

■ Letter from the President

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Out with the old, in with the new

I very much hope everyone has enjoyed a wonderful Christmas break and I wish all readers a happy, healthy and successful 2019!

Inevitably at this time of year we look back over the previous 12 months and look forward to what is ahead. I think 2018 was a good year for UV4Plants, with the highlight being our memorable Network Meeting in Bled. One thing that stood out was the high quality of science presented, both in the posters and talks, which I feel emphasized the breadth, novelty and relevance of UV-B research. In addition, as in previous meetings, there was an exceptionally friendly and interactive environment, and a good number of new members, which bodes well for the future of our organization. And, last, but certainly not least, I remember the excellent hospitality from our Slovenian hosts, which made the meeting a very enjoyable experience.

Looking ahead, next year there will be two gatherings of particular interest to UV4Plants members. First, Marcel Jansen is organizing a workshop in University College Cork, Ireland in April. The focus is on interactions between UV-B and climate change variables such as temperature and water availability, which have major effects on plant growth and physiology. The discussions will range from the molecular to ecological levels with the aim of understanding the potential role of UV-B perception and response in plant acclimation and adaptation to cli-

mate change. This promises to be an excellent meeting and further information is available on the UV4Plants website (<https://cork2019.uv4plants.org>).

Second, there will be a large conference in Barcelona in late August jointly organized by the ESP and IUPB. This meeting, *Light and Life*, covers all aspects of photobiology and will have 6 sections, each with 10 symposia. Of particular relevance will be symposia in the Plant Photobiology, Photosensory Biology and Environmental Photobiology sections. These include: UV measurements, ozone and climate change (chair Laia Solà); Aquatic photobiology (chair Félix Figueroa), which will include talks on UV aspects in algae; Quality and security of crops and food (chair Janet Bornman); Blue and UV photoreceptors (chair John Christie) and Light and plant development (chair Carlos Ballaré), which will have several talks on UVR8; ROS signaling (chair Éva Hideg); and Effects of UV-B on plants (chaired by me), which will have presentations ranging from molecular to ecological to applied aspects. The meeting is unfortunately quite expensive, but there will be much to appeal to everyone interested in plant responses to UV-B and, indeed, plant photobiology in general. The meeting is still being organized so please watch out for further information on the UV4Plants website. I look forward to seeing many of our members in Barcelona!

Best wishes,

Gareth Jenkins, President UV4Plants.



Figure 2.1: Participants in the Second Network Meeting. Spring in Bled, 2018-04-17. Top photograph, in the visible- and bottom photograph in the UV-A regions of sunlight. Photo credits: Pedro J. Aphalo.