

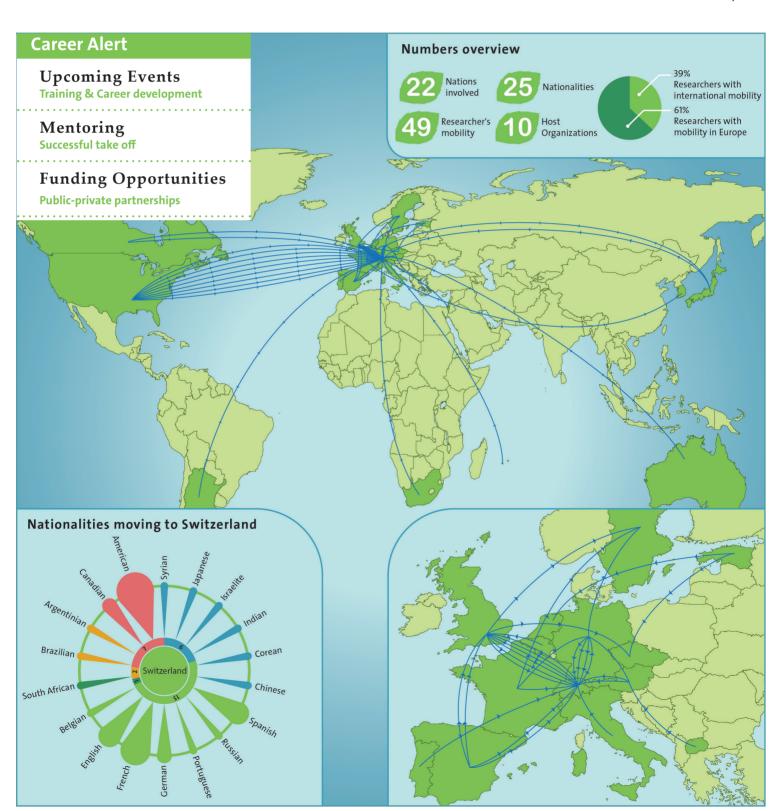




PLANT FELLOWS News

Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

No 1, 2015



Upcoming

Training Events

Spring 2015 - Zurich **Making Effective Career Choices** Lecturer: Sarah Blackford, Lancaster University

28-29 Sep 2015 - Zurich **Leadership Skills for Postdocs** Lecturer: Dr. Olga Pardo, ETH Zurich

29 Sep-2 Oct 2015 - Switzerland **Advanced Publication Strategies**

29 Sep- 2 Oct 2015 - Switzerland Responsible Conduct/IPR

Autumn 2015 - Zurich **Team Development - Supervising PhD Students**

Registration

www.registration.ethz.ch/spsw

Career Events

29-30 Jan 2015 LS2 Annual Meeting in Zurich **Career Development Program & Industry Fair**

http://www.ls2-annual-meeting.ch

Industry Mentoring: Careers for Plant Scientists in the Seed Industry

27 Aug 2015 - Stein near Basel Site visit Syngenta AG 8-10 Sep 2015 - Einbeck near Göttingen, Site visit KWS Saat AG

More events via PLANT FELLOWS





© Kadri Koorem: In this greenhouse experiment, I am studing how range expanding plant species are affected by arbuscular-mycorrhizal communities.

Editorial

The Swiss government has recently released a report on the situation of early stage researcher in Switzerland «Massnahmen zur Förderung des wissenschaftlichen Nachwuchses in der Schweiz» ¹. In total, 35500 researchers are working at Swiss Universities including all levels from PhD student to full professor. About 14% - 23% are in postdoctoral positions with limited time frames. Around 9% of the researcher's population are full professors.

The postdoctoral time is the critical time point for a decision for or against a career in academia. As the report stated, there is a strong need for options of different career pathways. Also there is a need for a competitive selection mechanism that allow talented early-stage researchers to apply for a tenure option.

WHAT ARE KEY FACTORS FOR SUCCESS IN A RESEARCH CAREER? For postdoctoral fellows it is early independence in their research, visibility in research and teaching, and access to good training and mentoring that helps them to professionally develop.

We believe that PLANT FELLOWS can make a difference. With it's well established Career Development Program the fellows gain skills necessary to reach out for a position of professional independency. An important component is the one-to-one mentoring supporting the fellows in reflecting their decision for a research position or beyond.

During the mid-term review of PLANT FELLOWS, the evaluation board was impressed with the quality of research of all fellows as well as the services that the program provides. The training program was rated unique in its effort to establish a certification grounded in the European Commission's recommendations for lifelong learning and recognized in the area of continuous education.

These results encourage us to provide an excellent career program also in the future.

Melanie Paschke & Manuela Dahinden Program Management

¹ Bericht des Bundesrats: www.sbfi.admin.ch/wissenschaftlicher-nachwuchs

PLANT FELLOWS Career Development Program

We offer opportunities for career development through training, networking and mentoring. Fellows can accredit their continuous education and career development activities in a training certification based on EU recommendations for life-long learning and, thus, guaranteeing recognition of qualifications in Europe. Together fellows need to follow 180 hours of training and career development to finish with the certification. It is our next objective that all host organizations will accept the PLANT FELLOWS training certification.



PLANT FELLOWS courses

Leading and developing a research group	Oct 2014	repeated in Sep 2015, open to all Post docs
Advanced publication strategies	Oct 2015	
Advanced fundraising strategies	Oct 2013	repeated in Autumn 2015, open to all Post do
Entrepreneurship	Oct 2014	
Career management	Oct 2013 /2014	repeated in Spring 2015, open to all Post docs new title: Making effective career choices
Responsible conduct / IPR	Oct 2015	

Training offers by host organizations

These courses complement the PLANT FELLOWS training and are published in the course catalouge.

Graduate campus, UZH

The Graduate Campus (GRC) is a support and networking platform for junior researchers at the University of Zurich. It offers:

- Funding for self-initiated, cooperative projects, including peer mentoring groups (GRC Grants)
- Networking and information events
- Qualification courses in transferable skills
- Regular E-Alerts www.grc.uzh.ch

GMI, Vienna

GMI Career Day in 2015 tba

University of Basel

Transferable skill courses, for example training in conflict management and project management.

www.unibas.ch/index.cfm?uuid=423B-087C08390B70AA35CA17F99B1347&o_lang_id=2

University of Stirling

Researcher Development Program www.stir.ac.uk/research/support-for-researchers/researcherdevelopment/#RDP

LFHE Aurora Program www.lfhe.ac.uk/en/programmes-events/you/aurora/

Stepping Stones Program www.stir.ac.uk/hr-services/learning-and-development/staff-develop-

ment-opportunities/#panel2

ETH Zurich

Courses in leadership, facilitating meetings and workshops or project management.

www.ethz.ch/intranet/en/employment-and-work/leadership-and-development/human-resources-courses.html

University of Cologne

The University of Cologne offers as part of the Cluster of Excellence on Plant Sciences (CEPLAS) courses in academic career planning, networking skills, creative thinking, teaching techniques

http://ceplas.eu/en/young-researchers/ postdoctoral-programme/postdoc-courses/

How to make most of your Personal Development Plan

Melanie Paschke

The PLANT FELLOWS Personal Development Plan (PDP) is a tool supporting you in the planning of the next steps of your professional development. With it you can define short term needs and actions in a structured way. This could include, for example, training needs, competencies and skills important for your further professional development and long-term career option.

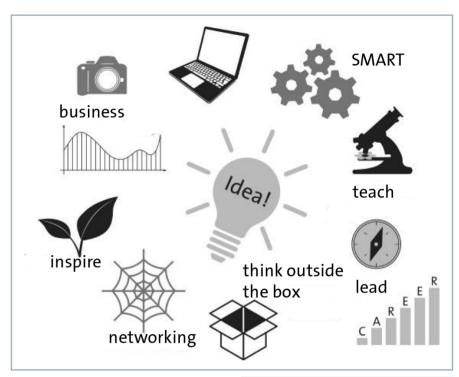
However in PLANT FELLOWS we want to move with the PDP behind the limitation of being a mere planning tool. You have the opportunity to establish your own strong portfolio making your professional development visible.

Transferring the PDP into a portfolio

- **1** Self-assess your competencies and skills to spot needs in few key areas.
- **2** Establish three SMART actions per academic year to reach your needs: Specific, Measurable, Action-oriented, Realistic, and Time-oriented.
- 3 Regular self-reflect: What did I learn? What skills and competencies did I develop? How could I apply them? For example how did your training in leadership skills help in supervising students. How could you improve your supervising competencies through the supervising experience?
- 4 Proof what you have learnt. For example, your portfolio might include documents that support your achievements, for example training certifications and reference projects and activities that highlight working experiences.
- 5 Integrate, print and use it for your CV as appropriate.

The portfolio will be part of the assessment for the PLANT FELLOWS program certification and will be evaluated by the programs training board.

I wish you a successful and rewarding experience.





Tips & Links

Researcher Development Framework of Vitae

Personal Development

An excellent orientation on the skills and competences expected at different stages of a research career. The competence-oriented matrix helps in understanding how professional development in several skill areas will proceed during most senior levels of research careers.

www.vitae.ac.uk/researchers/428241/ Researcher-Development-Framework.

Storrytelling

Reflecting your competencies and skills in the PLANT FELLOWS PDP might become with the technique of storytelling a lot more friendly to the readers: Gould, J. (2014). Transferable skills and storytelling

blogs.nature.com/naturejobs/2014/06/27/transferable-skills-and-storytelling#more-3659

PLANT FELLOWS News No 1, 2015 Mentoring PLANT FELLOWS News No 1, 2015 Mentoring

Experience the Mentoring Program

With the mentoring program we have a vision: Allow the mentee to meet a mentor from academic but also non-academic sectors and explore the options for different career pathways. Today 12 fellows have started their mentoring relationships with mentors. We wanted to know: how did you experience the mentoring relationship? We asked Dr. Firas Talas (ETH Zurich) to share his mentoring experiences with us.

Firas Talas

As researchers, a classical question frequently comes into our minds: What should I do after I finish my current project? Most researchers concentrate on obtaining a novel result or developing a new method. In fact, science has a strong power to keep you focused only on your research without deeply thinking about other career opportunities.

Of course, it is necessary to concentrate on your research goals and activities. But on the other hand, we researcher need to plan our future as all people do (e.g. establish a family or to have a stable life). Thus, it is very common that after each research stage we ask ourselves the same question "WHAT IS BETTER FOR MY FUTURE CAREER?"

It is very interesting to me when I hear the same answer repeated every time, "either you stay in academy or you move to industry or governmental service". Although that answer is absolutely correct, I think that it is completely unspecific because in most cases we are influenced by job market.

Several points stand behind this idea: (i) Academic institutions in general suffer from limited sources of finance. (ii) The academic institutions are over loaded with researchers or lecturers and chances to have a long term position are very low in some countries (e.g. Switzerland or Germany), but much higher in other countries (e.g. USA and France). (iii) Not all the people have the characteristics that enable them to be successful as an academic researcher or professors (e.g. some good researchers could not write good scientific papers or give nice talks), in that case the governmental or industrial sectors potentially fit better to their skills. (iv) Sometimes, the industrial

market has very specific expectations for the candidate researcher. In other words, some companies require narrow experience, some need broad experience, and some other companies are not interested in "over-qualified" researchers for unknown reasons. In fact, many companies do not look at the skill you have but rather on which organism you already applied this skill to (e.g. cereals, potato, arabidopsis). In most cases it is difficult for people deeply involved in research to change from academy to industry. It may be due to narrow spectrum of vision as the industrial people say or due to the limited freedom in conducting their favourite research as the academic people argue.

I spent several years conducting my research in resistance breeding and studying the evolutionary mechanisms of fungal pathogens. In fact, I enjoy what I am doing, but am still aware of the need to keep all choices open. Through my work in the laboratory of Bruce A. McDonald at ETH Zurich, I was exposed to a wider network of academic researchers. I had much advice from my PI to explore new techniques or even new fields of research. Indeed this opened the door to further movement but was still located mostly within the academic cir-

The PLANT FELLOWS program has a broad and diverse network of mentors to take advantage of. Thus, I had contact with Viktor Korzun at KWS Lochow GmbH, who kindly agreed to be my mentor. In my opinion, the choice should be built according to the research field. Hence the mentor and mentee as well as the PI should not be too far away in their specialization. Matching advice of two

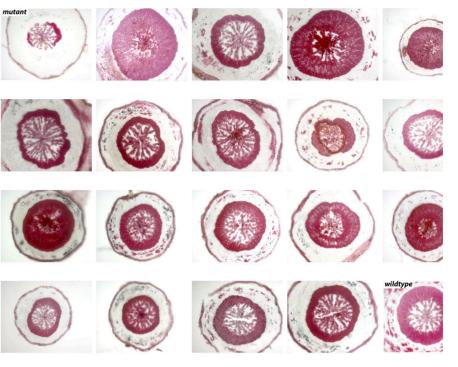


different opinions would enable me to develop my career but also to suggest opportunities for creative cooperations between academy and industry. For example with Bosch in Germany or Schlumberger in France.

Although the mentor has no direct benefit of this relationship it holds an ethical meaning. The mentor would help to establish a wider network, which can be both in academy and industry. Additionally, the mentor can help to point out the strengths and weakness in the mentee's career in a way that he or she can set a better development plan.

Mentorship helps you to recognize where you can fit in the global market." Though the mentor can help improve many points, he will not be able achieve this goal with out full transparency. The mentor needs to understand first of all where my passion is. Is it discovery, application, or management? After that trust will build up gradually until it reaches the mature stage where the experience transfer is started.

Finally I don't argue that mentorship is a magical thing that can guarantee success for everybody. Many researchers perform quite well in their career without evolving such relationships. However, modern ways of communication and research market suggest its roles and needs, though the sooner you develop your personal career and match your passion with your potential, the wider the spectrum of choices will be open to you.



© Daniela Liebsch: Cross sections of Arabidopsis thaliana hypocotyls of wild type, a mutant and several transgenic lines created in our lab that display different distributions of lignified cell walls (pink); scale bar = 0.2 mm.

How can successful mentoring take off?

Melanie Paschke

The mentoring is a mutual relationship. The mentor gives assistance in non-tangible aspects of professional development. The focus is on developing the career of the mentee, e.g. through insight into the work experience of the mentor. Confidentiality and trust are key aspects of a mutual mentoring relationship. Both parties have to deeply appriciate the time and effort invested in the mentoring. We suggest that mentor and mentee define their "modus operandi" (we suggest at least one meeting per year), how they will arrange their meetings (Skype meetings are absolutely agreeable) and how the agenda will be scheduled in a formal mentoring agreement.

The mentoring agreement should be used to clarify and formulate expectations of fellow and mentor towards the mentoring.

Please contact Romy Kohlmann, if you do look for a mentor. She will advise you and provide you with a list of currently available mentors.

www.plantfellows.ch/node/348

Download mentoring agreeme

Our Mentors are

- Experienced researchers in plant science with great experience in European research landscape.
- Experts from industry with strong business backgrounds.

Our Mentors do

- Share their experience with the fellows.
- Offer the fellows access to networks.
- Help in understanding various aspects of the academic and non-academic community.
- Assist the fellows in their next career step.

PLANT FELLOWS News No 1, 2015 Science Highlights PLANT FELLOWS News No 1, 2015 Funding Opportunities

Ecology Letters 17, 637-649 (2014)

Evolutionary responses to global change: Lessons from invasive species

Moran EV, Alexander JM

New Phytologist 198, 466-475 (2013)

Can elevated CO2 and ozone shift the genetic composition of aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) stands?

Moran EV, Kubiske ME

Plant Physiology 163, 431-440 (2014)

Histone Deacetylase AtHDA7 is required for female gametophyte and embryo development in *Arabidopsis*

Aiese Cigliana R, Cremona G, Paparo R,
Termolino P, Perrella G, **Gutzat R**, Federica
Consiglio M, Conicella C

New Phytologist 203, 257-266 (2014)

Herbivory and floral signaling: phenotypic plasticity and tradeoffs between reproduction and indirect defense

Schiestl FP, **Kirk H**, Bigler L, Cozzolino S, Desurmont GA

Journal of Proteomics 20, 93:5-19

Proteomics of model and crop plant species: Status, current limitations and strategic advances for crop improvement

Vanderschuren H, Lentz E, Zainuddin I, Gruissem W

PLEASE NOTE

The listed publications have been randomly selected based on the periodic report submitted by all fellows in March 2014. Next reporting will be March 2015. The list will continue within the next issues of the PLANT FELLOWS carrer alerts.

© Christoph Grieder: Projected leaf area of wheat during early development

Nature Plants. in press (2015)

Evolution of non-self recognition through gene duplication and genetic exchange in S-RNase based self-incompatibility

Kubo K, **Paape T**, Hatakeyama M, Entani T, Akie Takara, Kajihara K, Shimizu-Inatsugi R, Shimizu K & Takayama S

Nature Genetics 45, 1092-1096 (2013)

The wheat powdery mildew genome shows the unique evolution of an obligate biotroph

Wicker T, Oberhaensli S, Parlange F,
Buchmann JP, Shatalina M, Roffler S, BenDavid R, Doležel J, Simková H, Schulze-Lefert
P, Spanu PD, Bruggmann R, Amselem J,
Quesneville H, Ver Loren van Themaat E,
Paape T, Shimizu KK, Keller B.

Molecular Ecology 22, 3525-3538 (2013)

Selection, genome wide fitness effects, and evolutionary rates in the model legume *Medicago* truncatula

Paape T, Bataillon T. Brinske R, Zhou P, Young ND, Tiffin PL

PLoS ONE 9(3): e91998 (2014)

Soil nutrient content influences the abundance of soil microbes but not plant biomass at the small-scale

Koorem K, Gazol A, Öpik M, Moora M, Saks Ü, Uibopuu A, Sõber V, Zobel M

Trends in Plant Science 19, 344-346

Vacuolar proton pumping: more than the sum of its parts? Eisenach C, Baetz U, Martinoia E

Oecologia 175, 251-260 (2014)

Climate change and grazing interact to alter flowering patterns in the Mongolian steppe

Spence LA, Liancourt P, Boldgiv B, Helliker BR, Petraitis PS, Casper BB.

Journal of Vegetation Science 25, 66-76 (2014)

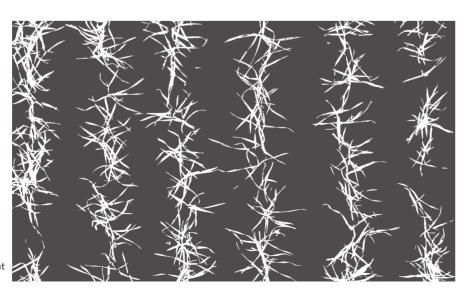
Facilitation displaces hot-spots of diversity and allows species to persist in heavily stressed and disturbed environments

Le Bagousse-Pinguet Y, Xiao S, Brooker R.W, Gross N, Liancourt P, Straile D, Michalet R

Molecular Ecology 22, 5441-5455, (2013)

Molecular characterization of trophic ecology within an island radiation of insect herbivores (Curculionidae: Entiminae: Cratopus)

Kitson J, Warren BH, Florens V, Baider C, Strasberg D, Emerson BC



Public-private partnerships

Manuela Dahinden

The expectations towards public funded research are changing. Science should be acountable to society. As a result of this, national and international funding agencies are under revision of their funding schemes. You might have noticed the increasing orientation towards measurable applications. That means, that the knowledge produced, for example, should be transformable into a product, model or policy. Building public-private research collaborations can be a basis for this. Private organisations, such as for example companies, tend to reorganize their research activities towards ever more specialization and outsourcing of specific research activities.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY! Be self-initiative and take advantage of the growing funding opportunities for public-private collaborations.

For example, Horizon 2020 supports and encourages the participation of businesses. Billions are being invested in innovation-driven public private partnerships. Here only a small selection is highlighted:

EID: European Industrial Doctorate is a

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions funding joint research and training programs for PhD students with particular emphasis on training in the non-academic sector. The PhD must spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector. You can built up a consortium with industry partners by for example jointly supervise PhD students.

RISE: The Research and Innovation Staff Exchange funding scheme promotes international and inter-sector collaboration through staff exchanges. A consortium of public and private organisations can second their staff at any career stage. You will receive a top up funding of your salary and the chance to work for up to 12 months in industry before returning to your academic position.

The European Innovation Partnership for Agricultural Productivity and Sustainability (EIP-AGRI) was launched by the European Commission in 2012. EIP-AGRI brings together farmers, advisors, researchers, businesses, NGOs, etc and helps to build bridges between research and practice. You can take advantage of a large network and funding opportunities.

http://ec.europa.eu/eip/agriculture/

EUREKA is an intergovernmental network supporting market-oriented R&D and innovation projects by industry, research centres and universities across all technological sectors. Open call all year long.

www.eurekanetwork.org

If you already have an idea for your own business, check the EU support services for start-up, e.g. the **SME Instrument**. http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/horizon2020/en/h2020-section/sme-instrument

InnovFin provides financing tools and advisory services offered by the European Investment Bank Group, covering the entire value chain of research and innovation (R&I).

www.eib.org/products/innovfin/index.htm

In almost each country you will find innovation promotion agency, supporting R&D projects, entrepreneurship as well as to the development of start-up companies. In Switzerland, for example: www.kti.admin.ch & www.venture.ch

And last not least, check your nearest opportunities. All PLANT FELLOWS host organizations offer support and advice for start-up. Technology Transfer Offices and Career Centers help you with business and legal know how.

Upcoming Deadlines

3 Feb 2015

ERC Starting Grants

13 Feb 2015

EMBO Long Term Fellowships

12 Mar 2015

ERC Consolidator Call

19 Mar 2015

HFSP Young Investigator Grants & Program Grants

1 Apr 2015

EMBO Young Investigator programme

15 Apr 2015

EMBO Installation Grants

28 Apr 2015

RISE

SWITZERLAND

1 Feb 2015

SNSF Advanced Postdoc Mobility

13 Feb 2015

SNSF Ambizione

17 Feb 2015

SNSF precoR

1 Apr 2015

SNSF Research projects

1 May 2015

SNSF Professorship

NEW!

The European Plant Science Organisation (EPSO) has compiled fact-sheets of plant reseach funding opportunities in more than 20 different countries. We have now made them available to you at the PLANT FELLOWS intranet.

PLANT FELLOWS No 1, Fall 2015 Network PLANT FELLOWS No 1, Fall 2015 Network

Fellows

University of Zurich

Dr. Sylvain Aubry, Dr. Florian Boucher,
Dr. Roman Briskine, Dr. Kelsey Byers,
Dr. Nina Chumak, Dr. Mariana De Sá Ricca
Manadelo Ferreira, Dr. Cornelia Eisenach,
Dr. Heather Kirk, Dr. Javier Sanchez,
Dr. Timothy Paape, Dr. Marin von Arx,
Dr. Ben Warren, Dr. Eri Yamasaki,
Dr. Wanhui You

ETH Zurich

Dr. Simon Bull, Dr. Andrea Liliana Clavio McCormick, Dr. Charlotte Decock, Dr. Gavin George, Dr. Juhwan Lee, Dr. Ezequiel Lentz, Dr. Chloe Manzanares; Dr. Javier Palma Guerrero, Dr. Engil Isadora Pujol Pereira, Dr. Marie Roumet, Dr. Firas Talas, Dr. Glen Uhrig, Dr. Steven Yates

University of Basel

Dr. Tamir Klein, Dr. Cristina Moreno, Dr. Krishna Saharan

Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology

Dr. Ruben Gutzat, Dr. Daniela Ristova

Institute of Botany

Dr. Lars Götzenberger, Dr. Pierre Liancourt

University of Cologne

Dr. Juliana Almario, Dr. Aurelien Boisson-Dernier, Dr. Christian Breuer

Netherland Institute of Ecology

Dr. Kadri Koorem

Pohang University of Science and Technology

Dr. Dominique Arnau

Umeå Plant Science Center

Dr. Ioanna Antoniadi, Dr. Daniela Liebsch, Dr. Adeline Rigal

University of Stirling

Dr. Sofie Meeus, Dr. Violeta Simon-Porcar, Dr. Paloma Ruiz Benito

Alumni: We say farewell to



Dr. Emily Moran

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See also Emily`s article in the PSC Newsletter in autumn 2014.



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Research and Communications - Managing Director: Dr. Manuela Dahinden **Training and Career Development - Managing Director:** Dr. Melanie Paschke

Project Officer: Romy Kohlmann



Host Organizations

Switzerland: University of Zurich, ETH Zurich, University of Basel

Austria: Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology

Czech Republic: Institute of Botany (Academy of Science)

Germany: University of Cologne

Netherland: Netherland Institute of Ecology as part of the Graduate School of Experimental Plant

Science

Korea: Pohang University of Science and Technology

Sweden: Umeå Plant Science Center
United Kingdom: University of Stirling

Principal Investigators

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Umeå Plant Science Center: Dr. Urs Fischer, Dr. Karin Ljung, Dr. Stephanie Robert

University of Stirling: Prof. Alistair Jump, Prof. Mario Vallejo-Marin

Training Board

Dr. Melanie Paschke - Managing Director, Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center **Dr. Gerlind Wallon** - EMBO Deputy Director, Manager for Women in Science

Activities, EMBO Young Investigator Program **Prof. Elena Conti** - University of Zurich

**** * * * ***

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PLANT FELLOWS is an international post doc fellowship program in the field of plant sciences cofunded by the FP7 Marie Curie Actions – People, Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (COFUND).

Managed by the Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center, PLANT FELLOWS offers fellowships to currently 51 postdoctoral researchers. The program is open to applicants worldwide. 13 European and 7 international universities and research institutes and 3 industry partners have been predefined as host organizations on the basis of their excellence in higher education and plant research. Through mentoring, access to state-of-the-art facilities and networking within the plant science community, PLANT FELLOWS offers an internationally competitive environment for young researchers embarking on their careers.

The career alert is distributed to all PLANT FELLOWS participants and other interested people in our network. It provides information about scheduled training and career events, discusses issues important to further development of our postdoctoral community and highlight achievements of the fellows.

Contributions are always welcome! If you are interested in contributing to the next issue, please contact info@plantfellows.ch

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Layout

Manuela Dahinden Zurich-Basel Plant Science Center

Illustrations

Gaia Codoni

Cove

Infografik showing the record of transnational mobility of 49 fellows in the program.

