

# THE CENTER

In 2002, Natasha Raikhel led dual initiatives at UC Riverside to form the Center for Plant Cell Biology (CEPCEB) in the established Institute for Integrative Genome Biology (IIGB) and to develop instrumentation cores from scratch to support the research endeavors of the Center and the broader campus community. It was the Center's vision to become a truly multi-disciplinary unit that embraced "system-based" research - the melding of computational approaches and technological innovations with molecular and cellular biology. CEPCEB's interdisciplinary initiatives have reached researchers across campus and have brought together members of biological science, engineering, computing and chemistry departments. Consequently, CEPCEB currently has a vibrant community of over 60 plant scientists who address fundamental questions of cell biology with an eye on translational research.

The Center for Plant Cell Biology Award Fund was established in 2002 to provide annual awards in recognition of research excellence in the areas of plant cell and molecular biology, genomics, bioengineering, and bioinformatics. The CEPCEB Award Fund annually sponsors awards at the postdoctoral, graduate student, undergraduate student and high school student levels.

A prominent scientist is invited to present at the CEPCEB Award Ceremony annually. This seminar, the Distinguished Noel T. Keen Lecture, is named after an eminent plant pathologist and one of the first supporters and members of CEPCEB who brought considerable recognition to UC Riverside. CEPCEB is deeply grateful to Dr. Keen's widow, Diane, for generously establishing an endowment to help support this special lecture series. In memory of Neil Campbell, Visiting Scholar in the Botany & Plant Sciences department for 15 years, and his contribution to biology education and research, in 2005 CEPCEB began presenting the Neil Campbell CEPCEB Undergraduate Award for Outstanding Research. The center is indebted to Rochelle Campbell, Dr. Campbell's widow, for her ongoing generous support of undergraduate student research and education. Research excellence awardees and Distinguished Lecturers since the Center's inception are listed on the IIGB website at [www.cepceb.ucr.edu/endowments/cepcebfund.html](http://www.cepceb.ucr.edu/endowments/cepcebfund.html).

Under CEPCEB's current leader, Julia Bailey-Serres, CEPCEB is excited to share its enthusiasm for plant cell biology with a new generation of scientists who

# 2016 FOURTEENTH ANNUAL



# AWARD SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**UCRIVERSIDE** | Institute for Integrative  
Genome Biology

**DISTINGUISHED NOEL T. KEEN LECTURER  
OTTOLENE LEYSER  
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**

**December 16, 2016  
10:30 AM - 5 PM**

**Pioneering solutions for  
hunger, disease and  
environmental  
sustainability**

# PROGRAM

10:30 AM REGISTRATION &  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

11:00 AM WELCOME: **Julia Bailey-Serres**,  
CEPCEB Director

Session Moderator: **Carolyn Rasmussen**,  
Assistant Professor

11:10 AM Lightning Talk: **Aditya Vaidya**, Post Doc  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"Selective activation of PYR1/PYL1  
receptors induces ABA-responsive  
genes in Arabidopsis thaliana"

11:20 AM Lightning Talk: **Mauricio Reynoso**, Post Doc  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"A window into the nucleus:  
Chromatin and nuclear transcriptome  
dynamics"

11:30 AM Research Talk: **Dan Koenig**, Assistant Professor  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"Saving up for a rainy day: Ancient alleles  
and plant genome evolution"

11:50 AM Research Talk: **Arthur Jia**, Assistant Professor  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"3andMe: Haplotype Determination Using  
Three Pollen Grains"

12:10 PM Lightning Talk: **Jinfeng Lu**, Post Doc  
Plant Pathology & Microbiology  
"Induction and suppression of antiviral  
RNA interference by influenza A virus in  
mammalian cells"

12:20 PM Lightning Talk: **Amancio J de Souza**, Post Doc  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"Cracking the interorganellar  
communication codes"

12:30 PM LUNCH

Session Moderator: **Dan Koenig**,  
Assistant Professor

1:30 PM Lightning Talk: **Ming Wang**, Graduate Student  
Plant Pathology & Microbiology  
"Bidirectional cross-kingdom RNAi and  
fungal uptake of external RNAs confer  
plant protection"

1:40 PM Research Talk: **Amy Litt**, Assistant Professor  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"What makes a tomato a tomato: gene  
evolution in flower and fruit diversity"

2:00 PM Research Talk: **Dawn Nagel**, Assistant Professor  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"Molecular Interactions between  
Temperature and the Plant Circadian  
Clock"

2:20 PM Lightning Talk: **Honghong Wu**, Post Doc  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"Plant Nanobionic Protection from Abiotic  
Stress Enhances Photosynthesis"

2:30 PM Lightning Talk: **Yongjian Qiu**, Assistant  
Project Scientist  
Botany & Plant Sciences  
"Thermosensing through Phytochromes  
in Arabidopsis"

2:40 PM COFFEE BREAK

3:00 PM CEPCEB DONOR RECOGNITION &  
AWARD PRESENTATION

Distinguished Noel T. Keen Lecture

3:30 PM **Ottoline Leyser**, Professor of Plant  
Development and Director of the  
Sainsbury Laboratory at the University of  
Cambridge  
"Feedback and feedforward in the bud  
activation switch"

4:30 PM CONCLUDING REMARKS: **Katie Dehesh**,  
IIGB Director

4:45 PM EVENING RECEPTION

# NOEL T. KEEN LECTURER

**Ottoline Leyser** is Professor of Plant Development and Director of the Sainsbury Laboratory at the University of Cambridge. Her research uses the control of shoot branching in Arabidopsis as a model system to understand plant developmental plasticity and the role of plant hormones in integrating endogenous and environmental inputs into developmental regulation. The aim is to understand how local and systemic signalling mechanisms give rise to environmentally sensitive shoot system architectures, an endeavour that is increasingly dependent on computational modelling to understand the dynamic networks involved.

Ottoline received her BA (1986) and PhD (1990) in Genetics at the University of Cambridge. After a period of post-doctoral research at Indiana University, she returned to the UK and took up a Lectureship at the University of York (1994), where she worked until moving to the new Sainsbury Laboratory, University of Cambridge, in 2011. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society and of the Leopoldina, a Member of EMBO and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences.

