

Biographical Sketch

Hairong Wei

Professor in Plant Bioinformatics and Molecular Biology
College of Forest Resources and Environmental Science (home)
Department of Computer Science (Adjunct)
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A. Current Research Interests

- Bioinformatics tool and software development
- Large-scale biological data analysis
- Algorithms for gene network construction
- Plant functional genomics
- Identification of genes regulating complex traits
- Regulation of plant regeneration
- Genome assembly and annotation
- R-loop and gene regulation
- SARS-CoV-2 variant detection

B. Education and Training

University of Alabama at Birmingham	Biostatistics	Post-doc	2004-2005
University of Minnesota	Bioinformatics	Post-doc	2003-2004
University of Chicago	Computer Science	MS	2003
University of Hawaii at Manoa	Plant Molecular Biology	Ph.D.	2001
Beijing Forestry University, P.R. China	Forest Genetics	MS	1989
Beijing Forestry University, P.R. China	Agricultural Science	BS	1986

C. Appointments:

2018 ~ now Full Professor, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI
2014 ~ 2018 Associate Professor, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI
2008 ~ 2014 Assistant Professor, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI
2006 ~ 2008 Microarray Data Analyst, WiCell Research Institute, Inc., Madison, WI
2005 ~ 2006 Microarray Design Scientist, Operon Biotechnologies, Inc., Huntsville, AL
2004 ~ 2005 Postdoc, Biostatistics, University of Alabama, Birmingham, AL
2003 ~ 2004 Postdoc, Bioinformatics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN

1996 ~ 2001 Research Assistant, Plant Molecular Biology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI
1995 ~ 1996 Research Assistant, Plant Genetics, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu, HI
1989 ~ 1995 Assistant Professor, and Lecturer, Forest Genetics, Beijing Forestry University

D. Publications & Patents (Citations = 4732. *Correspondence or co-correspondence)

- 1) Ren, M., Y. Zhang, R. Wang, Y. Liu, M. Li, X. Wang, X. Chen, X. Luan, H. Zhang, **H. Wei**, C. Yang, Z. Wei. 2022. PtrHAT22, as a higher hierarchy regulator, coordinately regulates secondary cell wall component biosynthesis in *Populus trichocarpa*. **Plant Science** 316 (2022) 111170. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.plantsci.2021.111170>
- 2) Niu, S*, J. Li, W. Bo, W. Yang, A. Zuccolo, S. Giacomello, J. Ma, F. Han, X. Chen, J. Yang, Y. Song, Y. Nie, B. Zhou, P. Wang, Q. Zuo, H. Zhang, J. Wang, L. Wang, Z. Liu, X. Zhang, T. Liu, S. Pei, Z. Li, Y. Hu, Y. Yang, W. Li, J. Lin, Y. Zan, L. Zhou, T. Yuan, W. Li, Y. Li, **H. Wei*** and Harry X. Wu*. 2022. The Chinese pine genome and methylome unveil key features of conifer evolution. **Cell** 185(1):204-217 (**JIF = 41.58**) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cell.2021.12.006>
- 3) Gao, C., **H. Wei** and K. Zhang. 2021. LORSEN: fast and efficient eQTL mapping with low rank penalized regression. **Frontier of Genetics**. 12:690926. doi:10.3389/fgene.2021.690926. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fgene.2021.690926>
- 4) Lv, K., **H. Wei** and G. Liu. 2021. A R2R3-MYB transcription factor gene, *BpMYB123*, regulates *BpLEA14* to improve drought tolerance in *Betula platyphylla*. **Frontier of Plant Science** 12:791390. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2021.791390 (**JIF 5.75**). <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.791390>
- 5) Lin, G, C. He, J. Zheng, D.H. Koo, H. Le, H. Zheng, T. M. Tamang, J. Lin, Y. Liu, M. Zhao, Y. Hao, F. McFrand, B. Wang, Y. Qin, H. Tang, D.R. McCarty, **H. Wei**, M.J. Cho, S. Park, H. Kaepler, S. Kaepler, N. Springer, Y/ Liu, P.S. Schnable, G. Wang, F. F. White, S. Liu. 2021. Chromosome-level genome assembly of a regenerable maize Inbred line A188. **Genome Biology** 22, 175 (2021). (**JIF =10.8**) <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-021-02396-x>
- 6) Gao, J., P. Zhang, W. Wu, **H. Wei*** and W. Zhang*. 2021. Toward an understanding of the detection, and function of R-loops in plants (Review paper). **Journal of Experimental Botany** 72(18):6110-6122. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jxb/erab280>. (**JIF =5.9**).
- 7) Wang, R., M. Ren, S. Tian, C. Liu, H. Cheng, Y. Liu, H. Zhang, S. Muhammad, **H. Wei**, Z. Wei. 2021. Transcriptome-wide identification and characterization of microRNAs in diverse phases of wood formation in *Populus trichocarpa*. **G3: Genes, Genomes, Genetics** <https://doi.org/10.1093/g3journal/jkab195>.

- 8) Wang, Q., X. Dai, H. Pang, Y. Cheng, X. Huang, H. Li, X. Yan, F. Lu, **H. Wei**, R. R. Sederoff, Q. Li. 2021. BEL1-like homeodomain protein BLH6a is a negative regulator of CAld5H2 in syringyl monolignol biosynthesis in poplar. *Frontiers in Plant Science* 12:695223 (**JIF 5.75**).
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.695223>
- 9) Hong, J., C. Gunasekara, C. He, C., S. Liu, J. Huang and **H. Wei** *. 2021. Identification of biological pathway and process regulators using sparse partial least squares and triple-gene mutual interaction. *Scientific Reports* 11, Article number: 13174. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-021-92610-4>
- 10) Lv, K., W. Wu, **H. Wei**, G. Liu*. 2021. A systems biology approach identifies *Bp/ERF1* as a regulator of cold tolerance in *Betula platyphylla*. *Forestry Research* 1: 13 doi: [10.48130/FR-2021-0013](https://doi.org/10.48130/FR-2021-0013)
- 11) Wu, W., K. Du, X. Kang*, and **H. Wei***. 2021. The diverse roles of cytokinins in regulating leaf development (Review paper). *Horticulture Research* 8:118 (**JIF =6.67**).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41438-021-00558-3>
- 12) Wu, W., Liao, T., Du, K., **Wei, H.**, Kang, X. 2021. Transcriptome comparison of different ploidy reveals the mechanism of photosynthetic efficiency superiority of triploid poplar. *Genomics* 113(4): 2211-2220 (**JIF =6.2**).
- 13) Ren, M., Y. Zhang, C. Liu, Y. Liu, S. Tian, H. Cheng, H. Zhang, **H. Wei**, and Z. Wei*. 2021. Characterization of a high hierarchical regulator, PtrGATA12, functioning in differentially regulating secondary wall component biosynthesis in *Populus trichocarpa*. *Frontier of Plant Science* 12 Article 657787. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpls.2021.657787> (**JIF 5.75**).
- 14) Li, J., Y. Wang, **H. Wei** and X. Kang. 2021. Comparative proteomic analysis provides insight into the molecular mechanism of vegetative growth advantage in allotriploid *Populus*. *Genomics* 113(3):1180-1192. (**JIF =6.2**).
- 15) Deng, W., K. Zhang, C. He, S. Liu and **H. Wei***. 2021. HB-PLS: A statistical method for identifying biological process or pathway regulators by integrating Huber loss and Berhu penalty with partial least squares regression. *Forestry Research*. 1: 6 doi: 10.48130/FR-2021-0006.
- 16) Lv, Kaiwen, **H. Wei**, and Guifeng Liu. 2021. A R2R3-MYB transcription factor gene, BpMYB123 regulates BpLEA14 to improve drought tolerance in *Betula platyphyll*. *Frontier of Plant Science* 12:791390. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2021.791390. (**JIF 5.75**).
- 17) Zhao, M., P. Zhao, Y. Qin, L. Zhang, B.Tian, Y. Chen, Y. Liu, G. Lin, H. Zheng, C. He, K. Lv, H.N. Trick, Y. Liu, M. Cho, S. Park, **H. Wei**, J. Zheng, F. F. White, S. Liu. 2021. Bacterium-enabled transient gene activation by artificial transcription factor for resolving gene regulation in maize. bioRxiv doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.02.05.429970>.

- 18) Wu, W., J. Li, Q. Wang, K. Lv, K. Du, W. Zhang, Q. Li, X. Kang* and **H. Wei***. 2021. Growth-regulating factor 5 (GRF5)-mediated gene regulatory network promotes leaf growth and expansion in triploid poplar. *New Phytologist* 230: 612–628. (**JIF =8.5**)
<https://doi.org/10.1111/nph.17179>
- 19) Chen, S., G., Y. Wang, L. Yu, T. Zheng, S. Wang, Z. Yue, J. Jiang, S. Kumari, C. Zheng, H. Tang, J. Li, Y. Li, J. Chen, W. Zhang, H. Kuang, J. Robertson, P. Zhao, H. Li, S. Shu, Y. Yordanov, Ha. Huang, D. Goodstein, Y. Gai, Q. Qi, J. Min, C. Xu, S. Wang, G. Qu, A. Paterson, D. Sankoff, H. Wei, Liu, G.C. Yang,. 2021. Genome sequence and evolution of *Betula platyphylla*. *Horticulture Research* 8: 37(2021). (**JIF =6.67**).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41438-021-00481-7>
- 20) Cheng,Y, L. Wang, M. Abbas, X. Huang, Q. Wang, A. Wu, **H. Wei**, S. Peng, X. Dai, Q. Li. 2021. MicroRNA319-mediated gene regulatory network impacts leaf development and morphogenesis in poplar. *Forestry Research* 1: 4, doi: 10.48130/FR-2021-0004
- 21) **Wei, H.** 2021. Inaugural editorial. *Forestry Research* (10.48130/FR-2021-0001).
- 22) Wei, M., Q. Liu, Z. Wang, J. Yang, W. Li, Y. Chen, H. Lu, J. Nie, B. Liu, K. Lv, X. Mao, S. Chen, J. Sanders, **H. Wei*** and Chenghao Li*. 2020. PuHox52-mediated hierarchical multilayered gene regulatory network promotes adventitious root formation in *Populus ussuriensis*. *New Phytologist*. 228(4): 1369-1385. (**JIF =8.5**)
- 23) Lin, G, C. He, J. Zheng, D.H. Koo, H. Le, H. Zheng, T. M. Tamang, J. Lin, Y. Liu, M. Zhao, Y. Hao, F. McFrand, B. Wang, Y. Qin, H. Tang, D.R. McCarty, **H. Wei**, M.J. Cho, S. Park, H. Kaeppeler, S. Kaeppeler, N. Springer, Y/ Liu, P.S. Schnable, G. Wang, F. F. White, S. Liu. Chromosome-level genome assembly of a regenerable maize Inbred line A188. *bioRxiv*.
- 24) Li, Y., **H. Wei**, J. Yang, L. K. Du, J.Li, Y. Zhang, T. Qiu,Z. Liu, Y. Ren, L. Song, X. Kang. 2020. High quality de novo assembly of the *Eucommia ulmoides* haploid genome provides new insights into the evolution and rubber biosynthesis. *Horticulture Research*. 7:183 (**JIF =6.67**)
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41438-020-00406-w>
- 25) Li, J. Y. Wang, **H. Wei** and X. Kang. 2020. Comparative proteomic analysis of leaf development in allotriploid *Populus* originated from first-division restitution (FDR). *Forests* 2020, 11(11), 1154;
- 26) Lv, K., **H. Wei**, J. Jiang, 2020. Overexpression of *BpIERD15* enhances drought tolerance in *Betula platyphylla*. *Forests* 11(9): 978.
- 27) He, C., G. Lin, **H. Wei**, H. Tang, F. F. White, B. Valent, and S. Liu. 2020. Factorial estimating assembly base errors using *k*-mer abundance difference (KAD) between short reads and genome assembled sequences. *NAR Genomics and Bioinformatics* Vol. 2, No. 3: 1-14.
<https://doi.org/10.1093/nargab/lqaa075>

- 28) Zhang, Y., C. Liu, H. Cheng, S. Tian, Y. Liu, S. Wang, H. Zhang, M. Saqib, **H. Wei**, Z. Wei*. 2020. The DNA methylation and its effects on gene expression during primary to secondary growth in poplar stems. *BMC Genomics*. 21:489.
- 29) Deng, W., K. Zhang, Z. Wei, L. Wang, C. He, S. Liu and **H. Wei***. 2020. HB-PLS: An algorithm for identifying biological process or pathway regulators by integrating Huber loss and Berhu penalty with partial least squares regression. *bioRxiv* <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.05.16.089623>
- 30) He, C., G. Lin, **H. Wei**, H. Tang, F. F. White, B. Valent, and S. Liu. 2020. Estimating assembly base errors using k-mer abundance difference (kad) between short reads and genome assembled sequences. *bioRxiv*, <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.03.17.994566>
- 31) Lv, K., J. Li, K. Zhao, S. Chen, J. Nie, W. Zhang, G. Liu* and **H. Wei***. 2019. Overexpression of an AP2/ERF family gene, BpERF13, in birch enhances cold tolerance through upregulating CBF genes and mitigating reactive oxygen species. *Plant Science* 292:110375.
- 32) Zhang, P., Y. Feng, **H. Wei*** and W. Zhang*. 2019. R-loop identification and profiling in plants. *Trends in Plant Science* 24(10):971-972. (**JIF =14.42**)
- 33) Fang, Y, L. Chen, K. Lin, Y. Feng, P. Zhang, J. Sanders, X. Pan, Y. Wu, X. Wang, Z. Su, C. Chen, **H. Wei***, W. Zhang*. 2019. Characterization of functional relationships of R-loops with gene transcription and epigenetic modifications in rice. *Genome Research* 29(8):1287-1297. (**JIF =11.1**)
- 34) **Wei. H***. 2019. Construction of a hierarchical gene regulatory network centered around a transcription factor (Review). *Briefings in Bioinformatics* 20(3):1021-1031. (**JIF =9.3**).
<http://www.genome.org/cgi/doi/10.1101/gr.246009.118>
- 35) Wang, L, Z. Luo, Z. Liu, J. Zhao, W. Deng, **H. Wei**, P. Liu, M. Liu. 2019. Genome size variation within species of Chinese jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba* Mill.) and its wild ancestor sour jujube. *Forests* 10(5):460
- 36) Li, M, S. Wang, L. Liu, T. Lu, Y. Liu, Y. Zhang, M. Ren, **H. Wei**, Z. Wei. 2019. Overexpression of PsnSuSy1, 2 genes enhance secondary cell wall thickening, vegetative growth, and mechanical strength in transgenic tobacco. *Plant Molecular Biology*, 100(3):215-230.
- 37) Wang, L. Z. Luo, L. Wang, W. Deng, **H. Wei**, P. Liu, M. Liu. 2019. Morphological, cytological and nutritional changes of autotetraploid compared to its diploid counterpart in Chinese jujube (*Ziziphus jujuba* Mill.). *Scientia Horticulture* 249: 263-270.
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- 41) Peng, T., M. Qiao, H. Liu, S. Teotia, Y. Zhao, D. Zhao, L. Shi, B. Le, K. Rogers, C. Gunasekara, H. Duan, Y. Gu, L. Tian, Z. Zhang, F. Meng, L. Huang, Q. Chen, Z. Wang, J. Tang, X. Tang, X. Chen*, **H. Wei***, Q. Zhao* and G. Tang*. 2018. A resource for inactivation of microRNAs using short tandem target mimic technology in model and crop plants. *Molecular Plant* 11(11):1400-1417. (**JIF =9.3**). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.molp.2018.09.003>
- 42) Liu, Z., J. Zhu, X. Yang, H. Wu, Q. Wei, **H. Wei**, H. Zhang*. 2018. Growth performance, ion organ-level relations and osmotic regulation of *Elaeagnus angustifolia* in response to salt stress. *PLoS ONE* 13(1): e0191552.
- 43) Lu, T., L. Liu, M. Wei, Y. Liu, Z. Qu, C. Yang, **H. Wei*** and Z. Wei*. 2018. The effect of poplar PsnGS1 overexpression on growth and secondary cell wall and fibre characteristics in tobacco. *Frontier of Plant Science* 9:9. doi: 10.3389/fpls.2018.00009.
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- 46) Liu, Y., M. Wei, C. Hou, T. Lu, L. Liu, **H. Wei**, Y. Cheng and Z. Wei. 2017. Functional characterization of Populus PsnSHN2 in coordinate regulation secondary wall components in tobacco. *Scientific Reports* 7(1):42. doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-00093-z (**JIF =5.3**).
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- 52) Gunasekara, C., A. Subramanian, Avvari, R. K., B. Li, Chen, S. and H. Wei*. 2016. ExactSearch: A web-based plant motif search tool (<http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/motif/index.php>). *Plant Methods* 12:26
- 53) Kumari, S., W. Deng, C. Gunasekara, V. Chiang, H.S. Chen, H. Ma, X. Davis, and H. Wei*. 2016. Bottom-up GGM algorithm for constructing multilayered hierarchical gene regulatory networks that govern biological pathways or processes. *BMC Bioinformatics* 17: 132
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E. SOFTWARE AND COMPUTING TOOLS

1. **TF-Finder** (<http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/software.php>). *BMC Bioinformatics*, 2010.
2. **TF-Cluster** (https://github.com/hwei0805/TF_CollaborativeNet). *BMC System Biology*, 2011
3. **DeGNServer** (<http://plantgrn.noble.org/DeGNServer/>). *Biomed Research International*, 2013.
4. **GPLUXUS** (<http://plantgrn.noble.org/GPLEXUS/>). *Nucleic Acid Research*, 2013
5. **8GAM**: Eight gene association methods for constructing co-expression network
(R script: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0050411>)
6. **Pop's Pipes** (<http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/index.php>). *Tree Genetics & Genome*, 2014
7. **Blossom Plasmid Vector** (<https://blossom.ffr.mtu.edu/index.php>). A tool for designing plasmid vectors that target microRNAs for degradation (NSF project, unpublished). *Molecular Plant*. 2018.
8. **ExactSearch**: A web-based plant motif search tool. <http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/motif/index.php>. *Plant Method* 2016. (Corresponding author)
9. **BWERF**: Backward elimination random forests for constructing multilayered gene regulatory networks. *PLoS ONE* 2017: 12(2): e0171532. R package is available at: <http://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0171532>)
10. **SSGA** and **MSGa**: two seed-growing algorithms for constructing collaborative subnetworks. *Scientific Reports*. 2017.
11. **TF-Miner**: <http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/cluster/>. Submitted to *BMC Genomics*
12. **Top-down and Bottom-up GGM**. *BMC Bioinformatics* 2016: 17:132. <http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/topdown/>
13. **TGMI**: An algorithm for identifying pathway regulators. Mar 2018. (R package is available on NAR Web page). *Nucleic Acids Research*. 46(11):e67. http://sys.bio.mtu.edu/sample_output/TGMI/
14. **JRmGRN**: Joint reconstruction of multiple gene regulatory networks with common hub genes (R package is available on Bioinformatics Web page). 2018. *Bioinformatics* 5;34(20):3470-3478. <https://github.com/wenpingd>

15. **HB-PLS**: Huber loss and Berhu penalty with Partial Least Square (PLS) for identifying pathway regulators. 2021 *Forestry Research*.
<https://github.com/hwei0805/>
16. **LORSEN** (low rank penalized regression method): a fast and efficient eQTL mapping method. DOI: 10.3389/fgene.2021.690926.
17. **HuberNet**: A package for predicting target genes of transcription factors from high-throughput data. To be submitted to *Nucleic Acids Research*

G. TEACHING

- FW5092 Experimental Design, Spring 2018, and 2022
- FW4099 Programming Skills for Bioinformatics, Fall 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2019, and 2021
- FW5082 Gene Expression Data Analysis, Fall 2010, 2012, 2018, and 2020
- CS2321 Data Structure in Java, Spring 2011
- FW5510 Data Representation with R, Spring 2012, and 2021
- BMB6030 Advanced Molecular Biology Lab, Spring 2013, 2014 and 2015
- FW3320 Fundamental of Genetics, Spring 2013
- FW3200 Forest Biometrics and Data Analysis, Spring 2014, 2015 and 2016

H. GRADUATE STUDENTS

Current:

- Ph.D. Ling Zhang, Computational Science & Engineering, since Jan 2020
- MS Sai Meja Mummadi, Computer Science, since Sept 2021

- Past:
- Ph.D. Wenping Deng, 2018, Forest Molecular Genetics (Bioinformatics), Huawei, Inc. China
 - Ph.D. Chathura Gunasekare, 2017, Computational Science & Engineering, Baylor College, USA
 - Ph.D. Sapna Kumari, 2013, Mathematics, FDA. Maryland. USA.
 - MS Avinash Subramanian, 2017, Computer Science, Midwest Veterinary Inc. MN, USA.
 - MS Jialin Lei, 2017, Computer Science, Apple Inc, CA. USA
 - MS Saeed Binsabaan, 2014, Molecular Biology. Tobacco Industry, Saudi Arabia
 - MS Xiang Li, 2012, Computer Science, Senior Developer, Anthem, Inc. Virginia. USA.
 - MS Hang Zhang, 2011, Computer Science, Web Developer at US Biotek Laboratories. USA.
 - MS Yang Li, 2011, Molecular Biology. Beijing Pharmaceutical Company, China.

Ph.D. /MS Committee Members

- 1) Christine Zawaski, Ph.D. SFRES, 2009;
- 2) Fuyu Xu, Ph.D., SFRES, 2009;
- 3) Zijun Xu, Ph.D., Biology, 2009;
- 4) Deepak Kumar, MS, Biology, 2010;
- 5) Xiaoqi Cui, Ph.D., Mathematics, 2010;
- 6) Yiru, Chen, Ph.D., SFRES, 2012;

- 7) Surendar Dhadi, Ph.D., Biology, 2012;
- 8) Kefeng Li, Ph.D., Biology, 2012;
- 9) Beini Jiang, Ph.D., Mathematics, 2012;
- 10) Rafi Shaik, Ph.D., Biology, 2013;
- 11) Sermsawat Tunlaya-Anukit, Ph.D. Forestry, NCSU (external) 2014
- 12) Mengmeng Qiao, MS. 2015;
- 13) Chelsea Mitchell, MS, Biology, 2015;
- 14) James Rauschendorfer, SFRES, 2017;
- 15) Xiaoyu Liang, Ph.D. Mathematics, 2018;
- 16) Lukai Zhai, Ph.D. Biology, 2018;
- 17) Will Dion, MS, Biology, 2020;
- 18) Mujeeb Shittu, Ph.D., Biology, 2021;
- 19) Cheng Gao, Ph.D., Mathematics, 2021;
- 20) Tessa Kriz, MS, Mathematics, 2021;

I. Editorial Board Members of Scientific Journals

- 1) Editor-in-Chief, ***Forestry Research***, 2020 ~ present
<http://www.maxapress.com/journal/forres>
- 2) Associate Editor for **The Frontier of Plant Science: Plant Biotechnology**, 2011 ~ present
<https://www.frontiersin.org/journals/plant-science/sections/plant-biotechnology#editorial-board>
- 3) Editor for (Springer -Nature) 2017 ~ present
<https://www.springer.com/journal/42994/editors>

J. EXTRAMURAL FUNDING: a total of \$11,232,943 from ABI/NSF, Plant Genome/NSF, DOE, MDHHS and USDA as PI and Co-PI. \$7,299,598 to Michigan Tech.