



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



*Tess Rogers*  
DDPSC

*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*

Cancelled due to speaker illness.

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

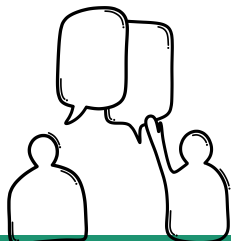


Moderated by  
*Mac Marshall*  
*Apeel*

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



*V. Antonio Brazelton*  
*WashU, DDPSC, &*  
*JJK FAN*

*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*