

## **2012 CD Nelson Award**

*“The Award shall be given for outstanding research contributions to plant physiology. Special consideration will be given to originality and independence of thought. Nominees shall have been in an independent, full-time research position for no more than 10 years.”*



**MICHAEL DEYHOLOS**  
**Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta**

Since his recruitment in 2002 as a faculty member in the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of Alberta, **Dr. Michael Deyholos** has developed into an independent and innovative scientist and teacher while emerging as an international leader in his field of research. His research programme has been increasingly focused on the application of cutting-edge genomic technologies for the discovery of novel genes related to secondary cell wall formation in crops, as well as root responses to abiotic stress. Most notably, he is spearheading development of the flax genome sequence and other flax genomic resources. He has also developed genomic resources for a number of other plant species, most recently as co-PI in the 1000 Plant Transcriptomes Project. Michael has in turn used the genomic resources to identify genes contributing to fibre and cell wall development of flax and hemp. He has used similar approaches to pinpoint genes that mediate adaptive responses of roots to salinity, desiccation, or aluminum stress. Michael has published 49 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious journals such as *Plant Physiology*, *The Plant Cell*, *The Plant Journal*, and *Development*, with 36 of these being published in the last 5 years. He has also been invited to write review articles for leading journals such *Current Opinion in Plant Biology*, *Critical Reviews in Plant Science* and *Plant Cell and Environment*. Complementing his research achievements, Michael is a dedicated mentor and award-winning teacher. To date, he has graduated 8 PhD and 3 MSc students; all of these graduates have continued in science or related professional fields. Michael has also been an innovator in undergraduate research and teaching, having supervised a total of 26 BSc thesis research projects. Michael is the embodiment of a truly well-rounded academic, having excelled in research, teaching, and service. The CSPB/SCPB is delighted to honour Dr. Michael Deyholos as a very deserving recipient for the 2012 C.D. Nelson Award.

*Presented by Gregory Taylor, University of Alberta, 1995 winner of the award*