

**The Hughes Science Pipeline Project  
presents**

**Distinguished Women in Science: A Lecture Series**

**Diversity & Disease Ecology in Plant Communities**

**by**

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**Sulzberger Parlor**

Environmental factors are key in shaping the temporal and spatial distributions of plant viruses in natural grasslands. Field experiments show that host competence, pathogen spillover, and pathogen dilution vary among grass hosts of the barley/cereal yellow dwarf viruses. Competitive interactions between host plants are mediated by disease, while the effects of disease on hosts are strongly influenced by the community context. Power will discuss how these processes have the potential to shape the structure of plant communities.