Dr. Hong Li Wang is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, where she has served since 2000. She earned her B.S. from Xinjiang University (China) and Ph.D. in Plant Sciences from the University of Newcastle (Australia). She was the first Katherine Esau Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Davis.

Her research centers on plant cell and molecular biology, plant–microbe interactions, and plant and human nutrition, aiming to improve crop yield and nutritional quality. As Co-Director of the Academy for Teaching and Learning Excellence at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Dr. Wang is deeply committed to mentoring students and advancing undergraduate research.

She hopes to make the Western Section meeting accessible and inspiring—an inclusive space that welcomes established scientists and first-time presenters alike, while fostering active undergraduate participation and a vibrant, supportive plant biology community.