

Corresponding Member Committee Report, 2004

Corresponding Members are distinguished senior scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the plant sciences and who live and work outside the U.S. The number is limited to fifty living corresponding members at any one time.

One vacancy for Corresponding Member occurred in 2003-2004, with the death of Prof. Alicia Lourteig (an obituary in *Adansonia* is posted at <http://www.mnhn.fr/publication/adanson/a03n2a0.pdf>). A call for nominations went out to chairs of disciplinary sections and to the membership in the spring with a 1 June 2004 deadline. The committee considered the assembled credentials and unanimously recommends to the Council and the membership the following distinguished botanist for election as Corresponding Member.

Professor Hugh G. Dickinson - University of Oxford, Department of Plant Sciences, Oxford, United Kingdom

In the basic biology of sexual plant reproduction, few have made the contributions of Professor Hugh G. Dickinson. Professor Dickinson's contributions have centered on the biology of pollen and its interaction with the gynoecium. His current position is Sherardian Professor of Botany, Keeper of the Botanic Garden, and Professorial Fellow of Magdalen College at University of Oxford. He received his degrees from the University of Birmingham (from baccalaureate to Ph.D. with Professor John Heslop-Harrison), and a later D.Sc. He did postdoctoral work at University College, London and the University of Wisconsin with Professor Heslop-Harrison. From 1972 to 1991, he worked at University of Reading progressing through the ranks from Lecturer to Head. He moved to his current position at Oxford University in 1991, where he has maintained an active and well funded program.

Professor Dickinson's early work included some of the first ultrastructural investigations of pollen sporocyte meiosis, the early events of incompatibility, stigma types and competition strategies. He presented novel and creative ideas on cytoplasmic restructuring during meiosis, which are as dramatic as events in the nucleus. He pursued pioneering studies on self-incompatibility that revealed the sites of action, localization, biochemistry and control of molecules involved with sporophytic self-incompatibility, including some of the most elegant single pollen grain experiments done illustrating the speed and control of action of self-incompatibility in the grasses. He has also examined the effect of parent-of-origin questions regarding the genetic construction of the endosperm using novel experimental methods, addressing the questions of epigenetic modification and paternal silencing. His current interests include male germ-line development and meiosis in *Arabidopsis thaliana* and parent-of-origin imprinting of endosperm genes in maize and *Arabidopsis*.

According to ISI's Science Citation Index, his work has been cited over 3,800 times in the open literature, which is quite a remarkable achievement. He is currently one the speakers at this year's plenary symposium, and I am hoping that he will participate with us at future meetings as a corresponding member.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott D. Russell, Chair
Judy Jernstedt
Pat Gensel