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## *Plant Physiology*<sup>®</sup>

# Focus Issue on Biotic Stress

Edited by Hailing Jin, Melissa Goellner Mitchum, Ralph Panstruga, and Julie Stone

**Deadline for submission extended to September 1, 2018**

Plants are constantly attacked by pathogens and pests, including bacteria, fungi, oomycetes, viruses, insects and nematodes. Devastating diseases caused by these pathogens to pre- and post-harvested crops threaten human health and the stability of global economies. Many diverse factors impact the evolutionary arms race that has shaped vast biological complexities dictating plant host interactions with pathogens and pests. Pathogen/pest virulence, abundance and geographic range, host plant resistance or compatibility, and environmental conditions all influence disease severity, yield and quality. Thus, research aimed at fully understanding the mechanisms by which plants either defend against, or succumb to infection/infestation is of paramount importance to facing the global challenges of feeding a burgeoning population amidst a changing climate. In this context, it is likewise essential to comprehend the molecular principles that microbial and other invaders deploy to enable colonization and exploitation of plant hosts. The ultimate application of these studies is to develop innovative and eco-friendly disease control strategies for plant protection. This Focus Issue on Biotic Stress will showcase Update reviews on recent advances in the field and primary research articles covering all research areas on plant host interactions with pathogens and pests.

Authors interested in contributing should indicate this in the cover letter when submitting papers online at <http://pphys.msubmit.net/>. Please select "Biotic Stress" from the Focus Issue list in the online submission system. Articles published in *Plant Physiology* on this topic within 2 years before and after the Focus Issue publication date will be collected in an online focus Collection on Biotic Stress.

Please contact Hailing Jin ([hailingj@ucr.edu](mailto:hailingj@ucr.edu)), Melissa Goellner Mitchum ([goellnerm@missouri.edu](mailto:goellnerm@missouri.edu)), Ralph Panstruga ([panstruga@bio1.rwth-aachen.de](mailto:panstruga@bio1.rwth-aachen.de)), or Julie Stone ([jstone2@unl.edu](mailto:jstone2@unl.edu)) for more information.

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