

MASC meeting 2016

Friday, 1st July, 2016, 18:30-20:00

Location: Room 201 Hwabaek International Convention Center (HICO), Gyeongju, Korea

Minutes written by: Marília K. F. de Campos, Ruth Bastow, Siobhan Brady, Loïc Lepiniec and Nicholas Provart

Attendees (27): Ruth Bastow (UK), Siobhan Brady (US), Meike Burow (DENMARK), Marcos Castellanos-Uribe (uNASC), Debbie Christ (US), Stijn Dhondt (BELGIUM), David Gifford (JAPAN), Eva Huala (US), Inhwon Hwang (KOREA), Yuling Jiao (CHINA), Marília K.F. de Campos (GERMANY), Masatomo Kobayashi (JAPAN), Loïc Lepiniec (FRANCE), Minami Matsui (JAPAN), Blake Meyers (US), Harvey Millar (AUSTRALIA), Geraint Parry (UK), Barry Pogson (AUSTRALIA), Nicholas Provart (Skype) (CANADA), Sabrina Sabatini (ITALY), Sigal Savaldi-Goldstein (ISRAEL), M. Eric Schranz (NETHERLANDS), Motoaki Seki (JAPAN), Kentaro K. Shimizu (SWITZERLAND), Chris Town (US), Doris Wagner (US), Michael Wrzaczek (FINLAND)

1) Welcome (by Loïc Lepiniec)

2) ICAR

Survey on 26th ICAR 2015, Paris, France (by Loïc Lepiniec)

- Powerpoint presentation; survey results from 337 answers, key figures were presented
- >1040 attendees, who came mostly from Europe (>60%); >50% were students and post-docs
- Great majority of participants (85-90%) were satisfied with the conference length, the selection of speakers (invited/selected from abstract mix), allocation of time, variety of topics, and rated the workshops and the ICAR as good + excellent
- 50% prefer 3 concurrent sessions, 45% prefer 2 concurrent sessions only
- 75% would prefer 3 poster sessions and 25% would wish more than 2
- 65% think the 2 min oral poster presentations should be repeated in future meetings
- Survey on MASC:
 - 60% are familiar with MASC, 30% have visited the website and 80% intended to do so
 - 70% looked at the printed MASC report and 15% stated that it is not necessary

(Comment: suggestion to print only copies to institutions - see "MASC annual report" below)

- 30% attended the MASC workshop (*Comment: one needs to consider that participants might not have had a choice to attend due to concurrent sessions*)
- Most participants chose 'Novel tools and techniques' as the most attractive topic for the MASC workshop (*Comment: considering the vast amount of specific research areas covered at the ICAR, such a "general" topic would be appealing for many, therefore improving MASC's visibility*)
- Survey on Araport:
 - 67% have not heard of Araport prior the ICAR 2015, 80% have not used Araport prior or during the ICAR 2015, and 64% have not used Araport since returning home. For those who used Araport, the majority (80%) rates it as good + excellent

Action item: Coordinate with Marie-Jeanne to send the complete survey on Araport to Chris Town (done after the ICAR2016)

28th ICAR 2017, St. Louis, Missouri, USA, June 19-23 (by Doris Wagner, on behalf of NAASC)

- Powerpoint presentation prepared by Joanna Friesner, NAASC
- St. Louis: strong Plant Biology and Biotech presence (Washington University, Monsanto and Danforth Plant Science Center), easily accessible by air (*Comment: the proximity to Monsanto fits to the ICAR 2017's translational theme; possibility of tours of the company's site*)
- Venue: Hyatt Regency, with cheap and convenient access from/to the airport, and good facilities for the scientific (e.g. plenary, concurrent sessions and posters) and social activities (e.g. sports bar, baseball stadium and botanical garden)
- Chairs : D. Wagner and R. Vierstra, Organizer : J. Friesner, Organizing committee : S. Assmann, E. Grotewold, J. Dinneny, and E. Haswell, Local committee : B. Meyers and J. Carrington.
- Theme: "Arabidopsis Research in 2017 and Beyond: From Basic Discovery to Translation"
- The scientific program will comprise 4 keynote lectures, 8 plenary sessions, 10 concurrent sessions, 2 poster and exhibit sessions and the open house at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center; the 13 topics will cover most research areas in Arabidopsis research and include a Translational Biology session
- Approaches: Invited speakers' slots focused on Early-Career scientists; opportunities for workshops proposed and led by the community; 40 opportunities for abstract-selected speakers; unscheduled half-day for networking/sightseeing; and a special event at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, with Danforth members and local industry representatives

- Doris also gave a short presentation on the Danforth Center, where an open house event will occur, as well as the location of the conference party

29th ICAR 2018, Turku, Finland, June 25-29 (by Michael Wrzaczek)

- Powerpoint presentation about the tentative site, dates and program
- Date chosen to follow the FESP/EPSCO conference in Copenhagen (June 18-21, 2018)
- Turku: located by the sea, historically rich, and with “white nights” coinciding with the conference dates; strong Plant Biology community; easy access from/to Helsinki, Stockholm and Riga by flight, or from/to Helsinki by bus or train
- Venue is already reserved for the ICAR: ‘Logomo’, an old train workshop renovated as a modern conference venue, offering plenty of space for sessions and small meetings, central, next to train station and hotels
- Chair : M. Wrzaczek, Organizing committee, J. Kangasjärvi, M Brosché, K. Overmyer, A-P. Mähönen, A-L Laine, J. Salojärvi, S. Kangasjärvi, E-M. Aro, O. Savolainen, and Y. Helariutta.
- Scientific program: Featured topics include ‘Integration of plant biology’ and ‘stress in developmental context’; advisory board will be assembled soon and will help selecting keynote and invited speakers; thematic sessions spanning several areas; plenty of room for workshops and short presentations in concurrent sessions; balance of speakers, giving opportunities to Early-Career researchers and balance of genders; goal is to facilitate interaction between researchers
- Financing will be applied for from 3 different organizations and the major aim is to keep registration fees at the same level as the ICAR 2016 in Korea
- Plenty of possibilities to socialize (e.g. welcome reception, poster sessions with mixer, boat trip and congress dinner and party)
- PCO already recruited CAP-Partner, Professional Conference Organizers since 1988, team of 27 staff members

Site selection Australasia, 30th ICAR 2019

- Yuling Jiao (new China country representative) has, prior the ICAR, discussed with colleagues about the possibility to host the ICAR 2019 in Wuhan. There has been a positive response.

Action item: Follow up with Chinese representatives, other possible sites, the MASC should take a formal decision in the coming months

Site selection North America, 31th ICAR 2020 and possible involvement of ASPB at the organization of ICARs

- Siobhan mentioned that ASPB offers logistics support (abstract submission systems, registration and conference planning) for meetings. NAASC will secure ASPB support for ICAR 2017 in St. Louis.
- The ASPB has proposed a joint ASPB-ICAR meeting in 2020. In the past, ASPB and ICAAR have tried to coordinate meetings locations by geography to minimize travel distances for attendees who wish to both meetings (Austin, Portland, Hawaii)
- Concerns about having a joint meeting were as follows: ASPB prices are too high; it would perhaps deviate focus from Arabidopsis research and our community identity (although the ICARs are increasingly having more translational sessions); additionally in the past there has been minimal overlap in meeting attendance (e.g. 10% in 2014 Portland/Vancouver), is it advantageous?
- ASPB involvement with MASC should be considered, but it is not clear what would work and what not. Survey questions addressing this topic will be sent out after the Korea meeting. A suggestion was given to perhaps have an overlap between meetings with a weekend session.

3) MASC webpage/ MASC report/ MASC coordinator (by Marília Campos)

MASC Webpage

- Content is updated, MASC coordinator information was uploaded at the backend and coordinator manual will be available online once it is revised by previous coordinators
- Website will be hosted until June 2019, extension paid by the DFG coordinator grant
- ICAR websites can continue to be hosted at a MASC subdomain, ICAR organizers should contact Luise Brand (via new coordinator) for requesting access
- Mentioning of login access to all members, which is not yet implemented

Action items: coordinate with Luise to provide subdomain for ICAR webpages; create login access for members

MASC Annual Report

- 2015/2016 MASC report contributions: 24 of 28 countries, 7 of 8 subcommittees and all projects, including Gramene, which joined this year
- Printing of report was paid by the ICAR 2016 organizers and distributed to all attendees. Attendees were asked to return the hardcopy at the registration desk, should they have no

interest in bringing it home, in order to avoid trashing the reports (*Post meeting comment: returned copies were distributed to members who requested/funding bodies, so no extra copies had to be printed*)

- 2017-on reports: different models for broadcasting were discussed. One option would be to write a complete report but distribute it electronically as a part of the conference package, and make sure to indicate that to increase awareness. Print and distribute a leaflet with the executive summary and most important information, indicating where to find the complete report, was also suggested as way to save print costs but still provide people with a physical copy.

MASC Coordinator

- German (DFG) coordinator grant ended at the ICAR 2016, where Marília finished her activities and resigned
- Discussions on who would take over the coordinator tasks started informally prior the meeting with Geraint Parry, who considered the possibility and would discuss the matter with GARNet. (*Post meeting comment: GARNet advisory board agreed to have Geraint involved with MASC as the new coordinator*). Geraint has recently (the 19th of July) received the agreement from the GARNet advisory board, to take in charge the role of MASC Coordinator

4) MASC as not-for-profit corporation (by Marília Campos and Nick Provart)

- Powerpoint presentation prepared by Nick and presented by Marília:
 - MASC Incorporated (MASC Inc.) was established as a Canadian, federal not-for-profit corporation on 8 June 2016; Nicholas Provart listed as president, Siobhan Brady as treasurer, and Marília Campos as secretary; bank account setup is in progress – MASC will soon be able to provide seed funding to local organizing committees for non-NAASC-organized ICARs
 - Structure of MASC Inc. and roles of individuals was proposed: **3 officers** (president, treasurer and secretary), **8 directors** of the corporation (with staggered, overlapping terms of 4 years each) and the **members** of the corporation (all current MASC members - country representative, subcommittee representatives, resource providers). Suggestion that representatives from different continents and countries should be elected as directors, who ideally would be involved in the organization of following meetings

- Currently, Nick, Siobhan and Marília constitute both officers and first board of directors – they can adopt the first two resolutions (*‘Organizing Resolutions of the Members’* and *‘Organizing Resolutions of Directors for Adoption at First Meeting of the Directors’*), and potentially the bylaws, which outline structure, roles and responsibilities of MASC Inc. individuals
- Next steps: Official board of directors need to be voted and bylaws accepted within a year
- A mechanism to accept current MASC as members of MASC Inc. needs to be implemented, maybe by a simple “application” form
- Would the corporation bank account support multiple currencies? Concern of loss of money due to conversions. Nick mentioned bank accounts should hold different currencies, but will look into that
- Bank account to ensure transfer of profits from one ICAR to the next, discussion on how to raise money for MASC. Per-head fee at ICARs? Eventbrite ticketing would be a clean and easy way to help achieve this goal.
- How about the liability of the board of officers and local ICAR organizers? Is it an issue that each officer comes from different countries, where legislation varies? It would be helpful to get a set of liabilities in writing from Nick.
- Loïc mentioned the possibility of getting support from journals to help raising funds for MASC Inc., as e.g. EPSO. To be approached in a different discussion

5) MASC appointments

- Due to changes in the structure of MASC, new officers and directors will to be appointed within the next year, therefore the chair/co-chair posts will no longer exist
- Until then, the MASC chair 2016/17 is Inhwon Hwang, Republic of Korea
- New co-chair has not been appointed

6) Additional topics

- Siobhan presented the US NSF Research Collaboration Network “ART-21” (Arabidopsis Research and Training for the 21st Century), whose whitepaper is to be published at Plant Physiology and should be passed on to MASC members