

# Plant Pathology Seminar Series

**“The challenges of dealing with emerging pathogens of marijuana crops in commercial production”**

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Cultivation of cannabis plants (*Cannabis sativa* L., marijuana) has taken place for centuries. In Canada, legalization of cannabis in October 2018 has spurred interest in large-scale growing for the medicinal and recreational markets. This increased production has seen a rise in the incidence and severity of plant pathogens, causing a range of previously unreported diseases. The objective of this seminar is to highlight the important diseases currently affecting the cannabis and hemp industries and to discuss various mitigation strategies. Progress in molecular diagnostics for pathogen identification and determining inoculum sources and methods of pathogen spread have provided useful insights. Sustainable disease management approaches include establishing clean planting stock, modifying environmental conditions to reduce pathogen development, sanitation, and applying fungal and bacterial biological control agents. The greatest challenge remains in reducing microbial loads on harvested inflorescences (buds). Contaminating microbes may be introduced during the cultivation and post-harvest phases, or constitute resident endophytes. Failure to achieve a minimum threshold of colony-

forming units deemed to be safe results in rejection of products.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Zamir obtained a BSc degree in Plant Sciences at the University of BC, and MSc and PhD degrees in plant pathology from the University of California, Davis. He joined Campbell Soup Company and worked jointly with North Carolina State University, Raleigh on carrot diseases. He was Manager of plant biotechnology for Campbell's until 1989, when he left to join Simon Fraser University in Canada. Zamir's research investigates the causes and management of plant diseases on vegetable and horticultural crops, and includes the applications of plant biotechnology for disease management. His group is currently developing methods for identifying and managing new and emerging diseases of cannabis. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Phytopathological Society and the recipient of numerous research and teaching awards. These include the Sterling Prize for Controversy for his work on genetically modified foods and the Synergy Award for university-industry collaborations

4:10 pm | November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020 | Plant Pathology 515, Fall 2020

Zoom Link and ID: <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/91621814000?pwd=MDVOY1prS0QybDRaMXNvTVNxTS82UT09>

**Meeting ID: 916 2181 4000    Passcode: 5353    Call in number: 1 253 215 8782**



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