

Corresponding Member Committee Report, 2003

Corresponding Members are distinguished senior scientists who have made outstanding contributions to plant science and who live and work outside the U.S. The number is limited to fifty individuals at any one time.

Three vacancies for Corresponding Members occurred in 2002-2003, with the deaths of Knut Faegri, Armando Hunziker, and William T. Stearn. A call for nominations went out to chairs of disciplinary sections and to the membership in the spring, and three dossiers were submitted to the committee by the 15 May 2003 deadline. The committee carefully examined the nominations and unanimously recommends to the Council and the membership the following three distinguished botanists for election as Corresponding Members.

Rolf Y. Berg - Botanical Garden, Natural History Museums and Botanical Gardens, University of Oslo, Norway.

Professor Rolf Berg is considered to be one of the most distinguished European botanists of this era. He is responsible for distinctive syntheses of plant systematics, ecology, morphology, plant embryology, floral morphology and biology, and seed dispersal ecology, the vast majority of which appeared in single-authored publications in outstanding national and international journals. Prof. Berg is best known for his work on seed dispersal, especially in myrmecochorous plants (seeds or fruits dispersed by ants), and his meticulous publications on comparative studies of ovule morphology and seed structure in Liliales and Papaverales are classics in this field. A major achievement of his was the discovery of the significance of myrmecochory on a worldwide scale and the different developmental and evolutionary origins of elaiosomes which facilitate ant dispersal in different taxa and in different habitats. Prof. Berg was a pioneer in this research and a major contributor to the modern era of research in plant reproductive biology in the context of ecology and evolution. In addition to his creative and productive research, conducted in Norway, Australia, Spain and the U.S. (California), Prof. Berg has served as an inspiring teacher and mentor for generations of students on several continents. Prof. Berg has also been a major force promoting problem-focused, critical and internationally oriented research for his own students as well as the entire botanical community in Norway. Prof. Berg has worked throughout his career to present botany to the general public, beginning with his stewardship of the UC Davis Arboretum at the beginning of his career, and continuing as Director of the Botanical Museum and Garden of the University of Oslo. In recognition of his outstanding service to the botanical community and his exemplary research accomplishments, Prof. Berg was elected to the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters and to the Royal Norwegian Scientific Academy.

(Nomination by Don Kaplan, supporting letters from Anthony Bradshaw, Christian Brochmann, Nancy Dengler, Peter Endress, Jack Maze, Shirley Tucker, Grady Webster).

Enrico Coen - Department of Cell and Developmental Biology, John Innes Centre, Norwich, UK.

Professor Enrico Coen is an outstanding plant developmental geneticist who pioneered the use of *Antirrhinum majus* as a model organism for plant molecular genetics. His work focuses on understanding the genetic basis of floral morphology and he has framed this work in both a mechanistic and an evolutionary context. Dr. Coen and his group have made substantial

contributions to the interpretation of floral homeotic mutations, the specification of floral organ identity, the transition from vegetative to reproductive growth, the development of floral symmetry, inflorescence architecture, and development of organ shape. The high quality of his research is indicated by the high impact journals in which he frequently publishes: *Nature*, *Science*, *Development* and *Cell*. He is internationally renowned for his scientific accomplishments; his numerous awards and honors attest to the esteem in which he is held by the scientific community. He is a member of the Royal Society in Britain and a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences. He has trained numerous graduate students and post-doctoral associates who have gone on to prestigious positions in at least ten different countries. His work is well known among zoologists and by human/medical biologists. His reputation even extends to the general public; he is the author of a well received book, *The Art of Genes* (Oxford University Press), that explains the complexities of developmental genetics to a lay audience using an extended series of metaphors developed around art and painting. (Nomination by Pam Diggle, supporting letters from John Bowman, Nancy Dengler, Peter Endress, Larry Hufford, Elizabeth Kellogg, Elliot Meyerowitz, Doug Soltis, Shirley Tucker).

Michael Melkonian - Botanical Institute, University of Cologne, Germany

Professor Michael Melkonian is one of the most prominent phycologists in the world today. He has made many significant contributions to the study of algae and other protists, particularly in addressing issues of basic cell ultrastructure and applying these and other discoveries to improved phylogenetic classification of algae and protists. For example, he has contributed important data about the organization and development of basal bodies and flagella, scales, eyespots, and organelles, as well as studied how some of these structures function, identifying in some cases critical proteins involved in motility and photoreception. These data, and molecular studies, have contributed to a reassessment of characters and taxa that are part of the major revisions in algal classification over the past two decades. In particular, his work has contributed to the recognition of *Mesostigma* as a basal member of the land plant lineage within green algae. Prof. Melkonian has inspired and trained numerous students and post-docs, and he has organized many meetings and symposia, been active (often as an officer) in numerous national and international professional societies and served on the editorial boards of several journals. (Nomination by Robert Anderson, supporting letters from Russell Chapman, Annette Coleman, Linda Graham, Louise Lewis, Richard McCourt).

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jernstedt, Chair
Pat Gensel
Doug Soltis

CorrespMemCouncRep.2003