



# PSNA News

Phytochemical Society of North America  
Sociedad Fitoquímica de América del Norte  
Société Phytochimique de L'Amérique du Nord

Volume 60, Number 2

Fall 2022

## Message from Li Tian, PSNA President



Dear PSNA members and supporters,

I hope everyone has had a great summer break—spending valuable time with families, reconnecting with friends, going to scientific conferences, and traveling to exciting places. July was a special month for me as I picked up the baton from my dear colleague Dr. Dorothea Tholl and began my term as the 2022-2023 President of the Phytochemical Society of North America. I'm excited to follow in the footsteps of great PSNA leaders like Dr. Tholl and serve in a new capacity for our society

**The successful 2022 annual meeting of the PSNA at Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Virginia).** The hybrid conference of PSNA 2022 was a huge success thanks to the heroic efforts of Drs. Dorothea Tholl and Brenda Winkel (Chair and co-Chair of the Local Organizing Committee), the Local Organizing Committee, and the Scientific Advisory Committee. You will read the recap of the conference by Dr. Tholl accompanied by many special pictures.

**Accolades.** Congratulations to Dr. Dharendra Kumar, Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at East Tennessee State University, who has been elected as the 2023-2024 President of the PSNA. Dr. Kumar served as the Treasurer of the PSNA for over six years, and also Chaired the Scientific Organizing Committee of the 2019 PSNA meeting at East Tennessee State University.

The achievements of many award winners were celebrated at this year's annual meeting including the Pioneer Award, the Lifetime Member Award, the Arthur C. Neish

Young Investigator Award, the Plant Journal-PSNA Early Career Award, the PSNA Travel Award, the NSF Award, and the USDA-NIFA Award. Congratulations to all! Please be on the lookout for the call for award applications for 2022-2023.

**The upcoming 2023 annual meeting of the PSNA at Michigan State University (East Lansing, Michigan).** While it seems that we have just wrapped up the 2022 meeting, Professor Bjoern Hamberger (Chair) and the Local Organizing Committee have already been busy planning for the 2023 annual meeting. Please mark your calendar for the tentative dates of meeting, July 16-21, 2023. Stay tuned for more details on the conference program! As an added bonus, July is arguably the most wonderful time of the year to visit Michigan. If your schedule allows, a pre- or post-conference trip to Lake Michigan and the Upper Peninsula in your trip would be incredibly relaxing.

Continues on page ... 3



In this issue:

- Meeting Updates
- Website Updates
- 2022 Meeting Notes from Blacksburg, VA
- 2023 PSNA Early Career Award Applications

The web PDF version can be downloaded from the website: [www.psna-online.org](http://www.psna-online.org).



WWW.PSNA-ONLINE.ORG

ADVISORY BOARD FALL 2022

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# The Phytochemical Society of North America

The Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA) is a nonprofit scientific organization whose membership is open to anyone with an interest in phytochemistry and the role of plant substances in related fields. Annual membership dues are U.S. \$100 for regular members and \$30 for student members. Annual meetings featuring symposium topics of current interest and contributed papers by conference participants are held throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico. PSNA meetings provide participants with exposure to the cutting-edge research of prominent international scientists, but are still small enough to offer informality and intimacy that are conducive to the exchange of ideas. This newsletter is circulated to members to keep them informed of upcoming meetings and developments within the society, and to provide a forum for the exchange of information and ideas. If you would like additional information about the PSNA, or if you have material that you would like included in the newsletter, please contact the PSNA Secretary or visit our website at [www.pсна-online.org](http://www.pсна-online.org). Annual dues and changes of address should be sent to the PSNA Treasurer. Also check the PSNA website for regular updates.

The PSNA is an all-volunteer organization which depends on its membership to run the organization. We appreciate the time and effort these volunteers are putting in to keep the organization up and running. As a member, please consider volunteering to serve on one of these committees. The PSNA can always use more help!

## PSNA EXECUTIVES

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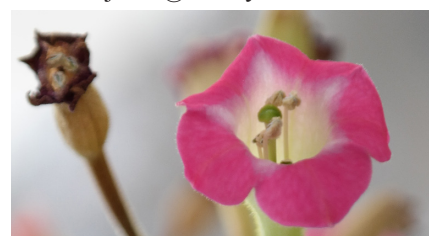
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Continues from page ... 1

**New website for the society.** We invite you to look around the new PSNA website (<https://psna-online.org/>) now with greater visibility and accessibility. We are very thankful for the great work of Drs. Mark Berhow, Sangeeta Dhaubhadel, Nik Kovinich, Dorothea Tholl and Philipp Zerbe on the new website. The PSNA website is a great place for posting and searching for career opportunities. Checking the membership directory is the best way to ensure that your email contact is the most up-to-date.

**PSNA President's Office Hours.**

I'm always excited to meet and chat with our society members. Feel free to join the designated PSNA President's Office Hours on the 1st Tuesday of each month from 10 am to 11 am (Pacific Time) on Zoom; These dates would be: November 1st, and December 6th in 2022, as well as January 3rd, February 7th, March 7th, April 4th, May 2nd, and June 6th in 2023. How to join: [\[davis.zoom.us/my/litian\]\(https://ucdavis.zoom.us/my/litian\). Copy and paste the URL in the web browser, a passcode is not needed for the Zoom meeting. All current and prospective PSNA members are welcome to drop in to the Zoom call and have an open dialog with me. If anything at all comes up between meetings, I can always be reached via email at \[ltian@ucdavis.edu\]\(mailto:ltian@ucdavis.edu\). Let us know if you are interested in getting involved in the committees and initiatives of the society or if there is an item that you would like to get on the agenda of the monthly Advisory Board meetings. Your input will help immensely in informing the PSNA's priorities and goals.](https://uc-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

**Professional development of our society members.** PSNA has always been a tight-knit society. By participating in the society's annual meetings, you will get to know many of our society members. The success of our young members is very important to us. Many awards have been given out by our society to help support attendance of the conference,

as well as recognize the achievements of our young members. As you have seen from the PSNA 2022 program, panel-guided workshops were offered for scientists early in their careers (e.g. postdocs, research scientists, and graduate students) to discuss career development in academia, government, industry, and more. Throughout the year, we will be rolling out some new activities (such as webinars) to help promote the professional development of our society members. Be on the lookout for new announcements on the PSNA's social media pages (Twitter: [@psnaofficial](https://twitter.com/psnaofficial) and Facebook: Phytochemical Society of North America). Thank you for your unwavering support of the PSNA over the years! I look forward to working with all of you. Have a great year!

Li Tian

President (2022-2023), Phytochemical Society of North America

## PSNA2023 meeting- Save the date



# PSNA 2023 @ MSU tentative dates July 16-20 East Lansing, Michigan

MSU occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg –Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw.

**Local Organizing Committee: Björn Hamberger, Rob Last, Sue Rhee, Peter Lundquist, Lucas Reist, Britta Hamberger, Tom Sharkey**





## 61th Annual Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America July 24-28, 2022 Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia

The 61<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America was held at the Skelton Conference Center and Inn at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia. The hybrid conference attracted **165 local, national, and international participants with nearly 130 attending in person** balanced among male and female participants. Latest findings and highlights in phytochemical research were addressed by early career and senior scientists in **nine interdisciplinary symposia** including 1. Phytochemical/specialized metabolism: Gene discovery, evolution and regulation, 2. Phytochemistry at the junction of “primary” and “secondary” metabolism, 3. Emerging approaches and applications, 4. Synthetic biology and metabolic engineering, 5. Phytochemical signaling (including growth

regulation), 6. Phytochemical diversity in plant-organismal interactions, 6. Phytochemistry in a changing environment, 7. Phytochemistry of functional foods and bioactive natural compounds, 8. Beyond plants: Specialized metabolism in microbes and animals.

The program included a **Women’s breakfast**, an **“Early career workshop”** with panel representatives from academia, government, and industry and a **“Panel discussion workshop”** for graduate students. These events would have not been possible with the tremendous support by the **PSNA Young Members Committee** including its chair Armando Alcazar Magena (UBC, Canada) and its members Monica Borghi (Utah State University, USA), Lucas Busta (University of Minnesota, Duluth, USA), Praveen Khatri (West-

ern University, Ontario, Canada), and Tuan-Anh Minh Nguyen (UBC, Canada).

A record number of awards were made. **Dr. Daneel Ferreira** (Professor Emeritus of Pharmacognosy, Department of BioMolecular Sciences, School of Pharmacy, The University of Mississippi, USA) received the **2020 PSNA Phytochemical Pioneer Award**, the highest honor of the PSNA, for his pioneering work on the chemistry of flavonoids and isoflavonoids. **Dr. Mark Berhow** (USDA-ARS, Peoria, USA) was the **2022 recipient of the PSNA Life Membership Award** for his long-standing and tireless support of the PSNA as PSNA past president, meeting chair, secretary, and web master. The **2021/2022 recipients of the Arthur C. Neish Young Investigator Award** are Monica Borghi





(Utah State University, USA), Alexandra Dickenson (UC San Diego, USA), Nik Kovich (York University, Canada), and Kiera Tiedge (University of Groningen, Netherlands), and the **2022 Plant Journal-PSNA Awards** were given to Thu Thuy Dang (UBC, Canada), Zhi-Yan (Rock) Du (University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA), and Narayanan Srividya (Washington State University, USA) (see below).

**Best poster presentation** awardees were: Andrew Hall and Soyoung Jung (PhD students, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA), Zhiwei Luo (PhD student, Purdue University), Ashlynn Vanwinkle (PhD student Virginia Tech, USA)

**Travel awards were given to a diverse group of 29 students and postdocs funded with grants from the US National Science Foundation and the US Department of Agriculture.**



Recipients of the **best oral presentation** awards were: Yann-Ru Lou (Assistant professor, UC Davis, USA), Cherryl Quiñones (PhD student, Arkansas State University, USA), Ryan Nett (Assistant Professor, Harvard University), Zarley Rebholz (PhD student, Virginia Tech).

Awards for the **best flash talks** were given to: Matthew Bergman (PhD student, University of Toronto, Mississauga, Canada), Aaron Birchfield (PhD student, East Tennessee State University), Doosan Shin (PhD student, University of Florida, USA), and Christina Jochimsen (PhD student, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany).

**Meeting hosts Dorothea Tholl (PSNA Past President) and Brenda Winkel (both from the Department of Biological Sciences at Virginia Tech)** are grateful for the support by the **scientific advising committee:** Li Tian, PSNA President (UC Davis);

Sangeeta Dhaubhadel, PSNA Secretary (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada); Phillipp Zerbe, PSNA Treasurer (UC Davis); Mark Berhow (USDA-ARS, Peoria); Hiroshi Maeda (University of Wisconsin); Fred Stevens (Oregon State); Bjoern Hamberger (Michigan State University); Andrew Neilson (NC State University); Emily Mevers, Andrew Lowell; Susan Whitehead, Clay Wright (all Virginia Tech). We are also extremely thankful to the team of the **local organizing committee**, which included students, postdocs, and faculty of the Virginia Tech Translational Plant Sciences Center (TPSC): Guillaume Pilot (TPSC Director, VT School of Plant Sciences/SPES), David Haak (SPES), Jim Tokuhisa (Biological Sciences), Susan Whitehead (Biological Sciences), Crystal Founds (TPSC program director), Clay Wright (Biosystems Engineering), Kelsey Reed (PhD candidate SPES), Anne Jones and Hailey Larose (postdocs in the Tholl lab), Sukhmanpreet Kaur, Zarley Rebholz, and Brian Ruether (PhD students in the Tholl lab). We are deeply thankful to **Leland Shelton (Program Manager), Carley Graves (Program Coordinator) and Jeanette Cooper (Assistant Director) from the Virginia Tech Continuing Professional Educa-**



tion Office for their tireless support in planning and coordination of the meeting.

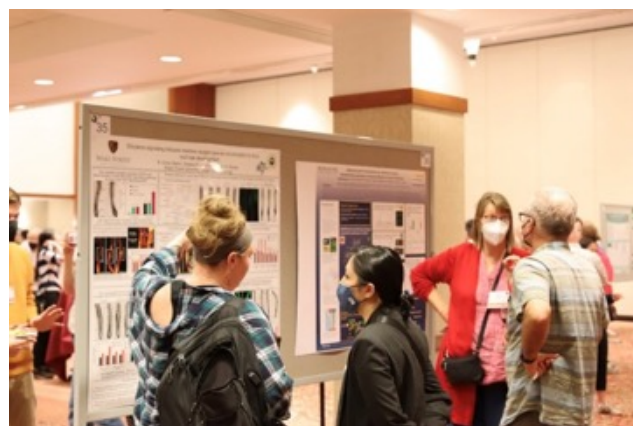
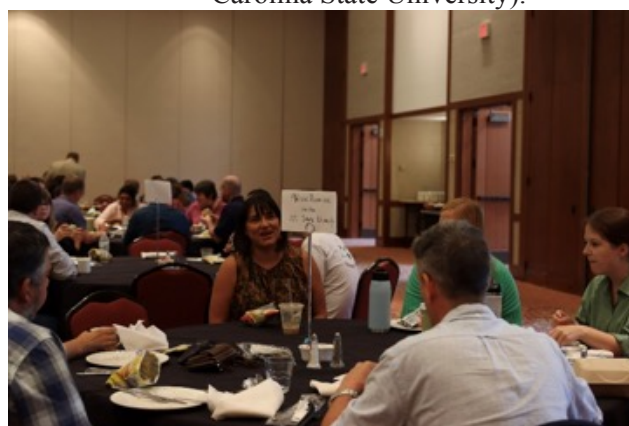
The meeting was further made possible with generous support from the **Virginia Tech Department of Biological Sciences, the College of Science, the Fralin Life Sciences Center, the Translational Plant Sciences Center, and several other departments and units on the Virginia Tech campus. We are also grateful to sponsorship by SCIEX, ChromaDex, and The Plant Journal.**

## Young Members Activities during PSNA2022

PSNA-Young Members Committee (YMC) organized various events for early career researchers who attended PSNA2022.

The Early Career and Graduate Student Workshops offered opportunities for young scientists to discuss their next career steps in a friendly

atmosphere, as this year, both workshops were organized as informal luncheons. In both events, a set of round tables hosted one invited panelist with whom graduate students and postdocs had lunch with and conversed casually. The Early Career Workshop featured scientists working in academia, government, and industry. The panelists, this year, were Ryan Anderson (Syngenta), Peter Bowerman (BASF), Kiel Henderson (Chromadex), Martha Vaughan (USDA-ARS Peoria), Monica Borghi (Utah State University), and Melissa Ramirez (North Carolina State University).





Approximately 35 graduate students attended the Graduate Student Workshop Luncheon, which hosted Lucas Busta (University of Minnesota, Duluth), Inga Haugen (Virginia Tech), Susan Whitehead (Virginia Tech), Alyssa Rametta (Virginia Tech), and Philipp Zerbe (University of California, Davis). Graduate students from the host institution, Virginia Tech University, posed questions to the panelists about career choices, the job market, and using social media to communicate about science and other related topics. Many questions sparked conversations between the panelists and students, creating a lively, friendly, and open atmosphere.

The PSNA Phytochemical Trivia Night, a new tradition for PSNA young members attending the annual meeting, was organized on the second night of the meeting and offered the opportunity to friendly gather young scientists together at a local eatery.

PSNA 2022 hosted the first PSNA Women Breakfast event, during which female junior and senior scientists shared their experiences as women in science and their strengths. PSNA is proud that 41% of the total attendees to the PSNA 2022 meeting were represented by female scientists, as it shows the Society's commitment to gender balance.

The activities organized by the YMC are an excellent opportunity for early career researchers to socialize and seek advice from senior members on how to move to the next step in their careers.

Join us next summer on the occasion of the PSNA 2023 Meeting held at Michigan State University!

## PSNA Recognition Awards at PSNA 2022

The **PSNA Phytochemical Pioneer Award** is given to scientists that have been active in the PSNA and have significant contributions to the advancement of phytochemical research. The most recent phytochemical award winner was selected in 2020, but awarded in 2022. Dr. Daneel Ferreira spent most of his career studying and elucidating the pathways and structures of the tannins

and proanthocyanins. He provided a reflection on his scientific career that was published in the fall 2020 PSNA News on pages 3-5. He joins fellow PSNA members Neil Towers, Stewart Brown, Nikolas Fischer, Frank Loewis, Eric Conn, Helen Stafford, Ulrich Matern, Meinhard Zenk, Richard Hemmingway, Richard Dixon and Norman Lewis in the PSNA Hall of Fame.



The PSNA Lifetime Membership Award was given to Dr. Mark Berhow for his dedication and service to the PSNA as a dedicated member,

officer, and volunteer. He joins a select group of 17 other PSNA lifetime Members.



**Kira Tiedge**



Dr. Kira Tiedge is an Assistant Professor for Functional Genetics and Genomics at the Groningen Institute for Evolutionary Life Sciences (GELIFES). Kira completed a PhD in molecular plant biology and plant biochemistry in Germany as a fellow of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation with longer stays in the U.S. and Austria. As a postdoctoral research fellow of the German Research Foundation she worked on the discovery and engineering of specialized metabolism in bioenergy plants in the Zerbe Lab at the University of California, Davis, with the aim to improve stress resistance in these crops. In her new role as an Assistant Professor at the University of Groningen she now combines genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, synbio, and genetic tools towards the characterization of specialized metabolite pathways that can provide crop plants with advantages for circular agriculture within a changing environment. Some of Kira's other projects revolve around raising inclusiveness in higher education and supporting mothers in the STEM fields.

**Monica Borghi**



Dr. Borghi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at Utah State University (USU) where she focuses research on flower metabolism. She joined USU after completing postdoctoral research in flower metabolomics at the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Plant Physiology and Wageningen University sponsored by a Marie-Curie Fellowship. Previous to that, she worked as a postdoctoral researcher at North Carolina State University on metabolic engineering of volatile organic compounds. In her first postdoctoral cycle, she worked on plant ionomics at Purdue University and the University of Tokyo, Japan (JSPS Fellow).

**Nik Kovich**



Dr. Nik Kovich received his Ph.D. from Carleton University Canada. His Ph.D. research focused on un-

derstanding the genetics and biochemistry of specialized metabolite biosynthesis in the seed coat of black soybean, and on engineering soybean metabolism to produce a visible color marker that could be used to identify genetically modified soybean grains. His postdoctoral studies at Ohio State University in the United States focused on understanding fundamental mechanisms of the transport of specialized metabolites in plants. In 2012, he was awarded a Pelotonia Postdoctoral Fellowship to investigate a novel approach for producing derivatives of anticancer drugs. In 2015, he joined West Virginia University as an Assistant Professor to research how plants regulate the biosynthesis of phytoalexins. Dr. Kovich joined York University in Toronto as an Assistant Professor of Systems Biology. His current research focuses on understanding the gene regulatory networks that control phytoalexin biosynthesis and nanoparticle-based engineering of specialized metabolism in *Cannabis sativa*.

**Alexandra Dickinson**



Dr. Jazz Dickinson received her bachelor's degree in chemistry and history from Swarthmore College and her PhD in chemistry from University of North Carolina. She conducted her post-doctoral research in developmental plant biology with Prof. Philip Benfey at Duke Uni-



versity. During that time, she also worked as a visiting scientist at Stanford University and the Carnegie Institute. In 2020, Jazz joined the faculty at UC San Diego and is now a Hellman Fellow. Her lab studies the intersection of phytochemistry and stem cell biology to understand how small molecules pattern developmental decisions.

## The Plant Journal- PSNA Early Career Awards

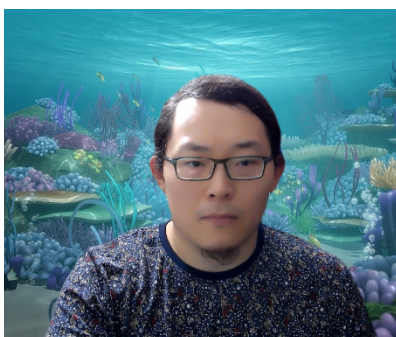
**Thu Thuy Dang**



Dr. Thu Thuy Dang is an assistant professor and a Michael Smith Health Research Foundation Scholar in Biochemistry at the Department of Chemistry, University of British Columbia, Okanagan. Before joining UBC, she was a postdoctoral fellow (EMBO) at the John Innes Centre in the laboratory of Dr. Sarah O'Connor (Norwich, UK). Thuy obtained her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Calgary and solved the biosynthetic pathway of the anticancer compound noscapine in opium poppy. Thuy received the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research Scholar Award,

European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Long-Term Fellowship, University of Calgary Eyes High International Doctoral Scholarship and Alberta Ingenuity Fund (Canada), Alberta Innovative Technology Futures Scholarship throughout her career. Dang's Plant Bioactive Compounds Research (Plant BioCoRe) group integrates biochemistry, chemistry, bioinformatics, and molecular genetics to elucidate and engineer the biosynthesis of valuable small molecules from medicinal plants.

**Zhi-Yan (Rock) Du**



Dr. Zhi-Yan Yu received his Ph.D. from the University of Hong Kong, working on lipid metabolism in plant development and stress response. After that, he did his postdoc research at Michigan State University, focusing on microalgal research for lipid metabolism, cell development, photosynthesis, stress resilience and tolerance, valuable bioproducts, and symbiosis. In 2020, he started his lab at the Department of Molecular Biosciences & Bioengineering, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Dr. Yu's current research interest includes: Synthetic biology in microalgae for valuable bioproducts; Symbiosis between microalgae and fungi; Lipid metabolism in photosynthetic organisms; Improving traits of tropical crops.

**Narayanan Srividya "Sri"**



Dr. Srividya is a Research Assistant Professor at the Institute of Biological Chemistry, Washington State University. She earned her Ph.D. from University of Madras. Her thesis was focused on synthesizing and characterizing acridinedione compounds using photophysics, photochemistry and electrochemical techniques. Sri worked at the Université Louis Pasteur as a postdoctoral scholar, moved to the University of Chicago and Western Michigan University, before joining as Research Assistant Professor at Washington State University. Her current work with Prof. Mark Lange focuses on understanding the determinants of product specificity in monoterpene synthases and predict the functions of putative monoterpene synthase genes in newly sequenced genomes.





# Phytochemtalks presents virtual seminar series



## Organizing Committee

Lucas Busta

(University of Minnesota Duluth)

Lars Kruse

(University of British Columbia)

Gaurav Moghe

(Cornell University)

Co-organized by the *Botanical Society of America's Phytochemistry Section* and the *Phytochemical Society of North America*

Upcoming Phytochemtalks <https://phytochemtalks.github.io/>

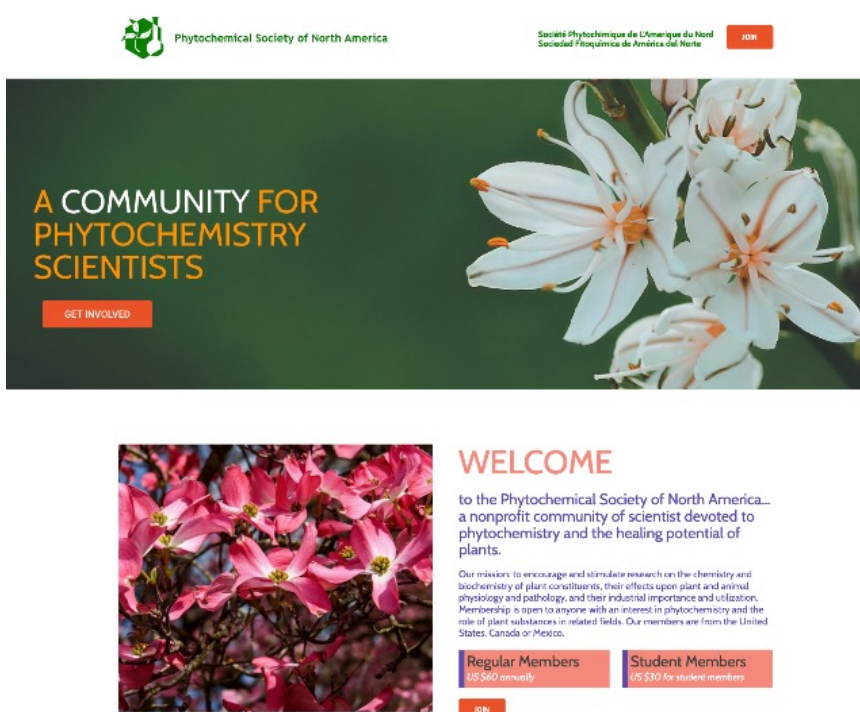
Recorded Phytochemtalks <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFV3OBetZd2-urinwIUVqqw>

## Your Publication Highlights in the PSNA Newsletter

The PSNA newsletter (also shared on Twitter and Facebook) highlights your recent publications and features first authors that are current PSNA members. Interested? Then, please send us a brief non-technical summary of your paper including the title and authors, and a publication link and graphical abstract or image, if possible. In addition, provide a photo and a brief statement including the first author's affiliation and research interests.

Please send your contributions (text as word document; images as pdf or jpg files) by email to

## New look of PSNA on the web



Sangeeta Dhaubhadel ([sangeeta.dhaubhadel@agr.gc.ca](mailto:sangeeta.dhaubhadel@agr.gc.ca)) or Armando Alcazar Magana ([armando.alcazarmagana@ubc.ca](mailto:armando.alcazarmagana@ubc.ca)).

We look forward to hearing from you!

Sangeeta Dhaubhadel (Secretary, PSNA)

Armando Alcazar Magana (Member, PSNA Young Members Committee)







### Membership Committee

Philipp Zerbe (Chair, University of California, Davis)  
Daniel Owens (member, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

### Young Members Committee

Monica Borghi (Chair, Utah State University)  
Armando Alcazar (member, University of British Columbia)  
Lucas Reist (member, Michigan State University)  
Praveen Khatri (member, Western University)  
Tuan-Anh Nguyen (member, University of British Columbia)  
William Hay (member, USDA-ARS)  
Trine Andersen (member, Michigan State University)

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Argelia Lorence (member, Arkansas State University)  
Deyu Xie (member, NC State University)  
Lucas Busta (member, University of Minnesota Duluth)  
Thu-Thuy Dang (member, University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus)

### Publication Committee

Sangeeta Dhaubhadel (Chair, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada)  
Mark Berhow (member, USDA ARS NCAUR)  
Mark Lange (member, Washington State University)  
Nikola Kovicich (member, York University)

## The Plant Journal- PSNA Early Career Awards

**Tentative Deadline for application for 2023:** March 15th

**Amount of the award:** \$1000/per

Numbers of awards to be given each year: up to three awards (The number of awards will depend on the availability of funds).

Any unused funds will be used for the following year's award.

### **Eligibility:**

This award is for postdocs and research scientists in academic, research institute, or government labs. Preference will be given to early career individuals who are ready to start an independent position; but, applications from mid-career scientists who are not principle investigators will also be considered.

The applicant should have at least 3-4 peer-reviewed papers (at least 5 for mid-career scientists) published as first author preferably in the field of phytochemistry or a related area.

The applicant should apply for PSNA membership at the time of application for this award.

The applicant should not have received an award from PSNA in the same category.

The awardee will not be eligible for any other conference related PSNA awards in the year the award is made.

### **Application package:**

Applicants will apply directly (no nomination) and provide the following information with their application package.

Evidence of membership of the PSNA at the time of application

The number of PSNA meetings previously attended

Copy of relevant publications

Letter of support from the postdoc/research scientist advisor/s

Abstract of the oral presentation

The potential topic for the invited review

Research Statement (limit three pages) describing their significant contributions to date, future goal, and perspective on phytochemical research

### **Expectations from the awardee:**

The applicant must give an oral presentation (30 min) at the annual PSNA meeting.

The awardee should acknowledge the support of sponsors of the award in their talks.

The *Plant Journal* will extend an invitation to the awardee and their supervisor to contribute a TPJ Focused Review for publication.

### **The outcome of the application:**

The PSNA awards committee will be responsible for all the decisions related to the awards.

All applicants will be notified about the outcome of their application.



## PSNA Newsletters Back Issue Catalog

Dr. John Romeo, a Past PSNA President and a Life Time Member of the PSNA, sent his collection of back issues of the *PSNA Newsletter* dating back to 1976 to the current editor. These have now been scanned to PDF digital format and have recently been posted on the PSNA website. This expands our collection of back issues that had only gone back to 2000 or so. This is a unique collection that catalogs the events and proceedings of the PSNA meetings as well as providing some interesting articles on the state of phytochemical research over the years. If you get a chance go to the PSNA website and click the publications link, download some of the newsletter sets and enjoy!



## Current PSNA Executive Committee Members

**President**  
**Li Tian**



**Research interest:** My research group is interested in understanding how phytonutrients (e.g. phenolics) are made in plants using molecular, genetic, and biochemical tools. We also examine how accumulation of phytonutrients in plants is controlled by different factors under various environmental conditions. Our long-term goal is to apply the knowledge obtained from these investigations to improve the nutritional value and agronomic performance of crop plants.

**President Elect:**  
**Dhirendra Kumar**



**Research interests:** Understanding the salicylic acid-mediated biotic and abiotic signaling pathway in plants. Most of the current research

in my lab is focused on the characterization of the SABP2-interacting proteins. We hope to develop stress-resistant crop plants with less dependence on pesticides and other chemicals.

**Past President:**  
**Dorothea Tholl**



**Research interests:** My research group investigates the metabolism, function, and biosynthetic evolution of plant and animal specialized metabolites (primarily volatile terpenes) in intra- and inter-specific interactions. Applied aspects of our research include determining the metabolism and function of volatile aroma compounds and defense metabolites in root crops and engineering insect pheromones in plants for developing novel pest management strategies.

**Secretary:**  
**Sangeeta Dhaubhadel**



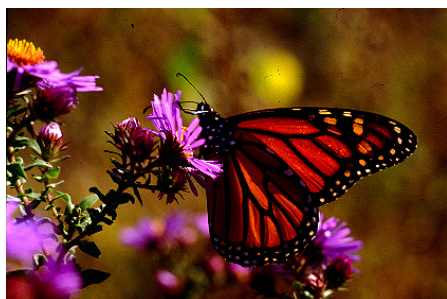


Research interests: Seed quality and defense-related traits in legume crops such as soybean, pea and common bean. Our research goal is to understand the molecular mechanisms underlying the synthesis of specialized metabolites involved in those traits and identify the regulators that control the synthesis/accumulation of these beneficial compounds in legumes.

**Treasurer:  
Philipp Zerbe**



Research interests: functional genomics, metabolomics, biochemical and genetic approaches to investigate the biosynthesis, regulation and function of specialized terpenoid metabolites in bioenergy, food and medicinal plants with the goal to develop resources for crop optimization and natural product engineering.



**Editor-in-Chief, Phytochemistry  
Reviews: Reinhard Jetter**



Research interests: Reinhard Jetter's research group is studying the surface waxes of various model plants and crops, spanning a wide range of metabolites from fatty acid derivatives to terpenoids, phenolics and polyketides. Current projects focus on the chemical analysis of the complex wax mixtures and the characterization of key enzymes involved in their formation.







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   Department of Plant Biology  
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   University of California, Davis  
   605 Hutchison Drive, Davis, CA 95616  
   Phone: 530-754-9652  
   [pzerbe@ucdavis.edu](mailto:pzerbe@ucdavis.edu)

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