

Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) Day

WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Thursday, November 19, 2020 | 1-3 p.m.



Hosted by
Suman Mukherjee

Webex

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Guest Speaker

Rebecca Creamer, Ph.D.

Professor at New Mexico State University,
Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology
and Weed Science; Faculty of Molecular
Biology Program

Rebecca Creamer, Ph.D., specializes in research on plant-associated microbes including fungal endophytes and insect-vectorized plant viruses. She is currently a professor of Plant Pathology at New Mexico State University (NMSU), and a member, and former director, of the University's Molecular Biology graduate program.

Born and raised in the small college town of Denton, TX, Dr. Creamer has lived in California and New Mexico for most of her adult life. Before joining NMSU in 1999, Dr. Creamer served on the faculty at the University of California, Riverside, where for seven years, she was the only female faculty member in the Microbiology and Plant Pathology department.

Dr. Creamer obtained her B.S. from the University of Kentucky in Plant Pathology, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Plant Pathology from the University of California, Davis. She conducted postdoctoral research at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center at Ohio State University.

Dr. Creamer brings 20 years of experience working with swainsonine, an indolizidine produced by various fungi, including *Alternaria* fungal endophytes of locoweeds, and her lab has characterized the fungi and the locoweed

plants that house the fungi, has demonstrated toxicosis due to the fungus, and elucidated the swainsonine biosynthetic pathway using approaches of molecular genetics, proteomics, metabolomics, animal pathology, electron and confocal microscopy, tissue culture, a fungal transformation system, gene knockouts, and RNA gene silencing.

Dr. Creamer also runs a program focusing on beet curly top virus, a plant geminivirus that is transmitted by leafhoppers. She has 30 years of experience working with curly top virus including new strain characterization, screening for plant resistance, characterization of the leafhopper/plant interactions, biology of the virus/leafhopper vector/weed host system and disease prediction models.

This research has benefitted from Dr. Creamer's 18-year collaboration with a government laboratory that specializes in poisonous plants and 10-year collaboration with several Chinese universities, as well as a 10-year multistate project established by Dr. Creamer that focuses on locoweeds and their endophytes.

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Agenda

1-1:15 p.m.

Welcome

Suman Mukherjee, Ph.D., LSAMP Coordinator
Elizabeth C. Miller, Professor and Chairperson,
Computer Science Department

Opportunity in Biology and Chemistry

Robert L. Steeper, Ph.D., Professor and
Chairperson, Biology and Chemistry
Department

Joye A. Thaller, STEM Coordinator,
Science, Technology, Engineering and
Mathematics Division

1:15-1:50 p.m.

STEM Career Pathways Panel Discussion

Erika L. Barr, Ph.D., Director, Community College
Programs and SOAR Office of Intramural Training
and Education, National Institutes of Health

Bridget Benner, BHCC Alumna and Ph.D.
Candidate, Mechanical Engineering, University
of Massachusetts, Amherst

Bharati Kochar, M.D., Massachusetts General
Hospital (Gastroenterology)

Christina S. Tham, R.N., Massachusetts
General Hospital, Crohn's and Colitis Center
(Gastroenterology)

1:50-2 p.m.

STEM Internship Opportunities

Stephanie Bryzkowski, Director, Career
Development and Internships

Katharine Colello, Learn and Earn Coordinator,
Career Development and Internships

REFLECTS Scholarship Program

JoDe M. Lavine, Ph.D., Interim Assistant Dean,
Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Division

2-2:35 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Rebecca Creamer, Ph.D.

Professor at New Mexico State University,
Department of Entomology, Plant Pathology
and Weed Science; Faculty of Molecular
Biology Program

2:40-3 p.m.

SPARC Program

Representatives from Dana Farber/Harvard
Cancer Center and University of Massachusetts,
Boston

The Summer Program to Advance Research
Careers (SPARC) program is a 12-week intensive
research experience focusing on emerging
technologies in cancer and cancer disparities.