



CEPLAS

Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences

International CEPLAS Summer School 2017 - EMERGING FRONTIERS IN PLANT SCIENCES

June 5th - 9th, 2017

Sportschule Hennef, Germany





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Arable land, water and nutrients become scarce, while the climate is changing and the world's population is further increasing. To ensure a sustainable supply with plant-based raw materials, innovative strategies for crop improvement are required.

In this context CEPLAS aims at decoding different complex plant traits, which have an important impact on growth, yield and the use of resources. By understanding the molecular and genetic basis of these plant traits we aim to create the basis for a future sustainable cultivation of food, feed and energy crops.

CEPLAS is a joint initiative of Heinrich Heine University, University of Cologne, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research and Forschungszentrum Jülich.





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Monday, June 5th 2017

Biocenter (University of Cologne): Satellite Meeting (attendance optional)

12.30 - 13.30 **Light lunch with talks:**

Grab a sandwich/pizza slice and listen to postdocs presenting their unconventional/successful/painful research career

14:00 - 14:45 **Speed dating amongst participants:**

Grab a drink and spend 2 minutes per turn to break the ice with fellow participants

Coffee break

15:00 - 15:30 **Group discussions:**

Discuss in groups „chaired“ by CEPLAS postdocs about different themes, e.g. fundings, networking, presentation skills etc.

16:00 - 16.45 Bus transfer from the Biocenter Cologne to Sportschule Hennef

Arrival at Sportschule Hennef and check-in

17.45 - 18:00 **Introduction by Prof. Stanislav Kopriva**, University of Cologne

18:00 - 18:45 **Prof. Ian Graham**, University of York

„Molecular breeding of medicinal crops and discoveries along the way“

Dinner and get-together



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Tuesday, June 6th 2017

- 09.00 - 09.45 Prof. Andreas Weber, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
„Understanding and overcoming constraints in photosynthetic energy conversion efficiency“
- 09.45 - 10.30 Early career researcher presentations
Franziska Kuhnert, Silke Weckopp
- Coffee break
- 11.00 - 11:45 Prof. George Coupland, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne
tba
- 11.45 - 12.30 Early career researcher presentations
Andrea Tkocz, Camila Ribeiro
- Lunch
- 14.00 - 14.45 Dr. Eric Kemen, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research, Cologne
„Microbial networks - The fruits of chance and necessity?“
- 14.45 - 15.30 Prof. Ben Blackman, University of California, Berkeley
„Bridging genes to the environment in the evolution of developmental plasticity“
- 15.30 - 16.00 Early career researcher presentation
Sorin Tanasa
- Coffee break
- 16.30 - 18.30 Poster Session I
- 18.30 Dinner
- 20.00 Sports Programme



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Wednesday, June 7th 2017

- 07:00 - 08:00 **Early bird sports programme (optional)**
- 09.00 - 09.45 **Early career researcher presentations**
Colleen Friel, Kevin Lehner
- 09.45 - 10.30 **Prof. Alga Zuccaro, University of Cologne**
„Metabolism and immunity in plant root symbioses“
- Coffee break**
- 11.00 - 11.45 **Jun.-Prof. Maria Albani, University of Cologne**
„The contribution of the vernalisation pathway in annual and perennial plants“
- 11.45 - 12:30 **Prof. Maria von Korff, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**
„Genetic control of inflorescence development in barley“
- Lunch**
- 14.00 -14.45 **Prof. Lutz Schmitt, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf**
„An ABC in plants“
- 14.45 - 15.30 **Prof. Ulrich Schurr, Forschungszentrum Jülich**
tba
- 15.30 - 16.00 **Early career researcher presentations**
Varanya Kittipol, Suraj Sharma
- Coffee break**
- 16.30 - 18.30 **Poster Session II**
- Dinner**
- 20.00 **Sports Programme**



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Thursday, June 8th 2017

07:00 - 08:00 **Early bird sports programme (optional)**

09.00 - 09.45 Prof. **Andreas Meyer**, Institute of Crop Science and Resource Conservation, University of Bonn
„Glutathione homeostasis and control of root growth in Arabidopsis“

09.45 - 10.30 Prof. **Matias Zurbriggen**, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf
„Plant and mammalian synthetic biology approaches for the understanding and control of cellular processes“

Coffee break

11.00 - 11.45 Prof. **Rob Last**, Michigan State University
„Evolution and the single cell: Acylsugar metabolism in the Solanaceae“

11.45 - 12.30 Prof. **Peter Dörmann**, University of Bonn
„Plant lipid biosynthesis and function“

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 Workshops round I (parallel sessions)

- **W1: Claudia Ruby:** Career perspective specialized journalist; first steps in interview techniques
- **W2: Leonid Schneider:** Research misconduct; science's self administered poison
- **W3: Mary Williams:** Communicating, networking & career building

Coffee break

16.00 - 17.30 Workshops round II (parallel sessions of W1, W2 and W3)

18.30 **Conference dinner - grill evening**



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Friday, June 9th 2017

- 09.00 - 09.45 Prof. Ute Höcker, University of Cologne
„Light signal transduction: How plants know it’s dark“
- 09.45 - 10.30 Overview: Food Security
PD Dr. Anja Lindstädter, University of Cologne
„Ensuring food security in the 21th century: an African perspective“
- Coffee break
- 11.00 - 12.00 Prof. Stanislav Kopriva; Concluding remarks
- Lunch
- End of Summer School