



39 NORTH PRESENTS

THE PLANT SCIENCE FAMILY REUNION

*Growing the future,
together.*

PROGRAM
2025

#STLPlantFam25

   @39northSTL



2025

8:00 –
9:00



Registration & Networking

9:00 –
9:10



Dr. Rishi Masalia
39 North

Welcome

9:10 –
9:30



Emily Lohse-Busch
39 North

We'll kick off the Family Reunion by sharing why St. Louis is THE place for agtech and plant science innovation.

Rediscover St. Louis.

9:30 –
9:45



Matt Homann
Filament

Discover how great science grows faster when individuals and organizations think beyond their silos.

Connect across boundaries.

9:45 –
9:55



V. Antonio Brazelton
WashU, DDPSC, &
JJK FAN

Job Seeker Talk

9:55 –
10:05



Dr. Dilkaran Singh
Univ. Illinois

Job Seeker Talk

10:05 –
10:25



Networking

10:25 –
10:50



Dr. Nigel Taylor
DDPSC

See how virus-resistant cassava is moving from Danforth labs to African farms through global partnerships.

Local collaborations with global impact.

2025

10:50 –
11:15



Dr. Tessa Burch-Smith,
DDPSC

Learn how advanced microscopy can diagnose viral infections in plants, tracking movement through plasmodesmata - tiny cell channels.

Rethink how we use scientific tools.

11:15 –
11:40



Dr. Abby Stylianou
SLU

AI is making waves in agriculture, but not every tool fits every problem. Explore case-studies and why thoughtful, context-driven AI matters.

Choose tech with purpose.

11:40 –
12:05



Dr. Lúcia Lohmann
Missouri Botanical Garden

From conservation to herbarium digitization, Learn how MoBot builds upon deep botanical roots to safeguard biodiversity & empower scientists.

Shaping tomorrow's nature city.

12:05 –
1:10



Lunch &
Resource Fair

Network and learn about the many scientific and civic resources that exist across St. Louis

1:10 –
1:20



Dr. Ranjita Sinha
Mizzou

Job Seeker Talk

1:20 –
1:45



Dr. Stephanie Gamez &
Matt Helms
Aragene

Learn how to turn a science idea into a testable, minimum viable product.

Spot what's worth scaling.

1:45 –
2:10



Jim Hedges
CoverCress

Discover how to set a vision, scale your product, engage customers, and turn a prototype into a business.

Commercialize with purpose.

2:10 –
2:35



Tania Seger
Plastomics

Understand funding ladders and how to strategically raise capital across the lifecycle of a science-based company.

Without funding, nothing scales.

2025

2:35 –
3:00

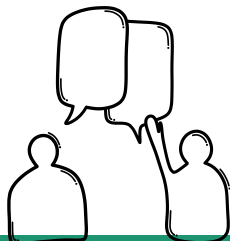


Moderated by
Mac Marshall
Apeel

A panel to unpack the roadblocks, strategies, and backward-planning that turn a scientific breakthrough into a viable product and thriving company.

Connecting the dots of commercialization.

3:00 –
3:20



Networking

3:20 –
3:30



Sarah Fitzsimmons
Mizzou

Job Seeker Talk

3:30 –
3:40



Tess Rogers
DDPSC

Job Seeker Talk

3:40 –
4:05



Dr. Miguel Vega-Sanchez,
Bayer

Explore how global regulatory strategy, science advocacy, and stakeholder alignment shape what innovations make it to market.

It's more than science, it's a license to operate.

4:05 –
4:30



Dr. Michaela McGinn
United Soybean
Board

Getting tech to the field isn't just about data—it's about trust. Learn how communication, timing, & relationships drive farmer adoption.

Just because you built it doesn't mean they'll come.

4:30 –
4:55



Dr. Sydney Scott,
WashU

Unpack how moral beliefs shape consumer attitudes towards innovation in food systems, especially GMOs.

Learn how you can help shift opinions.

5:00 –
7:00



Networking Happy Hour