



# XVI SOLANACEAE CONFERENCE

## YIELD & NUTRITION

### Rob Last - Bio

Rob Last is Barnett Rosenberg Professor of Plant Biochemistry at Michigan State University and is currently serving as President of the American Society of Plant Biologists. His long-term research interest is understanding how higher plants use metabolism to adapt to environmental factors, and how primary consumers of plant foods – including humans – benefit from these metabolic strategies. Until several years ago his research was entirely focused on using genetically tractable ‘model organisms’, but genomics technologies now enable the study of the enormous range of metabolic strategies that plants have evolved over tens and hundreds of millions of years. Therefore, most of the current work in his laboratory group has a strong comparative genomic and biochemical emphasis. Last has been at MSU since 2014. Prior to that time he worked at the US National Science Foundation, in industry at Cereon Genomics and as a faculty member at the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research at Cornell University. He was Erna and Jakob Michael Visiting Professor in the Weizmann Institute of Science Department of Plant Sciences in Rehovot, Israel during 2012-2013 and Senior Visiting Research Scientist at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Jena, Germany from 2002-2003.