



NEWSLETTER

International Society of Chemical Ecology

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— Election Results —

Vice-President	Nicole van Dam
Councilors	Björn Bohman Kye Chung Park María Fernanda Peñaflor Xi Zhang

The 2021 ISCE Meeting (Stellenbosch, South Africa)



Dear ISCE Members:

With the current rate of COVID-19 infections in the 3rd wave and the increased level of lockdown in South Africa, the committee was unfortunately left with no option but to take the decision to host the 36th ISCE meeting virtually only. This eliminates further uncertainty regarding booking of flights, etc., during these crucial two months leading to the meeting.

The first provisional programme and the schedule for poster presentations are available on the website: <https://isce2021.carlamani.com/>. All presenting authors are requested to register and pay online before the early bird date, which has recently been extended to **Monday, 26 July 2021**.

Despite not being able to host you in the beautiful Stellenbosch, we look forward to your participation at the ISCE meeting! Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or we can be of assistance.

Best wishes,

Jeremy, Christian, Francois, Bernard (ISCE 2021 Organizing Committee)

Results of 2021-22 ISCE Officer Elections

Vice-President

Nicole M. van Dam studied Biology at Wageningen University and after obtaining her MSc degree went on to Leiden University, Netherlands in 1990. There she studied the chemical ecology of pyrrolizine alkaloids in *Cynoglossum officinale* under guidance of Eddy van der Meijden and Rob Verpoorte. In that period, she obtained funding for a 3-months research stay with Thomas Hartman at the TU Braunschweig, Germany, to study the biosynthesis and allocation of these alkaloids. After obtaining her PhD in 1995, she held several postdoctoral positions at the University of California, Riverside (1995-1997), the Max-Planck-Institute of Chemical Ecology in Jena (97-2000) and the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW; 2000-2009), before obtaining a full professorship at Raboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. In 2014, she moved back to Germany for a position as research group leader at the German Centre for integrative Biodiversity Research (iDiv) Halle-Jena- Leipzig and full professor in Molecular Interaction Ecology at the FSU Jena Germany. One of her main research aims it to elucidate the chemical and molecular mechanisms of interactions between aboveground and belowground herbivores via induced plant responses. She integrates metabolomic and transcriptomic approaches with manipulative experiments to study these interactions in the greenhouse as well as in the field. Her work contributes to advancing ecological-evolutionary theories on optimal defense allocation in plants as well as supports sustainable agriculture. Her research group is mainly funded by a wide variety of German and international third-party funds. To date, she published 6 book chapters and 160 peer-reviewed papers, 18 of which in the Journal of Chemical Ecology.



Vice-President, continued

Nicole has been a member of the ISCE since 1991, when she attended her first ISCE annual meeting in Dyon, France. From 2008-2011 she served as ISCE councilor. She is currently serving as associate editor at the *Journal of Chemical Ecology* as well as at the *Journal of Ecology* and the *Annual Review of Entomology*. Together with Dorothea Tholl, she edited a special issue in honors of Professor Thomas Hartmann (February 2019 issue). When elected to the ISCE board, Nicole would specifically like to focus on promoting equal opportunities and diversity at all levels for scientists in chemical ecology.

Website: https://www.idiv.de/en/groups_and_people/employees/details/121.html

New Councilors

Björn Bohman is a researcher in Chemical Ecology at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences in Alnarp. As a train-ed organic chemist with a passion for improving our understanding of the chemistry underlying ecological interactions,



Björn has led pollination chemistry projects with applications in evolution, conservation and horticulture. After finishing his undergraduate degree with a MSc in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering from the Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm, his PhD-studies with Prof. Rikard Unelius at Linneaus University led him into the field of semiochemical synthesis and pheromone structural elucidation. Since his postdocs at the Australian National University, Canberra with Prof. Rod Peakall and Dr Russell Barrow, Björn has focussed his research on the chemistry underlying pollination biology. Working with Prof. Peakall enabled successful collaborative projects across Australia, where several new pollinator attractants and insects pheromones were discovered, identified by GC-MS and synthesised. After being awarded a Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) 3-year fellowship from the Australian Research Council (ARC), Björn moved to the University of Western Australia, Perth, where he worked on the development of new chromatography-electroantennography methods, and continued to identify and synthesise pollination semiochemicals, both from orchids and their specialised pollinators and from seed crops in industry-linked horticultural projects. At the beginning of 2020 he moved back to Sweden and took up a position as a researcher in the Chemical Ecology group at SLU. Being a member of ISCE since his PhD-studies, Björn has presented at most annual meetings over the last decade, and participated in the organisation of the meeting in Stockholm in 2015. Björn has published 49 papers in broad high-impact journals such as *Angewandte Chemie*, *Current Biology*, the *ISME* journal and *New Phytologist*, as well as two book chapters in *Biology of Plant Volatiles* (editors Pichersky, Dudareva, CRC Press).

Kye Chung Park is a Senior Scientist at the New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research (Plant & Food Research). He received his MSc and PhD at Seoul National University, Korea, where he studied the production, perception and practical use of the sex pheromone in the Oriental tobacco budworm with late prof. Kyung Saeng Boo. He completed his first postdoc at the Natural Resources Institute, UK, under the guidance of Prof. David Hall, where he studied the olfactory perception of medical insects such as malaria mosquitoes and tsetse flies. Then, he completed his second postdoc at Imperial College, UK, in a team led by Prof. Jim Hardie, in which he studied the chemical communication of aphids. Then, he joined Prof. Tom Baker's team at Iowa State University, USA, as a research associate, focusing on the olfactory perception of various insects using electrophysiology tools, and expanding research into developing insect tissue-based olfactory biosensors. He then moved to Pennsylvania State University, USA, to continue his research on insects' olfactory perception and semiochemical development. He finally joined Plant & Food Research as a research scientist, continuing research on chemical ecology.



Dr. Park's research interest lies in the chemical ecology and behaviour of various arthropods, focusing on how they perceive chemical signals and integrate them to extract information in the complex chemical world. He has been developing state-of-the-art electrophysiology tools enabling in-depth research on the olfactory sensory system of arthropods. Using the system, he has been unveiling the species-specific olfactory sensory systems of various insect species and their relationship with host plants and other insects. His recent research includes the chemical communication of an invasive crane fly species in Antarctica and olfactory sensory system of varroa mite. He has published more than 50 publications in science journals such as *Journal of Chemical Ecology*, *Chemical Senses* and *Journal of Insect Physiology*. He has been the associate editor of *Physiological Entomology* and *Journal of Asia-Pacific Entomology*.

Maria Fernanda Peñaflor is leader of the Chemical Ecology of Plant-Insect Interactions group in the Entomology Department of Lavras Federal University, Brazil. Since the beginning of her academic career, she has been studying Chemical Ecology, addressing ecological questions that can be applied to support more sustainable agriculture. During her master's and PhD at the University of São Paulo (Brazil) under the supervision of Prof. Mauricio Bento, Fernanda investigated how insect herbivory and oviposition can shape subsequent chemical-mediated interactions among plants and insects of different trophic levels. Part of her thesis was developed in collaboration with Prof. Ted Turlings and Prof. Matthias Erb at the University of Neuchâtel,



New Councilors, continued

Switzerland. After her PhD, she was awarded a scholarship to join the group of Prof. Consuelo De Moraes and Prof. Mark Mescher at Penn State University, USA as a postdoctoral researcher. There, her work addressed how insect-borne viruses manipulate insect vectors through changes in host plant quality and chemistry. At Lavras Federal University in Brazil, her current research aims at investigating both basic and applied questions to develop more sustainable and resilient agriculture in coffee farms. Fernanda's research group has been studying how herbivory can shape subsequent chemical-mediated interactions among plants and arthropods of different trophic levels, and potential organic priming agents/elicitors to enhance coffee resistance against arthropods. She is an involved and passionate teacher and mentor of undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of Chemical Ecology and Entomology. She has published over 30 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, including *Functional Ecology*, *Viruses*, *Ecosphere* and *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. She has been supporting the scientific community as an associate editor of *Journal of Applied Ecology* and reviewer of numerous journals. Fernanda is currently a councilor of Latin-American Association of Chemical Ecology (ALAEQ) and has been contributing to ISCE by managing its social media accounts.

Xi Zhang is an associate professor in the State Key Laboratory of Cotton Biology, at the Henan University, China. Her work focuses on the chemical ecology of tritrophic interactions. Sponsored by the Chinese government, she got her Master degree in Wageningen University under the supervision of Dr. Erik Poelman. She then moved to Bern in Switzerland where she conducted a PhD under the supervision of Matthias Erb, Christelle Robert and Ricardo Machado. Her award-winning PhD unraveled how plant secondary metabolites can drive adaptations in herbivore enemies. In 2020, she was appointed associate professor supported by the "Talent Support Plan" of Henan University, China, where she continues to investigate the role of plant defenses on tritrophic interactions.



Even as an early career scientist, she has published her work in chemical ecology in journals such as *PNAS*, *eLife*, *Science* and *Nature Communications*. In 2020, She was also selected as a council of the entomological society of China. She has been awarded many times for her oral presentations at conferences and have been invited as a keynote speaker in international conferences. Xi is a talented young scientist with a high potential to further push chemical ecology forward.

Congratulations to all elected officers!

ISCE Award Winners 2021-2022

The ISCE Silver Medal to Christer Löfstedt

Christer Löfstedt is a Professor in Ecology in the Department of Biology at Lund University, Sweden. He obtained his PhD in Animal Ecology in 1984, became Associate Professor in 1988, Full Professor in 1997 and served as Head of the Biology Department at Lund University 2010-2018.



Christer grew up with an interest in natural history, conservation and the environmental issue. Merging these interests with a keen interest in chemistry he obtained his PhD with Professor Jan Löfqvist, working as a PhD student in the large-scale research program *Odour signals for control of pest insects*. Spending one semester in the laboratory of Professor Wendell Roelofs and his group at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva in the early 1980's strongly influenced his future research program. He combines fundamental research on the evolutionary biology of chemical communication with applied aspects, mostly with a focus on moths. His current research includes evolutionary analyses of pheromone communication, pheromone biosynthesis and pheromone receptors, as well as biological production of pheromones.

His research has resulted in the discovery of how specific sex pheromone component blends are biosynthesized by female moths, how new blends generate responses by the receptors and neuronal pathways of males, and how these features are genetically controlled and can result in shifts in pheromone blends and result in speciation or reproductive character displacement. Together with coworkers he analyzed the evolution of sex pheromones in moths in a biosynthetic and phylogenetic perspective and demonstrated how yeast and plants can be turned into cell factories for pheromone production. By expression of the insect and plant genes and metabolic engineering, commercially relevant titres of insect pheromones and pheromone precursors can be produced as a green chemistry alternative to conventional chemical synthesis of pheromones.

Christer has been a member of ISCE since the mid 1980's, he regularly attends the ISCE annual meetings and teaches international courses on chemical ecology. He served as president of the ISCE 2016-17 and is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Chemical Ecology*. He is a fellow of The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences and is codirector of the recently formed Max Planck Centre for Next Generation Insect Chemical Ecology (nGICE), a high-level collaboration between the German Max Planck Society and two Swedish universities. He is a cofounder of SemioPlant AB, a small research company formed with the aim of developing biologically produced pheromones for the market.

He has published more than 200 original scientific papers on various aspects of insect chemical ecology, supervised 20 PhD students and hosted a large number of international post docs.

The ISCE Silverstein-Simeone Award to Le Kang

Le Kang is a CAS distinguished professor in Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), where he serves as director of Center for Excellence in Biotic Interactions and heads a long-term program on biotic interactions for smart pest management. He received his PhD in ecology from Chinese Academy of Sciences, and promptly joined the Institute of Zoology (CAS) as an assistant professor. From 1992 to 1993, he went to Kansas State University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as visiting scholar and post-doc fellow, respectively. In 1995, he became a full professor in Institute of Zoology (CAS). He is the author or co-author on more than 260 papers, including publications in *Nature*, *Science*, *PNAS* and *Annual Review of Entomology*.



Dr. Kang's group focuses on the molecular mechanism of phenotypical plasticity and chemical ecology of locusts by integrative methods of molecular biology and genomics. Kang's group reveals the molecular mechanisms for phenotypic plasticity and adaptation of locusts at both genetic and epigenetic levels using interdisciplinary methods. Currently, Kang's group discovered 4-Vinylanisole (4VA), a small chemical compound, as a true aggregation pheromone in locusts. He and his colleagues reveal the Phenylacetoneitrile (PAN) to act as an olfactory aposematic signal and cyanide precursor for locust group defenses.

Dr. Kang is not only a leading scientist in entomology, but also an outstanding teacher and active administrator. Since 1995, he has been teaching the course of evolutionary ecology for graduate students in the University of Chinese Academy of Sciences (former Graduate School of CAS). Kang has trained over 70 graduate students, and more than 15 post-doctoral researchers. From 1999 to 2008, Kang served as director-general of Bureau of Life Science and Biotechnology, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Le Kang actively participated in hosting important international conferences to promote the international cooperation in life science. Le Kang became a founder president of Beijing Institutes of Life Science (CAS) in 2008 and a director-general of Institute of Zoology (CAS) in 2012. As a Vice-President of China National Union of Life Science Societies, he energetically participated to organize the World Life Science Conference at Beijing in 2016 and 2018. Now Le Kang is Vice-President of IUBS, and a council member of International Congress of Entomology.

The Early Career Award to Ricardo Machado

Ricardo Machado did his bachelor studies in Agronomic Engineering at Universidad Nacional de Colombia (Medellin, Colombia) and his master studies in Microbiology at the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena (Jena, Germany). Then, he conducted his PhD at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology under the supervision of Prof. Matthias Erb and Prof. Ian Baldwin on the role of inducible changes in primary metabolites and stress hormones in plant-herbivore interactions. His PhD research resulted

in >10 highly cited peer-reviewed publications. After his PhD, Ricardo successfully transitioned into a Project Leader position within the Research Section Biotic Interactions at the University of Bern (Switzerland) in 2015, where he investigated the molecular and chemical aspects of belowground multitrophic interactions in the context of entomopathogenic nematodes and their symbionts and also in the context of host location and foraging behavior of root herbivores. His discoveries were published in more than 20 peer reviewed papers within 5 years in top-tier interdisciplinary journals such as *Nature Biotechnology*, *PLoS Biology*, *eLife*, and *PNAS*. In 2020, Ricardo was awarded an Ambizione Fellowship to build his own independent research group in the University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland), where he continues investigating different aspects of the chemical and molecular ecology of terrestrial ecosystems and also the taxonomic and phylogenetic relationships of entomopathogenic nematodes and their symbiotic bacteria.



The Applied Chemical Ecology Award to Fatma Kaplan and Aijun Zhang

This year, two nominees received an equal number of votes; thus, the ISCE Executive Committee decided to give two awards, to **Fatma Kaplan and Aijun Zhang**.

Fatma Kaplan is the Founder CEO/CSO of Pheronym and an Activate Berkeley Fellow at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Cyclotron Road Division. Dr. Kaplan has a background in both biology and chemistry. She has a M.Sc. in Molecular Breeding (1999) and a Ph.D. in Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology (2004) from the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences at the University of Florida (UF), Gainesville, FL, USA. As a graduate student in Dr. Charles Guy's lab, she demonstrated that maltose, a disaccharide product of beta-amylase, acts as a compatible solute during cold



and heat shock. Maltose can preserve the activity of the electron transport chain *in vitro* using isolated thylakoid membranes and *in vivo* using beta-amylase RNAi and T-DNA knock out lines. She demonstrated that decreased beta-amylase (*BMY8*) transcript levels in RNAi lines were correlated with reduced levels of maltose, an intermediate in starch degradation, and increased starch levels in *Arabidopsis* leaves. This is important because beta-amylase plays a key role in starch degradation in leaves, but not alpha-amylase. These findings were cited by the textbook *Plant*

Physiology, 5th edition 2010, (Eds. Taiz and Zieger) in the starch degradation section. As an extra-dissertation activity, she established a collaboration with Dr. Joachim Kopka's Lab at the Max Planck Institute for Molecular Plant Physiology to understand how all the metabolic pathways acted in concert during temperature acclimation. She conducted metabolite and transcript profiling experiments during temperature acclimation. She discovered an unknown relationship; the majority of heat-shock metabolic responses were shared with that of cold-shock. She also found that the regulatory processes independent of transcript abundance represent a key part of the metabolic adjustments during cold acclimation.

As Dr. Kaplan transitioned to postdoc in 2005, she wrote a grant with her Ph.D. advisor, Dr. Guy, and Dr. Lanfang Levine, at Dynamac Corporation/Kennedy Space Center, to transfer metabolite profiling technology to NASA. Dr. Kaplan found that plant molecular response to elevated and super elevated (SE) [CO₂] are developmentally controlled. Furthermore, she found that photosynthetic acclimation in terms of down-regulation of photosynthetic gene expression was observed in response to elevated [CO₂], but not that of SE [CO₂] providing the first molecular evidence that there appears to be a fundamental disparity in the way plants respond to elevated and SE [CO₂].

Dr. Kaplan was trained in Chemical Ecology and Natural Product Chemistry (2005-2008) with a focus on isolating biologically active compounds at the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the College of Medicine, at UF. She discovered the first *Caenorhabditis elegans* sex pheromone, which was published in Nature in 2008. This was a major discovery that finally concluded a long-lasting scientific debate whether *C. elegans* actually had a sex pheromone. Additionally, this discovery opened a very wide research field for nematode chemical ecology and its commercial applications. She was recruited by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Agriculture Research Service (ARS) to explore potential applications of nematode pheromones. While working at the USDA-ARS, she identified *C. elegans* dispersal pheromone mixture and then discovered that pheromones regulate dispersal behaviour in both parasitic (root knot nematodes) and beneficial nematodes (entomopathogenic nematodes, EPNs) which she published in 2012.

Dr. Kaplan founded Pheronym in 2017 to realize her vision of using pheromones to control nematodes in agriculture. In collaboration with Dr. David Shapiro-Ilan of USDA-ARS, they conducted laboratory and greenhouse trials to demonstrate that nematode pheromone technology worked to improve EPN efficacy. Their findings were published in "Pheromone extracts act as boosters for entomopathogenic nematodes efficacy," which was recently selected as a 2019 Research Highlight by the Nematode Division of the Society of Invertebrate Pathology. While at Pheronym, she has filed 3 patents (one granted in 2020) and develops two products; Nemastim and Pherocoat. Nemastim is a pheromone extract and improves the efficacy of EPNs for insect control by increasing EPN dispersal and infectivity. Nemastim is a finalist for the BioAgro-Disruptor award at the BAW Commercial Innovation Contest by the BioAg World Congress. Pherocoat is a seed treatment product and controls plant parasitic nematodes by signaling host plant status and acts as repellent.

Dr. Kaplan's incredible motivation and vision lead her to conduct the first agricultural biocontrol experiment in space at the International Space Station in Dec 2019- Jan 2020. This created a public awareness for EPNs as biological control agents and pheromones as eco-friendly pest control solutions. The results were published in Nature Partner Journal "npj Microgravity". She was invited to present the results of this work as a keynote speaker at the Virtual SON2020 meeting by the Society of Nematologists in December 2020 and as a plenary speaker at the International Congress of Nematology in Antibes, France in April 2022.

Aijun Zhang graduated from School of Pharmacy, Beijing Medical University, China in 1979, went to the State University of New York-College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-CESF) as a visiting Scholar under supervision of Professor Robert M. Silverstein in 1987, got into graduate school of CESF in the same year and received his PhD degree in forest chemistry in 1992. Then he took his postdoctoral training at the Cornell University under guidance of Professor Wendell L. Roelofs. He joined USDA, ARS, Invasive Insect Biocontrol and Behavior Laboratory in Beltsville, Maryland as a research chemist in 2000. Since then, his research has been focused on the fields of chemical ecology, electrophysiology, chemical synthesis, natural product, and integrated pest management. Over the 30 years of his research career in entomology, he has established broad collaborations that cut across institutions, countries, and disciplines by tracking important invasive pests, identify emerging needs in chemical ecology, bridging the fields of natural products chemistry, organic synthesis, applied entomology, IPM technology, and program delivery. He has achieved extensive accomplishments on management of arthropod pests, which pose severe risks to agriculture and public health worldwide. Especially, his scientific discoveries (semiochemical-based behavior modifying compounds) are more efficient, economic, sustainable, and environmentally friendly comparing with traditional synthetic pesticides for application. It provided efficient novel pest control strategies and have currently been implemented by farmers, industries, academia, and government agencies both *nationally and internationally*. His innovative discoveries have resulted in over 170 peer-reviewed publications (16 in the Journal of Chemical Ecology), including 17 granted patents. His finding has been featured in several media coverages including ARS research magazine and C&EN News, as well as many trade journal/extension article/popular publications, which has generated interest among growers as future treatment routes. Moreover, since being hired as a research chemist at ARS, he has been PI or co-PI on more than 20 grants, trust funds, and other agreements totaling \$14 million, and supervised and attracted more than 20 PhD candidates, post doctorates, and international visiting scientists working in his lab, generating more than 50 peer-reviewed publications.



Congratulations to all award winners!

Wittko's Memorial: Celebrating the Life and Legacy of Wittko Francke

Coordinated and Produced by Walter Leal

On Saturday April 3, Wittko's friends, colleagues and coworkers, former and current students, and other ISCE members met with Wittko's family on the ZOOM platform. The event was initiated and organized by Walter Leal who also coordinated and moderated the evening. More than 330 participants from 37 countries joined the meeting.

Walter started the celebration by remembering our recently departed chemical ecologists – Jerrold Meinwald, Koji Nakanishi, Steve Seybold, Peter Landolt, Désiré Daloze, Kyung-Saeng Boo, and Kenji Mori. Several of Wittko's colleagues and chemical ecologists commemorated Wittko in their contributions. Every single person attending the event, including his closest friends, learned something new about Wittko. There were tears and laughter throughout the celebration and many surprises from the start to the very end of the program. Wittko's wife Heidi and their sons Christian and Michael joined the meeting, shared their memories and expressed thanks for this event and the condolences.

At the end of the meeting, Walter invited all participants to celebrate and honor the lives of our deceased giants in chemical ecology by having a "virtual toast".

The meeting was recorded and it is available at the youtube channel: <https://youtu.be/HHQzvaJB33U>



New Society Funds

Wittko Francke's Daaks-Chemicals Fund

At the end of the Wittko's memorial, Walter Leal launched fundraising for the **Wittko Francke's Daaks-Chemicals Fund**, a fund created and designated to ISCE for honor Wittko at the annual meetings. The idea came from a story that Wittko's son Christian told during the meeting. At the 2002 ISCE meeting in Hamburg, Wittko created a "fake sponsor" named Daaks-Chemicals to hide his own financial contribution to the successful meeting.

The ISCE Executive Committee decided that there will be an annual Wittko Francke's Daaks-Chemicals Memorial Lecture. This Lectureship will honor both a departed chemical ecologist who made a long-lasting impact in the field and an outstanding speaker. The lecture series will be funded by the Wittko Francke's Daaks-Chemicals Fund, an endowment fund made possible by generous contributions from many ISCE members and friends. The inaugural Wittko Francke's Daaks-Chemicals Memorial Lecture is to occur at the 37th Annual Meeting in Putrajaya, Malasia (2022). There will be a toast or the like after the inaugural lecture.

On behalf of ISCE membership, the Executive Committee wishes to thank those who contribute (and will contribute) to the Wittko Francke's Daaks-Chemicals Fund.

Kenji Mori's Chirality Award

Walter Leal also suggested the creation of the **Kenji Mori's Chirality Award**. This is a new award for students and postdocs for the best presentation associated with studies involving the chemistry or biological activity of chiral compounds. The funds were donated by **Fuji Flavors Co.** for funding a \$500/year award over 10 years. Thanks to Walter Leal for finding the donor. This award will be evaluated by an ad-hoc panel led by the ISCE Vice-President with a group of Councilors that also determine the other student competition awards. The first award will be presented in our upcoming virtual meeting in South Africa in September.

ISCE Family Fund

The ISCE wishes to promote the participation of young chemical ecologists in our meetings, in this case through the partial support of members who struggle between early parenting and career development. To do this, we have created the **Family Fund**, which will be used for a special travel grant (Childcare Grants) to provide partial support for childcare expenses during our meetings. The Family Fund will initially offer three Childcare Grants of \$500. The grant can be allocated to cover travel expenses of a childcare provider or to pay for local childcare.

A special ad-hoc committee is being formed to seek for financial support to sustain the Family Fund. Please contact ISCE Treasurer Kerry Mauck at kerry.mauck@ucr.edu if you wish to volunteer to serve in this committee or to donate funds.

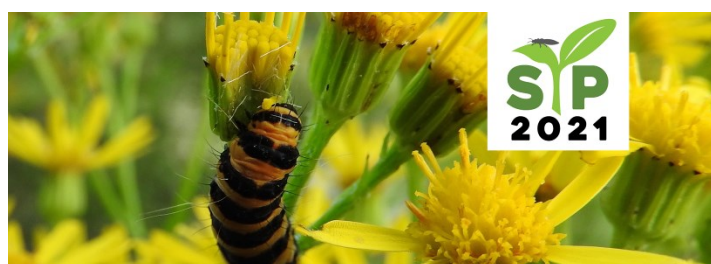
Presidential Tie & Scarf Design Contest



A new design of the presidential tie and scarf was done by Dr. **Katja Steinauer** from the Institute of Plant Sciences at the University of Bern, Switzerland. Katja's design was selected by the ISCE Executive committee and councilors as a winner from 5 submitted designs. **Bedoukian Research** sponsored the winning design. Thanks to the donor and congratulation to the winner!

Upcoming Meetings of Interest

Symposium on Insect-Plant Interactions 2021



The 17th Symposium on Insect Plant relationships (SIP2021) will be held online from **Sunday 25 July 2021 till Friday 30 July**. The symposium has a long tradition, it is held every three years, and deals with all aspects of insect-plant interactions. The organizers expect an international audience of several hundred people. See <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/sip2021>.

Insect Olfaction and Taste in 24 Hours Around the Globe (August 11-12, 2021)



From 9 AM Pacific Daylight Time on Wednesday, August 11 till 5 PM British Summer Time on Thursday, August 12, 2021

Co-Hosts:
Walter S. Leal, UC Davis, USA
Wynand van der Goes van Naters, Cardiff University, UK
Coral Warr, La Trobe University, Australia

We travel west around the globe

This is a registration fee-free virtual symposium. The program consists of a preface by John G. Hildebrand, an opening lecture by Josefina del Marmol, and keynote lectures by Richard Benton, Greg Jefferis, Leslie VossHall, Ke Dong, Zain Syed, Jeff Riffell, Sylvia Anton, Frederic Marion-Poll, Anupama Dahanukar, Marcus Stensmyr, John Pickett, Melissa Jordan, Guirong Wang, Silke Sachse, and many contributed presentations.

Access registration here: <https://bit.ly/2SZoXkD>

Most downloaded articles from January — May 2021:

- ◇ **Induction and Priming of Plant Defense by Root-Associated Insect-Pathogenic Fungi.**
January 2021. Joana Carvalho Cachapa, Nicolai Vitt Meyling, Meike Burow & Thure Pavlo Hauser. [[link](#)]
- ◇ **Multiple Attack to Inflorescences of an Annual Plant Does Not Interfere with the Attraction of Parasitoids and Pollinators.**
February 2021. Lucille T. S. Chrétien, Hessel van der Heide, Liana O. Greenberg, David Giron, Marcel Dicke & Dani Lucas-Barbosa. [[link](#)]
- ◇ **Biosynthesis of the Sex Pheromone Component (*E,Z*)-7,9-Dodecadienyl Acetate in the European Grapevine Moth, *Lobesia botrana*, Involving $\Delta 11$ Desaturation and an Elusive $\Delta 7$ Desaturase.**
March 2021. Bao-Jian Ding, Yi-Han Xia, Hong-Lei Wang, Fredrik Andersson, Erik Hedenström, Jürgen Gross & Christer Löfstedt. [[link](#)]
- ◇ **Electrophysiological and Behavioral Responses of an Ambrosia Beetle to Volatiles of its Nutritional Fungal Symbiont.**
April/May 2021 (combined issue). Christopher M. Ranger, Marek Dzurenko, Jenny Barnett, Ruchika Geedi, Louela Castrillo, Matthew Ethington, Matthew Ginzler, Karla Adesso & Michael E. Reding. [[link](#)]
- ◇ ***Trichoderma harzianum* Strain T22 Modulates Direct Defense of Tomato Plants in Response to *Nezara viridula* Feeding Activity.**
April/May 2021 (combined issue). Tuğcan Alınç, Antonino Cusumano, Ezio Peri, Livio Torta & Stefano Colazza. [[link](#)]



International Society of Chemical Ecology

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