



European Plant Science Organisation
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Winner announcement

EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award 2018

Brussels, 12.12.2017

EPSO is happy to announce the two winners of the second EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award: **Shumei WANG was selected on fundamental plant research and Andreas CARSTENSEN on applied plant research. EPSO initiated this award to encourage the development of ideas and imaginative thinking in the plant sciences.** Shumei and Andreas will have the opportunity to present their research during a session of the Plant Biology Europe FESPB/EPSO joint congress to be held in Copenhagen on June 18th – 21st 2018. In addition, each awardee will receive 200 €, the Local organizing committee will cover their registration and EPSO their travel to the meeting.

The winner of the award for **fundamental research** is: **Shumei WANG** whose work provides evidence for a new role for unconventional secretion in host-pathogen interactions. Her discovery of a new pathway that is involved in infection by *Phytophthora infestans* significantly improves our understanding of plant-pathogen interactions and may open new possibilities in the development of defense strategies. The work was described very clearly, and both the technological approaches and possible implications were presented exceptionally well.

The winner of the award for **applied research** is: **Andreas CARSTENSEN** who is investigating the phosphorus status of plants. Andreas has developed a new tool for detection of phosphorus deficiency in plants under field conditions. The technology has high sensitivity, based on Chlorophyll a fluorescence and mathematical modelling. He has contributed to several publications on the topic, filed a patent and is the co-founder of a spin-out company which markets the P-Tester.

The selection criteria as published in the [Call Text](#) were: The novelty of the idea or approach being taken; the potential of the research to improve understanding or outcomes in the selected field of plant science; and the clarity with which the problem or research topic is conveyed to a non-specialist plant scientist.

We would like to thank the distinguished jury members Cathie Martin (chair), Carole Caranta, Aldo Ceriotti, Alan Schulman and Tomas Vanek. The two winners were selected from among 26 PhD students who submitted from 19 different entities and 13 countries across Europe to the EPSO YPSA call.

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Timelines:
Announcement of EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award Call:
Deadline to receive nominations:

For 2018 call:
17.8.2017
12.11.2017

Check Eligibility (need to belong to a member institute):	13-14.11.2017
Consider and evaluate applications based on abstract and mini-cv:	15.11. – 5.12.2017
Announcement of winners:	12.12.2017

Useful links

EPSO Young Plant Scientist Award: www.epsoweb.org/epso-young-plant-scientists-award?1864290068=1

Plant Biology Europe FESPB/EPPO joint congress, Copenhagen 18-21.6.2018

- Conference website: www.europlantbiology2018.org
- EPSO information at www.epsoweb.org/copenhagen-2018

EPSO communications: www.epsoweb.org/epso-communications

EPSO member institutes and universities: www.epsoweb.org/membership/members

EPSO representatives: www.epsoweb.org/membership/representatives

About EPSO

EPPO, the European Plant Science Organisation, is an independent academic organisation that represents more than 200 research institutes, departments and universities from 28 European countries, Australia and New Zealand, and 3.300 individuals Personal Members, representing over 27 000 people working in plant science. EPPO's mission is to improve the impact and visibility of plant science in Europe, to provide authoritative source of independent information on plant science including science advice to policy, and to promote training of plant scientists to meet the 21st century challenges in breeding, agriculture, horticulture, forestry, plant ecology and sectors related to plant science. www.epsoweb.org