



Happy July!

Thank you so much for Dr. Claudineia Pereira Costa for speaking about their journey at the Meet & Greet on July 30th!

And thank you so much for all who attended.

Ahead of our Meet & Greet on August 27, learn about our speaker, Dr. Po Hu and Dr. Min Zhang, on page 2!







Opcoming iss Events

Scholar Coffee Hours

What: Meet to chat with other scholars – bring your own

beverage and make some friends! When: Fridays 11AM - Noon

Where: Outside of The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf



September Meet & Greet

Where: HUB 265

When: September 17th, Noon – 1pm

Please come meet our new scholars! As always, we will

provide lunch!

Check this out!

Please fill out the feedback form on the ISS activities: https://forms.gle/H2ciS3T4sqbHqrTK6





Dr. Po HuAssociate Specialist, Department of Microbiology & Plant Pathology



We asked some questions to Dr. Po Hu and Dr. Min Zhang who will be speaking at the International Scholars Meet & Greet on August 27! Follow Dr. Po Hu's story below, and Dr. Min Zhang's story on the next page..

1. Please tell us a little bit about your background (before coming to UCR).

I earned my PhD in plant physiology and pathology from Tsinghua University, China in 2013. My PhD project focused on the role of plant hormones in regulating responses to biotic and abiotic stresses. In 2014, I joined Professor Hailong Jin's laboratory at the University of California, Riverside, as a postdoctoral researcher to continue pursuing this line of research.

2. Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

At UCR, I worked as a postdoctoral researcher in Dr. Hailing Jin's lab for five years before transitioning to a project scientist position to further my research. During this period, I published one research article, one review article, and co-applied for a patent with my advisor. Currently, as an Associate Specialist, I aim to complete the two ongoing projects I am leading.

3. How did you get into your field?

When I was very young, I personally experienced a severe locust plague. Swarms of locusts flew toward us and quickly swept across a wheat field, leaving behind complete devastation. That experience deeply impressed upon me how destructive pests and diseases can be to crops. When I later chose biology as my major, my goal was to develop strategies to reduce pest damage and improve crop yields. Today, my research focuses on the protective functions of antimicrobial peptides and small RNAs in crops, and we have already made meaningful progress.

4. What are some of your favorite memories at UCR?

My ten years at UCR have left me with many lasting impressions. As an international scholar, UCR was my first experience in the United States, where I encountered a different culture from China. As a researcher, I came to appreciate the passion UCR scientists bring to their work and their commitment to discovery. As a father, I value the care and educational philosophy I have seen in American daycare centers. But as a foodie, I must admit my Chinese taste simply has not adapted to the food of America and other regions.

5. Do you have any advice for incoming international scholars?

Everyone forms their own perspectives when entering a new environment. I believe that, regardless of one's purpose or approach to pursuing advanced studies at UCR, it is important to follow your heart and remain committed to your goals. At the same time, I encourage you to take a moment to explore UCR's botanical gardens—a truly wonderful place to relax, reflect, and find inspiration.



Dr. Min ZhangAssistant Project Scientist, Department of Microbiology & Plant Pathology



1. Please tell us a little bit about your background (before coming to UCR). I got my PhD. degree in developmental biology from Tsinghua University in Beijing, China and then worked as a postdoc studying axonogenesis in the School of Medicine in UCR for 8 years until 2023.

2. Please briefly describe your role at UCR.

I am currently working as a project scientist in Dr. Hailing Jin's lab in the department of Microbiology & Plant Pathology since 2023, working on peptide and extracellular vesicle related research.

3. How did you get into your field?

I have had a great interest in Biology since I was in middle school and thought exploring the secrets of life is the most fascinating thing. So I chose to study Biology when I went to the university. I started my biological research training with studying the asymmetric development of animal bodies during my PhD. and studied the axonogenesis, a cell level asymmetry, in my first postdoc training. Then I joined Dr. Hailing Jin's lab for further molecular and biochemical training on peptide and extracellular vesicle related research.

4. What are some of your favorite memories at UCR?

The UCR's support for equity and diversity makes me love it here. It has an active academic atmosphere and people have chances to attend lots of high level academic conferences.

5. Do you have any advice for incoming international scholars?Make a good balance of your research and life. Enjoy the sunshine of Southern California.

The August Meet & Greet will be at HUB 265!

Cultural Conversation Class!

If you or your spouse is interested in participating in the Cultural Conversation Class to help improve your English and to meet new friends. Thank you to those who came to our last class and helped us make it successful!

Where: HUB 367

When: ON BREAK UNTIL SEPTEMBER 16, 2025

Our instructor is Candace Jorgensen, who has experience living in other cultures, which adds depth to her teaching the Cultural Conversation Class for international scholars and their families. She also holds a master's degree in education with emphasis on teaching English to speakers of other languages.



What to do This Month in Riverside

Celebration of Women in Medicine and Science: Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith

Where: School of Medicine Education Building When: Wednesday, September 3, 11am-2pm

This special event will showcase inspiring stories, foster meaningful connections, and celebrate the remarkable impact of women in our academic and healthcare communities. All

are welcome — faculty, staff, and students!

https://events.ucr.edu/event/a-celebration-of-women-in-medicine-science-4703



Men's Soccer vs. Northwestern

Where: UCR Soccer Stadium
When: September 15, 11am-1pm

https://gohighlanders.com/sports/mens-soccer/schedule



Women's Soccer vs. Loyola Marymount University

Where: UCR Soccer Stadium When: September 18. 7-9pm

https://gohighlanders.com/sports/womens-soccer/schedule



UCR Botanic Gardens - Gardening for Butterflies

Where: Botanic Gardens, Butterfly Garden

When: September 21, 9am - 12pm

Join UC Master Gardener Docents in the Botanic Gardens' Butterfly Garden to learn about Gardening for Butterflies including the life cycle of butterflies and which plants to choose to

attract butterflies. Stop by on the 1st & 3rd Sundays through October.

https://gardens.ucr.edu/news/2025/08/17/gardening-butterflies?_gl=1%2A15051bs%2A_ga%2AMTg4NDkxNjI0Mi4xNzM2MTkzMjQw%2A_ga_Z1RGSBHBF7%2AczE3NTUwMzY3MDEkbzExNyRnMSR0MTc1NTAzNzlxMyRqMzUkbDAkaDA.%2A_ga_S8BZQKWST2%2AczE3NTUwMzY3MDEkbzExNyRnMSR0MTc1NTAzNzlxMyRqMzUkbDAkaDA.

Frequently Asked Questions

I need to leave the U.S. and ISS has not signed my DS-2019 document! Is that OK?

Please know that you do not need a travel signature on your DS-2019 document to either remain in or to depart the U.S. You do need a valid travel signature to return to the U.S. in J-1 status. A valid travel signature must be no more than twelve months old on the date that you return to the U.S.

If you are departing the U.S. soon and know that your travel signature will expire by the time you expect to return to the U.S., please contact our international scholar's office at internationalscholars@ucr.edu. If your DS-2019 is going to expire soon, please consult with your department to extend your stay and then contact our scholar advisor.

What will happen if I end my UCR appointment early and/or depart the United States and do not

intend to return to the U.S. for my J program?

If you are a scholar and you depart the U.S. early (more than 15 days before your DS-2019 end date) and you do not intend to return to the U.S. for the remainder of your J program, please discuss this with your faculty sponsor. Please also email our advisors so that they can advise you on the steps and the visa implications of ending your program early.

