

Tom Sims, one of the members of this Platform, lost his long battle against cancer and died on November 21st.

The Petunia community likes to remember Tom as he was during the Petunia Days: full of energy, ideas and enthusiasm. He always had funny stories to tell and was in for any initiative. His pleasure in the very many good things of life was making him enjoy everything from good wine to trips through Italy, from a good joke to an intriguing experimental result, and the joy he experienced, was always the subject of the many conversations during the social dinners and the free time between the seminars.

Interested in everything that the community was doing, he kept this attitude also in the last times, when he participated to Skype conversations on the progresses of the manuscript about the genome. To talk was for him at that moment a great effort, but his interest and commitment to that project were too strong to defeat. Tom has been an active member of this group for many years and we all are grateful to have known him as colleague and friend.

We want to express our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Tom who are now grieving for this great loss.