

Linnean Society Palynology Specialist Group

## **Evolution and development of pollen and spores: an integrated approach**

A one-day meeting to be held at the Linnean Society of London (Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1J 0BF) on 25 Oct 2007 ([www.linnean.org](http://www.linnean.org))

Registration free

This meeting will provide an informal forum to bring together scientists (including PhD students and postdoctoral researchers) from several interfacing fields of pollen and spore morphology and development, including those working on the genetic controls of pollen and spore development in the context of improved phylogenies. The elaborately patterned exines of pollen grains and spores have long been a source of scientific interest and utility. They are highly resistant to decay and so form a major component of the plant fossil record, and thus are an important tool in understanding plant evolution. Their variation often has systematic significance and is used in the taxonomy of extant plants. Furthermore, developmental processes from sporocytes through meiosis and tetrad formation to deposition of the complex protective wall have been investigated using a range of techniques, including electron microscopy. Since the development of PCR techniques and the sequencing of the genome of the model organism *Arabidopsis*, developmental studies focusing at the genome level have proliferated. For example, several *Arabidopsis* mutants with defective pollen wall formation have been identified including *ms2*, *dex1*, *flp1* and *nef1*. Our goal is to initiate a discussion process between pollen morphologists, paleobotanists and developmental geneticists towards more closely integrated research goals.

Speakers include: Beatrice Albert (Paris), Hugh Dickinson (Oxford), Nina Gabarayeva (St Petersburg), Michael Hesse (Vienna), John Richardson (London), Hervé Sauquet (Kew), Maria Suarez (Barcelona), David Twell (Leicester), Charles Wellman (Sheffield). Further offers of talks are welcome.

The meeting will be followed by a wine reception in the Linnean Society Library.

To help us with numbers for catering, please complete the registration form overleaf if you plan to attend.

## Registration form

Return to:

Carol Furness, Micromorphology Section, Jodrell Laboratory, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3DS, UK ([c.furness@kew.org](mailto:c.furness@kew.org))

I wish to attend the LSPSG meeting on 25 October 2007

Name.....

Address.....

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Email.....

I wish to present a talk entitled.....

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