



2021 Carl Douglas Prize

Dr. Yang Xu

Michigan State University

Dr. Yang Xu holds a MSc from South China University (2013) and PhD from the University of Alberta (2018). Supervised by Dr. Randall Weselake for her dissertation, Dr. Xu investigated different methods to improve the activity of plant lipid biosynthetic enzyme and enhance lipid accumulation. As a postdoc in Dr. Gavin Chen's lab, Dr. Xu focused on the biosynthesis of unusual fatty acids. In June of 2020, she moved across the border to the laboratory of Christoph Benning at Michigan State University. For her current project, she has switched her focus to chloroplast membranes and lipid droplets.

Her outstanding research contributions in plant and algal lipid biochemistry and biotechnology is clear from her highly prolific career that includes 29 peer-reviewed publications, 14 as first author, in *The Plant Journal*, *Metabolic Engineering*, *Journal of Biological Chemistry*, and *Biochemical Journal*, among other high-impact journals. Not only has she conducted important research, but she has been actively involved in several collaboration, and her participation in grant writing has helped secure \$742,214 in research funding (from 2018-2020). At this early stage in her career, she has already supervised four graduate students, and her success in mentoring has resulted in eight peer-reviewed papers with students under her supervision.

The CSPB/SCBV is very pleased to award the 2021 Carl Douglas Prize to Dr. Yang Xu in recognition of her impressive research and leadership contributions during her postdoctoral fellowship.