

54th Annual Maize Genetics Conference

Doubletree Hotel, Portland, Oregon USA; March 15-18, 2012

Maize Genetics Conference Steering Committee

John Fowler (*Chair*), Phil Becraft (*Co-Chair*), Alice Barkan (*Local Host*), Paula McSteen (*Treasurer*), Mary Alleman, Peter Balint-Kurti, Robert Benson, Mark Cigan, Uta Paszkowski, and Nathan Springer
Ex-officio: Kathy Newton, Marty Sachs; Carson Andorf and Mary Schaeffer, *Abstract Coordinators*

January 1, 2012

We cordially invite you to attend the 2012 Maize Genetics Conference at the Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon USA, beginning with the evening meal on Thursday, March 15 and continuing until 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 18, 2012. This year's meeting will feature four plenary speakers: Bill Tracy (Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison), Venkatesan Sundaresan (Univ. of California, Davis), Jenny Graves (Australian National University), and Thomas Dresselhaus (Univ. of Regensburg). Further details about the program, registration for meeting and housing, abstracts, and transportation are available at the **meeting website**:

http://www.maizedb.org/maize_meeting/2012/. This website will be updated regularly.

REGISTRATION: All registration **deadlines are January 31, 2012**. There are two separate registration procedures, one for lodging and one for the meeting.

1. Lodging Reservation

To reserve lodging and meals at the conference venue, submit your reservation by January 31, 2012, through the hotel link at the meeting website. The prices listed at the hotel link include room, taxes, and meals from Thursday night through Sunday breakfast. Be aware that the final bill provided by the Doubletree reservations system will itemize additional taxes and parking fees; however, these will not be charged at checkout. If you need to locate a roommate, it will facilitate your reservation to do so **before** submitting your lodging registration. A link for the roommate finder bulletin board is at the bottom of the meeting's Hotel/Travel webpage. Note that only one person per room needs to provide a credit card number for a reservation, although multiple credit cards can be used at check-in.

2. Meeting Registration

To register for the meeting, register online using the Meeting Registration link on the meeting website by January 31, 2012. Alternatively, you may print the form and mail or FAX it with your registration payment. There is a flat fee of \$200 for advance registration for all attendees. However, this fee is waived for all graduate students and certain undergraduates. The registration fee after the deadline is \$250. We strongly encourage attendees to register in advance of the meeting, even after the January deadline, as pre-registration allows us to compile a list of attendees with their affiliations and pre-print nametags. Receipts will be sent by email or mail. Meeting registration is handled through the University of Missouri Conference Office. The contacts there are Angela Freemyer and Lindsay Kilgore. They can be reached by phone (573-882-8320), via receptionist (866-682-6663), by FAX (573-882-1953) or by email (muconf4@missouri.edu).

TALKS, POSTERS, ABSTRACTS:

In addition to the plenary speakers, the program will include approximately 30 short talks (15 minutes each) selected from submitted abstracts, and extended poster sessions. All abstracts must be submitted electronically by the January 31, 2012 deadline via the Abstract Form on the meeting website. Abstract submission is separate from the meeting registration and lodging reservation procedures.

Please indicate on the abstract form whether you wish to present a talk or a poster. Do not check both options. Due to time constraints, some authors who request oral presentations may be asked to present their data in poster format instead. Authors of abstracts will be notified of format decisions by email, around February 14, 2012. Authors should check the meeting website to ensure that their abstracts are posted and contain no errors. If by February 21, 2012, you have not received information about your abstract, or it is not accessible on the web site, please contact John Fowler at fowlerj@science.oregonstate.edu.

Each poster space is 48 x 48 inches. Authors must bring their own tacks for hanging the poster. Poster boards will be provided.

CONTEST TO DESIGN LOGO FOR ABSTRACT BOOK:

A logo for the cover of the abstract book will be selected from designs submitted by cooperators. Please submit original artwork via the meeting website, by January 31, 2012.

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID:

The steering committee is soliciting federal grants and industry donations to help defray meeting costs for graduate students and for those undergraduates who are the first and presenting author of a poster or talk. The subsidy will be applied to the charges billed by the Doubletree Hotel. Students will be notified by email of the amount of the subsidy about two weeks prior to the meeting. To apply, a student must:

1. Make reservations at the Doubletree Hotel (your credit card will not be charged until checkout).
2. Register for the conference using the online meeting registration form. Be sure to indicate your student status and include the requested additional information about your advisor, etc. Do not include payment for meeting registration.

Applications for student support must be received by January 31, 2012.

In the interest of broadening meeting participation, students and researchers from underrepresented groups are particularly encouraged to apply for financial aid. The Maize Genetics Conference Steering Committee hopes to make a more specific announcement soon regarding the availability of a small number of additional travel awards for such participants.

EVENING RECEPTIONS: On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, beer, wine and soft drinks will be available near the poster area until midnight.

FUTURE MAIZE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS: Meeting announcements are sent only by email. To ensure you receive future announcements, please make sure your contact information in MaizeGDB is current (<http://www.maizegdb.org/person.php>).

We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!

John Fowler

On behalf of the 2012 Maize Genetics Steering Committee