

Gitanshu Munjal

Davis, California

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Education

Sep 2014
to
Dec 2017

University of California, Davis

Ph.D. student, GGHA, Crop Improvement, GPA 3.92

- Henry A. Jastro Research Award
- Horticulture & Agronomy Graduate Fellowship (Spring 2015)
- Horticulture & Agronomy Graduate Fellowship (Fall 2014)

Sep 2011
to
June 2013

University of California, Davis

B.S.(with Honors) Plant Sciences , Plant Breeding & Genetics, GPA 3.6

- Departmental Citation for outstanding undergraduate performance
- Ming Hop Lee Memorial Scholarship
- Inducted to Phi Sigma biological sciences honors society
- Dean's Honor Roll list every quarter at Oregon State (5 quarters)
- Drucilla Shepard Smith Scholastic Award (Oregon State)
- Loren. J Smith Agricultural Honors Scholarship (Oregon State)
- Ursula Bolt Knaus Scholarship, Dec 2010 (Oregon State)

Work History

Feb 2023
to
Present

Prebreeder - Corn

East-West Seed

Chiang Mai, Thailand

- Currently responsible for the development of new traits and technologies/tools in a structured way for the benefit of sweet/waxy corn breeders at EWS together with internal and external collaborators.

Jan 2018
to
Dec 2022

Research Lead

Rama Krishna Hybrid Seeds

Delhi, India

I was single handedly responsible for the development of:

- Early stage breeding programs for various OP crops for Asian export markets.
- MET approaches for assessing new products from international collaborators in India.
- Semi-automated workflows for farm management/monitoring and office accounting
- Internal SOPs around all aspects of the logistics of seed export/import
- Migration of the company to Google workspace
- An R shiny dashboard as a market research tool with Indian import and export data for any given HSN
- Initial efforts in assessing the potential for currency exchange modelling together with EEFC banking to improve returns for the company.

Jan 2015
to
Dec 2017

Graduate Student Researcher

Brummer Lab

Department of Plant Sciences-University of California, Davis

- Project aimed at dissecting the genetic control of autumn dormancy in autotetraploid alfalfa *Medicago sativa* using selection mapping and genome-wide association mapping approaches using low-coverage sequencing ([Dissertation Link](#)).

Sep 2013 to March 2014	Breeding Assistant-Silage Corn <i>Forage Genetics International, Davis, CA (foragegenetics.com)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsibilities included: Database building and management, programming to improve efficiency of inventory and phenotyping operations, operating field equipment, experimental design, data collection and analysis, agronomic field-work, and leading field crews.
Dec 2012 to August 2013	Undergraduate Intern/Research Assistant <i>Ross-Ibarra Lab (rilab.org)</i> <i>Department of Plant Sciences - University of California, Davis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project aimed at genome wide association analysis of maize phenotypes in highland and lowland environments. Responsibilities included: data collection (phenotyping), statistical analysis using R, and maintaining plants in the growth chamber.
Dec 2012 to April 2013	Undergraduate Intern/Research Assistant <i>Tomato Genetic Resources Center (tgrc.ucdavis.edu)</i> <i>University of California, Davis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project aimed at analyzing crossing relationships in tomato species. Responsibilities included: pollination, floral harvest, and scoring pollen tubes in styles using fluorescence microscopy.
July 2012 to August 2012	Research Trainee <i>Chia Tai Seeds Company, Thailand (chiataigroup.com)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trained in cultivation, management, and breeding techniques for various vegetable crops at three research stations in different parts of Thailand.
Jan 2012 to Jun 2012	Undergraduate Intern/Research Assistant <i>Zakharov Lab (website)</i> <i>Department of Plant Sciences - University of California, Davis</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project aimed at understanding the molecular pathways underlying aroma compound synthesis in cantaloupes. Responsibilities included: Tissue culture, DNA & RNA isolation, maintaining plants in the greenhouse, pollinating flowers, and harvesting fruit.
Jan 2011 to Mar 2011	Laboratory Assistant <i>Department of Horticulture - Oregon State University</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ornamental plant breeding program (Thuja species). Responsibilities included: Flow cytometry, laboratory and greenhouse management.
Apr 2010 to Jun 2010	Greenhouse Technician <i>Department of Horticulture - Oregon State University</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hazelnut breeding program. Responsibilities included: transplanting operations, and setting up drip irrigation systems.

Involvements

- Web Master, Graduate Group in Horticulture & Agronomy ([website](#))
- Outreach Coordinator, Graduate Group in Horticulture & Agronomy
- Organizing Committee Member, 2016 UCD Plant Breeding Symposium
- Organizing Committee Chair, 2017 UCD Plant Science Symposium
- Web Design, UCD Plant Science Symposium (plantsciencesymposium.ucdavis.edu)