

Bayou Science & Mathematics Colloquium

Hosted by the College of Science & Engineering

Thursday, September 7, 2017 SSCB 3308, 12:00 Noon – 1:00 PM

Journeys of a Plant Pathogen: History and Genetics of *Xylella Fastidiosa*

Dr. Lisa Morano

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Xylella fastidiosa is a plant pathogen that infects numerous agricultural crops including grapevines. In grapevines the resulting disease, called Pierce's disease, had historically targeted small numbers of vines along rivers in California and was a challenge for Texas Gulf Coast viticulturists. However, in the late 1990s a massive outbreak of the disease sparked a campaign by the USDA to study the bacteria and its insect vector. Since the early 2000s scientists have learned a great deal about this bacterium. We have established distinct strains of the microbe and learned that the pathogen serves as an endophyte in numerous native plants of the Gulf Coast. Our lab has worked on numerous projects collectively with scientists in other states to better understand the genetics of this pathogen, its epidemiology and evolutionary history on a variety of temporal scales.

Host: Dr. Lory Santiago-Vazquez

Refreshments will be served in the hallway of SSCB 3308 from 11:30AM – 12:00Noon!

Contact Information: Dr. Lory Santiago-Vazquez

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Any person needing an accommodation for a disability to participate in this program should contact the sponsoring organization at (281) 283-3770 to make the necessary arrangements.



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