**Jonathan Phillips —** Jonathan Phillips is currently a Global Regulatory Pipeline Manager for Yield and Stress traits at Monsanto’s headquarters in St Louis - Missouri. Jonathan received his Ph.D. from the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK in the area of post-transcriptional control of gene expression during cold acclimation in barley and conducted post-doctoral research in plant dehydration tolerance at the Max-Planck-Institute for Plant Breeding in Cologne, Germany. In 2000, he joined Genesis Research and Development (Auckland, New Zealand) as a senior staff scientist and group leader in the area of tree functional genomics where he developed high-throughput technologies for the characterization of transcription factors, under contract to ArborGen LLC (Summerville - South Carolina). In 2003, he moved to ViaLactia Biosciences Ltd (a subsidiary of Fonterra) to develop pasture grasses with improved yield and stress tolerance traits. There, he managed the functional genomics program in collaboration with Orion Genomics (St. Louis-Missouri) and Meta-Helix Life Sciences (Bangalore-India). After holding an academic position in the area of plant dehydration tolerance at the University of Bonn, in the Institute of Molecular Physiology and Biotechnology of Plants (2005-2007), Jonathan joined Monsanto as a Regulatory Affairs Manager and was responsible for a broad portfolio of products, including drought tolerant maize. Jonathan currently develops strategies to ensure regulatory approval of products with improved yield and abiotic stress tolerance aimed at reducing agriculture's impact on our environment.