

## 2026 Midwest ASPB-IPG Symposium Schedule

The symposium will be held in the Christopher S. Bond Life Sciences Center at the University of Missouri. Registration and all presentations will be in **Monsanto Auditorium** (ground floor). The poster sessions, continental breakfasts, meals, and coffee breaks will be in **McQuinn Atrium** (first floor).

### **Friday, April 24th**

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM – Tours of the Bond Life Sciences Center and East Campus Plant Growth Facility

Meet outside of Monsanto Auditorium, Bond Life Sciences Center

### **Saturday, April 25th**

7:15 AM – 8:15 AM - Registration and Refreshments

7:15 AM – 10:30 AM - Poster Set-Up

**8:30-8:35 Welcome - David Braun, Soyon Park and Rebecca Roston**

**8:35-8:45 Opening Remarks**

**Jeni Hart**, Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies, University of Missouri

**8:45-10:30 Session One**

*Session Chairs: Soyon Park and Lydia Phillips*

8:45 **Session Keynote**

**Rose A. Marks**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

*Life Without Water: Evolution and Biodiversity of Resurrection Plants*

9:15 **Anuradha Singh**, Michigan State University

*Integrating UAV-Based Phenotyping and Genomic Predictions for Improving Plant Architecture and Biomass Yield in Sorghum*

9:30 **Mandeep Singh**, South Dakota State University

*Breaking Barriers: Genomic Insights into Wheat Root Tip Sharpness for Hard and Dry Soils*

9:45 **Naseem Samo**, University of Kansas

*Selection on telomere homeostasis drives the adaptive evolution of TERT in Mimulus*

10:00 **Meghan Boozer**, University of Missouri

*Analyzing Azetidine-2-Carboxylic Acid-Resistant Transgenic Arabidopsis thaliana*

10:15 **Allyson Angermeier**, Donald Danforth Plant Science Center

*Visualization and quantification of photosynthetic Anabaena and Chlamydomonas by 3D cryo-volume electron microscopy*

10:30-11:20 Break and Poster Session (Odd Numbered Posters)

**11:30-12:30 Session Two**

*Session Chair: Prashant Sonawane*

11:30 **Session Keynote**

**Shuai Huang**, The Ohio State University

*Biomolecular condensates in plant immunity*

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- 12:00 **Meenhu Singla**, Indiana University  
*An RNA coat for plant leaves: Ally to commensals, guard against pathogens, or both?*
- 12:15 **ASPB Information/Overview**
- 12:30-2:00 Lunch with Industry Discussions
- 2:00-3:30 Session Three**  
*Session Chairs:* Jie Zhu and Norman Best
- 2:00 **Session Keynote**  
**Michelle Guo**, Iowa State University  
*Elucidating Context-Specific Receptor Kinase Signaling*
- 2:30 **Lauren Apprill**, Kansas State University  
*A novel GIR1-ATML1 repression complex regulating giant cell formation and glucosinolate biosynthesis in Arabidopsis sepals*
- 2:45 **Maria Castellon**, University of Missouri  
*Biosynthetic Pathway of the Cardiac Toxins from Pink Oleander*
- 3:00 **Addison Kuecker** and **Corra Yockey**, Augustana University  
*Expansins and their effect on leaf angle in Sorghum bicolor*
- 3:15 **Frederick Mildenhall**, Purdue University  
*Sudden Cold Stress Induces Static Expression of Circadian Clock Genes in Tomato but Not In Arabidopsis*
- 3:30-4:20 Break and Poster Session (Even Numbered Posters)
- 4:30-5:30 Session Four**  
*Session Chairs:* Corri Hamilton and Zach Traylor
- 4:30 **Rachel Weber**, University of Missouri  
*Uncovering the specific contribution of laccases and peroxidases to lignin polymerization in Arabidopsis thaliana*
- 4:45 **Thi Kim Ha Nguyen**, University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
*Dissecting the cellular trafficking pathways mediated by the Arabidopsis proteins AtNHR2A and AtNHR2B*
- 5:00 **Jae Morris**, Washington University, St Louis  
*Molecular Basis of Dual Lignin Biosynthesis in Grasses*
- 5:15 **Dinakaran Elango**, Iowa State University  
*In Situ Detection of Methyl Jasmonate Using Plant-Wearable Sensors to Quantify Genotype-Dependent Herbivory Resistance*
- 5:30-6:15 Plenary**  
*Session Chair:* Soyon Park  
**Dong Xu**, University of South Florida  
*Applications of AI in Plant Science and Agriculture: Case Studies and Insights*
- 6:15-7:30 Dinner**
- 7:30-9:30 Poster Session and Ice Cream Social**  
7:30-8:30 Odd Numbered Posters  
8:30-9:30 Even Numbered Posters

## 2026 Midwest ASPB-IPG Symposium Schedule

### **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM - Registration and Continental Breakfast

7:45 AM – 8:15 AM - Continental Breakfast and Midwest ASPB Chapter Meeting

#### **8:30-10:00 Session Five**

*Session Chairs:* Jaime Barros-Rios and Ruthie Angelovici

8:30 **Session Keynote**

**Craig Schenck**, University of Missouri

*A metabolic balancing act: How plants manage toxic metabolic production*

9:00 **Anuradha Dhingra**, Washington University, St Louis

*A Matter of Time: Circadian Rhythms Reshapes Immune Timing and Defense in Tomato*

9:15 **Carissa Bersche**, University of Missouri

*Defining the genetic interaction of vesicular trafficking components and immune proteins in plant immunity*

9:30 **Terence Seldon Kwafo**, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

*Growth in Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> Concentration Decreases Nutrient Concentration but Paradoxically Increases Nutrient Yield in Soybean*

9:45 **Kirti Tyagi**, The Ohio State University

*Defining the role of the WtsE effector pore domain in apoplastic niche establishment by *Pantoea stewartii**

10:00-10:25 Break

#### **10:30-11:45 Session Six**

*Session Chairs:* Lloyd Sumner and Joseph Lynch

10:30 **Session Keynote**

**Daniela Strenkert**, Michigan State University

*Characterization of ferredoxin-dependent electron distribution to balance reductive metabolism within chloroplast*

11:00 **Ranjita Sinha**, University of Missouri

*bHLH35 mediates specificity in plant responses to multiple stress conditions*

11:15 **Liang Zhang**, University of Georgia

*A novel RG-I acetyltransferase that functions in vascular tissue and root cap*

11:30 **Burcu Alptekin**, Ohio University

*Plant Stress Adaptation Beyond Earth Through Application of Synthetic Microbiomes*

11:45 **Poster and Oral Talk Awards**

**Paula McSteen**

Noon **Closing Remarks**

**David Braun, Soyon Park and Rebecca Roston**