



Functional genomics of symbiotic nitrogen fixation in *Medicago truncatula*

Tuesday 10 June 1pm - 2pm

Speaker

Dr. Michael Udvardi

Director, Plant Biology Division and
Senior Vice President, Samuel Roberts
Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Location

Slatyer Seminar Room

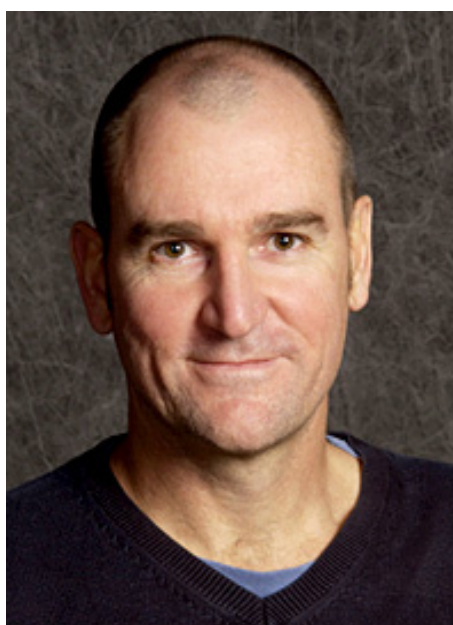
R.N. Robertson Building (Bldg. 46),
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This lecture is free and open to the public

PSS event information:
biology.anu.edu.au/News/events-ps.php



Michael Udvardi is Director of the Plant Biology Division and Senior Vice President at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation in Ardmore, Oklahoma, USA (since 2013). Prior to joining the Foundation as a Professor in 2006, he was Associate Professor at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology in Golm, Germany (1998-2006), and Lecturer then Senior Lecturer at the Australian National University in Canberra (1994-1998).

Dr. Udvardi earned his Ph.D. in plant biochemistry from the Australian National University in 1989 and received postdoctoral training in molecular biology at Washington

State University in Pullman, USA (1990-1992), and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization Division of Plant Industry in Canberra, Australia (1992-1994).

Dr. Udvardi is primarily interested in how plants obtain nitrogen for growth, either as mineral nitrogen from the soil or from atmospheric di-nitrogen via symbiotic nitrogen fixation in bacteria. He has contributed to our understanding of symbiotic nitrogen fixation in legumes, especially of transport and metabolism in root nodules, using biochemical, molecular, genetic, and genomic methods. He was amongst the first to characterize ammonium and nitrate transporters in plants. Recently, his group has expanded its work on plant nitrogen to include associative nitrogen fixation, as well as nitrogen recycling during shoot senescence, in perennial plants. His group also has interests in plant acclimation and adaptation to abiotic stress, including drought and salinity. He was part of a large international team that sequenced and analyzed the *Medicago truncatula* genome and he currently leads efforts to sequence the related alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*) genome. He is also part of an international team that is trying to develop synthetic nitrogen-fixing symbioses in plants.

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