



European Plant Science Organisation
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News item

40th EPSO Plant Science Seminar

Brussels, 03.02.2025

We would like to announce the 40th 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 **20th February 2025** at 15:00 (CET) we will present three talks exploring **the role of sugar and N in plant signalling**



Assoc. Prof. Elena Baena-González, University of Oxford, UK

“Regulation of plant growth by the energy signalling pathway”

Elena is an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford. Prior to that (2008-2022) she was Principal Investigator at the Gulbenkian Institute of Science (Oeiras, Portugal). She graduated in Biology from the University of Oulu (Finland) and received her PhD degree from the University of Turku (Finland). From 2002-2008 she was a postdoctoral fellow in Harvard Medical School in Boston (USA). Her work focuses on the evolutionarily conserved SnRK1/AMPK energy signalling pathway in plants, aiming to understand how nutrient signals affect the ability of plants to withstand stress and drive adequate growth and developmental decisions.



Prof Geert De Jaeger, University of Gent / VIB, Belgium

“Targeted interactomics connects the plant SnRK1 kinase with nutrient sensing”

Geert studied Biology and is Full Professor in Plant Biotechnology at Ghent University and Group leader at the VIB-UGent where he leads a research group on Functional Interactomics. His technology driven research team has the Interactomics Core Facility that maps protein interaction networks in plants. He recently started the exploration of the protein interaction networks involving the central metabolic regulators TOR and SnRK1. The aim is to extend our knowledge on their function in carbon and nitrogen signaling, with the aim to develop new approaches to engineer plants for a sustainable agriculture.



Gabriella Vinci, University of Udine, Italy

“Unraveling grapevine resilience to water and nutrient limitations”

Gabriella is a PhD student in the Biochemistry and Plant Nutrition Group at the University of Udine, Italy. Her research focuses on the physiological and molecular responses of grapevine plants to different abiotic stresses, particularly water deficit and low nitrogen availability in the context of root, soil, and microbiome interactions. She is also interested in the application of beneficial microorganisms, such as mycorrhizae, in cultivated plants and their role in enhancing plant resilience to environmental constraints. Her multi-disciplinary approach integrates studies on both aboveground and belowground plant systems to provide a comprehensive understanding of varietal resistance to various edaphic conditions.

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/INZGvrltTBq3MaZZYFq8Mw>

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 20th February 2025.

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

Contacts

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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 30 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.