



European Plant Science Organisation
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News item

39th EPSO Plant Science Seminar

Brussels, 08.01.2025

We would like to announce the 39th 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 **16th January 2025** at 15:00 (CET) we will present four talks exploring **Hydrosensing - an ERC Synergy Grant in Plant Sciences**



Prof. Eilon Shani, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Eilon received his PhD in plant development from Hebrew University, Israel, in 2011. He studied hormone perception at Mark Estelle's group at UCSD, started his independent group at Tel Aviv University in 2013 and became full professor in 2023. The lab has three main interests: 1. Developing novel genome-scale CRISPR tools, that allow targeting multiple genes from the same family to overcome functional redundancy in plants. 2. Understand the molecular factors regulating plant hormones transport mechanisms and nutrient uptake. 3. Reveal how plants sense and respond to water stress.



Prof. Thorsten Hamann, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

Thorsten received his PhD from the Eberhard-Karls University Tübingen, Germany in 2001. After a brief stint with Bayer Crop Science he joined Chris Somerville's group in Stanford looking into how plant cells monitor and maintain the functional integrity of their cell walls. He became lecturer at Imperial College London in 2007. In 2012 he became associate professor at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim and was promoted to full professor in 2019. His research focuses on the cell wall integrity maintenance mechanism in *Arabidopsis* and *Fragaria*; modulation of drought stress responses and interactions between the parasitic plant *Cuscuta campestris* and its hosts.



Prof. Christine Ziegler, University of Regensburg, Germany

Christine's research aims to provide a holistic molecular description how specific lipids regulate transport of ions, nutrients and compatible solutes across cell membranes and between chemically distinct organelles. Diverse chemo-physical stimuli are involved the regulation of membrane channels and carriers; some of them are linked to the adaptation to environmental stress. Across kingdoms, lipids play an essential in stimuli

perception and signal transduction. We want to determine a molecular movie of lipid-mediated transport regulation.



Prof Malcolm Bennett, University of Nottingham, UK

Malcolm and his team characterized many regulatory signals, genes and mechanisms that control root growth and development. Highlights include identifying AUX1 the first auxin transport protein described in plants which controls root angle and recently elucidating how plant roots respond to water availability. To study root responses in their natural soil environment, Malcolm and colleagues have developed a root phenotyping platform. Recent discoveries include characterization the novel root-water adaptive responses termed Hydropatterning and Xerobranching and a gas diffusion-based signalling mechanism for sensing soil compaction.

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/tZMvdO6rrjqGdZUCIT3XZXzGZik-2-TdBDq>

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 2025 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 16th January 2025.

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

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Useful links

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