PSNA Spring 2026

psna-online.org

Newsletter

Volume 64, Number 1

Message from Brenda Winkel, PSNA President

Dear colleagues,

Greetings from Blacksburg, Virginia, USA!

Did you know that this newsletter has been disseminating information to our society for over more than four decades? You can find copies of issues dating back to 1976 on the PSNA website under "News and Publications." It is remarkable to see some of the giants in our field brought back to life in those pages, people like **Helen Stafford, Tony Swain,** and **Frank Loewus.** You might also notice that a ticket for the banquet at the 1976 meeting, consisting of "a five-course meal with wine and entertainment," was to be had for $15!

There is much good news to share with you in this latest edition. First, we have transitioned the PSNA website to Wix, which has greatly improved our membership signup and renewal process, in addition to generating some significant savings. You may also have noticed that the site is continually updated and expanded thanks to greater control over the content. This now includes a job posting page where anyone can easily advertise opportunities relevant to the society, free of charge, by filling out an online form. Students and researchers alike, please check it out! The ongoing enhancement of the PSNA's online presence is entirely due to the significant expertise and ongoing time commitment of Praveen Khatri (Univ. Toronto; See more - **Page 12**).

Also since the last newsletter, we have embarked on a new

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

President's message continued...

relationship with the American Society of Horticultural Science that allows us to maintain a "permanent" official address and bank account going forward. This will alleviate much of the time and effort that has been invested in transitions between treasurers every three years, which required setting up new accounts and "redomiciling" the society's 501(c)(3) corporation. We can thank Philipp Zerbe (UC Davis) and Jeongim Kim (Univ. Florida), as well as ASHS CEO, Tracy Shawn, for inspiring and helping execute yet another major step forward for our society.

I would also like to give a shout-out to the Young Members Committee, chaired by Gabby Wyatt (UC Davis). This group has continued to innovate and to define the society in some very special ways. Of particular note this spring are contributions to our social media presence, which recently included a video interview with Natalia Dudereva (Purdue Univ.) that includes some very interesting insights from this eminent phytochemist (who is one of the invited speakers for PSNA2026). You may find links to the interview on the PSNA website and BlueSky. This committee is also organizing a number of events for early-career scientists at PSNA2026.

Speaking of which, our annual meeting is just two months away! Hiroshi Maeda (University of Wisconsin), assisted by Mike Sullivan and Sarah Whitcomb (both of the USDA ARS in Madison, WI) and Will Hay (USDA ARS in Peoria, IL), have organized what promises to be another very successful gathering in a beautiful setting. In addition to eight already-invited speakers, we will be hearing from ourf our new Neish and TPJ awardees (stay tuned for details). In addition, more than 100 abstracts have already been submitted, with numerous opportunities for oral and poster presentations as well travel awards for early-career scientists. Note that April 30th is the deadline for abstract submission to be considered for an oral presentation. And also new for this year thanks to Philipp Zerbe, Elsevier will be publishing the meeting abstracts in a special issue of PHYTOCHEMISTRY, which will be indexed and your contributions therefore citable.

And last but not least, our annual election of officers is underway. This year we have just one office to fill, that of president-elect, with nominations open during the month of March. We had two nominees, one of whom, our current secretary, Nik Kovinich, had elected to defer running until after his term ends next year. We are delighted that Georg Jander has accepted his nomination; you can learn more about his long-standing engagement with the PSNA and his vision for the future elsewhere in this newsletter. Note that the term of president-elect will be for 2026-2027, transitioning to president in 2027-2028 (taking the reins from current president-elect, Soheil Mahmoud), and then to past president in 2028-2029. All current members will have received a notification containing a link to the online ballot. Note that write-in candidates are also always welcome. Please cast your vote by May 4 th – your participation in this important process is essential!

Thank you for your continued support. The future of the PSNA remains very bright thanks to your engagement, as well as the hard work of the many volunteers that make up our committees! I wish you all the very best as you wrap up spring semesters, gear up for field seasons, and with all the other exciting transitions that accompany this time of year. I look forward to seeing many of you in Madison in June!!!

Brenda Winkel
PSNA President (2025-2026)

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.psna-online.org. 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 2025-2026

Current PSNA Executive Committee Members

President: Dr. Brenda Winkel

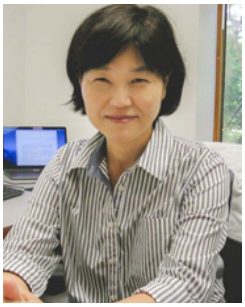
Research Interests: Characterization of the architecture and localization of the Arabidopsis flavonoid enzyme complex using a variety of molecular, biochemical, and cell biological techniques; analysis of the effects of phytohormones on the plant root proteome and metabolome using mass spectrometry-based methods, in collaboration with the Helm Laboratory in the Department of Biochemistry and colleagues at Wake Forest University; development of novel multimetallic complexes for use as anticancer agents, in collaboration with the Brewer Laboratory in the Department of Chemistry.

President Elect: Dr. Sohiel Mahmoud

Research Interests: Molecular, cellular, biochemical and environmental factors that regulate the quality and quantity of aromas and essential oils produced by herbal and medicinal plants; identification, cloning and characterization of structural and regulatory genes that are involved in the biosynthesis, inter- and intra-cellular trafficking, secretion and storage of monoterpenes in plants cells specialized for secondary metabolite production.

Past President: Dr. 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: Dr. Jeongim Kim

Research interests: The Kim Lab studies plant secondary metabolism and hormones, as well as metabolic engineering and plant genetic modification using CRISPR.

Secretary: Dr. Nik Kovinich

Research interests: The Kovinich Lab focuses on understanding the transcription factor networks that regulate the conserved and lineage-specific metabolic defenses of plants.

Editor-in-Chief, Phytochemistry Reviews: Dr. De-Yu Xie

Research interests: Understanding the structure and biosynthesis of plant natural products, particularly flavonoids, terpenes, and alkaloids. Using a combinatorial approach involving phytochemistry, metabolomics, molecular biology, and biochemistry, we study their structures, biogenesis, and metabolic biology. We leverage these insights to produce novel pharmaceuticals and biofuels through metabolic engineering. Additionally, we are exploring innovative methods to screen for natural products with anti-cancer, anti-malaria, anti-viral, and anti-aging properties.

PSNA COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2025-2026

Advisory Board

Thuy Dang
University of British Columbia
Bjoern Hamberger
Michigan State University
Georg Jander
Boyce Thompson Institute
Praveen Khatri
University of Toronto, Mississauga
Carlos Rodríguez López
Tec de Monterrey
Hiroshi Maeda
Univ. Wisconsin-Madison
Michael Phillips
Univ. Toronto
Zhen Wang
SUNY Buffalo
Gabrielle Wyatt
UC Davis
Philipp Zerbe
UC Davis
Dhirendra Kumar (Past President)
East Tennessee State University
Li Tian (Past President)
University of California, Davis
Dorothea Tholl (Past President)
Virginia Tech
Mark Lange (Past President)
Washington State University
Argelia Lorence (Past President)
Arkansas State University
Jan Frederik Stevens (Past President)
Oregon State University

Membership Committee

Jeongim Kim (Chair)
University of Florida

Philipp Zerbe
University of California, Davis

Lucas Busta
University of Minnesota, Duluth

Awards & Recognition Committee

Zhen Wang (Chair)
University of Buffalo

Hiroshi Maeda
University Wisconsin-Madison

Publication Committee

Nik Kovinich (Chair)
York University

Jie Lin
York University

Elizabeth Milner
Oregon State University

Rory Westerman
University of Minnesota, Duluth

Praveen Khatri
University of Toronto, Mississauga

Young Members Committee

Gabrielle Wyatt (Chair)
University of California, Davis

Gloria-Alexandra Gueorguieva
University of California, Davis

Farida Yasmin
University of California, Davis

Tuan-Anh M. Nguyen
University of British Columbia

Elizabeth Milner
Oregon State University

Rory Westerman
University of Minnesota, Duluth

Bethany Mostert
North Carolina State

Deepak Duhan
Western University, London, ON

Praveen Khatri
University of Toronto, Mississauga

Adriana Salazar
University of Bristol

Carlos Rodríguez López
Tec de Monterrey

William Hay
USDA

Aida Shahabi
York University

Alma Gutierrez
Tec de Monterrey

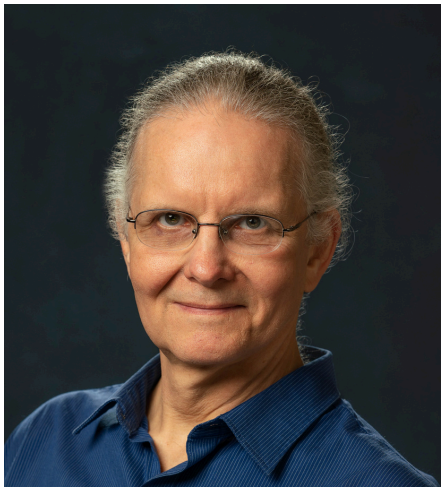
Hodan Halane
Western University

Melissa Ly
York University

Sarah Pullano
York University

Swathi Nadakuduti
University of Florida

Dear PSNA members,



We are pleased to announce that the nomination process for the PSNA President position for 2027-2028 has been initiated and we have one candidate who has expressed his willingness to serve. We thank all those who participated in the nomination process. To ensure a fair and transparent nomination process, we followed a procedure that included both self-nominations and nominations by others through a survey sent out to all active PSNA members. The Advisory Committee carefully reviewed all the nominations, and after reaching out to the candidates for their willingness to serve, we are excited to announce that Dr. Georg Jander has been nominated as the sole candidate for the position of PSNA President for 2024-2025.

Candidate's Statement: As a long-term PSNA member, I am honored to be considered as a future President of the society. If I am chosen for this position by the PSNA membership, I will actively participate in the development of new strategies to promote the success of PSNA and the wider phytochemical research community. I particularly enjoy the PSNA annual meeting, with its extensive opportunities for scientific interactions. During a three-year term on the PSNA Executive Committee, as President Elect, President, and Past President, I will contribute to developing a high-quality scientific program for the annual meeting, including in 2027, when we will be organizing the PSNA meeting here at Cornell University. Additionally, I will work to support fundraising and other efforts to foster diversity among the attendees and increase the participation of undergraduates and other early-career researchers.

Biography: Georg Jander is a Professor and George L. McNew Distinguished Scientist at the Boyce Thompson Institute and Adjunct Professor at Cornell University. Jander is notable not only for his academic rigor but also for his leadership in science policy and extensive mentoring experience. He has published more than 185 publications on plant specialized metabolism, plant-insect interactions, and functional genomics. The impacts of his research contributions have been recognized by his election as a Fellow of both the American Society of Plant Biologists and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, as well as by the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award. Jander has chaired the ASPB Science Policy Committee, served as a panel manager for USDA grant review panels, led the organization of the 2024 ASPB Northeast Section meeting, and is the lead organizer of the upcoming 2027 PSNA meeting. In 2024, as the Chair of the ASPB Science Policy Committee, he testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry regarding the transformative potential of CRISPR technologies in sustainable agriculture. In the realm of mentoring, dozens of graduate students and postdocs have passed through his lab and are now established scientists in industry and academia. Furthermore, over the past 22 years Jander has served as the principal investigator for six NSF REU and two USDA REEU grants that have provided plant research opportunities for hundreds of students. More than one hundred undergraduates and high school students have received plant research training in the Jander lab. Many of these students were from STEM-underserved institutions, demonstrating Jander's commitment to strengthening a continuous pipeline of excellent phytochemists, regardless of their backgrounds. His service to PSNA has been exemplary – he has helped co-organize past meetings, his lab has attended the annual meeting for years, and his students have been recipients of early career, travel and presentation awards.

The election commenced on April 13 and will be open until May 4. All active members have received an email invitation to vote. We encourage all society members to participate in the election process and help decide the PSNA President for 2027-2028.

65th Annual Meeting of the Phytochemical Society of North America (PSNA) at University of Wisconsin-Madison

Visit: go.wisc.edu/PSNA2026

SAVE THE DATE

June 15 (Mon) to June 19 (Fri), 2026

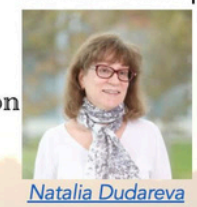
Tentative scientific topics:

Natural product chemistry and artificial intelligence (A.I.)
Chemical ecology and phytochemical functions
Primary and specialized metabolic pathway discovery and evolution
Plant-derived nutrition and medicine for human health
Ethnobotany and indigenous medicinal uses
Plant synthetic biology for plant-based chemical production

Workshops:

A.I. integration into phytochemical research
Career workshops for both academic and non-academic jobs
Discoveries to commercialization

Confirmed Speakers


Natalia Dudareva


Stacey Smith


Björn Hamberger


Amy Trowbridge


Gaurav Moghe


Jamie Blum


Kathy Darragh


Prashant Sonawane

Discussion leaders


Jing-Ke Weng


Satya Swathi Nadakuduti


Philipp Zerbe


Hannah Wayment-Steele


Lucas Busta


Quentin Dudley


Dorothea Tholl


Hiroshi Maeda

YOUNG MEMBERS COMMITTEE

The Young Members Committee (YMC) has been hard at work preparing for PSNA 2026 at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, and we are excited to bring several community-building events to this year's meeting.

To kick things off, we will be hosting a YMC Welcome Pizza Social on the first day of the conference by the lake. The goal is simple: create a relaxed space where students, postdocs, and other early-career scientists can meet one another at the very beginning of the meeting. Conferences can feel big at first, and we hope this informal gathering will help everyone start the week already connected to new colleagues and friends.

Of course, one of our favorite traditions is returning as well. Trivia Night will take place again this year on the evening following the final poster session. Over the past several years this event has become a PSNA staple, bringing together scientists across career stages for a night of friendly competition, plant-themed questions, and plenty of laughter. Whether you come to defend your trivia title or just for the fun of it, we hope to see you there.

We will also continue an important conversation within our community through the YMC Breakfast Session, which this year will focus on the value of cross-border mobility and global engagement in science. International collaboration and training are central strengths of our field, and this session aims to highlight how mobility, diverse perspectives, and international partnerships enrich scientific discovery and strengthen the PSNA community.

Beyond the annual meeting, the YMC has been busy highlighting members of our community through a series of interviews with past Arthur C. Neish Young Investigator and TPJ Early Career Award recipients. In these conversations, awardees reflect on the science behind their work, how the PSNA community has supported their research, and what advice they have for early-career scientists. These interviews will continue to be shared on our YouTube channel leading up to the Madison meeting.

We're looking forward to a fantastic gathering in June and hope you'll join us for these events. As always, stay connected with us on Instagram (@psna.official), X (@psnaofficial), LinkedIn (Phytochemical Society of North America), youtube (@psna-online) and Bluesky (@psna-official.bsky.social) for updates. See you in Madison!

— Gabrielle Wyatt
Chair, PSNA Young Members Committee

PHYTOCHEMTALKS: A GLOBAL SEMINAR SERIES FOR PLANT NATURAL PRODUCTS RESEARCH

PhytochemTalks is a virtual seminar series focused on plant biochemistry and natural products research for the global phytochemistry community. The series was founded in 2021 by Lars Kruse (University of British Columbia, Canada), Gaurav Moghe (Cornell University, USA), and Lucas Busta (University of Minnesota Duluth, USA) in recognition that phytochemistry is a relatively specialized field with few dedicated conference-style venues. The emergence of virtual seminar formats during the COVID-19 pandemic helped accelerate this idea and provided a practical opportunity to launch the initiative. The goal was to create an accessible and regular forum where researchers could share new discoveries, exchange ideas, and build networks across institutions and career stages, particularly supporting early-career scientists. What began as a small virtual seminar experiment has since developed into a vibrant international platform for the phytochemistry community.

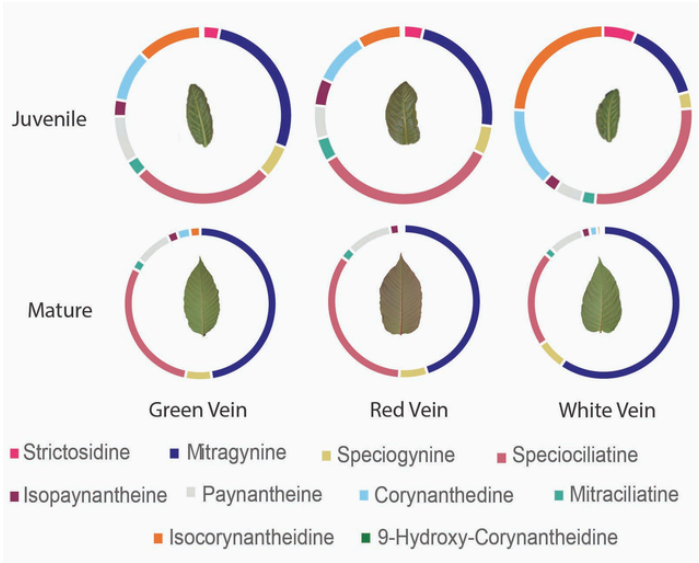
Now, the series hosts biweekly online seminars during the Spring and Fall semesters and features speakers across all career stages, from graduate students and postdoctoral researchers to established principal investigators. Since its launch in September 2021, PhytochemTalks has featured more than 85 speakers from over 60 institutions across 14 countries, regularly attracting 40–60 attendees per session and building a community of more than 350 members worldwide. The talks highlight discoveries in plant specialized metabolism, chemical ecology, and natural products biosynthesis, as well as emerging technologies and societal impact. By being fully virtual and freely accessible, PhytochemTalks removes barriers such as travel costs, visa challenges, and institutional access, enabling researchers worldwide to participate and engage with an international community. The format also broadens participation by providing visibility and networking opportunities for scientists from smaller institutions or without the funds for conference travel.

Today, PhytochemTalks is organized by Swathi Nadakuduti (University of Florida, USA), Thu-Thuy Dang (University of British Columbia, Canada), Lars Kruse, and Gaurav Moghe. The forum has become a widely recognized for international exchange in phytochemistry and plant natural products research. More information, how to register, access to talk recordings and the most recent seminar schedule can be found at https://phytochemtalks.github.io/.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Katherine Ransden, Pavithra Ramachandria

University of Florida



Katherine (PhD student) and Pavithra (undergraduate student) in the Nadakuduti Lab at University of Florida co-led a recent study investigating the genetic and biochemical basis of variation in *Mitragyna speciosa* (kratom), a Southeast Asian tree with long history of ethnobotanical use for fatigue and pain relief. Kratom's medicinal properties are attributed to monoterpene indole alkaloids (MIAs). The extent of variation of MIAs across leaf developmental stages and among plants from different environments is poorly understood. To address this, the group examined geographically diverse kratom accessions with different reported vein colors, an important trait often used in marketing kratom products. Using DNA barcoding, alkaloid profiling, and leaf developmental comparisons, the study evaluated how genotype, leaf maturity, and morphology influence MIA composition. The research revealed two distinct plastid haplotypes among the sampled accessions and uncovered clear differences in MIA stereochemistry between young and mature leaves. Importantly, the study found no association between vein color and alkaloid profile, challenging a common assumption in the kratom marketplace. This work provides valuable insight into the biological factors that shape kratom's medicinal chemistry and offers evidence-based information for both researchers and consumers. Check it out at https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/plant-science/articles/10.3389/fpls.2026.1821609/

Anna E. Cowie, Gabrielle Wyatt, Siena Schumaker

University of California, Davis

The Zerbe Lab at the University of California, Davis recently uncovered a new branch of maize chemical defense metabolism, expanding our understanding of how crops deploy specialized metabolites against stress. In a recent preprint, the team reports the discovery and characterization of the rosalexin biosynthetic pathway in maize (Zea mays), identifying a previously unrecognized class of diterpenoid phytoalexins that contribute to pathogen-induced defense responses.

Diterpenoids are key components of plant immunity, and maize is known to produce protective compounds such as kauralexins and dolabralexins. Using integrated genomics, enzyme biochemistry, metabolomics, and AI-assisted mechanistic modeling, the researchers identified a new pathway branch formed by the coordinated activity of two diterpene synthases (ZmTPS38/CPS2 and ZmTPS42/KSL1) and a promiscuous cytochrome P450 enzyme (ZmCYP71Z18). This pathway produces rosalexins, including epoxyrosanol, a metabolite with strong antifungal activity against major maize pathogens.

Notably, the study reveals that rosalexin production varies across maize genotypes due to extensive sequence variation and pseudogenization of ZmTPS42/KSL1, highlighting how genetic diversity shapes metabolic defense capacity. While rosalexins accumulate in response to pathogen challenge, their role appears to complement rather than replace other diterpenoid defenses, forming part of a modular and dynamic chemical defense network.

This work expands the known diterpenoid arsenal in maize and demonstrates how duplication and diversification of hormone-related genes continue to generate new metabolic functions. These findings provide new opportunities for crop improvement strategies aimed at enhancing disease resistance and stress resilience through metabolic engineering and breeding. Check it out at https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.64898/2026.04.15.718773v1

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTS

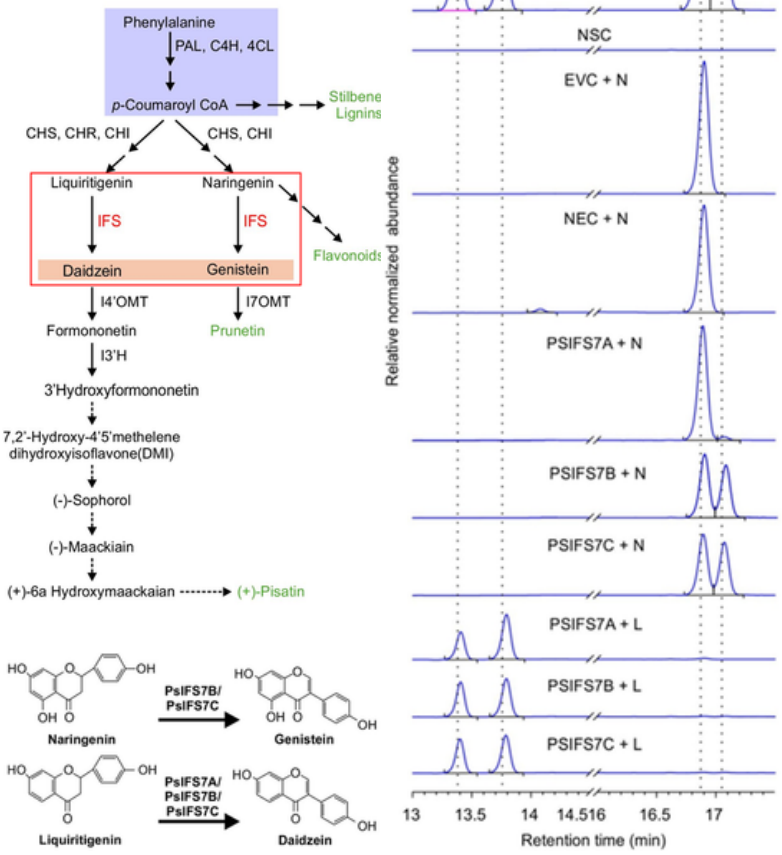
Muhammad Sufyan Tahir, PhD

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Muhammad Sufyan Tahir, a Research Associate in Dr. Sangeeta Dhaubhadel's laboratory at the London Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada together with the team recently published a study on the entry point enzyme for pisatin biosynthesis in pea (*Pisum sativum* L.) in Legume Science Journal.

Isoflavonoids are key defense metabolites in legumes, playing central roles in plant–pathogen interactions. In pea, the phytoalexin pisatin provides critical protection against soil-borne pathogens such as Aphanomyces euteiches, yet the genetic basis underlying its biosynthesis remains poorly understood. In our recent study, we identified and characterized three Isoflavone synthase (IFS) genes (PsIFS7A, PsIFS7B, and PsIFS7C) in the pea genome. Phylogenetic and structural analyses confirmed that these candidates belong to the CYP93C subfamily, sharing conserved cytochrome P450 motifs. Functional assays using a yeast expression system confirmed their catalytic activity in converting the flavanones naringenin and liquiritigenin into the isoflavones genistein and daidzein, respectively, both in vitro and in planta systems. Expression profiling revealed that PsIFS genes are predominantly expressed in roots and are rapidly induced upon pathogen infection, supporting their role in defense-related isoflavonoid biosynthesis.

Together, these findings provide new insights into the functional diversity of IFS genes in pea and establish a foundation for improving disease resistance through targeted breeding or metabolic engineering approaches. Check it out at....
https://doi.org/10.1002/leg3.70105



Highlight Your Publication in the PSNA Newsletter!

The PSNA newsletter (also shared via social media) 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 Nik Kovinich (kovinich@yorku.ca)

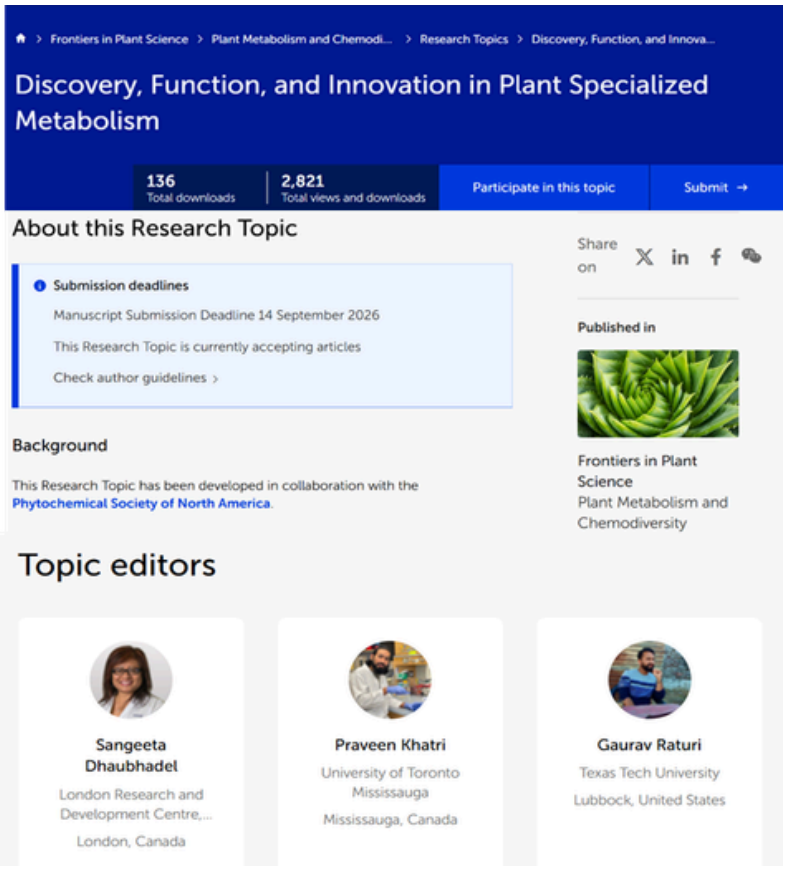
We look forward to hearing from you!

PSNA-Frontiers in Plant Science Collaboration

As part of the partnership with Frontiers in Plant Sciences, PSNA receives publication revenue for every Research Topic edited /co-edited by a PSNA member. If you are serving as a guest editor for a Research Topic in *Frontiers in Plant Science*, please contact **Nik Kovinich** (kovinich@yorku.ca). Your participation helps support PSNA and its activities for the phytochemistry community.

PSNA is excited to announce a new Research Topic in *Frontiers in Plant Science* (Plant Metabolism and Chemodiversity section) titled "*Discovery, Function, and Innovation in Plant Specialized Metabolism*." This initiative is led by PSNA members Sangeeta Dhaubhadel (London Research and Development Centre, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada; Adjunct Professor, Western University), Praveen Khatri (University of Toronto Mississauga), and Gaurav Raturi (Texas Tech University). We warmly invite researchers to contribute their latest discoveries to this exciting Research Topic (https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/73194/discovery-function-and-innovation-in-plant-specialized-metabolism).

This Research Topic aims to showcase exciting advances across plant specialized metabolism spanning discovery of new pathways, functional characterization of enzymes, metabolomics-enabled insights, and innovations that accelerate pathway engineering and translation. **Submission deadline is 14 September 2026**



Click, Connect, Stay Updated-PSNA's New Website Is Live!!!

PSNA has a new, redesigned website: **www.psna-online.org**, built to make it faster and easier for members and the wider phytochemistry community to find what they need in one place. The site has a clean, modern layout with improved navigation across key sections (About, Meetings & Events, Careers, News & Publications, Awards), and it is designed to be a living hub that stays current as PSNA activities evolve. A major goal of the new site is better communication and visibility: members can quickly access society news and updates (including award announcements), browse events and meeting information, and find community resources such as job postings. The Meetings & Events section also highlights upcoming annual meetings and future host institutions, and it provides an easy pathway for members to explore meeting archives and society programming. Importantly, the website is designed to deliver regular updates and announcements as new items are posted. So, the best way to stay informed is to ***subscribe***. The homepage includes a newsletter subscription sign-up ("***Subscribe to our newsletter-Don't miss out!***"). If you haven't already, please subscribe so you don't miss PSNA announcements, deadlines, and society updates. Please take a moment to explore the site and share feedback. This is meant to be a platform that supports PSNA's community year-round.

Praveen Khatri led the development of PSNA's new website, bringing a modern layout and a more member-friendly structure to how PSNA shares news, meetings, awards, and opportunities. He is a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of Michael Phillips at the University of Toronto Mississauga, working at the interface of phytochemistry, enzymology, and functional genomics. His research focuses on plant specialized metabolism and defense chemistry, with particular emphasis on pathway enzymes especially cytochrome P450s in systems such as soybean and other medicinally relevant plants. In his current work, he is also investigating Salvia species diterpenes, combining biochemical and functional genomics approaches to understand diterpene biosynthesis and diversification. Through PSNA's Young Members Committee (YMC), he also supports community engagement and communication efforts that connect members throughout the year.

Praveen Khatri, PhD