Editorial: Opinion Pieces

In this issue of *Molecular Plant Pathology* we introduce a new category of article: Opinion Pieces. Quality science remains first and foremost, but we anticipate that these new high quality, thought provoking, peer-reviewed articles will expand the remit of *Molecular Plant Pathology* while maintaining its high standards.

Opinion Pieces will be presented in several forms and are intended as a brief summary, overview or perspective of issues within the scope of *Molecular Plant Pathology*. They will cover topical issues of the day, including experimental and technical matters, (Do we have adequate tools to address a given question?), conceptual framework issues, (Are we asking the right questions?), social aspects of science, and more general scientific questions.

Our aim is simple. There are many aspects/issues in the field of molecular plant pathology that are not 'black and white' and where there is not always a consensus of opinion. These new pieces acknowledge this and are intended to serve as forum for healthy discussion and debate. We hope these pieces will also

encourage younger scientists by showing them that there is still much to learn and that there is a place for them, their work and most importantly, their ideas.

As science should not occur in a vacuum, we would also like to encourage discussion of broader topics beyond the research described in *Molecular Plant Pathology*. For example our inaugural Opinion Pieces will document the recent emergence of ash dieback disease in the UK. These articles illustrate the scientific, social, grower, government and genome sequencing facets of an emerging disease. Future Opinion Pieces will range from a discussion of the use of Impact Factors in assessing scientific quality, to the role of ubiquitin in plant immune responses.

We envision *Molecular Plant Pathology* as the hub for this Opinion Piece format and hope that it will facilitate a broad base of diverse inputs from the community. This is a bit of an experiment: we will see how it goes. Feedback is most welcome.

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Editor in Chief