

Vice-President



Reid Smeda – University of Missouri

Dr. Smeda is a Professor of Weed Science in the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri. He received a B.S. degree in Crop and Soil Science from Michigan State University in 1982, an M.S. in Horticulture from Michigan State University in 1985, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Purdue University in 1990. He has been employed as a faculty member

in the Division of Plant Sciences at the University of Missouri since 1996. His teaching appointment involves instruction of undergraduate and graduate courses in weed science. His research program encompasses: weed biology and management of problem species in agronomic crops as well as non-crop areas (roadside and railroad right-of-way); physiology and mechanism(s) for weed species resistant to herbicides; and management of invasive species in pasture, roadside, and railroad habitats. Dr. Smeda has trained 5 Ph.D. students and over 27 M.S. students. He has published over 70 peer-reviewed papers. In addition, he has served the NCWSS in numerous ways (WSSA representative, Chair of Education and Nomination committee, CAST representative) as well as poster/paper judges and Chair of different sections (Weed Biology, Invasive Weeds, etc.). For the WSSA, he has also served in different positions (Treasurer, NCWSS representative). He would be honored to serve in a leadership position with the North Central Weed Science Society.

Vice-President



Mithila Jugulam – Kansas State University

Mithila Jugulam is a Professor (Weed Physiology) in the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University (KSU). She received her B.Sc. and M.Sc. degrees in Agriculture in India. She worked as a Scientist with Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) before obtaining her Ph.D. degree and postdoctoral training at the University of Guelph, Canada. She joined as an Assistant Professor at KSU in 2011.

Jugulam's research program is internationally recognized for increasing our understanding of the evolution and fundamental mechanisms of herbicide resistance in weeds. Her research also focuses on the effect of climate change factors on herbicide efficacy, consequently weed management and identification of herbicide-resistant traits in crops. She is an award-winning teacher with the responsibility to teach graduate and undergraduate courses related to herbicide physiology, herbicide resistance and molecular cytogenetics at KSU and abroad. She has served as major/ co-major advisor for 13 MS and PHD students and also on supervisory committee of 9 graduate students.

Mithila is an active member of several professional societies including NCWSS, WSSA, WSWs, IWSS and ACS. She serves on NCWSS- Distinguished Achievement Award Committee and Strategic Planning Committee. She also chaired 'Herbicide Physiology' section at NCWSS Annual meeting-2015 and judged several oral and poster presentations. She serves on several committees of WSSA and WSWs as well.

Jugulam is recipient of several awards, including, Distinguished Achievement Award (Research)-NCWSS, Fulbright Specialist Award, Outstanding Scientist Award- Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society (KSU), Outstanding Research Award (Gamma Sigma Delta-KSU Chapter), KSU-College of Agriculture Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award. Jugulam has authored or co-authored a career total of >80 peer-reviewed publications in high-impact journals including PNAS, Plant Physiology, Scientific Reports, Weed Science and Pest Management Science. She is currently on the Editorial Board of Pest Management Science, Weed Science, Frontiers in Plant Science, ACS-Agricultural Science and Technology journals and reviewer of numerous journals, including PNAS, Plant Physiology, Plant Science, Planta, Weed Science, etc.

For more information about Mithila Jugulam's lab, please access the following link

<https://www.agronomy.k-state.edu/people/faculty/jugulam-mithila/>

WSSA Representative



Bruce Ackley – Ohio State University

Bruce Ackley was born and raised in Ohio on a family farm where at a young age he learned the joy of weed control by hand weeding shattercane from soybean fields for his father. Bruce received his B.S. in crop science and M.S. of weed science from The Ohio State University. While working on his M.S. Bruce was presented with the opportunity to work with the weed science program as a research assistant that ultimately led to his current position as an Extension Program Specialist in Weed Science which he has held since 2008. Currently, his position allows for opportunities in teaching, research, and extension. Bruce has had the tremendous pleasure of teaching hundreds of students while at O.S.U. already in his career, he has won numerous teaching awards for his dedication to being an excellent educator. He has worked hard updating and innovating how weed ecology is taught including the first digital interactive lab manual ever at Ohio State, which led to the publication of four digital books all related to the field of weed science. He has shot and edited multiple weed science-related movies which have been viewed hundreds of thousands of times on the OSU Weed Science YouTube page that he manages. Besides teaching in the classroom, he has dedicated countless hours coaching the weed team. Meeting and inspiring students to learn about weed science from a practical and educational perspective. He has also been highly involved in the NCWSS from the start of his career as a former state representative for Ohio to becoming Vice-Chair then onto Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee in 2019. Bruce has also served on the Presentation Recording Committee and Resident Education Committee which led to him planning and coordinating the 2015 national weed contest.

WSSA Representative



Brett Miller – Syngenta

Brett Miller grew up in western North Dakota and is still part owner of the small family farm that was homesteaded by his great grandfather. He attended North Dakota State University where he received a B.S. and M.S. in Weed Science. Brett has worked for Syngenta Crop Protection and its legacy companies since 1998 where he has held numerous field research and development and technical positions with a heavy focus on weed science. He is currently a Senior Scientist in the Crop Protection Field Development group with responsibility for Syngenta Crop Protection Research and Development in North Dakota, Montana and Northwest Minnesota residing in Fargo, ND. He has been a member of the NCWSS since 1995 and has attended the annual meeting since then with the exception of a couple of years when he lived and worked in Switzerland. Brett has been active in the NCWSS serving on the Resident Education committee and as a state director on the board. He has presented numerous papers at the annual meeting and has answered the call to help judge student contests many times over the years.