



European Plant Science Organisation
<https://epsoweb.org>

News item

11th EPSO Plant Science Seminar

Brussels, 2.3.2022

We would like to announce the 11th of our European-wide seminar series by the European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) and aimed at the Plant Science community and its stakeholders. As we move into our second year, 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 **17th March 2022** at 15:00 (CET) we will present three talks exploring the **Plants and Microbiomes**.



Dr Angela Sessitsch, Austrian Institute of Technology, Austria

“The plant microbiome: from rhizosphere to seeds and applications to improve crop performance”

Angela is Head of the Bioresources Unit at the AIT Austrian Institute of Technology. She has pioneered plant-associated microbiomes and is interested in understanding the interactions between plants, microbiomes and the environment as well as to develop applications. Her group explores the diversity and functioning of plant microbiota by applying a range of molecular approaches, interaction modes between plants and model bacteria, colonization behaviour of endophytes as well as various application technologies for biocontrol and crop enhancement applications. She has published more than 150 peer-reviewed publications, she belongs to the Highly Cited Researchers and is co-inventor of several patents.



Prof Marcel van der Heijden, Agroscope, Switzerland

“Microbiomes, Pesticides and Sustainable Plant Production - Challenges for a Next Generation Agriculture.”

Marcel is professor for Agro-ecology and Plant-Microbiome Interactions at the University of Zurich and heads the Plant-Soil Interactions Group (at the Swiss Federal Research Institute Agroscope). He is extraordinary professor in Mycorrhizal Ecology at Utrecht University (the Netherlands) and is president of the International Mycorrhiza Society. His research group performs a mix of basic and applied research, specifically investigating how soil microbial diversity and root microbiome complexity influence plant growth and ecosystem functioning. Recently, he started to investigate whether the application of pesticides influences soil microbes and soil functioning. He has published over 150 scientific papers, including several highly cited papers.



Assoc Prof Simona Radutoiu, Aarhus University, Denmark

“Establishment of nitrogen fixing symbiosis and its impact on microbiota assembly at the root-soil interface of *Lotus japonicus*”

Simona leads a research group focused on studies of interactions established between plants and the large diversity of surrounding microbes. Her team uses genetic and molecular tools to decipher the role of plant components for the establishment of root microbiota, with emphasis on the role of symbiotic associations with bacteria and fungi. Her long-term goal is to use our basic understanding to improve the ability of plant crops to select, associate and benefit from these microbial interactions in sustainable agriculture that limits the use of chemical pollutants.

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://zoom.us/meeting/register/JJtcuutqD4qGtwR8N-DSTvABFoKcjbGvRg](https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/JJtcuutqD4qGtwR8N-DSTvABFoKcjbGvRg)

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 17th March 2022

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

Contacts

Tim George, Hutton / UK & EPSO Board, tim.george@hutton.ac.uk

Alan Schulman, LUKE / FI & EPSO President, alan.schulman@helsinki.fi

Marie-Theres Hauser BOKU / AUT & EPSO Board, marie-theres.hauser@boku.ac.at

Useful links

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

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 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