**Organizers:** José Manuel Pardo (CSIC, Sevilla) [pardo@cica.es](mailto:pardo@cica.es); Lola Peñarrubia (Universitat de Valencia) [penarrub@uv.es](mailto:penarrub@uv.es); Alonso Rodríguez-Navarro (Universidad Politécnica, Madrid) [alonso.rodriguez@upm.es](mailto:alonso.rodriguez@upm.es); Ramón Serrano (Universidad Politécnica



de Valencia) rserrano@ibmcp.upv.es.

Further information:

<http://xivplantmembrane.congress-uex.com/Home.cfm>

## **2<sup>nd</sup> ISSS Workshop on Molecular Aspects of Seed Dormancy and Germination**

Salamanca, Spain 1-4 July 2007.

(International Society for Seed Sciences)

**Organizers:** Prof. Dolores Rodríguez and Dr. Oscar Lorenzo. Dpt. Plant Physiology. University of Salamanca. Spain. E-mail: [iss07@usal.es](mailto:iss07@usal.es)

Further information:

<http://www.usd.edu/iss/meetings.html>

## **XII Congreso de la Sociedad Española de Biología Celular**

Pamplona, Spain. 2-5 July 2007

**(Spanish Society of Cell Biology)**

Further information:

<http://www.unav.es/congresosebc/>

## **XXX Congreso de la SEBBM**

Málaga, Spain .12-15 September 2007

(Spanish Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology)

Further information:

<http://sebbm.bq.ub.es/XXXCongreso/>

## **XVII Reunión de la SEFV/X Congreso Hispano-Luso de Fisiología Vegetal**

Alcalá de Henares.-Madrid, Spain. 18-21 September 2007  
(Spanish and Portuguese Societies of Plant Physiology)

Further information:

<http://www.fv2007.fgua.es/>

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## **The 5th Planta Europa Conference**

Cluj Napoca, Romania  
September 5-11<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The conference organisers are looking for presentations for the education, awareness and capacity building session and would like to hear from anybody interested in presenting their work.

Further information:

<http://www.plantaeuropa.trima-events.ro/>

Please send your expression of interest/abstracts to Eutiquio Martinez ([eutiquio.martinez@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:eutiquio.martinez@plantlife.org.uk)).

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## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> Croatian Botanical Congress**

Zagreb, Croatia  
September 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> 2007

The Croatian Botanical Society (<http://hirc.botanic.hr/HBoD/HBoD-home.htm>) organizes 2<sup>nd</sup> Croatian Botanical Congress with international participation (2 HBK 2007).

The objective of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Croatian Botanical Congress is to promote co-operation and the exchange of scientific and expert information in the field of botany among Croatian and European botanists. Furthermore, the main goal is to stress the necessity of using the data and accomplishments in the field of botany, particularly those relating to biological diversity and the application of botany, in the execution of sustainable economic development projects.

Main topics of the symposium

1. Floristic research
2. Vegetation and ecology, conservation of the diversity of flora and habitats
3. Taxonomy
4. Molecular botany and physiology of plants
5. Applied botany
6. Biology of algae, fungi and lichens
7. Botany and education
8. Bioinformatics (mathematical methods in biology, databases, web applications)

.All further information about registration and the conference can be found on its official homepage <http://hirc.botanic.hr/HBoD/2HBK/2HBK-home.htm>, or please contact:

2. HBK 2007 Congress Secretary  
Zeljko Skvorc, Ph. D.  
Faculty of Forestry, University of Zagreb,  
Sveto \_imunska 25  
HR – 10000 Zagreb  
Croatia  
Tel/Fax: + 385 1 235 2505  
E-mail: [2hbk2007@botanic.hr](mailto:2hbk2007@botanic.hr)

## **Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences Summer School**

Split, Croatia  
July 21<sup>st</sup> to August 19<sup>th</sup> 2007

The Mediterranean Institute for Life Sciences (MedILS)  
(<http://www.medils.hr>) organizes MedILS Summer School 2007.

It will consist of six events open for the participants to join with respect to their interests:

**Symposium on imaging and simulation of human brain activity  
(July 21-24)**

**Computational Biology Workshop (July 25-28)**

**Surviving Death - an interdisciplinary approach Workshop (July 29-Aug 4)**

**Creating Interdisciplinary Research Projects Workshop (Aug 5-11)**

**EURYI@MedILS Symposium (Aug 12-19)**

## Summer Science Factory (Aug 5-19)

Summer school organizers:

Sophie Heinrich, Bernard Hennion, Birte Schrader, Ivo Sbalzarini, Miroslav Radman, Tamara Milo\_evi\_, Francois Taddei, Stephane Douady, Ariel Lindner, Thomas Pfeiffer, Darja Dubrav\_i\_, Suckjoon Jun, Gregory Paul

More information is available on the web [www.medils.hr/summerschool2007](http://www.medils.hr/summerschool2007) or through contact e-mail address ([summer.school@medils.hr](mailto:summer.school@medils.hr)).

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## Positions Available

### Centre for Systems Biology, University of Edinburgh, UK

The University of Edinburgh is proud to launch the Centre for Systems Biology at Edinburgh (CSBE), a unique opportunity presented by a £17M investment from BBSRC, EPSRC and the University. CSBE draws expertise from 11 internationally-leading Systems Biology research groups to understand the general principles underlying dynamic biological processes, initially in the areas of RNA metabolism in yeast, circadian clocks in plants and interferon signalling in immunity. We now seek **18 outstanding individuals** with a passion for interdisciplinary research, to integrate new biological data and mathematical models into large-scale informatics infrastructure.

For further information and to apply: <http://csbe.bio.ed.ac.uk>

Contact: Prof Andrew J. Millar [Andrew.Millar@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Andrew.Millar@ed.ac.uk)  
Professor of Systems Biology, University of Edinburgh

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## **New group leader for the laboratory of Plant Reproduction and Development**

**Laboratory École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France**

The laboratory of Plant Reproduction and Development (RDP) is a research unit at the ENS, one of France's prestigious "grandes écoles" that offer high-level education for a career in research education, business and industry. The RDP is composed of 6 research teams working in the field of plant developmental biology and reproduction. For further information see <http://www.ens-lyon.fr/RDP/>

Contact: Dr Jan Traas ([Jan.Traas@ens-lyon.fr](mailto:Jan.Traas@ens-lyon.fr) )

Dr Thierry Gaude ([Thierry.Gaude@ens-lyon.fr](mailto:Thierry.Gaude@ens-lyon.fr) )

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## **41 Postdoctoral positions within INRA, France**

INRA is recruiting 41 post-doctoral fellows on two-year contracts. Gross monthly salary of 2150 Euros

Applicants must:

Have a French doctorate, PhD or foreign doctorate of equivalent level at the time of employment

Not have already carried out research work at the same INRA research centre

Be less than 40 years old on the day of recruitment

Closing date 31st July 2007

### **Further information:**

[http://www.international.inra.fr/join\\_us/positions/post\\_doctoral\\_positions/annual\\_campaign](http://www.international.inra.fr/join_us/positions/post_doctoral_positions/annual_campaign)

List of subjects of post-doctorate positions:

<http://www.inra.fr/drh/postdocs2007/sujets-eng.htm>

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**Postdoctoral position: The control of stomatal development by light.**

University of Bristol, UK

Duration of funding: 12 months

Salary: £25,889

Start date: immediately / as soon as possible

**Details**

A postdoctoral research assistantship is available in the labs of Professor Alistair Hetherington and Dr Claire Grierson in the School of Biological Sciences. The post is supported by a grant from the Leverhulme Trust and funds are available for 12 months. The overall context of the work is to investigate the control of stomatal development by light. The primary aim of the research is to identify which light signalling pathway(s) controls stomatal development. You will be responsible for investigating stomatal development in Arabidopsis mutants impaired in light signalling. You will also carry out a screen to identify individuals exhibiting aberrant light regulated stomatal development. A background in plant science and, or genetics would be advantageous. Applicants with experience of working with Arabidopsis and stomata are especially encouraged to apply.

The main responsibilities are 1) measuring stomatal indices and density in Arabidopsis light signalling mutants and 2) carrying out a microscopy based screen to identify mutants impaired in light - induced stomatal development

Contact: Dr C S Grierson, [http://openwetware.org/wiki/Grierson\\_Lab](http://openwetware.org/wiki/Grierson_Lab)

School of Biological Sciences,  
University of Bristol, BS8 1UG, UK.

Tel: +44 (0)117 928 7480

e-mail: [Claire.Grierson@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Claire.Grierson@bristol.ac.uk)

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### **Predoctoral Position in Biochemistry and Estructural Biology**

IBM-CSIC. Parque Científico de Barcelona

Requirements: Degree in Biology, Biochemistry, Physics, Pharmacy or Chemistry and EU citizen.

Contact: Dra. Maria Solà Vilarrubias. e-mail: [msvcri@ibmb.csic.es](mailto:msvcri@ibmb.csic.es)

Instituto de Biología Molecular de Barcelona – CSIC

Parque Científico de Barcelona

C/ Josep Samitier 1 – 5

08028 Barcelona, Spain.

Tel. +34 93 403 49 50 FAX: +34 93 403 49 79

### **Post-doctoral position in Bioinformatics**

Contact: Alberto Pascual Montano, Ph.D. E-mail: [pascual@fis.ucm.es](mailto:pascual@fis.ucm.es)

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<http://bioinfo.dacya.ucm.es/>

<http://www.prot-centrosome-cam.org/jobopportunities.html>

**Please submit items for the next newsletter to your representative on the publications committee, or directly to Alyson Tobin- details above.**