

Lab Personnel (photos are on pages 6 to 17)

Current graduate students:

Rakshya Pokrel, BS (Purbanchal University, Nepal), 2019-
Tharanya Sugumar, BS and MS (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), 2021-
Haoran Xu, BS and MS (Sichuan Agricultural University, China), 2019-
Komal Thukral, BS and MS (Punjab Agricultural University, India), 2022-
Balram Bhandari, BS and MS (Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal), 2023-
Seetha Babu Manepalli, BS (M.S.Swaminathan School of Agriculture, India), MS (Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalay, India), 2023-
Maksuda Akter, BS (Sylhet Agricultural University, Bangladeshi), MS (Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladeshi), 2023-
Abdollah Monfared, BS (Dr. Jennifer Smith is Aby's primary advisor and I am co-advisor), 2023-
Damilola Olofintuyi, BS and MS (Dr. Jennifer Smith is Dami's primary advisor and I am co-advisor), 2023-

Current undergraduate researcher:

Emily Kelley, Texas Tech University, 2024-
Genesis Garcia, Texas Tech University, 2025-
Leslie Tirado, Texas Tech University, 2025-

Current visiting professor:

Dr. Sami Dr. Ul-Allah, visiting professor and Fulbright Scholar from Bahauddin Zakariya University, Pakistan (2024-2025).

Current visiting student:

Hira Maryam, visiting Ph.D. student from Muhammad Nawaz Shareef University of Agriculture, Multan, Pakistan (2025).

Former graduate students *(there were **21 Ph.D. students** and **10 MS students** graduated from Dr. Zhang's laboratory, and their names are listed below in order of the most recent graduation).*

Thuvaraki Balasubramaniam, BS and MS (University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2018-2023). Thuvaraki is now assistant professor at Wilberforce University in Ohio.
Yifan Cai, BS (China Agricultural University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2015-2022). Yifan is a postdoc at Xishuangbanna Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China.
Ruvini Mathangadeera, BS (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka), MS (Texas Tech University, USA), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2015-2021). Ruvini is now a senior lecturer of the Faculty of Humanities & Sciences of SLIIT Campus, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Inosha Wijewardene, BS (University of Pune, India), MS (Postgraduate Institute of Agriculture, University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2015-2021). Inosha is now a scientist at Evotec (US) Inc., Princeton, NJ.

Jennifer Smith, BS (Texas Tech University, USA), MS (Texas Tech University, USA), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2013-2018). Jennifer is currently Greenhouse Manager and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences at Texas Tech University.

Nardana Esmaeili, BS (Isfahan University, Iran), MS (University of Tehran, Iran), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2012-2018). Nardana is currently a postdoc at School of Dental Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.

Maheshika Herath, BS (University of Colombo, Sri Lanka), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2014-2018). Maheshika is currently living in Australia.

Xunlu Zhu, BS (Sichuan Agricultural University, China), MS (Sichuan University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2010-2017). Xunlu is Associate Professor of Industrial Crop Research Institute at Sichuan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Chengdu, China.

Li Sun, BS (Sichuan University, China), MS (Sichuan University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2010-2016). Li is now a senior scientist at GNS Healthcare, Somerville, MA 02143.

Neelan Mishra, BS (Mohanlal Sukhadia University, India), MS (Gorakhpur University, India), M. Tech (Indian Institute of Technology, India), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2010-2016). Neelan is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany at St. Joseph's University, Bangalore, India.

Saranya Ganapathy, BS (VIT University, Vellore, India), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, co-advised with Drs. Shan Bilimoria and Megha Parajulee, 2008-2015). Saranya is now Senior Research Scientist and Team Lead, Cell Line Development (Biosimilars), Ipca Laboratories Ltd., Mumbai, India.

Jian Chen, BS (Zhejiang University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2008-2014). Jian is a staff scientist at Bayer, St. Louis, Missouri.

Qiang Gu, BS (Sichuan University, China), MS (Institute of Microbiology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2007-2014).

Yinfeng Zhu, BS (Henan University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2007-2013). Dr. Zhu is now a clinical laboratory scientist, Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside, California.

Rongbin Hu, BS (Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China), MS (Institute of Genetics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2006-2012). Dr. Hu is now an associate specialist in the Department of Chemical & Environmental Engineering, University of California-Riverside, California.

Sundaram Kuppu, BS (University of Calicut, India), MS (Indian Institute of Technology, India), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2005-2011). Dr. Kuppu is now a research associate at University of California at Davis.

Manoj Banjara, B. Tech (Kathmandu University, Nepal), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2008-2010).

Yiyan Wang, BS and MS (Tongji Medical School, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, China), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2006-2008).

Vijaya S. Pasapula, BS (Acharya N. G. Ranga Agricultural University, India), MS (Texas A&M), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2003-2008). Vijay is Senior Director, Head of Statistical Programming, Cerus Corporation, Concord, CA.

Jinhua Luo, BS (Zhongshan University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2002-2008). Jinhua is a senior research associate at Bayer (formerly Monsanto), St. Louis, MO.

Xiaoyun Qiu, BS (Zhejiang University, China), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2005-2008). She is now Associate Professor at Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hangzhou, China.

Sujatha Venkataramani, BS (University of Madras, India), MS, Pondicherry University, India), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2000-2006). Sujatha is now a senior clinical scientist at Machaon Diagnostics, Dallas, Texas. Sujatha is also an adjunct faculty at University of North Texas.

Guoxin Shen, BS and Ph.D. (in Agronomy from Zhejiang University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2003-2006). Guoxin is Professor at Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hangzhou, China.

Venkata Kolli, BS (Nagarjuna University, India), MS (Barkatullah University, India), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2003-2006). Venkata is Senior Scientist/Study Director, Frontage Laboratories, Inc. Exton, PA.

Zhehui Mao, BS (Zhejiang University, China), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2003-2006).

Cixin He, BS and MS (Zhejiang University, China), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 2001-2005). Cixin is Director of Biostatistics at Eisai Inc., Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey.

Savitha Narendra, BS and MS (Bangalore University, India), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 1999-2005). Savitha is Director of Strategic Planning, Cigna, St Louis, Missouri.

Trina Wainwright, BS (Texas Tech University), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 2000-2002). Trina now works as a biology teacher in Dallas, Texas.

Qingtian Li, BS (Beijing Normal University, China), MS (Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences), **Ph.D.** (Texas Tech University, 1998-2002). Qingtian is Assistant Professor at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas.

Allison Richey, BS (Texas Tech University), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 1997-1999). Dr. Richey (MD) is now a physician in Texas.

Minghua Liu, BS (Sichuan University, China), MS (Shanghai Normal University), **MS** (Texas Tech University, 1995-1997). Minghua is now a computer scientist in Austin, Texas.

Former Texas Tech University/Howard Hughes Medical Institute (TTU/HHMI) fellow, NSF-REU undergraduate fellow, Honor College students:

Melody Rowland (Texas Tech University, TTU/HHMI fellow), 1997-1998.

Utah Nickel (Hexdrix College, NSF-REU fellow), 1996.

Philip Jarrett (Texas Tech University, Honor College student), 2013-2015, Earl Camp Award recipient (top graduating senior in Biological Sciences).

Lars Lindgren (Texas Tech University, Honor College student), 2017-2020), Earl Camp Award recipient (top graduating senior in Biological Sciences).
Christine Vu (Texas Tech University, Honor College student), 2018-2020.

Former postdoctoral fellows:

Juqiang Yan, Ph.D. (1998-2005). Dr. Yan now works as a researcher at Texas Tech Health Science Center in Lubbock.
Guoxin Shen, Ph.D. (2006-2009). Dr. Shen is now a professor at Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hangzhou, China. Dr. Shen is also a visiting professor in our laboratory.
Sundaram Kuppu, Ph.D. (2011). Dr. Kuppu is now a scientist at University of California at Davis.
Rongbin Hu, Ph.D. (2012-2013). Dr. Hu is now an associate specialist in the Department of Chemical & Environmental Engineering, University of California-Riverside, California.
Yinfeng Zhu, Ph.D. (2013-2014). Dr. Zhu is now a clinical laboratory scientist, Riverside Community Hospital, Riverside, California.

Former visiting professors and scholars:

Dr. Longfu Zhu, Professor from Huazhong Agricultural University of China, 2007-2008.
Dr. Quanzhong Wu, Associate Professor from Tarim University of China, 2010, 2014 and 2023.
Dr. Chaoyue Hu, Associate Professor from Tarim University of China, 2010 and 2014.
Ms. Ruiqing Wang, Associate Professor from Tarim University of China, 2010.
Dr. Wei Chen, Associate Professor from the Institute of Cotton Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Anyang, Henan, China, 2013-2014.
Dr. Yongshan Zhang, Professor from the Institute of Cotton Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Anyang, Henan, China, 2015.
Dr. Xiaojie Yang, Associate Professor from Henan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Zhengzhou, China, 2014-2016.
Dr. Yunlei Zhao, Ph.D., Associate Professor from the Institute of Cotton Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Anyang, Henan, China, 2016.
Dr. Lei Zhang, Associate Professor from the Institute of Cotton Research, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Anyang, Henan, China, 2015-2016.
Dr. Fuzhen Li, Associate Professor from Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hangzhou, China, 2015-2016.
Dr. Xiaowen Hu, Professor from Lanzhou University, Lanzhou, China, 2016.
Dr. Feiyu Tang, Professor from Jiangxi Agricultural University, Nanchang, China, 2016-2017.
Dr. Lihong Nie, Associate Professor from Henan Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Zhengzhou, China, 2017-2018.
Dr. Wei Zhu, Associate Professor from Henan Agricultural University, Zhengzhou, China, 2017-2018.

Mr. Muhammad Asif, Assistant Research Scientist, Cotton Research Institute, Punjab, Pakistan. 2018.

Dr. Lishan Shan, Associate Professor from Gansu Agricultural University, Lanzhou, Gansu, China, 2018-2019.

Dr. Yuehua Yu, Associate Professor from Xinjiang Agricultural University, Wulumuqi, Xinjiang, China, 2018-2019.

Dr. Yanjun Ma, Associate Professor from Gansu Agricultural University, Lanzhou, Gansu (2019-2020).

Dr. Qianqian Liu, Associate Professor from Qingdao Agricultural University, Qingdao, Shandong, China, 2019.

Dr. Chunyan Wu, Associate Professor from Jilin Agricultural University, Lanzhou, Gansu (2019-2020).

Dr. Jun Yang, Associate Professor from Hebei Agricultural University, Lanzhou, Gansu (2019-2020).

Dr. Shiping Su, Associate Professor from Gansu Agricultural University, Lanzhou, Gansu (2019-2020).

Former visiting students:

Pei Hou, Ph.D. student from the laboratory of Professor Yongsheng Liu of Sichuan University, China (2007-2009).

Hua Qin, Ph.D. student from the laboratory of Professor Yizheng Zhang of Sichuan University, China (2007-2010).

Necla Pehlivan, Ph.D. student from the Recep Tayyip Erdogan University, Turkey (2013-2015).

Weijia Jiang, visiting Ph.D. student from the laboratory of Professor Yun Zhao of Sichuan University, China (2014-2016).

Yongping Wang, visiting student from the laboratory of Professor Jinlin Zhang of Lanzhou University, China (2018-2019).

Lab photos since 1997

1997. Lab members: Allison (left) and Minghua (right)



1998. Lab members: Allison (first on the left) and Dr. Juqiang Yan (first on the right)



2004. Lab members



2005. Lab members



2007. Sundaram's wedding in Dallas



2008. Lab members



2010. Lab members



2011. Christmas party



2011. Sichuanese in my lab welcome Liao Zhi, a Wenchuan Earthquake survivor (廖智姑娘是 2008 年汶川大地震的幸存者, 她在地震中失去了双腿)



2012. Lab members



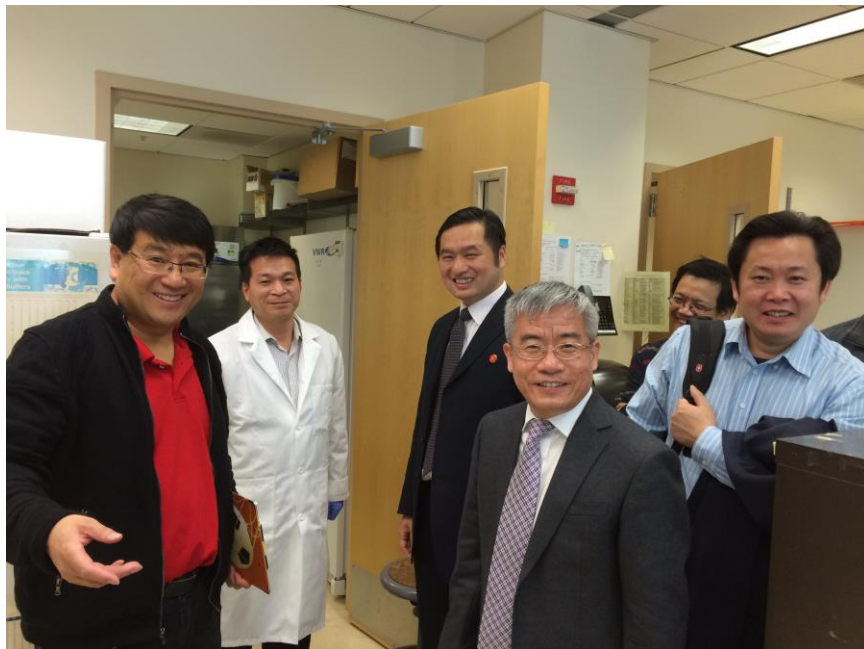
2014. Lab members on May 5



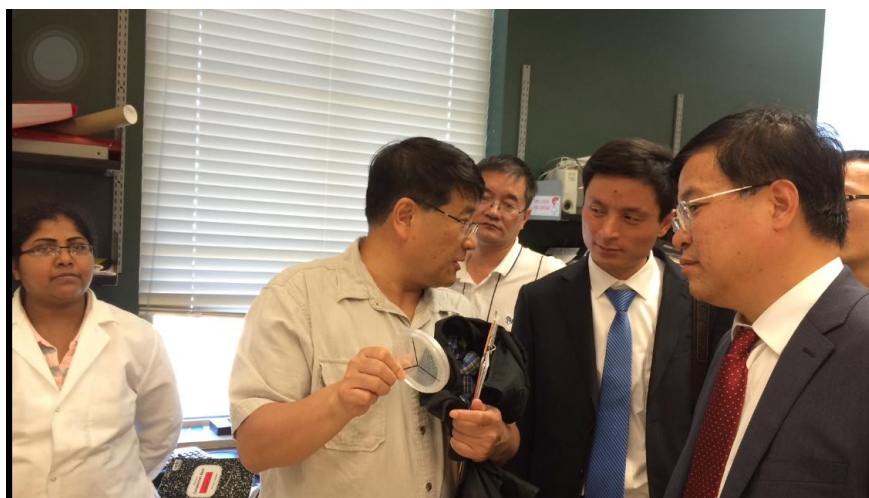
2015. New Year's Day



2015. Vice President Xianlong Zhang of Huazhong Agricultural University of China visited our laboratory (华中农业大学副校长张献龙博士带团访问德州理工大学并参观我们实验室)



2015. President Fuguang Li of the Institute of Cotton Research of Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences visited our laboratory (中国农业科学研究院棉花研究所所长李付广博士率团访问德州理工大学并参观我们实验室)



2016 Goodbye to Dr. Xiaojie Yang (sitting in the middle)



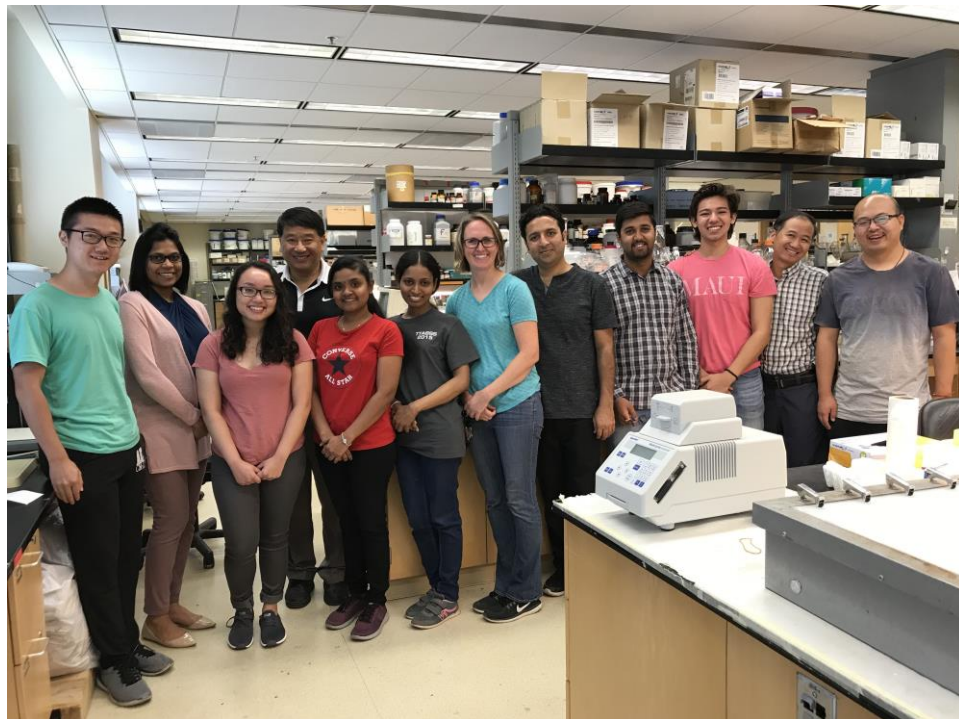
2017. Lab members in Spring Semester



2018. New Year's party



2018. New lab members joined our lab in the fall semester



2019. Lab members in the Spring Semester



2020. Lab members in the Spring Semester



2021. Inosha and Ruvini at Graduation Ceremony (8/7/2021)



2021. Lab members in the Fall Semester (new students Souvik and Tharanya joined our group)



2022. Lab members in the Fall Semester (new graduate student Komal, first girl on the left standing, joined our group)



2025. Lab members in the Spring Semester (new students Balram, Seeth, and Maksuda joined Zhang Lab; Aby and Dami joined Smith Lab)

