



California Melon Research Board

2020 ANNUAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

MARRIOTT Gaslamp Quarter
660 K Street, San Diego CA 92101

Thursday, January 9, 2020
8:50 am – 4:00 pm (*registration @ 8am*)

8:00 am - REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST BUFFET

- 8:50 – 9:00** **Welcome – Bart Fisher, Fisher Ranch**
- 9:00 – 9:30** **Kerry Mauck, UC Riverside**
“Assembling and Synthesizing Information on Melon Pollinator Health to develop Best Management Practices” *and*
“Discovery and Validation of Elicitor Products for Control of Aphid and Whitefly-Transmitted Viruses in Melons”
- 9:30 – 9:50** **Bob Gilbertson, UC Davis**
“Monitoring the Outbreak of *B. Tabaci* Whiteflies in Melons in 2018 and Continued Development of Vector-Independent Screening for Whitefly-Transmitted Viruses Infecting Melons”
- 9:50 – 10:10** **Jaspreet Sidhu, UCCE – Kern County**
“Evaluation of Alternative Nematicides for the Control of Root-Knot Nematodes in Melons”
- 10:10 – 10:30** **Guest Speaker – Dr. Philip Martin, UC Davis**
“Farm Labor Costs and Solutions for the Current Crisis in California”

MID-MORNING BREAK – 15 minutes

- 10:45 – 11:05** **Amber Vinchesi-Vahl, UCCE – Colusa, Sutter & Yuba Counties**
“Management of Spotted and Striped Cucumber Beetle in Melon Production”
- 11:05 – 11:25** **Cassandra Swett & Johanna Del Castillo, UC Davis**
“Characterizing and Assessing Risk of Emerging Fungal and Bacterial Pathogens of Melons (and Other Cucurbit Crops) Across the Nursery-Field Production Continuum”
- 11:25 – 11:45** **Scott Stoddard, UCCE – Merced County/Travis Bean, UC Riverside**
“Evaluating Pre-Plant and Post Plant Herbicide Programs for Weed Management in Transplanted LSL Melons – Yr 2”

LUNCH @ NOON

- 1:10 – 2:10** **SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER – DR. VICTOR DAVIS HANSON**
“How 2020 Shapes Up: State and National”
- 2:10 – 2:25** **Kerry Mauck, UC Liaison**
“Melon Board Research Priorities Review”

MID-AFTERNOON BREAK – 15 minutes

- 2:40 – 3:00** **Bill Wintermantel, USDA-ARS Salinas**
“Development of Rapid Detection Methods for Evaluation of Germplasm for Resistance and Determination of the California Host Range of Cucurbit Chlorotic Yellows Virus and Squash Vein Yellowing Virus”
- 3:00 – 3:20** **John Palumbo, UA – Yuma Ag Center**
“New Insecticide Alternatives for Whiteflies and CYSDV in Melons”
- 3:20 – 3:40** **Guest Speaker – Mark Nagano, Aquafox**
“Electrolyzed Water in Fresh Produce Sanitation”
- 3:40 – 4:00** **Guest Speaker – Trevor Suslow, Produce Marketing Association**
“Melon Research and Food Safety Update”

THANK YOU FOR COMING AND WE’LL SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

Revised: January 5, 2020



2020 Melon Symposium

January 9, 2020
San Diego, California

Presenter Biographies

Dr. Kerry Mauck – UC Riverside, Department of Entomology

B.S. The College of New Jersey 2005 Biology

Ph.D. The Pennsylvania State University 2012 Entomology

The spread of insect-borne diseases is mediated by complex interactions among pathogens, their hosts, and insect vectors, but our understanding of the physiological and ecological mechanisms governing these interactions is limited, despite clear significance for agriculture, ecology, and human health. Chemistry invariably plays a central role in mediating such interactions; yet, relatively little work to date has addressed the chemical ecology of insect-vector-borne diseases. My research focuses on investigating the biochemical mechanisms mediating plant pathogen transmission in complex ecological settings and their implications for host-plant interactions with other organisms. We are particularly interested in studying how vector-borne pathogens of plants and animals might evolve to alter traits of their hosts in ways that influence the frequency and nature of interactions between hosts and insect vectors. We also explore how pathogen-induced phenotypic shifts affect interactions between hosts and other (vector or non-vector) organisms in ways that modify food webs, alter the outcome of competitive interactions, and influence flows of energy and nutrients.

Dr. Robert L. Gilbertson – UC, Davis, Department of Plant Pathology

B.S. University of Massachusetts 1978 Wildlife Biology

M.S. University of Massachusetts 1980 Plant Pathology

Ph.D. Colorado State University 1985 Plant Pathology

Area of Specialization - Virology and seed pathology, emphasis on applied and basic aspects, including ecology and epidemiology of viral, bacterial and fungal pathogens; molecular genetics, classification and detection of geminiviruses and potyviruses.

Research - The research interests of our laboratory encompass applied and basic aspects of Plant Pathology. We seek innovative and practical solutions to plant disease problems caused by seed-borne pathogens. The basis of such solutions comes from basic research that involves the investigation of basic pathogen ecology and biology, molecular characterization and detection of plant pathogens, and investigation of pathogen genetics and gene function. Current areas of interest include molecular genetic analysis of geminiviruses and potyviruses, particularly in regard to mechanism(s) of plant virus movement, and strategies to engineer virus resistance in plants. We emphasize a multidisciplinary approach and maintain active collaborations with geneticists, plant biologists, and entomologists.

Dr. Jaspreet Sidhu – UCCE Kern County

Jaspreet Sidhu is the Vegetable Crops Advisor in Kern County. She completed her Ph.D. in Entomology from Louisiana State University. From Punjab Agricultural University, India, she earned a M.Sc. in Entomology and a B.Sc. in Plant Protection. Prior to joining UCCE, Sidhu was a Research Scientist at Virginia Tech. There, she coordinated and managed different projects funded

by USAID in partner countries and provided assistance and expertise for the development of various components of IPM packages for tropical vegetables, fruits and other crops. At Louisiana State University, Sidhu held a Research Associate position (2014 – 2016) and a Postdoctoral Associate position (2013 – 2014). As a Research Associate, she worked on pest management in vegetable crops focusing on efficacy trials, maintenance of field and greenhouse experimental trials and data collection and presentation. As a Postdoctoral Associate, she focused on stem borer management in rice in Louisiana.

She is very happy to be part of the UCNAR team and is very excited to work with growers and part of the community here in Kern County. She says “whenever I am in the field either talking to growers or looking at the pest problems, it makes me feel content and grateful”.

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Philip Martin - University of California, Davis

Philip Martin received his degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1975. His research focuses on immigration, farm labor, and economic development. Martin has earned a reputation as an effective analyst who can develop practical solutions to complex and controversial migration and labor issues. In the U.S., he was the only academic appointed to the Commission on Agricultural Workers to assess the effects of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. He assessed the prospects for Turkish migration to European Union between 1987 and 1990 and evaluated the effects of immigration on Malaysia’s economy and its labor markets in 1994-95. In 2001-02, he assessed the options for dealing with unauthorized migration into Thailand. He received UC Davis’ Distinguished Public Service award in 1994 and was a member of the Binational Study of Migration between 1995 and 1997.

Dr. Amber Vinchesi-Vahl – UCCE Colusa, Sutter & Yuba Counties, Farm Advisor

Prior to joining UCCE, Vinchesi was a postdoctoral research associate at Washington State University, Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center, where she implemented Lygus management strategies in alfalfa seed production. She developed methods to analyze gut contents of beneficial predators to determine what predators ate when candidate insecticides reduced preferred prey numbers in alfalfa fields. From 2014 to 2015, Vinchesi was a postdoctoral scholar at Oregon State University's Hermiston Agriculture Research and Extension Center, where her research focused on using thiamine (vitamin B₁) as an alternative control method for insect-vectored potato diseases like Potato Virus Y and Zebra Chip. She also conducted pesticide trials in the greenhouse and surveyed wireworm species in the area. As a graduate research assistant from 2009 to 2014, Vinchesi conducted research on the alkali bee, a native, solitary, soil-nesting bee used for alfalfa seed pollination in southeastern Washington.

Her work included conducting environmental mitigation studies for the Department of Transportation to determine how rerouting a four-lane highway would affect populations of commercially managed native alkali bees. Vinchesi completed a B.S. in entomology from Purdue University and both an M.S. and a Ph.D. in entomology from Washington State University.

Dr. Cassandra Swett – UC Davis, Plant Pathology

Dr. Cassandra Swett received her MS in Tropical Plant Pathology from the University of Hawaii, Manoa under Dr. Janice Uchida and her PhD in Plant Pathology at UC Davis under Dr. Tom Gordon; she was a post-doctoral researcher with extension specialist Doug Gubler also at UC Davis and prior to her current position she was an Assistant professor and extension specialist of small fruit pathology at the University of Maryland, College Park. Dr. Swett is currently a faculty member in the Department of Plant Pathology at UC Davis, where she serves as a statewide Assistant Extension Specialist for vegetable and field crop diseases, with a focus on warm season cropping systems. Dr. Swett's program provides statewide diagnostics and outreach support for all vegetable and crops; research efforts focus on soil borne fungal pathogens, primarily Fusarium species and target both short term efforts to improve management and long term efforts to assess and manage the impacts of changing water and land use management strategies on plant disease dynamics.

Dr. Johanna Del Castillo – UC Davis, Plant Pathology

Ph.D., Plant Pathology, Michigan State University
M.S. Biological Sciences, Universidad de los Andes
B.S. Microbiology, Universidad de los Andes

Areas of interest: Basic biologic understanding of fungal and oomycete pathogens, and development of applied research to solve current problems that agriculture faces in greenhouse to the field continuum. I am particularly interested in developing and improving sustainable solutions for disease control through studies of fungal and oomycete biology, population genetics, and community ecology.

Scott Stoddard – UCCE Merced County, Farm Advisor, Veg Crops and Limited Resource Farms

MSc University of Kentucky 1995 Soil Science

Scott's area of interest is in soil fertility, conservation, and weed management. He works mostly in tomatoes, peppers and sweetpotatoes, and has now added melons to his repertoire, looking at the effects of adjuvants on halosulfuron and clethodim in herbicide applications to cantaloupes and honeydews.

Dr. Travis Bean, UC Riverside, Botany and Plant Sciences

Travis M. Bean, cooperative extension assistant weed science specialist, who earned his Ph.D. in natural resources from the University of Arizona. His research focuses on improving treatment efficacy and reducing unintended consequences of invasive and weedy plant control efforts, determining predictors to identify opportunities for management and developing technologies to improve monitoring efficiency and track population growth.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER Dr. Victor Davis Hanson, Hoover Institute, Stanford University

Dr. Hanson is the Martin and Illie Anderson Senior Fellow in Residence in Classics and Military History at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, a professor of Classics Emeritus at California State University, Fresno, and a nationally syndicated columnist for Tribune Media Services. He is also the Wayne & Marcia Buske Distinguished Fellow in History, Hillsdale College, where he teaches each fall semester, courses in military history and classical culture.

Dr. Bill Wintermantel – USDA ARS, Salinas, California

Bill Wintermantel is a Research Plant Pathologist for the USDA in Salinas and has worked with the Melon Board for many years, usually as a Co-PI on the Board's evaluation/breeding work along with Jim McCreight. My laboratory at the USDA-ARS focuses predominantly on insect-transmitted and soil-borne viruses affecting sugarbeet and vegetable production. Much of our research targets understanding of factors influencing virus emergence and epidemiology, with a significant focus on vector transmission of viruses and competitiveness of virus species in agricultural production systems. The lab works closely with industry to address relevant concerns affecting production including the identification and characterization of viral pathogens of plants; with plant breeders and geneticists toward development of resistance to plant viruses; and with other disciplines to further our understanding of factors driving emergence and establishment of viruses in agriculture.

Dr. John Palumbo – Associate Research Scientist, Yuma Agricultural Center

B.S. and M.S. in Entomology, University of Arizona
Ph.D. in Entomology, Oklahoma State University

My interests are primarily in insect pest management and insect-crop interactions. I am focusing my research efforts on examining the population ecology and crop loss assessment of a complex of polyphagous insects that feed on leafy vegetables and melons. Related research interests include: pesticide application technology and lepidopterous feeding behavior.

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Trevor Suslow – Produce Marketing Association (PMA)

Trevor Suslow is VP Produce Safety with the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) as of October 1, 2018. Suslow is widely recognized as a produce safety and postharvest technology expert. He joins PMA from the UC Davis, Dept. Plant Sciences, now as an Emeritus faculty. Trevor was an Extension Research Specialist at the University of California, Davis, Department of Plant Sciences, with statewide responsibilities in quality and safety of perishable horticultural commodities. His program spanned preharvest to postharvest research and outreach education on diverse fresh and minimally processed horticultural foods from annual row crops to tree and vine commodities. He earned his BSc. in Agricultural Sciences, and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology, from UC Berkeley in 1980. He helped found and worked as Director of Product Research at DNA Plant Technology Inc. for 15 years, an early agricultural biotechnology pioneer. Suslow joined UC-Davis in 1995 and led the Postharvest Technology Center as Director from 2016 to 2018.

He has served on the Center for Produce Safety Board of Directors and Technical Committee since its creation in 2008 and remains in a leadership role on the Technical Committee. His research combines lab and on-farm research on *E. coli*, *Salmonella*, and *Listeria* in conventional and organic production systems, for the purpose of identifying opportunities for optimal microbial reductions and delivery of safe food to the consumer. Trevor received the United Fresh Produce Association Technical Award in 2012 and selected to The Packer 25 Profiles in Leadership Award in 2014. He was named to Food Safety News list of *The Best of Food Safety in Education* and honored with the National Steinbeck Center's Valley of the World Award in Education in 2017. He is a Lead Instructor for the FDA FSMA Produce Safety Alliance, Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance, and the Sprout Safety Alliance. Dr. Suslow was recently recognized by the International Association of Food Protection (IAFP) with the 2018 Elmer Marth Educator Award and received the IAFP Presidents Award in 2019 for extension and outreach to the food safety community.

California Melon Research Board ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



Marriott Gaslamp Quarter
660 K Street
San Diego, California 92101

Thursday, January 9, 2020
8:50 am – 4:00 pm
(Registration begins @ 8:00 am)

Greetings Melon Industry! It's already time to register and make your reservations for the Annual Melon Research Symposium at the San Diego Marriott Gaslamp Quarter, which is located next to Petco Park. We continue our tradition of bringing you, not only our regular Board-funded researchers, but also "Guest Speakers" on topics of interest to the industry. Once again, we are pleased to announce that **Victor Davis Hanson** will return as our "**Special Guest Speaker**" to the Symposium. This will be his 4th time addressing the Symposium and will be speaking on "**How 2020 Shapes Up: State and National**".

Please indicate below if you need a room and how many from your company will be attending. Room rates (*payable at check-in*) are **\$189** if reserved through our office by the **MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019 deadline**. The Symposium fee is \$50.00 if you pre-pay now, or \$70.00 at the door (*no charge for speakers*). Fee includes entry, research reports and lunch. We look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

COMPANY:

PH#:

IF YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM, PLEASE NOTE "WITH WHOM"

NAME:	EMAIL:	Need a Room?	Which night(s)?	Room Type?
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HOTEL ROOMS ARE PAYABLE BY YOU AT CHECK-IN

SYMPOSIUM FEE ENCLOSED (\$50 per person/\$70 at door)

(NO CHARGE for Speakers, Board Members & 2 free for \$1,000 CASE sponsors and up!)

\$

Please contact Deanna with any questions; deanna@tabcomp.com - PH: 559-591-0435 - FX: 559-591-5744

Call 559-591-0435 and pay by Credit Card or Make Checks for Symposium Fee Payable to:
California Melon Research Board, 531-D North Alta Avenue, Dinuba CA 93618

California Melon Research Board



October 25, 2019

Dear Melon Symposium Sponsor,

The 2020 Melon Research Symposium will be held on **Thursday, January 9th** at the Gaslamp Marriott, and we look forward to seeing you again in San Diego. **Victor Davis Hanson** will once again be speaking to us at the symposium on the topic: **“How 2020 Shapes Up: State and National”**. As usual, we will also be hearing from all our Board-funded researchers on their 2019 projects, as well as some other guest speakers. As has been the case over the last several years, each sponsorship of \$1,000 (Case Level) or more, comes with 2 free admissions and Annual Reports.

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If you are interested in participating, please provide us with your contact info and our coordinator will get back to you with specifics:

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Please contact me if you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities and thank you for your support in the past, and your consideration in supporting the 2020 Symposium.

JD Allen
Board Manager
jdallen@tabcomp.com