December 2024 Phytogen

16 December 2024

Welcome to the last edition of Phytogen for 2024!

For this final edition of the year, we take a look back at the local conference and the annual general meeting of the Society held at the end of last month. We welcome some new faces to the Society who will commence their roles in 2025. We also continue to spotlight our student members. This month we feature Yalin Liu, a first-year PhD student affiliated with the School of Biosciences at The University of Melbourne.

We **welcome contributions** from students and researcher at any time for publication in Phytogen. Its free and a great way to give your research profile a boost and share your findings! Send your contribution to our editors Raz (razlin.azman@csiro.au) or Lucas (L.Auroux@latrobe.edu.au).

2024 ASPS Local Conferences

The ASPS 2024 conference was a hybrid conference held concurrently across Australia and New Zealand at the end of last month. This event brought together plant scientists across Australia, with strong participation from NSW and ACT (117 attendees), QLD (64), SA (66), VIC (55), and WA (55). Colleagues from other states/territories joined online, making it a truly national gathering of ideas and research. It featured local meetings connected virtually for the ASPS and NZSPB award presentation session, where each award winner presented. This event brought together plant scientists to share research, collaborate, and strengthen connections within and across states and territories.

The ASPS would like to sincerely thank the local organising committees for making these events possible with the generous supports of our sponsors:

- National sponsors: Bioplatforms Australia, the ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture, and ThermoFisher Scientific.
- Award and lecture sponsors: Functional Plant Biology, The Annals of Botany Company, and Agrisera Antibodies.
- Local sponsors: the Australian Plant Phenomics Network (VIC, WA, NSW); the Australian Genome Research Facility (WA); Qiagen (WA), John Morris Group (WA), Licor Inc, the Western Sydney University School of Science and Hawkesbury Institute for the Environment (NSW); ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture and the Queensland University of Technology (QLD); Flinders University, The University of Adelaide, ARC Centre of Excellence for Plants for Space, Waite Research Institute and the South Australian Genomics Centre (SA).

Here are some winners for best talks and posters. Congratulations to all winners and thank you to all presenters for sharing your research at the conference. Your participation continues to make our annual conferences a success and a platform for plant scientists in Australia to share their research and form professional networks.

NSW & ACT

Best Student Presentation



Nicole Bison

University of British Columbia (visiting the Australian National University)

Academic profile | The University of British Columbia interview | X: @Nicole Bison

Student Presentation Runner-up

Archive of Phytogen PDFs

All Phytogen issues published as PDF newsletters can also be downloaded by clicking here.

Tags

ASPS 60 | Awards | Global Plant Council | Phytogen | Plant Nutrition Trust Travel Scholarship | RN Robertson Travelling Fellowship | Science Meets Parliament | Women in science

Archives

June 2025
May 2025
April 2025
March 2025
February 2025
January 2025
December 2024
November 2024
October 2024
September 2024
August 2024
July 2024
June 2024
May 2024
April 2024
February 2024
January 2024
November 2023
October 2023
September 2023



Xuan Hu

Australian National University

Academic profile

Best Student Poster



Edward Chaplin

University of Sydney

The University of Sydney interview

Student Poster Runner Up

Haoran Li

Australian National University

VICTORIA

Best ECR Presentation



Lim Chee Liew

LaTrobe University

Lim Chee Liew Profile | La Trobe University

X: @LimCheeLiew

Best Student Presentation

Olivi Doolanm LaTrobe University

Olivia Doolan | La Trobe University Profile

Best Poster

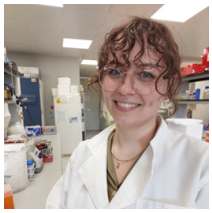


Thomas Cobbinah, La Trobe University

LinkedIn

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Best Presentation



Samantha Norman

University of Western Australia

LinkedIn

Best Poster

August 2023
July 2023
June 2023
May 2023
April 2023
March 2023
February 2023
December 2022
November 2022
October 2022
September 2022
August 2022
July 2022
June 2022
May 2022
April 2022
March 2022
February 2022
January 2022
December 2021
November 2021
October 2021
September 2021
August 2021
July 2021
June 2021
April 2021
March 2021
February 2021
January 2021
December 2020
November 2020
October 2020
September 2020
August 2020
July 2020
June 2020
May 2020



Andrew Tuckey

University of Western Australia

X: @andy_tuckey

ASPS 2024 annual general meeting

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on 29 November 2024. On behalf of the Society we would like to thank Professor Martha Ludwig whose term as President will end on 1 January 2025. Martha's work strengthened the links between each state and profoundly enhanced the exhibition of plant science in Australia, thank you Marta. The President-Elect, Professor Brent Kaiser, will become the new President of the Society on 1 January 2025. Welcome Brent! Martha will continue to stay on the Society exec.





(L): Martha Ludwig ; (R): Brent Kaiser

Voting at the Annual General Meeting resulted in the election of new volunteers to fill the vacant positions from 2025:

Honorary secretary



Associate Professor Mary Byrne

University of Sydney

Academic profile | Lab Webpage

Associate Professor Mary Byrne is a plant geneticist studying plant development. Her group has made contributions to our understanding of genetic pathways that distinguish stem cell from differentiated cell fate in the plant shoot meristem, and to our understanding of genes and genetic pathways that determine leaf shape. She is a passionate teacher of undergraduate and graduate students studying plant science and genetics.

Discipline representatives

Welcome new discipline reps, and many thanks to outgoing discipline reps for their contribution to ASPS and Phytogen during the year.



Cell Biology
Lim Chee Liew



Plant-Microbe Interactions
Ronald Board



Education & Outreach
Robert Sharwood



Diversity & Inclusion
Sunita Ramesh

Student representatives

April 2020
March 2020
February 2020
January 2020
December 2019
November 2019
October 2019
September 2019
August 2019
July 2019
June 2019
May 2019
April 2019
March 2019
February 2019
January 2019
December 2018
November 2018
October 2018
September 2018
August 2018
July 2018
June 2018
May 2018
April 2018
March 2018
February 2018
January 2018
December 2017
November 2017
October 2017
September 2017
August 2017
July 2017
June 2017
May 2017
April 2017
March 2017

Welcome to our new student representatives, representing VIC, QLD, WA and SA. We thank Zane Marks (U of Adelaide) for his effort and contribution to ASPS and Phytogen in 2024.



Victoria
Lucas Auroux



Queensland
Juel Datta



Queensland
Chamika Mudiyanselage



Western Australia
Alistair Hockey



South Australia
Alexandra Cunningham



South Australia
Katie Schleyer

Student Contribution



Yalin Liu

PhD student, School of Biosciences, The University of Melbourne

Yalin Liu | Google scholar

yalliu1@student.unimelb.edu.au

Yalin Liu is a first-year PhD student in Mike Haydon's Lab at the University of Melbourne, bringing a wealth of experience in molecular biology, biochemistry, and plant science.

Her research journey began during her master's studies in the Constabel's Lab at the University of Victoria, Canada, where she employed CRISPR knock-out techniques to study the transcriptional regulation of tannins in poplar trees. "This project deepened my understanding of gene regulation mechanisms in plants and provided me with extensive hands-on experience in wet lab" Yalin reflects. Her work was summarized in a peer-reviewed publication: Yalin Liu, Dawei Ma, C. Peter Constabel. CRISPR/Cas9 disruption of MYB134 and MYB115 in transgenic poplar leads to differential reduction of proanthocyanidin synthesis in roots and leaves. Plant and Cell Physiology, 2023, DOI:10.1093/pcp/pcad086. Following her MSc, Yalin further expanded her skill set by learning epigenetic techniques as a research assistant in Hong Kong.

Currently, Yalin's PhD research focuses on unravelling the molecular mechanisms that control the circadian clock in wheat. Her work seeks to understand how plants integrate environmental signals to regulate developmental processes like leaf senescence, a crucial factor in crop productivity. "My passion lies in exploring how transcriptional regulation controls the circadian system to optimize plant growth and stress responses," she explains. Her research promises to provide new insights into the role of the circadian clock in wheat, offering practical applications in crop improvement and sustainability.

Acknowledgements: Yalin Liu's work is funded by the University of Melbourne and GRDC.

Editors' note

We hope you had a great time at this year's ASPS 2024 conference. Phytogen will be back at the end of January 2025. Until then, enjoy the time off!

Phosynthetically,
Raz & Lucas

Invited contribution: student contribution by Yalin Liu

Newsletter written and edited by Lucas Auroux and Razlin Azman.

Social Share

February 2017
January 2017
December 2016
November 2016
October 2016
September 2016
August 2016
July 2016
June 2016
May 2016
April 2016
March 2016
February 2016
January 2016
December 2015
November 2015
October 2015
September 2015
August 2015
July 2015
June 2015
May 2015
April 2015
March 2015
February 2015
January 2015
December 2014
November 2014
October 2014
September 2014
August 2014
July 2014
June 2014

Copyright 2017 Australian Society of Plant Scientists Disclaimer & Privacy

Website by Michael Major Media