

Dr. Elizabeth Kellogg

Dr. Elizabeth Kellogg will join the Danforth Plant Science Center as a Member in January 2014. Currently she is the E. Desmond Lee and Family Professor of Botanical Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and an Associate of the Missouri Botanical Garden.



Kellogg has spent her career studying cereal crops and their wild relatives in the grass family, plants on which all of civilization depends. Her work identifies deep similarities among plants as apparently disparate as rice, wheat, maize, and the other cereals. Because similarity and difference are two sides of the same coin, in the process she has also discovered genes that contribute to the diversity of the great cereals of the world. Her unique contribution has been to forge connections between scientists in the front lines of biodiversity research and those breaking new ground in genetic and genomic studies. She has investigated the process of photosynthesis, which removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and turns it in to food for the plant and for humans. She has also studied the development of grass flowers, which ultimately produce the grain that feeds much of the world.

Kellogg has published more than 100 papers and co-authors a major textbook. In addition to her Ph.D. degree from Harvard University, she has been awarded an honorary doctorate from the University of Córdoba in Argentina. She has received a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Chancellor's Award for Research and Creativity at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She has been elected a Fellow of the American Academy for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a Fellow of the Academia Nacional de Ciencias, Argentina, and has served as President of the American Society of Plant Taxonomists, the Society for Systematic Biology, and the Botanical Society of America.