

# Herbert L. Eastlick

## Distinguished Professorship



**Michael Knoblauch**

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## MICHAEL KNOBLAUCH

Professor, School of Biological Sciences  
Director, Franceschi Microscopy and Imaging Center

Michael Knoblauch's research focuses on the complex cell biology and transportation of nutrients and other materials within plants that make up nearly 90% of the food people consume worldwide. His work provides fundamentally important insights for food security and for addressing the impacts of climate change on plant performance and the development of bioenergy crops.

From his research, Knoblauch has pioneered a number of methodologies for studying the cell biology of plant phloem, work that earned him awards from Harvard University, the University of Giessen in Germany, the German Botanical Society, and other leading institutions. The results of his investigations have informed numerous college-level textbooks, including the standard introductory biology book, and his discoveries have led to several patents, numerous scholarly publications, and articles in the *New York Times*, *Science News*, and other major media.

Since joining WSU faculty in 2006, he has taught some 1,500 undergraduate and graduate students and advised more than 50 graduate-level scholars. He regularly collaborates on scientific projects with researchers around the world to better understand how plants function— particularly how they circulate sugars made in the leaves—to help improve crop yields and resistance to pests and disease.

In addition to his active teaching, research, and publishing agendas, Knoblauch directs the Franceschi Microscopy and Imaging Center, which serves more than 250 users across 25 departments and five colleges at WSU along with numerous other university and industry partners.



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