

BAY AREA PLANT HUB SYMPOSIUM 2026

Pauley Ballroom, 3rd Floor Martin Luther King Junior Student Union

2495 Bancroft Way, UC Berkeley, CA 94720

9:00 – 10:00 AM **REGISTRATION & COFFEE**

10:00 – 11:05 AM **PLENARY SESSION 1**

EARTH DAY: SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

10:00 – 10:10 Opening Remarks by the BAPH Committee

10:10 – 10:20 **ASPB Introduction**

10:20 – 10:35 **Marco Burger** (Salk Institute) *Parasitic Plants - A World Challenge: Novel Chemicals for Strigolactone Receptor Inhibition*

10:35 – 10:50 **Nathalie Aoun** (UC Davis) *Natural variation in a NLR pair confers thermostable resistance to *Ralstonia pseudosolanacearum**

10:50 – 11:05 **Leah Taylor-Kearney** (UC Berkeley) *A not-so-trivial pursuit: engineering rubisco*

11:05 – 11:30 AM **NETWORKING BREAK**

11:30 AM – 12:35 PM **PLENARY SESSION 2**

GENOME ENGINEERING & PLANT BIOTECHNOLOGY

11:30 – 11:40 **Sponsor Talk: Meghan McLean Poon, Partner, Morrison & Foerster**

11:40 – 11:55 **Vivian Zhong** (Stanford) *T-SWITCH: A genetic tool to measure T-DNA integration frequency and enable integration-free genome editing*

11:55 – 12:10 **Jorge Rodriguez** (UC Berkeley) *Optimizing a Compact Viral-Mediated Nuclease Delivery for Robust Heritable Plant Genome Editing*

12:10 – 12:25 **Charis Ramsing** (UC Davis) *Slipping through the cracks: how *Clavibacter* takes advantage of xylem structure to cause disease*

12:25 – 12:35 **POSTER PITCHES**

- Stefan Sanow (UC Davis) – *Root barriers to limit Striga*
- Marlo Hall (UC Berkeley) – *Recognition of bacterial T3SS in tomato*
- Steven Massa (Stanford) – *NAD Metabolism in Tomato-Xanthomonas*
- Pranav Dawar (PNNL) – *Colletotrichum proteomics and metabolomics*
- Elohim Bello Bello (Salk) – *Jasmonate in root mechanoadaptation*

12:35 – 1:50 PM **LUNCH**

12:45 Table Discussions & Free poster and sponsor booth viewing begin

1:50 – 3:00 PM PLENARY SESSION 3

CELL BIOLOGY & DEVELOPMENTAL MECHANISMS

1:50 – 1:55 ASPB Ambassadors

1:55 – 2:10 **Yue Rui** (Stanford) *Membrane nanodomains mediate stress resilience through cell wall-plasma membrane attachments*

2:10 – 2:25 **Magda Zaoralová** (Stanford) *Imaging Plant Tissues at the Nanoscale: Cryoprotectant-Free Sample Preparation for Cryo-Electron Tomography*

2:25 – 2:40 **Shivani Upadhyaya** (UC Berkeley) *TOR inhibition drives accumulation of amino acids through transcriptional activation in algae*

2:40 – 2:55 **Jose Avila-Peltroche** (Carnegie) *Blue light-dependent development in the model organism Ectocarpus: new insights into photo-development in brown seaweed*

2:55 – 3:00 POSTER PITCHES

- Lam Lam (UC Berkeley) – *Non-photochemical quenching*
- Neda Fakhimi (Carnegie) – *NADK2 and carbon partitioning*
- Heejae Nam (UC Berkeley) – *Multi-omics atlas of nuclear envelope*
- Marco Duenas (UC Berkeley) – *Lipid droplet protein in algae*
- Hongtao Zhang (UC Berkeley) – *Pollen development*

3:00 – 3:30 PM NETWORKING BREAK

3:30 – 5:00 PM KEYNOTE SESSION

GENOMICS, EPIGENETICS & SPECIALIZED METABOLISM

3:30 – 3:50 **Kat Smoot** (UC Berkeley) *DNA demethylation suppresses a state of enhanced cellular pluripotency and regeneration competence in Arabidopsis*

3:50 – 4:10 **Kehan Zhao** (UC Davis) *Functional Insights into Dispensable Genes Using Genome-Wide Loss-of-Function Burden Tests in Arabidopsis*

4:10 – 4:30 **Kamryn Diehl** (UBC) *Investigating cell division plane orientation in plants using harmala alkaloids*

4:30 – 4:50 **Alexis Lebecq** (Stanford) *Lineage-encoded polarity aligns sister cells to build a central stomatal pore*

4:50 – 4:55 POSTER PITCHES

- James Walker (Salk) – *Single-nucleus epigenomic atlas*
- Chandler Sutherland (UC Berkeley) – *Somatic mutation rates*
- Liza Gautam (Illinois State) – *CRISPR pennycress domestication*
- Farida Yasmin (UC Davis) – *Diterpenoid pathway in millet*
- Chloe Wick (Stanford) – *FoTO1 orchestrates Taxol biosynthesis*

5:00 – 7:00 PM RECEPTION & POSTER SESSION

5:00 – 6:00 PM Session 1: Odd poster numbers

6:00 – 7:00 PM Session 2: Even poster numbers