



Summer 2025

## The Spore Print (7/28/25): Department of Plant Pathology Summer 2025 Newsletter



Please enjoy these updates from our department for Summer 2025.

***Anita representing the editorial team: Mary, Nosheen, Jessica, Francely, Taylor, Mason, Arild, Sudeep, Monique, Jana, Cynthia, and Xianming.***

If you have news you would like included in the *next newsletter*, please email [anita.paneru@wsu.edu](mailto:anita.paneru@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 the newsletter headings.

## Updates



### Incoming students

We are welcoming a few graduate students to our department this fall. Please look out for them in Pullman!

**Anthony DeLuca** is joining Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka's lab this fall as a Ph.D. student after working in Dr. Cynthia Gleason's lab for the past two years.

**Vincent James** is joining Dr. Maren Friesen's lab this fall to continue his Ph.D. in the WSU Molecular Plant Sciences program.

**Elaine Larsen** is joining Dr. Jana U'Ren's lab this fall as an MS student.

**Aalok Mishra** and **Abu Tushar** are joining Dr. Achour Amiri's lab as Ph.D. students this fall.

**Oleksandra (Sasha) Shabliy** joined Dr. Dmitri Mavrodi's lab this past spring semester as an MS student, so a formal welcome to her as well!

Welcome Anthony, Vincent, Elaine, Aalok, Abu, and Sasha! If we missed an incoming student, please let Mary know ([mary.steele@wsu.edu](mailto:mary.steele@wsu.edu)) so that they can be included in student communications.

## Look out for fellow WSU faculty and graduate students at Plant Health 2025 in Honolulu, Hawaii

Plant Health 2025 will take place this Saturday, August 2, through Tuesday, August 5, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

### Attending faculty and staff:

- Dr. Youfu (Frank) Zhao
- Dr. Scott Harper
- Dr. Lindsey du Toit
- Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka

### Attending graduate students, postdocs, and research associates:

- Dr. Prabu Gnanasekaran (Postdoc with Dr. Hanu Pappu): **Poster P-371**
- Dr. Arild Arifin (Postdoc with Dr. Achour Amiri): **Posters P-161, P-569**
- Dr. Marcella Teixeira (Postdoc with Dr. Cynthia Gleason)
- Dr. Hira Kamal (Postdoc with Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka): **Poster P-351**
- Dr. Ricardo Delgado Santander (Postdoc with Dr. Frank Zhao): **Poster P-030**
- Mary Steele (Ph.D. / Advisors: Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli, Dr. Lindsey du Toit): **Poster P-289**
- Sheersa Manna (Ph.D. / Advisor: Dr. Youfu (Frank) Zhao): **Poster P-013**
- Sudeep Poudel (Ph.D. / Advisor: Dr. Youfu (Frank) Zhao): **Poster P-225**
- Anita Paneru (Ph.D. / Advisor: Dr. Maren Friesen): **Poster P-333**
- Samodya Jayasinghe (Ph.D. / Advisor: Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka)
- Harpreet Kaur (Ph.D. / Advisor: Dr. Youfu (Frank) Zhao): **Poster P-009**
- Mason Hoskins (MS / Advisor: Dr. Scott Harper): **Poster P-012**
- Jessica Schallon (Ph.D. / Advisor: Dr. Weidong Chen): **Poster P-285**

Congratulations to the following attendees from our department (and thank you to Dr. du Toit for compiling these awardees):

**Sam Jayasinghe** will present at the [I.E. Melhus Graduate Student Symposium](#) on Tuesday, August 5, 2:00 - 5:00 pm, for which she received a travel award.

**Mustafa Jibrin**, a former postdoc in Achour Amiri's lab, will receive an award from the [Lafayette Frederick Diversity in Mentoring Program](#) that provides support to APS members' efforts at mentoring, with an emphasis on mentoring underrepresented groups.

**Anita Paneru** received an APS Student Travel Award to present her work at Plant Health 2025.

**Scott Harper** will receive the 2025 APS Award for Excellence in Regulatory Affairs and Crop Security.

**Leo De La Fuente**, a former PhD student of Dave Weller and professor at Auburn, will become an APS Fellow.

### 2025 WSU Potato Field Day

On Thursday, June 26, the annual WSU Potato Field Day was hosted at the WSU Othello Research and Extension Unit. Presenters included Dr. Cynthia Gleason, Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli, Cassandra Bates, county extension agents, and researchers from other universities. A complete photo album can be found [here](#).



1 - Dr. Cynthia Gleason presenting at the 2025 WSU Potato Day.



2 - Cassandra Bates presenting at the 2025 WSU Potato Day.



3 - Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli presenting at the 2025 WSU Potato Day.

#### 4th International Fire Blight Symposium

The **4th International Symposium on Fire Blight of Rosaceous Plants** was held from **June 23–27, 2025**, at the Courtyard by Marriott in Richland, Washington. organized by **Dr. Youfu “Frank” Zhao** of Washington State University and his dedicated team, the event brought together around 90 participants from across the United States, Europe, New Zealand, China, and South Korea for an engaging and collaborative week focused on advancing fire blight research and management. The five-day symposium featured six scientific sessions covering cutting-edge topics and discussion, including Disease Management and Technology, Pathogen Biology, Genetics and Plant Pathogen Interactions, and Plant Breeding. The event opened with a plenary session chaired by Dr. Frank Zhao and Dr. George Sundin (Michigan State University), highlighting plenary and keynote addresses from prominent scientists and the pool of researchers.

The symposium showcased a strong emphasis on student involvement, with graduate student oral and poster competitions fostering the next generation of plant pathologists. Student research covered a wide range of innovative strategies- from biocontrol agents and genetic resistance to economic analysis of management strategies. Attendees also took part in field tours, including visits to grower orchards in Benton City, Prosser, and Sunnyside, as well as the WSU-IAREC Roza research farm, culminating in a conference dinner at the Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center.

The symposium concluded with a panel discussion on breeding for resistance, an award ceremony, and the announcement that the **5th International Fire Blight Symposium will be hosted in Jeju Island, South Korea, by Dr. Duck Hwan Park and his team.**



4 - Dr. Frank Zhao opens the 4th International Fire Blight Symposium, highlighting the scientific agenda and acknowledging sponsor contributions.



5 - Winners of the graduate student oral and poster competitions at the 4th International Fire Blight Symposium. From left to right: Nathaniel Boeckman (1st Oral), Emma Alstott (2nd Oral), Katherine Dougherty (2nd Poster), Sudeep Poudel (1st Poster), and Ton Nu Bao Vy Huyen (3rd Oral). Not in the picture: Yeon Ju Kim (3rd Poster).



6 - Group photo of participants at the 4th International Fire Blight Symposium, Richland, WA (June 23–27, 2025).

## Defense and preliminary exam updates

**Jonathan Puglisi** successfully defended his **PhD dissertation** on May 9th. His dissertation is titled “**Assessing fitness costs in *Penicillium expansum* isolates with resistance to multiple fungicides**”. His committee members included Achour Amiri (chair), Cynthia Gleason, Kiwamu Tanaka, and Dojin Ryu. He will remain in Wenatchee to wrap up publications from his dissertation. We congratulate Dr. Puglisi on this significant achievement and on starting the next chapter of his career.

**Sudha G. C. Upadhaya** successfully defended her **PhD dissertation** on July 9th. Her dissertation is titled “**Microbial Community Profiling and AI-Based Tools for Plant Pathogen Identification in Potato Fields**”, and her committee included Tim Paulitz (Chair), Cynthia Gleason, Kiwamu Tanaka, Maren Friesen, and Nairanjana Dasgupta (Department of Mathematics and Statistics). Sudha will remain in Pullman to pursue an MS degree in statistics while continuing to publish the remaining work from her dissertation. We congratulate Dr. Upadhaya on this significant academic achievement and the best in her career.

**Alexandra 'Sasha' Zvenigorodsky** successfully defended her **Master of Science** thesis on June 18th. Her thesis is titled “**Fungicide resistance in *Ascochyta rabiei* in the Pacific Northwest**”. Her MS committee members included Weidong Chen (chair), Chakradhar Mattupalli, and Achour Amiri. Sasha will remain in Pullman for the summer to finish some experiments for a manuscript, and then return to Illinois, where she plans to interview for a lab-based position in the Chicago area. We congratulate Sasha and wish her success in getting her research published and starting the next chapter of her career.

Recent WSU Department of Plant Pathology graduates celebrated during the commencement ceremony on May 3, 2025: **Dr. Ashton Abigail Eaker** (Ph.D. advised by Dr. Maren Friesen), **Koy Chandler** (MS advised by Dr. Cynthia Gleason), **Kamryn Clements** (MS advised by Dr. Cynthia Gleason), **Hannah Merrill** (MS advised by Dr. Xianming Chen), **Lora Keyte** (MS advised by Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka), **Zephyr Papin-Tillery** (MS advised by Dr. Lindsey du Toit).



7 - From left to right (Dr. Xianming Chen, Hannah Merrill, Dr. Ashton Eaker, Lora Keyte, Koy Chandler, Kamryn Clements, Zephyr Papin-Tillery, Dr. Lindsey du Toit) Photo: Mary Steele



8 - Dr. Lindsey du Toit and Dr. Ashton Eaker (Photo: Mary Steele)



9 - Lora Keyte and Dr. Lindsey du Toit (Photo: Mary Steele)



10 - Zephyr Papin-Tillery and Dr. Lindsey du Toit (Photo: Mary Steele)

### **PPGSO bioinformatic consultations available by appointment**

To better organize the PLP Bioinformatic Consultation Table, we decided to cancel our meeting hours 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](mailto:itsuhiro.ko@wsu.edu)> : Kamiak HPC, Transcriptome and Genome analysis, Sequencing, Python/Linux coding

Megan <[megan.nickerson@wsu.edu](mailto:megan.nickerson@wsu.edu)> : R coding: Statistics and data visualization

Mason <[mason.hoskins@wsu.edu](mailto: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: Sheersa Manna**





12 - Crater Lake in its purest blue 😊

**Degree:** PhD, Plant Pathology

**Advisor:** Dr. Youfu 'Frank' Zhao

**Academic background:** BSc (Agricultural Science), MS (Plant Pathology)

**Hometown:** Nagpur, Maharashtra (MS), India

**What made you interested in plant pathology?**

Growing up in a primarily agrarian-based country, I witnessed firsthand the distress of farmers due to crop losses caused by diseases, which deepened my interest to look beyond diagnosis and explore the intricately fascinating world of plant–microbe interactions.

**What is your favorite plant pathogen?**

*Pseudomonas*, because who wouldn't love a glowing bacterium?

**Hobbies:** I enjoy painting and traveling as both let me explore new perspectives, whether on a canvas or across landscapes.

**Pets:** I had a parakeet companion for 18 wonderful years! 😊

**What would you like to do after graduation?**

After graduation, I hope to continue bridging the field and lab to improve crop health and support grower success, whether through academia, applied research, or global outreach.

## Community Corner



The Community Resources Committee is recruiting two new graduate students and/or postdoctoral members to start in August 2026. The goal of our committee is to help all department members feel valued and respected by promoting educational resources for professional development and communication. Towards that end, committee members will be helping to plan and coordinate two events this year. The first will be a movie showing “Picture a Scientist” during the fall semester, and the second will be a spring seminar event TBD. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Dr. Jana U’Ren or current student members Mason Hoskins or Megan Nickerson.

PLANT PATHOLOGY  
COMMUNITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE



# Volunteers Needed

**Help us build and foster  
community in our  
department!**

Looking for +2 more graduate or  
postdoc volunteers

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Contact Dr. Jana U'Ren if interested

## Statewide Updates

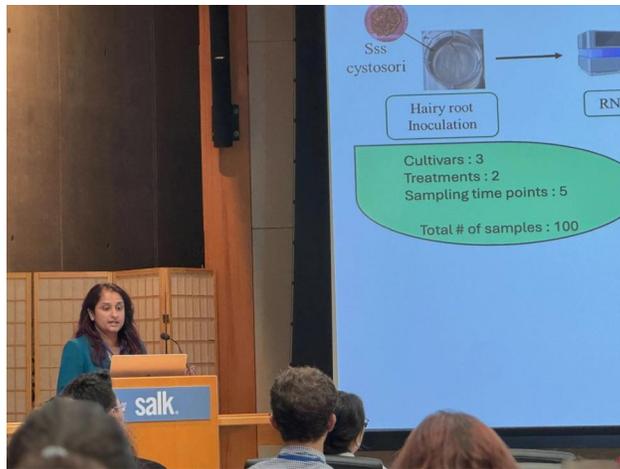


## Pullman Updates



13 - Nosheen presented at the Wheat Workers Meeting

**Nosheen Fatima** presented her Ph.D. work at the Western Wheat Workers Meeting on May 28-30 in Pullman. Kudos to her!



14 - Sam presented at the Discover Symposium

**Samodya Jayasinghe** attended the Discover Symposium at the Salk Institute of Biological Studies on July 9 -11th, and presented some of her Ph.D. work. Good job, Sam!



15 - Graduate students Dylan C. Oates, (left to right) Niharika Nonavinakere Chandrakanth, Tyler Chapman, **Itsuhiko Ko**, Associate Professor Andrei Smertenko, and Taras Nazarov pose for a photo while holding the first page of their journal article "Grain under pressure: Harnessing biochemical pathways to beat drought and heat in wheat" on Monday, July 21, 2025, at Spillman Agronomy Farm in Pullman, Wash. (Photo by Dean Hare, WSU Photo Services)

**Itsuhiko Ko** and coauthors have published a review paper in **The Plant Journal** on how climate change impacts wheat production. The idea sparked in **Dr. Andrei Smertenko's** journal club class, where Ko learned to critically evaluate research. More information can be found [here](#).

Kudos to Ko and the team for turning classroom insight into published research!



*16 - Tour of USDA ARS Rec5 building (Dr. Xianming Chen, Dr. Deven See, Dr. Jana U'Ren)*

**Dr. Dave Weller** (USDA ARS) organized a tour of the new ARS Research Building, which is under construction to replace Johnson Hall. **Dr. Xianming Chen**, **Dr. Deven See**, and **Dr. Jana U'Ren** participated in the tour. The new building is on schedule to be completed in spring 2026. Each floor will connect to Vogel, and a bridge will link the third floor to Rec5.



*17 - Some glimpses from the tour of the USDA ARS Rec5 building*



18 - Some glimpses from the tour of USDA ARS Rec5 building

Dr. Jana U'Ren's lab attended the 2025 Mycological Society of America Conference in Madison, WI, from June 28th-July 2nd, 2025. Lab members attended the 2025 annual MSA Fungal Foray.

**Dr. Jana U'Ren** presented in place of her graduate student, Roxanne Bantay, on work titled "Comparative Codon Optimization Patterns in Endophytic and Non-Endophytic Xylarialean Fungi".

**Postdoctoral Researcher Dr. Ray Van Court** presented "Comparative Mitochondrial Genomics of endophytic, saprotrophic, and Pathogenic Xylarialean fungi: How Does Trophic Mode Influence Mitogenome evolution?".

**PhD candidate Megan Nickerson** presented "Shifts in *Sphagnum* fungal communities and metabolomes with senescence elucidate the impact of host chemistry on fungal-mediated decomposition".

**PhD student Taylor McNeas** presented a poster titled "Investigating the Life Cycle and Host Range of *Cryptostroma corticale* in the Pacific Northwest Using Environmental Sampling and Molecular Detection".



19 - Dr. Jana U'Ren giving an oral presentation titled "Comparative Codon Optimization Patterns in Endophytic and Non-Endophytic Xylarialean Fungi"



20 - Megan Nickerson presenting a talk titled "Shifts in Sphagnum fungal communities and metabolomes with senescence elucidate the impact of host chemistry on fungal-mediated decomposition"



21 - Dr. Ray Van Court delivering an oral presentation titled "Comparative Mitochondrial Genomics of endophytic, saprotrophic, and Pathogenic Xylarialean fungi: How Does Trophic Mode Influence Mitogenome evolution?"



22 - Taylor McNeas presenting a poster titled "Investigating the Life Cycle and Host Range of Cryptostroma corticale in the Pacific Northwest Using Environmental Sampling and Molecular Detection"



*23 - Dr. Ray Van Court and Megan Nickerson at the MSA 2025 Annual Fungal Foray.*

We held our **Spring Mushroom Foray** on April 27, 2025, and had amazing participation! Big thanks to everyone who aided in planning and execution of this event, including Dr. Andrei Smertenko, Monique Slipher, Dr. Ray Van Court, and members of the PPGSO. As always, these events are great opportunities to meet people and share mycology with friends and family. Keep your eye out for information regarding our Fall Foray if you would like to participate!



*24 - Members of the Department of Plant Pathology, Horticulture, Molecular Plant Sciences, and of the community at large posing in the Idaho forest with some of the mushrooms we collected.*



*25 - Dr. Ray Van Court identifying specimen.*



26 - Monique Slipher discussing finds with others on the trail.

### Mount Vernon Updates

**Francely Flores**, first-year Ph.D. student advised by Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli, has been working hard this summer on a greenhouse trial to evaluate how **cover and rotational crops affect inoculum levels of the fungal pathogen *Verticillium dahliae***. The pathogen is the causal agent of Verticillium wilt, an important disease negatively impacting potato and spinach production. Growers will be able to use outcomes of this research to better inform decisions on selecting crops to rotate with potato and spinach.

The project is being conducted along with collaborators Dr. Lindsey du Toit, Dr. Deirdre Griffin LaHue (Crop & Soil Sciences) and Dr. Gabe LaHue (Crop & Soil Sciences) at the WSU Mount Vernon NWREC.

Francely will be spending the upcoming fall semester in Pullman, so say hi if you see her!



*27 - Francely with spinach plant, one of the host crops, showing symptoms of Verticillium wilt.*



*28 - Francely with potato plant, the focus crop of her research, showing Verticillium wilt symptoms.*

### **Prosser Updates**

Prosser is buzzing this summer with numerous interns from across the U.S., contributing to tree fruit research and making time for volleyball fun with WSU faculty and grads!



*29 - Summer Volleyball Fun - Hosted by the Prosser Graduate Student Association!*

## **GPSA Updates**

### **Upcoming Events**

GPSA Lake Day is coming - July 27 at Lake Coeur d'Alene! Free ride, lunch, and water fun!

Departing: 9 AM from Beasley Coliseum

Returning: 9 PM to Pullman

Round trip covered by GPSA!

## Herbarium Happenings: Shaw Mycological Herbarium



### **LONG-DORMANT PLANT PATHOLOGY TEACHING COLLECTION FINDS A NEW PERMANENT HOME**

In spring of 2022 the Plant Pathology department moved its extensive historic collection of teaching specimens to temporary storage in Clark Hall Annex, prior to the demolishing of Johnson Hall. As some of you remember, hundreds of these plant disease samples were stored for many decades in our main 3rd floor classroom, where they helped generations of students learn to identify and visualize plant pathogens firsthand. This summer, with the help of Megan Pyle, our new temporary Herbarium Assistant, we can finally sort through them and retain the best samples of each pathogen/host for permanent preservation in proper archival storage within the Shaw Herbarium. We are repackaging specimens in boxes that fit our shelving, and cycling each box through our -20 freezer to kill any potential insect pests before moving them to a dedicated Herbarium space.

Once this collection (PLPTC for short) has been integrated into the Shaw, we will create an inventory available to anyone in the department who wishes to view and/or utilize these

specimens for a variety of potential research and teaching purposes. Just like with our other historic departmental collection, the Jack D. Rogers Forest Pathology Teaching Collection (FPTC), any of these specimens may be checked out of the Herbarium for departmental use. They all remain separate from our accessioned fungi (WSP) however, so will not be included in the database of that main collection.

### **INTRODUCING OUR SUMMER HERBARIUM ASSISTANT**

Megan Pyle has proven herself a capable and diligent worker on a variety of Herbarium projects, and we very much appreciate her assistance! She's a non-traditional undergraduate student double-majoring in Organic & sustainable Agriculture/Human Nutrition & Food Systems. Megan not only works in the Herbarium 2 afternoons a week, but has continued her previous employment at the Eggert Family Organic Farm in the mornings, plus puts in additional hours in Haly Neely's lab in the Department of Crop & Soil Sciences. Please say hello & welcome if you see her around Vogel!



30 - Megan Pyle in our temporary summer workspace in Clark Hall Annex (EALB) - boxes behind her on racks still await sorting, all the rest are finished and empty!



31 - Monique Slipher inspecting & sorting old teaching specimens before transfer into archival Herbarium boxes



32 - Megan sorting Riker mount specimens for repacking into boxes that fit Herbarium shelves

## Publications



**Arifin, A. R., and Amiri, A.** 2025. A loop-mediated isothermal amplification (LAMP) portable assay for visual detection of *Phacidiopycnis washingtonensis* and *Phacidiopycnis pyri* on pome fruit. *Plant Disease*. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-05-25-0987-RE>

**Baral, R., DeLong, J. A., McGhee, G. C., Stockwell, V., and Mattupalli, C.** 2025. Molecular Characterization of *Botrytis* isolates from blueberry and red raspberry in the Pacific Northwest with resistance to SDHI fungicides. *Plant Disease*. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-12-24-2576-SC>

**Franco, M. E., Nickerson, M. N., Bowen, B. P., Louie, K., Northen, T. R., and U'Ren, J. M.** 2025. Hyperdiverse, bioactive, and interaction-specific metabolites produced only in co-culture suggest diverse competitors may fuel secondary metabolism of xylarialean fungi. *mSystems*, e00468-25. <https://doi.org/10.1128/msystems.00468-25>

**Gyawali, S., Bhattarai, G., Correll, J. C., Shi, A., and du Toit, L. J.** 2025. Genome wide association study of Fusarium wilt resistance in *Spinacia turkestanica*. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), 15486. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-98932-x>

Ingram, J., **Mattupalli, C.**, Mudrak, E., Curtis, M., O'Neill, P., Davenport, B., ... and Filiatrault, M. 2025. Multi-year evaluations of an FTA card-based detection protocol for four vector-borne viruses affecting potato. *Plant Disease*. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-24-2454-RE>

Ingram, J., Mudrak, E., Tran, L., Curtis, M., **Mattupalli, C.**, Gudmestad, N., ... and Filiatrault, M. 2025. A robust potato tuber tissue collection method to investigate potato virus Y, potato mop-top virus, and tobacco rattle virus localization patterns. *Plant Disease*. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-11-24-2453-RE>

Kantor, C., **Teixeira, M.**, Kantor, M., and **Gleason, C.** 2025. Tiny invaders, big trouble: Emerging nematode threats in the United States. *Phytopathology* 115:587-595. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHYTO-09-24-0290-IA>

**Ko, I.**, Chapman, T., Nazarov, T., Uwugiaren, R., Smertenko, A., Chandrakanth, N. N., and Oates, D. 2025. Grain under pressure: Harnessing biochemical pathways to beat drought and heat in wheat. *The Plant Journal*, 122(6), e70253.

Mnguni, F. C., Shin, G. Y., **du Toit, L. J.**, **Derie, M. L.**, & Coutinho, T. A. 2025. *Ewingella allii* sp. nov. isolated from a diseased onion plant in the Columbia Basin of Washington State, USA. *Antonie van Leeuwenhoek*, 118(8), 115. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10482-025-02116-6>

Munkvold, G., **du Toit, L.**, & Dunkle, R. 2025. Seed pathology: Challenges and advances in ensuring a safe global seed supply. *Annual Review of Phytopathology*, 63:20.1–20.20. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-phyto-121423-093855>

**Puglisi, J. T.**, and **Amiri, A.** 2025. Mycotoxigenic potential of *Penicillium expansum* isolates with multiple resistance profiles to Thiabendazole, Pyrimethanil, and Fludioxonil. *Plant Disease* [10.1094/PDIS-04-25-0882-RE](https://doi.org/10.1094/PDIS-04-25-0882-RE).

**Puri, P.**, **Tanaka, K.**, Sathuvalli, V., and **Mattupalli, C.** 2025. Screening advanced russet potato breeding clones for resistance to silver scurf. *Plant Health Progress*. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PHP-03-25-0087-PDMR>

**Parks, J. M.**, Stiffler, B. J., and **Friesen, M. L.** 2025. Plant control drives shifts in plant associated bacterial communities with nitrogen fertilization in a pea-canola intercropping system. *Phytobiomes Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PBIOMES-01-25-0005-R>.

**Upadhaya, A.**, **Wang, M. N.**, Xiang, C., **Fatima, N.**, Ryneerson, S., **Ruff, T.**, **See, D. R.**, Pumphrey, M., and **Chen, X. M.** 2025. QTL mapping and developing KASP markers for high-temperature adult-plant resistance to stripe rust in Argentinian spring wheat William Som (PI 184597). *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* 26(11):5072. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijms26115072>

**Upadhaya, A., Wang, M. N., Fatima, N., Brooke, M., Ruff, T., See, D. R., Brueggeman, R., and Chen, X. M.** 2025. Genome-wide association mapping of loci conferring all-stage and high-temperature adult-plant resistance to stripe rust in a global spring barley collection. *Theoretical and Applied Genetics* 138:176. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00122-025-04963-3>

Yang, M., Schlatter, D. C., LeTourneau, M. K., Wen, S., **Mavrodi, D. V.**, Mavrodi, O. V., ... and **Paulitz, T. C.** 2025. Eight years in the soil: temporal dynamics of wheat-associated bacterial communities under dryland and irrigated conditions. *Phytobiomes Journal*, 9(2), 173-188. <https://doi.org/10.1094/PBIOMES-02-24-0028-R>

*Please let us know if we missed your publication so we can include it next month.*

# Funding and Opportunities



**From APS: "Is your work or research related to a timely and impactful topic in plant health? Share your recent impact statement or answer quick questions on your research, and you could win free registration to [Plant Health 2026](#) in Providence, Rhode Island!**

Learn more about the [APS Outreach Project](#), check out science from members, and [submit your science](#) by **August 31, 2025**, to be entered into our Plant Health 2026 drawing."

**Apply now to the Arizona State University and *Science* Prize for Transformational Impact!**

Arizona State University and *Science* have partnered to create the ASU–*Science* Prize for Transformational Impact. The grand prize winner will receive a prize of \$30,000, and their prize-winning essay will be published in *Science* online and print. A runner-up will receive \$10,000 and have their essay published in *Science* online. The deadline to submit an essay is **August 15, 2025**. More information can be found [here](#). Thank you, **Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka**, for sharing this opportunity.

**Apply now for the Plants Travel Award!**

This award provides financial support for the winners to attend an international conference in the field of plant science to be held in 2026, in order to hold a presentation, present a poster, or both. More information can be found [here](#). The application deadline is **October 31, 2025**. Thank you, **Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka**, for sharing this opportunity.

## Seminars



**Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli will be leading the seminar series in Fall 2025.** The seminars are scheduled every Monday from 4:10 to 5 pm. Thank you, Dr. Mattupalli, for providing the seminar schedule for the fall semester.

List of PL\_P 515 speakers for Fall 2025 semester

Day	Speaker	Affiliation
Aug 18	Student Orientation (No seminar)	NA
Aug 25	Dr. Kiwamu Tanaka	Washington State University
Sep 1	Labor Day (HOLIDAY)	NA
Sep 8	Nosheen Fatima	Washington State University
Sep 15	Taylor McNees	Washington State University
Sep 22	Dr. Amy Charkowski	Colorado State University
Sep 29	Dr. Erick De Wolf (Student invited speaker)	Kansas State University
Oct 6	Harpreet Kaur	Washington State University
Oct 13	Kristen Bullough – Exit seminar	Washington State University
Oct 20	Mason Hoskins – Exit seminar	Washington State University
Oct 27	Dr. Ken Frost	Oregon State University
Nov 3	Mary Steele	Washington State University
Nov 10	Dr. Carolee Bull	The Pennsylvania State University
Nov 17	Dr. Tim Paultitz	USDA-ARS/Washington State University
Nov 24	Thanksgiving Break (HOLIDAY)	NA
Dec 1	Dr. Shawna Rowe	Washington State University

## Jobs



### Postdoctoral Positions

- Dr. Faust and Dr. Schnabel at Clemson University (SC) are hiring a postdoc to work on Botrytis blight in ornamental crops. The application is due July 31 and can be found [here](#).

### Technician, Industry, and Other Non-Academic Positions

- The Arkansas Nematode Diagnostic Laboratory in Hope, AR, is hiring a lead diagnostician and manager. The job is listed [here](#).
- Bartlett Tree Experts is hiring a molecular plant disease and insect diagnostician in Charlotte, NC. The job is posted [here](#).
- Driscoll's is hiring a nursery plant health associate based in Watsonville, CA. The job posting can be found [here](#).
- The Cal Poly Strawberry Center is hiring a lab technician. MS preferred. More information can be found [here](#).

- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is hiring Biological Science Laboratory technicians. The job posting is [here](#).

### **Faculty Positions**

- The University of Sydney (Australia) is hiring a lecturer/senior lecturer in plant pathology. Applications are due August 10 (Australia time). The posting is [here](#).
- Cornell University is hiring an Assistant Professor in the Department of Plant Pathology & Plant-Microbe Biology to work in vegetable pathology. The job is posted [here](#).
- The University of Arkansas is hiring an Assistant Professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology to work on soilborne pathogens. More information can be found [here](#).
- Oregon State University is hiring an associate or full professor in their Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, to also serve as the herbarium director. The posting is [here](#).