

# Black Forest Retreat on Molecular Plant Science Sep 10<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2012

<http://plantco.de/BFR2012>

## Fellowships

The kind support by our sponsors allowed us to issue a total of five participation fellowships/waivers to PhD students and young postdocs. Below are some quotes from their experiences at the meeting.

*R. Isemer, Kiel, Germany*

"I especially enjoyed the **keynote talk** "Genes gone wild: experimental genome evolution in plants" by Ralph Bock, since this was most related to my scientific topic, and the **workshop** "Things you always wanted to know about BLAST and never dared to ask" by Stefan Rensing, since this provided me with the most new insights into this tool.

The present **company representatives** were very eager and interested in helping the researchers with their projects. The **familial atmosphere** of the Retreat also contributed to the exchange aside from the scientific program and was further accelerated by the excellently chosen venue. Overall, the scientific and personal exchange during the Retreat was the aspect that I felt to be the most excellent."

*X. Guan, Karlsruhe, Germany*

"...the **"hit the points"** feeling would definitely help us facilitating our experimental skills. The talks and posters from doctoral students showing to me how the students all over the world dedicate to their re-searches. We together **communicating and exchanging ideas** inspired me pretty good."

*Y. Olvera Carrillo, Ghent, Belgium*

"The other lectures were also very interesting from the evolutionary point of view, and reminded me of the importance of keeping a phylogenetic perspective in plant biology studies, regardless of our individual line of research.

The **most rewarding** for me, was the fact that I could also **explain** some of the ideas (later on during the Retreat) given during the workshops, to the colleagues I was sharing more time with.

Last but not least, the organizers were always helpful and friendly, making sure we all felt at home, being able to focus on the Retreat sessions without worrying about any other thing and **enjoying the nice atmosphere** of the forest during the excursions."

*M. Khalil, Braunschweig, Germany*

"Visiting the event was a very rewarding and informative experience which **enriched my theoretical knowledge and practical experience**. Not only have I gained on the scientific level but also I have spent a nice, joyful and memorable time in Herzogenhorn.

It was the **first time to present my work** outside my institute and to present it in a compact time (10min). It was a challenging experience but I get out of it with higher self-confidence and more experience, especially how to present my work in an attractive interesting style and with sharp, definite and informative way. I conducted a lot of discussions with my colleagues in the **poster sessions** and after other events. They were nice chances to learn and understand more."

*K. Gräber, Freiburg, Germany*

"The **venue** due to its "isolated" location in terms of urban distractions intensified interactions among participants. The organisation of an **excursion** to the Feldberg with a special botanical focus represented a highlight of the social events encompassing the scientific program. Personally I think that I have benefited most from the workshop sessions. Those provided practical advice on numerous problems in **real lab life**."

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