

# Minutes from 2018 MASC Annual Meeting

Wednesday June 27<sup>th</sup> 2018: 17.00- 18.30

Location: LOGOMO Goto 33, Turku, Finland

## Meeting Attendees:

Stijn Dhondt	Belgium
Moritz Nowack	Belgium
Nick Provart (NP)	Canada
Yuling Jiao (YJ)	China
Xuelu Wang (XW)	China
Viktor Zarsky	Czech Republic
Michael Wrzaczek (MW)	Finland
Maura Cardarelli	Italy
Motoaki Seki	Japan
Masatomo Kobayashi	Japan
Thorsten Hamann	Norway
Maria Eriksson	Sweden
Sean May	UK
Geraint Parry (GP)	UK
Leonore Reiser	USA
David Somers	USA
Debbie Crist	USA
Siobhan Brady (SB)	USA
Eva Huala	USA
Roger Innes (RI)	USA
Blake Meyers (BM)	USA
Elizabeth Haswell (EH)	USA

## 1. Update on present and upcoming ICARs

### ▪ Summary of current 29<sup>th</sup> ICAR (*Michael Wrzaczek*)

600 participants with 500 paying delegates from 36 different countries, largest # are Germans, 2nd are Finns, next Koreans, then Japanese. Five delegates from South Africa. Of paying participants, 2/3 are academics, the remainder are students or postdocs. MW reported that this was a little disappointing but was probably a function of there being at least 4 large plant science meetings in Europe during the summer: PlantBiology2018 in Copenhagen, SEB Main Meeting in Florence, Auxin/Cytokinin2018 in Prague and IPMB18 in Marseille. Anecdotally it would seem that other conferences also had less delegates than originally planned for.

### ▪ Presentation on 30<sup>th</sup> ICAR: 16-21 June, 2019, Wuhan, China (*Xuelu Wang*)

Organizer - Huazhong Agricultural University Co-organizers: Institute of Genetics and Developmental biology, CAS, Wuhan University, Chinese Society of Plant Physiology. Local scientific board has been assembled. International scientific advisory committee will be formed soon. Funding sources: NSF of China, Wuhan government, Botanical Society of China, Chinese Society for Plant Biology, Industrial sponsors. Proposed fee - US\$550 Early; \$650 regular; onsite - \$750 includes lunch boxes plus buffet, Students - \$350 early, \$450 USD regular. Extra for banquet ticket if required. Expected numbers are >1,000 delegates based on attendance at ICAR2008 in Beijing and ICAR2016 in Korea.

Conference venue: Eurasia Convention International Hotel (<http://eurasiaconventionwuhan.com/>) in Wuhan - a "thoroughfare to nine provinces" - located at the fortress of Central China, intersection of the Yangtze River and Beijing-Kowloon Railway artery. Suggestion from MW that it might be good to give students and postdocs the opportunity to organize workshops, as this was successful at ICAR2018.

**ACTION: Xuelu and Yuling to supply further details as they are developed so as to encourage advertising of the meeting.**

- Update on ICAR2020 to be held at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA (EH).  
EH gave presentation prepared by Joanna Friesner. Organisation by NAASC supported by an external international advisory board. NAASC have investigated the reasons for attending the ICAR meeting. The primary motivation for younger researchers from North America, Europe and Asia is having the ability to give a research presentation. A summary of the survey findings can be downloaded from MASC website:  
[arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/documents\\_articles/NAASC\\_2018\\_Survey\\_Summary.pdf](http://arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/documents_articles/NAASC_2018_Survey_Summary.pdf)

**ACTION: Joanna Friesner and NAASC committee to keep MASC updated with progress on meeting organisation.**

- 2021 ICAR site discussion. Belfast proposal (GP)  
GP has visited Belfast Waterfront conference venue and has obtained quotes for this venue. Meeting attendees were happy to support the meeting in this location and for GP to proceed as lead organiser.

**ACTION: GP to proceed with this organisation and contact an advisory committee over the coming six months.**

- 2022 ICAR site discussion:  
BM confirmed collaborators from Singapore might be interested in organizing this meeting so this will be followed up over the coming year.

**ACTION: BM to correspond to collaborators in Singapore to ascertain whether this might be an option.**

## 2. MASC webpage/ MASC report/ MASC coordinator (GP)

- MASC annual report  
([arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/mascreports/2018\\_MASC\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/mascreports/2018_MASC_Report_FINAL.pdf)) GP thanked everyone for their contributions. Printing and distribution of 2018 report paid by SPS and contribution from ICAR2018 (via GARNet)

- MASC secretary: GP happy to continue in the role for 2019. The ownership of the MASC website will need to change in 2019 so this is something for discussion with MASC directors.

**ACTION: GP to keep website updated and oversee the transition to a possible new hosting arrangement. GP has also updated GARNet website with information on new resources that are outlined in the 2018 MASC report.**

- Feedback from 2018 Bioinformatics Survey and discussion of the future of Arabidopsis bioinformatics resources.  
NP provided an update from the finding of the 2018 bioinformatics survey. A summary of these findings can be downloaded from the MASC website:  
[arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/documents\\_articles/Bioinformatics\\_Survey\\_Provart\\_ICAR2018.pdf](http://arabidopsisresearch.org/images/publications/documents_articles/Bioinformatics_Survey_Provart_ICAR2018.pdf)

This includes details of a new online bioinformatics course to be made available on Coursera.org as well as a summary from the NAASC plant informatics workshop held in May 2018 in St Louis. One recommendation was for a short annual publication based on the MASC report to be published in Plant Direct.

**ACTION: NP to promote plant informatics course when it goes live in Autumn 2018. GP to correspond with MASC contributors about preparation of possible submission to Plant Direct.**

## 3. Update on activities of MASC subcommittees

- Options for new subcommittees

Discussion about possibility of establishing a **science communication subcommittee** that would broadly report on Arabidopsis-based events. It was uncertain who would lead this subcommittee.

**ACTION: MASC members to consider who might lead this subcommittee**

- Update from Systems Biology and Synthetic Biology subcommittee

Gabriel Krouk and Siobhan Brady are organizers of the inaugural International Systems Biology meeting that will take place in Roscoff in September 2018

<https://sites.google.com/site/iplantsystemsbiol/home>

#### 4. AOB

- Increased participation of Chinese scientists in ICAR and in MASC activities

YJ noted the relatively low number of Chinese scientists who are asked to speak at ICAR meetings or who are involved on MASC subcommittees. This might have as knock-on effect when younger Chinese scientists consider attending future ICAR meetings. MASC meeting attendees agreed that this is a situation that should be improved and that future organisers of ICAR meetings should be encouraged to include Chinese scientists on advisory boards and as invited speakers.

**ACTION: YJ and XW to suggest new possible members for MASC subcommittees. If needed future ICAR organisers as well as MASC subcommittee chairs should correspond with Chinese colleagues in order to obtain suggestions for Chinese scientists who could be included in future MASC/ICAR activities.**