

# 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Maize Genetics Conference

*Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Illinois USA; March 12-15, 2015*

## Maize Genetics Conference Steering Committee

Mark Settles (*Chair*), David Braun (*Co-Chair*), Wes Bruce, Sherry Flint-Garcia, Jinsheng Lai, Milena Ouzunova, Gernot Presting, Ruairidh Sawers, Ann Stapleton, Petra Wolters, and Amanda Wright

*Ex-officio*: Paula McSteen (*Treasurer*), Marty Sachs (*Local Host*), Carson Andorf and Mary Schaeffer, *Abstract Coordinators*

December 3, 2014

We cordially invite you to attend the 2015 Maize Genetics Conference at the Pheasant Run Resort of St. Charles, Illinois, USA, beginning with the evening meal on Thursday, March 12 and continuing until 12:00 noon on Sunday, March 15, 2015. This year's meeting will feature four plenary speakers: Xuemei Chen (University of California, Riverside), Dirk Inze (Ghent University), Shawn Kaeppler (University of Wisconsin-Madison), and Paula McSteen (University of Missouri) as well as the 2015 McClintock Prize awardee, Dr. Susan Wessler (University of California, Riverside). The conference will also include a special session on maize genome editing organized by Dave Jackson. Invited speakers will discuss recent successes with genome editing in maize using Crispr, and additional short talk abstracts are encouraged to be submitted under the Genome Editing research topic. Further details about the program, registration for meeting and housing, abstracts, and transportation are available at the **conference website**: [http://www.maizegdb.org/maize\\_meeting/2015/](http://www.maizegdb.org/maize_meeting/2015/). This website will be updated regularly.

**LODGING and REGISTRATION deadlines are January 30, 2015**. There are two separate registration procedures, one for lodging and one for the meeting.

### **1. Lodging Reservation**

To reserve lodging and meals at the conference venue, submit your reservation by January 30, 2015, through the hotel link at the meeting website. The prices listed at the hotel link include room, taxes, and meals from Thursday night through Sunday breakfast. Be aware that the final bill provided by the Pheasant Run reservations system will itemize additional taxes and parking fees; however, these will not be charged at checkout. If you need to locate a roommate, it will facilitate your reservation to do so **before** submitting your lodging registration. A link for the roommate finder bulletin board is at the bottom of the meeting's Hotel/Travel webpage. Note that only one person per room needs to provide a credit card number for a reservation, although multiple credit cards can be used at check-in.

### **2. Meeting Registration**

To register for the meeting, register online using the Meeting Registration link on the meeting website by January 30, 2015. Alternatively, you may print the form and mail or FAX it with your registration payment. There is a flat fee of \$200 for advance registration for all academic and industry participants. However, this fee is waived for all graduate students and certain undergraduates. The registration fee after the deadline is \$250. We strongly encourage attendees to register in advance of the meeting, even after the January deadline, as pre-registration allows us to compile a list of attendees with their affiliations and pre-print nametags. Receipts will be sent by email or mail. Meeting registration is handled through the University of Missouri Conference Office. The contacts there are Angela Freemyer and Lindsay Kilgore. They can be reached by phone (573-882-8320), via receptionist (866-682-6663), by FAX (573-882-1953) or by email ([muconf4@missouri.edu](mailto:muconf4@missouri.edu)).

**TALKS, POSTERS, ABSTRACTS deadlines are January 19, 2015.**

In addition to the plenary speakers, the program will include approximately 30 short talks (15 minutes each) selected from submitted abstracts, and extended poster sessions. All abstracts must be submitted electronically by the January 19, 2015 deadline via the Abstract Form on the meeting website. Abstract submission is separate from the meeting registration and lodging reservation procedures.

Please indicate on the abstract form whether you wish to present a talk or a poster. Do not check both options. Due to time constraints, some authors who request oral presentations may be asked to present their data in poster format instead. Authors of abstracts will be notified of format decisions by email, around February 16, 2015. If by February 23, 2015, you have not received information about your abstract, please contact Mark Settles at [settles@ufl.edu](mailto:settles@ufl.edu).

Each poster space is 48 x 48 inches. Authors must bring their own tacks for hanging the poster. Poster boards will be provided.

**CONTEST TO DESIGN LOGO FOR ABSTRACT BOOK:**

A logo for the cover of the abstract book will be selected from designs submitted by cooperators. Please submit original artwork via the meeting website, by January 30, 2015.

**STUDENT FINANCIAL AID:**

The steering committee is soliciting federal grants and industry donations to help defray meeting costs for graduate students and for those undergraduates who are the first and presenting author of a poster or talk. The subsidy will be applied to the charges billed by Pheasant Run. Students will be notified by email of the amount of the subsidy about two weeks prior to the meeting. To apply, a student must:

1. Make reservations at the hotel (your credit card will not be charged until checkout).
2. Register for the conference using the online meeting registration form. Be sure to indicate your student status and include the requested additional information about your advisor, etc. Do not include payment for meeting registration.

**Applications for student support must be received by January 30, 2015.**

A limited number of **MaGNET Awards** are available to support travel costs for the purpose of broadening meeting participation. Students and researchers from underrepresented groups are encouraged to apply. Unfortunately, these awards are restricted to U.S. citizens and permanent residents. More information and an online application are located on the conference website.

**Applications for a MaGNET Award must be received by January 19, 2015.**

**EVENING RECEPTIONS:** On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, beer, wine and soft drinks will be available near the poster area until midnight.

**FUTURE MAIZE MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Meeting announcements are sent only by email. To ensure you receive future announcements, please make sure your contact information in MaizeGDB is current (<http://www.maizegdb.org/person.php>).

**We look forward to seeing you all at the meeting!**

**Mark Settles**

**On behalf of the 2015 Maize Genetics Steering Committee**