President Elect Candidate: Jean T. Greenberg

Priorities:

Scientific societies play vital roles in the lives of scientists. Such societies can support career development by providing forums for the exchange of ideas that can lead to collaborations, and platforms for dissemination of the latest discoveries through publications, international meetings, real time on-line events and podcasts. They can also do educational outreach to the public about the contributions being made, and advocate to foundations and public agencies for inclusion in funding priorities.

Over the years, I have seen many advances in how IS-MPMI has developed to support scientists and foster a sense of community. For example, it is no longer rare to see women as plenary speakers at our meetings, as it was when I first joined IS-MPMI. Our members are in the unique position to help solve some of the world's most pressing problems. Going forward, I would like to see IS-MPMI prioritize promoting the highest scientific standards by providing places for intellectual exchange through its Journal, on-line activities, and international meetings. I particularly highly value how the activities for students at meetings have evolved to give students more contact with top scientists in the field who can give advice and support to them. Ultimately, any new priorities should strongly consider ideas from the membership, but I'd like to suggest that we strive to find ways to lower the barriers to inclusion by our members who have limited economic resources into our activities. I'd like to see IS-MPMI improve our public outreach and advocacy efforts. Finally, we should highlight the work of luminaries of the field in order to inspire the younger generation of scientists and give historical context to current research topics.

Many of us suffered from being apart during the pandemic and the Society made innovations to have on-line activities that both reduced our isolation and showcased the latest advances. It's fantastic that the on-line events are still going on. Still, even after the worst of the pandemic had passed, our numbers at the recent meeting in Rhode Island were down. International meetings are expensive, which can be an insurmountable barrier to participation for many people. Additionally, some members of our community had difficulty obtaining visas for the last meeting and could not attend in person. We must strive to have activities that support members of the community who cannot attend our meetings. One possibility is to find regional affiliates that have meetings in person, which we can support by providing some on-line component that permits broader interactions. Another possibility is to try to raise more funds for travel. Finally, we should foster alliances with other societies to advocate for an inclusive approach to scientific exchange; this may involve lobbying efforts to ensure that members can get travel visas in a timely way.

Commitment to principles of equity, diversity, and inclusion:

We have a scientific society that is rich in the diversity of participants in research. I have spent my career actively mentoring and promoting the work of people from all different backgrounds: many races, genders, ethnicities, religions, regions of the world, LGBTQ, people with non-traditional
trajectories, etc. As a former member of the IS-MPMI board, I was vocal in advocating for an inclusive approach as we considered the composition of local organizing committees and the rosters of speakers at our meetings. A crucial part of my own evolution has been learning about and developing culturally aware mentoring skills, the basis of which is the cultivation of good listening and communication skills with people of diverse backgrounds. I will bring my values, experiences, and training to the work of our society and strive to organize our activities in a way that promotes the full participation of all our members in IS-MPMI activities, while promoting high scientific standards.

Region(s) of the world I am representing:

I have lived my whole life in North America, so this is the region that I know the best. My mother was a WWII refugee from Europe who did not go beyond high school; her experiences and activities gave me insight into how to cope with feelings of isolation when you don’t fit into the dominant culture. I saw how she successfully organized neighborhood gatherings to foster community. When I was a graduate student, there were no other labs doing work that was close to mine at my university. I became a student leader and learned early on the importance of forging relationships with people at other institutions so we could share our research ideas and reduce our isolation. Now I work at a university with very few colleagues who work on plants and no other colleagues who work on plant-microbe interactions. This makes IS-MPMI very important for supporting my intellectual life and collaborations.

Although I am North American, I have had a lot of interactions with international scientists, so I have been exposed to their perspectives. These interactions have occurred in my capacity as a scientific editor (e.g. a senior editor Plant Cell, reviewing editor eLIFE and others), as secretary of the IS-MPMI board, and as a co-organizer of a Gordon Research Conference. Additionally, my trainees and collaborators have hailed from all around the world. This has helped me understand the different experiences that scientists from Europe, Asia, Africa, and South America have had and continue to have that inform the type of work they can do, whether they can travel to meetings and other constraints on their efforts and realizing their goals. I have also been able to travel to different parts of the world and have direct discussions with scientists working under different conditions. If I am chosen to be IS-MPMI president, it will be my goal to learn even more about the global membership and represent and serve scientists from all over.

Short Bio: Jean T. Greenberg

Barnard College, Columbia University New York, N. Y. Biochemistry BA 1983
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Biophysics PhD 1989
Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, MA Mol. Biology Postdoc 1989-1994
Professor Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology (MGCB) Department, The University of Chicago.
1983 Magna Cum Laude, Barnard College
1989-1992 NSF Postdoctoral Fellow in Plant Biology

2024 IS-MPMI President Elect Candidate
Greenberg View Statement and Biographical Sketch

1996-1999 American Cancer Society Research Fellow
1996-2001 Pew Scholar
2018 Fellow of the American Society of Plant Biologists (elected)

Recent Professional Service (select examples):
Editor: Plant Cell (Senior Editor), eLIFE (reviewing editor)
Board of Directors: International Society of Plant-Microbe Interactions, Board of Directors-
Secretary (elected)
Grant reviewer: BBSRC, California Department of Food and Agriculture, European
Research Council, French National Research Agency, Israel Binational Agency Research,
The Israel Science Foundation, Kentucky Science and Engineering Foundation, MacArthur
Foundation, MRC, NASA, NIH, NSERC, NSF, NWO, The Royal Society of New Zealand, Swiss
NSF, USDA

Teaching: BioSci23229: Plant Development and Molecular Genetics for undergraduate and
graduate students (Course director)

Recent Selected Talks:
-2023 February, RR Nelson Memorial Lecturer, Penn State University
-2023 January, Gordon Research Conference on Plant Lipids: Structure, Metabolism &
Function
-2022 Invited Plenary Speaker for ISMPMI XIX Congress, Cancelled due to Covid 19

Current Funding, In-kind awards:
USDA-NIFA 2021-67013-34835, DOE 2|60022-0003A, ORNL Center for Nanotechnology
CNMS2022-A-01182, Large scale EMSL 60746

Publications:
Greenberg has 75 peer reviewed publications and has three active patents. Together her
work has received over 13800 google scholar citations, has an h-index of 50 and an i10-