

Speaker Biographies

Mithila Jugulam is a Professor of Weed Physiology in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University (KSU). Dr. Jugulam's research program is internationally recognized for increasing our understanding of the evolution and fundamental mechanisms of herbicide resistance in weeds. Her research also focuses on the effect of climate change factors on herbicide efficacy, consequently weed management and identification of herbicide-resistant traits in crops. Dr. Jugulam is the recipient of several awards, including a Fulbright Specialist Award, an Outstanding Researcher award from the Weed Society of America, a Distinguished Achievement Research Award from the North Central Weed Science Society, and the Presidential Award of Merit from the Western Society of Weed Science. She has been invited to present her research at various institutions throughout the United States of America and internationally, and is currently on the Editorial Board and reviewer of several international journals. Dr. Jugulam received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Agriculture in India. She worked as a Scientist with Indian Council of Agricultural Research before obtaining her Ph.D. degree and postdoctoral training at the University of Guelph, in Canada.

Stephen Duke is a principal scientist at the University Of Mississippi School Of Pharmacy. He was a USDA, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientist for 44 years. For the last 23 years with USDA, he supervised a laboratory devoted to discovery of natural product solutions to pest management problems. He is an authority on the modes of action of and resistance to herbicides. For example, he conducted seminal work on the mode of action of protoporphyrinogen oxidase-inhibiting herbicides. He has been especially active in discovery of the modes of action of natural product phytotoxins that might be the basis of future, commercial herbicides. His work on various aspects of the herbicide glyphosate is especially well known. Dr. Duke is a fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Weed Science Society of America (WSSA). He has been Chair of the Agrochemical Division of ACS and President of the WSSA, the International Weed Science Society, and the International Allelopathy Society. His awards include an honorary doctorate from the University of the Basque Country (Bilbao, Spain), election to the USDA, ARS Hall of Fame, and the 2022 Sterling B. Hendricks Memorial Lecturer Award. Dr. Duke received his Ph.D. (botany and biochemistry) from Duke University in 1975.

Jens Lerchl is head of herbicides early biology at BASF Corporation's agricultural research station Limburgerhof, Germany beginning in 2010 where he pursues his expert career supervising research on mode of action, targets, plant physiology, herbicide resistance and uptake, transport and metabolism of herbicides. He also serves as Lecturer at the University of Goettingen in the International Plant Protection scheme, Board member of the International Weed Genome Consortium, voting member of global Herbicide Resistance Action Committee (HRAC), HRAC Mode of Action working group lead, and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) member of the German ministry funding plant biotech schemes. During his career he was involved in R&D projects leading to several biotech and plant protection market products. Dr. Lerchl has coauthored numerous patent applications and peer reviewed articles. He joined BASF in 1995 where he started as a lab team leader on herbicidal and fungicidal molecular test systems. From 1998 to 2010 he worked in the field of plant biotechnology at BASF responsible for trait projects as scientific expert team lead. Thereafter he kept managing director positions in daughter companies of BASF Plant Science in Sweden and in Germany from 2001-2010 where he was responsible for trait research and early development in several crops. Dr. Lerchl studied biochemistry from 1987-1992 and received his doctoral degree from the Free University of Berlin in 1995.