

Editorial

New developments for *Functional Plant Biology*

New Associate Editors

As part of the new editorial structure adopted by *Functional Plant Biology*, I am pleased to announce the appointment of two new Associate Editors on the team: **Dr Michael Udvardi** (Noble Foundation, Oklahoma, USA) to cover plant nutrition with particular expertise in nitrate and ammonium uptake and assimilation, and **Professor Jim Reid** (University of Tasmania, Australia) to cover plant development with particular expertise in gibberellin and auxin action. This completes the appointment of FPB Associate Editors (14), who cover all major functional areas of plant biology, and represent disciplines from whole plant physiology to biochemistry, cell biology and molecular biology.

Forthcoming Special Issues

Two special issues will be published in the second half of 2008. Ecophysiology papers from the ComBio2007 Satellite Conference EcoFIZZ II will appear in the next issue, with Guest Editors David Ellsworth and David Tissue from the University of Western Sydney.

FPB widens its horizons with a set of papers from the 5th International Workshop on Functional Structural Plant Models held in New Zealand last November. These papers present biological validations and applications of functional–structural simulation models of species important in horticulture, agriculture and forestry. Experimental methods include measurements of plant architecture, light interception and microscopic imagery. Guest Editors are Jim Hanan from University of Queensland and Przemyslaw Prusinkiewicz from University of Calgary.

Research Fronts

FPB will regularly feature Research Fronts, a cluster of papers in a rapidly developing area. These may be drawn from papers delivered at specialist conferences, or initiated by Associate or Guest Editors on a theme of topical or emerging significance. They may include a focused review or viewpoint, and a group of original research articles on a similar theme. Suggestions for topics and/or authors should be sent to the Editor-in-Chief.

The first Research Fronts will be drawn from sessions at the Plant Energy Biology and Water Use Efficiency symposium, a ComBio2008 Satellite Conference (www.plantenergy.uwa.edu.au/webpages/conferences/index.html). The meeting will cover impacts of global climate change and drought on agriculture, biofuel production, and the environment. Talks will be given by 17 international experts and an equal number of Australian scientists. Topics include:

- Light and oxidative stress tolerance
- CO₂ uptake efficiency
- Artificial photosynthesis
- Respiration and stress tolerance
- Organelle biogenesis
- Root growth and drought tolerance
- Root-to-shoot signalling
- Reproductive development

For further details, email the conference organisers (barry.pogson@anu.edu.au or rudy.dolferus@csiro.au) about the meeting in Canberra in September 2008.

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Editor-in-Chief

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