Dr. Amir Ahkami is a distinguished senior scientist with over a decade of experience leading cutting-edge research projects, R&D programs, and fostering impactful collaborations within the field of plant biology. His academic journey began in Iran, where he earned a Bachelor's in Agronomy and Plant Breeding from Shiraz University, followed by a Master's in Agricultural Biotechnology at Tehran University. Later, Dr. Ahkami pursued a Ph.D. in Plant Biology at MLU of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, conducting research at renowned institutions such as the Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK) and the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology. His career reflects adept leadership in scientific strategy development, grant acquisition, and mentoring early-career scientists, with a strong passion for advancing impactful research and community engagement.

Currently, Dr. Ahkami serves as the science lead for the Rhizosphere Function Integrated Research Platform at the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) within Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). Since joining EMSL in 2015, he has co-led the development of the plant science research program while also holding an adjunct assistant professor position at Washington State University. His work as Principal Investigator leverages cutting-edge technologies, including single-cell omics, high-resolution imaging, and whole-plant phenotyping, to address critical challenges in plant adaptation to abiotic stresses, root formation, and interactions between plants and microbial communities in the rhizosphere. In addition to his technical expertise, Dr. Ahkami actively collaborates with EMSL users and stakeholders to develop novel applications for plant science, demonstrating a strong commitment to innovation in the field.

A dedicated member of the plant science community, Dr. Ahkami has earned recognition for his leadership and contributions. He is set to lead the Root Systems Biology working group of the International Society of Root Research (ISRR) in 2025 and has chaired and organized sessions and workshops at prominent conferences such as the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) and the Gordon Research Conference. He is deeply committed to supporting students and early career scientists through mentorship programs, graduate student committee memberships, and his involvement in outreach initiatives like judging science fairs for middle and high school students. Dr. Ahkami's exemplary leadership, mentorship, and scientific achievements uniquely position him to serve as the Chair of the Western Section of ASPB, where he seeks to create meaningful impacts on the scientific community and future generations of researchers.