Welcoming Jagger Harvey!

Dr Jagger Harvey joined the BecA Hub as a Plant Biosciences Research Scientist in January, 2009. Born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, he speaks English, French and Creole. He is a molecular biologist with particular interest in plant genetics and plant-microbe interactions. His life’s ambition is to sustainably improve subsistence farmer crops; specifically, he uses environmentally sensitive strategies that directly involve developing world scientists, thereby bolstering scientific research capacity. He catalyzes synergistic partnerships between developing and developed world scientists, universities and other organizations. These partnerships represent a critical component of capacity building in the developing world, and also ensure translation of basic research discoveries. He is always eager to discuss possibilities with potential new partners.

Jagger joined BecA after working as a US National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Research Fellow with Dr David Baulcombe at the University of Cambridge and The Sainsbury Laboratory, UK; his research focused on the role of small RNAs in plant-virus interactions. He holds a PhD in Genetics from the University of California, Davis, where he investigated the genetic regulation of plant programmed cell death with Dr David Gilchrist. He received a BSc in Biology, Natural Sciences and Mathematics from Washington and Lee University in Virginia, USA, where he studied seed ecophysiology. Jagger has received several academic and professional honors, has delivered lectures and seminars at numerous universities, has worked as a peer reviewer for Journal of Virology and has served as a consultant on science and technology issues for the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

As BecA Hub Plant Biosciences Research Scientist, Jagger manages new plant research projects from conceptualization through to development and successful completion, in collaboration with regional scientists; mentors and supervises graduate students and other scientists; develops and teaches individual and group biosciences training courses; and fosters close relationships and linkages with key institutions to enhance regional biosciences research capacity.