Phytogen May 2022

ComBio2022 poster and student travel application

29 May 2022

Dear ASPS Members,

A reminder that the 2022 Annual Meeting for the Australian Society of Plant Scientists will be held in Melbourne (27-30 September) as part of ComBIO2022 (see ComBio2022).

ComBIO is the joint meeting of five biological and genetics societies from Australia and New Zealand. It provides us all with the opportunity to experience a much larger and exciting meeting and hear outstanding international and local speakers from the plant and animal worlds (including Nobel Laureate Jennifer Doudna). Among the wide range of symposia are streams dedicated to plant biology, signalling and evolution.

Deadline for Abstracts is Friday 24 JUNE – see the website. Please print off the attached **Poster** and display it in your labs and tea rooms.

Note: Student members of ASPS who attend ComBIO and present a talk or poster are eligible to receive funding to support their travel. See the attached application form.

We encourage everyone to participate.

Peter

Dr Peter R Ryan

President, Australian Society of Plant Scientists

Honorary Fellow, CSIRO Agriculture and Food

PO Box 1700

Canberra ACT 2601, Australia

Email: Peter.Ryan@csiro.au

Mob: 0468671565

ComBio 2022 update and May Phytogen

25 May 2022

Hi ASPS members,

May Phytogen can be accessed HERE.

The local ASPS organising committee would like to gently remind you that early bird registration for ComBio 2022 (Melbourne, 27-30th Sept) closes June 24th.

This conference is a great opportunity to meet friends and colleagues face-to-face after long periods of zoom-based interactions.

As per usual there is an excellent line up of plenary speakers. The highlight being Nobel Laureate Jennifer Doudna and the two plant-specific speakers Siobhan Brady and Niko Geldner.

Attached (ComBio2022TT) is an outline of the program.

The plant stream symposia are as follows:

EXTRACELLULAR MATRICES

PLANT DEVELOPMENT

PLANT GENOMICS, GENETICS & GENE EDITING

FROM LAB TO FIELD

PHOTOSYNTHESIS & CARBOHYDRATES

PLANT WATER TRANSPORT & UTILIZATION

PLANT SUCCESS – ENLISTING THE POWER OF MODELS

REPRODUCTION & SEED BIOLOGY

PLANTS & THEIR ENVIRONMENTS

Importantly, there is also ASPS student travel support for conference attendance (application due **4 July 2022**):

https://combio.org.au/combio2022/student.html

As a small favour could we ask you to print out the attached ComBio2022 flyer and distribute in your department/institute to help with advertising.

Please do come along and enjoy the science, cold/wet Melbourne and the opportunity to socialise.

Looking forward to seeing you all,

John/Ros (ASPS – LOC ComBio)

ComBio2022: 27 – 30 September 2022, Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
Early Registration & Abstract Deadline: Friday, 24 June 2022
https://combio.org.au/combio2022/

After a long pause in our plans, we are very pleased to advise that the ComBio2022 online registration and abstract submission forms are now available at:

https://www.combio.org.au/cgi-bin/combio-registration-form.cgi

and
https://www.combio.org.au/cgi-bin/combio-abstract-form.cgi respectively.

This will be a full face-to-face meeting.

ComBio2022 is a combination of five societies holding their annual meetings:

Australian Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
Australian Society of Plant Scientists
Australia and New Zealand Society for Cell and Developmental Biology
Genetics Society of AustralAsia
New Zealand Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

The program timetable can be accessed
from: https://combio.org.au/combio2022/timetable.html

You can also see the plenary speakers and their photographs and biographies at:
https://combio.org.au/combio2022/plenary.html

We are pleased to advise that this year, the very popular "Career Development Forum" will be almost a full day of sessions held on Tuesday, 27 September offsite.

Further information:

Sally Jay
combio@asbmb.org.au

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Further information:

Sally Jay
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May Phytogen – lets all catch up in Melbourne 2022.

25 May 2022

Welcome to Phytogen for May 2022.

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Note: Student members of ASPS who attend ComBio and present a talk or poster are eligible to receive funding to support their travel. See the attached Student-Travel-Grant-for-ComBio2022 – due 4th July 2022.

We encourage everyone to participate.

Peter.

International Plenary Speakers

We are delighted that all of our International Plenary speakers remain committed to Combio despite the two year delay. The majority will be attending in person, however with pressing schedules, some will be opting to present virtually. These presentations will be conducted live, and followed by panel discussions for questions and discussion.

- **Siobhan Brady**, University of California, Davis, CA, USA



Siobhan Brady received her PhD at the University of Toronto in 2003, and was a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Postdoctoral Fellow at Duke University from 2003 - 2008. In 2009 she began at the University of California, Davis in the Department of Plant Biology and in the Genome Center and became a Professor in 2020. In 2010 she was named an a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Faculty Research Scholar. Research in the Brady lab focuses on the global regulation of gene expression and its contribution to root morphology and development in Arabidopsis thaliana, Zinnia sp. species, Sorghum bicolor and maize.
Homepage: https://www.bradylab.ucdavis.edu/sites/bradylab/
LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/pub/siobhan-brady/33/b42/71a1/
Twitter: @brady1lab

- **Jamie Cate**, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA
- **Jennifer Doudna**, University of California, Berkeley, CA, USA



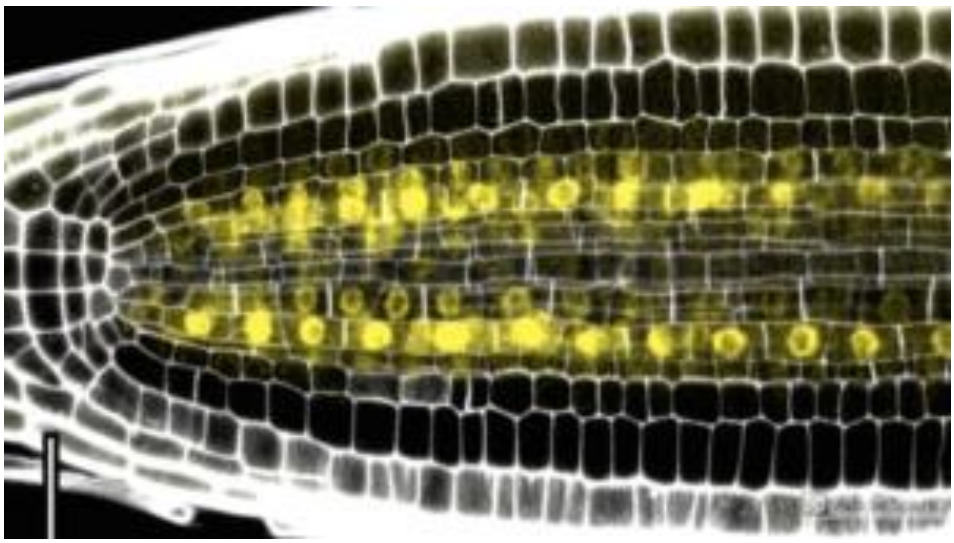
Jennifer Doudna, PhD is a biochemist at the University of California, Berkeley. Her groundbreaking development of CRISPR-Cas9 - a genome engineering technology that allows researchers to edit DNA — with collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier earned the two the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry and forever changed the course of human and agricultural genomics research. She is also the founder of the innovative Genentech Institute, the Li Ka Shing chancellor's chair in biomedical and health sciences, and a member of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Gladstone Institutes, the National Academy of Sciences, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is a leader in the global public debate on the responsible use of CRISPR and has co-founded and serves on the advisory panel of several companies that use the technology in unique ways. Doudna is the co-author of "A Crack in Creation", a personal account of her research and the ethical and social implications of gene editing.
Homepage: https://profiles.berkeley.edu/people/jennifer-doudna

- **Niko Geldner**, Université de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland



Niko Geldner studied biology at the Universities of Mainz, Bordeaux 2 and Tübingen. He did his PhD in the lab of David Ingram, working Arabidopsis embryogenesis and ovule mutagenesis. He then went as an EMBO post-PhD to know to Joanne Chory at the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California, working on endocytosis trafficking of the BRI1 receptor and developing the VAIN3 salt tolerant compromised exposure. In 2007 he started as an Assistant Professor at the University of Lausanne and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2013 and Full Professor in 2018. He was awarded a starting and consolidator grant of the European Research Council (ERC) in 2007 and 2014. In 2011 he became an EMBO Young Investigator and was elected EMBO member in 2017.

Taking a look at the Programme of Plenaries and Keynotes, 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, Professor Jennifer Doudna is delivering the opening Keynote Lecture. Jennifer's research field is gene editing and CRISPR, revolutionising agriculture and genetics. In early childhood in Hawaii, marvelling at plants is where it all began – will be very inspirational for all of us. There is also Professor Siobhan Brady from the College of Biological Sciences at the University of California, UCDavis. Here is an amazing article about growing food despite drought. Plus Professor Niko Geldner from the Department of Plant Molecular Biology, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, will be speaking about the root endodermis.



Root endodermis, Geldner Lab

In May there has been an interesting article growing plants with soil from the moon: Scientists Grow Plants in Lunar Soil from the 12th May 2022.



Rob Ferl, left, and Anna-Lisa Paul looking at the plates filled part with lunar soil and part with control soils, now under LED growing lights. At the time, the scientists did not know if the seeds would even germinate in lunar soil. Credits: UF/IFAS photo by Tyler Jones.

We wish students and teachers all the best in preparing for exams and semester assessments in coming months.





Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is currently offering professional development scholarships for the Australian Society of Plant Scientists staff and members. The scholarships are open to women across all areas of the **STEM** sector and we encourage you to share this opportunity with your staff & members.

Women & Leadership Australia supports women leaders across all sectors and industries by providing world-class leadership development programs for emerging, middle and senior leaders. We believe that advancing gender equity, especially in leadership, is central to creating a more fair and inclusive society.

Through our Industry Partnership Framework, we work with over 500 associations and professional bodies to increase awareness and action around gender equity. With your support, we can continue to create meaningful opportunities for women leaders in your industry.

Scholarships of $1000 – $5000 per person available for women in the STEM Sector

- To encourage more women to step into leadership roles across the **STEM** sector, WLA is offering scholarships for 4 x leadership development courses. Apply by **10 June** or find out more by clicking here – https://www.wla.edu.au/stem.html

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PB2022 registration at lowest rates ends June 8 2022. On Demand Plant Biology Extended will be available for purchase for those not able to attend the meeting in person. More details to come.....



Please login and check your ASPS membership is up to date. Encourage your colleagues and students to join ASPS. Go to: https://www.asps.org.au/members/join

Tweet to @asps_ozplants your news and upcoming events.

