

## **APPS Fellow**

### **Professor Mark Sutherland**

Professor Mark Sutherland has demonstrated his contribution to science and in particular plant pathology over many years. He has held many scientific administrative roles at the University of Southern Queensland, where he has also been an inspirational teacher and research scientist. Mark has led many scientific research projects in Australia as well as a major long-term international project in Sichuan Province, China. Mark's research has resulted in an impressive list of refereed publications in prestigious scientific journals. He was recently made a member of the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) northern panel. He holds memberships with several professional associations and is on the editorial board of Physiological & Molecular Plant Pathology amongst other journals.

One of Mark's quotes can be found on the GRDC web site, "The real challenge is to sell agricultural research as modern, innovative and exciting, because it is incredibly important in shaping the future for food production globally."

Mark has also contributed to science through an extensive research career, beginning with a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture majoring in Agricultural Chemistry at the University of Sydney followed by a PhD at Macquarie University and postdoctoral fellowships in biochemistry in New York and Philadelphia. On his return from the US, Mark worked on cereal quality at what was then CSIRO's Wheat Research Unit at North Ryde, and then on cereal diseases at the University of Sydney. These positions fuelled his passion to focus on plant disease research that has global potential. Mark's research has not only improved the productivity of Australian agriculture but his expertise in agricultural sciences has been used to assist developing nations to grow their own food more sustainably. His work for the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research and AusAID includes programs to improve product quality in noodle wheats and assist with breeding stripe rust resistance in China, and improving maize farming systems in West Timor.

Mark's most significant recent work has been in developing the use of molecular markers in plant breeding, and in improving the understanding of intractable diseases of wheat and barley, especially crown rot. Mark also organised the scientific program for the joint meeting of the Asian Congress of Plant Pathology and the Australasian Plant Pathology Society in Darwin in 2011, which attracted 400 delegates.