

CHAMINDIKA L. SIRIWARDANA
Texas A&M University-Central Texas
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Plant Biology	
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK	2014
M.S. in Biology	
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX	2009
B.S. in Botany	
University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	2006

EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University-Central Texas, Killeen, TX	
Assistant Professor	2021 – Present
Adjunct Instructor	2018/2021
University of North Carolina Wilmington, Wilmington, NC	
Lecturer	2018 – 2021
University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK	
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Adjunct Lecturer	2016 – 2017
Graduate Teaching/Research Assistant	2009 – 2014
Texas State University, San Marcos, TX	
Graduate Instructional Assistant	2007 – 2009
University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	
Teaching Assistant	2006 – 2007

AWARDS

Pfiester Women in Science Award , University of Oklahoma	2014
George L. and Cleo Cross Graduate Student Award , University of Oklahoma	2011
Colene Drace Cell Biology Award , Texas State University-San Marcos	2009
Prof. M.D. Dassanayaka Gold Medal for Botany , University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	2006
University Award for Academic Excellence , University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka	2006

Nominations:

Nominated for DSLS (Distinguished Student Leadership and Service Awards) Faculty Award,
Texas A&M University-Central Texas (2022)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed publications at Texas A&M University – Central Texas:

1. Siriwardana C. L., Risinger J.R., Carpenter E., Jones D.S., Kumimoto R.W., Holt B.F. III.
Analysis of gene duplication within the Arabidopsis *NF-YB* gene family reveals domains
under both purifying and diversifying selection. Manuscript in preparation for submission
to PLoS Genetics.

2. Kleinschmit A., Ryder E. F., Kerby J.L., Murdoch B., Donovan S., Grandgenett N.F., Cook R.E., Siriwardana C., Morgan W., Pauley M., Rosenwald A., Triplett E., Tapprich W. (2021) Integration of Bioinformatics into Life Science Curricula: Community Development, Dissemination, and Assessment of a NIBLSE Learning Resource. **PLoS One**. [PubMed](#)

Prior Peer-Reviewed Publications:

3. Gnesutta N., Kumimoto R.W., Swain S., Chiara M., Horner D., Siriwardana C.L., Holt III B.F., Mantovani R. (2017) CONSTANS imparts DNA sequence-specificity to the histone-fold NF-YB/NF-YC subunits. **Plant Cell**. [PubMed](#)
4. Siriwardana C.L., Gnesutta N., Kumimoto R.W., Jones D.S., Myers Z.A., Mantovani R., Holt III B.F. (2016). NUCLEAR FACTOR Y, subunit A (NF-YA) proteins positively regulate flowering and act through FLOWERING LOCUS T. **PLoS Genetics**. [PubMed](#)
5. Myers Z.A., Kumimoto R.W., Siriwardana C.L., Gayler K.K., Risinger J.R., Pezzetta D., Holt B.F. III. (2016) NUCLEAR FACTOR Y (NF-Y) transcription factors are broadly required for light perception in *Arabidopsis thaliana*. **PLoS Genetics**. [PubMed](#)
6. Swain S., Myers Z.A., Siriwardana C.L., Holt B.F. III. (2016). The multifaceted roles of NUCLEAR FACTOR-Y in *Arabidopsis thaliana* development and stress responses. **Biochimica et Biophysica (BBA) – Gene Regulatory Mechanisms**. [PubMed](#)
7. Jayaweera T., Siriwardana C.L., Dharmasiri S., Quint M., Gray W.M., Dharmasiri N. Alternative splicing of *Arabidopsis* IBR5 pre-mRNA generates two IBR5 isoforms with distinct and overlapping function. **PLoS One**. [PubMed](#)
8. Siriwardana C.L., Kumimoto R.W., Jones D.S., Holt B.F. III. (2014) Overexpression of the *Arabidopsis* NF-YA transcription factor family leads to opposing abscisic acid responses during seed germination. **Plant Molecular Biology Reporter**. [PubMed](#)
9. Kumimoto R.W., Siriwardana C.L., Gayler K.K., Risinger J.R., Siefers N., Holt B.F. III. (2013). NUCLEAR FACTOR Y Transcription Factors Have Both Opposing and Additive Roles in ABA-Mediated Seed Germination. **PLoS One**. [PubMed](#)
10. Cao S., Kumimoto R.W., Siriwardana C.L., Risinger J.R., Holt B.F. III. (2011). Identification and Characterization of NF-Y Transcription Factor Families in the Monocot Model Plant *Brachypodium distachyon*. **PLoS One**. [PubMed](#)
11. Cao S., Siriwardana C.L., Kumimoto R.W., Holt B.F. III. (2011). Construction of High-Quality Gateway Entry Libraries and Their Application to Yeast Two-hybrid for the Monocot Model Plant *Brachypodium distachyon*. **BMC Biotechnology**. [PubMed](#)
12. Abayasekara C.L., Siriwardana C.L., Razaak M.G.M., (2007). Water Quality of Maha Oya Stream in Peradeniya. **Ceylon Journal of Science**.

Google Scholar Profile: <https://tinyurl.com/ScholarCLS>

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Conference presentations at Texas A&M University – Central Texas:

International and National Conferences

- Singer D. R., Siriwardana C.L. (2022) Gene network analysis as a tool to investigate the role of Nuclear Factor-Y transcription factors during carbon and nitrogen partitioning into proteins, carbohydrates, and lipids. **2022 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists**, Portland, OR.

Regional and Other Conferences

- Singer D. R., Siriwardana C.L. (2022) Creating Networks for QQS and NF-YC4. **Texas A&M University – Central Texas 2022 Scholar's Day**.

Prior Conference Presentations:

International and National Conferences

- Siriwardana C.L., Gnesutta N., Mantovai R., Holt III. B. (2017) NUCLEAR FACTOR Y, subunit A (NF-YA) proteins positively regulate flowering and act through FLOWERING LOCUS T. **28th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)**, St. Louis, MO.
- Myers Z., Kumimoto R., Siriwardana C.L., Holt B.F. III (2017) Roles of the NUCLEAR FACTOR-Y as regulators of light-mediated development. **28th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)**, St. Louis, MO.
- Gnesutta N., Kumimoto R. W., Swain S., Chiara M., Siriwardana C., Horner D., Holt B.F. III., Mantovani R. (2017) CONSTANS imparts DNA sequence-specificity to the histone-fold NF-YB/NF-YC dimer. **28th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)**, St. Louis, MO.
- Jayaweera T., Siriwardana C., Dharmasiri S., Quint M., Gray W., Dharmasiri N. (2012) Characterization of new mutant alleles of IBR5 indicates the relevance of its catalytic domain in plant auxin response, **2012 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists**, Austin, TX.
- Siriwardana C.L., Kumimoto R.W., Holt III B. F. (2011) The Role of Arabidopsis NF-YA Transcription Factors in Regulating Absciscic Acid Mediated Drought Responses, **22nd International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)**, Madison, WI.
- Kumimoto R.W., Siriwardana C.L., Gayler K., Risinger J., Holt III B.F. (2011) The role of NF-Y transcription factors in ABA responses, **22nd International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR)**, Madison, WI.
- Jayaweera T., Dharmasiri S., Siriwardana C., Dharmasiri N. (2010) Plant auxin response is modulated through ABA signaling in response to environmental stress, **International Research Conference for Graduate Students**, Texas State University, San Marcos TX.
- Siriwardana C., Karunarathna N., Dharmasiri S., Albers S., Koke J., Dharmasiri N (2009) Characterization of pic59, a novel Arabidopsis mutant associated with auxin response. **9th International Plant Molecular Biology Congress**, St. Louis, MO.

Regional and Other Conferences

- Siriwardana C., Karunarathna N., Dharmasiri S., Gunathilake A., Dharmasiri N (2009) PIC59, a novel gene associated with auxin signaling, **2009 Annual Meeting of the South Section of American Society of Plant Biologist**, Austin, TX.
- Karunarathna N., Dharmasiri S., Siriwardana C.L., Gunathilake A., Dharmasiri N (2009) Auxinresistant mutant *pic11* encodes IAA28 that regulates growth and development of *Arabidopsis thaliana*, **2009 Annual Meeting of the South Section of American Society of Plant Biologist**, Austin, TX.
- Dharmasiri N., Dharmasiri S., Gunathilake A. Karunarathna N., Siriwardana C., Collier C. (2008) Characterization of new auxin response mutants in Arabidopsis. **SAAS (Society of American Agricultural Scientists) Convention**, Dallas, TX.
- Abayasekara C.L., Siriwardana C.L., Razaak M.G.M., (2007). Water Quality of Maha Oya Stream in Peradeniya. **PURSE**, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka.

Invited Talks

- Siriwardana C.L. (2018) Why Plants Flower in the Spring? The story of the NF-YA Transcription Factors. **Science Club, Department of Biology. Texas A & M University-Central Texas, Killeen, TX.**
- Siriwardana C.L. (2018). Why Plants Flower in the Spring? The story of the NF-YA Transcription Factors. **Department of Biology, Southwestern University, Georgetown, TX.**

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor , Texas A&M University - Central Texas Bioinformatics (BIOL 4451), Immunology (BIOL 4373), Molecular Biology (BIOL 4471), Cell Biology (BIOL 4470), Proteomics (BIOL 4475), and Virology (BIOL 4372)	2021 - Present
Adjunct Instructor , Texas A&M University - Central Texas Bioinformatics (BIOL 4451)	2018/2021
Lecturer , University of North Carolina - Wilmington Genetics (BIO 335), Principles of Biology: Cells (BIO 201), and Genetics in Human Affairs (BIO160)	2018 – 2021
Adjunct Lecturer , University of Oklahoma Cell Biology Laboratory (MBIO 4263/PBIO 4263)	2016

Teaching Certificates:

Certificate in Inclusive Instruction for Equitable Learning: Association of College and University Educators (ACUE) (2022)

RESEARCH MENTORING

Texas A&M University – Central Texas Mentored three undergraduates enrolled in Independent Study (BIOL4389) and/or Senior Capstone (BIOL4395). Student accomplishments – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. R. Singer: TAMUCT Department of Biology Undergraduate Research Award & poster presentations at the 2022 TAMUCT Scholar's Day & the 2022 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists, Portland, OR. 	2021 - Present
University of North Carolina – Wilmington Mentored 14 undergraduates enrolled in Directed Individual Study (BIO491), and two undergraduate research volunteers.	2019-2021
University of Oklahoma Mentored three Undergraduates.	2010-2014

Certificates:

Certificate of Completion for Institutional Biosafety Committee Member Training, CITI Program (2021)

GRANTS

CAS Online-Course Development Award , University of North Carolina Wilmington (2020)	\$1000.00
Summer Faculty Development Award , University of North Carolina Wilmington (2020)	\$1000.00
Travel Grant , 28 th International Conference on Arabidopsis Research (ICAR) (2017)	\$500.00
Sooner Heritage Scholarship , University of Oklahoma, Norman (2011-2014)	\$2000.00
Robert E. and Mary B. Sturgis Scholarship , University of Oklahoma, Norman (2012)	\$1500.00
Graduate Student Senate Conference Grant , University of Oklahoma, Norman (2011)	\$750.00

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB)
National Science Teachers Association (NSTA)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committees

Texas A&M University – Central Texas

College & Department Committees

Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering Search Committee	Member	2022
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University of North Carolina, Wilmington.

Lecturer in Genetics Search Committee	Member	2021
Pre-health Advising Committee	Member	2020/2021
Peer Teaching Evaluation Committee	Member	2020/2021
Scholarship Committee	Member	2019/2020
Introductory biology course review committee	Member	2019/2020
Assessment Review Committee	Member	2018/2019

University of Oklahoma, Norman.

Faculty Search Committee	Graduate Student Representative	2012
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