



American Society of Plant Biologists

Cultivating a better future through plant biology research.

ASPB NEWS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 5, 2010

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ASPB Welcomes New Leaders for 2010–2011

Purdue's Nicholas Carpita to Serve as ASPB President

ROCKVILLE, Md. -- The beginning of October marks the start of new leadership terms at the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB).

Nicholas Carpita, professor of plant biology at Purdue University, will serve as ASPB president for the next year. He succeeds Tuan-hua David Ho, professor of biology at Washington University in St. Louis.

Dr. Carpita is an expert in the biology of the plant cell wall, which has implications for the use of plants as sources of energy. He has studied the dynamic structure and function of the unique cell walls of grasses and related species, and he conducts research on the biochemical mechanism of synthesis of cellulose and similar compounds. He established that flowering plants make two structurally distinct types of primary cell walls and identified the genetic bases for these distinctions. His recent work revealed the natural regulation of primary wall synthesis by small interfering RNAs; translating these discoveries into improvements in lignocellulosic biomass as a potential source for biofuels production has become a focus of his lab.

A member of ASPB for more than 30 years, Dr. Carpita has previously served as secretary of the Society, as a member of its Executive Committee, and as editorial board member and monitoring editor of *Plant Physiology*, one of the research journals published by ASPB. He was named a Fellow of ASPB in 2009. Dr. Carpita has been a leader in promoting international plant biology, especially related to plants and bioenergy. For example, he was one of the organizers for the Pan American Congress on Plants and Bioenergy in both 2008, when it was held in Mérida, Mexico, and 2010, in Brazil. He is also a dedicated teacher and offers a popular undergraduate course called "Plants and Civilization," which traces the history of agriculture and the broad impacts plants have on human civilization.

Joining Dr. Carpita in the ASPB leadership is president-elect Steven Huber, an Agricultural Research Service plant physiologist and professor of plant biology and crop sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign. Also new to the Society's governing Executive Committee is elected member Gloria Muday, professor of biology at Wake Forest University, and two sectional representatives: Zhongchi Liu (Mid-Atlantic Section from the University of Maryland, College Park) and David C. Logan (Western Section from the University of Saskatchewan).

In addition, several committees have new leadership. The Public Affairs Committee welcomes Richard T. Sayre of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center as its chair; the Women in Plant Biology Committee welcomes Marta Laskowski of Oberlin College; and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee will now be led by Alice C. Harmon of the University of Florida.

A list of the entire Executive Committee membership and 2010–2011 committee chairs is included below.

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ASPB is a professional scientific society, headquartered in Rockville, Maryland, that is devoted to the advancement of the plant sciences worldwide. With a membership of nearly 5,000 plant biologists from throughout the United States and more than 50 other nations, the Society publishes two of the world's more influential plant science research journals: The Plant Cell and Plant Physiology. For more information about ASPB, please visit <http://www.aspb.org/>.

**American Society of Plant Biologists
Leadership, 2010–2011**

ASPB Executive Committee, 2010–2011

- **Nicholas C. Carpita** (President), *Purdue University*
- **Steven C. Huber** (President-elect), *U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign*
- **Tuan-hua David Ho** (Immediate Past President), *Washington University in St. Louis*
- **Judy Callis** (Secretary), *University of California, Davis*
- **Jonathan D. Monroe** (Treasurer), *James Madison University*
- **Gloria Muday** (Elected Member), *Wake Forest University*
- **Katherine W. Osteryoung** (Elected Member), *Michigan State University*
- **Marguerite J. Varagona** (Elected Member), *Monsanto Company*
- **Zhongchi Liu** (Mid-Atlantic Section Representative), *University of Maryland, College Park*
- **John Z. Kiss** (Midwestern Section Representative), *Miami University of Ohio*
- **Estelle M. Hrabak** (Northeastern Section Representative), *University of New Hampshire*
- **Timothy D. Sherman** (Southern Section Representative), *University of South Alabama*
- **David C. Logan** (Western Section Representative), *University of Saskatchewan*

ASPB Committee Chairs, 2010–2011

Committee chairs (except for Constitution and Bylaws) also serve as members of the Executive Committee

- Board of Trustees: **Mary Lou Guerinot**, *Dartmouth College*
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee: **Alice C. Harmon**, *University of Florida*
- Education Committee: **Erin Dolan**, *Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University*
- International Committee: **Leon V. Kochian**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, Cornell University*
- Membership Committee: **Mel Oliver**, *U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, University of Missouri*
- Minority Affairs Committee: **MariaElena B. Zavala**, *California State University, Northridge*
- Program Committee: **Judy Callis** (ASPB Secretary), *University of California, Davis*
- Public Affairs Committee: **Richard T. Sayre**, *Donald Danforth Plant Science Center*
- Publications Committee: **Sally A. Mackenzie**, *University of Nebraska–Lincoln*
- Women in Plant Biology Committee: **Marta Laskowski**, *Oberlin College*