



## Minutes of the 2013 EWPC meeting

The event took place between the 29th and 30th of August, 2013 at the Centro de Biotecnología y Genómica de Plantas (CBGP; UPM-INIA)

Ninety three scientists from fourteen different European countries (Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and United Kingdom) and Israel, representing leading laboratories in plant chromatin research gathered in this workshop to discuss latest advances in this growing area of research. Thirty two selected seminars and two conferences by invited speakers were included in [the program of the workshop](#). Prof. Justin Goodrich (University of Edinburgh, UK) opened the meeting with a conference about a domesticated transposase proposed to be a novel plant-specific trithorax-group gene. The other invited speaker, Prof. Ortrun Mittelsten Scheid (Gregor Mendel Institute of Molecular Plant Biology, Vienna, Austria) gave the conference “Plant chromatin: Stable and yet dynamic”, to open the starting session of the second day of the workshop.

The workshop was organized in six sessions chaired by outstanding researchers such as Crisanto Gutierrez (CBMSO, Madrid, Spain), Cristel Carles (University of Grenoble Alpes and CNRS, France), Andreas Houben (IPK, Gaterslaben, Germany), Célia Baroux (University of Zürich, Switzerland), Reidunn B. Aalen (University of Oslo, Norway) and Jiri Fajkus (CEITEC Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic).

During the workshop exciting new results concerning several aspects of plant chromatin organization and function as well as chromatin dynamics and nuclear architecture were presented. Plant proteins known to be also present in animal species were discussed as well as their roles in different plant biological responses. In addition, the influence of chromatin modifications and histone variants on plant development and cellular processes was presented by different speakers. A number of examples on how environmental conditions modulate the dynamics of chromatin organization and hence affect gene expression were also dealt with in a number of talks. The exciting contributions presented during the workshop triggered very interesting scientific discussions that took place in the collaborative environment generated during the meeting. A report summarizing the main topics discussed during the 3rd EWPC is now on preparation and is expected to be published shortly.

The EWPC series of meetings has attracted an increasing number of participants. [The 3rd EWPC](#) celebrated in Madrid this summer received twice as many attendants and speakers as the first edition that took place in Zürich (Switzerland) back in 2009, showing the growing interest of the European research community in plant chromatin. Also, in parallel with this growing participation of researchers, a number of new topics related to different aspects of plant chromatin organization and function have been discussed in these meetings. Now we look forward to the 4th EWPC that will be held in Uppsala (Sweden) during the summer of 2015 where we will surely hear about new and exciting results from colleagues working on plant chromatin all around Europe.

### The organizers

Valérie Gaudin, Lars Hennig, Claudia Köhler, Manuel Pineiro