



Brian Steffenson is Distinguished Global Professor and Lieberman-Okinow Endowed Chair in the Department of Plant Pathology at the University of Minnesota in St. Paul. His research focuses on the genetics of disease resistance in barley and molecular/virulence diversity of fungal plant pathogens. Steffenson helped lead international efforts in combatting outbreaks of *Fusarium* head blight and stem rust of barley. He currently leads the International Wild Barley Sequencing Consortium whose aim is to exploit *Hordeum vulgare* ssp. *spontaneum* for novel alleles that can enhance yield, agronomic, and quality traits in cultivated barley.