



March 2025

The Spore Print (3/31/25): Department of Plant Pathology March 2025 Newsletter



Happy spring! Please enjoy these updates from our department for March 2025. This is a lengthy edition as we had many members of our department to support, recognize, and congratulate.

Mary, representing the editorial team: Ko, Megan, Sasha, Koy, Mason, Sheersa, Arild, Bipin, Monique, Jana, Cynthia, and Xianming.

If you have news you would like included in the *next newsletter*, please email mary.steele@wsu.edu.

[Click here to access past newsletters!](#) You will also be able to download the PDF version there.

If you have any feedback, please fill out the [questionnaire](#) for the Spore Print.

Thank you to Ninh Khuu for providing many of the photos seen in newsletter headings.

Updates



APS Pacific Division Meeting and Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens: March 25-27

The 2025 meeting of the American Phytopathological Society (APS) Pacific Division and the 70th Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens was held jointly on March 25-27 in Davis, California.

First of all, we would like to extend congratulations to **Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka for becoming President-Elect of the Pacific Division!** Dr. Tanaka will lead the largest division of APS, which includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, and contiguous provinces in Canada (British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan). **Dr. Achour Amiri has been appointed as the Secretary-Treasurer** for the APS Pacific Division for the next two years. Thank you for representing our department so well!

Dr. Tim Murray, professor and our most recent past department chair, received the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award from the APS Pacific Division. The department awards committee worked hard to put together a nomination packet for the award, and Dr. Murray attended the meeting in-person to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations!

Dr. Achour Amiri co-chaired a symposium session titled "AI in Agriculture - Cultivating Innovation for a Sustainable Future". Dr. Amiri also presented a poster titled "The hidden face of the *Penicillium* spp. causing blue mold of pome fruit".

MS student Lora Keyte (advised by Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka) placed second in the poster competition! Congratulations, Lora!

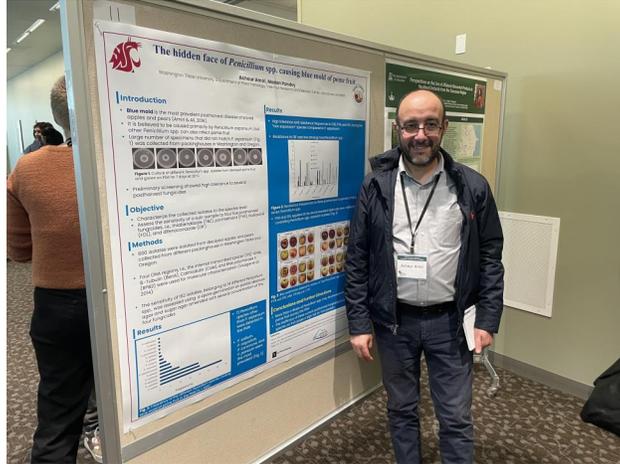
MS student Koy Chandler (advised by Dr. Cynthia Gleason) presented a talk titled "Analyzing the secondary metabolites of *Solanum sisymbriifolium* for nematocidal compounds to *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*".



1 - WSU Plant Pathology department members, alumni, and friends attended the combined meeting of the 70th Conference on Soilborne Plant Pathogens and APS Pacific Division in Davis, CA from March 25-27, 2025. From left to right: Michele Wiseman (Ph.D. student at Oregon State University and WSU Plant Pathology alum), Ninh Khuu (Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Scott Harper), Lora Keyte (MS student advised by Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka), Dr. Hira Kamal (postdoc with Dr. Tanaka), Koy Chandler (MS student advised by Dr. Cynthia Gleason), Dr. Tim Murray and his wife Nedra, Dr. Lindsey du Toit, Dr. Tim Paulitz, Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka, and Dr. Yoshihiko Hirayama with Ryukoku University. Photo c/o Ninh Khuu.



2 - Dr. Tim Murray received the 2025 Lifetime Achievement Award from the APS Pacific Division, presented by Dr. Tim Paulitz. Photo c/o Ninh Khuu.



3 - Dr. Achour Amiri presented a poster titled "The hidden face of the *Penicillium* spp. causing blue mold of pome fruit". Photo c/o Arild Arifin.



4 - MS student Koy Chandler presented a talk titled "Analyzing the secondary metabolites of *Solanum sisymbriifolium* for nematocidal compounds to *Meloidogyne chitwoodi*". Photo c/o Ninh Khuu.

2025-2026 PPGSO officer election results!

The Plant Pathology Graduate Student Organization (PPGSO) officer election has come to a close and the results are in. Thank you, graduate students, for your continued participation in giving back to the department! We are excited to announce that our next PPGSO Officer Team consists of the following:

Congratulations, **Mary Steele**, on becoming the President!

Congratulations, **Nosheen Fatima**, on becoming the Vice President!

Congratulations, **Taylor McNeas**, on becoming the Treasurer!

Congratulations, **Francely Flores**, on becoming the Secretary!

Congratulations, **Anita Paneru**, on becoming the Communications Officer!

Congratulations, **Jessica Schallon**, on becoming the Faculty Liaison!

Congratulations, **Mary Steele**, on becoming the Mount Vernon Representative!

Congratulations, **Taylor McNeese**, on becoming the Puyallup Representative!

Congratulations, **Sudeep Poudel**, on becoming the GPSA Representative for the Department of Plant Pathology!

Defense and preliminary exam updates

Congratulations to Hannah Merrill on successfully defending her MS thesis: "Development of KASP Markers in Association to Avirulence Genes and Utilization of a CYP51 KASP Marker to Determine Dynamics of DMI Fungicide Sensitivity in the Stripe Rust Pathogen" on March 7, 2025. Hannah's thesis committee was chaired by Dr. Xianming Chen and also included Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka, Dr. Hanu Pappu, and Dr. Deven See. Hannah has since re-located to Portland and is currently seeking employment and planning to continue research on white pine blister rust. Her goal is to merge her two passions - plant pathology and environmental science and ecology - into meaningful work.

Several students also have upcoming defense dates:

- **Jessica Schallon, MS student advised by Dr. Deven See**, is going to defend her MS thesis on April 7.
- **Koy Chandler, MS student advised by Dr. Cynthia Gleason**, is going to defend his MS thesis on April 11.
- **Jon Puglisi, MS student advised by Dr. Achour Amiri**, will soon set a defense date.
- **Lora Keyte, MS student advised by Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka**, is planning on defending her MS thesis in April.

Pullman / Moscow area field plant pathology tour: Friday, May 2

The PPGSO is excited to host a local field plant pathology tour in the Pullman/Moscow area. We are grateful for the willingness of the Palouse Ridge Golf Club, WSU Organic Farm, and University of Idaho Arboretum to host us. More information can be found in the attached flyer.

Plant Pathology Students who are interested in attending should RSVP using this link: [RSVP LINK](#)

Additionally, directions to the meeting site can be found via this link: [MEETING SITE LINK](#)



PLP 421/521 mycology course offered Fall 2025

Dr. Jana U'Ren was granted approval by the Faculty Senate to offer **General Mycology as a combined undergraduate/graduate course, as PL_P 421/521**. Please share with anyone you think might be interested! It will be offered this Fall 2025.

Juniors/Seniors/Graduate Students
Are you interested in learning about fungi?

General Mycology PIP 421/521
Fall 2025, 3 credits
Tue./Thu. 10:35-11:50 am

In-person (CUE 114) and Zoom

Instructor: Dr. Jana U'Ren
jana.uren@wsu.edu

Fungi aren't only mushrooms! They include yeasts, molds, plant, human, and insect pathogens, plant mutualistic mycorrhizae and endophytes.

In this course, you will learn the major characteristics of fungi and their ecological roles and importance.



Images Li et al., 2021, Current Biology 31, 1653-1665

5 - Flyer for combined undergraduate/graduate General Mycology course offered this Fall 2025 by Dr. Jana U'Ren. The PDF flyer was shared by Dr. du Toit via email.

Teaching assistants for PL_P 429 (General Plant Pathology) needed for Fall 2025

A reminder that **there are still spots available for TAs for PL_P 429 (General Plant Pathology)** being offered in Pullman in Fall 2025. If your graduate student might be interested and available, please reach out to Dr. Hanu Pappu.

Reminder on seminar attendance

A friendly reminder that **attendance of all faculty and graduate students at department seminars is required**. When possible, in-person attendance in Pullman and at RECs is encouraged, and those attending via Zoom are encouraged to keep their videos on during seminar to maintain a sense of community.

WSU Plant Pathology alum Steve Klosterman to receive a 2025 APS Fellow Award

Dr. Steve Klosterman, now based at the USDA-ARS Crop Improvement and Protection Research unit in Salinas, CA, completed his Ph.D. in Plant Pathology in the WSU department. He is being recognized for his career of service and expertise in the field of plant pathology by **receiving a 2025 APS Fellow Award** this summer at Plant Health 2025 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Some may remember that Dr. Klosterman was the student-invited speaker during the Fall 2023 semester, and he gave a seminar titled "Retrospective and Prospective Look at Discoveries from Verticillium Comparative Genomics". Congratulations to Dr. Klosterman!

Dr. Scott Harper to receive 2025 APS Award for Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security

Congratulations to Dr. Scott Harper, Associate Professor and Director of the Clean Plant Center-Northwest based out of the Prosser IAREC, for being a recipient of the **APS Award for Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security**. Dr. Harper has made huge impact by leading the clean plant center and building a research program on systemic pathogens of perennial specialty crops since joining the department in 2017.

Dr. Harper will be formally recognized at Plant Health 2025 this August!

PPGSO bioinformatic consultations available by appointment

To better organize the PLP Bioinformatic Consultation Table, we decided to cancel our meeting hour on Thursday. Instead, we are open by appointment (15min - 30min, via Zoom or in person). Please provide the time you want to meet and your bioinformatic questions to the consultants below.

Ko <itsuhiro.ko@wsu.edu> : Kamiak HPC, Transcriptome and Genome analysis, Sequencing, Python/Linux coding

Megan <megan.nickerson@wsu.edu> : R coding: Statistic and data visualization

Mason <mason.hoskins@wsu.edu> : Kamiak HPC, Gene co-expression network, Transcriptome (Mason is willing to provide help in person at the Prosser IAREC)

Student Spotlight: Sudha GC Upadhaya



6 - Ph.D. student Sudha GC Upadhaya

Degree: Ph.D. in Plant Pathology

Advisor: Dr. Tim Paulitz

Academic background: I completed my B.S. in Agriculture from Tribhuvan University, Nepal. Then, I moved to the USA to pursue an M.S. in Plant Pathology at North Dakota State University, ND, with a research focus on blackleg disease of canola. Afterwards, I worked as a Research Associate for nearly two years at WSU and joined the Ph.D. program in our department in Fall 2021.

Hometown: I was born and raised in a small village in Pyuthan, in the mountains of Nepal.

What made you interested in plant pathology? I got my undergraduate degree in Agriculture, where we got to learn all aspects of agriculture. My interest in studying plant pathology actually comes from witnessing disease and pest problems firsthand in the fields and the struggles to control them. I still remember spotting big galls from root-knot nematodes in okra fields, late blight on potatoes, and clubroot in brassica crops during our field visits in my Intro to Plant Pathology class. I was fortunate enough to get the opportunity to work in plant pathology for my graduate program.

What is your favorite plant pathogen? I really like the stem rust pathogen (*Puccinia graminis*) because of its interesting life cycle. I'm also interested in soil-borne organisms due to their complex communities and the many opportunities to explore in the area.

Hobbies: I love to go on walks, listen to music, and read.

What would you like to do after graduation? I'm planning to look for research opportunities in academia.

Community Corner



[Recap on LGBTQ+ Ally Training: Expanding Intersectional Access & Inclusion](#)

Thank you, Josie Cohen-Rodriguez, for providing an informative session on building allyship within our department! For those of you who were unable to attend, the Josie has provided the slides and are accessible using this link: [Ally Training Slides by Josie](#)

[A statement of support and caution for our international students, postdocs, faculty, and staff](#)

We have entered a time of unprecedented change as a country where there are novel challenges facing science and the rights of women, international folks, the LGBTQ+ community, and other marginalized groups. The PPGSO would like to make it clear that we stand with and support our international, female, and LGBTQ+ students, postdocs, staff, and faculty.

As such, we would like to encourage ALL those who are international to keep the proper documentation showing their right to be in this country with them at ALL TIMES. We are working to compile a list of resources for our international department members to have in the

case of an emergency. In the meantime, please reach out to another member of the department if help is needed and if you are an ASE, please reach out to your Union representative.

Celebration of Women's History Month

As March is Women's History Month, we would like to highlight the wonderful female faculty members who we are lucky to have in the WSU Plant Pathology department. As a department, we are committed to continued progress toward equal representation and pay for women in STEM at all professional levels. Unfortunately, gender biases continue to be a persistent problem, even at WSU. For example, as of 2020, while women represented 54% of all faculty, only 36% of tenure-track faculty were women and in both cases, women faculty at WSU were paid a lower salary than male faculty.

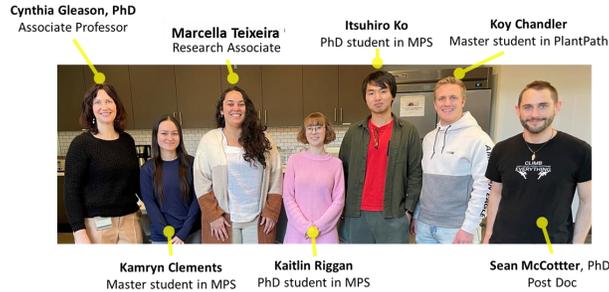
To the valued female faculty, students, postdocs, and staff in our department - thank you for your continued presence and contributions to the department and the field of plant pathology!



7 - Dr. Lindsey du Toit, whose Vegetable Seed Pathology program team currently includes Sintayehu Daba (postdoc), Marilen Nampija (Ph.D. candidate), Zephyr Papin-Tillery (MS in Ag student), Tomy Villaroel (agricultural research technologist), and Michael Gordon (scientific assistant senior).

Dr. Lindsey du Toit (Professor and Department Chair)

Dr. du Toit earned her bachelor's degree in plant pathology at the University of Natal-Pietermaritzburg, South Africa, and holds advanced degrees in plant pathology from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. She became the first woman to be full Chair of the Department in 2023 (although Dr. Lori Carris was interim chair for two years). She is internationally recognized for her valuable work protecting vegetable seed crops from diseases with her research program at WSU's Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center. She is not only widely respected by vegetable seed growers but has also mentored many master's and Ph.D. students as well as postdocs during her tenure at WSU. Her biennial Field Plant Pathology course stands out as an irreplaceable opportunity among Plant Pathology graduate programs across the country.



8 - Dr. Cynthia Gleason and lab members.

Dr. Cynthia Gleason (Associate Professor)

Dr. Gleason earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of California, Davis and developed further skills through international postdoctoral fellowships and professorships in the United Kingdom, Australia, and Germany. Dr. Gleason has been a part of the WSU Plant Pathology department since 2016 and is respected internationally for her research in plant parasitic nematodes. Not only has Dr. Gleason been an impactful mentor to several graduate students and postdocs, but has given back to the department by serving as the faculty advisor to the Plant Pathology Graduate Student Organization (PPGSO) for several years. She has shared her expertise through teaching as well, such as through the nematology section of the Techniques in Plant Pathology course and the biennial Nematology course.



9 - Dr. Maren Friesen and lab members.

Dr. Maren Friesen (Associate Professor)

Dr. Friesen completed a bachelor's degree in Ecology and Mathematics from the University of British Columbia, Canada and earned a Ph.D. in Population Biology from the University of California, Davis. She has been a member of the WSU Plant Pathology Department since 2017, where she contributes a unique area of research in beneficial plant-microbe interactions. In particular Dr. Friesen focuses on the legume-rhizobia system which is highly relevant to crop

rotation systems in eastern Washington and beyond. She has been and continues to serve as a mentor for graduate students and postdocs in both the Plant Pathology and Molecular Plant Sciences programs. Her phytobacteriology and plant-associated microbiome research and expertise are a valued aspect of our department.



10 - Dr. Jana U'Ren and lab members.

Dr. Jana U'Ren (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Jana U'Ren earned her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Prior to getting her Ph.D. in Plant Pathology and Microbiology at the University of Arizona, she worked on the maize genome project (UC-Irvine) and population genetics and genomics of human bacterial pathogens such as *Bacillus anthracis* (Northern AZ University). These experiences led her to pursue a Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, as it combined her interests in both plants and microbes. Dr. U'Ren joined the WSU Plant Pathology department in summer of 2023. Her research in fungal endophytes and skills in microbiome diversity add to the well-roundedness of our department. As an experienced fungal biologist, we are also lucky to have her teach the General Mycology course (especially having expanded it to include undergraduate students!) and the Mycology laboratory section of PIP570.

We would also like to celebrate our female adjunct and affiliate faculty: Dr. Christina Hagerty, Dr. Linda Thomashow, Dr. Svetlana Yurgel, and Dr. Michelle Moyer. Thank you for all that your research programs bring to our department!



11 - Dr. Christina Hagerty, adjunct faculty member and associate professor of plant pathology at Oregon State University based in Pendleton, OR.



12 - Dr. Linda Thomashow, adjunct faculty member and research geneticist with the USDA-ARS Root Disease and Biological Control Research Unit in Pullman, WA.



13 - Dr. Svetlana Yurgel, adjunct faculty member and research scientist with the USDA ARS Grain Legume Research Unit in Pullman, WA.



14 - Dr. Michelle Moyer, affiliate faculty member and professor and viticulture extension specialist in the WSU Department of Horticulture, based in Prosser, WA.

Statewide Updates

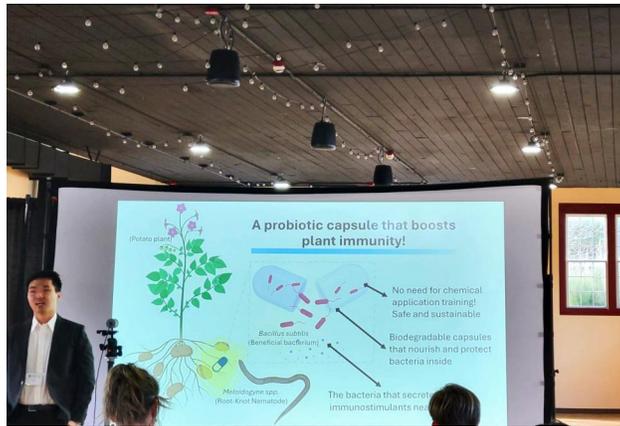


Pullman Updates

We are very proud of two graduate students from our department for making it to the final round of the CAHNRS Three Minute Thesis competition on Wednesday, March 5!

Itsuhiro Ko, Ph.D. candidate advised by Dr. Cynthia Gleason, presented on his thesis: "A Probiotic Capsule that Boosts Plant Immunity".

Anita Paneru, Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Maren Friesen, presented on her thesis: "Soil Signals: How Plants and Microbes Talk Beneath Our Feet".



15 - Ko presents during the the Three Minute Thesis competition on March 5, 2025.



Mount Vernon Updates

WSU Vice President of Research Dr. Kim Christen visited the BreadLab and the NWREC in Mount Vernon on March 13, 2025. Her visit included tours and discussion with the two plant pathology labs at NWREC, the Vegetable Seed Pathology program led by Dr. Lindsey du Toit and the Berry and Potato Pathology program led by Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli.

Dr. du Toit and Ph.D. student Mary spoke on behalf of the two respective programs and shared the importance of the plant pathology research being done at the center. Dr. Christen was very engaged in supporting the department and summarized her visit in an article in WSU Research Radar:

<https://dq8g2.r.a.d.sendibm1.com/mk/mr/sh/SMJz09SDriOHWok7UaLu4a8QyqF5/iBz3F0iROvUG>.

It was great to have Dr. Christen visit and have more context for her work in advocating for our research!

Prosser Updates

City of Prosser Honors WSU's IAREC with Proclamation of Support

On March 4, 2025, the City of Prosser recognized the contributions of Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (IAREC) through a proclamation of support. The center, WSU's oldest satellite research station, has been serving Washington agriculture since 1919. The proclamation was presented by Mayor Gary Vegar and the Prosser City Council to celebrate IAREC's contributions to agricultural innovation, environmental stewardship, and economic vitality. IAREC has played a key role in the development of the Rainier cherry and Washington's wine industry, continuing to support regional growers and train future agricultural leaders.



17 - Joining the City of Prosser to receive a civic proclamation supporting research and contributions made at the WSU Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center are, back row from left, CAHNRS Senior Associate Dean Scot Hulbert, WSDA Plant Pathologist Seguin Akinbade, Prosser Mayor Gary Vegar, IAREC Director Naidu Rayapati, WSU Professor Doug Walsh; front row, USDA Research Geneticist Max Feldman, USDA Research Plant Pathologist Lyndon Porter, and WSU Professor R. Troy Peters. (Photo by Rachel Shaw, City of Prosser)

New Autoclave at WSU IAREC!

We're excited to announce the arrival of a brand-new autoclave on the second floor of Hamilton Hall at WSU IAREC! With so many people relying on the single autoclave on the first floor, it was becoming a challenge to manage the demand. This new addition will help us keep things clean, safe, and efficient in the lab, relieving some of that pressure. A big thank you to everyone who worked hard to make this possible, as well as to the authorities and facility managers at WSU-IAREC for making it available to us. We're thrilled to have it!



18 - The new digital autoclave.

GPSA Updates

GPSA PDI Events:

- Elevate Your Note-Taking: Mastering Annotation and Organization (**April 17 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm**): [Register Here](#)

Herbarium Happenings: Shaw Mycological Herbarium



FUNGI QUIZ - with Prizes!

Spring is the time to hunt for the wonderful edible Morel mushrooms... Before you go out to forage, test your ID skills: Which two mushrooms in the photo of *Morchella* specimens from the Shaw Herbarium are FALSE Morels (nonedible)? First person to email the correct answer to shaw.herbarium@wsu.edu will win some cute mushroom swag! And for bonus points - and extra swag - what is the genus of the imposter "Morels"? [Sorry, faculty experts in mycology are not eligible for this contest ;)]



19 - Several species of Morels (and one False Morel species!) from the Herbarium teaching collections



20 - (Background photo credit: c.2004 Taylor F. Lockwood)

Publications



Allende-Molar, R., **Paulitz, T.**, **Thomashow, L.**, Mavrodi, O., and **Weller, D. M.** 2025. Pythium root rot of wheat is not suppressed by indigenous 2,4-diacetylphloroglucinol-producing pseudomonads in take-all decline soils. *Plant Dis.* <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-09-24-2041-RE>

Dababat, A. A., **Paulitz, T.**, Laasli, S. E., Lahlali, R., Li, H., Mokrini, F., and Dreisigacker, S. 2025. From genes to fields: marker-assisted selection for nematode resistance in crops. *J. Integr. Plant Biol.* 3:1-18. <https://doi.org/10.55627/pbiotech.003.01.1129>.

Fuchs, M., Rwahni, M. A., Blouin, A. G., Burger, J., Chooi, K. M., Constable, F., Ertunc, F., Fiore, N., Habili, N., Hily, J.-M., Katis, N., Lemaire, O., Maliogka, V. I., Maree, H. J., Minafra, A., **Naidu, R.**, Pietersen, G., Saldarelli, P., Schmidt, A., Music, M. S., and Varallyay, E. 2025. A list of eclectic viruses, virus-like diseases and viroids of grapevines that should not be considered for regulatory oversight: a global plea from virologists. *J. Plant Pathol.* <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42161-025-01871-9>

Herrera-Blitman, N., Bloch, M., Helmick, E., **Harper, S.**, Vallad, G. E., and Bahder, B. W. 2025. Development of a tetraplex reverse transcription digital PCR (RT-dPCR) assay for three carlaviruses and an ilarvirus infecting hop and viral titer quantification in different tissue types. *Plant Dis.* <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-24-2351-RE>

Hoheisel, G.-A., **Moyer, M.**, Onayemi, S., Gagnier, B., Burke, A., Wheeler, W. S., Liu, R., James, D. G., Walsh, D. B., Zasada, I., **Naidu, R. A.**, Swamy, P., James, D. G. 2025 pest management guide for grapes in Washington. Washington State University Extension.

Jayasinghe, S. K., Moroz, N., Yuan, P., Kolomiets, M. V., and **Tanaka, K.** 2025. Salicylic acid plays a major role in potato defense against powdery scab pathogen, *Spongospora subterranea* f. sp. *subterranea*. MPMI First Look. <https://doi.org/10.1094/MPMI-12-24-0154-R>

Kantor, C., **Teixeira, M.**, Kantor, M., and **Gleason, C.** 2025. Tiny invaders, big trouble: emerging nematode threats in the United States. Phytopathology. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-09-24-0290-IA>

Leitão, D. A. H. S., Oliveira, A. K. S., Brito, J. A., and Dickson, D. W. 2025. Gallings and reproduction of different isolates of *Meloidogyne floridensis* on culinary herbs. J. Nematol. 57. <https://doi.org/10.2478/jofnem-2025-0006> Edited by **Cynthia Gleason.**

Kigaru, A., Nganga, E. M., Murori, R., **Pappu, H. R.**, Runo, S., and Ateka, E. M. 2025. Pathogen dynamism and variability of rice yellow mottle virus in Kenya. Phytopathol. Res. 7:43. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s42483-025-00329-1>

Rather, M., Wani, S., Rashid, S., Iralu, N., Roy, A., **Pappu, H. R.**, and Hamid, A. 2025. Detection of plant viruses by CRISPR-Cas13a system. In: Detection of Plant Viruses. Springer Protocols Handbooks. Hamid, A., Ali, G., Shikari, A., Saleem, S., Wani, S.H., Wani, S. (eds.) Humana, New York, NY. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-0716-4390-7_30

Sharma, R., **Wang, M., Chen, X.**, Lakkakula, I. P., Amand, P. S., Bernardo, A., Bai, G., Bowden, R. L., Carver, B. F., Boehm, J. D., and Aoun, M. 2025. Genome-wide association mapping for the identification of stripe rust resistance loci in US hard winter wheat. Theor. Appl. Genet. 138:67. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00122-025-04858-3>

Yang, M., Schlatter, D. C., LeTourneau, M. K., Wen, S., Mavrodi, D. V., Mavrodi, O. V., **Thomashow, L. S.**, Kandlati, K. R., **Weller, D. M.**, and **Paulitz, T. C.** 2025. Eight years in the soil: temporal dynamics of wheat-associated bacterial communities under dryland and irrigated conditions. Phytobiomes J., PBIOMES-02. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PBIOMES-02-24-0028-R>

Yurgel, S. N., an McGee, R. 2025. Bacterial communities associated with food-quality winter pea cultivars grown in Pacific Northwest soils. Plant and Soil. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11104-025-07316-7>

Please let us know if we missed your publication so it can be included next month.

Funding & Opportunities



May 12: International Day of Plant Health organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations

FAO is recognizing May 12 as the International Day of Plant Health. There is a hybrid event planned for May 12. More information from FAO can be found here: <https://www.fao.org/plant-health-day/en>

Western Seed Association (WSA) Scholarship

The WSA is accepting applications for its 2025 scholarship program (three \$6,000 scholarships) for undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a degree in Agriculture/Agronomy. Applications are due April 1, 2025. More information [here](#).

APS Continuing Education Course: High Throughput Sequencing Fundamentals for Plant Disease Diagnostics

APS is hosting a continuing education course from May 13-June 3, 2025 on high throughput sequencing. Sessions are Tuesdays from 9-10:15 am central time. More information can be found [here](#).

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Related Sciences (MANRRS) PestWorld Scholarship

MANRRS is offering a scholarship to cover registration, lodging, travel, and a \$150 stipend to attend the 2025 PestWorld conference in Orlando, FL in October. More information on the scholarship can be found here: <https://www.manrrs.org/opportunities/scholarships>. Applications are due June 30, 2025.

NOMIS and *Science* Young Explorer Award

The NOMIS foundation and *Science* is accepting essays for the Young Explorer Award, recognizing "bold young researchers who ask fundamental questions at the intersection of the life and social sciences". Cash prizes up to \$15,000 will be awarded, and essays will be published in *Science*. Applications are due May 15, 2025. More information [here](#). Thank you to Dr. Tanaka for sharing.

***Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions* (MPMI) Assistant Feature Editors**

MPMI is looking for volunteers to serve as Assistant Feature Editors for 2025-2027. This is a great opportunity for postdocs. Thank you to Dr. Tanaka for sharing! Applications are due August 1, 2025. More information: <https://www.ismpmi.org/mpmi/Pages/Call-for-Assistant-Feature-Editors.aspx>

GPSA Travel Grant

GPSA travel grants are available all year round and are awarded as reimbursements post travel for out-of-pocket travel costs. Pullman Service and Activity fee-paying students are eligible to apply. Please see all the information on the GPSA grants website [here](#). Contact gpsa.granst@wsu.edu if you have questions.

[Here](#) is a list of all available funding worldwide. Log in using your WSU account and refine the search.

Seminars



WSU Plant Pathology Seminar Series – Spring 2025

Mondays 4:10 pm, Clark Hall 149, Pullman campus (Zoom ID: 935 5851 3144 | Pass: 1824)

Date	Speaker	
January 27 Guest Speaker		Dr. Huiting Zhang Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Horticulture, WSU (Ficklin lab)
February 3 Guest Speaker		Dr. Fangming Xiao Professor, Department of Plant Sciences, University of Idaho
February 10 Student Invited Speaker		Dr. Jeff Miller President and CEO / Principal Field Investigator, Miller Research LLC, Acequia, ID
February 17	President's Day	No Seminar
February 24 Guest Speaker		Dr. Marcela Teixeira Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (Gleason lab)
March 3 Guest Speaker		Dr. Kai Battenberg Collections Manager, Stillinger Herbarium University of Idaho
March 10	Spring Break	No Seminar
March 17 PLP 515 Seminar		Bipin Neupane Ph.D. student, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (See lab)
		Sudeep Poudel Ph.D. student, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (Zhao lab)
March 24 Guest Speaker		Dr. Dmitri Mavrodi USDA-ARS, Wheat Health, Genetics, and Quality Research Unit
March 31 PLP 515 Seminar		Anita Paneru Ph.D. student, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (Friesen lab)
		Sasha Zvenigorodsky MS student, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (W. Chen lab)
April 7 Guest Speaker		Dr. David Crowder Professor, Department of Entomology, WSU
April 14 PLP 515 Seminar		Sheersa Manna Ph.D. student, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (W. Zhao lab)
		Jessica Schallon Ph.D. student, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (W. Chen lab)
April 21 Guest Speaker		Dr. Hira Kamal Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Plant Pathology, WSU (Tanaka lab)

For more information, please visit our website at plantpath.wsu.edu/seminar-series-2/

21 - Seminar schedule for Spring 2025 put together by Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka.

Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka is leading seminar this Spring 2025, most Mondays from 4-5 pm.

Zoom ID: 935 5851 3144

Zoom Password: 1824

Monday, March 31st: Anita Paneru & Sasha Zvenigorodsky (Student Speakers)

Monday, April 7th: Dr. David Crowder (Guest Speaker)

Monday, April 14th: Sheersa Manna & Jessica Schallon (Student Speakers)

Monday, April 21st: Dr. Hira Kamal (Guest Speaker)

Jobs



Graduate Research Positions

Postdoctoral Positions

- The University of Georgia is hiring a postdoc to work on fungal pathogens of vegetable crops based in Tifton, GA. More information can be found [here](#).
- Dr. Kachroo at the University of Kentucky is hiring a postdoc to work in plant immunity and metabolism. More information can be found [here](#).
- Dr. DeWolf and Dr. Onofre at Kansas State University are hiring a postdoc to work in model development for wheat disease forecasting systems. More information can be found [here](#).

Technician, Industry, and Other Non-Academic Positions

- The Plant Disease and Insect Clinic at NC State University is hiring a plant pathology diagnostician in vegetable crops. More information can be found [here](#).

- The University of Georgia in Athens, GA is hiring a plant disease diagnostician with public service faculty rank. More information can be found [here](#).

Faculty Positions

- **We are excited to promote the tenure-track Assistant Professor position in potato pathology in the WSU Plant Pathology Department! The position is split into 60% research, 20% teaching, and 20% extension. Screening will begin on April 21, 2025. More information can be found [here](#). Dr. Harper is chair of the search committee.**
- Rutgers University is hiring a tenure-track Assistant Extension Specialist in Fruit Pathology. More information can be found [here](#).
- New Mexico State University is hiring an extension specialist in urban and small farms IPM. More information can be found [here](#).