

# The Life Sciences Symposium at Penn State

Fostering collaboration across the Life Sciences at Penn State since 2016

*11:45am – 12:15pm in Room 107*



## Duverney Chaverra-Rodriguez

*Targeted delivery of CRISPR-associated endonuclease 9 (Cas9) into insect ovaries for heritable germ line gene editing*

Duverney earned his bachelor's degree in Biology in 2004 from the University of Antioquia. He earned his master's degree in Biology in 2011 from the University of Antioquia, and his thesis was titled, "Fitness costs of lambda-cyhalothrin resistance in the mosquito *Ae. aegypti*." Duverney received a Fullbright Doctoral Fellowship in 2013. Since at Penn State, Duverney has been working towards his PhD in Entomology in Jason Rasgon's lab. He intends to complete his degree this year, and his thesis is titled, "Cas9-mediated genome editing of the mosquito germline via receptor-mediated endocytosis." During his time at Penn State, Duverney has contributed as a co-author to two published manuscripts and currently has a first-author publication in the revision process.

*11:45am – 12:15pm in Room 108*



## Xuan Wang

*Fiber-resolution visualization of plant primary cell wall by fluorescently tagged cellulose binding protein*

Xuan earned his bachelor's degrees from the University of Minnesota (Duluth), double majoring in Chemistry and Cell and Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He started at Penn State in 2013 working toward a PhD in Plant Biology with Daniel Cosgrove. Xuan received a James B. and Viola M. Bartoo Graduate Fellowship in 2013, a Huck Graduate Research Innovation Grant in 2016, and a Huck Institutes Graduate Travel Award in 2018. Xuan has presented oral and poster presentations at the annual CLSF retreat in State College since 2016. He has also contributed to two co-authored publications in 2018, one which has been published and one that has been submitted. Xuan is also the first author on one publication that is currently in preparation.

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**Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018**  
**Smeal College of Business Building**

Organized by the Huck Graduate Student Advisory Committee ([psu.hgsac@gmail.com](mailto:psu.hgsac@gmail.com))

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## Adwitia Dey

***A Brave Neuro World: How deciphering the novel signaling role of macrophage-associated RON receptor tyrosine kinase activation, can help us remedy the plight of neurodegeneration***

Adwitia earned her bachelor's degrees from the University of Toronto (St. George) in 2011, double majoring in Human Biology and Animal Physiology. She received her master's degree from the University of Western Ontario in 2013 in Kinesiology/Integrated Physiology. Since 2013, she has been working toward her PhD in Physiology working with Pamela Hankey-Giblin, and her dissertation is titled, "Elucidating the role of Ron receptor tyrosine kinase signaling in CNS health and disease." Since her time at Penn State, Adwitia has made numerous oral and poster presentations, and she is a co-author and first author on many publications. Following graduation, Adwitia will begin a postdoctoral fellowship with Mel Feany at Harvard Medical School.

*12:15 – 12:45pm in Room 108*



## Hillary Figler

***Putative microcin in ST73 E. coli strain amplifies Shiga toxin production of O157:H7***

Hillary received her bachelor's degree in Microbiology in 2014 from the University of Rochester. She started at Penn State in 2014 working towards her PhD in Immunology and Infectious Disease with Edward Dudley. She is the recipient of a USDA National Needs Fellowship and Graham Scholarship, and she received a Huck Graduate Research Innovation Grant. Hillary was a member of the Molecular, Cellular and Integrative Biosciences Graduate Student Association from 2015-2017, and she has been a member of the Huck Graduate Student Advisory Committee since 2015. Hillary has also contributed as a co-author to two publications, one of which is published and one that is in preparation. She is also the first-author on a manuscript published in 2016.

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