

**Brown Bag Seminar**  
**Aureliano Bombarely**  
**Assistant Professor, Virginia Tech, USA**

***“Biodiversity, genomics and intellectual property rights”***

**Tuesday 19 June 2018, 12:00**  
**UCRC Conference Room, Building E**  
**&**  
**live streaming at [www.keme.uoc.gr](http://www.keme.uoc.gr)**

[WATBIO](#) is a collaborative research project funded by the European Union and the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7). The full title of the project is “Development of improved perennial non-food biomass and bio-product crops for water stressed environments”. Principal Investigator from the Greek side is Assistant Professor Vasiliki Petousi, Department of Sociology, University of Crete. The project concludes its workings with this seminar, which is organized in collaboration with the Institute of Olive Tree, Subtropical Plants and Viticulture of the Hellenic Agricultural Organization DEMETER.

**Abstract:** Plant biodiversity is facing unforeseen challenges driven by the human growing population, a global trade market and climate change. It is estimated that one in five wild plant species are threatened by extinction. Global production systems are displacing the use of traditional crop varieties reducing the cultivated biodiversity. Genomic tools based in the Next Generation Sequencing can help us not only to evaluate the diversity but also to develop strategies for wild and cultivated conservation. Nevertheless, the intellectual property rights are imposing limitations in the use of these tools and other genetic resources by academic community and non-profit organizations. In this presentation, Dr. Bombarely will discuss different aspects of the plant biodiversity in the era of genomics and the impact of the intellectual property policies on this field.

Aureliano Bombarely received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Malaga, Spain (2007) and is currently Assistant Professor at the Department of Horticulture, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia, USA. His research interests include plant genomics, bioinformatics, plant domestication-evolution, as well as development of genomic/bioinformatic platforms for crop improvement. Dr Bombarely is editor of *Genes* (section Plant Genetics and Genomics) and co-author of many papers in peer-refereed journals.

*Brown Bag Seminars* at UCRC aim to create an informal atmosphere for researchers to present their on-going research, stimulate cross-disciplinary dialogue, generate questions, and possibly some good answers. Attendees can bring their own light lunch.