The root and its interactions with the soil environment are intimately intertwined. Nutrient and water uptake are fundamentally tied to the cellular and tissue architecture of the root; conversely, root development and ultimately structure are subject to regulation by factors that include water and nutrient availability, presence of toxic compounds, microorganisms, and neighboring plants. Recent advances (including new molecular, genetic, biophysical, and imaging tools) now challenge our thinking about the root and its developmental plasticity in ways that could not have been predicted even a decade ago. This issue will address these topics. Primary research articles that speak to our understanding of roots, including but not limited to nutrient uptake processes, their relationship(s) to root structure and development, tissue differentiation and morphogenesis, and the rhizosphere are welcome.

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Please contact Niko Geldner (niko.geldner@unil.ch) or David Salt (david.salt@abdn.ac.uk) for additional information.
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Focus Issue on Chromatin and Epigenetics

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The “epi”-genomic information embedded in chromatin and its modifications provide an overarching layer of regulation of gene expression. Mechanistic models of how this layer is integrated with other components of the transcriptional machinery are only just beginning to take shape. Evidence of the importance of chromatin-based processes for plant development, physiology, and adaptation has grown exponentially over the past decade, catapulting chromatin research onto the front line of modern plant science. The emerging relationship between epigenetics and phenotypic variation has alerted crop breeders to its importance, while the role of chromatin in plant–environment interactions opens new avenues for biotechnology. This Focus Issue on Chromatin and Epigenetics will showcase a selection of Update reviews and primary plant research articles on topics including, but not limited to, chromatin modification and remodeling, nucleosome positioning, small RNAs, cell fate, transcriptional responsiveness, acclimation, and epigenetic inheritance. Particular emphasis will be on studies that connect mechanistic insight into chromatin-based processes, whether or not heritable, with plant development as well as cellular and whole plant physiology.

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Please contact Anna Amtmann (Anna.Amtmann@glasgow.ac.uk), Hong Ma (hongma@fudan.edu.cn), or Doris Wagner (wagnerdo@sas.upenn.edu) for additional information.
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