

There and back again

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Over the past 20 years, my program has focused on how the hormone abscisic acid (ABA) modulates plant growth particularly during germination and early seedling growth. Although a core ABA signaling pathway now exists we are continuing to study ABA signaling with the idea of turning the core into a network using the tools of systems biology. My group has also recently begun a program to molecularly understand a second plant hormone, strigolactones (SLs). SLs are important chemical cues for seed germination, particularly in the parasitic plant *Striga*. Because of our experience in dissecting hormonal roles in seed germination we feel well positioned to address similar questions in this recently identified hormone. This research will not only provide fundamental insights into plant hormone function but should also make it easier to identify key components involved in ABA and SL signaling in other plant species including crops.