

## Invited speakers

**Ortrun Mittelsten Scheid**  
(GMI, Vienna, Austria)

**James Tregear**  
(IRD/CIRAD Montpellier , France)

**Jan Kooter**  
(Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam,  
Netherlands)

**Ann Depicker**  
(UGENT/VIB, Gent, Belgium)

**Marc De Block**  
(Bayer Cropscience, Gent, Belgium)

**Abstract submission: email abstract to**  
[abstract@bpba.be](mailto:abstract@bpba.be)  
**for additional info mail to**  
[info@bpba.be](mailto:info@bpba.be)

## Scientific and Organising Committee

Stefaan Werbrouck, *University College Ghent (chair)*  
Pascal Geerts, *CRA Gembloux (vice chair)*  
Ivan Famelaer, *Free University Brussels (secretary)*  
Tom Eeckhaut, *ILVO, Gent*  
Evelyne Etienne, *CEDEVIT, University Liège*  
Danny Geelen, *University Ghent*  
Jean Lathouwers, *Erasmus Hogeschool, Brussels*  
Bart Panis, *Catholic University Leuven*  
Arlette Reynaerts (*private*)



# Scientific meeting Organized by the Belgian Plant Biotechnology Association

## Epigenetics and somaclonal variation in plants

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007**



Co-organized by  
**Agrobiopole Wallon**

**Espace Vinçotte**  
Parc Scientifique Créalys

Rue Phocas Lejeune, 11  
Les Isnes, Gembloux

## Sponsors



SCIENTIFIC INSTRUMENTS



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## Access

By Train (from Brussels)

Station	Time	Travel time	Train nr
Brussel-Zuid [B]	From	07:06	IC24 07
Gembloux [B]	To	07:55	
Brussel-Zuid [B]	From	07:36	IC21 07
Gembloux [B]	To	08:25	

A bus will pick up persons at Gembloux station at 8.45 to arrive at 9.00 on Créalys Parc.

By car : see map



# Scientific Program

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2007

9.30 Registration

9.45 Opening

10.00 **Ortrun Mittelsten Scheid**

10.45 **James Tregear**

11.30 **To be selected among abstracts**

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12.00 – 13.00 lunch, poster session

13.00 **possibility to visit Biotech companies/ poster session**

14.00 **Jan Kooter**

14.45 **Ann Depicker**

15.30 Coffee

16.00 **Marc De Block**

16.45 **closing remarks**

17.00 **drink and poster session**

## **Abstract and Poster submission**

Interested participants are invited to register at our website [www.bpba.be](http://www.bpba.be)  
If you intend to present a poster, please send a 1 page abstract to [abstract@bpba.be](mailto:abstract@bpba.be)

Recycling of posters (presented in previous symposium) is allowed.

Participation to the meeting is 20 euros. Included are registration, transport by bus, lunch and coffee. Students and NVPW members pay 10 euros.  
Registration will provide an opportunity to become member of the BPBA free of charge.

## **Epigenetics and somaclonal variation**

Epigenetics describes heritable alterations in gene expression, which deviate from the Mendelian segregation model and involve DNA methylation, chromatin remodeling, histone modification and a large array of RNA molecules. It has become a popular and fast evolving research topic in plant biology. The importance of epigenetic systems for agriculture and horticulture is on the increase because it has an impact on plant developmental programs and interferes with a plant's response to environmental changes. The ability of a plant to transmit physiological adaptations through mitosis as well as meiosis has great potential for future applications such as gene silencing, somaclonal variation and ploidy breeding. This meeting will cover a number of theoretical and applied aspects of plant epigenetics and should yield interesting insights for scientists active in plant genetics, evolution, taxonomy, physiology, breeding, tissue culture and biotechnology. Five international renowned scientists will present their work in this tantalizing research field.