

USDA-ARS
U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative
FY20 Annual Performance Progress Report
Due date: July 29, 2021

Cover Page

Principle Investigator (PI):	Steve Scofield
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Fiscal Year:	2020
USDA-ARS Agreement ID:	N/A
USDA-ARS Agreement Title:	Engineering Gene-for-Gene Resistance to Fusarium Head Blight in Wheat and Barley
FY20 USDA-ARS Award Amount:	\$ 57,154
Project/Grant Reporting Period:	5/1/20 - 4/30/21
Reporting Period End Date:	4/30/2021

USWBSI Individual Project(s)

USWBSI Research Category*	Project Title	ARS Award Amount
GDER	Engineering Gene-for-Gene Resistance to Fusarium Head Blight in Wheat and Barley	\$ 57,154
FY20 Total ARS Award Amount		\$ 57,154

8/13/2021

Principal Investigator

Date

* MGMT – FHB Management
 FST – Food Safety & Toxicology
 R- Research
 S – Service (DON Testing Labs)
 GDER – Gene Discovery & Engineering Resistance
 PBG – Pathogen Biology & Genetics
 EC-HQ – Executive Committee-Headquarters
 BAR-CP – Barley Coordinated Project
 DUR-CP – Durum Coordinated Project
 HWW-CP – Hard Winter Wheat Coordinated Project
 VDHR – Variety Development & Uniform Nurseries – Sub categories are below:
 SPR – Spring Wheat Region
 NWW – Northern Soft Winter Wheat Region
 SWW – Southern Soft Red Winter Wheat Region

Project 1: Engineering Gene-for-Gene Resistance to Fusarium Head Blight in Wheat and Barley

1. What are the major goals and objectives of the research project?

To engineer a hypersensitive resistance response that is activated in wheat and/or barley by Fusarium graminearum (Fg) infection, and test if the engineered HR will provide resistance to Fusarium head blight (FHB).

1. Identify and characterize potential effector proteases from Fg
2. Identify barley PBS1-like proteins suitable for engineering a decoys
3. Characterize the cleavage sequences of the effector proteases.

2. What was accomplished under these goals or objectives? (For each major goal/objective, address these three items below.)

a) What were the major activities?

1) Twenty potential effector proteases were identified and cloned from Fg. These were successfully expressed in *Nicotiana benthamiana*. One was found to self process- consistent with it having protease function.

2) A range of barley PBS-like proteins (PBLs) were identified as having the necessary properties to be engineered as decoys.

3) A high-throughput *E. coli*-based assay for identifying protease cleavage sites is being developed.

b) What were the significant results?

A large family of barley PBLs were identified. Several were identified that can be used as decoys. It was demonstrated that they do not autoactivate HR when expressed in *N. benthamiana*. Additionally, when a cleavage site for a viral Nla protease is engineered into them, they can activate HR when the viral protease is co expressed in *N. benathamiana*.

c) List key outcomes or other achievements.

Twenty candidate effector proteases were identified from Fg. These tested to see if they contribute to Fg virulence in FHB. Two were identified as contributing to virulence.

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3. Was this research impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic (i.e. university shutdowns and/or restrictions, reduced or lack of support personnel, etc.)? If yes, please explain how this research was impacted or is continuing to be impacted.

Yes, the work was very significantly impacted by CoVID shutdowns, particularly for the UK coPI, Dr. Hammond-Kosack.

4. What opportunities for training and professional development has the project provided?

Four Post-docs and 3 graduate students have been contributing to this project.

5. How have the results been disseminated to communities of interest?

No publications have been submitted, however aspects of this work have been presented in several scientific meetings.

Training of Next Generation Scientists

Instructions: Please answer the following questions as it pertains to the FY20 award period (5/1/20 - 4/30/21). The term “support” below includes any level of benefit to the student, ranging from full stipend plus tuition to the situation where the student’s stipend was paid from other funds, but who learned how to rate scab in a misted nursery paid for by the USWBSI, and anything in between.

1. Did any graduate students in your research program supported by funding from your USWBSI grant earn their MS degree during the FY20 award period?

Yes No

If yes, how many? [Click to enter number here.](#)

2. Did any graduate students in your research program supported by funding from your USWBSI grant earn their Ph.D. degree during the FY20 award period?

Yes No

If yes, how many? 1

3. Have any post docs who worked for you during the FY20 award period and were supported by funding from your USWBSI grant taken faculty positions with universities?

Yes No

If yes, how many? 1

4. Have any post docs who worked for you during the FY20 award period and were supported by funding from your USWBSI grant gone on to take positions with private ag-related companies or federal agencies?

Yes No

If yes, how many? [Click to enter number here.](#)

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Release of Germplasm/Cultivars

Instructions: In the table below, list all germplasm and/or cultivars released with full or partial support through the USWBSI during the FY20 award period (5/1/20 - 4/30/21). All columns must be completed for each listed germplasm/cultivar. Use the key below the table for Grain Class abbreviations.

NOTE: Leave blank if you have nothing to report or if your grant did NOT include any VDHR-related projects.

Name of Germplasm/Cultivar	Grain Class	FHB Resistance	FHB Rating (0-9)	Year Released
No germplasm released	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year
Click here to enter text.	Select Grain Class	Select what represents your most resistant check	Enter as text 0-9 rating	Select Year

NOTE: List the associated release notice or publication under the appropriate sub-section in the 'Publications' section of the FPR.

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Publications, Conference Papers, and Presentations

Instructions: Refer to the PR_Instructions for detailed more instructions for listing publications/presentations about your work that resulted from all of the projects included in the FY20 grant award. Only citations for publications published (submitted or accepted) or presentations presented during the **award period (5/1/20 - 4/30/21)** should be included. If you did not publish/submit or present anything, state 'Nothing to Report' directly above the Journal publications section.

NOTE: Directly below each citation, you **must** indicate the Status (i.e. published, submitted, etc.) and whether acknowledgement of Federal support was indicated in the publication/presentation. See example below for a poster presentation with an abstract:

Z.J. Winn, R. Acharya, J. Lyerly, G. Brown-Guedira, C. Cowger, C. Griffey, J. Fitzgerald, R.E. Mason and J.P. Murphy. 2020. "Mapping of Fusarium Head Blight Resistance in NC13-20076 Soft Red Winter Wheat." In: S. Canty, A. Hoffstetter, and R. Dill-Macky (Eds.), *Proceedings of the 2020 National Fusarium Head Blight Forum* (p. 12.), Virtual; December 7-11. Online: https://scabusa.org/pdfs/NFHBF20_Proceedings.pdf.
Status: Abstract Published and Poster Presented
Acknowledgement of Federal Support: YES (Abstract and Poster)

Journal publications.

Nothing to report

Books or other non-periodical, one-time publications.

Nothing to report

Other publications, conference papers and presentations.

Nothing to report