

Dear Medicago community,

This handbook has been created through contributions from many researchers using *Medicago truncatula* as a model legume. The book is composed of articles on the biology of *M. truncatula*, followed by resources available for *M. truncatula* and a series of protocols with detailed descriptions of commonly used techniques. All of these protocols have been written by experts in the field who have used and optimized them over time.

The book is going to be modified over time, and we welcome any additional chapters to be added and also any comments you might have on existing chapters and techniques. The first and current version of the Medicago handbook was published in November 2006, and subsequent versions will be posted regularly.

Please email any comments and suggestions either to Ulrike.Mathesius@anu.edu.au, or to Etienne-Pascal.Journet@toulouse.inra.fr, the latter especially for comments on the section on Handling *Medicago truncatula* as a whole plant. We will try and take into account everyone's comments to keep this book an up-to-date resource for the Medicago community. Please email Lloyd Sumner for suggestions for the web page (lwsurner@noble.org).

To reference an article from this book, please follow the example below:

Küster H, Becker A, Samac D and Tesfaye M (2006) Transcriptomics. In: The *Medicago truncatula* handbook. Mathesius U, Journet EP, Sumner LW (eds). ISBN 0-9754303-1-9. <http://www.noble.org/MedicagoHandbook/>

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Ulrike Mathesius

(for the International *Medicago truncatula* Steering Committee)