

# GGB Student Symposium 2012

**8:00-9:00AM**      **New Student Orientation**

**8:30-9:30AM**      **Breakfast (Genomics Lobby)**

**9:30-10:45AM**      **Session I**

*Chair:* Meenakshi Kagda

9:30AM      **Welcome & Opening Remarks**

9:45AM      **Mitchell Lucas**, Close Lab

Genomics and Modern Breeding of Cowpea

10:00AM      **Steven Ahrendt**, Stajich Lab

Analysis of a putative rhodopsin in zoosporic fungi

10:15AM      **Divya Sain**, Stajich Lab

Utilizing functional genomics in *Neurospora crassa* to identify genes involved in hyphal tip growth and development.

10:30AM      **Sammy Sedky**, DeLey Lab

*Wolbachia* endosymbionts in insect-associated tylenchoid nematodes

**10:45-11:00AM**      **Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:00PM**      **Session II**

*Chair:* Stephanie Coffman

11:00AM      **Sumana Pasala**, Sladek Lab

Transcriptional Regulation of miRNA-21 by HNF4 $\alpha$  and its Functional significance

11:15AM      **Shaofang Li**, Chen Lab

Identification and function study of SUVH1, a negative regulator in small RNA-directed DNA methylation

11:30AM      **Bo Zhao**, Raikhel Lab

Towards improvement of genetics tools for mosquito research: Development of the binary Gal4/UAS system in *Aedes aegypti*

11:45AM      **Keira Lucas**, Raikhel Lab

Functional characterization of the conserved microRNA miR-8 in the fat body of the female mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*

**12:00-1:30PM**      **Lunch (HUB 355)**

**1:30-2:30PM**      **Session III**

*Chair:* Keira Lucas

1:30PM      **Tusar Saha**, Raikhel Lab

Genome-wide analysis of genes controlled by juvenile hormone receptor Methoprene-Tolerant in the Dengue fever mosquito, *Aedes aegypti*

1:45PM      **Patrick Schacht**, Borkovich Lab

Using truncation mutants to analyze the role of RIC8 in *Neurospora crassa*

2:00PM **Ilva Cabrera**, Borkovich Lab  
The guanine nucleotide exchange factor RIC8 regulates conidial germination through G $\alpha$  proteins in *Neurospora crassa*

2:15PM **Amruta Garud**, Borkovich Lab  
The role of *cpc-2* in G protein signaling in *Neurospora crassa*

**2:30-2:45PM Coffee Break**

**2:45-3:45PM Session IV**

*Chair:* Sammy Sedky

2:45PM **Alexander Michkov**, Borkovich Lab  
Stability of a G protein alpha subunit in genetic backgrounds lacking the G beta subunit or a cytosolic guanine nucleotide exchange factor

3:00PM **Stephanie Coffman**, Ding Lab  
*C. elegans* as a Model to Investigate Conserved Innate Immunity Mechanisms

3:15PM **Jinfeng Lu**, Ding Lab  
The detection of Nodamura derived siRNAs in BHK21 cells implies a potential employment of RNAi-based antiviral mechanism in higher animals

3:30PM **Meenakshi Kagda**, Judelson Lab  
Metabolic adaptations in *Phytophthora infestans* for efficient nutrient acquisition and the role of phosphagen kinase system in energy metabolism during its infection

**3:45-4:00PM Coffee Break**

**4:00-4:45PM Session V**

*Chair:* Steven Ahrendt

4:00PM **Samantha Lewis**, Hyman Lab  
Analysis of *C. elegans* mtDNA replication reveals prominent recombination intermediates

4:15PM **Sarah Perry**, Ray Lab  
Epigenetic regulation of receptor gene choice

4:30PM **Amanda Hollowell**, Sachs Lab  
Epidemic Distributions in Rhizobia

**4:45-5:00PM Awards and Closing Remarks**

**5:30PM BBQ (Patrick's House)**