

WELCOMING NEW SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

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ABSTRACT

We welcome eighteen new Scientific Advisory Board members of Acta Scientiarum Polonorum Hortorum Cultus, who help to expand our expertise in areas of cutting-edge horticultural research and maintain our journal's high publishing standards.

In 2026, we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Acta Scientiarum Polonorum Hortorum Cultus, established in 2001. This milestone coincides with the commencement of a new term of the journal's Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), appointed for the years 2026–2030. The beginning of this new chapter offers an excellent opportunity to further strengthen the journal through the engagement of distinguished scholars whose expertise and experience represent diverse areas of horticultural sciences and related disciplines. The SAB plays an essential role in the journal's development, providing strategic guidance on scientific direction, editorial policy, and long-term vision. The active involvement of SAB members in the international scientific community help us promote best practices in research and publishing.

We warmly welcome our new SAB members and look forward to a fruitful collaboration that will further strengthen and expand journal international visibility and impact in the field of horticultural and plant sciences.

Katarzyna Bączek is a Full Professor at the Department of Vegetable and Medicinal Plants, Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland. She specializes in plant science, with a focus on the genetic resources, cultivation, and phytochemical properties of medicinal and aromatic plants, contributing to both biodiversity conservation and sustainable horticultural practice. Her research focuses on extraction methods, secondary metabolite analysis, and the potential uses of essential oils and other phytochemicals. Her interests also include traditional and herbal medicine, and herbal drug development.

Sanem Bulam is an Assistant Professor at the Food Technology Program at Şebinkarahisar Vocational School, Giresun University, Turkey. Her scientific interests encompass edible and medicinal fungi, food processing, and the nutritional and bioactive properties of plant-derived foods, with a particular focus on wild mushroom species and their applications in sustainable and functional food production. She has conducted research on phenolic compounds, antioxidants and bioactive components and nutrients in foods, especially in edible wild mushrooms and their powders.

Alperen Kaan Bütüner is a Research Assistant at Bursa Uludag University, Turkey. His main research interests include entomology and pest control, with a particular emphasis on sustainable and integrated pest management strategies. He specializes in biological control approaches, especially the use of entomopathogenic nematodes, as well as precision agriculture technologies for pest monitoring and management. His scientific work focuses on host-seeking behaviour, efficacy, and environmental interactions of biological control agents, alongside the development of data-driven and technology-based solutions to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of pest management practices. He has been actively involved in both national and international research projects.

Alessandra Carruba is an Associate Professor of Agronomy and Field Crops at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forest Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy. She received a Ph.D. in agricultural sciences. Her work focuses on sustainable cropping systems, with particular expertise in industrial field crops, and medicinal and aromatic plants in Mediterranean environments. Her research addresses cultivation under marginal and resource-limited conditions, nitrogen management, and sustainable weed control.

Barbara Frańczak is an Associate Professor at the Department of Vegetable Crops, University of Life Sciences in Poznań, Poland. Her research focuses on cultivating horticultural crops in controlled and field environments, particularly vegetables, microgreens, and medicinal plants. She has conducted extensive studies on LED lighting, fluorescence-based stress assessment, and the quality-related traits of herbs, vegetables and microgreens. She also addresses the application of biostimulants to improve the yield and quality of plant raw materials. She is an expert in modern horticultural production systems and sustainable cultivation practices.

Gunārs Lācis is an Associate Professor, leading scientist and Head of the Unit of Genetics and Biotechnology at the Latvian Institute of Horticulture (LatHort), Latvia. He holds a Ph.D. in genetics and breeding from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, and is also affiliated with the Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies. He has extensive experience in plant genetics and molecular biology, with research focused on the application of molecular tools in fruit crop genetics, as well as the conservation, characterization, and utilization of fruit genetic resources. His current work integrates implementation of the “One Health” concept and species interaction studies in the context of climate change, and preservation of biological diversity in agro- and forest biocenoses, ecosystem protection and services. Since 2006, he has participated in, and led 29 national and international research projects.

Mohammed Mahmood Mohammed is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Gardening, College of Agricultural Engineering Sciences, University of Baghdad, Iraq. His research focuses on plant physiology, plant production, and plant breeding, with particular emphasis on crop responses to abiotic stress, plant fertilization, sustainable horticulture, and vegetable production under challenging environmental conditions, including salinity. He has studied agronomic practices that enhance crop growth and yield, including research on foliar applications, nutrient management, and intercropping systems. He also participates in nationally and internationally funded research projects.

Ireneusz Ochmian is a Full Professor at the Department of Horticulture, West Pomeranian University of Technology in Szczecin, Poland. His research bridges horticultural science with practice and focuses on fruit quality and phytochemical composition, postharvest performance, and production technologies. He specializes in berry crops (notably highbush blueberry), cool-climate viticulture and enology, including strategies to improve wine quality while reducing sulphur dioxide use. He actively collaborates with industry partners, including a private winery and a large commercial blueberry plantation, translating field and storage studies into practical recommendations for growers and producers.

Mozaniel S. de Oliveira is a collaborating professor at the Postgraduate Program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Institute of Health Sciences, Federal University of Pará (UFPA), Brazil. He holds a Ph.D. in food science and technology from UFPA, with a specialization in the supercritical fluid extraction of essential oils. He is a leading expert in natural products chemistry. He conducts research from the prospecting of volatile bioactive molecules to their *in vitro*, *in vivo*, and *in silico* evaluation for agricultural and pharmacological applications. His experience covers also food technology, natural products biotechnology and allelopathy. He is a remarkably prolific author and editor, bringing extensive editorial experience from serving on the boards of numerous international journals. His scientific impact is confirmed by his inclusion in the Stanford/Elsevier 2025 list of World's Top Scientists.

Angeliki Paraskevopoulou is an Associate Professor at the Laboratory of Floriculture and Landscape Architecture, Agricultural University of Athens (AUA), Greece. She has extensive research experience in ornamental and native plant species cultivation, green roofs, healing gardens, and Nature-based Solutions (NbS), with particular emphasis on enhancing biodiversity and local landscape character. Her work also addresses urban green and grey infrastructure, urban heat mitigation, and resilience in public spaces such as schoolyards, playgrounds, parks, as well as the protection of agricultural heritage landscapes. Prior to joining AUA, she has worked in the United Kingdom and Greece as a landscape architect and agriculturist, designing and managing public urban spaces. Her Mediterranean garden design for the Hellenic Pavilion at Horti-EXPO IGA 2003 in Rostock received a bronze award.

Bożena Pawłowska is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Biotechnology and Horticulture, University of Agriculture in Krakow, Poland. She conducts integrated research on plant biotechnology, physiology, and ornamental horticulture, with a strong emphasis on *in vitro* tissue culture and the development of efficient micropropagation systems for ornamental species and endangered plants. Her work focuses on cryopreserving germplasm to support the long-term conservation of genetic resources and protect biodiversity. She investigates plant photobiology, particularly the effects of LED light spectra on morphogenesis, physiological performance, and the synthesis of secondary metabolites under controlled light conditions. She also specializes in plant responses to abiotic stresses, such as salinity, focusing on stress physiology and biochemical adaptation mechanisms. Her research are also linked to practical applications that improve sustainability in floriculture and enable the effective use of ornamental species in landscape architecture and therapeutic horticulture.

Małgorzata Podwyszyńska is a Full Professor and researcher at the National Institute of Horticultural Research, Poland. She holds a Ph.D. in agriculture and horticulture. Her research focuses on the development of *in vitro* plant regeneration and propagation methods for the production of elite plant material and for breeding purposes. She investigates the factors affecting the efficiency of individual stages of micropropagation and the quality of plants produced through *in vitro* culture. Her work also includes the induction of polyploidy and the subsequent phenotypic and genetic evaluation of polyploid plants. In addition, she applies flow cytometry as a tool in both plant breeding and fundamental research.

Roman Rolbiecki is a Full Professor at the Department of Land Melioration, Agrometeorology and Plant Irrigation, Bydgoszcz University of Science and Technology, Poland. His extensive research address key challenges in water management, irrigation technology and sustainable agricultural systems. He has collaborated with research partners in the USA, Hungary, Turkey, and the Baltic region, and served on scientific committees including the Committee of Agronomic Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences and regional water partnership councils

Marta Cecilia Telesnicki is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Agronomy, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She is a biologist with a PhD in agricultural sciences. Her research focuses on arthropod-plant interactions, integrating experimental evidence and statistical modelling to understand ecological processes across scales, and to enhance arthropod biodiversity and associated ecosystem services in crop and agricultural landscapes. She has contributed to national and international research projects on agroecosystems and crop management, including recent applied projects developed in collaboration with farmer-led organizations.

Kazimierz Tomala is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Horticulture, Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), Poland, and holds an honorary doctorate from the University of Life Sciences in Lublin. He is a distinguished scholar and a widely recognized authority in horticultural science. His research focuses on fruit nutrition and physiology, orchard fertilization strategies, fruit quality and shelf life, mineral composition of apples and pears, prediction of storage potential, and the application of modern storage technologies and biotechnology. The outcomes of his studies have substantial practical relevance and are widely implemented in horticultural practice, supporting growers at every stage of production, from fertilization and harvest management to advanced storage techniques.

Mehmet Tütüncü is an Associate Professor at Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey. His research interests focus on ornamental plant breeding and biotechnology, particularly tissue culture-based propagation and *in vitro* breeding approaches. He has research experience in gynogenesis, haploid and double-haploid production, and biotechnological improvement of ornamental crops. His academic work aims to integrate classical horticultural breeding with modern biotechnological tools, supporting both scientific advancement and applied floriculture.

Sanja Fabek Uher is an Associate Professor at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, Croatia. Her scientific interests include the cultivation of vegetables as functional foods, integrated and hydroponic vegetable production, and the introduction of new vegetable growing technologies. Through scientific projects, she has participated in research on different factors affecting the agronomic properties and nutritional value of different vegetable and aromatic plants grown conventionally and soilless.

Evgeniya Zhekova is an Associate Professor and researcher at the Institute of Agriculture and Seed Science "Obraztsov chiflik" in Ruse, a unit of the Agricultural Academy in Sofia, Bulgaria. She is also affiliated with the "Angel Kanchev" University of Ruse, where she serves as a lecturer. Her scientific work focuses primarily on plant protection, particularly entomology, as well as plant science, seed science, general agriculture, and the development of organic and smart farming systems. Her research integrates both fundamental and applied approaches aimed at improving crop production and sustainable agricultural practices.