

Botany & Plant Sciences



One of the best plant biology programs in the US featuring a wide range of research areas

Contact:

Plant Biology Undergraduate Program

Undergraduate Faculty Advisors:

Dr. Thomas Eulgem (thomas.eulgem@ucr.edu)

Dr. Darrel Jenerette (darrel.jenerette@ucr.edu)

Plant Biology Graduate Program

Graduate Staff Advisor:

Laura McGeehan (laura.mcgeehan@ucr.edu)

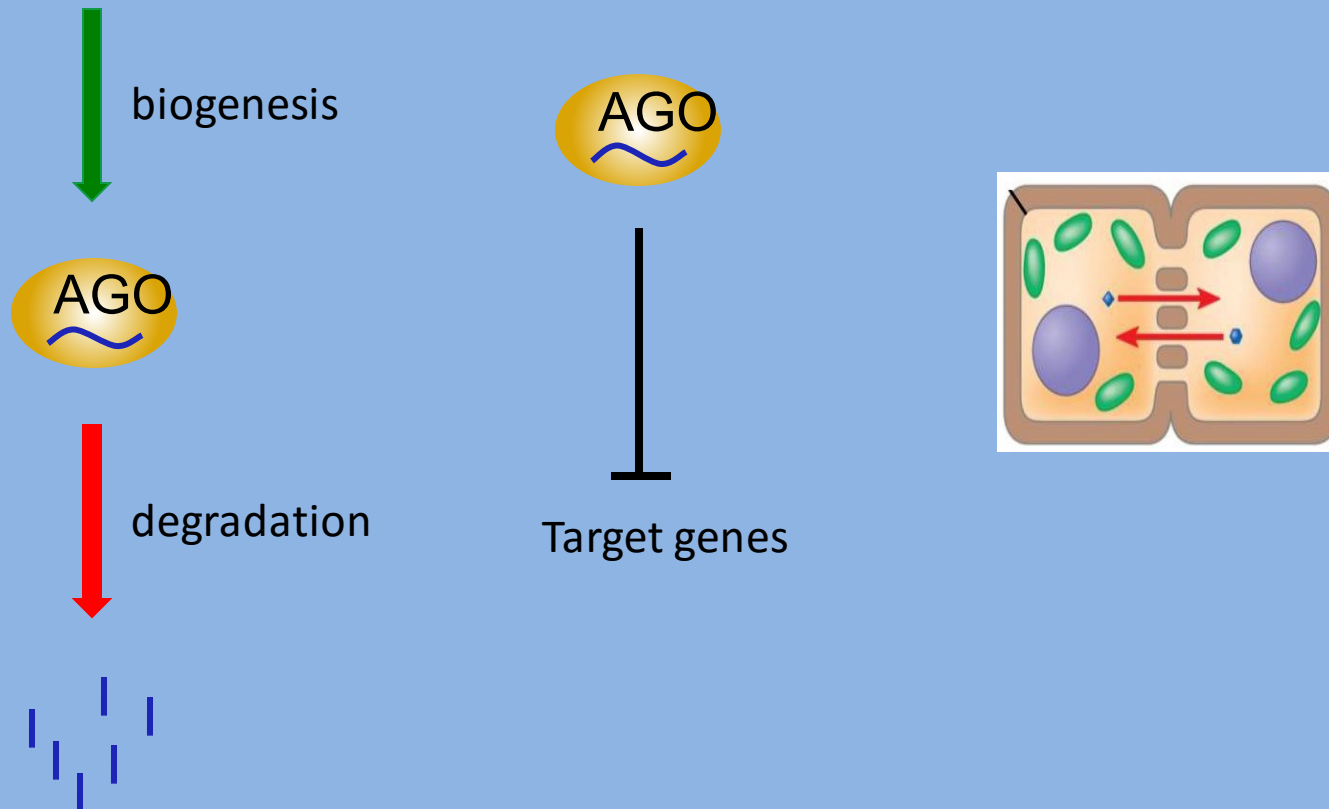
Graduate Advisor for Recruitment:

Dr. Sean Cutler (sean.cutler@ucr.edu)

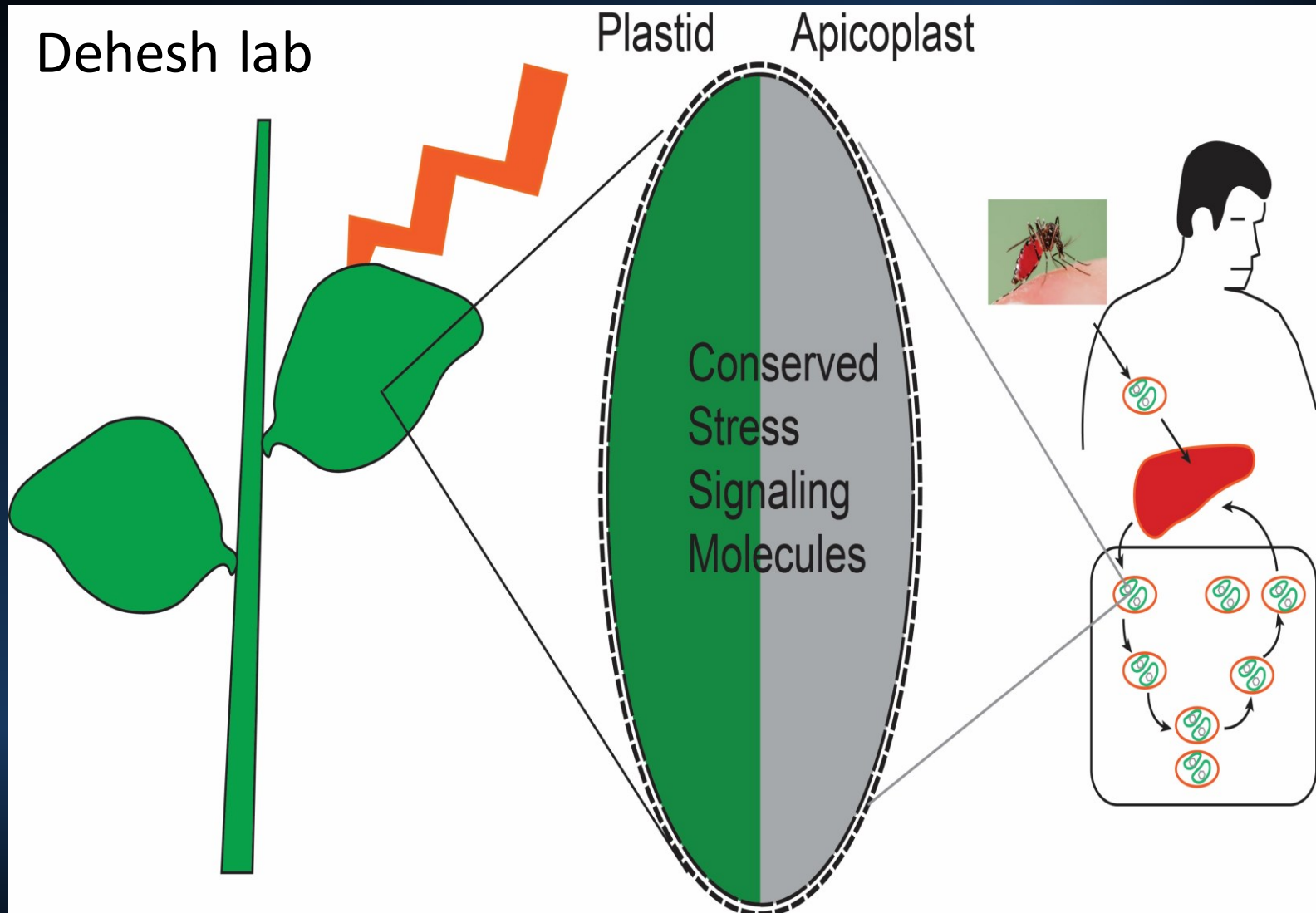
Department Chair

Dr. Patricia Springer (bpschair@ucr.edu)

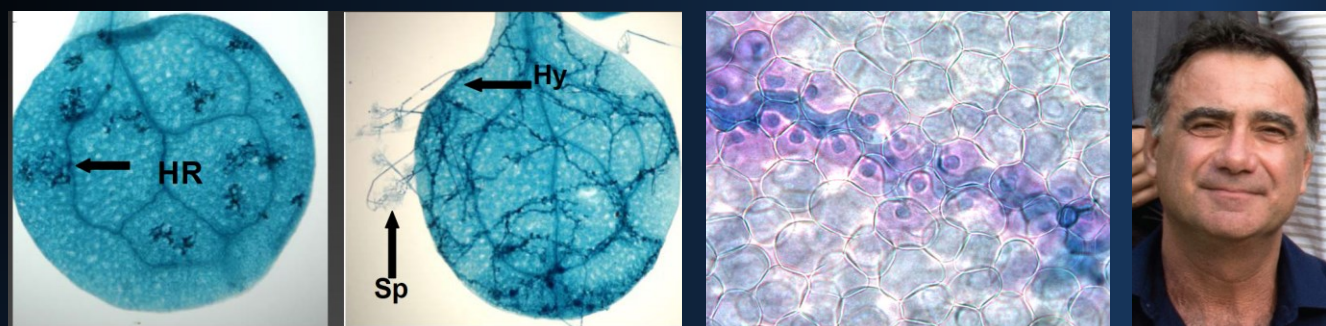
Research in Xuemei Chen's lab aims at uncovering mechanisms underlying the metabolism, activities, and cell-to-cell movement of microRNAs using Arabidopsis as a model



Unravel the function of conserved stress signaling molecules in plants and human pathogens



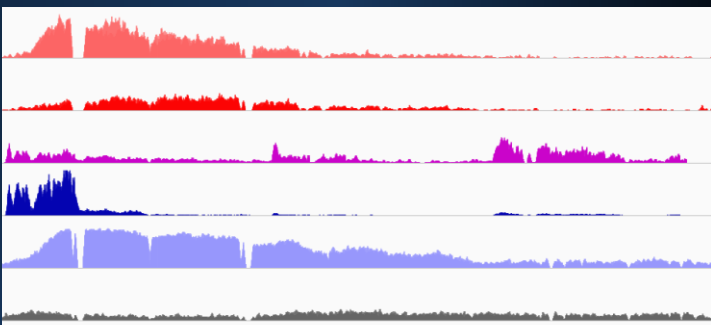
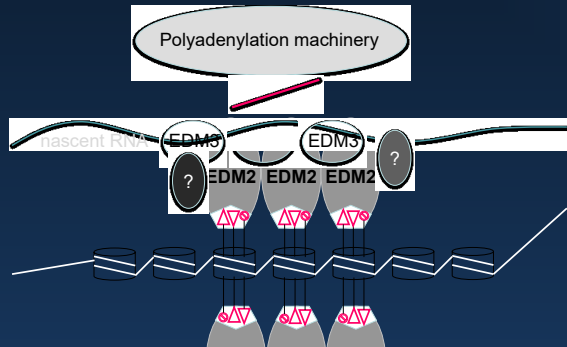
Eulgem Lab: Plant Immunity/Defense Gene Regulation



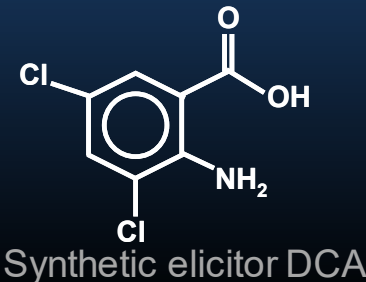
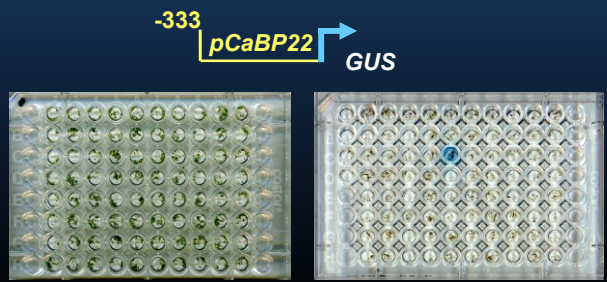
PI: Thomas Eulgem
thomas.eulgem@ucr.edu

Main research areas:

- Epigenetic mechanisms of plant immune receptor gene expression



- Synthetic elicitors as innovative pesticide alternatives



Jenerette Lab UC Riverside – Landscape and Ecosystem Functioning

How do plants in a city affect human well-being?
What controls distributions of urban plants?



Trees throughout Urban Southern California

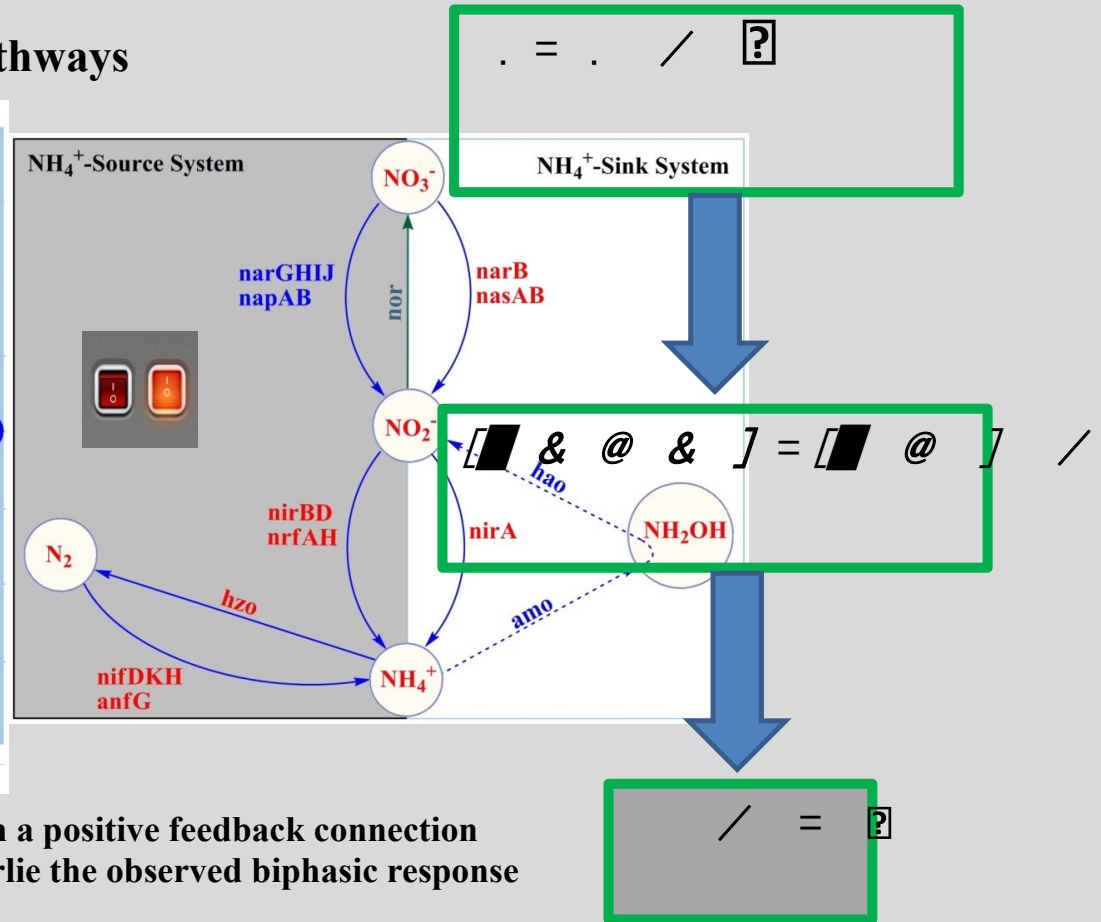
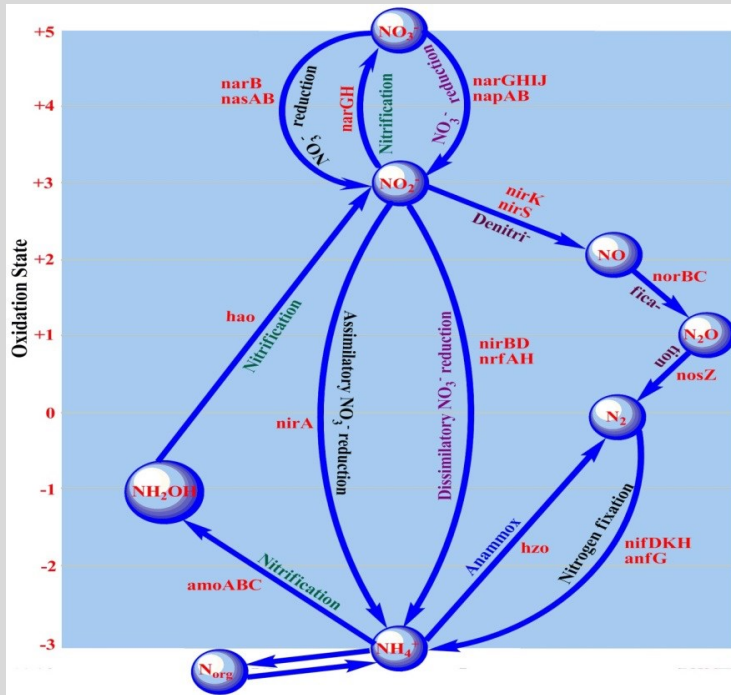
Remote Sensing – Environmental Sensors – Field Surveys – Modeling

PI: Darrel Jenerette - darrel.jenerette@ucr.edu

Li Lab: Modeling Ecological Complexity

---Integration from genomes to ecosystems

Belowground Nitrogen metabolic pathways



Bistable switch-like control has emerged through a positive feedback connection between N-source and N-sink systems that underlie the observed biphasic response of the nitrogen biochemical network.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1098/rsos.160768>

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.isci.2018.03.007>

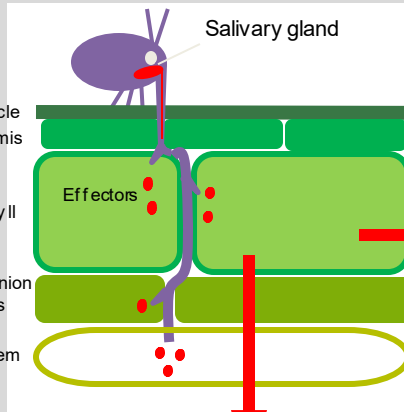
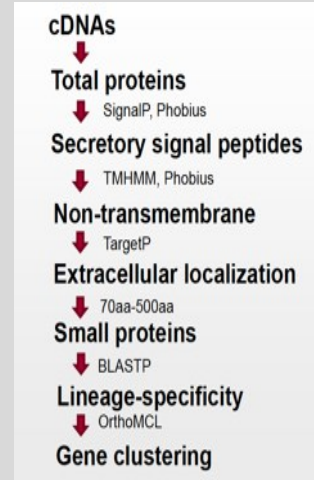
PI: Bai-Lian (Larry) Li - bai-lian.li@ucr.edu

[Conservation cycle]

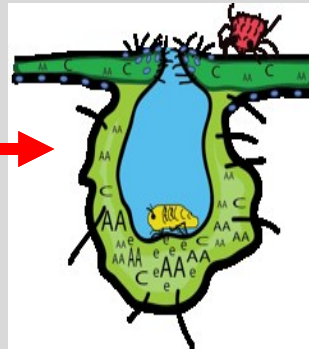


Comparative and functional genetics of insect effector proteins

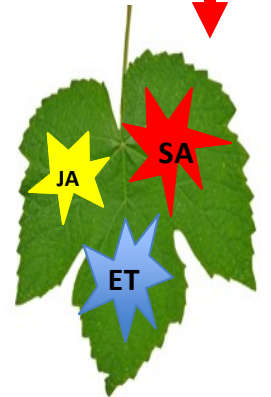
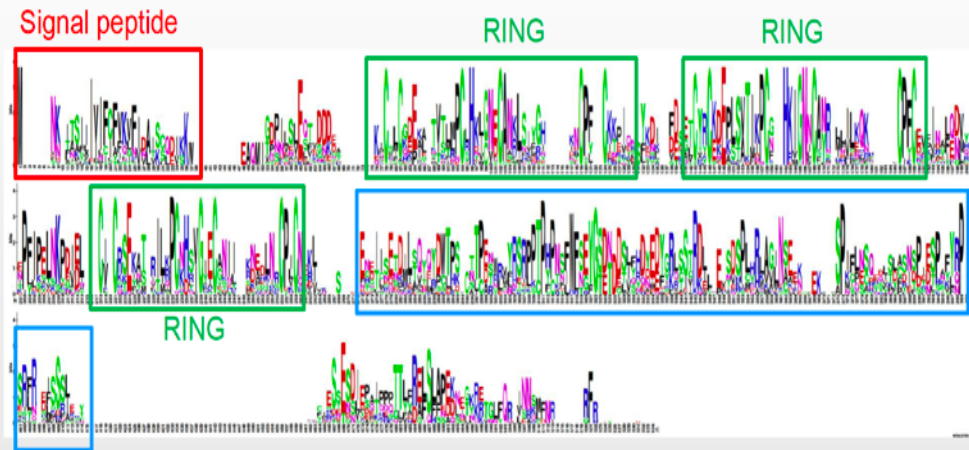
- Model and Non-model Organisms (Arabidopsis, grape, woody plants)
- Bioinformatics of Next Generation Sequencing
- Functional and Molecular Genetics (protein interactions, CRISPR)
- Interdisciplinary (entomology, plant biology, evolutionary biology)



Gall formation



Ring-type E3 ubiquitin ligase



Plant defense



Dr. Paul Nabity and lab

Insect effector targeting plant ubiquitination

Plant cell division – Rasmussen Lab at UC

PI: Carolyn Rasmussen
carolyn.rasmussen@ucr.edu

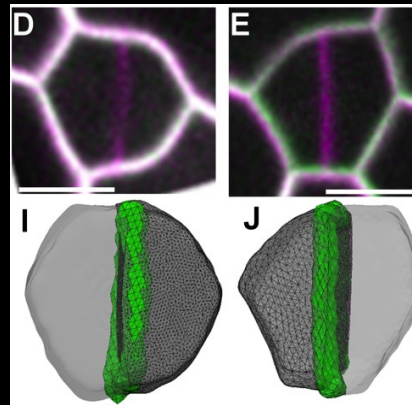
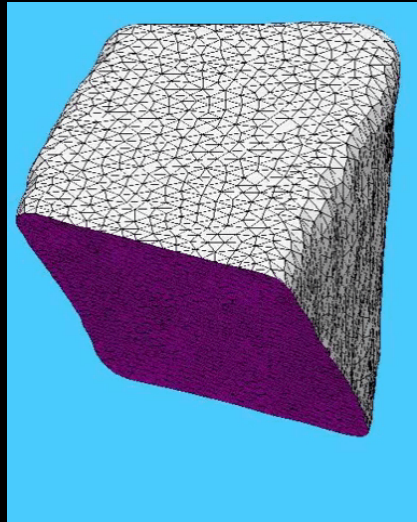
Riverside



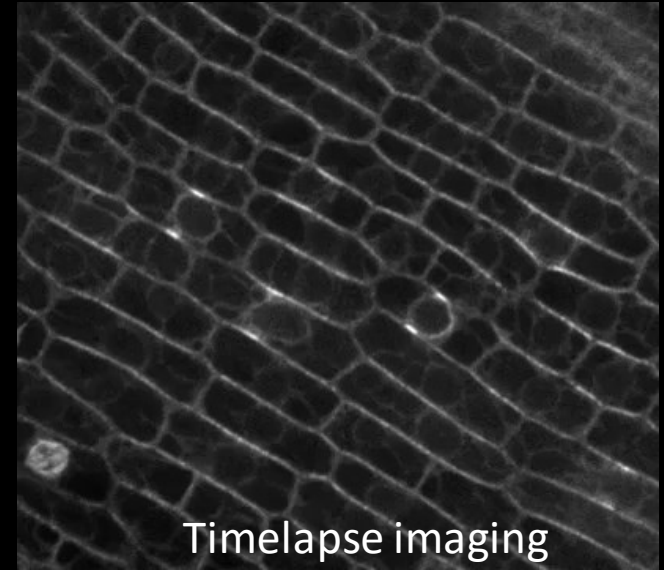
Maize



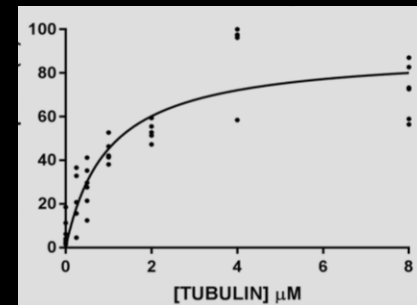
Arabidopsis



Mathematical modeling and division plane prediction



Timelapse imaging

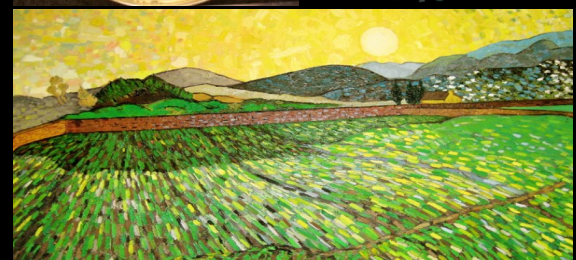
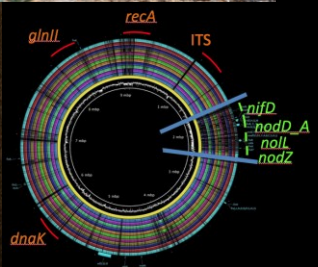
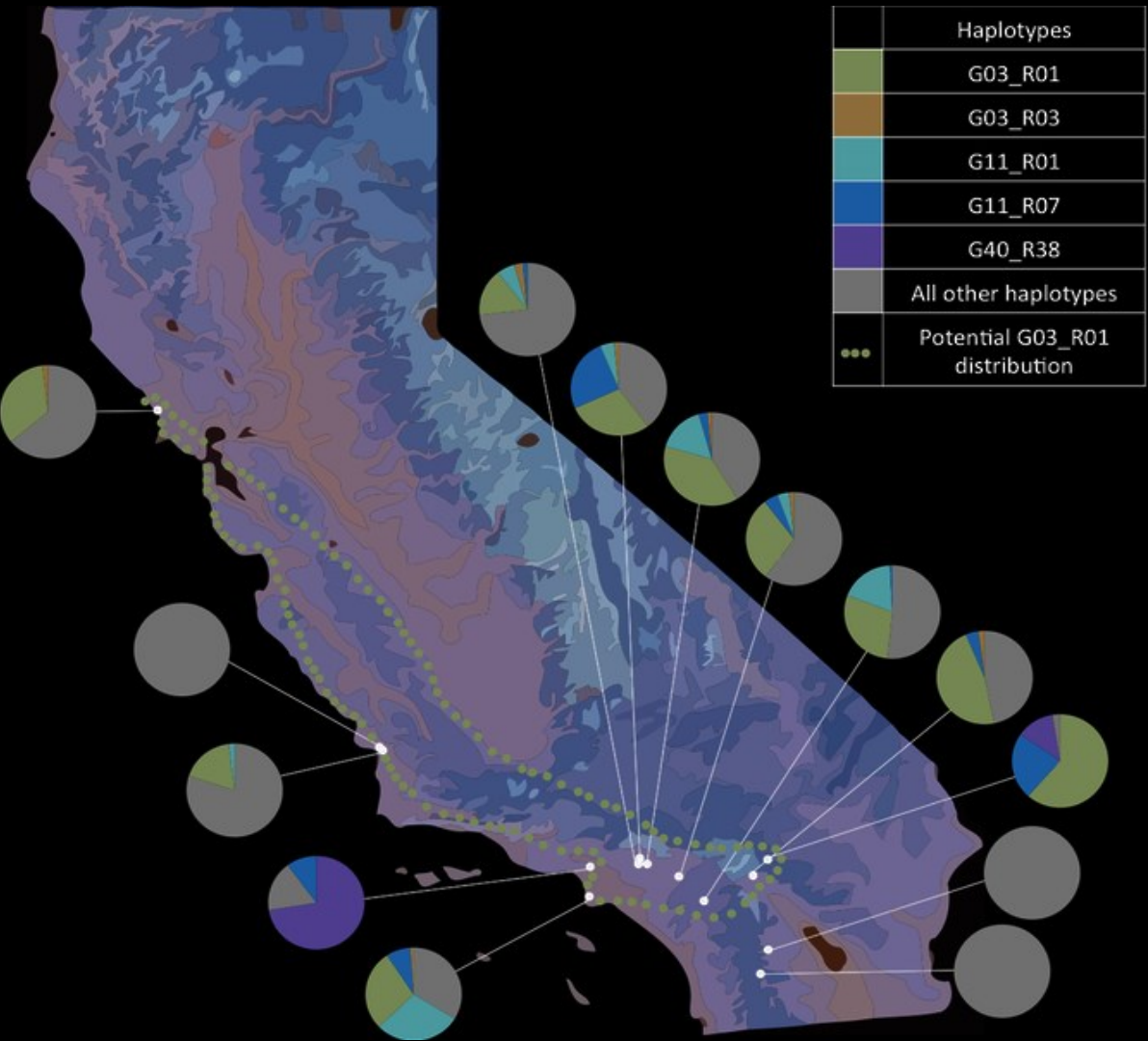


Quantitative Biochemical Analysis



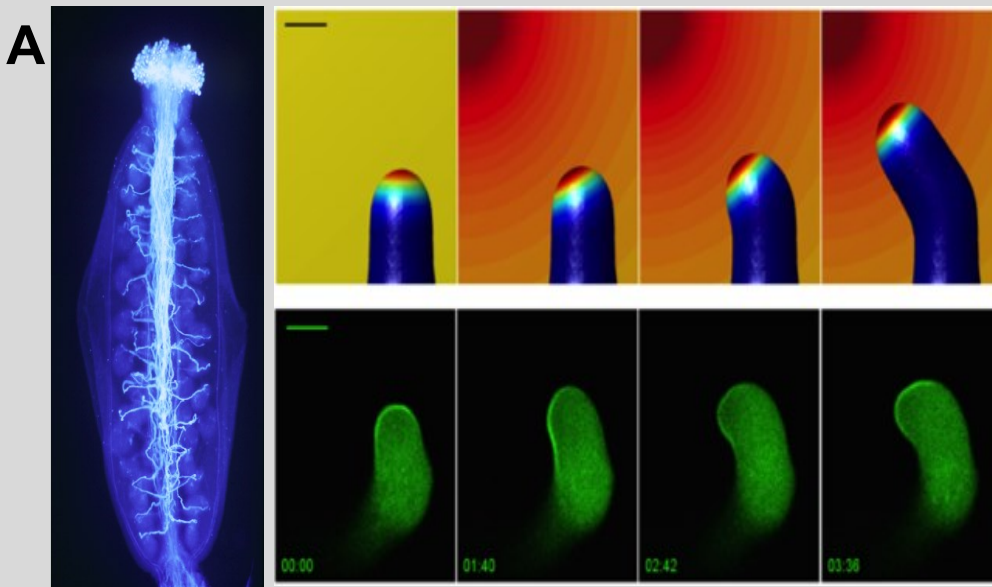
Sachs Lab – UC Riverside

How do soil bacteria promote plant growth?
How can we harness these benefits to help humanity?

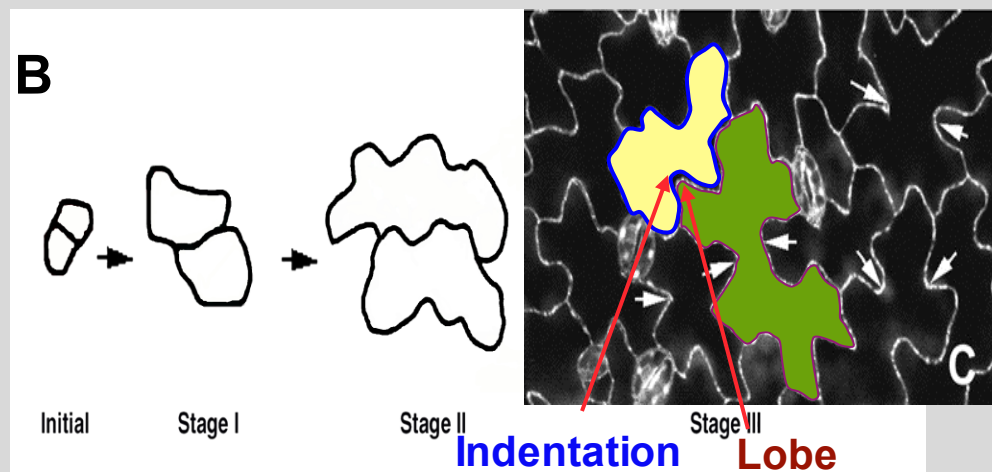


Zhenbiao Yang, Professor of Cell Biology

Zhenbiao Yang's laboratory aims to understand how **long distance signals** (signals diffused over the length of a tissue/organ), **local signals** (from neighboring cells), and **intracellular signals** (e.g., kinase, GTPase, calcium) control polar and directional **cell growth and shape** formation using **pollen tubes** (A) and **leaf epidermal pavement cells** (B) as model systems.



Pollen tubes (stained white, left) penetrate the stigma and style, and are guided to ovules by diffusible long distance signals. Mathematical modeling (right top) is integrated with experimentation to investigate how these signals regulate the spatiotemporal changes in the ROP1 GTPase activity (right bottom) to attract pollen tube growth.



Leaf epidermal pavement cells form the puzzle-piece shape. This process is activated by the plant hormone auxin. The Yang's lab is investigating how auxin activates this process and how neighboring cells coordinate with each other to generate the interlocking lobes and indentations.

PI: Zhenbiao Yang - zhenbiao.yang@ucr.edu

For information about additional Plant Biology faculty members participating in our program, please go to <https://plantbiology.ucr.edu/people/faculty.html>

Or google for “UCR BPSC faculty”

For specific information on our international Plant Biology program contact

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