Phytogen October 2016

Call for early career representatives on the Science and Technology Australia executive committee

19 October 2016

Your membership is paid to [wpmlfield name="paidtodate"] (year, month, day).

Dear ASPS members,

The attached document is a request for expressions of interest from early career researchers as early career representatives on the Science and Technology Australia executive committee (2 year appointment). These positions will be voted on at the AGM on 25 November. If people with interest in this could please email me (Ulrike Mathesius) by 4th November. Applicants will need written support from two other members.

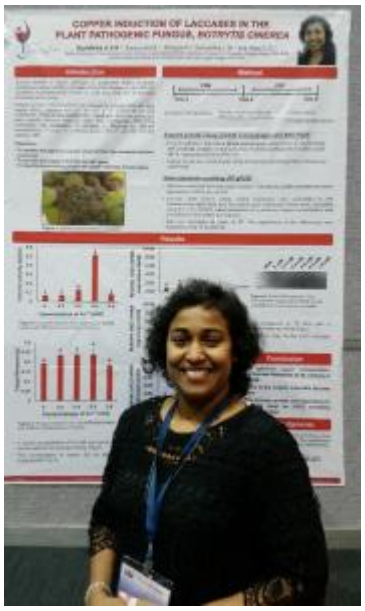
Thank you!

Uli

2016 Combio poster winner investigates the role of laccases of Botrytis cinerea during grape infection

16 October 2016

by Aruni Buddhika, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW



Aruni and her prize winning poster at Combio 2016.

I am Aruni Buddhika, 2nd year PhD student from Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW. My PhD research has focused on understanding the role of laccases of *Botrytis cinerea* during grape infection. I am investigating the differential expression profiles of laccase isoforms during the infection process to elucidate the specific role of each laccase isoform

during the infection. I presented some of my research findings at the COMBIO – 2016. I am delighted that I was awarded a student poster prize in the poster competition. This is a really great recognition for my research, and a great encouragement to continue my research carrier. I am really grateful for organizers from ASPS for awarding me the student poster prize. COMBIO-2016 was a great platform for me to learn new things and to share knowledge. The posters were displayed for three days and it was a great opportunity to expose my work for renowned scientist and researchers in the field. I really appreciate the questions, comments and suggestions given since, they will be useful in further development of my research. Plannery lectures were really informative and contained lots of new facts allowing young scientist to learn. Besides meetings, social gatherings were awesome, particularly the conference dinner which made us a great place to meet people and share ideas and knowledge. I am really proud to be a member of ASPS and looking forward to join with the next conference.

Phyoten blog, call for New Phytologist Tansley Medal (early career researcher) and GPC e-bulletin for September

14 October 2016

Your membership is paid to [wpmlfield name="paidtodate"] (year, month, day).

See John Evans speaking at the opening of the LT Evans Plant Growth Facility at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines in our latest Phytogen blog post

Calling all early-stage career scientists!

The New Phytologist Tansley Medal is awarded annually in recognition of an outstanding contribution to plant science by an early career researcher (student and post-doctoral researchers with up to five years' experience since gaining/defending their PhD are eligible). The winner will receive a prize of £2000 (GBP) and will author a Tansley insight review that will be published in New Phytologist, accompanied by an Editorial announcing the winner and finalists. The application deadline for this year's competition is 30 November 2016.

The Tansley Medal is an opportunity to recognise an outstanding scientist in the early stages of his or her career, and supporting the next generation of plant scientists is a core aspect of the activities of the New Phytologist Trust. I would be very grateful if you would support us in this endeavour by spreading the word to anyone you know who might be eligible to apply for the 2017 Tansley Medal. If you have any queries regarding the medal or the submission process please do not hesitate to get in touch. More details on the Tansley Medal can be found at: http://www.newphytologist.org/tansleymedal.

Global Plant Council E-Bulletin September 2016

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E-Bulletin /
September 2016

Yes, we know it's already October...apologies that your September edition of the Global Plant Council's monthly e-Bulletin is a little late! The GPC team has been busy travelling in recent days and weeks, and this email comes to you from sunny Brisbane, Australia, where we've just had a great week at the ComBio 2016 conference, and held our Annual General Meeting! We'll tell you more about our trip when we get back to GPC HQ, but in the meantime, welcome to any new subscribers!

The GPC's e-Bulletin is a monthly round-up of the latest plant science news, events, reports, funding opportunities and blog posts from the GPC community. If you have anything you would like us to help promote then please do get in touch! Contact Lisa, GPC's Outreach & Communications Manager: lisa@globalplantcouncil.org.

Latest News /
View more...

If you have news you would like us to share on our website, please contact lisa@globalplantcouncil.org

This month 60 new breaking news stories were posted on the GPC website including...

In *Current Plant Biology*: Microbes help plants survive in severe drought
University of Washington (USA) research finds that plants can better tolerate drought and other stressors with the help of natural microbes.

In *New Phytologist*: Plant diversity alleviates the effects of flooding on crops
New research shows that, in grasslands, growing mixtures of plants with higher diversity can help to alleviate the negative impacts of flooding.

In *Nature Plants*: Future drought will offset benefits of higher CO2 on soybean yields
A study of soybeans grown in atmospheric conditions expected by 2050 has yielded a new and worrisome finding: higher CO2 will boost plant growth under ideal growing conditions, but drought – expected to worsen as the climate warms and rainfall patterns change – will outweigh those benefits.

From *Journal of Experimental Botany*:

- Plant peptides – taking them to the next level

A recent Special Issue of *Journal of Experimental Botany* comes in response to the particularly fast-moving pace of discovery in peptide signalling.

- Leaf hydraulic conductance shifts our understanding of plant water transport

New work by Patrizia Trifiló et al. shows that water transport beyond the xylem is important in explaining the decline of whole-leaf hydraulic conductance with dehydration.

From Elsevier: Free *Current Opinion in Plant Biology* articles from a special issue on Agriculture & Climate Change Conference 2015
Elsevier has made a series of 9 articles free to access following the 2015 Agriculture & Climate Change Conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Events /
View more...

If you have a conference, meeting, workshop, training course or other event coming up, we can include it in our Events calendar! Please email lisa@globalplantcouncil.org

International Symposium on Plant Senescence
31 October–1 November 2016. Jeju, Korea.

International Agrobiodiversity Congress 2016
06–09 November 2016. New Delhi, India.

Reunión Argentina de Fisiología Vegetal
13–16 November 2016. Ciudad de Corrientes, Argentina.

1st Cold Spring Harbor Asia Conference: Latest Advances in Plant Development & Environmental Response
29 November–02 December 2016. Awaji, Japan.
13–16 November 2016. Ciudad de Corrientes, Argentina.

Policy /

Lots of new reports, and an archive of useful documents from the last few years, are available on our website. Head to the Resources page and click 'Reports'.

Seeds of Resilience: A Compendium of Perspectives on Agricultural Biodiversity from Around the World
This report by the Global Alliance for the Future of Food focuses on the role seeds and seed diversity can play in sustainable agriculture, food security, and nutrition

Global Plant Council Nutritional Security White Paper (PDF)
In case you missed it earlier in the year, you can download the Global Plant Council's Nutritional Security white paper here.

Funding Opportunities /

Spotted a funding opportunity we've missed? Please tell us about it by emailing lisa@globalplantcouncil.org

New Phytologist is now accepting nominations for its 2017 Tansley Medal! This prestigious award is open to all students and early career researchers within 5 years of their PhD.
More info...

The Cyclamen Society has established a new grant fund to provide up £5000 GBP for relevant research projects. International applicants are encouraged to apply; the research may be directly or indirectly related to Cyclamen.
More info...

On the blog /
View more...

Would you like to contribute an article to the GPC's blog? Please get in touch!
Email lisa@globalplantcouncil.org

Bringing forgotten ideas on plant biomechanics into the 21st century
Sarah Jose interviews Dr Winfried Peters who told us about his research into plant cell biomechanics, and how some forgotten 19th and 20th century ideas proved valuable.

Come together
In this reblog from *Nature Plants*, the pros and cons of attending plant science conferences are discussed.

Cassava brown streak: lessons from the field
University of Bristol PhD student Katie Tomlinson shares the highlights and learnings from a recent field trip to Uganda.

1000 Plants
A familiar face is behind this blog post on the 1000 Plants initiative – former GPC New Media Fellow Amelia Frizell-Armitage missed us and asked to write us a post!

Members /



Click here for details of the GPC Member Societies and Affiliates and their representatives.

Please contact Ruth Bastow (ruth@globalplantcouncil.org) to find out how your organization can join the Global Plant Council.

The GPC is a coalition of plant and crop science societies and affiliates from across the globe. The GPC seeks to bring plant scientists together to work synergistically toward solving the pressing problems we face.

Please click here to make a donation via PayPal to help support the GPC.

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The Global Plant Council is a not-for-profit entity registered in Switzerland.
Our registered mailing address is:

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Add us to your address book

John Evans speaking at the opening of the LT Evans Plant Growth Facility at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, 21 January 2016

13 October 2016



John Evans speaking at the opening of the LT Evans Plant Growth Facility at the International Rice Research Institute, Philippines, 21 January 2016 (left). The opening took place during IRRI Science Week and John, Murray Badger, Spencer Whitney,

Paul Quick and Florence Danila contributed talks to the IRRI-Australia symposium.



The $10M facility was a gift from Australia to IRRI (right). It was named after John's father Lloyd who served on the IRRI board and whose efforts led to the first phytotron donated to IRRI around 2000. Inside the facility, rice seed handling and storage will occur on the left hand side and greenhouses, growth cabinets and laboratories for non transgenic research occurs on the right hand side. The building is engineered to withstand typhoons that frequently affect the area.



Behind the scenes, Spencer Whitney was planning a takeover of yet more office and lab space with his favourite colour scheme (right). His long face reflects his concern that one student talk had failed to mention Rubisco during the IRRI-Australia symposium.

Science & Technology Australia – October Newsletter

10 October 2016

Your membership is paid to [wpmlfield name="paidtodate"] (year, month, day).

Science & Technology Australia – October Newsletter

View this email in your browser

Science & Technology AUSTRALIA

Dear colleagues,

This month we've been working hard to pull together a stimulating and practically-focused *Science meets Business*. With an excellent line-up of speakers and a similarly experienced list of delegates, the day promises to be stimulating, creative, practically-focused and forward looking – and a terrific opportunity to make new connections and perhaps even forge new partnerships. We still have only a handful of places left and will close registrations in a week, so if you've been putting off registering or are yet to send us your nominated delegates, please don't delay.

Among our guest speakers at *Science meets Business* are Assistant Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science the Hon. Craig Laundy MP, and Shadow Minister for Science Senator the Hon. Kim Carr. We look forward to hearing from them about how all the innovation buzz is being translated into action. I'm pleased to report that I met recently

with the co-convenors of the Parliamentary Friends of Science, the Hon. Karen Andrews MP and the Hon. Richard Marles MP, and both have enthusiastically committed to re-convene this important group. This will happen in the coming weeks and STA will soon start to work with the Friends of Science to stage their first event of the new Parliament.

Now is the time to start thinking about who among your membership might benefit from attending Science meets Parliament: to be held in the second half of March 2017, this is a great opportunity to network and develop new skills, and I encourage you to put forward delegates who are keen to engage with politics and who have not previously had the chance to attend.

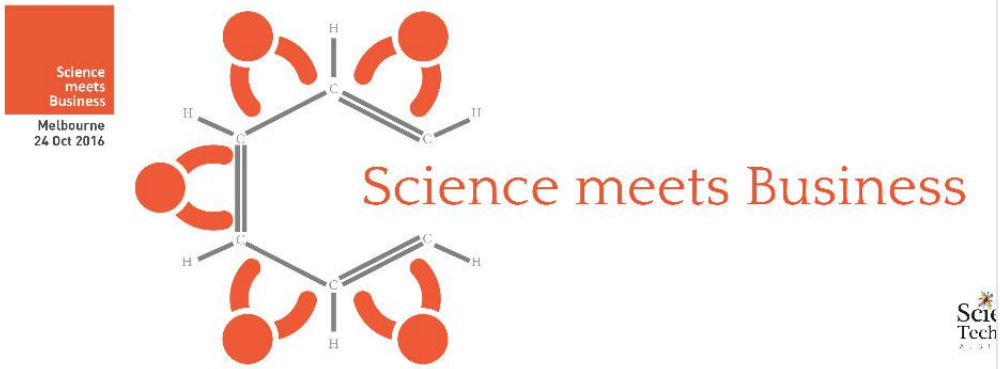
I recently met with the Chief Scientist and leaders at Innovation and Science Australia to discuss the R&D Tax Incentive review, the Commonwealth Science Council's horizon scanning, and other emerging issues and initiatives in science and technology. STA is preparing a submission to the Tax Incentive Review consultation; I encourage members to please make contact if you would like to discuss or contribute to this submission. The President, Professor Jim Piper and I also met recently with CSIRO Chief Executive Dr Larry Marshall, to hear about his plans for our important national research organisation.

Members will have noted the recent call for applications to join STA's Executive Committee: as we speed toward the November AGM it's time to consider whether you'd like to join our leadership group and help steer the organisation's strategic directions and priorities. Positions up for election this year are President-elect, Secretary, Policy Chair and Early Career Researcher Representative. Any fully paid-up member of an STA ordinary member organisation is welcome to nominate: please get in touch if you'd like more information. Nominations close on 11 November, and the election will occur at the AGM in Canberra on 25 November. All members of our member organisations are welcome to attend the AGM: please let us know if you're intending to be there: I hope to see a strong representation and look forward to the opportunity to meet more members.

I've enjoyed the privilege of speaking with a number of you in the past month – in Brisbane, Canberra and Sydney – and hearing your views about STA's current and future directions. I'm very much looking forward to catching up with old connections and making new friends at our event in Melbourne in a few weeks' time. If I haven't had the

chance to speak with you yet, please know you are welcome to call or email any time.

Cheers,
Kylie



Science meets Business 2016
The second *Science meets Business* event is now only a couple of weeks away. Building on the success of last year's event, this year we have an outstanding array of speakers and attendees for this exciting and engaging day of discussions and networking. You can see the list of speakers here.

We still have a few spots left so get in touch this week if you're interested in attending. For those who can't make it, we will have details and recordings available afterwards on our website.



LIFE in Perth
Following SEX and MURDER, the third *Science of Life and Death* event

– staged by the Australian Academy of Science and produced by STA – is LIFE in Perth on 10 November. LIFE will explore artificial wombs, life extension and improving health through genetic modification. Host Bernie Hobbs will be joined by:

- Dr Hayley Dickinson, Embryology and Placental Biology, Hudson Institute for Medical Research
- Professor Ryan Lister, Lister Lab, University of Western Australia
- Dr Brenda McGivern, Law School, University of Western Australia

For more information and to book tickets, go here



MARS the live experience
Science & Technology Australia has proudly partnered with National Geographic Live to bring Buzz Aldrin and leading scientists from international space agencies to Australia to discuss the challenges and opportunities in colonising Mars. Thanks to our partnership STA can offer a 20% discount on tickets, redeemable by following this link.



Dr Lisa Randall

Dr Lisa Randall, the first female theoretical physicist to hold tenure at Harvard University, is touring Australia this November in her debut tour. In addition to working to uncover a 'fifth dimension', Dr Randall is also a leading advocate for the role of women in science and building an environment that helps young women pursue their interests in science. For more information, please click here.

Member News

The Australasian Society of Clinical and Experimental Pharmacologists and Toxicologists is holding its annual scientific meeting in conjunction the Molecular Pharmacology of G Protein-Coupled Receptors meeting in Melbourne 27-30 November.

Registrations for MathsFest Australia 2016 are now open. MathsFest takes place between 28 November and 13 December with nearly 40 international speakers confirmed.

The 23rd Australian Statistical Conference 2016 is on in Canberra from 5-9 December 2016. It will be held in conjunction with the 14th Australasian Data Mining Conference and the 9th Australian Conference on Teaching Statistics.

The RACI National Centenary Conference 2017 is being held in Melbourne on 23-28 July 2017.

Opportunities
The Australian and Singaporean Governments are holding two joint research workshops next year on data science and marine science. To indicate your interest, contact Andrew Ford at the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (Andrew.Ford@industry.gov.au) and copy International Science (international.science@industry.gov.au) and the Australian Academy of Science (grants@science.org.au) by no later than 14 October 2016.

The Australian Geoscience Council and the Australian Academy of Science are providing grants for early-career Australian and New Zealand geoscientists for career related travel. Applications close 31 October.

Nominations are open for the 2017 Clunies Ross Awards to recognise contributions from individuals to use technology to benefit Australia.

Members, would you like us to feature your upcoming event on our website and in our newsletter? Please get in touch at info@sta.org.au.

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Plants in Action 2 new chapters and PDF update

01 October 2016

Your membership is paid to [wpmlfield name="paidtodate"] (year, month, day).

Hello ASPS members,

Two new chapters have been added to the new edition of Plants in Action. ***plantsinaction****.science.uq.edu.au*

Chapter 4: Nutrient uptake from soils

Chapter 12: Sunlight and plant production

The new version has been redesigned so that the illustrations are cleaner and the PDF function for each page works better.

Chapters in the FIRST edition (***plantsinaction****.science.uq.edu.au/edition1)* can now be downloaded as a single PDF, if you click on the first page of the chapter.

Thanks

Rana Munns