



**Professor Christopher J. Leaver** is Emeritus Professor of Plant Science and a Fellow of St John's College, University of Oxford. He received his BSc and PhD from Imperial College London and carried out postdoctoral research as a Fulbright Scholar, at Purdue University, USA, He then moved to the University of Edinburgh as a Lecturer, then Reader, SERC Senior Research Fellow and Professor of Plant Molecular Biology. In 1990 he was appointed Sibthorpe Professor and Head of the Department of Plant Science at the University of Oxford and became Emeritus Professor in 2008. He pioneered research into the molecular and biochemical basis of mitochondrial biogenesis and function during plant development and differentiation in general, and during pollen formation, senescence and programmed cell death in particular. His early work laid the basis for our understanding of the molecular and cellular basis of cytoplasmic male sterility and fertility restoration in major crop plants and he has published over 150 papers in major international journals. Since the initial development of GM crop technology he has been committed to creating a dialogue and informing the public understanding of this important area of science and continues to communicate by lecturing to schools, undergraduates and the general public and by engagement with the media. He was a founding Trustee and is currently an executive committee member of the charity Sense about Science ([www.senseaboutscience.org.uk](http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk)). He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of London, Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, member of Academia Europaea and the European Molecular Biology Organisation of which he was chair of Council. He was made a Commander of the British Empire for services to plant sciences and was elected a corresponding member and inaugural Fellow of The American Society of Plant Biologists. Awards include the T H Huxley Gold Medal Imperial College, Commonwealth Bursary, CSIRO, Canberra. EMBO Senior Fellowship, Biozentrum Basel, Tate and Lyle Award the Phytochemical Society of Europe, Royal Society/Academie des Sciences Visiting Lecturer to France, Humboldt Prize, Raine Medical Research Foundation Visiting Professor, University of Western Australia and he is currently a Visiting Professor University of Western Australia. He has served on numerous national and international advisory bodies and councils including the UK, Agriculture and Food Research Council, Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, MAFF: Priorities Board for R&D, and Chairman of the Arable Crops Advisory Sectoral Group, Advisory Council on Science & Technology, Evaluation Committee, Centre of Excellence Programme, NIAB, Japan, Chairman of Scientific Advisory Board, UK Institute of Arable Crops Research. Chair University of Oxford Technology Transfer Advisory Group. Director, Isis Innovations Ltd.. Member GM Science Review Panel for HM Government. Trustee of the Natural History Museum, London. Member of Scientific Advisory Board, Singapore Institute of Molecular and Cell Biology. Member of A\*Star Graduate Academy, International Advisory Panel, Singapore. Delegate of the Oxford University Press. Committee for

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