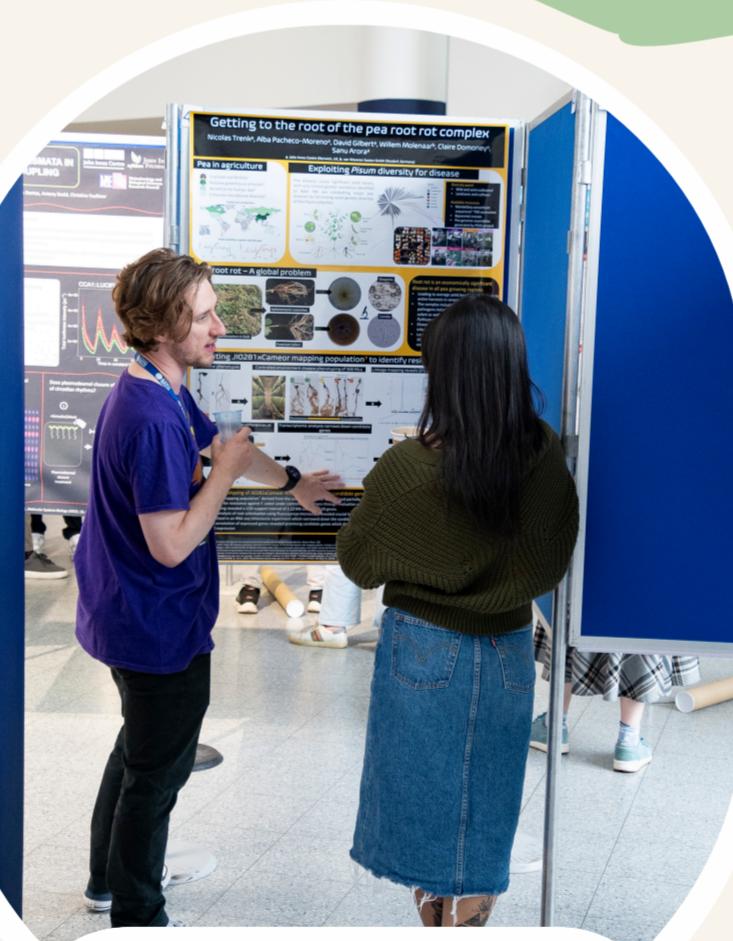


NoCass

Norwich-Cambridge Science Symposium for Plant and Microbial Sciences



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SEPTEMBER 4 - 5, 2025

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Day 1 | 4th September

Norwich-Cambridge Science
Symposium for Plant & Microbial Sciences

10:30-11:15 **Registration**

11:15-11:30 **Conference Opening**

Session 1

Chaired by Gaia Galiberti & Nicolas Garcia Hernandez

Photosynthesis & The Chloroplast

11:30-11:45 **Ryo Tachibana**

Novel plastid regulators, BPG4 and BGH2, maintain plastid homeostasis via GLK transcription factors under light and dark conditions

11:45-12:00 **Ashley Dudey**

Molecular insights into chloroplast transcription activation by stress

12:00-12:15 **Alistair Leverett**

The importance of nitrogen use efficiency at the 'cheap' end of the leaf economic spectrum

Flash Talks

12:15-12:20 **Junior Lusu Kika**

Defining and characterizing the core effectorome of the most prevalent plant pathogens in the world: the root-knot nematodes

12:20-12:25 **Karen Uchida**

The role of the carbohydrate-binding motif of FOLD effectors during mycorrhizal symbiosis

12:25-12:30 **Thomas Navarro**

Super Tuber: Improving diploid potato using a novel gene silencing technology

12:30-13:00 **Meet & mingle**

13:00-14:30 **Lunch & poster session 1**



Day 1 | 4th September
Norwich-Cambridge Science
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Session 2

Chaired by Clémence Rodney & Nathan Williams

Plant Immunity & Pathogens

14:30-14:45 **Kara Boyd**

Downy but not out - identifying resistance to downy mildew in pea

14:45-15:00 **Darius Kosmützky**

The transcription factor *MpGRAS7* is a novel susceptibility factor with a role in reproductive development in *Marchantia*

15:00-15:15 **Josh Bennett**

Investigating the mechanism of a wheat CNL/MLKL pair that provides resistance to blast disease

15:15-15:30 **Jade van Wijk**

AirSeq as a tool for cereal rust surveillance

15:30-16:00 **Ground breaking research in industry**

NEB & Novogene

16:00-16:30 **Coffee break**

16:30-17:00 **Research in policy & entrepreneurship**

Nucleate & ARIA

17:00-18:30 **Careers panel** *Chaired by Gaia Galiberti & Nina Foreman*

Andrea González

Head of Research, FA Bio

Carol Ibe

President & Founder, JR Biotek Foundation

Programme Manager, Cambridge Global Challenges

Gareth Steed

Innovation Consultant, Innova Technology

Saima Shahid

Lecturer, School of Bioscience, University of Sheffield

Helen Pilcher

Author & Science Communication Consultant

18:30-21:00 **Dinner at SLCU**



Day 2 | 5th September

Norwich-Cambridge Science
Symposium for Plant & Microbial Sciences

Session 3

Chaired by John Palmer & Nina Foreman

Symbiosis & The Microbiome

9:00-9:15 **Sam Bruty**

Recipes for a modern microbiome: mapping genes controlling domestication related microbiome traits in *Pisum*

9:15-9:30 **Min-Yao Jhu**

Decoding *Medicago* lateral root and nodule organogenesis with high-resolution spatiotemporal transcriptomics

9:30-9:45 **Isabella Frost**

Biocontrol activity in *Pseudomonas spp.* against *Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *actinidiae*, linked to a novel natural product cluster

9:45-10:00 **Martina Orvosova**

Exploring the role of direct phosphate uptake transporters in AM symbiosis in rice

Flash Talks

10:00-10:05 **Delfi Dorussen**

Investigating DNA methylation in wheat with *met1* mutants

10:05-10:10 **Federico Marangelli**

Uncovering SMAX1-dependent regulation of transcription factors during arbuscular mycorrhizal symbiosis in rice

10:10-10:15 **Siyu Song**

Decoding plant-microbiome interactions under phosphate starvation at single-cell and spatial resolutions

10:15-10:45 **Coffee break**

Keynote Lecture

Chaired by Nathan Williams

10:45-11:45 **Dr Saima Shahid**

School of Bioscience, University of Sheffield

11:45-12:30 **Cambridge University Botanic Garden tours**

12:30-14:00 **Lunch & poster session 2**

Session 4

Chaired by Harry Taylor & Jacob González Isa

Genomes & Epigenomes

14:00-14:15 **Jasmine Staples**

Unlocking the Potential of Grass Pea: Improving nutritional traits through investigation of natural diversity

14:15-14:30 **Edward Harris**

DNA methylation dynamics in response to pathogen challenge

14:30-14:45 **Josh Waites**

The Long Road to a Single SNP: Wheat prime editing for rust resistance

14:45-15:00 **Ina Kruger**

Contemporary and historical meiotic crossover landscapes in the unicellular algae *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*

15:00-15:30 **Coffee break**

Session 5

Chaired by Isobel Magrath & Kristel June Sartagoda

Metabolism

15:30-15:45 **Rocky Payet**

Elucidation of Spartina dimethylsulfoniopropionate synthesis genes enables engineering of stress tolerant plants

15:45-16:00 **Georgia Yiasoumi**

A new approach to building co-expression networks from multiple datasets, with examples from the control of starch granule initiation



Day 2 | 5th September

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16:00-16:30 **Closing remarks and awards**

16:45 **Bus leaves for Norwich**

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Want to contribute to NoCaSS 2026?

Contact us at
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