

■ From the editors' desk

From Puerto Rico to Pisa and Bled

In this issue we have two PhD thesis summaries. I found this a great way to get informed about latest work done by research groups in our community! Laura Díaz Guerra, supervised by Dolores Verdaguer and Laura Llorens, has studied plant and soil responses to UV radiation and water availability, including perturbation in the form of aerial plant biomass removal and fire. The larger context of the work is related to climate change and alterations in cloud cover and consequently irradiance conditions and precipitation in Mediterranean ecosystems. Min Wu's research, supervised by Åke Strid, aims to improve our understanding on how UV-B radiation actually does the trick, so to say. This was achieved with molecular dynamic methods that were used to study the mechanisms of UV-B-induced signalling pathways in plants.

Pedro J Aphalo shares his knowledge about LEDs, the status of the technological development, and especially of course our prospects for using UV-LEDs in our experiments. Do you know the difference between the two main ways to dim the LEDs, constant current and pulse width modulation, or how to build your own radiation source with LEDs? All this and more is explained, with illustrations.

In another article, Pedro J Aphalo shares his experience about the objective measures of research impact; what after all lies behind his notification that according to ResearchGate he recently became the most read author from Finland! The measurement of the impact of publications and the possible misleading use of impact statistics sounds quite familiar regarding what is going on more general in politics, how opinions rather than facts and using information to suit one's own agenda can lead to unforeseeable consequences. As Pedro puts it, "...we need to be

aware of which factors unrelated to the quality of our work affect the data used to assess us". Or one can even quote Homer Simpson here, "Facts are meaningless. You can use facts to prove anything that's even remotely true. Facts, schmacts."

UV4Plants organized two sessions at the 17th congress of the European Society for Photobiology (ESP) that took place in autumn 2017 in Pisa, Italy. Gareth Jenkins, Éva Hideg, Antonella Castagna and Annamaria Ranieri summarise the event and the topics covered. Further, PhD students Yan Yan, Neha Rai and Sari Siipola share their experience from that same congress. Their reflections took me immediately down memory lane. The first conference that I attended during my PhD work, was the 33rd congress of the American Society for Photobiology. The venue was a fancy resort in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico. That in itself was already exotic enough, the hot and humid air and the tropical thunderstorms were quite an experience! Me, giving my first ever scientific presentation was of course exciting and to make it perfect and so apt regarding the topic, we went on a kayaking trip one evening to a bioluminescent bay. Surrounded by the dinoflagellates producing the mesmerizing light was a moment when I actually pinched myself to make sure I was not dreaming!

So enjoy this spring issue of the UV4Plants Bulletin and let us continue gathering more great memories from congresses and meetings, starting in Bled at the UV4Plants network meeting!

Titta K. Kotilainen (editor)

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