Introduction and research achievements of Dr. Meg Staton

Dr. Meg Staton joined Entomology and Plant Pathology Department of University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2014. Her research program focuses on solving bioinformatics challenges of building and integrating large plant genomic datasets. Dr. Staton is an expert in comparative genomics, particular transferring and applying the in-depth knowledge base available for commodity crop plants to understand the evolution and genomic structure of woody tree species. The group of Dr. Staton lab build and maintain the Hardwood Genomics Database, which provides tools for scientists to query, download and explore genomic datasets from forest trees. Her position also includes bioinformatics support for UTIA research programs as a consultant for other faculty, staff and students with genomic or transcriptomic datasets. The lab also developed a mobile app that enables citizens to report the location and health information about tree of interest to scientists. In addition to research, Dr. Staton teaches Bioinformatic Applications class for graduates, which greatly enhances students’ skills for robust analysis of sequencing data and essential understanding of results interpretation.