

Professor Steve Swain – Research Director, CSIRO

Steve started his career working with horticultural crops and the model plant *Arabidopsis*, and has moved into cereal work after transferring to Canberra in 2009.

Steve received a Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Tasmania, Australia, in 1994, and has had postdoctoral experience at RIKEN in Japan and at the University of Minnesota in the USA.

After being recruited to CSIRO in 1999, Steve established the first molecular biology laboratory at Merbein (Victoria, Australia) and led the molecular biology component of Plant Industry's research at Merbein. During his time at Merbein, Steve and his team made important scientific discoveries including new roles for the plant hormone gibberellin in reproductive development, and the identification of genes with important roles in abscission and dehiscence.

More recently, Steve's research has focused on using a range of genetic approaches in wheat, including the MAGIC mapping population and forward genetic screens, to investigate the genetic control of inflorescence (spike) development, and how this might be modified to increase yield potential. Steve's research has been published in leading international journals, including *The Plant Cell* and *Nature Plants*.

Steve has been Adjunct Professor at La Trobe University since 2007.

