



European Plant Science Organisation

<https://epsoweb.org>

News item

Inaugural EPSO Plant Science Seminar

Brussels, 8.3.2021

We would like to announce the start of a new European-wide seminar series by the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) aimed at the Plant Science community and its stakeholders. Our aim is to provide a stimulating set of seminars once a month on a hot and/or emerging topic in plant science, giving the floor to both eminent world leaders and talented up-and-coming early career researchers.

TTT: The seminar will be held online each third Thursday of the month at three (CET).

On March 18th 2021 at 15:00 (CET) we will present two talks by senior scientists exploring the role Genome Editing has to play in modern plant sciences and its potential to help tackle some of the most pressing global issues facing people today.

In the coming months we will be on the lookout for talented plant scientists among the EPSO membership to present their findings and perspectives to the EPSO seminar series. If we approach you to talk, we hope you will be happy to support the initiative. This is a fantastic opportunity for **senior as well as early career researchers** to present their research to an international audience and to network with potential collaborators. If you wish to **nominate** yourself or one of your colleagues to give a seminar, we most welcome your suggestions. Please contact Tim George (tim.george@hutton.ac.uk) to provide your name and potential talk title.

In the inaugural seminar we will present talks from



Prof. Holger Puchta, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology, Germany

“Applying CRISPR/Cas to Plants: From Gene Editing to Chromosome Engineering”

https://www.botanik.kit.edu/molbio/14_146.php

Holger Puchta is director of the Botanical institute and holds since 2002 the Chair of Plant Molecular Biology and Biochemistry at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT) in Germany. After his study of biochemistry at the University of Tübingen and his PhD at the Max-Planck-Institute for Biochemistry in Munich he joined the laboratory of Barbara Hohn at the Friedrich Miescher Institute in Basel, Switzerland before he became in 1995 group leader at the Leibniz Institute for Plant Genetics in Gatersleben (IPK). In 2000 he obtained his habilitation in genetics from the University Halle.

He was worldwide the first scientist to demonstrate that site-specific nucleases can be applied to induce different kinds of controlled change in plant genomes. His group elucidated major mechanisms of DNA double strand break repair and he was one of leading scientist adopting the CRISPR/Cas technology to plants. For his work on plant genome engineering,

he was nominated “Pioneer of Plant Biotechnology” by the *Plant Biotechnology Journal* and awarded twice with an ERC advanced grant. A recent focus of his research centers around CRISPR/Cas mediated plant chromosome engineering.



Dr. René Smulders, Wageningen University and Research, The Netherlands

“Opportunities of gene editing for breeding crop varieties that fit in sustainable agriculture”

<https://www.wur.nl/en/Persons/Rene-dr.-MJM-Rene-Smulders.htm>

M.J.M. (René) Smulders (PhD Nijmegen, The Netherlands, 1989) is since 2012 manager of Plant Breeding, Wageningen University and Research, Wageningen, The Netherlands. He does research on new plant breeding techniques, on developing tools for genetic mapping in polyploid crops including rose, and on how to make wheat varieties that are safe for people with coeliac disease by combining genetic variation with gene editing. He participates in societal discussions on opportunities of new plant breeding techniques, including gene editing, for generating crop varieties that will fit well in integrated pest management systems and contribute to addressing the challenges of agriculture in the 21st century.

The seminars will be hosted on Zoom and last approximately 1.5 hours. Numbers will be limited to 300 attendees and therefore please register early if you would like to join. There will be ample opportunities to ask questions and join the debate. So please join us to support this new and exciting initiative for European Plant Science by following this link just prior to the start of the seminar.

Register in advance for this meeting:

<https://helsinki.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5Mrdu6oqTssGtydAcONLhkSdoTAA400iU5F>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We look forward to seeing you all for the inaugural EPSO seminar on the 18th March 2021

Tim George, Alan Schulman and Emily Breeze
EPSO Plant Science Seminar Series Organising Committee

Contacts

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Useful links

EPSO breaking news: <https://epsoweb.org>

EPSO member institutes and universities: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsso/epsso-members/>

EPSO representatives: <https://epsoweb.org/about-epsso/representatives/>

About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 32 countries, mainly from Europe, and 2.700 individuals Personal Members, representing over 26 000 people working in plant science. EPSO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. <https://epsoweb.org> | EU Transparency Register Number 38511867304-09