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University of Georgia
Department of Plant Pathology
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EDUCATION

1995–1999 Doctor of Philosophy
Dept. of Plant Pathology, The University of Georgia, Athens, GA

1993–1995 Master's of Science
Dept. of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

1990–1993 Bachelor of Science
Dept. of Plant Pathology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2015–present	Graduate Coordinator, Dept. of Plant Pathology
2012–present	Professor, Dept. of Plant Pathology, UGA
2008-2013	CAES Assistant Dean for Diversity and Multiculturalism
2005-2012	Associate Prof. Dept. of Plant Pathology, UGA
1999-2005	Assistant Prof. Dept. of Plant Pathology, UGA
1999	Post-Doc. Dept. of Plant Pathology, UGA
1995-1999	Graduate Res. Assist. Dept. of Plant Pathology, UGA
1993-1995	Graduate Research Assistant Dept. of Plant Pathology, ISU

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Phytopathological Society
Georgia Association of Plant Pathologists
Southern Division of the American Phytopathological Society

HONORS, AWARDS, SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS

CAES D.W. Brooks Diversity Award for Faculty (2017)
UGA Senior Teaching Fellow (2011–2012)
UGA Teaching Academy Member (2005) <http://teachingacademy.uga.edu/about.htm>
Gamma Sigma Delta Junior Faculty Award (2005)
UGA CTL Lilly Teaching Fellow (2001-2002)
Sigma Xi Outstanding Ph.D. Dissertation Award (2000)
Kenneth E. Papa Outstanding UGA Plant Pathology Grad. Student (1999)
1st Place Grad. Student Res. Paper, Southern Division APS (1999)
Outstanding Grad. Teaching Award, University of Georgia (1996)

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2015 - present	Graduate Coordinator, Department of Plant Pathology	Manage graduate student enrolment in the department of Plant Pathology and serve as Graduate School liaison
2008 - 2013	CAES Assistant Dean for Diversity & Multiculturalism	Enhanced diversity (recruitment/retention) at faculty, staff and student levels in CAES, and served on the Dean's cabinet.
2007 - 2011	UGA Center for Teaching & Learning Lilly Teaching Fellows Program Assistant Director	Assisted with the selection of Fellows and execution of the program.
2005 - 2006	LEAD21 Fellow http://lead-21.org/	Project: <i>Best Practices for Recruiting and, Retaining Minorities in Colleges of Agriculture</i> – Surveyed administrators at colleges of agriculture at HBCUs and traditionally white land grant institutions to determine the most effective strategies to recruit, retain and graduate underrepresented minorities.

MAJOR COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS*Department of Plant Pathology*

2014	Molecular Host-Pathogen Interactions Pathologist Search & Screen Committee
2008	Post-Tenure Review Leader
2007-2009	Greenhouse Staff and Facilities Supervisory Comm.
199-2004; 2014 - present	Graduate Admissions Comm.
1999 - 2004	Graduate Student Awards Comm.
1999 - 2002	Undergraduate Course Coordination Comm.
2000	Soilborne Vegetable Pathologist Search & Screen Comm.

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

2015	CAES Dean Search & Screen Comm.
2012	CAES Strategic Planning Implementation Comm.
2007; 2008	CAES Young Scholars Program Selection Comm.
2007	Chair CAES Associate Dean of Research Search & Screen Comm.
2006	CAES delegate to the National Academies Leadership Summit to Effect Change in Teaching and Learning – Board on Agriculture and Natural Resources. Nat'l Acad. of Sci., Washington DC.

2003-2006	Undergraduate Curriculum Comm.
2002-2005	Undergraduate Affairs Comm.
2001-2004	D. W. Brooks Excellence in Teaching Selection Comm.
2004	Strategic Planning - Reorganization of CAES Admin. Structure
2000 - 2003	Diversity Advisory Council

University of Georgia

2016 - 2019	Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship Selection Comm.
2015 - present	Environmental Health Sciences Management System Academic/Research Steering Comm.
2015	University Promotion & Tenure Review Comm.
2013 - 2016	University Promotion & Tenure Appeals Comm.
2013	Dept. of Food Sci. & Technol. Review Comm.
2013	CAES Dean Review Comm.
2010	2020 UGA Strategic Planning Comm.
2008 - 2010	Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship Selection Comm.
2008	Graduate School Diversity Engagement Awards Selection Comm.
2006-2008; 2010-2013	Plant Center Advisory Board
2005-2007	Richard B. Russell Excellence in Teaching Award Selection Comm.
2006; 2013	Department of Food Sci. & Technol. Program Review Team
2006-2009	Center for Teaching & Learning Instructional Advisory Comm.

State, National and International

2015 - 2017	American Phytopathol. Soc. (APS) Seed Pathol. Comm. (Chair)
2013-2016	California Dept. of Food and Agric. Pierce's Disease Glassy Wing Sharpshooter Grant Review Panel
2013-2016	External Advisory Board for the USDA-NIFA/AFRI-CAP: Advancing Innovative Technologies and Integrated Strategies for Sustainable Management of Thrips-Transmitted Tospoviruses.
2006-2008; 2013-2015	American Phytopathol. Soc. Editorial Board— <i>Plant Disease</i> Senior Editor
2008	Organizer for the USDA-funded Seed Health Testing Workshop. Iowa State University, Seed Science Center, Ames IA
2000-2009	American Phytopathol. Soc. Seed Pathol. Comm.

2008	Co-organized workshop: “ <i>Novel Molecular Assays for Seed Health: Dead or Alive?</i> ” APS meeting, Minneapolis MN
2003	Co-organized workshop: “ <i>Innovative Issues in Seed Pathology</i> ”, Charlotte
2000-2001	American Seed Trade Assoc. Emerging Seedborne Diseases Committee
2004	Co-organized workshop “ <i>Identification of bacterial fruit blotch in transplant houses</i> ”, Tifton, GA.
2001	Co-organized workshop “ <i>Field identification of bacterial fruit blotch</i> ” for seed company representatives and field inspection personnel. UGA-CPES, Tifton GA.
2000 - 2006	International Seed Health Initiative for field crops - Chair of the field seed technical sub-committee

INSTRUCTIONAL EXPERIENCE

Courses taught as instructor of record

Molecular Diagnosis of Plant Diseases (PATH 8160)

S2016 (3 students) (Co-taught with M. Deom)

Plant Pathogenic Bacteria (PATH 6290)

F2014 (4 students)

Plants, Pathogens and People (PATH/ANTH 2010)/Social Impacts of Plant Diseases (PATH 2000/2000H)

S2003 (7 students); F2006 (5 students); F2007 (15 students), F2008 (30 students); F2009 (22 students); F2010 (43 students); F2011 (33 students); F2012 (33 students); F2013 (11 students); F2013 (11 students); F2014 (18 students); F2015 (18 students); F2016 (25 students)

Plant Disease Diagnosis and Management (PATH 6280)

F2000 (8 students); F2004 (7 students); F2006 (7 students), F2008 (23 students) (Co-taught with K. Stevenson); F 2010 (23 students) (Co-taught with K. Stevenson)

Introductory Plant Pathology (PATH 3530)

S2000 (44 students); S2002 (47 students); S2004 (32 students)

Graduate Student Committees (graduation year)

* Students supervised by Dr. Walcott

Student	Degree	Department	Year graduated	Current status
Lane Treadway	PhD	Plant Pathology	2003	Southeastern US Technical Manager for Syngenta Lawn and Garden
Kari Whitley	MS	Plant Pathology	2002	Consultant, SCOUT
Ho-Jong Ju	MS	Crops & Soil Sci.	2003	Assoc. Prof. National Chongbuk University, S. Korea

*Jason Lessl	MS	Plant Pathology	2004	Extension Assist. Prof. UGA Soils Lab
*Anita Castro	MS	Plant Pathology	2006	Work at home mother
*Kameka Johnson	MS	Plant Pathology	2005	Work at home mother
Tim Coolong	PhD	Horticulture	2007	Assoc. Prof. UGA Horticulture
Carolina Zuleta	MS	Plant Pathology	2007	Research Specialist North Carolina State University
Tiffany Henneberger	MS	Plant Pathology	Withdrew	
Nakisha Harris	MS	Plant Pathology	Withdrew	
Jason Waters	MS	Plant Pathology	Withdrew	
Stephanie Adams	MS	Plant Pathology	2008	Research Pathologist The Morton Arboretum
Nikita McCollum	MS	Food Sci. & Technol.	2009	Unknown
Jeff Garton	MS	Plant Pathology	2009	Unknown
Jason Prothro	MS	Crops & Soil Sci.	2010	Unknown
Lorna Nissen	MS	Plant Pathology	2010	Research Professional UGA Plant Pathology
*Kameka Johnson	PhD	Plant Pathology	2010	Work at home mother
*Bhabesh Dutta	PhD	Plant Pathology	2011	Assist. Prof. UGA Plant Pathology
*Erika Scocco	PhD	Plant Pathology	2010	Assist. Prof. Wingate University
Nadia Chacko	PhD	Plant Pathology	2010	Post-Doc University of California, Riverside
Marie Vernaiz	MS	Plant Pathology	Withdrew	
Emilie Skinner	PhD	Plant Pathology	Withdrew	
Mavis Finger	MS	Plant Pathology	2013	Sweet Potato Specialist LSU
Sara Thomas	PhD	Plant Pathology	2103	Post-Doc, University of Wisconsin
*Marija Zivanovic	MS	Plant Pathology	2014	PhD student at LSU
Eirika Hernandez	MFR	Forestry	2014	Georgia Forestry Commission
Dana Bloome	MFR	Forestry	2014	Timber Manager, Weyerhaeuser
Kevin Besler	MS	Plant Pathology	2015	Commercial Vegetable Educator, Cornell University
Anna Selph	PhD	Plant Pathology	2016	Plant Disease Diagnostician UGA

* Students supervised by Dr. Walcott

Current Graduate Student Committee

Student	Degree	Department	Start date
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Alex Blacutt	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2011
Manisha Rath	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2011
Chang Liu	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2012
Shan Gao	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2012
Minglu Gao	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2012
*Safira Sutton	PhD	Plant Pathology	S 2012
*Gong Chen	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2012
*Sharon Tan	PhD	Plant Pathology	S 2015 (withdrew)
Spencer Stumpf	MS	Plant Pathology	F 2014
*Mei Zhao	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2015
Amelia Lovelace	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2015
Da Liu	PhD	Food Sci. & Technol	F 2015
Yue Cui	PhD	Food Sci. & Technol	F 2015
Zach Matteen	MS	Plant Pathology	Su 2015
Shaun Stice	PhD	Plant Pathology	F 2016

* Students supervised by Dr. Walcott

Undergraduate researchers supervised

Name	Major	Current status
Sandra Lessl	Horticulture	Work at home mother
Sarika Modi	Biology	MD & Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University
Angela Riviero	Biological Sciences	Unknown
Imann Gad	Biology	Business Strategist, Wall Street Journal
Thaovy Le	Biological Sci.	Pediatric Physician Vanderbilt University
Puja Chebrolu	Microbiology and Biological Sciences	Internal Medicine Physician, St. Louis MO
Joseph Najjar	Biology	Graduate Student, University of Arkansas
Benjamin Choi	Biology	Unknown
Brandon Hamm	Biological Sci.	Unknown
Charles Ferrell	Biology	Unknown

Postdoctoral Fellows and Visiting ScientistsPost-Docs

Name	Year	Current Position
Ananaia Fessehaie	2001 - 2005	Molecular Diagnostics Scientist Bayer (Nunhems), The Netherlands
Youngsil Ha	2006 - 2008	Research Scientist, IEH Inc., Bothell, WA

Visiting Scientists

Name	University/Agency	Year	Goal
Davide Giovanardi	University of Modena & Reggio Emilia, Italy	2015	Training in seed health testing techniques
Lichun Yan	Nanjing Agriculture University, Nanjing China	2014 - 2016	PhD research project
Gustavo Da Silva	University of Lavras, Brazil	2014 - 2015	PhD research project
Na Jiang	China Agriculture University, Beijing China	2014 - 2015	PhD research project
Tanya Schneider	Envirologix Inc.	2006	Training in pathogen detection techniques
Zhiping Dong	Ministry of Agriculture, Hebei Province China	2006	Training in seed health testing techniques
Marcia Rowe	University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, Jamaica	2006	Training in molecular diagnostics
German Hoyos	Syngenta Vegetable Seeds, Woodland, CA	2005	Training in seed health testing techniques
Maria del Socorro	Center for Int'l Tropical Ag. Cali, Colombia.	2004	Training in molecular diagnostic techniques

UGA CAES Young Scholars Program Mentees (High School Summer Research Interns)

(<http://www.caes.uga.edu/academics/internships/youngscholars/>)

Name	Year	High School
Josephine Alford	2012	Chatham Co HS
Tabitha Green	2010	Lawrenceville HS
Isabella Ontaneda	2009	Cedar Shoals HS
Jasmine Edwards	2009	Cedar Shoals HS
Taja Lester	2005	Cedar Shoals HS
Erika Frank	2003	Cedar Shoals HS
Cherelle Foote	2002	Clarke Central HS
Shatreela Washington	2001	Clarke Central HS

Travis Lester	2000	Cedar Shoals HS
Nkaku Kissalita	2000	Athens Academy HS

Student group advisor/mentor

UGA Chapter of Minorities in Agriculture Natural Resources & Related Sciences (2006–2013)

Instructional workshops and trainings

UGA Administrative Academic Retreat: “*Achieving Academic Excellence in the Classroom through Rigor, Relevance and Reflection*” Helen, GA, 2006

UGA Administrative Academic Retreat: “*Greater Expectations for Student Learning and General Education*” Emerald Point, GA, 2005

Southern Region Teaching Workshop, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY (2005)

UGA Administrative Academic Retreat: “*Science - Why do I need to learn this?*” Helen, GA, 2002

Southeast Universities Teaching Workshop: Auburn University Auburn, AL, 2001

UGA Administrative Special Topics workshop: “*Diversity at UGA: Creating a Pipeline*” Athens, GA, 1999

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Peer-reviewed journal articles

Cui Y., **Walcott, R.** and Chen J. 2017 Differential attachment of *Salmonella enterica* and Enterohemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* to alfalfa, fenugreek, lettuce, and tomato seeds. *Appl. and Environ. Microbiol.* 83: e03170-16

Zivanovic, M. and **Walcott, R.R.** 2017. Further characterization of genetically distinct groups of *Acidovorax citrulli* strains. *Phytopathology* 107:29-35

Tian Y., Da, L., Zhao L., Wu J., Hu, B. and **Walcott R.R.** 2017. Visual detection of *Didymella bryoniae* in cucurbit seeds using a loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay. *European J. Plant Pathology* 147: 255-263

Silva, G.M., Souza R.M., Yan, L., Sales Junior R., Medeiros, F.H.V. and **Walcott, R.R.** 2016. Strains of the Group I lineage of *Acidovorax citrulli*, the causal agent of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbitaceous crops, are predominant in Brazil. *Phytopathology* 106:1486-1494

Eckshtain-Levi, N., Shkedy, D., Gershovits, M., DaSilva, G.M., Dafna, T.A., **Walcott, R.R.**, Pupko, T., Burdman, S. 2016. Insights from the genome sequence of *Acidovorax citrulli* M6, a group I strain of the causal agent of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. *Frontiers in Microbiology* doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2016.00430

Dutta, B., Schneider, R.W., Robertson, C.W., and **Walcott R.R.** 2016. Embryo

localization enhances the survival of *Acidovorax citrulli* in watermelon seeds. *Phytopathology* 106:330-338

Jiang N., Lv, Q.Y., Xu, X., Cao, Y.S., **Walcott, R.R.**, Li, J.Q., Luo, L.X. 2016. Induction of the viable but nonculturable state in *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* and *in planta* resuscitation of the cells on tomato seedlings. *Plant Pathology* 65:826-836

Dutta B., Ha, Y., Lessl, J.T., Avci, U., Sparks, A.C., Johnson, K.L., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2015. Pathways of bacterial invasion and watermelon seed infestation by *Acidovorax citrulli*. *Plant Pathology* 64:537-544

Tian Y., Zhao Y., Wu X., Liu F., Hu B., and **Walcott R.R.** 2015. The Type VI protein secretion system contributes to biofilm formation and seed-to-seedling transmission of *Acidovorax citrulli* on melon. *Molecular Plant Pathology* 16:38 - 47

Kumagai L.B., Woods P.W., **Walcott R.**, and Moua X. 2014. First report of bacterial fruit blotch on melon caused by *Acidovorax citrulli* in California. *Plant Dis.* 98:1423

Eckshtain-Levi, N., Munitz, T., Živanović, M., Traore, S.M., Spröer, C., Zhao, B., Welbaum, G., **Walcott, R.R.**, Sikorski, J. and Burdman, S. 2014. Comparative analysis of type III secreted effector genes reflects divergence of *Acidovorax citrulli* strains into three distinct lineages. *Phytopathology* 104:1152-116

Thomas, A., Langston, D. B. Jr., **Walcott, R. R.**, Gitaitis, R. D. and Stevenson, K.L. 2014 Evidence for fungicide-resistant seed-borne inoculum for gummy stem blight of watermelon. *Seed Sci. and Technol.* 42:92-96.

Tian, Y., Zhao, Y., Xu, R., Liu, F., Hu, B., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2014. Simultaneous detection of *Xanthomonas oryzae* pv. *oryzae* and *X. oryzae* pv. *oryzicola* in rice seed using a padlock-probe-based assay. *Phytopathology* 104:1130-1137

Dutta, B., Block, C.C., Stevenson, K.L., Sanders, F.H., **Walcott, R.R.** and Gitaitis, R.D. 2013. Distribution of phytopathogenic bacteria in infested seeds. *Seed Sci. and Technol.* 41:383-397

Feng, J.J., Li, J.Q., **Walcott, R.R.**, Zhang, G.M., Luo, L.X., Kang, L. Zheng, Y, and Schaad, N.W. 2013. Advances in detection of *Acidovorax citrulli*, the causal agent of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. *Seed Sci. and Technol.* 41:1-15

Johnson, K.L., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2013. Quorum sensing contributes to seed-to-seedling transmission of *Acidovorax citrulli*. *J. Phytopathol.* 161:562-573

Tian, Y., Zhao, Y., Bai, S., **Walcott, R.R.**, Hu, B., and Liu, F. 2013. Reliable detection of *Acidovorax citrulli* in cucurbit seeds using a padlock probe-based assay. *Plant Dis.* 97:961-966

Scocco, E.W., **Walcott, R.R.**, Jeffers, S.N., Buck, J.W. 2013. Detection of *Puccinia pelargonii-zonalis*-infected geranium tissues and urediniospores. *J. Phytopathology* 161:341-347

Dutta, B., Vernaiz, M.A.C., Castro-Sparks, A.C., Scherm, H., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2012. Location of *Acidovorax citrulli* in watermelon seeds affects efficiency of pathogen detection by seed health testing. *Seed Sci. and Technol.* 40:309-319

Burdman, S. and **Walcott, R.R.** 2012. *Acidovorax citrulli*: generating basic and applied knowledge to tackle a global threat to the cucurbit industry. *Mol. Plant Pathol.* 13:805-615

Johnson, K.L., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2012. Progress towards a real-time PCR assay for the simultaneous detection of *Clavibacter michiganensis* subsp. *michiganensis* and *Pepino mosaic virus* in tomato seed. *J. Phytopathol.* 160:353-363

Dutta, B., Avci, U., Hahn, M.G., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2012. Location of *Acidovorax citrulli* in infested watermelon seeds is influenced by the pathway of bacterial invasion. *Phytopathology* 102:461-468

Dutta, B., Scherm, H., Gitaitis, R. D., and **Walcott, R. R.** 2012. *Acidovorax citrulli* seed inoculum load affects seedling transmission and spread of bacterial fruit blotch of watermelon under greenhouse conditions. *Plant Dis.* 96:705-711

Ling K.S., Wechter, W.P., **Walcott, R.R.**, and Keinath, A.P. 2011. Development of a real-time RT-PCR assay for Squash Mosaic Virus useful for broad spectrum detection of various serotypes and its incorporation into a multiplex seed health assay. *J. Phytopathology* 159: 649-656

Johnson, K.L., Minsavage, G.V., Le, T., Jones, J.B., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2011. Efficacy of a non-pathogenic *Acidovorax citrulli* strain as a biocontrol seed treatment for bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. *Plant Dis.* 95:697-704.

Fan, J., Qian, G., Chen, T., Zhao, Y., Liu, F., **Walcott, R.R.**, and Hu, B. 2011. The acyl-homoserine lactone (AHL)-type quorum sensing system affects growth rate, swimming motility and virulence in *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. *World J. Microbiol. Biotechnol.* 27:1155-1166

Ling K., Wechter, W.P., Somai, B.M., **Walcott, R.R.**, and Keinath, A.P. 2010. A real-time PCR system for broad spectrum detection of *Didymella bryoniae*, the causal agent of gummy stem blight. *Seed Sci. and Technol.* 38:692-703.

Wang, Z., Langston, D. B., Csinos, A. S., Gitaitis, R. D., **Walcott, R. R.**, and Ji, P. 2009. Development of an improved isolation approach and simple sequence repeat markers to characterize *Phytophthora capsici* populations in irrigation ponds in southern Georgia. *Appl. Environ. Microbiol.* 75:5467-5473

Ha Y., Fessehaie, A., Ling, K.S., Wechter, W.P., Keinath, A.P., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2009. Simultaneous detection of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* and *Didymella bryoniae* in cucurbit seedlots using magnetic capture hybridization and real-time PCR. *Phytopathology* 6:666-678

Bahar, O., Efrat, M., Hadar, E., Dutta, B., **Walcott, R.R.**, and Burdman, S. 2008. New subspecies-specific polymerase chain reaction-based assay for the detection of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. *Plant Pathol.* 57:754-763.

Coolong T.W., **Walcott, R.R.**, and Randle W.R. 2008. Quantitative real-time PCR assay for *Botrytis aclada* in onion bulb tissue. *HortSci.* 43:408-413

Gitaitis, R.D. and **Walcott, R.R.** 2007. The epidemiology and management of seedborne bacterial diseases. *Ann. Rev. Phytopathol.* 45:371-397.

Lessl, J. T., Fessehaie, A. and **Walcott, R. R.** 2007. Colonization of female watermelon blossoms by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* and the relationship between blossom inoculum dosage and seed infestation. *J. Phytopathol.* 155:114-121.

Walcott, R.R., Castro, A.C, Fessehaie, A. and Ling, K. 2006. Progress towards a commercial-scale PCR-based seed assay for *A. avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. *Seed Sci. & Technol.* 34:101-116

Walcott, R.R. 2005. Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. *The Plant Health Instructor*. DOI: 10.1094/PHI-I-2005-1025-02

Fessehaie, A., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2005. Biological control to protect watermelon blossoms and seeds from infection by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. *Phytopathology* 95:413-419

Walcott, R.R., Fessehaie, A., and Castro, A.C. 2004. Differences in pathogenicity between two genetically distinct groups of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* strains on cucurbit hosts. *J. Phytopathol.* 152:277-285

Walcott, R.R., Gitaitis, R.D. and Langston, D.B. Jr. 2004. Detection of *Botrytis aclada* in onion seed using magnetic capture hybridization and the polymerase chain reaction. *Seed Sci. and Technol.* 32:425-438

Gitaitis R. D., **Walcott, R.R.**, Sanders, H.F., Zolobowska, L., and Diaz-Perez, J.C. 2004. Effects of mulch and irrigation system on sweet onion: II. The epidemiology of center rot. *J. Am. Hort. Soc.* 129:225-230

Diaz-Perez, J.C., Giddings, D., Bertrand, D., Sanders, H. Randle, W.M., **Walcott, R.**, and Gitaitis, R. 2004. Effect of mulch and irrigation system on sweet onion: I. Bolting, plant growth, and bulb yield and quality. *J. Am. Hort. Soc.* 129:218-224

Walcott, R.R. 2003. Detection of seedborne pathogens. *HortTechnol.* 13:40-47

Walcott, R.R., Castro, A.C., and Gitaitis, R.D. 2003. Role of blossoms in watermelon seed infestation by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. *Phytopathology* 93:528-534

Gitaitis, R.D., **Walcott, R.R.**, Diaz-Perez, J.C., Wells, M.L., and Sanders, F.H. 2003. Transmission of *Pantoea ananatis*, causal agent of center rot of onion, by tobacco thrips, *Frankliniella fusca*. *Plant Dis.* 87:675-678

Buck, J. W., **Walcott, R. R.**, Beuchat, L. R. 2003. Recent trends in microbiological safety of fruits and vegetables. Online. Plant Health Progress doi: 10.1094/PHP-2003-01XX-01-RV.

Yates, I.E., Arnold, J.W., Hinton, D.M., Basinger, W., and **Walcott, R.R.** 2003. *Fusarium verticillioides* induction of maize seed rot and its control. Can. J. Bot. 81:422-428

Walcott, R.R., Gitaitis, R.D., Castro, A.C., Sanders, F.H. and Diaz-Perez, J.C. 2002. Natural infestation of onion seed by *Pantoea ananatis*, causal agent of center rot. Plant Dis. 86:106-111

Gitaitis, R., Wilson, J., **Walcott, R.** Sanders, H., and Hanna, W. 2002. Occurrence of bacterial stripe of pearl millet in Georgia. Plant Dis. 86:326

Gitaitis, R., **Walcott, R.**, Culpepper, S., Sanders, H., Zolobowska, L., and Langston, D. 2002. Recovery of *Pantoea ananatis*, causal agent of center rot of onion, from weeds and crops in Georgia, USA. Crop Protect. 21:983-989

Walcott, R.R., Langston Jr., D. B., Sanders Jr, F. H. and Gitaitis, R. D. 2000. Investigating intraspecific variation of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* using DNA fingerprinting and whole cell fatty acid analysis. Phytopathology 90:191-196

Walcott, R. R. and Gitaitis, R. D. 2000. Detection of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in watermelon seeds using immunomagnetic separation and the polymerase chain reaction. Plant Dis. 84:470-474

Walcott, R. R., Langston Jr., D. B., Sanders Jr., F. H., Gitaitis, R. D. and Flanders J. T. 2000. Natural outbreak of a bacterial fruit blotch of cantaloupe in Georgia by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. Plant Dis. 84:372.

Langston, D. B. Jr., **Walcott, R. R.**, Gitaitis, R. D., and Sanders, F. H. Jr. 1999. First report of a fruit rot of pumpkin caused by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in Georgia. Plant Dis. 83:100.

Walcott, R.R., McGee, D.C., and Misra, M.K. 1998. Detection of asymptomatic fungal infections of soybean seeds by ultrasound analysis. Plant Dis. 82:584-589

Books

Detection of Plant-Pathogenic Bacteria in Seed and Other Planting Material, Second Edition. 2017. Fatmi, M.B., Walcott, R.R. and Schaad, N. W. (Eds) APS Press St. Paul MN ISBN 978-0-89054-539-3

Book chapters

Walcott, R.R. 2008. Integrated Pest Management of Bacterial Fruit Blotch of Cucurbits. Pages 187 – 205 *In* Integrated management of diseases caused by fungi, phytoplasma and bacteria (eds.) A. Cianco and C.J. Mukerji. Kluwer Publishers, Dordrecht. The Netherlands.

Gitaitis, R., Zolobowska, L., Culpepper, S., Sanders, H., Langston, D., and **R. Walcott**. 2001. PCR detection of the onion pathogen *Pantoea ananatis* on various weed hosts and crops in Georgia, USA. Pp 406 in: Plant Pathogenic Bacteria: Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Plant Pathogenic Bacteria (ed.) S.H. Deboer, Kluwer Publishers, Dordrecht. The Netherlands.

Gitaitis, R.D., F.H. Sanders, J.C. Diaz-Perez and **R.R. Walcott**. 2003. Integrated management of bacterial streak and bulb rot of onion. Pages 443-449 in: *Pseudomonas syringae* and related pathogens. N.S. Iacobellis et al. (eds.) Kluwer Publishers, Dordrecht, The Netherlands.

INVITED SEMINARS AND PRESENTATIONS

- 1999 Detection of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in watermelon seeds by immunomagnetic separation and the polymerase chain reaction. International Seed Testing Association, Seed Health Symposium, Ames, IA
- 2000 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits - The importance of seedborne inoculum. Department of Plant Pathology, Cornell University, Ithaca NY
- 2000 Biology of seed infection and management of seedborne diseases in Georgia. UGA Plant Center Retreat, Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA.
- 2000 Technological advances in detecting and characterizing *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. Seed Testing of America Laboratories Inc. Seed Health Seminar Series, Gilroy, CA
- 2000 Bacterial Fruit Blotch Disease - Unraveling the mystery 12 years later. American Phytopathological Society Annual Meeting New Orleans, LA
- 2001 Update of management guidelines for bacterial fruit blotch. American Seed Trade Assoc., Flower and Veg. Seed Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ
- 2001 Detection of seedborne pathogens. American Soc. of Hort. Sci. Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA
- 2002 Molecular tools to enhance the detection of plant pathogens. Department of Plant Pathology, Michigan State University East Lansing, MI
- 2002 Bacterial Fruit Blotch - past present and future. Seed Testing of America Inc. Bacterial Fruit Blotch Workshop. Gilroy CA.
- 2002 Bacterial fruit blotch - a serious threat to cucurbit seed production. California Seed Assoc. Annual Meeting. Monterey, CA
- 2003 Epidemiological significance and management of seedborne pathogens. Department of Plant Pathology Kohn Kaen University, Kohn Kaen Thailand
- 2003 Molecular techniques for rapid detection of seedborne bacteria Center for Ag. Biotechnol., Kasetsart University Kamphaeng Saen Campus, Nakhon Pathom, Thailand
- 2004 Innovations in detection technology to limit the dissemination of pathogens in seed. American Phytopath. Soc. Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA
- 2004 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits - Using basic research tools to solve a practical problem. Dept. of Botany and Plant Pathol., Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN
- 2004 BFB: Current knowledge and progress towards a PCR-based assay. American Seed Trade Assoc., Flower and Veg. Seed Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA.
- 2004 Dissemination of plant pathogens through seed. Mississippi Assoc. of Pest Management Associations, Greenville, MS

- 2005 Colonization of watermelon blossoms by *A. avenae* subsp. *citrulli* and its role in seed infestation. Annual Meeting of the American Phytopathol. Soc., Austin, TX
- 2005 The use of real time PCR for plant disease diagnosis. XXVI Asociación Colombiana de Fitopatología y Ciencias Afines'(ASCOLFI) Meeting Bogota, Colombia.
- 2005 Understanding and preventing seed infection - the key to effective management of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. Dept. of Plant Pathology, Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen Thailand
- 2006 Knowledge-based strategies for the management of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. USDA Veg. Laboratory, Charleston, SC
- 2006 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits - research efforts to manage a worldwide threat to cucurbit seed production. Dept. of Seed Pathology and Pharmacology, Chinese Ag. University, Beijing, China
- 2007 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits – current knowledge and strategies for management. Dept. of Plant Protection, Shihezi University, Shihezi, China
- 2007 Elucidating mechanisms of watermelon seed infection by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*. American Phytopathol. Soc., Annual Meeting San Diego, CA
- 2008 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits - Seeking answers to the hypothetical exam question. Department of Plant Pathology, University of Florida, Gainesville FL
- 2008 Honoring the George Washington Carver Legacy Through Agricultural Research, Education and Mentoring, George Washington Carver Lecture Series, Agronomy Department, Iowa State University, Ames , IA
- 2008 Mechanisms of bacterial seed infection and new assays for seed health testing Department of Plant Pathology, Ohio State University, Columbus Ohio
- 2008 Seeds of Change: Pathology from a seed's perspective. UGA Department of Veterinary Pathology, University of Georgia, Athens GA
- 2009 Elucidating of the mechanisms of seed infestation by *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, the causal agent of bacterial fruit blotch. Plant Pathology Department, University of Wisconsin, Madison WI
- 2010 Factors that influence seed infestation and seed-to-seedling transmission of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli*, the causal agent of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits. Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology Hebrew University, Rehovot, Israel
- 2011 Understanding the mechanisms of watermelon seed infection and seedling transmission of BFB of cucurbits. Departmental Seminar, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg VA
- 2011 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits: A model for studying host-pathogen interactions involved in seed infection by phyto-bacteria. Departmental Seminar Michigan State University, East Lansing MI
- 2011 BFB: Progression from a hypothetical exam question to a model for seed bacteriology. Florida Phytopathological Society Biannual meeting, Tampa FL
- 2012 2011 BFB outbreaks: Biology and distribution. Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Meeting, Savannah GA
- 2012 Effect of *Acidovorax citrulli* location in watermelon seeds on pathogen detection and seedling transmission of BFB. Southern Division APS meeting Birmingham AL
- 2013 Bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits: A model for studying seedborne bacteria. 111 Project directors meeting, China Agriculture University, Beijing China
- 2014 Critical issues for managing BFB in Seed production systems. Chinese Seed Health Symposium, China Agriculture University, Beijing China
- 2015 Plant pathogenic bacteria: generating basic and applied knowledge to tackle a global threat to the seed industry. Seed Health Symposium. Joint meeting of the

Agency USDA-SPECA YA: 2010
 Amount: \$33,172 Duration: 2 yrs Role: PI

♣An enhanced academic program to prepare multicultural students for successful careers in food and agricultural sciences - Year 2

Agency: USDA-MSP YA: 2010
 Amount: \$146,768 Duration: 4yrs Role: Co-PI

♣Enhancing the learning experience of national needs fellows in food and nutrition for health

Agency: USDA-NNF YA: 2010
 Amount: \$155,962 Duration: 4 yrs Role: Co-PI

♣Unclogging the Pipeline for Women and URM in Agriculture - A Transitional Education to Workforce Program

Agency: USDA: Women and minorities in STEM Fields
 Amount: \$284,235 Duration: 2 yrs Role: Co-PI

Evaluation of sequenced restriction-site associated DNA Tags (RAD) for characterization of *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* population structure and generation of unique diagnostic oligonucleotide markers.

Agency: Monsanto YA: 2010
 Amount: \$17,000 Duration 2 yrs Role: PI

♣Promoting awareness of career opportunities in agricultural and food sciences

Agency: USDA-SPECA YA: 2009
 Amount: \$32,868 Duration: 5 yrs Role Co-PI

♣An enhanced academic program to prepare multicultural students for successful careers in agricultural and environmental sciences

Agency: USDA-MSP YA: 2009
 Amount: \$150,000 Duration: 4 yrs Role Co-PI

♣Enhancing participation and quality of the undergraduate experience for minorities in food and agricultural sciences

Agency: USDA –HEC YA: 2008
 Amount: \$142,113 Duration: 3 yrs Role Co-PI

Seed treatments for the eradication of bacterial pathogens from onion seeds.

Agency: USDA-IR4 (Cornell U) YA: 2008
 Amount: 5,000 Duration: 1yr Role: PI

Control of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits using the maize host disease resistance gene Rxo1

Agency: US-Israeli BARD YA: 2009
 Amount: \$330,000 Duration 3 yrs Role Co-PI: (\$120,000)

Genetics of Invasive Species Exchanged Between the Southeastern U.S. and China

Agency: NSF-PIRE YA: 2007
 Amount: \$2.5 million Duration: 5 yrs Role: Co-PI

Comparison of the immunomagnetic separation and polymerase chain reaction assay and seedling grow-out for *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in cucurbit seed

Agency: Am. Seed Trade Assoc.(ASTA) YA: 2005
 Amount: \$43,000 Duration: 3 yrs Role: PI

Epidemiological significance of the *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* detection threshold in watermelon seeds

Agency: ASTA YA: 2005
 Amount: \$48,000 Duration: 3 yrs Role: PI

Survey for *Acidovorax avenae* subsp. *citrulli* in commercial seed fields in Thailand and China

Agency: ASTA YA: 2005
 Amount: \$42,000 Duration: 3 yrs Role: PI

Seed health assays and seed treatments for plant diseases

Agency: Syngenta Seeds YA: 2001-2005
 Amount: \$18,500 Duration: Gift Role: PI

Efficacy of electrolyzed oxidizing water as a seed treatment

Agency: Hoshizaki America Inc YA: 2005
 Amount: \$8,000 Duration: 1 yr Role: PI

Magnetic capture hybridization and real-time PCR for detection of seedborne pathogens

Agency: USDA-NRI Plant YA: 2003
 Amount: \$900,000 Duration: 4 yrs Role: Co-PI (\$341,708)

Management of bacterial fruit blotch of cucurbits by biological control of seed infestation.

Agency: USDA S-IPM YA: 2002
 Amount: \$100,000 Duration: 2 yrs Role: PI

Genetic diversity of *C. parasiticum* in the southeastern US

Agency: National Peanut Board YA: 2002
 Amount: \$16,250 Duration: 2 yrs Role: PI

Integrated pest management to improve the quality of sweet onions in Georgia

Agency: USDA-CSREES YA: 2001
 Amount: \$93,500 Duration: 1 yrs Role: Coop. (\$17,000)

Epidemiological significance of seedborne *Cylindrocladium* black rot on peanut

Agency: National Peanut Board YA: 2001
 Amount: \$15,000 Duration: 2 yrs Role: PI

Optimization of IMS-PCR for detection of *A. avenae* ssp. *citrulli* in watermelon seed

Agency: Am. Seed Res. Foundation YA: 2001

