The 17th Annual Plant Biology Mini-Symposium
8:30 am – 6:00 pm, May 26, 2016
Biological Research Building 1103, University of Maryland, College Park, MD

8:30 Registration, Poster Set-up, and Refreshments
8:55 Welcome- Hua Lu (Chair)

Session I. Evolution, Environment, and Plants
Hua Lu (chair) & George Wang (co-chair)
9:00 Richard Sicher (USDA-ARS) Using high throughput techniques to understand the effects of climate change on plant responses to abiotic and biotic stress
9:25 Steve DiFazio (West Virginia University) Sex Determination in the Salicaceae
9:50 Tom Davis (University of New Hampshire) Development of germplasm and genomic resources for strawberry research and breeding: an international odyssey

10:15–10:35 Break (20 min)

Session II. Disease Resistance from Model Plants to Crops I
Gary Coleman (chair) & Chong Zhang (co-chair)
10:35 Jeff Caplan (Delaware Biotechnology Institute) Chloroplast stromules: Formation and function during plant innate immunity
11:00 Cristian Danna (University of Virginia) A plant-orchestrated scorched earth strategy keeps most microbes at bay
11:25 Guo-Liang Wang (Ohio State University) Unraveling the molecular mechanism of rice immunity against Magnaporthe oryzae
11:50 Randy Wisser (University of Delaware) Peering at fungal infection of maize, in search of phenomena conditioning variation in quantitative disease resistance

Talks selected from poster abstracts
12:15 Xianfeng Ma (University of Maryland) Dual and opposing roles of xanthine dehydrogenase in defense-associated reactive oxygen species metabolism in Arabidopsis
12:20 Jun Zhang (University of Maryland) Oxidative inactivation of auxin by DAO1 regulates growth in Arabidopsis thaliana
12:25 An Duy Duong (Virginia Tech) Role of LrhA, a quorum-sensing controlled transcription factor, in Pantoea stewartii plant virulence
12:30  **Chong Zhang** (University of Maryland Baltimore County)  Roles of the PHT4 family in regulating programmed cell death and defense in Arabidopsis

12:30-1:30  Lunch, Poster Viewing, and Photo

**Session III. Disease Resistance from Model Plants to Crops II**

**Shunyuan Xiao (chair) & Jun Zhang (co-chair)**

1:30  **Nian Wang** (University of Florida)  Development of citrus canker resistant varieties by manipulation of EBEPthA4 in the promoter of *CsLOB1*, the citrus susceptibility gene to *Xanthomonas citri*

1:55  **Dhongxiu Zhang** (University of Maryland)  Engineering identified vic genes for super hypovirus-donor strains of *Cryptonectria parasitica* - a new dawn for chestnut blight biocontrol

2:20  **Cassandra Swett** (University of Maryland)  Cryptic ecology of root-colonizing pathogens and applications to climate change adaptation

2:45-3:00  Break (15 min)

**Session IV. Development and Signaling**

**Zhongchi Liu (chair) & Maria Teresa Portes (co-chair)**

3:00  **Ben Holt** (University of Oklahoma/NSF)  *NUCLEAR FACTOR Y (NF-Y)* transcription factors act synergistically with *ELONGATED HYPOCOTYL 5 (HY5)* to positively regulate photomorphogenesis in *Arabidopsis thaliana*

3:25  **Yi Li** (University of Connecticut)  Insights from phylogenetic characterization and manipulation of genes responsible for cytokinin accumulation in higher plants

3:50  **Xiaoning Zhang** (St Bonaventure University)  High Quality RNAs for Healthy Pollen

4:15-4:30  Break (15 min)

**Keynote Presentation**  **(Introduced by Jose Feijo)**

4:30-5:15  **Rob Martienssen** (Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory)

Avoiding Bad Karma: Germline reprogramming and epigenetic inheritance in plants

5:15-5:20  Announce poster award

5:20-5:25  Closing remark

5:25-6:00  Mixer, Farewell

Take down posters. Clean up.