



European Plant Science Organisation
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News item

38th EPSO Plant Science Seminar

Brussels, 2.12.2024

We would like to announce the 38th of our European-wide seminar series by the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) and aimed at the Plant Science community and its stakeholders. We continue 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 **19th December 2024** at 15:00 (CET) we will present three talks exploring **Adaptation to climate change associated stress**



Prof. Jonathan DG Jones (JJ), The Sainsbury Laboratory, UK

“Why we need to understand plant immunity to cope with climate change”

JJ is a leading researcher in plant disease resistance; his lab works on plant immune receptor mechanisms, their diversity and their deployment. The recent UK Genetic Technologies (Precision Breeding) Act is enabling his team to develop a precision bred potato that is resistant to late blight and to two important viruses (PVY and PLRV). He is an outspoken advocate of using modern genetic solutions to solve crop disease problems and will reflect on the effects of climate change on plant disease and how best to mitigate them.



Dr. Hilde Nelissen, VIB University of Gent, Belgium

“Plant growth under mild drought - cellular and molecular mechanisms.”

Hilde Nelissen is group leader at the VIB-Center for Plant Systems Biology. Her research career has focused on the central biological question: How do growth processes determine final plant organ size? She studied Arabidopsis leaf development and later on maize with the goal to decipher the instructor networks that govern leaf size, organ growth and ultimately yield in maize. As plant organ size control is an important yield component that is also impacted by adverse conditions, the team aims to better understand the growth regulatory networks to achieve climate resilient crops using a range of molecular and phenotyping technologies, including multiplex genome editing, single cell and spatial transcriptomics.



Assoc Prof. Ebe Merilo, Institute of Technology, University of Tartu, Estonia

“Stomatal regulation: from Arabidopsis to barley”

Ebe (Model and Crop Plant Ecophysiology group) is interested in plant physiology, ecophysiology, molecular biology and agricultural studies. Since defending her PhD thesis in 1999, she has conducted or been involved in several projects in ecophysiology of plants ranging from Arabidopsis to trees and crops, and in translational studies bridging the gap between fundamental and applied science. Ebe’s group aims to identify the molecular stomatal signalling pathway in response to dry air. She has contributed to unravel the dry air-induced rapid stomatal signalling pathway in Arabidopsis: protein kinase OST1 and its activating raf-like kinases are involved in stomatal closure due to rising atmospheric dryness.

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 initiative for European Plant Science by following this link just prior to the start of the seminar.

EPSO Members register in advance for this meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rde-prz0iGN2c4dsb4XaEG3qIvR3Xdv2A>

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

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 **suggest a theme for one of the spring seminars and / or 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.

We look forward to seeing you all for the next EPSO seminar on the 19th December 2024.

Tim George, Alan Schulman and Marie-Theres Hauser
EPSO Plant Science Seminar Series Organising Committee

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

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

About EPSO

EPSO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents around 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 31 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.