

Young Scientists – IAVS working group

Report 2017/2018 for the IAVS Council meeting in Bozeman

Promoting communication within the group

Last year, we implemented several ways to ease the communication and exchange of information within the group, to face some of the challenges which come along with a high fluctuation of members and limited possibilities to attend conferences regularly: the new YS website, the new mailing list server and a social media group. Unfortunately, so far we see no change towards a more lively exchange of ideas within the group. For our social media group we chose the platform LinkedIn, because it is available in most countries and has not yet been criticized for their data security management. Probably this was a wrong decision and we need to switch to a platform which is used more regularly by our members, e.g. Facebook. This issue needs further discussion within the group, probably at the conference meeting.

To increase the “brand recognition” of the Young Scientists group, we created a beautiful logo that will soon be found on our posters, social media channels and other publications.

Activities during the IAVS conference in Palermo

The Young Scientists group conducted both planned activities during the IAVS conference in Palermo in 2017. First, the workshop entitled “How to write a successful grant application” was organized. We heard four inspiring talks given by Prof. Dr. Duccio Rocchini, Dr. Rob J. Lewis, Dr. Francesco Maria Sabatini and Sandro Ricci, which presented their experience with grant application from very different perspectives: the scientist, the recipient, the reviewer and the funding agency. Based on the audience and their response, we feel that this workshop was a big success! Many thanks to our amazing speakers and to Riccardo Guarino who was a huge help in organizing everything.

In addition to the workshop, we conducted a voluntary survey among all participants at the conference in which we asked them to share their three most important lessons learned regarding grant application. Unfortunately, no one participated in the survey.

“Reviewing manuscripts” for Young Scientists

Based on an idea which was discussed in 2015 at the IAVS conference in Brno the “YS-reviewers program” was launched in close cooperation with Prof. Dr. Mike Palmer. In this program, young scientists got the chance to get guidance and feedback on their effort, when reviewing scientific articles for the IAVS journals being of general interest to vegetation scientists. In general, we got positive feedback from YS-participants, however from the editorial point of view the program has been a mixed success. As we believe in the high potential of the program, we will discuss the remaining obstacles with the editorial board of AVS/JVS to find a way to overcome them together.