

PLANT SOIL  
& MICROBIAL  
SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**Welcome to PSM!**

The USDA-ARS sugar beet and bean research unit is pleased to announce that **Dr. Rachel Naegele** has accepted the position as the sugar beet geneticist/breeder for the unit. **Dr. Naegele** received her MS at Michigan State in the program of **Dr. Mitch McGrath** working on genetics of *Beta vulgaris* and her Ph.D. with **Dr. Mary Hausbeck** at MSU. She then took a postdoctoral position with **Dr. Robin Buehl**. She currently is with the USDA-ARS Crops Diseases, Pests and Genetic Research in Parlier, California working primarily with grapes. She will be joining the USDA Sugar Beet and Bean Research Unit in East Lansing in March 2021 as the beet breeder/geneticist.

**Dissertation Defense Announcements****November 23, 2020 at 8:00 AM**

Announcement of virtual Dissertation defense for **Sommer Desotell**  
Title: Evaluation Of Management Programs For Control Of Potato Early Die (PED) And Sensitivity Of *Helminthosporium Solani* To Three Classes Of Fungicides

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

**November 24, 2020 at 8:00 AM**

Announcement of virtual Dissertation Defense for **Marco Lopez-Cruz**  
Title: Introducing Sparsity Into Selection Index Methodology With Applications To High-Throughput Phenotyping And Genomic Prediction

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/2242404721>

Meeting ID: 224 240 4721

Passcode: 621216

**Seminars / Webinars****November 24, 2020 from 10:00-11:00 AM**

WACSS Anti-Racism Insight Series

**Dr. Jennifer Cobbina**, Associate Professor, School of Criminal Justice, MSU

Book Talk: Hands Up, Don't Shoot: Why the Protests in Ferguson and Baltimore Matter, and How They Changed America

Registration: <https://wacss.msu.edu/events/index.html>

Hosted by: MSU Women's Advisory Committee for Support Staff (WACSS)

CO-Sponsors: MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and MSU Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives

## Seminars / Webinars

**November 30, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM**

Plant Pathology Seminar

**Carly Hendershot**

Title: Michigan sugar beets; disease survey and winter storage trials

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

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**December 3, 2020 from 4:00-5:00 PM**

PSM/HRT Fall 2020 Seminar

**Dr. Maria del Mar Jimenez Gasco**, The Pennsylvania State University

Title: Diversity, ecology, and evolution of plant-associated *Fusarium oxysporum*

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/98053375357>

Meeting ID: 980 5337 5357

Passcode: 149423

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**December 7, 2020 from 1:30-2:30 PM**

Plant Pathology Seminar

**Allie Watson**

Title: *Gnomoniopsis smithogilvyi*: An Emerging Pathogen in Michigan

<https://msu.zoom.us/j/97892001305>

Meeting ID: 978 9200 1305

Passcode: 156579

## Announcements

### Update and New Health Directive - Message from Brian Horgan

Following the new MI health guidelines and directives, I would like to reinforce what we know as of today (11/16/2020) and as it relates to PSM.

1. Effective Wednesday, Nov. 18, all courses will be on-line for the remainder of the semester. This includes graduate courses.
2. All of the planning we have done for SS21 is still in effect as we have no new information at this time.
3. We have become a little lax with some of the lab research protocols and procedures. Now is the time to review and reinforce your lab reactivation plans. This would include your online scheduling, rotation of hours, number of people in the lab at a time, physical distancing, face coverings, cleaning plans, etc.
4. Develop backup and contingency plans in case you or someone in your lab becomes ill.
  - a. Instructors - who teaches your course if you become ill, do they have access to your D2L site, do they have a copy of your final exam? Let me know if you want to discuss this.
  - b. PSM office has a backup plan in place for all accounting and HR functions.
5. Office use - another place we have become a little lax. We are not in a mandatory stay in shelter but MSU wants those that can work from home to work from home.

I am so proud of all of your efforts to staff safe while completing your mission focused work. Keep it up and don't let your guard down now.

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### Useful COVID Information - MSU Emergency Operations Center

Please see attached information

- If you test positive for COVID-19
- Coronavirus - Isolation Vs. Quarantine
- COVID-19 positive or exposed. When can I be around others again?

## Announcements

### Traveling this holiday?

What we currently know is described in the following link of what you and your staff need to consider.

<https://oihs.isp.msu.edu/travel-during-covid-19-pandemic/health-protocol-inbound-travel/>

In summary

- In-state travel then returning to campus does not require a 14-day self-quarantine. However, we are responsible for the health of the campus community and not just our personal health. In other words, it is recommended but not required.
- Out-of-state travel for students (grad or undergrad) requires a 14-day self-quarantine prior to returning to campus if you are coming from an active outbreak COVID state (currently 42 out of 50 states, see the map in the link above).
- Out-of-state travel for faculty and staff, it is strongly recommended that you self-quarantine for 14-days prior to returning to campus if you are coming from an active outbreak COVID state (currently 42 out of 50 states, see the map in the link above).

Spartan Spit is undersubscribed, and everyone is encouraged to sign up and continue to utilize it throughout the holiday periods of November and December. Even if an individual is participating in the Spartan Spit, the return to campus travel protocol stated above still holds.

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### Flu Vaccines Now Available At Multiple Locations

By appointment, through December 31, 2020 while supplies last

- **MSU Health Care Pharmacy**      517-353-3500  
<https://pharmacy.msu.edu/pharmacy-news/flu-vaccine-offered-by-the-msu-health-care-pharmacies>
- **Internal Medicine**            517-353-4941  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/internal-medicine.aspx>
- **Family Medicine**            517-353-2562  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/family-medicine.aspx>
- **Pediatrics DeWitt**            517-353-4000  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/pediatrics-dewitt.aspx>
- **Pediatrics West Side**        517-622-1012  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/msu-pediatric-west-side.aspx#MSU%20Pediatrics%20-%20West%20Side>
- **Pediatrics Okemos**          517-349-6560  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/MSU%20Health%20Care%20Pediatrics%20Okemos.aspx>
- **Pediatrics Lansing**          517-364-5440  
<https://healthcare.msu.edu/patients/MSU%20Child%20Health%20Lansing.aspx>

## Announcements

**[NRT] Fellowship Application for NSF-Funded IMPACTS Graduate Training Program**  
[IMPACTS](#) is a program aiming at training doctoral students in the interface between computational and plant sciences. It is funded through the NSF Research Traineeship (NRT) program.

### Important dates:

*Application due:* 5 pm, March 1, 2021.      *Award announcement:* March 15, 2021.

**What's in the program:** The IMPACTS program focuses on training the next generation of scientists that can employ computational and data science approaches to analyze and interpret heterogeneous, multi-scale measurement data to predict plant responses in variable environments at local to global scales.

### Why should you apply:

- Obtain foundational knowledge in computational and plant sciences and develop and execute innovative research approaches to address them.
- Develop communication, management, leadership, and collaboration skills.
- Obtain a one-year fellowship, as well as travel and internship support.
- Be recognized as an NSF Fellow.

### Who is eligible to apply:

- A current doctoral student in their 1st-2nd year of doctoral training.
- A research project that has a clear need for integrating computational/data and plant sciences co-advised by a plant science-oriented and a computational/data science-oriented trainer.
- A US citizen or permanent resident.

**Special note:** [Women and persons from underrepresented groups in research](#) are especially encouraged to apply.

**How to apply:** See this [application document](#) for details.

If you have any question, please contact us via [nrt@msu.edu](mailto:nrt@msu.edu).  
NRT-IMPACTS program      [nrt@msu.edu](mailto:nrt@msu.edu)

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## Genome Editing Applications in Plant Breeding

Date: December 10-11th, 2020

**Registration Deadline: Monday, November 30, 2020**

### About the Symposium

This year's Plant Breeding, Genetics, and Biotechnology (PBGB) symposium, 'Genome Editing Applications in Plant Breeding' will be held virtually on December 10-11th, 2020 via Zoom. The symposium features research talks presented by world-class experts from both academia and industry. In addition, registrants can participate in round-table discussions, graduate student research talks, a behavioral interview workshop, and a virtual poster gallery. To register, please click [HERE](#).

### Registration and Abstract Submission

Registration is free and required for anyone interested in attending the symposium. A confirmation email with Zoom link and Slack channel invitation will be sent out a week before the symposium. For the most up-to-date information, explore the website: <https://www.canr.msu.edu/pbgb/Symposium/> and follow [PBGB Twitter](#).

## Announcements

### Pcard Process Reminders

A reminder that while working from home or the office, complying with Pcard processes - including proper record keeping practices - are requirements of cardholders and fiscal officers.

- Please review and approve Pcard eDocs when they appear in your Action List. Don't let them auto approve.
  - Cardholders must approve within 14 calendar days.
  - Fiscal officers must approve within 31 calendar days.
- All Pcard purchases require receipts.
  - Scan and attach receipts to the Notes and Attachments tab of the eDoc.
  - Receipts must be itemized and legible.
- A business purpose must be indicated either on the receipt, the description line, or in the Notes and Attachments tab. Include details of how/why the item or service will be used or was needed.
- Refunds must be cross-referenced to the original eDoc.

### Using the COVID19 Project Code

Remember to use the COVID19 project code when applicable. Transactions identified with this code may qualify for Cares Act reimbursement. The COVID19 project code should be used if the purchase is necessary as a result of the pandemic.

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### PCard Reminder - Membership Dues

Membership dues are NOT to be paid from your MSU Procurement Card. Membership dues need to be processed by the Department Business Office where they generate a special letter and handle getting the information needed for approval and process payment. You just need to scan/forward your membership renewal request to **Lisa Bowen** at [bowenli1@msu.edu](mailto:bowenli1@msu.edu). Please be sure to provide the account number so that she can submit payment.

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### Building Access

If building access is needed, please remember to have your PI email **AnnMarie Guldner** ([guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)) directly with this request. Requests cannot be accepted from anyone other than the PI.

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### PSM Office Coverage

We will be staffing the PSM office on Wednesdays for essential needs only (Ex: keys). An appointment needs to be made prior by contacting **AnnMarie Guldner** at either [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu) or 517-353-0120. No drop ins will be allowed.

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### Sign-in/out forms for PSSB and CIPS

The sign-in/out form for visiting PSSB and CIPS will no longer be required because it's largely redundant with the COVID-19 Workplace Health Screening (Updated 6/18/2020) form. Effective Immediately, you are only required to fill out the COVID-19 Workplace Health Screening (Updated 6/18/2020) form before you enter PSSB or CIPS. The health screening form provides the critical information for contact tracing in the event of potential COVID case or exposure in the building. The sign-in/out form has been removed from the PSM website. Note: Farms are still requiring sign-in/out form. The form can be found at this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=MHEXli9k2UGSEXQjetVofRr5465eclGIAHCZg1x3UtUQU1EWTRBTkZTMzVESEJDTzRPMTBHNEFHVC4u>

## Protocol - MSU COVID-19 Testing and Reporting

Please see this link <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/students-parents/> and <https://msu.edu/together-we-will/faculty-staff/> for current COVID-19 testing and reporting protocol.

## Vehicle Use Policy

### One Person per Vehicle Policy

MSU has a standing policy of only one person per vehicle for all travel on MSU business. Exceptions to this rule were approved which allowed two persons per vehicle in two specific situations:

- 1) Short-distance travel on South Campus Research and Education Complex and Research Centers (June 14 memo)
- 2) Full size vans (September 2 memo)

Given the rapid increase in COVID cases in Michigan, including Ingham County, and the current MDHHS Emergency Order, these exceptions are no longer allowed. Effective immediately, all travel on University business by faculty, staff and student employees is **now limited to one person per vehicle**.

## Food and Drink Policy

### Food and Drink Policy - Addendum to the PSSB Reopening Plan 7/23/2020

Based on the changing Executive Orders and needs of the MSU community, food consumption will be allowed in PSSB in posted designated areas. Please keep in mind that this change in policy may pose an increased risk of exposure and it is important to observe physical distancing, follow disinfecting protocols and spend minimal time in the room.

To meet these goals and maximize safety, the PSSB building SOP plan has been modified to:

- Note that it is always preferable to eat outside of the building when possible
- Conference and break rooms on the second floor will be open for food consumption. Please limit your time to 30-min to accommodate colleagues/other building occupants.
  - A279 - Horticulture conference room - maximum occupancy is 5
  - A271 - PSM conference room - maximum occupancy is 6
  - A246 - Break room - maximum occupancy is 5
- Maximum occupancy signs will be posted on each door. If the room is fully occupied, please check another designated space. If all conference and break rooms are fully occupied, check back later.
- Masks must be worn in each room unless actually consuming food
- Kitchenettes will continue to be closed. There is no microwave or refrigerator usage allowed.
- Everyone should bring and remove all personal supplies for eating.
- The user is required to disinfect the space before and after each use following EPA approved guidelines (70% alcohol for 5-min; Sani-wipes for 3-min). Disinfectants will be present in the room.
- Snacks and community food to share should not be brought to work.

### Face coverings

Individuals with COVID-19 are highly infectious for up to two days before the onset of symptoms. Thus, face coverings are a crucial public health measure and help protect others by reducing exposure to droplets if someone is unknowingly infected with COVID-19. Wearing a face covering, whether you feel ill or have been diagnosed with COVID-19, is critical to maintaining everyone's health and safety.

**Face coverings must be worn by everyone** (including all faculty, staff, students, vendors and visitors) indoors and outdoors while you are on property owned or governed by MSU and while participating in MSU-related or MSU-sponsored activities. If you have a medical condition that may prevent you from safely wearing a face covering, you should contact [MSU's Resource Center for Persons with Disabilities](#) to begin the accommodation process.

Exceptions to the requirement for face coverings will be limited. For example, if you are indoors, exceptions are limited to when:

1. you are in your own place of residence and can therefore properly physically distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others);
2. you are in a private, single-occupancy office or lab space with a closed door and can reasonably expect other individuals not to enter (but if you leave your private, single-occupancy office or lab space and proceed into a common area or hallway - even if there are no other individuals present - you must wear a face covering); **or**
3. you are eating or drinking but still maintaining physical distance (at least six feet of physical separation between yourself and others).

If you are outdoors, exceptions are limited to when:

1. you are working outdoors and can maintain physical distance from others (but you will need to wear a face covering outdoors when interacting with others or when unable to maintain physical distance); **or**
2. you are exercising or engaging in high-intensity activities outdoors (for example, jogging, running, bicycling or golfing) and can maintain physical distance from others.

If you are working, an exception may be allowed in the following situations:

1. you are working in a setting where a face covering may increase the risk of a hazard (for example, the face covering could become wet, the face covering could get caught in machinery, or the face covering could become contaminated with chemicals used in the work environment);
2. you can maintain physical distance from others; **and**
3. you have previously consulted with your supervisor to determine the appropriate face covering for your setting.

In addition, if you are working, an exception may be allowed if you need a fresh-air break outdoors **and**

1. you can maintain physical distance from others,
2. you will not interact with others **and**
3. you have previously consulted with your supervisor.

Face coverings should:

1. be non-medical grade to maintain supplies for health care use,
2. fit snugly against the side of your face,
3. cover your nose and mouth,
4. be secured with ties or ear loops **and**
5. allow for breathing without restriction.

## Face Coverings (Updated August 13, 2020)

Cloth face coverings should only be worn for one day at a time, and they must be properly hand washed or laundered with soap/detergent before subsequent use. Face coverings may vary (for example, disposable non-medical masks or neck gaiters are acceptable).

In addition to wearing face coverings, whether you are on- or off-campus, you also must adhere to the guidelines and recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) as well as federal and [state government](#) authorities, in order to protect your own health and the health of the entire MSU community.

<https://msu.edu/together-we-will/keeping-spartans-safe/>

## MSU Academic Calendar

### Fall 2020

November 26-27	Holiday - University Closed
December 11	Classes End
December 14-18	Final Exams
December 24-25	Holiday - University Closed
December 31- January 1	Holiday - University Closed

### Fall 2020 Commencement Dates - Virtual Ceremonies

**Master's Degrees:** Friday, December 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM

**Doctoral Degrees:** Friday, December 18, 2020 at 2:00 PM

**Baccalaureate Degrees:** Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM

For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

### Spring 2021

January 11	Classes Begin
January 18	Holiday - University Open, Classes Cancelled
March 2-3	No Classes
March 3	Middle of Semester
April 21	Classes End
April 26-30	Final Exams

### Spring 2021 Commencement Dates

Due to COVID-19, ceremony specific information is not available at this time.

For additional information go to <https://commencement.msu.edu/>

## New Version Fillable PSMS PDF Time Sheet

Attached to this newsletter is the [new fillable version of the PSMS PDF time sheet, this version replaces all other copies](#). The new time sheet has required fill-in areas (i.e. dates and signatures) and all areas are now fillable or a check box.

## PSM Payroll Time Reporting

Due Date Reminders for **biweekly payroll** (includes labor and student)  
Reminder: If your employee's time is not submitted, they will not be paid.

- For the **12/04/2020 pay date** covering the 11/08/2020-11/21/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by 4 PM Wednesday, 11/25/2020. **Sheets are due to PSMS on Monday 11/23/2020 by 5 PM**, late time sheets will be held and processed on the next pay period.
- For the **12/18/2020 pay date** covering the 11/22/2020-12/05/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by 4 PM Wednesday, 12/09/2020. **Sheets are due to PSMS on Monday 12/07/2020 by 5 PM**, late time sheets will be held and processed on the next pay period.
- For the **12/30/2020 pay date** covering the 12/06/2020-12/19/2020 pay period, all time must be approved by 7 PM Monday, 12/21/2020. **Sheets are due to PSMS on FRIDAY 12/18/2020 by 3 PM**. Last payroll of the year. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to have your time sheets turned in on time.

## PSM Office Contact Information / Hours

Effective March 24, 2020 the PSM Administration Offices are closed. During this time of uncertainty, please be patient with any request that you may have placed with a PSM support staff member. Know that PSM support staff will get to your request as quickly as possible.

AnnMarie Guldner	<a href="mailto:guldner1@msu.edu">guldner1@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Ashley Lathrop	<a href="mailto:danas@msu.edu">danas@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Brian Horgan	<a href="mailto:horganb@msu.edu">horganb@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Christiina Donley	<a href="mailto:tymoszew@msu.edu">tymoszew@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Debbie Williams	<a href="mailto:williade@msu.edu">williade@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3 PM
Dominic Colosimo	<a href="mailto:colosi14@msu.edu">colosi14@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 1-5 PM
Gina Centeno	<a href="mailto:centeno@msu.edu">centeno@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8:15 AM-2:45 PM
Lee Duynslager	<a href="mailto:duynslag@msu.edu">duynslag@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12:30 PM & 1-4:30 PM
Lisa Bowen	<a href="mailto:bowenli1@msu.edu">bowenli1@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-4 PM
Mackenzie Graham	<a href="mailto:graham2@msu.edu">graham2@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	8 AM-12 PM & 12:30-4:30 PM
Rachel Jorgensen	<a href="mailto:eschrach@msu.edu">eschrach@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7 AM-3:30 PM
Sandie Litchfield	<a href="mailto:litchfi9@msu.edu">litchfi9@msu.edu</a>	Monday-Friday	7:30 AM-12 PM & 1-4:30 PM

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Send newsletter submissions to AnnMarie Guldner at [guldner1@msu.edu](mailto:guldner1@msu.edu)  
Deadline: Thursdays by 10:00 AM