

ASPB Pioneer Member

Carolyn Rasmussen

Dr. Carolyn Rasmussen is a Professor of Plant Cell Biology in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. A recognized leader in the field of plant division plane orientation, she has spent her career uncovering the fundamental cellular rules that dictate how plant cells divide, grow, and ultimately shape the architecture of complex organisms.

Dr. Rasmussen's interdisciplinary approach is rooted in a foundation in the bio-physical and biological sciences. Her research laboratory focuses on the spatial control of cytokinesis using a combination of cell biology and genetics. By integrating high-resolution time-lapse imaging with mutant analysis and mathematical modeling, her team has characterized both proteins and biophysical cellular properties that are critical for division plane positioning. The accurate positioning of the division plane is a process vital for normal plant development and crop performance.



Beyond the bench, Dr. Rasmussen is an advocate for inclusive excellence in STEM. She served as the Director and Co-director of several programs that funded opportunities for undergraduate students to get involved in research. She is currently Co-Director of a long-standing NSF-funded REU program at UCR. Her leadership also extends to her service on the Maize Genetics Cooperation Awards Committee.