

The Council of IAPT held its annual 2013 meeting in Palermo, Italy. The following strategic plan was developed at that meeting and has since been approved by the full Council. Suggestions for improvement and offers of participation are always welcome.

■ IAPT STRATEGIC PLAN 1 JANUARY 2014–31 DECEMBER 2019

International Association for Plant Taxonomy

Promoting studies in evolution, classification, and naming of algae, fungi and plants.

IAPT is the only international organization dedicated to furthering the goals of *plant systematics* worldwide. Founded in 1950, it is a not-for-profit organization currently managed from its office in Bratislava, Slovakia (for history see *Taxon* 31: 415–420; 37: 791–800; 47: 3–35). Members of the Council, including officers, are elected by ballot every six years prior to each International Botanical Congress and serve six-year terms. The annual Council meetings move around the world and are held in conjunction with a variety of local, national and regional botanical societies.

Members of IAPT are botanists in the traditional sense of the discipline, understanding botany as the study of algae, fungi and plants. In particular, IAPT and its members focus on systematics—the study of the evolution, classification and naming of these organisms.

The goals of IAPT are to: (1) Support excellence in botanical systematics; (2) Connect systematists working with algae, fungi and plants worldwide; (3) Participate in and influence education and training; (4) Maintain a stable infrastructure for nomenclature; (5) Communicate the relevance of systematists, especially efforts by IAPT members; and (6) Manage IAPT resources responsibly. Over the next six years we will:

1. Support excellence in botanical systematics

- Publish the results of high-quality research
 - Regular issues per year of peer-reviewed *Taxon*
 - Monograph series *Regnum Vegetabile*
 - Stand-alone monographs
- Recognize excellence in botanical systematics by presenting awards and medals including the following:
 - Stafleu medal every two years for historical book
 - Engler medal in Silver every two years for monograph
 - Stebbins medal every two years for excellent paper in evolutionary biology
 - Engler medal in Gold every six years for lifetime contributions
- Organize innovative symposia at scientific meetings
 - Sponsor one symposium in conjunction with the annual Council meeting
 - Sponsor additional symposia as finances and participation permit



Photos: Eva Šenková.

2. Connect systematists working with algae, fungi and plants worldwide

- Establish a global network of botanists of all ages to work collaboratively
 - Provide space or links on a new look IAPT website (see below)
- Promote IAPT at local and regional levels around the world
 - Encourage sections for IAPT members (local or regional sections)
- Establish a central hub for IAPT members
 - Facilitate member directory on IAPT website

3. Participate in and influence education and training

- Support workshops requested by the community
 - Nomenclature workshops pre-IBC 2017
 - Others including, but not limited to, grant-writing and monography
- Establish new symposium format with contributed student presentations
 - One symposium with new format by 2015
- Establish a new scheme of student travel grants for the XIX International Botanical Congress in Shenzhen in 2017
- Award early-career research grants
 - Continue and enhance our competitive programme of small research grants for developing country scientists

4. Maintaining a stable infrastructure for nomenclature

- Support the preparation and implementation of the Nomenclature Section at International Botanical Congresses (IBC)
 - Publish nomenclature proposals, reports, etc. in *Taxon*
 - Support the Rapporteurs' meeting prior to the IBC and Bureau of Nomenclature during the Nomenclature Section
- Support the Editorial Committee in its preparation of the *Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants (ICN)*
- Publish the *ICN* and its Appendices

- Facilitate the publication of transcripts of the Nomenclature Sections of the IBC in a timely manner
- Maintain the nomenclature content of the IAPT website

5. Communicating the relevance of systematists, especially IAPT members

- Improve the visibility of IAPT through new media
 - Establish Facebook and Twitter accounts
 - New look website to be developed
- Increase our participation in higher-level international fora (IUMS & IUBS)
 - Ensure IAPT members attend relevant meetings and share findings
- Establish a set of case studies for the relevance of our science on the IAPT website
- Increase representation of IAPT members at meetings not primarily focused on systematics

6. Manage IAPT resources responsibly

- Examine status and usage of IAPT Reserve Funds
- Initiate a fund-raising campaign to increase support for early-career researchers
- Negotiate all contracts to improve access and decrease costs

Current Council: Vicki A. Funk (President, U.S.A.), David Mabberley (Past President, Australia), Sandra Knapp (Vice-President, U.K.), Karol Marhold (Secretary General, Slovakia); Council members: William Buck (U.S.A.), Lynn Clark (U.S.A.), Ana Crespo (Spain), Jorge Crisci (Argentina), Sebsebe Demissew (Ethiopia), Lucia Lohmann (Brazil), Gonzalo Nieto Feliner (Spain), Kathleen Pryer (U.S.A.), Nicholas Turland (Germany), Xian-Chun Zhang (China). Non-Voting Members of Council: Joachim W. Kadereit (Editor, *Taxon*, Germany), S. Robbert Gradstein (Editor, *Regnum Vegetabile*, France), Josef Greimler (Treasurer, Austria), Warren Wagner (Reserve Fund Manager, U.S.A.).