
Transversal Session on Teaching Innovation

2020 Covid-19 Pandemic arrived at Higher Education

Thursday 8 July, 15:30-16:30

Organised by:

Nuria Pedrol and Rogelio Santiago from the University of Vigo and Juan Segura from the University of Valencia.

Invited speakers include:

- **José Díaz** (Full Professor of Plant Physiology at University of A Coruña)
- **Raquel Esteban** (Assistant Professor of Plant Physiology at University of the Basque Country)
- **Jose Luis Acebes** (Full Professor of Plant Physiology at University of León)
- **Ursue Pérez-López** (Associate Professor of Plant Physiology at University of the Basque Country)
- **Herminia E. Prieto Martínez** (Professor of Plant Mineral Nutrition at Federal University of Viçosa, Brazil)

Aim:

The **COVID-19 pandemic** has had a significant impact on university teaching practices. Without a doubt, the most significant effect of this pandemic has been making online teaching and learning the priority instructional format in Higher Education. The general objective of this session is to **discuss whether online teaching and learning are effective methods compared to face-to-face lessons**. In addition, oral and poster presentations introduce **innovative tools for teaching in Plant Physiology** (Moodle 3.9, Microsoft Teams, Drones and Satellites, Kahoot, Citizen Science, and much more).

Overall, this session can help critically to examine whether online teaching and learning methods allow students to acquire the necessary competencies in the area of Plant Biology.

Dynamics:

The session will consist of **four brief presentations** by the invited speakers in order to provide a framework for an **open debate** of c. 25 minutes **among all participants** focusing

on COVID-19 teaching updates. For the debate, participants can activate their microphones and discuss directly (not just through a chat system).

We would also have the opportunity to assist to the **presentation of the new Plant Physiology book** “Relações solo-planta: Bases para a nutrição e produção vegetal”.

Brief comment on the speakers:

José Díaz belongs to the Innovative Teaching Group CIBIFIV at the University of A Coruña. He has been teaching plant physiology topics in three subjects of the Degree in Biology and four subjects of two different Masters. His teaching activity has allowed him to participate in several activities of educational innovation. The aims of such activities are: a) increase student motivation and participation, b) help self-learning and c) promote the development of the skills that the students should acquire during the degree or master and they will need in their future job. Video recording and editing is now both a hobby and a teaching tool for him.

Raquel Esteban belongs to the area of Plant Physiology of the University of the Basque Country and teaches Plant Physiology since 2019 in 6 different degrees. She is actively involved in advising students during their grade and master final work and also mentoring students during external practices. She had given lectures in several international and national universities, such as UNAN-León in Nicaragua. She had directed several summer courses and she has recently created an Open Course Ware “Plant records Guinness as models to understand main plant processes”.

Jose Luis Acebes leads “SaviaSabia” an Innovative Educational Group founded in 2014 and whose members belong to the area of Plant Physiology of the University of León. The philosophy of the group is to increase the motivation of the students from the Biotechnology and Biology Degrees for science in Plant Biology through a series of teaching activities in which they participate directly acquiring and developing different skills.

Ursue Pérez-López teaches Plant Physiology since 2011, participated in educational projects such as "Multidisciplinary project for the initiation to research aiming to complete the Transversal Competences of the Degree in Biology", and published the didactic book entitled "The subject of Advanced Plant Physiology in the Degree in Biology at the UPV/EHU. Didactic proposal for its evaluation by competences". She has also contributed in several congresses of Teaching and Innovation in the University.

Herminia E. Prieto Martínez teaches Plant Mineral Nutrition to graduate and undergraduate students, advises MS and DS students in this same area, and leads two investigation groups of CNPq (National Council of Scientific and Technological Development) “Plant mineral nutrition of perennial species” and “Hydroponic plant cultivation”. She was a member of the Editorial Commission and Editor in chief of the scientific journal “Revista Ceres”. She has 220 scientific papers, 12 books and 22 book chapters.