

Molecular Plant Sciences Graduate Program
Spring 2026 Seminar Series (MPS 515)
Wednesdays at 12:10pm

Date	Speaker	Department	Title
1/21/2026	Dr. Hana Zand Karimi	School of Biological Sciences	"Proteasomes in the Apoplast: New Players in Plant Defense and Immune Signaling."
2/4/2026	Kaone Abanikannda	Crop and Soil Sciences	"What Happens When Soil Microbial Systems Face a Hotter, Drier, Saltier World?"
2/11/2026	Jannelle Andrews	Institute of Biological Chemistry	"Determinants of substrate specificity in mint pulegone reductase, a double bond reductase of the medium-chain dehydrogenase/reductase superfamily."
2/18/2026	Chun-Yeung Ng	Institute of Biological Chemistry	"The physiological roles of the intrinsically disordered L80 peptide of starch phosphorylase 1."
3/11/2026	Somnath Koley	Research Assistant Professor at Oak Ridge Innovation Institute	
3/25/2026	Daphne Crum	Horticulture	"Linking Starch Structure, Genetics, and Postharvest Physiology to Russet Potato Performance and Consumer Adoption."
4/1/2026	Ruth Uwugiaren	Crop and Soil Sciences	"Genomic localization of an introgressed blue aleurone gene to reduce linkage drag and enhance anthocyanin content in wheat."
4/8/2026	Se Eun Jung	Institute of Biological Chemistry	"Surviving Drought by Advancing Plant Embolism Resistance."
4/15/2026	Joe Essien	Institute of Biological Chemistry	"Harnessing One Carbon (C1) metabolism for efficient Photorespiration (C2) processing and detoxification in Arabidopsis thaliana."
4/22/2026	Dr. David Jackson	Professor, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	"Identifying New Stem Cell Regulators in Plants Using Single-Cell Sequencing, and Tradeoffs Between Stem Cell Function and Heat Stress."
4/29/2026	Dr. Jen Wisecaver	School of Biological Sciences	"Extreme genome variation and giant polyketide synthase genes in toxic bloom-forming algae."