

2nd EPSO Conference – In honour of Jeff Schell
“Interactions in Plant Biology: cells, plants and communities”

Ischia, Italy - October 2004

<http://www.epsoweb.org/catalog/conf2004.htm>

Editorial

The **European Plant Science Organisation, EPSO**, has established itself as a platform for dialogue for all that have an interest in plant sciences. This includes its members, academia, and related stakeholders such as industry, consumer representatives and Society at large.

EPSO aims to

- Increase impact and visibility of the European plant science community
- Articulate the vision of the European plant science community for the future and advise on decisions of funding agencies at the European and national level on long term strategies to support plant science
- Communicate with academia, industry and the general public to ensure independent dissemination of plant science information
- Contribute to tighten the link between plant science and the development of agriculture, horticulture, forestry and ecology.

Members of EPSO are academic organisations, such as institutes and universities. They interact with the EPSO observers from industry and consumer organisations. EPSO has links to specialized organisations in the area of plant and life sciences in Europe, and plant science organisations worldwide.

The **EPSO Conferences**, the European Plant Sciences Forum, play a vital role in contributing to the development of plant sciences in Europe to ensure that they remain

- On the forefront of plant sciences worldwide
- Beneficial to humankind and our environment
- Valuable to Society at large
- Committed to ethics.

We are delighted to welcome you to the **2nd EPSO Conference**, in honour of Jeff Schell, to actively take part in the debates that will have a significant impact on the most crucial aspects of plant science and its contribution to our society.

This conference brings together world leading plant scientists from 31 countries to discuss cutting edge science and organize networks in three thematic areas - examples for new perspectives in plant science:

- Interactions within cells and plants
- Interactions between plants and other organisms
- Interactions between (plant) scientists and society.

Representatives from academia, industry, consumers and politics discuss socially relevant topics, such as

- Improving the appreciation of plant biology
- Opportunities for collaborations between academia, industry, farmers etc.

We wish you an enjoyable conference in the inspiring surroundings of Ischia, one of the most beautiful islands of the Mediterranean, and would like to thank our Italian colleagues and the conference secretariat for their enthusiasm in preparing this conference.

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