



Early Career Industry Meet-up

We are pleased to announce another virtual opportunity for graduate students and post-doctoral researchers to gather and engage with industry early career panelists.

March 29, 2022

3 p.m. P.T. | 4 p.m. M.T. | 5 p.m. C.T. | 6 p.m. E.T.

Meet Our Early Career Industry Lineup:

Dr. Francesco Cappai, Research Scientist, Ohalo Genetics

Dr. Cappai was born and raised in Bologna, Italy. He obtained a BSc in Biotechnology at the University of Bologna studying QTL analysis in pear. Subsequently, he moved to the Netherlands where at the Wageningen University he obtained a MSc in Plant Breeding and Biotechnology with his work on *Arabidopsis* volatile and gene expression when attacked by multiple insect pests. Briefly, he worked as a pepper breeder for an Italian company before moving to the US to pursue a PhD in Plant Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Florida on blueberry firmness and tissue culture both from a genetic and molecular perspective. Dr. Cappai now is a Research Scientist for a Californian startup called Ohalo Genetics.



Dr. Pravin Gautam, Cereal Pathologist, BASF

Dr. Gautam is a North American Cereal Pathologist in hybrid wheat breeding program within BASF. He completed his doctorate degree in plant pathology from University of Minnesota and has professional experience in both academia and private industry.



Andrea Lugo-Torres, Field Trial Manager, Pivot Bio

Ms. Lugo-Torres is passionate about sustainable agriculture ideas and implementation. Skilled in coordinating and executing pilot and large scale research ideas, she aims to succeed and implement effective strategies that further increase productivity and drive company's growth. As a Field Trial Manager at Pivot Bio she is responsible for coordinating the advancement of new technologies through the product development pipeline. She enjoys working with companies and teams that are eager to translate biology into sustainable solutions with a lasting positive impact on the world.



Dr. Kestrel McCorkle, Head of Controlled Environment Research, GreenLight BioSciences, Inc.

Dr. McCorkle is a research scientist in plant health focusing on development of crop protection products for control of fungal plant pathogens and insect pests. She received her Ph.D. from North Carolina State University in Plant Pathology and has worked in industry for the past six years. She currently leads RNA-based product discovery and development efforts in controlled environments for GreenLight Biosciences located in Research Triangle Park, N.C.



Please [register](#) for this event sponsored by the U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative.

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