

**Darbaker Prize in Phycology  
Selection Committee - Annual Report  
August 2003**

Committee Composition

3 members, 3 year terms,  
expiration year in parentheses

Robert Bell, chair (2003)  
Debabish Bhattacharya (2004)  
Richard McCourt (2005)

The committee set a 06/01 nomination deadline. The award solicitation was distributed to BSA, Phycological Society of America, and International Phycological Society web pages and/or list servers in March. The chair received only one completed nomination packet by the deadline; copies of nomination materials were forwarded electronically to committee members. There was unanimous agreement that **John C. (Jack) Meeks** from the University of California-Davis met the award criteria of outstanding and meritorious work in the study of microscopic algae and he was named the recipient of the 2003 Darbaker Prize in Phycology. His nominated works were:

Hagen, K.D. and J.C. Meeks. 2001. The unique cyanobacterial protein OpcA is an allosteric effector of glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase in *Nostoc punctiforme* ATCC 29133. *J. Biol. Chem.* 276: 11477-11486.

Meeks, J.C., and J. Elhai. Regulation of cellular differentiation in filamentous Cyanobacteria in free-living and plant-associated symbiotic growth states. *Microbio. Mol. Biol. Rev.* 66: 94-121.

Meeks, J.C., Campbell, E.L., Summers, M.L., and F.C. Wong. 2002. Cellular differentiation in the cyanobacterium *Nostoc punctiforme*. *Arch. Microbiol.* 178: 395-403.

Meeks, J.C., et al. 2001. An overview of the genome of *Nostoc punctiforme*, a multicellular, symbiotic cyanobacterium. *Photosynthesis Res.* 70: 85-106.

Wong, F.C.Y. and J.C. Meeks. 2002. Establishment of a functional symbiosis between the cyanobacterium *Nostoc punctiforme* and the bryophyte *Anthoceros punctatus* requires genes involved in nitrogen control and initiation of heterocyst differentiation. *Microbiology* 148: 315-323.

\_\_\_\_\_. 2001. The *hetF* gene product is essential to heterocyst differentiation and affects HetR function in the cyanobacterium *Nostoc punctiforme*. *J. Bacteriol.* 183: 2654-2661.

The committee followed a helpful general guideline provided by past chair L. Lewis. This guide has been passed on to incoming chair D. Bhattacharya. The outgoing chair thanks the members of the committee for their prompt responses, BSA Jennifer Richards for her help and patience, and BSA Treasurer Joe Armstrong for assistance with the award and its disbursement.

Submitted 13 August 2003

R. Bell