



## Letter from the President - New developments for the AAB

Dear Members,

These are exciting times for the Association. In this newsletter I want to update you on progress with three important developments.

### *New website*

The long-awaited, brand new website is going live this month. The outdated appearance and content of the old site has been swept away with the launch of the new site, which we hope you will find is a big improvement. Moreover, the development will be on-going as new pages are added, links to business and social networks are established and the site becomes increasingly interactive, allowing members to engage with the Association and other members across a range of activities. The layout of the new homepage is shown above, but please click on the site address ( [www.aab.org.uk](http://www.aab.org.uk) ) and see the real thing for yourself. We welcome your comments - positive or negative - plus any suggestions you may have for additional content.

Our aim is to make the website as informative and useful as possible to existing members, as well as attracting new members, especially PhD students.

The development of the new site has involved a lot of additional work for Carol and her team,

alongside all their normal tasks, and their efforts are gratefully acknowledged. If you have any comments on the site, please contact Claire Hartry (Claire@aab.org.uk.)

### *Launch of our new journal – Food and Energy Security*

The publication date for our new journal is planned for January 2012 and there will be a number of launch events over the coming months. The first of these will be at the Food Security: Crop Production and Resource Use Workshop in Beijing, China and the Biomass and Energy Crops IV conference in Illinois in September, introducing the journal to the US market. This will be followed by events in the UK and China, the latter being a key region for submissions to the publication. This innovative venture, to be published jointly by the Association and Wiley-Blackwell (subject to contract), will be on-line only with open access; the publication costs will be met by an article processing charge levied on each accepted article. This charge will be competitive with other open access journals in the market. Our Editor-in-Chief designate, Professor Martin Parry, who is Head of Plant Science at Rothamsted, is determined that this journal will become the sector-leader in Agriculture-

multidisciplinary. Please watch this newsletter and the website for more announcements relating to this development.

### *International Developments*

As outlined in the last Newsletter, the AAB is aiming to raise its international profile, to provide a professional service and support for the global community of applied biologists. In working towards this goal, the AAB will be organising more conferences in international locations, where possible in collaboration with local partners. While we have previously organised a number of conferences in Europe, this year will see the first full conference to be delivered in the US – Biomass and Energy Crops IV – organised jointly with the University of Illinois. This will be followed by more conferences in Europe and New Zealand and a ground-breaking meeting in China, planned for 2012–13. A key feature of these conferences will be sponsored attendance and travel grants for PhD students, to enable them to gain conference experience on an international stage. Please see the conference programme at the back of this Newsletter, together with announcements on the website, for further details.

- Best wishes, Trevor Hocking