

Plant Section to the SEB Annual General Meeting - Glasgow, 2011

During this year there have been a number of changes to Plant Section one new interest group has been established and two others have been renamed. In addition we have had a number of changes to the section membership. The Metabolism group is now Photosynthesis and Metabolism (Julian Hibberd, Cambridge), Plant Transport (Freddie Theoloudou, Rothamsted), Plant Environmental Physiology (Colin Osborne, Sheffield), Plant Gene Structure and Function has been retired and is now Integrative Biology (Stefan Kepinski) Plant Development (Mathew Terry and Paul Devlin) and a new group Plant Biotic Interactions (Mike Roberts). Information on interest group affiliations will now be gathered by SEB staff and used to create mailing list with a view to involving more of the plant community in the SEB. We would like to thank the following for their contribution to SEB Plant Section over a number of years Lee Sweetlove (Oxford), Gail Taylor (Southampton), Phil White (SCRI) and Andrew Fleming (Sheffield). In addition to Noni Franklin-Tong (Birmingham) we also have three new co-opted members, Stephen Long (University of Illinois), Ottoline Leyser (Sainsbury Laboratory, Cambridge) and Christobal Uauy (JIC).

As part of our Section meetings we now include a discussion of wider issues affecting plant biology with a view to raising the profile of plants to policy makers and in wider society. To this end we have been involved in discussion with the newly formed UK Plant Science Federation and a joint meeting with SEB is planned for April 2012. I also attended the 2nd EPSO & National Plant Societies meeting in Brussels where we discussed FP8 and the Bio-economy in addition to a range of topics in plant science across Europe. Representatives from the plant societies of France, Scandinavia, Germany and Poland attended.

Meetings Past and Future

Prague 2010

The Annual Main Meeting held in Prague was a great success with an excellent venue and a wide range of session topics. The Plant Section put on a number of excellent sessions that were very well attended and the Bidder and Woolhouse lecturers Ben Scheres and Don Grierson gave broad ranging presentations. Our Presidents Medallist Keara Franklin presented her work in the very well supported session on Plant Temperature Response Networks.

2011

The AMM for 2011 is here in Glasgow and we have four very topical sessions in plant science: Regulation of resource allocation and growth (Astrid Wingler and Matthew Paul), Pathways and fluxes: analysis of the plant metabolic network (George Ratcliffe and Nick Kruger), Plant Transcription: regulation and mechanism (Heather Knight and Piers Hemsley), Integration of abiotic and biotic stress responses: from systems biology to field (Katherine Denby, Christine Foyer, Miriam Gifford, Robert Hancock). The Plant Section Presidents Medallist 2011 is Dr Lisa Ainsworth (University of Illinois) whose research interests are in the area of plant productivity and climate change.

This year the Plant Section has also provided support for other meetings from the satellite funds including: GRC conference on CO₂ Assimilation: Genome to Biome, Les Diablerets, June 2011 and The Annual Plant Transport Group meeting to be held on September 2011 in Lancaster. Members of the Society can apply for these funds to support a meeting that they wish to organise or to provide additional support for larger meetings.

2012

SEB is off to Salzburg for the 2012 AMM and the sessions will be Improving Photosynthesis (Richard Leegood/Steve Long); Environment and Development (Miriam Gifford/Karen Halliday); Induced resistance against biotic attack (Mike Roberts); **Plant hormone signal transduction and the control of agronomic traits. (Claus Schwechheimer)**; Chloroplast Biogenesis (Enrique Lopez/Paul Jarvis) and Evolution of Physiology (Colin Osborne).

If you would like to organise a session please put your ideas forward for our 2013 meeting in Valencia. We are also looking for exciting topics for the 2013 Plant Symposium please get in touch with me or the SEB office. I encourage you all to come along to support your society, take a look at our website for future events. Our meetings are heavily subsidised particularly for PhD students and early career postdoctoral researchers. Support for travel to conferences and for research visits is also available.

Professor Christine Raines

Chair of Plant Section