

Presenters:



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Roger Beachy

Director
UC Davis World Food Center

Roger Beachy was named inaugural director of the UC Davis World Food Center in October of 2013. An elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture, Beachy is a world-renowned plant biologist and leading expert in plant viral resistance. He is the former chief scientist of the United States Department of Agriculture, and in 2009 was appointed by President Obama as the first director of the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture, where he served until 2011.

Beachy came to the World Food Center from the Global Institute for Food Security in Saskatchewan, Canada, where he was founding executive director and CEO. From 1999 to 2009, Beachy was the founding president and director of the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, a not-for-profit, plant science research center near St. Louis, Missouri. He headed the plant biology division at The Scripps Research Institute from 1991 to 1998, where he was a professor and the Scripps Family Chair in Cell Biology, as well as co-director of the Institute's International Laboratory for Tropical Agricultural Biotechnology. From 1979 to 1991, he was a biology faculty member at Washington University in St. Louis, and served as director of the university's Center for Plant Science and Biotechnology.

Beachy holds a doctoral degree in plant pathology from Michigan State University, and was an adjunct professor at Peking University from 1992 to 2005 and at UC Riverside from 1997 to 1999.



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Kent J. Bradford

Director and Professor
Seed Biotechnology Center, Department of Plant Sciences

Dr. Kent J. Bradford is a Professor of Plant Sciences at UC Davis. Dr. Bradford received B.S. and M.S. degrees in Biochemistry and Horticulture from Michigan State University and his Ph.D. in Plant Physiology from UC Davis. He has been on the faculty at UC Davis since 1982, serving as Chair of the Department of Vegetable Crops from 1993 to 1998 and as Director of the UC Davis Seed Biotechnology Center since 1999. He teaches University and Extension courses on seed production and quality and received a Fulbright Scholar award in 1999 to teach in Argentina. He was awarded the career Seed Science Award from the Crop Science Society of America in 2002 and was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2003. Dr. Bradford's research interests are in identifying the genetic and molecular mechanisms regulating seed germination, in applying mathematical models to describe seed germination and dormancy behavior, and in applying methods to enhance seed quality and longevity.



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Charlie Brummer

Director and Professor
UC Davis Plant Breeding Center, Department of Plant
Sciences

Charlie Brummer is the Director of the Center for Plant Breeding at the University of California-Davis in April. He was the Director of the Forage Improvement Division at the Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation. His research on forage crop breeding, genetics, and genomics specifically focuses on alfalfa, tall fescue, and switchgrass. He received his B.S. degree from the Pennsylvania State University and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Georgia. Previously, he was on the faculty at Iowa State University and the University of Georgia as the forage and bioenergy crop breeder. His program focuses on practical cultivar development, germplasm evaluation and incorporation, breeding methodology improvement, and application of genetic markers into forage breeding. He currently serves as the Editor-in-Chief of the Crop Science Society of America and as President of the North American Alfalfa Improvement Conference.



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Helene Dillard

Dean
College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Helene R. Dillard was appointed dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis in January 2014. Dillard has national and international leadership experience, including invited consultations, presentations, and scientific exchanges in China, Central America (Honduras, Nicaragua), South America (Argentina, Brazil, Chile), the European Union (the Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom), and Zimbabwe. She has worked extensively with U.S. Department of Agriculture programs, the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), and the National Research Initiative.

Prior to her appointment at UC Davis, Dillard was on the faculty at Cornell University since 1984 as a plant pathology professor, carrying a 50 percent research and 50 percent extension assignment. Her research focused on the biology, ecology, and management of fungal pathogens that cause diseases in vegetable crops. Her interests include sustainable disease management strategies, integrated pest management, epidemiology and host/pathogen/environment interactions. Dillard served as chair of the Department of Plant Pathology in Geneva, N.Y. (1997–2001), associate director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (2001–2002), and director of Cornell Cooperative Extension (2002–January 2014). She also served simultaneously as associate dean in two colleges, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and the College of Human Ecology (2002–January 2014).

Dillard was recognized for her contributions in plant pathology by the American Phytopathological Society (APS), receiving the Excellence in Extension Award in 1992 and being named an APS fellow in 2006. She received the New York Farmers Medal and the Outstanding Faculty Award from CALS in 2013.

Helene Dillard was born and raised in San Francisco, California. She completed her B.S. degree in biology of natural resources at UC Berkeley, an M.S. degree in soil science at UC Davis, and a Ph.D. degree in plant pathology at UC Davis.



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Karen Ross

Secretary
 California Department of Food and Agriculture

Karen Ross was appointed Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture on January 12, 2011 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Secretary Ross has deep leadership experience in agricultural issues nationally, internationally, and here in California. Prior to joining CDFA, Secretary Ross was chief of staff for U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, a position she accepted in 2009. Before her time at the United States Department of Agriculture, Secretary Ross served more than thirteen years as President of the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG), based in Sacramento. During that same period she served as the Executive Director of Winegrape Growers of America, a coalition of state winegrower organizations, and as Executive Director of the California Wine Grape Growers Foundation, which sponsors scholarships for the children of vineyard employees. Among Secretary Ross' many achievements at CAWG was the creation of the nationally-recognized Sustainable Winegrowing Program, which assists wine grape growers in maintaining the long-term viability of agricultural lands and encourages them to provide leadership in protecting the environment, conserving natural resources, and enhancing their local communities.



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Alan Taylor

Professor
 Department of Horticulture

Dr. Taylor's research program can best be described as "modern seed technology," with many well-organized projects for multi-stakeholders. The emphasis is on post-harvest aspects of seed quality/dormancy, seed treatments and coating technologies. Projects range from applied seed technology to more fundamental aspects of seed biology on vegetable crop, biofuel, other industrial crop and weed seeds. His teaching focus is on the study of the principles and practices involved in seed production, conditioning, storage, quality management and stand establishment. The information is applicable to various kinds of agricultural and horticultural seeds. He also conducts hands-on laboratory experience with exposure to the seed industry.



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Bill Tracy

Professor, Department Chair
 Department of Agronomy

Dr. Tracy's program focuses on improving sweet corn by breeding and the discovery of genetic information that will be useful for sweet corn improvement. He directs a sweet corn breeding program that generates commercially useful inbreds and hybrids. In the breeding program they make extensive use of tropical and other non-sweet germplasm. Their genetic research centers on three areas 1. The relationship between the development of the maize plant and pest resistance. 2. Endosperm mutants and their effects on quality, germination, and cold tolerance. 3. Phylogenetics and evolution of sweet corn. A fourth area of research involves participatory breeding and on farm research for organic crop production. In addition, Bill is an active teacher for undergraduates, graduates and K-12 students.

Dr. Tracy earned B.S. and M.S. degrees at the University of Massachusetts and a Ph.D. degree from Cornell University.



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Allen Van Deynze

Director of Research
Seed Biotechnology Center, Department of Plant Sciences

Dr. Allen Van Deynze is a professional researcher at the Seed Biotechnology Center at University of California, Davis. Dr. Van Deynze received a BSc. and MSc. degree in Plant Science from the University of Manitoba, Canada and a Ph.D. in plant molecular breeding from the University of Guelph, Canada. He did a postdoctorate in molecular genetics at Cornell University in the Department of Plant Breeding and Biometry. He worked as a plant breeder for Calgene/Monsanto and as a senior scientist for Celera AgGen and Paradigm Genetics where he developed and implemented strategies to incorporate biotechnology into breeding programs. As part of the SBC's mission to serve as a liaison between public institutions and the seed industry, he develops, coordinates and conducts research on the application of biotechnologies to seed crops. Dr. Van Deynze generates and disseminates scientific and informational content for the Center's educational and outreach programs. His interests include identification of molecular markers to help incorporate traits into new varieties, development of new phenotypes.

Seed Central Team:



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**The team also includes Kent Bradford
and Allen Van Deynze**

Kathy Bess

Program Assistant
Seed Central and PIPRA

Kathy Bess is the program assistant for Seed Central. She is also the Program Operations Administrator to PIPRA (Public Intellectual Property for Agriculture) based at UC Davis. She holds a B.S. from UC Davis and was happy to return to her alma mater. She has many years of administrative experience. Prior to working for UC Davis and Seed Central, she worked for Oracle in their Asia Pacific regional internal training department, and for an environmental engineering firm in Sacramento. Kathy is responsible for organizing Seed Central events and providing administrative support for both programs.



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Cecilia Chi-Ham

Director Science & Technology, PIPRA
 Seed Central CAPP Corporate Affiliate Partnership Program

Dr. Cecilia Chi-Ham, a native of Honduras, Central America, earned a B.Sc. degree in Chemistry and Environmental Sciences at the University of the Ozarks, USA and a Ph.D. in Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Southern Mississippi, USA. In 2004, upon completing postdoctoral work at Michigan State University in the field of plant biology, Dr. Chi-Ham joined PIPRA. As a plant biologist interested in facilitating agricultural innovations, particularly in developing countries, Dr. Chi-Ham leads PIPRA's Biotechnology Resources Program. The Biotechnology Resources program's activities include developing research tools with maximum freedom-to-operate to support a wide array of agricultural applications for humanitarian and commercial purposes, facilitating technology transfer, building new partnerships and research collaborations, and providing legal information on biotechnology tools. The program's multi-disciplinary activities straddle the delicate junction between science, legal, business development, and regulatory affairs necessary for the research and development of new agricultural innovations in developed and developing countries.



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Susan DiTomaso

Associate Director
 Seed Biotechnology Center, Department of Plant Sciences

Susan DiTomaso received a B.S. degree in Agricultural Science from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, and an Agriculture Teaching Credential from the University of California, Davis. She is a graduate of the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Ms. DiTomaso is the Center's Associate Director. She coordinates public relations and outreach activities, Center administration and program development. She is also part of the Seed Central team.



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Francois Korn

Owner and Founder
 SeedQuest and Seed Central

Francois Korn, a native of France, has over 30 years of experience in the seed industry. After beginning his career in the fertilizer industry in Germany, he moved to the United States and focused his efforts on handling international sales for Harris Moran. In 1992, he created SeedQuest, a company devoted to improving access to information for seed professionals worldwide, and to providing web strategy and e-business guidance to seed industry members. Francois is also a member of the Seed Biotechnology Center's Advisory Council. Francois is also a co-founder and lead of Seed Central.