

ASPB MIDWESTERN SECTION NEWSLETTER

States included: IA, IL, IN, KS, KY, MI, MN, MO, ND, NE, OH, OK, SD, WV, WI Canada - MB, ON



Annual Midwest Section Meeting Registration Open!

Important Details

When: March 21 – 22, 2020

Where: University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hosting at the Hilton Garden Inn, Champaign, IL

Abstract Deadlines

Feb 14 for consideration for a talk

Mar 8 for poster inclusion in program

Official Hashtag #ASPBW20

The 2020 Midwest ASPB Meeting continues our tradition of presenting, discussing, and celebrating research pursuits from all areas of plant science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The topics presented at the meeting are intentionally varied in subject to encompass a diverse group of scientists who work with plants and agricultural systems, or in a number of related disciplines including soil science, engineering, genomics, and computer science. Scientists from all career stages and diverse positions are invited to attend and encouraged to showcase their research through poster and oral presentations. In particular, the meeting provides early career researchers, including undergraduate and graduate students as well as postdoctoral associates, the opportunity to present their plant-related research efforts in oral and poster formats. Prizes will be awarded for outstanding student oral and poster presentations.

Abstract submission is currently open! Your abstract can be up to 300 words (excluding the title, authors' names, department and institute affiliations). If you are interested in being considered for an oral presentation, please submit your abstract by February

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14. All abstract submitted by March 13 will be accepted for poster presentations and included in the abstract book. After March 13, there will be limited space for additional posters.

Registration costs are \$25 for undergraduate students, \$40 for graduate students, \$50 for postdoctoral associates, \$80 for professionals who are MW-ASPB members, and \$100 for non-member professionals.

Travel grants are available to assist those in financial need and to enhance participation of individuals from underrepresented groups. If you want to apply for a travel grant, please select the option on the abstract submission form and answer the indicated questions. To be considered for a travel grant, you must submit your abstract by February 14.

For more information about the meeting, and to register and submit abstracts, please visit the Midwest Section website:

<https://midwest.aspb.org/meeting/>. Connect with us on social media using the official hashtag for the meeting #ASPBW20

Five Questions with Midwest Section member...

Carina Collins: Carina is an Assistant Professor at Drury University in Springfield, Missouri

1) What is your favorite thing about living and working in the Midwest?

The Midwest is home for me, so I enjoy being close to friends and family. The cost of living really helps too.

2) What has been the benefit to you of belonging to the Midwest section of ASPB?

Because I work at a small PUI, I don't often get to have interactions with colleagues who study plants, so ASPB has really been my outlet for collaborating with researchers at other institutions. And of course for making awesome friends as well!

3) What projects are you excited about working on in the future?

As far as research is concerned, my students have been working really hard and we have some exciting new things to share. I'm constantly experimenting with the way I teach my classes and this semester I am teaching cell biology entirely as an inquiry-based class and I'm really excited to see what my students accomplish!



"...ASPB has really been my outlet for collaborating with researchers at other institutions."

4) Who or what has inspired your work the most?

Hands-down one of my undergraduate professors, Dr. Tara Allen. She is currently a teaching faculty member at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, but she is the one who first instilled in me a confidence in my ability to be a scientist! She also inspired me to teach and work with undergraduates.

5) What's your favorite non-science activity and why?

I love reading! Particularly stories about friendship and near-future dystopian stories. I recently taught myself to knit, and it is quickly turning into one of my favorite pastimes. So far I've made several hats, a few headbands, and one really ugly scarf.



The PALM Network Grant

Why limit mentoring to research? PALM supports mentoring in teaching. Develop your abilities to teach lecture courses using active learning by working with an experienced active learning instructor. Receive up to **\$2000** per Fellow / **\$500** mentor stipend / **\$1000** meeting travel each for Fellow and mentor.



"Through PALM, I have formed a collaboration with a fabulous mentor who has successfully transformed her classrooms to this model. I have learned a lot about incorporating these activities into my classroom, and it has allowed me to meet other amazing biology professors and take new ideas back to my home institution."

—Calli Versagli

"Interacting with other experienced educators using student-centered approaches at a diversity of institutions reinforces the realization that higher education is undergoing a sea change, from being a place that delivers teaching to a place where student learning and development occurs. And that's exciting."

—Kelsey Metzger

As a PALM Fellow, you will:

- Improve your teaching with feedback and mentorship from experienced active learning instructors
- Learn various strategies for teaching lecture courses more effectively using active learning
- Create ready-to-use instructional materials based on research on learning
- Discuss key findings from education research that have immediate application in the classroom through online journal clubs and in-person meetings
- Become part of a nationwide community of scientists dedicated to effective teaching
- Network within and across scientific societies that support scientists in teaching and learning careers

Apply to be a PALM Fellow



For more information, including **eligibility requirements**, **application details**, and to **learn about how to be paired with a mentor** if you don't have one in mind, visit

palmnetwork.org

2020 Application Deadlines: Jan 30, April 30, July 30, Oct 30



PALM is funded by NSF Research Coordination Network in Undergraduate Biology Education grant #1624200.

3RD ANNUAL PLANT SCIENCES SYMPOSIUM**MARCH 27–28, 2020****The Ohio State University
2020 Plant Sciences Symposium****ADVANCING PLANT HEALTH THROUGH COLLABORATION**

This is an annual conference showcasing research across the different areas in plant science.

The mission is to:

- Enhance discussions among individuals in academia and in private industry,
- Provide an opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students to share high quality plant science research
- Expose companies to qualified candidates
- Promote collaborations between plant scientists at Ohio State and other universities.

Location:

Nationwide & Ohio Farm Bureau
4-H Center
2201 Fred Taylor Dr,
Columbus, OH 43210

Registration is free but required.

Registration and more information at
u.osu.edu/plantsciencessymposium/

The symposium will feature keynote speakers, workshops, poster and oral competitions. There will be awards for graduate and undergraduate students.

osuplantsciencessymposium@gmail.com

**The Ohio State University
Plant Sciences Symposium**

[@OSU_PlantSciSym](https://twitter.com/OSU_PlantSciSym)**Submit your abstract by January 17th, 2020**

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES.

**THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Plant Postdoc Slack – A community resource for professional development

By Arif Ashraf and Sunil K. Kenchanmane Raju

Postdoc Researchers

University of Massachusetts Amherst and Michigan State University

Plant Postdoc Slack is a recently started online community for plant biologists. The idea was inspired by Future PI Slack and initiated by two plant biology postdocs, Sunil K. Kenchanmane Raju (Michigan State University) and Arif Ashraf (University of Massachusetts Amherst).

Plant Postdoc Slack envision to be a safe community for postdocs working in plant-related field to share, discuss, and plan for their next career move. During the postdoc phase, everyone goes through the same process of preparing application material to land a more independent position in industry or academia. In the slack group, we believe that by working together can make this process a little less stressful. Postdoc slack members help each other peer-review application materials, provide advice, share information about opportunities, and benefit everyone in the process. The slack

channel contains resources for preparing application materials, a community updated job board for both industry and academic job as well as active discussion threads providing tips and suggestions on different aspect of the job application process.

Plant Postdoc Slack is rapidly gaining attention in the plant biology community. Within a few months of its initiation, the group has gained more than 1,000 followers on twitter, hundred fifty active members in the slack channel, and thousands of visitors to the website. If you are a plant postdoc in plant-related fields, consider joining this vibrant community. To know more about Plant Postdoc Slack, visit the website (www.plantpostdocs.com) and follow on Twitter ([@plantpostdocs](https://twitter.com/plantpostdocs)) to get regular updates.



Plant Postdoc Slack

Announcements

New Plant Cell Editor-in-Chief

Blake Meyers, Professor, Division of Plant Sciences University of Missouri – Columbia, is now the Editor-in-Chief of The Plant Cell. Please share your congratulations with him at bmeyers@danforthcenter.org.

UK researchers find new soybean pathway that responds to pathogenic and beneficial microbes

Dr. Aardra Kachroo's team at Department of Plant Pathology at University of Kentucky have published a new paper in Nature Communications. For more details see the news release <https://news.ca.uky.edu/article/uk-researchers-find-new-soybean-pathway-responds-pathogenic-and-beneficial-microbes>.

2020 Ohio PKAL Regional Network Annual Conference Evidence Based Learning: Transforming STEM Education for All Undergraduate Students University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College | May 9, 2020

Join us for the Ohio Project Kaleidoscope (OH-PKAL) 6th annual one-day conference, Evidence-Based Learning: Transforming STEM Education for All Undergraduate Students on Saturday May 9, 2020. The program includes oral presentations, posters, and workshops promoting evidence-based practices across five important themes.

Specific themes to be addressed are:

- Transformative Teaching Practices in Undergraduate STEM Education: First Year Through Upper Level Courses
- Use of Metacognitive Learning Strategies to Support All Students
- Best Research-based Practices in Use of Technology and Online Learning
- Promoting Transferable Workplace/Career Skills in the College Setting
- Creating Learning Environments that Foster Equitable Student Engagement and Success

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.aacu.org/pkal/regional/ohio>

Specific questions about the conference can be directed to OH-PKAL Conference Chair Krista E. Wood at Krista.Wood@uc.edu

Haywood appointed as Content Editor for CourseSource

Valerie Haywood, faculty member in the Biology Department at Case Western Reserve University and ASPB Education Committee member, has been appointed as Plant Biology and Cell & Molecular Biology content editor for the journal *CourseSource*, effective September 2019. *CourseSource* is an open-access journal of peer-reviewed teaching resources for college biological science courses. A key feature of *CourseSource* is the alignment of articles with learning goals and objectives that were developed by the associated professional societies.

DNA methylation mini-review published

The Niederhuth lab at the Department of Plant Biology, Michigan State University recently published an invited mini review on DNA methylation in plants. This review published in *Essays in Biochemistry* provides an excellent primer for understanding the evolution and function of non-CG methylation in plants. (<https://portlandpress.com/essaysbiochem/article/doi/10.1042/EBC20190032/220682/Establishment-maintenance-and-biological-roles-of>)

Plant Biology 2020

The annual ASPB meeting will take place July 25 – 29, Washington DC. To be considered for a concurrent session abstracts are due February 20 by 11:59 pm eastern. To be included in the online program abstracts must be received by June 19, 2020 by 11:59 pm eastern. Abstracts are welcome from scientists and students in all sectors, including academia, government, and industry. Full details on registration, abstract submission, hotel information, optional events and more at <http://plantbiology.aspb.org/>

Don't forget to connect online with hashtag #PlantBio20 and on Plantae:

<https://community.plantae.org/organization/plant-biology-2020/dashboard>

Want to advertise a position, share some exciting news, or be featured in our next newsletter?

We would also love to hear about your best lab tips and techniques in plant biology!

Please send items to Jennifer Robison no later than May 1, 2020: JDRobison@manchester.edu