

Joanna Denise Friesner, PhD

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Qualification Summary

- **Program management:** Coordinator (present or past) of (1) the North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee (NAASC), a US academic plant biology science committee and non-profit organization, (2) the Inter-institutional Network for Food and Agricultural Sustainability (INFAS), a US academic sustainable agriculture and food systems network, (3) the International Arabidopsis Information Consortium (IAIC) a US-based international consortium for plant biology bioinformatics and (4) the Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee (MASC) an international academic plant biology science committee. For all: Provide coordination and organization; spearhead activities, provide analysis and recommendations, program and deadline management, documentation and follow-through.
- **Grant proposals:** Contributed significantly to development of 17 funding proposals to US federal research agencies in support of international and US science conferences and workshops (NAASC). Co-PI on two NSF proposals including an international coordination proposal (MASC, funded) and a US coordination proposal (NAASC, funded); contributed to development of a bioinformatics coordination proposal submitted to NSF (IAIC, funded).
- **Effective communication:** Written communication via grant reporting, annual progress reports, concept notes, white papers, grant proposals, evaluation and research activity reporting (MASC, NAASC, INFAS, IAIC). Chaired meetings with representatives from worldwide academic institutions and involving strategic research planning (MASC). Extensive communication via email, in-person interactions at academic conferences, including meeting one-on-one with researchers, online meetings, online presence via international email newsgroups and websites (MASC, NAASC, INFAS, IAIC.)
- **Meeting organization:** Lead organizer for five large international science conferences of 625-1500 people involving extensive collaboration, communication, and organization with faculty, staff, vendors, and meeting attendees (MASC, NAASC). Co-organizer of four US plant science, and two sustainable agriculture/food systems, workshops (MASC, IAIC, INFAS). All events involve program (conferences) or goal (workshop) development including budgets, session topics, logistics, and for several events, follow-up through surveys (conferences) or white papers/publications/reports (workshops).
- **Organizational and time management skills:** Experience working on multiple projects at once, including on deadline (e.g. conference management, grant submission, publications.)
- **Researching, writing, editing, and translating technical information to a lay audience:** Editor of international annual progress reports including articles translating research for non-experts and funding agencies; coordinated submissions from multiple international participants; performed editing, research, writing and analysis functions (MASC, NAASC, IAIC, INFAS).
- **Analytical and research skills:** Earned PhD in Genetics based on original research including four research publications. Experience working with science committees and multiple stakeholders to analyze situations and formulate conclusions, responses and recommendations.

- **Professional experience with promoting academic diversity:** (1) Appointed to UC Davis Staff Diversity Administrative Advisory Committee (SDAAC); co-chair of SDAAC Outreach and Training Subcommittee. (2) Currently facilitating academic network (INFAS) in redesigning the mission of the Network, including developing Network statement on commitment to racial equity. Currently taking lead role to develop a similar mission statement for the UC Davis Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI). In this role, proposed and coordinated public panel at UC Davis entitled 'Perspectives on Race, Ethnicity, Class and Gender in the Food System'. (3) Coordinator of under-represented minority (URM) participation for 10 international plant biology conferences including: advertising and outreach, managing application, selection, and review process, communication with applicants and faculty sponsors, grant administration of funds, and reporting. Coordinated development of URM career workshops and networking activities. Administered evaluation surveys to inform future activities and funding. Provided summary analysis for funders.
- **Policy experience:** Awarded (and accepted) policy fellowship in Science and Technology Policy from the National Academy of Sciences (NAS.)
- **Interpersonal relationship building:** Coordinator for various committees comprised of volunteer faculty members: experience with developing relationships and facilitating participation and cooperation. Experience as liaison between international research groups. Experience working closely with US faculty researchers on projects and facilitating new collaborations with external groups. Experience with long-term relationship with funders.
- **Interactions with diverse groups of individuals:** Current portfolio: plant biology researchers, quantitative biology-related faculty, and practitioners in sustainable agriculture and food systems. Coordination of multinational and national science committees and networks requires diplomatic interactions with domestic and foreign scientists and policy-makers. Conference and workshop organization requires effective interactions with various constituents (e.g. faculty, funders, sponsors, etc.) *see 'Professional experience with promoting academic diversity', above, for additional activities'*

Education

Ph.D., Genetics, University of California, Davis. December 2004

Double-strand break repair and response in Arabidopsis thaliana: a reverse genetic approach.

Dissertation Advisor: Dr. Anne B. Britt, Professor of Plant Biology

B.A., Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of California, Berkeley. December 1998

Minor in Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Studies

Professional Experience

Sept. 2015 - current: (50%) Academic Coordinator: Center for Neuroscience, UC Davis.

Jan. 2015- Aug. 2015 (12.5% Analyst) Supervisor: Dr. Mark Goldman. Coordinates and manages a diverse set of networking, research and engagement activities of ongoing initiatives to develop national models for research-based undergraduate biology laboratories and quantitative biology training.

Jan. 2012 - current: (50%) Academic Coordinator, Inter-institutional Network for Food, Agriculture and Sustainability (INFAS) National Network Coordinator. Agricultural Sustainability Institute (ASI), UC Davis. Supervisor: Dr. Thomas Tomich, ASI Director, Professor in: Human and Community Development and Environmental Science and Policy, Director of the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP).

- **Program Management-** Coordinate the Network faculty members to implement core activities and ensure deliverables are met. Assist in developing a national forum for information exchange to engage diverse perspectives and connect scholarly and community perspectives. Independently manage and implement activities including implementing and tracking strategic plans. Coordinate activities of multiple faculty committees. Maintain project schedules, timelines, project budgets. Work with staff from public and private agencies and institutions to plan, design, and execute Network priorities. Communicate with funders, policy bodies and organizations relevant to the academic network mission.
- **Research, Analysis and Writing-** Assess suitable opportunities for funding proposals to support collaborative initiatives. Draft, edit and coordinate input for concept documents, grant proposals, and educational plans. Help to define research, education, and outreach frameworks of the network's faculty members. Develop written materials, including project progress reports, meeting agendas and reports, joint statements, and other documents. Participate in writing, editing and production of scientific articles, publications and abstracts.
- **Symposium and Meeting Planning and Coordination-** Plan, coordinate and implement network meetings and symposia. Lead for budget development and meeting organization including logistics.

September 2011 – May 2016: (part-time variable) Coordinator, International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium (IAIC). Research Coordination Network. Supervisor: Blake Meyers, Danforth Plant Science Center (formerly University of Delaware).

- Facilitate development of the IAIC and advisory board(s) via electronic, written, visual, verbal communication
- Coordinate meeting organization including meeting materials, site selection, lodging, food/beverage, audio-visual, travel, meeting rooms, managing reimbursements, etc.
- Facilitate IAIC meetings with on-site assistance including, e.g., set-up, speaker assistance, communications with meeting staff, session facilitator/note-taker, etc.
- Develop and contribute to drafting of meeting reports
- Publicize/distribute outcomes of meetings; liaise with the international community to facilitate two-way information sharing; post relevant information on the IAIC website
- Liaise with funding agencies to recommend to the community what grant opportunities should be considered as part of building the resources
- Develop and/or contribute to drafting annual reports; facilitate timely grant reporting to NSF

April 2010 - current: (part-time variable) Coordinator, North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee (NAASC), non-profit organization. Supervisors: committee of 8 elected faculty members.

- Lead Conference Organizer. Collaboratively develop science programs and submit funding proposals to federal agencies and secure commercial funding.
- Manage day-to-day operations including compliance with tax reporting, adherence to corporation policies, election to board of directors, assisting Treasurer with accounts, etc.
- Webpage Manager: Update and expand webpage.
- Contact point/liaison for funding agencies, researchers, and industry partners involved in research in the US. Facilitate community interactions via organizing interdisciplinary workshops, and domestic and international committee meetings and planning workshops.

July-August 2011 Instructor: (1) English For Science & Technology- Introduction to Regional Industry and Business and (2) Kyoto University English for Science & Technology Interdisciplinary Research Program; UC Davis Extension. Supervisor: Peter Hendricks.

March 2007 - December 2009: Coordinator, Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee ([MASC](#)), University of California, Davis. Co-Principle Investigator, National Science Foundation [Award 0707451](#). Advisor: Charles (Chuck) Gasser.

- Lead organizer for International Conferences on Arabidopsis Research. Collaboratively develop science programs, write funding proposals to federal agencies and secure commercial funding. Implement outreach to under-represented minorities and young scientists.
- Editor/author of annual published reports of the Multinational Coordinated *Arabidopsis thaliana* Functional Genomics Project. Write sections including progress, analysis and research impacts. Manage and edit contributions from 25+ domestic and international contributors. Research, analyze and write translational research examples and scientific breakthroughs.
- Webpage Manager: Update and expand MASC webpages to inform the Arabidopsis research community and the public about worldwide functional genomic activities.
- Contact point/liaison for funding agencies, researchers, and industry partners involved in Arabidopsis research. Facilitate community interactions via organizing interdisciplinary workshops, and domestic and international committee meetings and planning workshops.

Jan. 2006 – Feb. 2007: Coordinator, Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee (described above), Duke University. Advisor: Dr. Philip Benfey.

Publications

2016: Joanna Friesner. [Labor in the Food System: A View from INFAS](#). Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. April 4, 2016

2015: Nicholas Provar, Jose Alonso, Sally Assmann, Dominique Bergmann, Siobhan Brady, Jelena Brkljacic, John Browse, Clint Chapple, Vincent Colot, Sean Cutler, Jeff Dangl, David Ehrhardt, **Joanna Friesner**, Wolf Frommer, Erich Grotewold, Elliot Meyerowitz, Jennifer Nemhauser, Magnus Nordborg, Craig Pikaard, John Shanklin, Chris Somerville, Mark Stitt, Keiko Torii, Jamie Waese, Doris Wagner, and Peter McCourt. [50 Years of Arabidopsis Research: Highlights and Future Directions](#) New Phytologist. October 14, 2015

2014: Neil D. Huefner, Kaoru Yoshiyama, **Joanna D. Friesner**, Phillip A. Conklin, and Anne B. Britt. [Genomic stability in response to high versus low linear energy transfer radiation in Arabidopsis thaliana](#). Frontiers in Plant Science, 5: 206

2012: International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium. (Friesner is a member and one of the primary contributing authors on this manuscript). [Developing the Arabidopsis Information Portal](#), Plant Cell 2012 24: 2248-56. June 29, 2012

2010: International Arabidopsis Informatics Consortium. (Friesner is a member and one of the primary contributing authors on this manuscript). [An international bioinformatics infrastructure to underpin the Arabidopsis community](#). Plant Cell. 22:2530-6. Aug 31, 2010

2009: Invited Column: Joanna Friesner, [The Doctor Is Out \(of Academia\): Why Career Cross-training Is Critical for PhDs](#). Page 14, American Society of Plant Biologists

2009, 2008, 2007, 2006: Editor/lead author. [Multinational Coordinated Arabidopsis thaliana Functional Genomics Project Annual Reports](#)

2009: N.D. Huefner, **J.D. Friesner**, A.B. Britt. *Characterization of two H2AX homologues in Arabidopsis thaliana and their response to ionizing radiation*. Q.Y. Shu (ed.), Induced Plant Mutations in the Genomics Era. Food & Agriculture Organization of the UN, Rome, 113-117

2007: Michelle L. Heacock, Rachel A. Idol, **Joanna D. Friesner**, Anne B. Britt, and Dorothy E. Shippen. [Telomere dynamics and fusion of critically shortened telomeres in plants lacking DNA ligase IV](#). *Nucleic Acids Research*, 35 (19) 6490-6500

2005: **Joanna D. Friesner**, Bo Liu, Kevin Culligan, and Anne B. Britt. [IR-dependent ©-H2AX induction requires ATM and ATR](#). *Molecular Biology of the Cell*, 16 (5) 2566-76 (October, 2005 cover image)

2003: **Joanna Friesner** and Anne B. Britt. [Ku80 and DNA Ligase IV deficient plants are sensitive to ionizing radiation and defective in T-DNA integration](#). *Plant Journal*, 34: 427-440

Grants

2015: **Friesner, Co-PI:** National Science Foundation (NSF). RCN: Arabidopsis Research and Training for the 21st century (ART-21). Funded: \$499,980. [Award #1518280](#), Principle Investigator: Dr. Siobhan Brady, UC Davis. June 15, 2015- May 31, 2020

2007: **Friesner, Co-PI:** National Science Foundation (NSF). Funded \$323,046. [Award #0707451](#), Principle Investigator: Dr. Charles Gasser, UC Davis.

Drafted conference grant proposals (and required reports) submitted by faculty members:

- Eight successful submissions to the US National Science Foundation:
Award # 0707389 (PI J. Kieber); Award # 0821166 (PI C. Chang); Award # 0921746 (PI R. Poethig); Award # 1015598 (PI M. Estelle); Award # 1118263 (PI X. Dong); Award # 1215433 (PI D. Bergmann); Award # 1314864 (PI J. Alonso); Award # 1419009 (PI K. Torii)
- Four successful submissions to the US Department of Agriculture:
Award #1003607 (PI S. Brady); Award # 0225874 (PI B. Meyers); Award # 0214599 (PI J. Schroeder); Award # 0210432 (PI X. Chen)

Lead Organizer* International Conferences on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)

1. 2017: (*in progress*). St. Louis, Missouri, USA. June 19-23, 2017.
2. 2014: July 28 – Aug. 1; University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. 625 attendees
3. 2011: June 22-25; University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. 825 attendees
4. 2008: July 23-27; Hyatt, Montreal, Canada. 815 attendees
5. 2007: June 20-23; Beijing, China. 1425 attendees
6. 2006: June 27- July 2, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA. 622 attendees

*Lead Organizer, supporting the North American Arabidopsis Steering Committee (NAASC), which comprises the ICAR organizing committees, with two members acting as Co-Chairs

Workshop Organizer

- **April 2016:** *Workshop on Food System Equity and Action from the Individual to the Network.* Phoenix, AZ; 28 participants (US)
- **May 2016:** *Computational training of plant biologists for academia and industry in the 21st Century.* Phoenix, AZ; 35 participants (US and International)

Service

- **June 2016:** Founding member of 100+ Women Who Care-Yolo County, local community supporting philanthropic group
- **July 2014- August 2016:** UC Davis Staff Diversity Administrative Advisory Committee (SDAAC); October 2014-Aug. 2016: Chair, SDAAC Outreach and Training Subcommittee
- **Aug. 2009 – Oct. 2011:** Member, National Postdoctoral Scholars Association Advocacy Committee
- **April 2007 – June 2011:** Davis Community Emergency Response Team ([CERT](#)): Davis, CA
- **Dec. 2007 – May 2008:** Member, Postdoctoral Scholars Association Leadership Committee
- **April 2005:** Judge, 9th Annual Sacramento Regional Science and Engineering Fair: Sacramento, CA
- **Oct. 2003-Oct. 2005: Vice-President, Membership Chair.** Sacramento Valley Association for Women in Science
- **Oct. 2003:** Session assistant, Expanding Your Horizons Science, Math and Engineering Event for 6th-12th grade girls, University of the Pacific: Stockton, CA
- **Oct. 2002 – July 2003:** Graduate Student Representative to UC Davis Graduate Council
- **Oct. 2001 – July 2003:** Student Representative to Genetics Group Executive Council

Additional Leadership Experience

Oct. 2013 - April 2014: Selected, through competitive process, as a participant in the UC Davis Chancellor's Administrative Officers For the Future (AOFTF) program. The program focused on developing six Chief Administrative Officer competencies within a group of emerging leaders identified from a 'pool of high potential staff from the Davis and Sacramento campuses.'

The competencies were:

- Building Strategic Relationships
- Communication
- Results Orientation
- Strategic Problem Analysis
- Talent Management
- Team Effectiveness

June 2008 – Oct. 2009: Chairperson, UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholars Association:

- Drafted position paper regarding Postdoctoral Scholar policy on behalf of all UC postdoctoral scholar associations that was corresponded to the UC Office of the President.
- Coordinated revision of the UC Davis Postdoctoral Scholar Handbook involving collaboration with campus groups including: Office of Graduate Studies, Internship & Career Center, Services for International Scholars & Students, and Human Resources.

Sept. 2005 – Nov. 2005: Christine Mirzayan Science and Technology Policy Fellow, National Academies, Washington D.C. Fellows engage in the analytical process that informs science and technology policy. Experiences include: an introduction to the Academies and the fundamentals of science and technology policy analysis, worked on a policy project under a staff mentor for the Government-University-Industry-Research-Roundtable, participated on a team to develop a seminar on a controversial policy issue, and other activities such as attending hearings, seminars, and other relevant policy activities, and networking with members of congress, their staff, and other policy-makers. [Weblink to 2005 NAS Fellows webpage](#)

Selected Awards

- **March 2004:** Walter R. and Rosalinde H. Russell Outstanding Graduate Student Fellowship, UC Davis. *Nominated by Plant Biology Faculty*
- **January 2004:** Travel Grant: Graduate Student Association, UC Davis.
- **May 2003:** Travel Grant: American Society of Plant Biologists.
- **2002, 2001, 2000:** Recipient of Jastro-Shields Graduate Research Awards, UC Davis
- **Dec. 2001:** Travel Grant: UC Davis Graduate Studies.
- **Oct. 2001:** NIEHS Training Grant in Environmental Toxicology. Award provided full funding for three years of doctoral training, UC Davis
- **Oct. 2001:** Travel Grant: Society for Experimental Biology.
- **May 2001:** Elsie Taylor Stocking Memorial Fellowship, UC Davis
- **March 2001:** DuPont Travel Award: Section of Plant Biology.
- **Jan. 2000:** Departmental Block Grant: Genetics Graduate Group, UC Davis.
- **Sep. 1998:** Earle C. Anthony Fellowship. Genetics Graduate Group, UC Davis

Invited Outreach Presentations

- **May 2016:** *Exploring Career Opportunities: Academia and Beyond*. UC Davis, CA.
- **March 2015:** *Career cross-training in higher education*. UC Davis, CA.
- **Feb. 2003:** *Strategies for success at UC Davis*. Modesto Junior College: Modesto, CA

Presentations (Research, Panels, Workshops)

Selected examples from 23 oral talks and 12 poster presentations:

- **July 2015:** *Bioinformatics, Quantitative Techniques and Computational Skills: Current Research and Future Training Needs for 21st Century Plant Biology*. 26th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research, Paris, France. (Co-organizer and moderator)
- **April 2015:** Roundtable lead organizer and panelist: *Collaborations for Equity in the Food System: Progress, Challenges, Priorities Roundtable*. AFHVS/ASFS Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA. (Organizer and panelist)
- **Jan. 2012, Feb. 2012, Feb. 2011, Jan. 2011, Jan. 2010:** *Detecting DNA breaks in the plant genome*. UC Davis Extension: Davis, California. Research presentation to visiting graduate students from Nara, Japan. (Invited, Oral)

- **Jan. 2005:** *Detecting DNA breaks in the plant genome.* NAIST 21st Century Center of Excellence International Symposium: Nara, Japan (Invited, Oral)
- **Nov. 2004:** *Both ATM and ATR are required for the formation of gamma-H2AX foci in mitotic cells.* Amer. Soc. of Microbiology: DNA Repair & Mutagenesis Conference. Bermuda (Poster)
- **Nov. 2004:** *Detecting DNA breaks in the plant genome.* UC Davis Molecular and Cellular Biology Training Program Retreat: South Lake Tahoe, CA (Oral)
- **July 2003:** *Studying non-homologous end-joining of DNA double-strand breaks in Arabidopsis thaliana: a reverse genetic approach.* ASPB Annual Meeting: Honolulu, HI (Poster)
- **Oct. 2002:** *Studying non-homologous end-joining of DNA double-strand breaks in Arabidopsis thaliana: a reverse genetic approach.* 55th Annual Symposium of Fundamental Cancer Research: Houston, TX (Poster)
- **Sep. 2002:** *Double-strand break repair and response in Arabidopsis: a reverse genetic approach.* UC Davis Division of Biological Sciences Retreat: Sacramento, CA (Invited, Oral)
- **April 2002:** *A reverse genetic approach to DSB repair in Arabidopsis.* Society for Experimental Biology Annual Main Meeting: Swansea, Wales (Oral)
- **Nov. 2001:** *T-DNA integration in DSB repair defective plant mutants.* 22nd Annual Crown Gall Conference: Atlanta, GA (Oral)

Research Experience

- **Jan. 2005 – Jan. 2006: Postdoctoral Research,** UC Davis. Advisor: Dr. Anne B. Britt, Section of Plant Biology. Refined immunofluorescence microscopy technique to evaluate plant DNA damage and response to external agents.
- **Oct. 1998 – Dec. 2004: Doctoral Research,** UC Davis. Advisor: Dr. Anne B. Britt, Section of Plant Biology. Developed research proposal to determine mechanism for repairing double-strand DNA breaks in plants; investigated gene integration into plant genomes; examined contribution of regulatory genes to damage response.
- **Aug. 1996 – Sept. 1998: Undergraduate Research,** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Advisor: Dr. Priscilla Cooper, Life Sciences Division. Investigated the effect of defects in DNA repair in cells from patients with hereditary repair deficiency syndromes.

Teaching Experience

- **Aug. 2011- Sep. 2011:** Kyoto University English for Science & Technology Interdisciplinary Research Program. UC Davis Extension.
- **June 2011- July 2011:** English for Science and Technology. UC Davis Extension.
- **March 2000- June 2000:** Teaching Assistant, Genes and Gene Expression, UC Davis. Led discussion group for 30-40 undergraduate students including non-biology majors.
- **Sept. 1999- Dec. 1999:** Teaching Assistant, Molecular Genetics, UC Davis. Led discussion group for 30-40 undergraduate students including non-biology majors.