**Advanced Plant Science Seminar Committee 2022-23**

*Committee members*

Kristen MacMillan (to 2023, Chair)

Curt McCartney (to 2024)

Fouad Daayf (to 2025)

Claudio Stasolla (ongoing, as instructor of PLNT 7420)

Lakmini Pathinirage (elected by PSGSA)

*Committee report for January 2023*

The seminar committee met August 22, 2022 via Teams to plan the 2022-2023 seminar series. After two years of being online, we decided to proceed with in-person seminars prioritizing speaker quality over quantity. The committee also agreed that serving coffee and dainties would increase the social aspect of the seminar series. A request from the department to serve coffee and provide funds for dainties was approved. With few PhD students, the seminar series was expected to be shorter in duration. Further planning and correspondence of the seminar series has taken place through email.

The 2022-23 seminar series features nine speakers including 3 new Faculty members, 3 AAFC scientists, 1 PhD student, 1 industry speaker and Dr. Annemieke Farenhorst. Since 2015, the average number of seminar speakers has been 14 (range 9-25). Attendance has been below average, ranging from 25-40. We ask that all Academics encourage their research team members (e.g. graduate students, technicians etc.) to attend relevant seminars. We’d like to see attendance regularly back up to 50.

Mark your calendar! Dr. Victor M. Bendelow Memorial Lectureship will be held this Fall 2023. An inquiry from a PhD student prompted our committee to make a concerted effort to plan a Bendelow memorial lectureship. The last Bendelow lecture was held in 2013. A long-standing invitation to Dr. Ian Baldwin of the Max Planck Institute in Germany that was initiated in 2018 and delayed due to the pandemic, was re-visited in January 2023. Dr. Baldwin accepted our invitation, and we are currently planning a Dr. Victor M. Bendelow Memorial Lectureship for Fall 2023. The proposed timeline is Oct 15-Nov 15 when Dr. Baldwin will be conducting field studies in Utah. A 2-3 day visit to our department will include a public lecture, coffee time with students and academics and time for individual meetings. We invite suggestions for planning and will be reaching out to academics who have planned Bendelow lectures in the past.

The committee reached out to PSGSA to facilitate student-focused speakers and we shared an open invitation to Post-Docs and Research Associates to deliver a seminar. In the future, we suggest that a post-doc or research associate be nominated by an Academic.

Seminar documents are available here: S:\Shared\public\0000 Plant Science Seminars