



May 2017

## Tackling new challenges in wheat research



Drs. Lee Hickey, Maricelis Acevedo, Filippo Bassi, and Ph.D. student Samir Alahmad show their support for the March for Science campaign at the Marchouch Research Station in Rabat, Morocco.  
(Photo: Maricelis Acevedo)

Wheat research is an ever-evolving field, and each year brings new challenges and problems for breeders and farmers. Last month, Maricelis Acevedo, DGGW associate director for science, visited the fields of Morocco and the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) research center to learn more about their newest research projects, and efforts to combat the threats facing wheat.

Much of ICARDA's work involves evaluating the potential of the new durum and bread wheat varieties to resist disease and cope with environmental threats such as drought.

[Read more about the wheat research being conducted in Morocco on the BGRI blog.](#)

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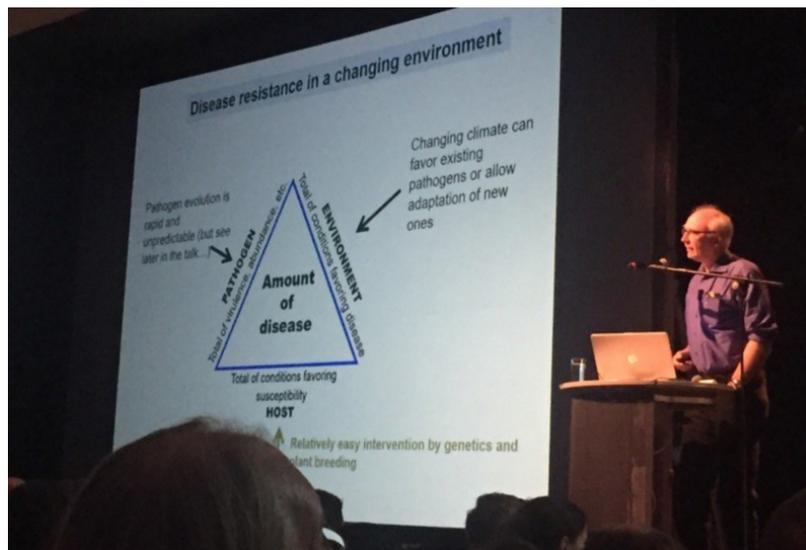
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## 13th International Wheat Genetics Symposium: A look at cutting-edge wheat research

The 13th International Wheat Genetics Symposium (IWGS17) brought together over 500 researchers from around the world to Tulln Austria to highlight the latest developments in wheat genetics. Spread out over five days, the conference featured a diverse set of talks, from the history of wheat cultivation to cutting edge methods like genomic selection and CRISPR gene editing.



Beat Keller, University of Zurich, discusses pathogen-informed resistance improvement at IWGS17. Photo: Maricelis Acevedo

Several BGRI partners presented their research at the conference, which also featured a talk from Maricelis Acevedo, DGGW associate director for science, discussing the next phase of the BGRI.

[Read more highlights from IGWS17 at the BGRI blog.](#)

## Save the Dates: BGRI Technical Workshop 14-17 April 2018



**Join us at the frontier of wheat research!**

The BGRI Technical Workshop will be held on 14-17 April 2018 in Marrakesh, Morocco. The meeting will focus on Delivering Genetic Gain in Wheat by targeting research on farmer-relevant traits and exploring new challenges in wheat research. Details about registration and participation will be forthcoming.

## Nominations open for BGRI Gene Stewardship Award



The BGRI Gene Stewardship Award, established in 2012, is presented annually at the BGRI Technical Workshop to recognize a researcher or team of researchers serving a national breeding program or other nationally based institution working on wheat. The award will be presented to the winner at the 2018 BGRI Technical Workshop.

Deadline for nominations for the 2018 BGRI Gene Stewardship Award is **October 30, 2017**.

[Learn more about the Gene Stewardship Award and the nomination process at the BGRI website.](#)

### Women in Triticum Spotlight: Kaori Ando

Kaori Ando, a 2012 Women in Triticum (WIT) Early Career Awardee, now works as a research geneticist on a melon breeding and genetics program with the USDA Agricultural Research Service (USDA-ARS) Crop Improvement and Protection Unit in Salinas, CA.

"I greatly appreciated that I had an opportunity to work with major crops such as wheat. The community is large and much innovative research has emerged from wheat science. I was particularly impressed with the abundance of genetic stocks. I believe I was able to broaden my perspectives by working on wheat and this experience prepared me well for my new job."

[Read more about Kaori Ando on the BGRI blog.](#)



Kaori Ando, 2013 WIT Early Career Awardee

### Career and Educational Opportunities

#### Aarhus University: Tenure track position in plant pathology

The Department of Agroecology at Aarhus University in Slagelse, Denmark, is seeking applicants for a tenure track position in plant pathology. This position offers the opportunity to be part of a leading plant pathology research environment in Europe, with research programs in molecular diagnostics, epidemiology, ecology, and prevention and control of plant diseases in agriculture. More information about qualifications and the scope of work can be found on the Aarhus University website.

<http://www.au.dk/om/stillinger/videnskabelige->

**Barilla Center for Food & Nutrition YES! Research Grant** *Deadline 28 June 2017*

The BCFN is accepting research proposals for a 20,000€ research grant applied to a one-year investigation. Young PhD and postdoc researchers from any background and nationality are invited to submit a research project to improve the sustainability of the food system. Grants can be applied for as individuals or as teams.

<https://www.barillacfn.com/en/bcfnyes2017/>

**2018 Women in Triticum Early Career Award** *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate women working in wheat in the early stages of their career (scientists ranging from advanced undergraduates to recent PhD graduates and post-doctoral fellows) for the WIT Early Career Award. Recipients will be invited to the annual BGRI technical workshop and will be provided with professional development opportunities.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit>

**2018 Women in Triticum Mentor Award** *Deadline 30 October 2017*

Nominate outstanding mentors (male and female) of women working in triticum and its nearest relatives for the WIT Mentor award. The winner will receive an honorarium and the opportunity to organize a session in the subsequent year's BGRI technical workshop.

<http://www.globalrust.org/awards/award-wit-mentor>

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## Upcoming Events

**Gender-responsive Cereal Grains Breeding Course for Sub-Saharan Africa** *Deadline for applications: 09 June 2017*

Week 1: 07-16 August 2017 | Kampala, Uganda

Week 2: 15-19 January 2018 | Kampala, Uganda

<http://www.greatagriculture.org/content/courses/upcoming-courses>

**8th International Triticeae Symposium 2017**

12-16 June 2017 | Wernigerode, Germany

<http://www.ipk-gatersleben.de/meetings/8th-international-triticeae-symposium-2017/>

**American Phytopathological Society Meeting: Changing Landscapes of Plant Pathology**

05-09 August 2017 | San Antonio, Texas, USA

<http://www.apsnet.org/meet>

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## Research Updates

Fine mapping of the chromosome 5B region carrying closely linked rust resistance genes *Yr47* and *Lr52* in wheat

[\[LINK\]](#)

Tight repulsion linkage between *Sr36* and *Sr39* was revealed by genetic, cytogenetic and molecular analyses

[\[LINK\]](#)

Adult plant resistance of selected Kenyan wheat cultivars to leaf rust and stem rust diseases

[\[LINK\]](#)

Divergent and convergent modes of interaction between wheat and *Puccinia graminis* f. sp. *tritici* isolates revealed by the comparative gene co-expression network and genome analyses.

[\[LINK\]](#)

Population differentiation of wheat leaf rust fungus *Puccinia triticina* in South Asia.

[\[LINK\]](#)

## Contribute to the BGRI Newsletter and Social Media

If you have any news of interest to the BGRI community, please send us a message and we will try to include it in subsequent BGRI newsletters! We also publish and share stories on our [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) accounts. Use [@globalrust](#) to tag any contributions.

Events, career and educational opportunities, photos, and new publications are especially welcome.

Contact BGRI newsletter editor [Samantha Hautea](#) or [the BGRI](#).

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