“Evolution in Action: My 25 years in herbicide resistance research”

Prof Stephen Powles
Director, WA Herbicide Resistance Initiative (WAHRI)

Monday, 10 November 2008
5 - 6pm
Molecular & Chemical Sciences Lecture Theatre (G.33), UWA,
(Fairway, Entrance No. 4, Car Park 14 and 21)

In the past two decades the Australian cropping industry has faced a major challenge posed by the widespread evolution of crop weeds resistant to herbicides. No other country has thus far experienced a herbicide resistance problem of such magnitude. However, herbicide resistance is being successfully managed and Australian research and savoir-faire has been pivotal in this success. Prof Powles will provide an overview of our knowledge on herbicide resistance, from understanding at the molecular level through to management in the field. He will contrast the Australian herbicide resistance situation with the looming resistance (glyphosate) problems in GM crops in the USA, Argentina and Brazil.

Professor Stephen Powles is the Director of the Western Australian Herbicide Resistance Initiative (WAHRI) within the School of Plant Biology, and Leader of Plant Production Systems Program, Institute of Agriculture at the University of Western Australia. Prof. Powles has had a lengthy career in the plant sciences in NSW, South Australia and ACT as well as periods in the USA, UK and France. He is an international authority on all aspects of herbicide resistance from basic biochemical understanding of how plants develop resistance, through to practical management on-farm. He is equally interested in both the generation of new knowledge and its application in cropping systems. Prof. Powles is an Institute of Scientific Information highly-cited laureate.