



COUNCIL'S NEWSLETTER

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The High Council & Atlas Publishing, LLC Will Organize the “Fourth International American Moroccan Agricultural Sciences Conference—AMAS Conference IV on May 7—9, 2018 in Meknes, Morocco

The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics (HC-MASA; www.hc-masa.org), Atlas Publishing, LLC (www.atlas-publishing.org), and Dr. Kamal Hidane, Regional Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, and Forests, Morocco are Co-Organizing the Fourth International American Moroccan Agricultural Sciences Conference (AMAS Conference IV) on May 9-11, 2018 at the Qualipôle-Agropolis, Meknes, Morocco. This Co-Organization of AMAS IV Conference is in Collaboration with INRA, ACRA (Association des Chercheurs de la Recherche Agronomique du Maroc), and Institut Agronomique et Veterinaire (IAV) Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco.

The conference organizers Prof. Khalid Meksem, Southern Illinois University, USA (Council's President) and Prof. My Abdelmajid Kassem, Fayetteville State University, USA (Council's VP-USA) and the rest of the Organizing and Scientific Committees are calling all students, faculty, and scientists in Morocco and around the world to attend and present at this international event.

The conference welcomes abstracts from all Agricultural Sciences from students, faculty, and scientists around the world. Prizes for the best student posters and oral presentations will be awarded.

It is noteworthy to mention that the conference gained international recognition and its attendance increased every year since its start in 2013. The first edition (AMAS Conference I) was organized on March 18-19, 2013 in Rabat, Morocco; AMAS Conference II was organized on October 18-20, 2014 in Marrakech, Morocco; AMAS Conference III was organized on December 13-16, 2016 in Ouarzazate, Morocco. During AMAS Conference III, 62 oral presentations and 100 posters have been presented by attendees from 10 countries including Morocco, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, The Netherlands, Germany, and USA.

The organizers expect that the fourth edition (AMAS Conference IV) will be attended by over 400 attendees from across the world.

Long Live AMAS Conference!

The High Council of Moroccan American Scholars and Academics—HC-MASA organizes the Fourth International American Moroccan Agricultural Sciences Conference—AMAS Conference IV on May 7—9, 2018 in Meknes, Morocco

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Council's Members Published Articles (Jan. 2017–Present)

- El Idrissi A**, van Berkel L, Bonekamp NE, Dalemans DJ, van der Heyden MA. The toxicology of zinc chloride smoke producing bombs and screens. *Clin Toxicol (Phila)*. 2017 Jan 11;1-8. doi: 10.1080/15563650.2016.1271125.
- Srivastava U, Aromolaran AS, Fabris F, Lazaro D, Kassotis J, Qu Y, **Boutjdir M**. Novel function of α_{1D} L-type calcium channel in the atria. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*. 2017 Jan 22;482(4):771-776. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2016.11.109.
- Al-Saedi, Suad, **Naoufal Lakhssassi**, **My Abdelmajid Kassem**, Ibrahim B. Razaq, & **Khalid Meksem**. Characterization of Diversity of Bradyrhizobia on Cowpea in Iraq Reveals Unusual Strain Characteristics. *Atlas Journal of Biology*. (2017): 392-401.
- Lakhssassi N**, Colantonio V, Flowers ND, Zhou Z, Henry J, Liu S, **Meksem K**. Stearoyl-Acyl Carrier Protein Desaturase Mutations Uncover an Impact of Stearic Acid in Leaf and Nodule Structure. *Plant Physiol*. 2017 Jul;174(3):1531-1543. doi: 10.1104/pp.16.01929. Epub 2017 May 1.
- Lakhssassi N**, Zhou Z, Liu S, Colantonio V, AbuGhazaleh A, **Meksem K**. Characterization of the *FAD2* Gene Family in Soybean Reveals the Limitations of Gel-Based TILLING in Genes with High Copy Number. *Front Plant Sci*. 2017 Mar 13;8:324. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2017.00324. eCollection 2017.
- Liu S, Kandoth PK, **Lakhssassi N**, Kang J, Colantonio V, Heinz R, Yeckel G, Zhou Z, Bekal S, Dapprich J, Rotter B, Cianzio S, Mitchum MG, **Meksem K**. The soybean GmSNAP18 gene underlies two types of resistance to soybean cyst nematode. *Nat Commun*. 2017 Mar 27;8:14822. doi: 10.1038/ncomms14822.
- Lakhssassi N**, Liu S, Bekal S, Zhou Z, Colantonio V, Lambert K, **Barakat A**, **Meksem K**. Characterization of the Soluble NSF Attachment Protein gene family identifies two members involved in additive resistance to a plant pathogen. *Sci Rep*. 2017 Mar 24;7:45226. doi: 10.1038/srep45226.
- Aromolaran AS, **Boutjdir M**. Cardiac Ion Channel Regulation in Obesity and the Metabolic Syndrome: Relevance to Long QT Syndrome and Atrial Fibrillation. *Front Physiol*. 2017 Jun 21;8:431. doi: 10.3389/fphys.2017.00431. eCollection 2017. Review.
- El-Sherif N, Turitto G, **Boutjdir M**. Congenital Long QT syndrome and torsade de pointes. Systemic inflammation as a novel QT-prolonging risk factor in patients with torsades de pointes. *Ann Noninvasive Electrocardiol*. 2017 Jul 2. doi: 10.1111/anec.12481. [Epub ahead of print] Review.
- Lazzerini PE, Capecchi PL, Laghi-Pasini F, **Boutjdir M**. Autoimmune channelopathies as a novel mechanism in cardiac arrhythmias. *Nat Rev Cardiol*. 2017 May 4. doi: 10.1038/nrcardio.2017.61.
- Jeffe DB, Rice TK, Boyington JEA, Rao DC, Jean-Louis G, Dávila-Román VG, Taylor AL, Pace BS, **Boutjdir M**. Development and Evaluation of Two Abbreviated Questionnaires for Mentoring and Research Self-Efficacy. *Ethn Dis*. 2017 Apr 20;27(2):179-188. doi: 10.18865/ed.27.2.179. eCollection 2017 Spring.

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- Moreau A, **Boutjdir M**, Chahine M. Induced pluripotent stem-cell-derived cardiomyocytes: cardiac applications, opportunities, and challenges. *Can J Physiol Pharmacol*. 2017 Mar 28;1-9. doi: 10.1139/cjpp-2016-0726.
- Moreau A, Mercier A, Thériault O, **Boutjdir M**, Burger B, Keller DI, Chahine M. Biophysical, Molecular, and Pharmacological Characterization of Voltage-Dependent Sodium Channels From Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell-Derived Cardiomyocytes. *Can J Cardiol*. 2017 Feb;33(2):269-278. doi: 10.1016/j.cjca.2016.10.001.
- Srivastava U, Aromolaran AS, Fabris F, Lazaro D, Kassotis J, Qu Y, **Boutjdir M**. Novel function of α_{1D} L-type calcium channel in the atria. *Biochem Biophys Res Commun*. 2017 Jan 22;482(4):771-776. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2016.11.109.
- Boucheham A, Sommard V, Zehraoui F, **Boualem A**, Batouche M, **Bendahmane A**, Israeli D, Tahi F. IpiRId: Integrative approach for piRNA prediction using genomic and epigenomic data.
- Latrasse D, Rodriguez-Granados NY, Veluchamy A, Mariappan KG, Bevilacqua C, Crapart N, Camps C, Sommard V, Raynaud C, Dogimont C, Boualem A, Benhamed M, **Bendahmane A**. The quest for epigenetic regulation underlying unisexual flower development in *Cucumis melo*. *Epigenetics Chromatin*. 2017 Jun 6;10:22. doi: 10.1186/s13072-017-0132-6.
- Ríos P, Argyris J, Vegas J, Leida C, Kenigswald M, Tzuri G, Troadec C, **Bendahmane A**, Katzir N, Picó B, Monforte AJ, Garcia-Mas J. ETHQV6.3 is involved in melon climacteric fruit ripening and is encoded by a NAC domain transcription factor. *Plant J*. 2017 May 10. doi: 10.1111/tpj.13596.
- Jacob P, Hirt H, **Bendahmane A**. The heat-shock protein/chaperone network and multiple stress resistance. *Plant Biotechnol J*. 2017 Apr;15(4):405-414. doi: 10.1111/pbi.12659.
- Gill GS, Haugen R, Matzner SL, **Barakat A**, Siemens DH. Effect of Drought on Herbivore-Induced Plant Gene Expression: Population Comparison for Range Limit Inferences. *Plants (Basel)*. 2016 Mar 11;5(1). pii: E13. doi: 10.3390/plants5010013.
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- Duc C, Benoit M, Détourné G, Simon L, Poulet A, Jung M, Veluchamy A, Latrasse D, Le Goff S, Cotterell S, Tatout C, **Benhamed M**, Probst AV. Arabidopsis ATRX Modulates H3.3 Occupancy and Fine-Tunes Gene Expression. *Plant Cell*. 2017 Jul 6. pii: tpc.00877.2016. doi: 10.1105/tpc.16.00877.
- Latrasse D, Jégu T, Li H, de Zelicourt A, Raynaud C, Legras S, Gust A, Samajova O, Veluchamy A, Rayapuram N, Ramirez-Prado JS, Kulikova O, Colcombet J, Bigeard J, Genot B, Bisseling T, **Benhamed M**, Hirt H. MAPK-triggered chromatin reprogramming by histone deacetylase in plant innate immunity. *Genome Biol*. 2017 Jul 6;18(1):131. doi: 10.1186/s13059-017-1261-8.

Council's Members Published Articles (Jan. 2017–Present)

- Altemimi A, **N Lakhssassi**, A Abu-Ghazaleh, **DA Lightfoot**. Evaluation of the antimicrobial activities of ultrasonicated spinach leaf extracts using rapd markers and electron microscopy. *Archives of microbiology* 199 (10), 1417-1429
- Altemimi A, **N Lakhssassi**, A Baharlouei, DG Watson, **DA Lightfoot**. Phytochemicals: Extraction, Isolation, and Identification of Bioactive Compounds from Plant Extracts. *Plants* 6 (4), 42.
- Kazi S, JL Shultz, AJ Afzal, YC Lee, **DA Lightfoot**. Identification of loci underlying seed yield in recombinant inbred and near isogeneic soybean lines derived from Flyer by Hartwig. *Atlas Journal of Biology*, 355-363.
- Turgay Unvera, Zhangyan Wu, Lieven Sterck, Mine Turktas, Rolf Lohaus, Zhen Li, Ming Yang, Lijuan He, Tianquan Deng, Francisco Javier Escalante, Carlos Llorens, Francisco J. Roig, Iskender Parmaksiz, Ekrem Dundar, Fuliang Xie, Baohong Zhang, Arif Ipek, Serkan Uranbey, Mustafa Erayman, Emre Ilhan, **Oussama Badad**, **Hassan Ghazal**, **David A. Lightfoot**, Pavan Kasarla, Vincent Colantonio, Huseyin Tombuloglu, Pilar Hernandez, Nurengin Mete, Oznur Cetin, Marc Van Montagu, Huanming Yang, Qiang Gao, Gabriel Dorado, and Yves Van de Peer. Genome of wild olive and the evolution of oil biosynthesis. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114 (44), E9413-E9422.
- Roldan MVG, Périlleux C, Morin H, Huerga-Fernandez S, Latrasse D, **Benhamed M**, **Bendahmane A**. Natural and induced loss of function mutations in SIMBP21 MADS-box gene led to jointless-2 phenotype in tomato. *Sci Rep.* 2017 Jun 30;7(1): 4402. doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-04556-1.
- Zinnia H. González-Carranza, Xuebin Zhang, Janny L. Peters, Veronique Boltz, Judit Szecsi, **Mohammed Bendahmane**, and Jeremy A. Roberts. HAWAIIAN SKIRT controls size and floral organ number by modulating CUC1 and CUC2 expression. *PLoS ONE*, 2017. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0185106>
- Pierre Jacob, Heribert Hirt, and **Mohammed Bendahmane**. The heat-shock protein/chaperone network and multiple stress resistance. *Plant Biotechnology Journal* 2017. Doi: 10.1111/pbi.12659.
- Betsch L., Savarin J., **Bendahmane M.**, Szecsi J. (2017) Roles of the Translationally Controlled Tumor Protein (TCTP) in Plant Development. In: Telerman A., Amson R. (eds) TCTP/tpt1 - Remodeling Signaling from Stem Cell to Disease. *Results and Problems in Cell Differentiation*, vol 64. Springer, Cham. Doi: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-67591-6_7.
- Kong W, Yang S, Wang Y, **Bendahmane M**, Fu X. (2017) Genome-wide identification and characterization of aquaporin gene family in *Beta vulgaris*. *PeerJ* 5:e3747 <https://doi.org/10.7717/peerj.3747>.

Council's Members Published Articles (Jan. 2017–Present)

- El Hilali F**, El Hilali H, Belahsen MF, **El Idrissi A**, Mazouz H (2017) Uses of Intravenous Immunoglobulin: A 13-Year Evaluation of Guillain–Barré Syndrome in Fez, Morocco. *J Biol Med* 1(1): 001-005.
- Hajar El Hilali**, **Fatiha El Hilali**, Mustapha Samih, Fatiha Laziri. Cancer Incidence in Northern Central Moroccan Patients. *Journal of Medical and Surgical Research IV* (1): 403-409, 2017.
- Fatiha EL Hilali**, Vadim Jucaud, **Hajar EL Hilali**, Mohammed Hassan Bhuiyan, Andrew Mancuso, Nancy LiuSullivan, **Abdeslem Elidrisi**, and Hamid Mazouz. Characterization of the Anti-HLA Class I and II IgG Antibodies in Moroccan IVIg Using Regular Beads and Ibeads in Luminex Multiplex Single Antigen Immunoassay. *International Journal of Immunology* 2017; 5(4): 53-65. doi: 10.11648/j.iji.20170504.11.
- Afaf Ameur, Naima Rhallabi, Marie Epiphane Doussomo, Abdellatif Benbouazza, My. Mustapha Ennaji, and **El Hassan Achbani**. Selection and efficacy biocontrol agents in vitro against fire blight (*Erwinia amylovora*) of the rosacea. *International Research Journal of Engineering and Technology (IRJET)* 4 (12): 539-545.
- Khaoula Habbadi, Thibault Meyer, Ludovic VialVincent Gaillard Rachid Benkirane, Abdellatif Benbouazzalsabelle Kerzaon, **El Hassan Achbani**, and Céline Lavire. Essential oils of *Origanum compactum* and *Thymus vulgaris* exert a protective effect against the phytopathogen *Allorhizobium vitis*. *Environmental Science and Pollution Research* 2017: 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11356-017-1008-9>.
- El kinany Said, **Achbani El hassan**, Haggoud Abdellatif, Ibijbijen Jamal, Belmalha Saadia, Rachidi Fouad, Echchgadda Ghizlane, and Bouamri Rachid. In vitro evaluation of compost extracts efficiency as biocontrol agent of date palm Fusarium wilt. *African Journal of Microbiology Research* 11 (29): 1155-1161. DOI: 10.5897/AJMR2017.8567.

Congratulations to Our Members!
Keep Up The Good Work!

American-Moroccan Plant Scientists at the International Plant & Animal Genome Conference (January 13—17, 2018)

American-Moroccan and Other Moroccan Plant Scientists Thrive at the International Plant & Animal Genome Conference XXV in San Diego, CA

Like always since 2000, American-Moroccan and French-Moroccan Plant Scientists were present at “The International Plant & Animal Genome Conference XXV” that was held January 13–18, 2018 in San Diego, CA. These were:

- Dr. Khalid Meksem, Professor, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, USA
- Dr. My Abdelmajid Kassem, Professor and Department Chair, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC, USA
- Dr. Mohammed Bendahmane, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon, France
- Dr. Naoufal Lakhssassi, Postdoctoral Fellow, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, USA

These scientists organized workshops and presented their research findings in oral and poster formats as follows:

I. WORKSHOPS:

a. Workshop: Teaching Genetics, Genomics, Biotechnology, and Bioinformatics

Organizer: Abdelmajid Kassem, Fayetteville State University, USA

Date: Saturday, January 13, 2018, Time: 4:00-6:10 PM

Room: Esquire - Meeting House

- ♦ 04:00 PM Statistical Tests on Genetic Hypotheses **Zhenyu Jia**, University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA
- ♦ 04:20 PM Sequencing to Success: Engaging Community College Students in Life Sciences Research Projects **Alejandro Cortez**, University of California Riverside, Riverside, CA
- ♦ 04:40 PM Can You Hear the Buzz? Incorporating an Authentic Research Experience on Bee-Associated Micro Biomes in Non-Majors In-



American-Moroccan Plant Scientists at the International Plant & Animal Genome Conference (January 13—17, 2018) - Continued

Introductory Biology at the University of California, Riverside **Katie Burnette**, University of California, Riverside, Riverside, CA

- ◆ 05:00 PM Teaching Genetics One Mutant at a Time **Jelena Brkljacic**, The Arabidopsis Biological Resource Center, Center for Applied Sciences, The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
- ◆ 05:20 PM Fpsc: A Novel Plant-Based (Rapid-Cycling Brassica rapa) Model System to Help Students Connect Mutant Phenotypes with Underlying, DNA Sequence-Based Genotypes". **Scott Woody**, UW-Madison, Madison, WI
- ◆ 05:40 PM Science Tools in the Classroom: Partnering with Teachers in Bioinformatics **Joann Mudge**, National Center for Genome Resources (NCGR), Santa Fe, NM

b. Workshop: Genomics of Plant Development

Organizer: Dr. Khalid Meksem, Southern Illinois University, USA

Date: Sunday, January 14, 2018 Time: 4:00-6:10 PM

Room: Pacific Salon 6-7 (2nd Floor)

- ◆ 04:00 PM Cyst Nematode Parasitism Induces Dynamic Changes in the Root Epigenome **Tarek Hewezi**, University of Tennessee,, Knoxville, TN
- ◆ 04:20 PM Scaffolding Brassinosteroid Signaling Components at the Plasma Membrane By TTL Proteins **Miguel A. Botella**, IHSM-University of Málaga-CSIC, Málaga, Spain
- ◆ 04:40 PM Molecular Links between Stem Growth Habits and Responses to Water Stress in Soybean **Jianxin Ma**, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- ◆ 05:00 PM The Control of Developmental Phase Transitions in Tropical/Subtropical Tree Crops **Muhammad Umair Ahsan**, Queensland Alliance for Agriculture & Food Innovation, St. Lucia, QLD, Australia



**Congratulations to Our Members!
Keep Up The Good Work!**



American-Moroccan Plant Scientists at the International Plant & Animal Genome Conference (January 13—17, 2018)

c. Workshop: Ornamentals

Organizer: Mohamed Bendahmane, Ecole Normale Supérieure, France

Date: Sunday, January 14, 2018 Time: 1:30-3:40 PM

Room: Room: Esquire - Meeting House

- ◆ 01:30 PM W727 Utilizing GBS and Transcriptome Analysis to Understand Plant Development Rate in Petunia. Yufang Guo, QiuXia C. Chen and **Ryan M. Warner**, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
- ◆ 02:00 PM W728 Mapping a New Black Spot Resistance Locus in Rose Jason D. Zurn¹, David C. Zlesak², James Bradeen³, Stan C Hokanson⁴ and Nahla Bassil¹, (1) USDA-ARS National Clonal Germplasm Repository, Corvallis, OR, (2) University of Wisconsin River Falls, Department of Plant and Earth Science, River Falls, WI, (3) University of Minnesota, Department of Plant Pathology, St. Paul, MN, (4) University of Minnesota, Department of Horticultural Science, St. Paul, MN
- ◆ 02:30 PM W730 Characterization of *GmSACPD* Gene Family in Soybean Reveals the Presence of Neofunctionalization Events **Naoufal Lakhssassi**, Department of Plant Soil and Agricultural Systems, SIUC, Carbondale, IL
- ◆ 03:00 PM W729 Rose Genomics and Genome Sequencing M Bendahmane, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Lyon, France

II. ORAL PRESENTATIONS:

The following scientists presented their research findings orally:

- ◆ **Naoufal Lakhssassi**: Soybean Mutations Mapping: Applications in Functional Gene Analysis and Soybean Seed Improvement @ Sunday, Jan 14 2:00 PM
- ◆ **Naoufal Lakhssassi**: Characterization of *GmSACPD* Gene Family in Soybean Reveals the Presence of Neofunctionalization Events @ Sunday, Jan 14 2:30 PM
- ◆ **Khalid Meksem**: Characterization of the *Gmsacpd* Gene Family in Soybean uncovers a New Role in Plant Development and Structure @ Saturday, Jan 13 9:00 AM
- ◆ **Khalid Meksem**: Genomics of Plant Development @ Sunday, Jan 14 4:00 PM
- ◆ **Khalid Meksem**: Genomics of Soybean Cyst Nematode Resistance @ Tuesday, Jan 16 12:10 PM
- ◆ **Mohammed Bendahmane**: Rose Genomics and Genome Sequencing @ Sunday, Jan 14 3:00 PM

III. POSTER PRESENTATIONS:

Akond M, J Yuan, S Liu, SK Kantartzi, K Meksem, N Bellaloui, DA Lightfoot, and **MA Kassem**. Detection of QTL Underlying Seed Quality Components in Soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.] (P0762). Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVI, January 13–17, 2018, San Diego, CA, USA.

Yuan J, **MA Kassem**, and B Bizimungu. A High Throughput SNP Genotyping Platform for Potato Breeding and Genetics (P0981). Plant and



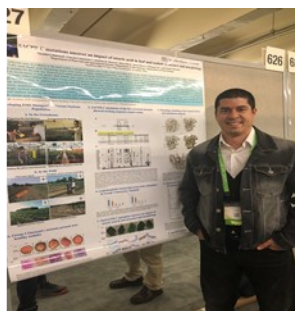
American-Moroccan Plant Scientists at the International Plant & Animal Genome Conference (January 13—17, 2018) - Continued

Animal Genome Conference XXVI, January 13–17, 2018, San Diego, CA, USA.

Lakhssassi N and K Meksem. SACPD-C Mutations Uncover an Impact of Stearic Acid in Leaf and Nodule Structure and Morphology (P0627). Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVI, January 13–17, 2018, San Diego, CA, USA.

Lakhssassi N and K Meksem. Soybean Mutations Mapping: Applications in Functional Gene Analysis and Soybean Seed Improvement (W453). Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVI, January 13–17, 2018, San Diego, CA, USA.

Lakhssassi N and K Meksem. Characterization of GmSACPD Gene Family in Soybean Reveals the Presence of Neofunctionalization Events (W730). Plant and Animal Genome Conference XXVI, January 13–17, 2018, San Diego, CA, USA.



Council's New Members (Jan. 2018–Present)



David A. Lightfoot, PhD
Professor of Plant Biotechnology and Genomics
Dept. of Plant, Soil, and Agricultural Systems
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, IL 62901, USA

"Dr. David Lightfoot received a BS degree in Genetics and Development from the University of East Anglia, UK in 1981 and a PhD in Genetics from University of Leeds, UK in 1985. In 1991, Dr. Lightfoot joined the Department of Plant, Soil and General Agriculture at Southern Illinois University where he works as a Professor of Biotechnology and Genomics. He was promoted in 1997 and 2000. Dr. Lightfoot is cross appointed in the Department of Plant Biology and the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Dr. Lightfoot co-authored the RAMP request for the Center for Excellence in Soybean Research, Teaching and Outreach. He is a Chair of the Research Committee in the Center for Excellence in Soybean Research, Teaching and Outreach and director of the Genomic Science Facility at SIUC. Dr. Lightfoot works on GMO safety and gene discovery by genomics, particularly methods to read and use the DNA sequences of chromosomes. He targets commercially valuable disease resistances, phyto-pharmaceuticals and crop yield boosting elements. Dr. Lightfoot is Director of a University spin-off company ?Genome and Agricultural Biotechnology? LLC from 1999 to present. Dr. Lightfoot has been granted 5 patents and has 5 pending patents. He has published forty four peer reviewed articles in International journals of high impact factors, has >7,000 Batch Sequence Submissions Published in Electronic Databases (16), has twenty eight edited Publications, one Book, and five Chapters. Dr. Lightfoot is an associate editor for one journal and serves on the editorial boards of several others." (1)

(1) <http://www.atlas-publishing.org/advisory-board/>

Other New Members

Nouredine Essafi
Rajae Benkaddour
Jamal Charafi
Oum Kaltoum Krimi Bencheqroun
Younesse El Ouazzani
Mohammed Jlibene
Younesse El Ouazzani
Mohamed Anime Serghini

Hassna Jaber
Abdelghani Chakhchar
Wafaa Mokhtari
Mohammed Baaziz
Ikram Blilou
Ilham Maaraji
Niyukuri Jonathan
Jamal Charafi

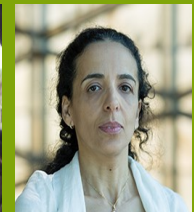


Welcome To All Our New Members

Facts About Prof. David Lightfoot:

- Peer-reviewed Articles Published: 180+
- Magazine Articles Published: 200+
- Number of MS Theses and PhD Dissertations Committees Served in: 80+
- Grant Proposals Reviewed: 370+
- Patents and Trade-marks: 8+

Outstanding!!



Council's New Members (Jan. 2018–Present)



Jack Turman, PhD
Professor and Dean
School of Public Health
Indiana University
Indianapolis, IN 46202

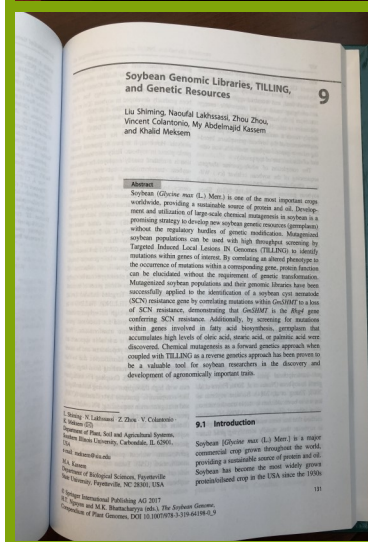
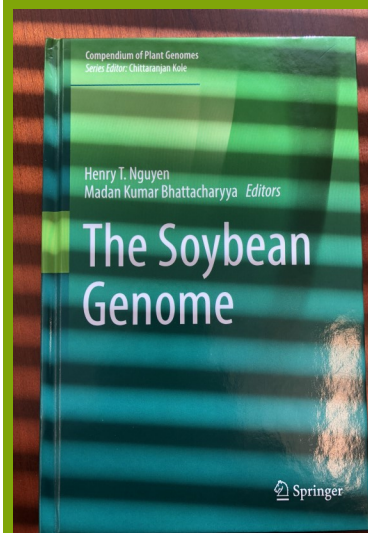
"Dr. Jack Turman has dedicated his career as an academic to building community-based participatory programs to improve maternal and child health outcomes. Dr. Turman received his Ph.D. at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) conducting neuroscience research, did a fellowship at the UCLA Medical School in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and then went on to serve as a faculty member for 15 years at the University of Southern California, wherein he ran the perinatal neuroscience research laboratory, and directed the Center for Premature Infant Health and Development. He then became a program director at the University of Nebraska Medical Center, wherein he founded and directed The Connections Project, a community-based program to improve birth and infant development outcomes in Omaha's African American community. He then served three years as the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Indiana State University. While serving as a dean, he was a fellow in the National Leadership Academy for the Public's Health, wherein he led programming to address poor birth outcomes in the Wabash Valley. He led the team that created the smartphone application, Mom 101, to promote preconception, prenatal and postpartum health. He recently served as a Fulbright Specialist Scholar in Morocco where he helped create a MPH program at Hassan 1st University and a smartphone application to improve pregnancy outcomes in Morocco." (1)

(1) Source: <https://fsph.iupui.edu/about/directory/turman-jack.html>

Three Council Members Published a Book Chapter in the Book "The Soybean Genome"

Congratulations to Prof. Khalid Meksem, Prof. Abdelmajid Kassem, and Dr. Naoufal Lakhssassi for their book chapter entitled **"Chapter 9: Soybean Genomic Libraries, TILLING, and Genetic Resources"** and published recently in the book **"The Soybean Genome"** edited by Prof. Henry Ngyuen of University of Missouri and Dr. Madan Bhattacharyya of Iowa State University. The book was published by Springer in December 2017.

**Congratulations to Drs. Meksem, Kassem,
and Lakhssassi**



Prof. Khalid Meksem Is Now A Member of The US National Academy of Inventors!

Congratulations to our Council's President Prof. Khalid Meksem for his new membership at the US National Academy of Inventors! Prof. Meksem was granted all rights and privileges of the National Academy of Inventors. His patents span the field of developing soybean cultivars with dual resistance to sudden death syndrome (SDS) and soybean cyst nematode (SCN); two devastating diseases in the USA.

Congratulations Khalid!



Congratulations Khalid!
We are proud of you!

Facts About SDS and SCN Diseases in USA:

- Cause \$1.6 Billion Crop losses each year
- Once in the field, they cannot be eliminated
- Researchers and scientists are working hard to develop cultivars resistant to SDS, SCN, or both

AMAS Conference IV Call For Abstracts (Poster & Oral)

Conference Organizers

Kamal Hidane, Regional Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Rural Development, and Forests, Morocco

Khalid Meksem, Professor, Southern Illinois University, USA

My Abdelmajid Kassem, Professor and Chair, Fayetteville State University, USA

In Collaboration With

INRA, Meknes, Morocco (Hassan Achbani, Research Director,)

Institute of Agronomy & Veterinary Sciences (IAV) Hassan II, Rabat, Morocco (A. Bouaziz & M. Bouslikhane, Professors)

University My Ismail, Meknes, Morocco (Layla Nassiri, Professor & VP for Research)

Scientific Committee

Mohamed Badraoui, Professor, Director of INRA, Rabat, Morocco

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