

# Mutually reinforcing patterning mechanisms: authors' reply

Adrienne H. K. Roeder, Paul T. Tarr, Cory Tobin, Xiaolan Zhang, Vijay Chickarmane, Alexandre Cunha and Elliot M. Meyerowitz

With regard to our recent Opinion article (Computational morphodynamics of plants: integrating development over space and time. *Nature Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.* **12**, 265–273 (2011))<sup>1</sup>, we thank Alvarez-Buylla and colleagues for their correspondence (Mutually reinforcing patterning mechanisms. *Nature Rev. Mol. Cell Biol.* 23 Jun 2011 (doi:10.1038/nrm3079-c1))<sup>2</sup> and for letting us know of the addition that they have made (of a redundant WEREWOLF (WER) activating factor, MYB23)<sup>3</sup> to their model of epidermal pattern formation in response to the experimental evidence on WER expression discussed by Savage *et al.*<sup>4</sup>. This underlines a central point of our article: that iteration between computational models and experimental tests can lead to new or modified models that better predict experimental results.

Adrienne H. K. Roeder, Paul T. Tarr, Cory Tobin, Xiaolan Zhang, Vijay Chickarmane and Elliot M. Meyerowitz are at the Division of Biology 156-29, California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Blvd, Pasadena, California 91125, USA.

Alexandre Cunha is at the Center for Advanced Computing Research MC 158–79, California Institute of Technology, 1200 E. California Blvd, Pasadena, California 91125, USA.

Correspondence to A.H.K.R and E.M.M.  
e-mails: [aroeder@caltech.edu](mailto:aroeder@caltech.edu); [meyerow@caltech.edu](mailto:meyerow@caltech.edu)

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## Competing interests statement

The authors declare no competing financial interests.