

June 9, 2023

Robin Cameron
President of CSPB
Marcus Samuel
Vice-President of CSPB
c.c. David Bird, secretary CSPB

Dear Drs. Cameron, Samuel, and Bird,

We received one nomination for the Mary E. Spencer Award in 2023. The committee (Shelley Lumba, Janusz Zwiazek, and Teagan Quilichini) unanimously supports the nomination of Dr. Peter Moffett as the winner of the Mary E. Spencer Award this year. Dr. Moffett fulfills all the criteria, which are outstanding research in the field of plant biology and active public service engagement in the plant biology community by a mid-career researcher. Dr. Moffett has held an independent researcher position for 19 years since his first appointment in 2004 and therefore can be considered as mid-career researcher. He has a very impactful research career in plant biology. Dr. Moffett has been **a leader in the field of plant antiviral immunity and virology** for over two decades, making significant contributions to our understanding of plant effector-triggered immunity. As director of the Centre SÈVE, he has made great strides in connecting the plant scientists in Quebec and the Atlantic to the plant research community nationwide.

The committee was particularly impressed by his contributions in elucidating the: (1) mechanisms by which the plant immune system eliminates viral pathogens, (2) roles of Argonaute proteins in viral infections, and (3) virulence symptoms induced by bacterial and fungal pathogens in plants. His research success is reflected in over 70 publications with 7064 citations. He and his group have numerous high-impact papers in top journals such as *The Plant Cell*, *Nature Communications*, *Cell Host Microbe*, *New Phytologist*, and *EMBO J*. Dr. Moffett has an h-index of 38, demonstrating the significant impact of his research. He has been awarded many grants over his career including those from Genome Canada, MAPAQ CIMDEC, FRQ, and NSF. Dr. Moffett's body of work is internationally recognized as evidenced by numerous invitations to give seminars, which include keynote presentations, in Canada and internationally.

Dr. Moffett is highly engaged in service to the scientific community, namely in **forming connections with researchers in Quebec and the Atlantic region as well as advocating for increased funding towards fundamental plant research**. He is the current Director of the Centre SÈVE, which is a strategic alliance focused on the acquisition, dissemination, and transfer of new knowledge, tools, and innovative technologies to improve plant productivity and production value. In this role, Dr. Moffett has established an important alliance with the French counterpart of CSPB, which benefits researchers in Quebec and the Atlantic region. By securing increased funding towards fundamental plant science, he has contributed to the growth of plant research in Quebec. Dr. Moffett has also displayed a strong commitment to the

mentorship and training of many graduate and undergraduate students in his lab. He has trained over 36 undergrads, some of whom are authors on high-impact publications from his group. Through his outreach to high schools and participation in science fairs, he has directly influenced students in the classroom and inspired future plant scientists.

In service to the greater plant community, Dr. Moffett has served as an Editor/Associate Editor/Guest Editor for seven peer-reviewed plant and pathology-focused journals and has reviewed for prestigious journals and funding agencies in Canada and internationally.

Dr. Moffett's significant contributions to research and the plant biology community make him an excellent fit for the Mary E. Spencer Award. He is well deserving of the award, and we strongly recommend his nomination.

I have attached Dr. Moffett's CV and nomination letter.

Sincerely,



Shelley Lumba
Chair

Mary E. Spencer Committee