Growing The Plant Genome in 2013

I CHOSE TO STICK with the title from my last editorial in 2012 because the message is the same: over the past five years we have laid down the foundation for growth of The Plant Genome. This was accomplished by the hard work and support of Elizabeth (Liz) Gebhardt, Managing Editor, the CSSA headquarters staff, the CSSA board, Editor-in-Chiefs Craig Roberts and Charlie Brummer, and our excellent world class Editors. Many thanks to all! I am excited to provide an update on our progress on several initiatives that we believe will fuel journal growth. There are many and they are all important for journal growth. The order of presentation is simply based on presenting the newest initiative first. I hope you will agree that 2013 will be a big year for The Plant Genome.

Science Notes. As a result of suggestions from several Associate Editors, The Plant Genome will now publish Science Notes. Short articles (usually 4 printed pages or less) concerned with experimental techniques, database descriptions, method improvements, new analytical equipment, computational tools or other breakthroughs that significantly improve genomic data acquisition and analysis will be accepted for review as Science Notes. Science Notes may also describe novel findings that do not require extensive background or discussion. We’ll determine a reduced cost for Science Notes in The Plant Genome and post them in the author instructions and in Manuscript Central in the near future.

Achieving an impact factor. The Plant Genome is in its first year of indexing this year in several Thomson Reuters products, including the Journal Citation Index and Web of Science. The impact factor determination is expected later this year. As mentioned before, based on internal tracking, we believe the impact factor will be quite competitive with other similar journals because the quality of our articles is high. This step in the evolution of The Plant Genome is truly foundational for the journal. Full accreditation will likely encourage a broader range of authors to submit their articles, thus increasing article count and so on, fueling more journal growth.

Comprehensive indexing. The Plant Genome is now listed in ISSN, the USDA National Agricultural Library, Google Scholar, Chemical Abstracts Service, Web of Science, CAB Abstracts, and ISI Biological Abstracts. Applications are pending for Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, SCOPUS, and EBSCO. A big missing from this list is PubMed. As I mentioned in my previous editorial, based on feedback from the National Library of Medicine (NLM), it was decided to withdraw the application for The Plant Genome with the plan to resubmit once the CSSA upgrades researcher/author ethical statements and policies to conform with NLM standards. Achieving PubMed listing of The Plant Genome will be one of this year’s focus areas and will complete this phase of journal growth.

Feature issues. Two 2013 feature issues are underway. Along with invited review articles, the aim of feature issues is to draw readership and citations to The Plant Genome. The first feature issue titled “Next Gen Sequencing: Advances and Applications to Crop Improvement” is being edited by Scott Jackson and Todd Michael. The second feature issue on Legume Genomics, which is planned for mid year, will be edited by Rajeev Varshney, Henry Nguyen and Manish Roorkee. Special thanks to these special feature editors for their efforts; both feature issues are poised to draw attention to the journal.