Six Moroccan plant scientists were present at “The International Plant & Animal Genome Conference XX” that was held January 14 - 18, 2012 in San Diego, CA. These were Dr. Khalid Meksem, a Professor at Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL, USA; Dr. Abdelhafid Bendahmane, the Vice-Director of URGV, INRA (& Universite d’Evry Val d’Essonne), France; Dr. Abdelmajid Kassem, Professor and Department Chair, Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville, NC, USA; Dr. Abdelali Barakat, Research Associate, Clemson University, Clemson, SC, USA; Dr. Faouzi Bekkaoui, an Interim Director, Canadian Research Council, Canada; and Dr. Amine Abbadi of Norddeutsche Pflanzenzucht, Hohenlieth, Germany.

Dr. Khalid Meksem organized a workshop entitled “Genomics of Plant Development” on Sunday January 15, from 3:50 - 6:00 pm.

**Genomics of Plant Development**

Organizer: Khalid Meksem (Southern Illinois University)
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2012
Time: 3:50 PM-6:00 PM
Room: Golden Ballroom
Chair: Khalid Meksem

3:50 PM W371 Comparative Genomics Based on Large-Scale Parallel Transcriptomics of Root Development and Stress Response. Troy J. Stephenson, University of Missouri; Babu Valliyodan, University of Missouri; Henry T. Nguyen, University of Missouri & National Center for Soybean Biotechnology (NCSB).

4:10 PM W372 Shoot Branching and Leaf Dissection in Tomato Are Regulated by Homologous Gene Modules. Klaus Theres, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research; Bernhard L. Busch, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research; Gregor Schmitz, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research; Susanne Rossmann, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research; Florence Piron, INRA URGV; Jia Ding, Max Planck Institute for Plant Breeding Research; Abdelhafid Bendahmane, INRA URGV.

4:35 PM W373 Genetic Control of Natural Variation in Maize Shoot Apical Meristem Architecture. Addie M. Thompson, University of Minnesota; Lin Li, University of Minnesota; James E. Crants, University of Minnesota; Jillian Foerster, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Jinliang Yang, Iowa State University; Natalia de Leon, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Shawn Kaeppler, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Nathan M. Springer, University of Minnesota; Patrick S. Schnable, Iowa State University; Marja Timmermans, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory; Jianming Yu, Kansas State University; Michael Scanlon, Cornell University; Gary Muehlbauer, University of Minnesota.
A Heavy Presence of American-Moroccan and European-Moroccan Plant Scientists at the International Plant & Animal Genome Conference XX in San Diego, CA -- Continued


5:15 PM W375 Identification and Expression Profiling of miRNAs and siRNAs in Chilled Vegetative Buds and Non-chilled Leaf Tissue in Peach. Abdelali Barakat, Clemson University; Aditya Sriram, Clemson University; Joseph Park, Penn State University; Tatyana Zhebentyayeva, Clemson University; Albert G. Abbott, Department of Genetics and Biochemistry, Clemson University.

5:35 PM W376 Neodiversification in the Paleotetraploid Soybean Genome: GmCLAVATA 1A, a GmNARK Paralogue Involved in the Control of Stem Nodal Identity But Not Root Nodulation. Saeid Mirzaei, University of Queensland; Brett J. Ferguson, University of Queensland; Khalid Meksem, Southern Illinois University; Jacqueline Batley, University of Queensland; Peter M. Gresshoff, University of Queensland.

Dr. Abdelhafid Bendahmane organized a workshop entitled “Sex Chromosomes” on Sunday January 15, from 3:50 - 6:00 pm.

**Sex Chromosomes**

Organizers: Abdelhafid Bendahmane(INRA URGV) and Ray Ming(University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign)
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2012
Time: 3:50 PM-6:00 PM
Room: Royal Palm Salon 5-6
Chairs: Ray Ming and Abdelhafid Bendahmane

3:50 PM W631 Sex determination in salmonids. Ayaka Yano, INRA-SCRIBE; René Guyomard, INRA-GABI; Elodie Jouanno, INRA-SCRIBE; Alexis Fostier, INRA-SCRIBE; Edwige Quillet, INRA-GABI; Yann Guiguen, INRA-SCRIBE.

4:10 PM W632 Sex determination in poeciliids, a focus on the platyfish xiphophorus maculatus. Delphine Galiana, ENS de Lyon, IGFL; Astrid Böhne, ENS de Lyon, IGFL; Marta Tomaszkiewicz, ENS de Lyon, IGFL; Manfred Schartl, University of Wuerzburg; Jean-Nicolas Volff, ENS de Lyon, IGFL.

4:30 PM W633 Genomics of an ancient sex chromosome in Tilapia. Jean-François Baroiller, CIRAD; Lucile Soler, CIRAD; S. Bocs, CIRAD; M. Conte, University of Maryland; A. D’Hont, CIRAD; Thomas Kocher, University of Maryland; Ozouf Ozouf, Muséum National d’Histoire Naturelle; H. D’Cotta, CIRAD.


5:10 PM W635 Evolution of sex chromosomes in Fragaria: insights from BAC sequences and phylogenomics. Rajanikanth Govindaraju, University of Pittsburgh; Matthew Parks, Oregon State University; Zachary Foster, Oregon State University; Aaron Liston, Oregon State University; Tia-Lynn Ashman, University of Pittsburgh.

5:30 PM W636 Rapid divergence and expansion of X chromosome in papaya. Andrea Gschwend, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Qingyi Yu, Texas A&M University; Ray Ming, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign.

Dr. Abdelali Barakat gave an oral presentation entitled “Identification and Expression Profiling of miRNAs and siRNAs As in Chilled Vegetative Buds and Non-Chilled Leaf Tissues in Peach”. W375.
Dr. Kassem and his students presented four posters as follows:


**Other Posters:**

**P0063** The Rose Genome Sequence Initiative. Fabrice Foucher, Souilaman Sakr, Mohammed Bendahmane, Marinus Smulders, Thomas Debener, Jan De Riek, Ana Maria Torres, Iraida Amaya, Teresa Millan, Daniel Zamir, Dan Sargent, Hilde Nybom, Atanas Ananassov, Stan C. Hokanson, David Byrne, Bryon Sosinski, Dorrie Main, Anne Bruneau, Jasper Rees, and Shogo Matsumoto.


**Oral Presentations:**

**W376** Neodiversification in the Paleotetraploid Soybean Genome: GmCLAVATA 1A, a GmNARK Paralogue Involved in the Control of Stem Nodal Identity But Not Root Nodulation. Saeid Mirzaei, Brett J. Ferguson, Khalid Meksem, Jacqueline Batley, and Peter M. Gresshoff.


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Council’s Members 2011-2012 Publications

2012 Publications:


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Council’s Members 2011-2012 Publications - Continued


Congratulations to All Members!
Keep Up The Good Work!
Council’s Publications Team

The Beautiful San Diego, CA!
The Council Welcomes All Its New Members Who Joined Us in 2011 and 2012.

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