

Penn State Plant Institute BioSphere Newsletter

November 2024

Director's Corner

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Huck Institutes of the Life Sciences, I am excited to share our vision for the future of the **Penn State Plant Institute**. We are well-positioned to build on our strong foundation as leaders in plant science and explore new opportunities as we move into this next chapter. Our new Executive Committee has developed a refined vision aimed at increasing the public impact and student involvement of plant-related activities at Penn State. A core mission of the Institute is to foster a highly interactive and diverse plant-focused community while supporting the development of large interdisciplinary teams. Integrated research centered on plants is essential for breakthrough discoveries and new solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, including improving human health and development, reversing deforestation, supporting species conservation, and developing sustainable agriculture.

Our main goals are to:

- *Bridge disciplines, engage stakeholders and amplify the global beneficial impacts of plant related research, teaching and outreach at Penn State*
- *Encourage students to explore plant related fields as rewarding career paths*
- *Promote the critical roles of plants in addressing societal challenges to the public*

Towards these goals, The Plant Institute is launching a **Membership Drive** and welcomes members including **all students, staff, and faculty from every Penn State campus** connected by a common interest in plants. To enhance our network we also welcome strategic alliances with partners within and beyond Penn State.

See below for information on our first series of events being planned.

Thanks for your interest in the Plant Institute!

Mark Guiltinan

Director, The Plant Institute
mjg9@psu.edu



Benefits of Plant Institute Membership

- Network with a wide diversity of colleagues connected by a common interest in plants and public impact
- Receive the bi-weekly BioSphere Newsletter with important seminars, events and other activities
- Scholars Group (undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral trainees), with monthly activities
- Networking with corporate partners
- Seed grant opportunities
- Access to cutting-edge facilities and equipment
- Outreach opportunities
- Support for large-interdisciplinary grant proposals
- Build visibility with Penn State leadership and on a global scale
- Career development experience

[To Join the Institute Click or Scan Here](#)



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Plant Institute

Penn State Plant Institute Vision Statement Growing Scientific Excellence for a Better World

The Penn State Plant Institute cultivates a vibrant ecosystem of plant-focused innovation, collaboration, and impact. Our research, education, and outreach mission spans diverse disciplines, uniting students, staff, postdocs, and faculty across the entire Penn State system. We seek to cultivate:

•**Transdisciplinary Excellence:** We foster interdisciplinary research by developing cutting-edge facilities, equipping researchers, and facilitating collaborative activities. Our goal is to bridge disciplines, engage stakeholders and amplify the global beneficial impacts of plant science at Penn State.

•**Engagement and Visibility:** The Institute showcases the achievements of its members. We engage with the public, Penn State administration, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the United States government, global stakeholders and corporate partners. We promote the critical role of plant science in addressing societal challenges.

•**Inspiring the Next Generation:** We are passionate about attracting and supporting the next generation of plant scientists. By promoting the excitement and relevance of our field, we encourage students to explore plant science as a rewarding career path.

•**Strategic Synergy:** We strategically leverage existing programs that align with our goals. This collaborative approach ensures efficiency and maximizes our collective impact.

For more information visit: <http://www.huck.psu.edu/plantinstitute>

Join at: <https://www.huck.psu.edu/join-a-center>

Email: mjg9@psu.edu

Executive Committee:

- Mark Gultinan, Director, Professor of Plant Molecular Biology and J. Franklin Styer Professor of Horticultural Botany
- Charles T. Anderson, Professor and Associate Head of Research and Faculty Success, Department of Biology
- Philip C. Bevilacqua, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Carolee Bull, Professor of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology
- Erin L. Connolly, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Science
- Daniel J. Cosgrove, Eberly Family Chair Professor, Biology
- Christina Grozinger, Publius Vergilius Maro Professor of Entomology
- David Hughes, Professor of Entomology
- Teh-hui Kao, Distinguished Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
- Jonathan Lynch, Emeritus Professor, Department of Plant Science
- Hong Ma, Professor of Biology and Huck Chair in Plant Reproductive Development and Evolution
- Siela N. Maximova, Research Professor of Plant Biotechnology
- Cristina Rosa, Associate Professor of Plant Pathology and Environmental Microbiology



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Upcoming Seminars, Events and Opportunities

Plant Biology Seminar



What did feruloylation ever do for us plants?

Plant Biology

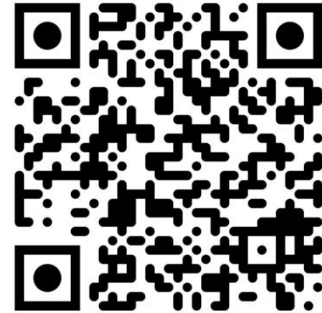
Marcia Maria de Oliveira Buanafina,

Penn State University

December 2, 2024 @ 12:15 pm to 01:15 pm

108 Wartik Laboratory

University Park



Industry Mentoring Opportunity



Upcoming Information Session

December 6, 2024 @ 2.00 PM CST

Teams Meeting ID: 315 087 335 626

Passcode: ZAcwbX

Who should apply?


Early career scientists and engineers in plant biology, chemistry, environmental science and data science/engineering



Plant Institute Scholars Networking Event



Date: **December 5th**
Time: **6-9 PM (Trivia starts 6:30)**
Location: **Huck Life Science Building 3rd Floor Bridge**
Dinner will be provided
RSVP by December 1st:
<https://forms.gle/9K1ts4qeSR6FVbRF7>
Event capped at 60 participants



Contact Evelyn Kulesza: evk5405@psu.edu and Jigeesha Mukhopadhyay: jjm8394@psu.edu



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Educational Opportunity - Share your research with teachers! Inspire the next generation of agricultural scientists. Starting soon so apply ASAP.



The Plant Institute and [Global Teach Ag Network](#) are partnering to connect plant science researchers to a team of experienced secondary (6-12) teachers through a USDA grant entitled, *Educators Empowering Educators*. Our goal is to connect great scientists with great educators to help bring awesome into the world.

We need your help! We are looking for **compelling concepts** that you think should be brought into grade 6-12 classrooms to inspire the next generation of agricultural scientists. Apply to work with an all-star team of teachers to develop resources around your research.

The teacher team will develop educational resources on a key plant science concept or innovation. Those resources will be shared with other teachers across the country and integrated into grade 6-12 classrooms.

If interested - please complete this form (<https://tinyurl.com/SharingResearchWithEducators>) by December 13th. Lab groups are encouraged to apply as a team - we welcome the leadership of graduate students and post-docs.

To learn more about the program - visit the Educators Empowering Educators webpage here - <https://globalteachagnetwork.psu.edu/educators-empowering-educators/>

Questions? Please contact Thomas Gabel at tsg5162@psu.edu.



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Calls to action

Join a Plant Institute Leadership Team!

Get involved in one of our Leadership Teams and gain valuable career development and networking experience, have fun and help us reach our goals. Open to staff, faculty, postdocs and grad students.

Teams

- Membership
- Plant Institute Scholars Group
- Science Communicators
- Public Education
- Partnerships
- Plant Art

Send an email to mjg9@psu.edu for more information.

Suggestion Box: To provide suggestions for ways the Plant Institute can better help you, email mjg9@psu.edu

We would love to hear from you and will incorporate your suggestions into plans for the future of the Institute!



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