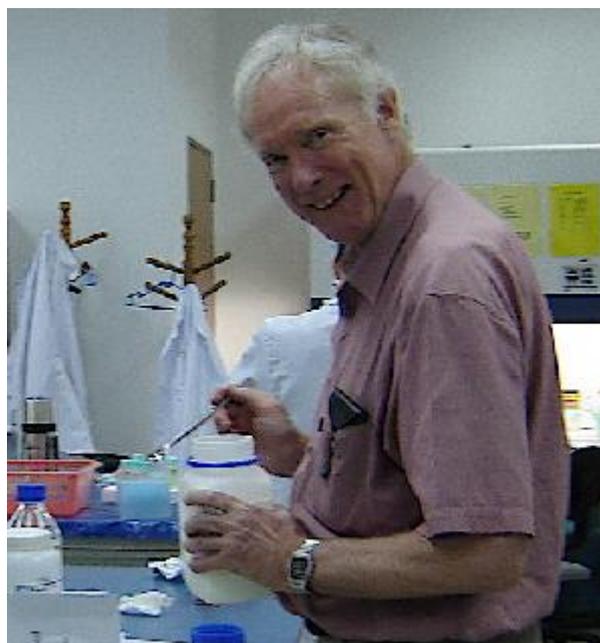


APPS Fellow

Professor John Randles



John was elected a fellow in 2005 in recognition of his contribution to plant virology both in Australia and internationally, and to the Australasian Plant Pathology Society and the International Society of Plant Pathology (ISPP).

John completed his BAgSc (Hons) and MAgSc at the University of Adelaide with the late Richard Francki, during which time he also held a cadetship as a research officer with the state Department of Agriculture. He then moved across the Tasman to undertake his PhD at the University of Auckland with Professor R.E.F. Matthews, FRS, before taking up a lectureship in plant virology at the University of Adelaide. He was promoted to professor in 2001.

Much of John's research has focussed on determining the etiology of virus-like diseases, virus and viroid diagnosis, epidemiology, control, virus-plant interactions, transgenic resistance in plants and replication with special reference to the ssDNA geminiviruses. He has studied virus and virus-like diseases of a range of crops, including sugarcane, legumes, grapevines, stonefruit, vegetables, coconut and oil palm, as well as Australian native plants. Career highlights include the identification of the novel viroid and virus agents of the lethal cadang-cadang and coconut foliar decay diseases, respectively, of coconut palm in South East Asia and Oceania. This has involved regular travel to the affected regions, where coconut is important in subsistence farming and as a cash crop. John assisted in setting up research laboratories in the Philippines and Solomon Islands to study cadang-cadang disease and in Vanuatu to study coconut foliar decay disease.

John has been particularly successful in attracting funding from the Australian Research Council and the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research. Research abroad has also been supported by numerous travel awards and fellowships, including Alexander von Humboldt Fellowships to work in Germany. John has also undertaken numerous sabbaticals and consultancies, including work for FAO in the Philippines and Sri Lanka. His research has involved collaboration with scientists around the world and has resulted in over 130 scientific papers, 56 reviews and chapters, 2 books, and over 100 conference papers.

John has been a member of APPS since 1976. He is a regular participant and presenter at APPS conferences and International Congresses of Plant Pathology and of Virology, and has contributed to the organisation of several. He presented the Daniel McAlpine Memorial Lecture at the APPS meeting in Hobart in 1993 and was president of the society in 1997-9. John was elected a Councillor of the ISPP in 2003. He is also an active member of the International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses and a regular participant in local and international conferences on plant virology.

At the University of Adelaide, John has supervised 27 PhD students in plant virology, as well as numerous honours and Masters students. He teaches plant virology and plant pathology to undergraduates in various degree programs. Also, as Scientific Director of Waite Diagnostics he oversees the provision of PCR-based molecular virus diagnosis for clients in viticulture nationally and internationally. John is committed to maintaining expertise in plant virology at the University of Adelaide, in Australia and internationally.

*Eileen Scott
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