EDITORIAL

Editorial changes

Olivier Pourquié*§ and Katherine Brown‡§

Here at Development we are very sad to be saying goodbye to two of our editors: Ottoline Leyser and Geraldine Seydoux. Both Ottoline and Geraldine have been valued members of the editorial team since 2011, and we are hugely grateful for the time and effort they have put in to handling research papers, helping to shape the journal’s future plans and, in Ottoline’s case, coordinating our 2016 Special Issue on Plant Development. They will both be greatly missed, but will maintain connections with and continue to provide input on the journal as members of our Editorial Advisory Board.

Taking their places, we are delighted to announce two new editors: Yka Helariutta and Susan Strome. Yka is taking on Ottoline’s role as Development’s plant editor. After a PhD in plant genetics at the University of Helsinki, Finland, Yka undertook postdoctoral research at New York University and New York Botanical Garden with Philip Benfey before moving back to Helsinki in 1998 to establish his own lab. From 2003 to 2014 he was also affiliated with the Umeå Plant Science Centre in Sweden, and was elected as an EMBO Member in 2008. In 2014, Yka became Professor of Plant Developmental Biology at the University of Cambridge, UK, and moved to the Sainsbury Laboratory, although he still runs an active group in Finland. Yka’s work focusses on vascular development in plants, from patterning to cell differentiation. He primarily uses Arabidopsis as a research model, but is also interested in how the basic molecular mechanisms operate in species with an extensive vascular domain, such as trees.

Susan Strome began her career as a biochemist working on bacteriophages at the University of Washington, before moving to the University of Colorado for a postdoc with William Wood. There, she started working on the C. elegans germline – an interest that has continued throughout her career. Susan gained an independent position at Indiana University in 1984, staying there until 2007, when she moved to the Department of Molecular, Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she currently holds the position of Distinguished Professor. A Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Susan’s current research focusses on how cells are instructed to develop as germ or soma, and particularly on how chromatin regulators act to promote and maintain germline fate.

One other significant piece of news is that I [Olivier] will be stepping down as Development’s Editor in Chief in September 2018, after 8 years in the role. During this time, I have tried to adapt the journal to the new challenges faced by developmental biology. Notably, I have tried to engage the journal more actively with the community long into the future.

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