

Gloria Muday

Director, Center for Molecular Signaling and Professor of Biology at Wake Forest University
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Muday pursues research on how plant hormones modulate root development.

Description

Biology professor Gloria Muday pursues research on how plant hormones modulate root development. She is interested in the biochemical mechanisms by which these hormones control growth and metabolism, exploring these questions using approaches including genetics, molecular biology, microscopy, and biochemistry.

The Muday lab has made significant contributions to our understanding of plant root growth and plant synthesis of molecules that promote human health.

Muday is known for her educational outreach efforts; she has developed innovative teaching methods using heirloom tomatoes to teach genetics to high school students, taking her biology students into community schools to teach what they've learned about genetics of tomatoes, genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and agricultural biotechnology.

In these lessons students learn about dominant and recessive genes and the genetic influence on the characteristics that can be seen and the ones that cannot. They use Punnett squares to predict gene combinations, discuss the science behind GMO foods, and even extract the DNA from red and purple mutant fruits.

Topics

Molecular Biology of Plants, Genetically Modified Organisms, GMOs, STEM Education

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