Functional Plant Biology report

2016 was not the best year for the journal with its impact factor going down by about 0.3 units. While this trend is typical for most journals in the Plant Science area (e.g. Plant Cell has dropped from 9.38 in 2014 to 8.76 in 2016; compare both numbers with 11.2 in 2005). There reasons to explain these trends will be discussed during the Board of Standards meeting in early December. Personally, I see three (related) reasons:

- A sky-rocketing number of open access journals with lower standards for peer review assessment that attracts authors by the easiness of publication;
- FPB subscription is not part of the major "packages" subscribed by universities. This complicates access to reprints and force the authors to refer to other (more accessible) papers.
- FPB is not indexed in PubMed and thus do not have as much visibility as other journals.

Actions taken

- I am going to raise all these issues during BoS meeting in Canberra later this year and resolve all (most) of above issues (e.g. indexing);
- I am also very confident that three latest Special Issues (*Plant Phenotyping* 44(1) 2017; *Flooding and Low Oxygen Responses in Plants* 44(9) 2017; and *Plant Signalling* 45(1&2) 2018) will significantly boost journal's IF;
- Prof Jill Farrant from U Cape Town have been appointed as a Review Editor, and we are trying to recruit some high profile contributors.

Calls for action

- I would like to call to all ASPS members to support the journal by sending at least one high quality publication to be published in FPB;
- We are planning another special issue with a tentative title Ion Transport in Plant Organelles in 2018 and would like to ask you to contribute (either as a guest editors, or/and as contributors)

Sergey Shabala, Editor-in-Chief

Functional Plant Biology – selected statistics

Editor-in-Chief: Sergey Shabala
Editorial Structure: 1 Editor-in-Chief; 24 Associate Editors; 30 Editorial Advisory Board members

Journal Publisher: Alice Hall
Editorial Assistant: Rebecca Fitchett

Manuscripts				
	2014	**2015**	**2016**	**Jan–Jun 2017**
Papers submitted	357	394	439	184
Rejection rate	72%	73.3%	71.1%	67.7%
Papers published (Open Access)	117 (8)	106 (2)	100 (3)	55 (2)
Pages published	1341	1189	1204	653

Geographical origin of submitted papers

	Aus	NZ	Asia	Middle East	Europe	North America	South America	Africa	RoW	TOTAL
2014	30	2	142	37	90	21	19	12	4	357
2015	45	2	163	25	94	17	37	11	0	394
2016	48	5	204	29	89	23	26	15	0	439
2017	18	1	86	15	32	7	17	8	0	184

Geographical origin of published papers

	Aus (CSIRO)	NZ	Asia	Middle East	Europe	North America	South America	Africa	RoW	TOTAL
2014	24(3)	2	27	4	39	15	6	0	0	117
2015	20(2)	2	31	5	38	8	1	1	0	106
2016	24 (3)	2	27	1	24	8	9	5	0	100
2017	18 (4)	1	9	1	20	3	3	0	0	55

Citation data

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Impact Factor (IF)	2.471	2.569	3.145	2.491	2.121
5-yr IF	2.618	3.021	3.388	3.015	2.888
Citation ranking*	51/195	49/196	34/200	50/209	64/211
Immediacy Index	0.633	0.647	0.534	0.443	0.570

*category: Plant Sciences.

Web downloads (full-text HTML/PDF)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	Jan–Jun 2017
TOTAL	136,557	134,048	124,828	129,088	91,993

Editorial Board

Departures	M Badger	Australian National University, Australia
	L Cernusak	James Cook University, Australia
	M Clearwater	University of Waikato, New Zealand
	B Davies	Lancaster University, UK
	J Raven	University of Dundee, UK
	S Swain	CSIRO Agriculture, Australia
Arrivals	S Allakhverdiev	Institute of Plant Physiology, Russia
	J Farrant (Review Editor)	University of Cape Town, South Africa
	J T van Dongen	RWTH Aachen University, Germany

Special Issues / Research Fronts / Virtual Issues

Published

Plant Phenotyping 44(1) 2017

Flooding and Low Oxygen Responses in Plants 44(9) 2017

Forthcoming

Plant Signalling 45(1&2) 2018

InterDrought V, 2018

Ion Transport in Plant Organelles, 2018