

CROPS April Newsletter

List for PSI CROPS Student/Postdoc Organization <CROPS-PSI@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU>

on behalf of

Crops PSI Group <cropspsi@UNL.EDU>

Wed 4/15/2020 1:12 PM

To: CROPS-PSI@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU <CROPS-PSI@LISTSERV.UNL.EDU>



From the Collective Research Organization of Plant Scientists (CROPS) of PSI:

While it seems that years have gone by over the course of this past month, CROPS is committed to helping with the transition to the work from home environment – our new normal. With that being said, we want to offer some strategies for grad students, postdocs and faculty to help remind us of the bigger picture and that we are more than just our bench work!

Because we know it is more difficult for some of us to transition into working from home, as our work doesn't always align with copious data analysis that we can do remotely, we have attached resources from NPR, ASPB/Plantae, and UNL to help us along.

Also, we want our future newsletters to be as uplifting as possible, so we are creating a section where **YOU can submit lab job postings, personal/professional highlights and even thesis defense announcements!** We want to stay as connected with each other during this unprecedented time; just because we're physically distant, does not mean we need to remain socially uninvolved in each other's lives! (CROPS reserves the right to not post everything we receive as a submission)

If there is anything you would like to see CROPS sponsor or anyone you would like to us invite to UNL, email us at CropsPSI@unl.edu ! We will try to accommodate whenever possible.

For more information, stay tuned via [email](#), [website](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)!

Don't forget check out our **upcoming events**, **job announcements**, and **lab highlight!**

-The CROPS 2019/20 Board

Thank you to our essential employees!



CROPS wants to take this time to thank all our essential employees at UNL that have put their lives on the line to keep our research up and running! Even though we are on Level 4 shutdown, these outstanding employees are keeping UNL clean and safe.

Check out UNL's own "Unsung Hero" Samantha Link (Beadle Greenhouse Manager) who was featured in [ASPB's monthly newsletter](#) for her outstanding and tireless work!

Upcoming CROPS/PSI Events!

CROPS Webinar!

April 22nd 4:00pm CST on Zoom!

"Needlessly Fast-turnover Proteins as Next-Gen SynBio Targets"

Mark your calendars for CROPS webinar (**zoom only**) by **Dr. Andrew Hanson**. Dr. Hanson is an eminent scholar and professor at University of Florida. **Note: In order to attend the webinar, you will need to register at CROPS website to get the zoom link!** While we would like to just provide the link, we want to minimize the possibility of interference by a party with interests other than Dr. Hanson's webinar...

Zoom "Lunch" Meeting with Dr. Hanson

April 22nd 12:30pm CST on Zoom!

Dr. Hanson would like to confiture to continue the tradition of "meeting" with grad students and postdocs over lunch during a visit, but this time over Zoom! If you are interested in having a more informal conversation with Dr. Hanson about his career path, work experience or just want to chat, please [RSVP HERE!](#)

PSI Zoom Research Group Meeting

April 16th 4:30pm CST, E103 Beadle Center

Work-in-progress talks from the labs of Dr. Holding and Dr. Cahoon will be given.

If you need the Zoom link, please contact [Lisa Vonfeldt](#) or [Ed Cahoon!](#)

Holding Lab:

"Gene Editing Approaches to Improving Protein Quality in Maize and Sorghum"
by Preston Hurst

"Evaluation and Selection of Quality Protein Popcorn Hybrids" by Leandra Parsons

Cahoon Lab:

"What Happens When a Plant Cell "Forgets" How Much Sphingolipid It Should Make?"
by Ariadna Gonzalez-Solis.

NPR SciCommers: Create your own science podcast!

Not sure what to do with your time at home? Feeling like you are not being as productive as you could be? Well look no further than NPR's SciCommers mentor chat on Slack!

On **Wednesday, April 21st at 1pm EST**, three Scicomms who have experience hosting and producing science podcasts: Regina Barber DeGraaff host of [Spark Science](#); Oz Ismail, host of [Why Aren't You A Doctor Yet?](#); and Margot Wohl, host of [Rad Scientist](#) will talk about what goes into a science podcast and how YOU can make one of your own!

The chat will be held on Slack, in the #mentor_chat channel. At **1pm EST on the 21st** there will be a Zoom message that says "join the chat here" in the #mentor_chat channel. If you haven't signed up for Slack yet, email me at kmccoy@npr.org.

Because there are many stages and aspects of making a podcast, please add your questions to this [sheet](#).

"Plantae Presents" Online Webinar Series



Plantae Webinars are produced by ASPB for the plant science community. Attendees can participate in live virtual seminars or access them on-demand in the Plantae community. Registration is free and opens to ASPB members exclusively for 24 hours before opening to the general plant science community. For more info visit Plantae [here!](#)

Plant Postdoc Webinar: "Preparing ECRs for jobs in Industry and the Government"

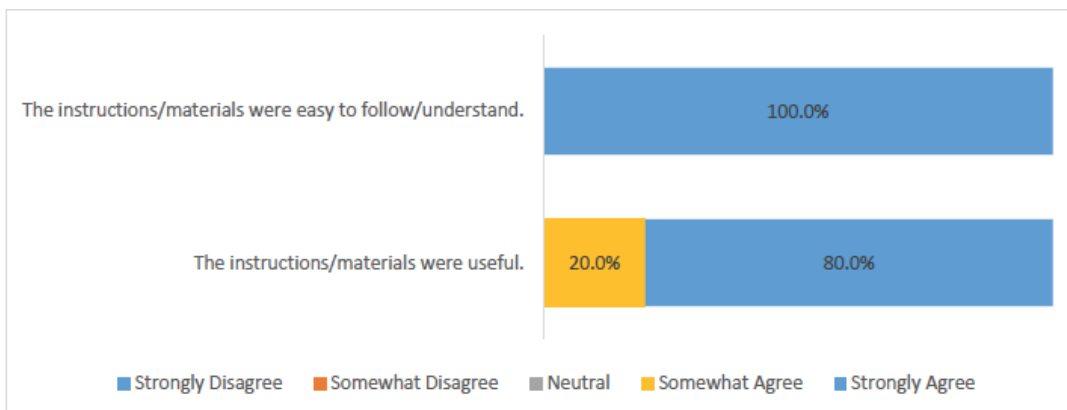
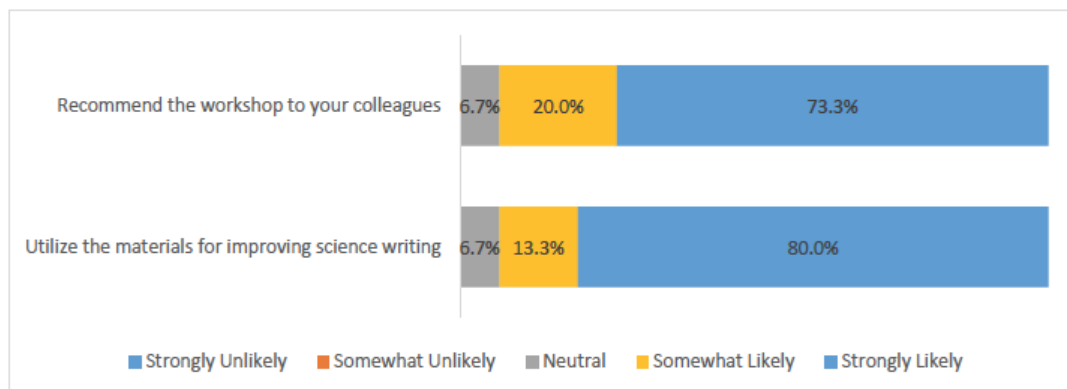
April 23rd 11:00am, EST

Plantpostdoc slack is organizing its second webinar "Preparing Early Career Researchers for jobs in Industry and the Government", with an amazing set of speakers who have successfully navigated the job market recently!

Registration is open [HERE](#) - visit plantpostdocs.com/join-us for more details

Senior graduate students can benefit from this webinar as two panelists will share from their experiences of getting industry job right after PhD

Update on the Writing Workshop with Dr. Nancy Hofmann Sponsored by the Nebraska Center for Biotechnology



This past month, we had an amazing workshop on academic writing from Dr. Nancy Hofmann, Science Editor for The Plant Cell and co-founder/managing editor of Plant Editors. Nancy talked with us about her career path from bench scientist to working for The Plant Cell, and now running her own science editorial business.

We were able to take some diagnostics from the session and got some AMAZING results. In the upper panel, over **90% of our attendees were likely to recommend the workshop to a colleague!** We also showed that **100% of attendees strongly agreed the workshop was easy to follow**, along with **100% agreeing that the materials were useful during the workshop** (bottom). The full report will be available on our website if you want to see more! Thank you again to Dr. Hofmann for the workshop!

April Lab Highlights

This month we are highlighting Dr. Heriberto Cerutti !



Dr. Heriberto Cerutti

The Cerutti Lab studies mechanisms of epigenetic gene silencing in algae, particularly small RNA-mediated processes such as RNA interference. The lab is also interested in algal biotechnology and biofuel/biomaterial production. Gene silencing mechanisms play important roles in gene regulation during organismal development and in responses to environmental stress, as well as in host defense against viruses and transposable elements. However, many of these processes are not clearly understood. Interestingly, we have recently discovered that transcripts translationally repressed by the RNA interference machinery remain associated with ribosomes. An ancillary ribosomal component, a widely-conserved protein in eukaryotes and homologous to the *Drosophila melanogaster* Vasa Intronic Gene (VIG), is required for the small RNA-mediated translation repression. VIG co-purifies with core components of small RNA effector complexes, including Argonaute and Dicer, but it is not involved in target mRNA degradation (doi: 10.1073/pnas.1908356117). These findings begin to unravel an intriguing mechanism of posttranscriptional gene silencing in eukaryotes.

For more information visit Dr. Cerutti's PSI website [here!](#)

Keeping Up to Date with CROPS !

We want to ensure that our CROPS community feels adequately informed and involved with our events, speakers and workshops. Just a reminder that our monthly notes can be found [here](#), posted for all to see on our [website](#). Also we love hearing from our members, please don't hesitate to reach out to us with questions, comments, or concerns!

Job Opportunities, GSA Due Dates, and Postdoc Info!

Are you a new postdoc at UNL? Not sure what all you need to need, or struggling to find housing? Check out this [link](#) to Grad Studies

for all that info and more! Also, UNL offers a travel grant for postdocs! Check of this [link](#) for more info!

Interested in teaching? Check out the UNL Center for Research Innovation, Teaching and Learning (CIRTL) [here](#) for workshops, seminars and certifications! CROPS also has a [link](#) on our website for more info!



COVID-19 Updates

As we continue to learn more about the COVID-19 corona virus everyday, please keep yourself informed at covid19.unl.edu! Also keep in mind that conferences and scheduled seminars are subject to change as travel enforcements are put into place to limit the spread of the virus.

For information from The Office of Graduate Studies check **HERE !**

Please email covid19@unl.edu if you have any questions!

Glove Recycling with Kimberly-Clark

Looking for ways to decrease your lab's environmental footprint? Kimberly-Clark is sponsoring a glove recycling program to do just that! Please visit their [website](#) for more info and to learn how your lab can be involved in reducing waste!

If you are interested in getting a glove recycling station started here at UNL, please email [Samuel Eastman](#) for more info!

Something to Share?



Like our newsletter?
Have suggestions for future segments or features?

Just want to say hey?

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