

Editorial

New editorial structure for *Functional Plant Biology*

Progress in science is made by identifying an important problem, reading the literature, doing original experiments, and communicating the results. The ultimate step in a successful research project is always publication in an international journal. Each scientific journal therefore plays an important role in the conception and the successful conclusion of a research project.

Functional Plant Biology is produced by CSIRO PUBLISHING, a not-for-profit organisation that publishes a large number of scientific journals in association with the Australian Academy of Science. It is affiliated with the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology, the Australian Society of Plant Scientists, and the New Zealand Society of Plant Physiology.

To take advantage of the new opportunities arising from rapid communications and internet publishing, FPB has moved to a new management structure, with an Editor-in-Chief and a group of Associate Editors with international renown. I am delighted to accept the position of Editor-in-Chief.

FPB publishes papers that lead to significant new information about plant functions and their regulation, especially in relation to the natural environment and to changing climate. The strength of FPB has been its focus on plant processes, and of studies at the molecular and cellular level placed in the context of the whole plant. I wish to continue this focus, and to encourage authors to submit papers that use a range of approaches to the understanding of plant function. Such approaches encompass studies on gene regulation, molecular genetics, membrane biophysics, biochemistry, regulatory pathways, cell and organ development, whole plant physiology, and plant-microbe interactions.

Focus areas of plant function:

- Emerging science
- Plant growth and development
- Photosynthesis
- Carbohydrate metabolism
- Nutrient uptake and metabolism

- Root-rhizosphere biology
- Reproduction biology
- Seed and fruit biology
- Stress tolerance
- Defence and protection

Viewpoint articles and focused reviews on these topics are welcome.

Associate Editors that bring expertise in these functional areas are:

Murray Badger, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

David Cahill, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia

Manuela Chaves, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal

Jann Conroy, University of Western Sydney, Australia

Graham Farquhar, Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Russell Jones, University of California, Berkeley, USA

Anna Koltunow, CSIRO Plant Industry, Adelaide, Australia

Jian Ma, University of Kagawa, Japan

John Patrick, University of Newcastle, Australia

John Raven, University of Dundee, UK

Sally Smith, University of Adelaide, Australia

Steve Tyerman, University of Adelaide, Australia

These editors represent scientific academic and technical academies in their respective countries. They will handle papers in their area of expertise, with the assistance of Dr Yvonne Cheng.

The quality of the papers published in a journal also relies heavily on the strength and wisdom of the reviewers. FPB is fortunate in having a body of expert scientists that give advice on a regular basis. We are indebted to this group of people.

I am very excited about the new prospects for the journal. I welcome comments and suggestions on new initiatives and topics for future issues of FPB.

Rana Munns

Editor-in-Chief

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