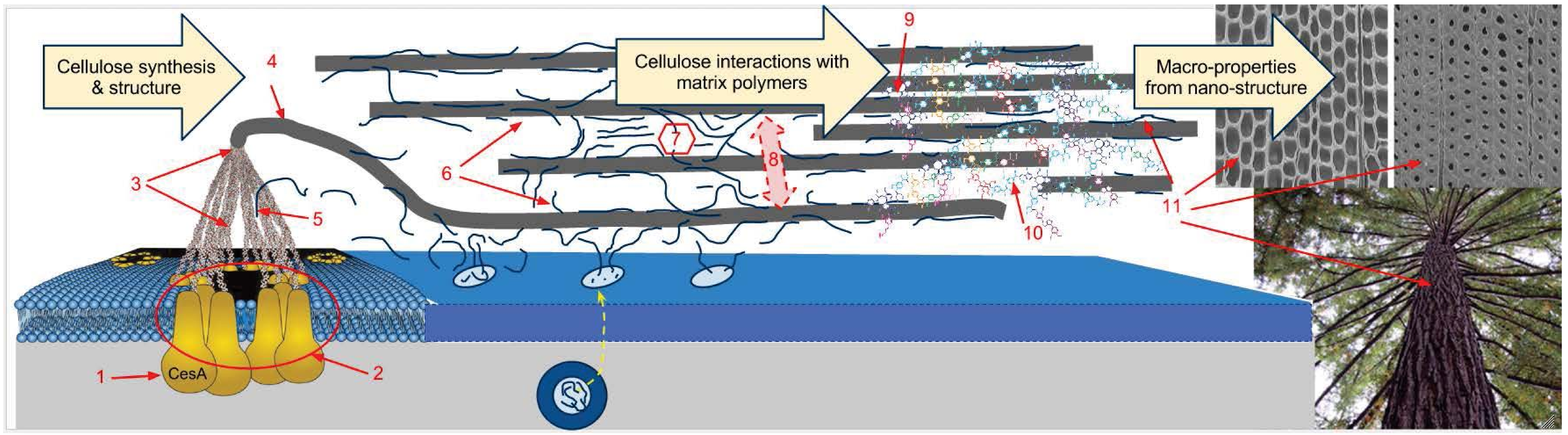
Center for Lignocellulose Structure and Formation

An Energy Frontiers Research Center supported by the US Department of Energy, Office of Basic Energy Sciences

CLSF Mission

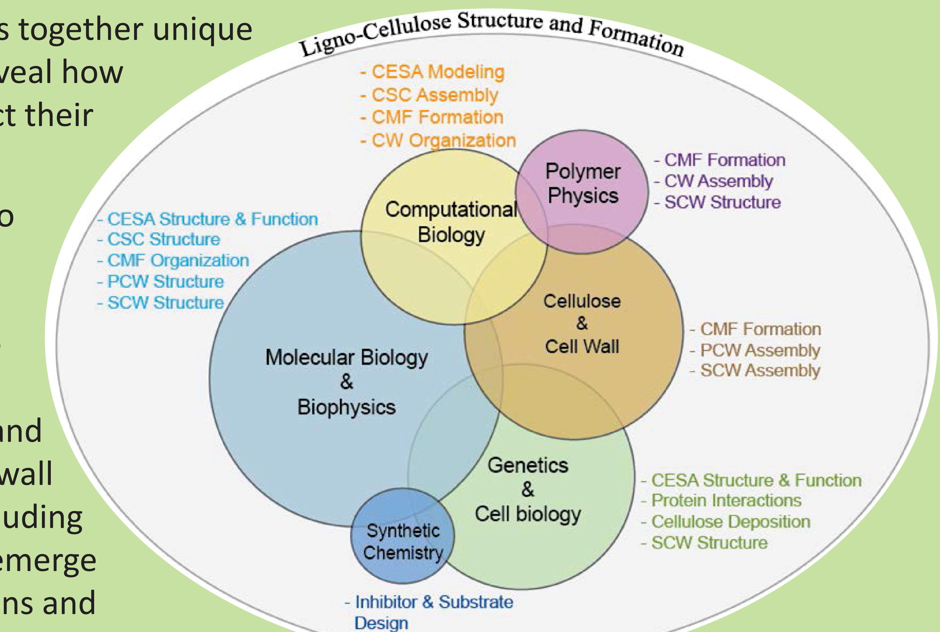
To develop a nano-scale understanding of the structure and formation of lignocellulose, the main structural material in plants, forming a foundation for significant advances in sustainable energy and materials.



Collaborative, integrated transdisciplinary research

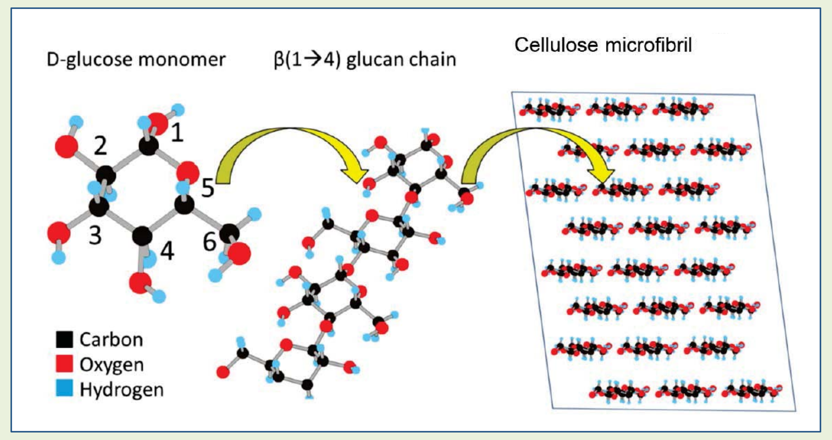
The CLSF brings together unique expertise to reveal how plants construct their cell walls.

Our goals are to discover how cellulose microfibrils are synthesized in diverse forms and how plant cell wall properties, including recalcitrance, emerge from interactions and assembly of cell wall polymers.

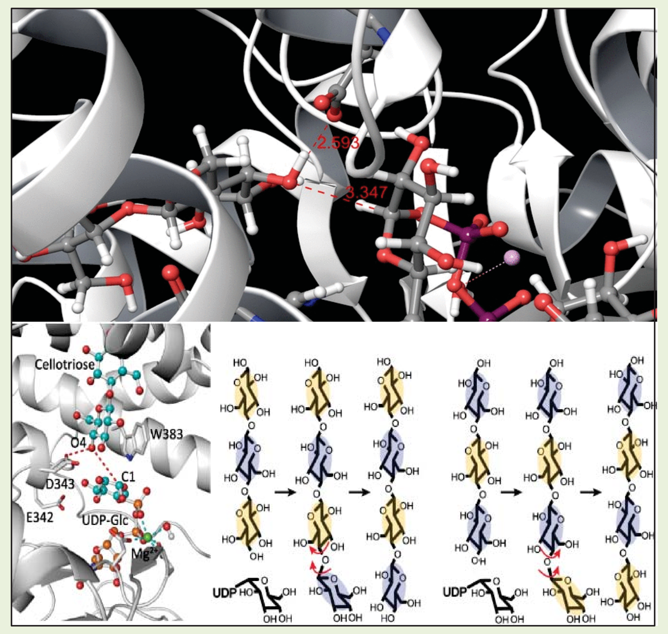


Theme 1: How plants make cellulose:

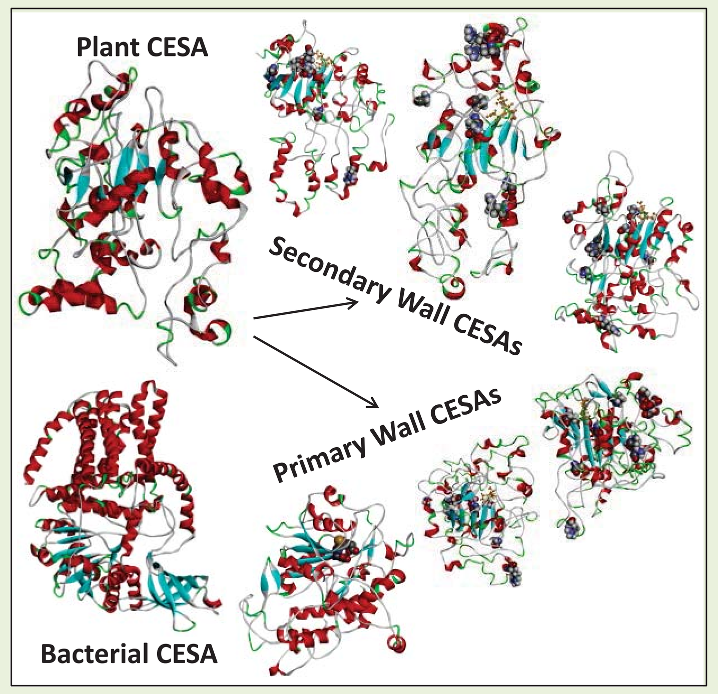
- **Structure and function of cellulose synthase (CESA)**
- **Structure and function of cellulose synthesis complex (CSC)**
- **Regulation of CSC activity and cellulose fibril formation**



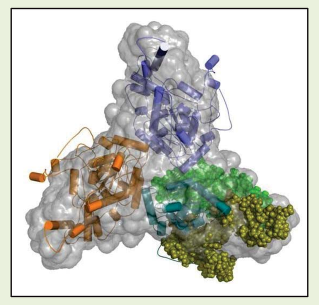
Chemical structures of D-glucose, glucan chain and cross section of cellulose microfibril (Kim 2013)



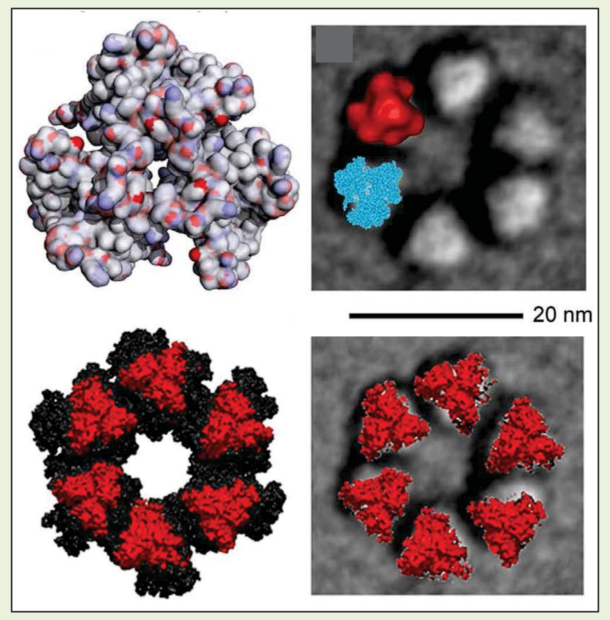
QM/MM analysis provides the first theoretical model of the mechanism by which cellulose synthase elongates a cellulose polymer one glucosyl moiety at a time (Yang et al. 2015)



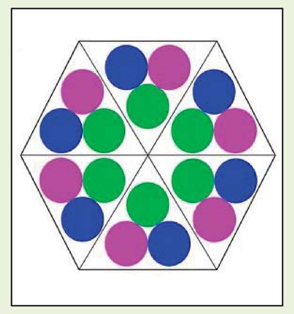
Structure prediction of individual CESAs (Sethaphong et al. 2016)



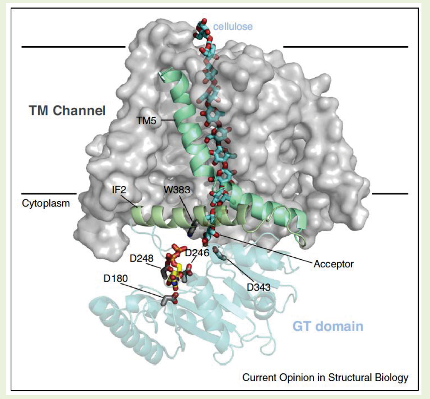
Ab initio model of ATCESA1catD trimer overlaid with ROSETTA model; P-CR and CSR regions are shown in green and olive spheres (Vandavasi et al. 2016)



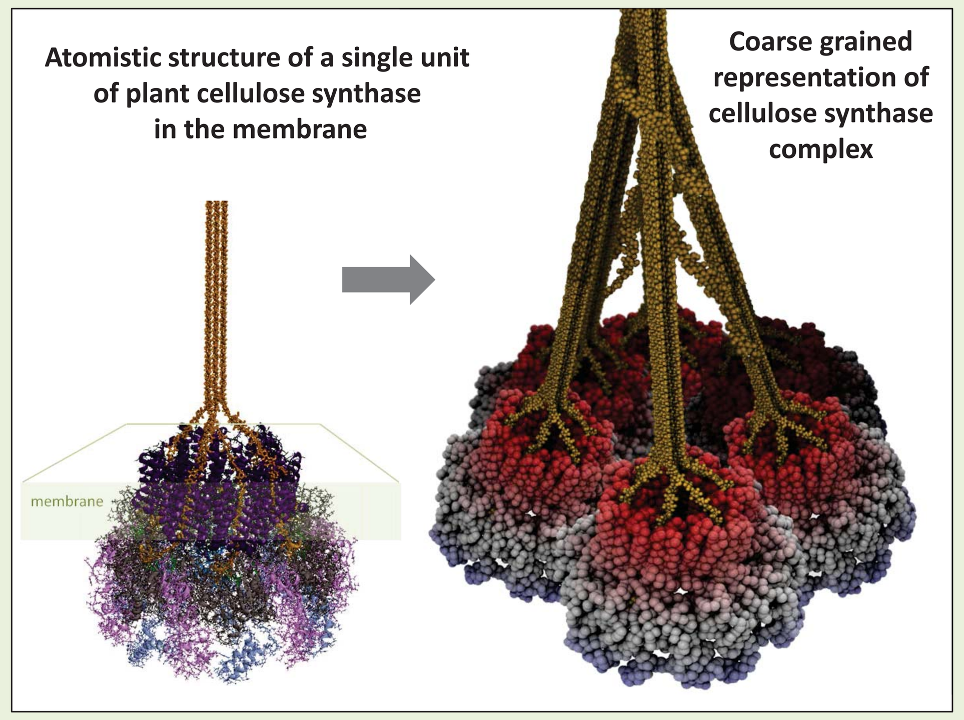
A trimer arrangement of CESAs in a rosette CSC is predicted using computation and modern image analysis (Nixon et al. 2016)



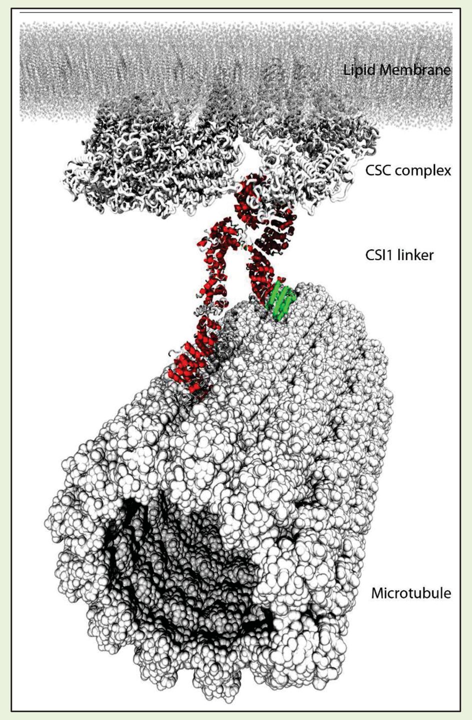
Current model for the CSC as a hexamer of CESA hetero-trimers (Hill et al. 2014)



Pore organization of bacterial cellulose synthase subunit BcsA with cellulose chain (Bi et al. 2015)



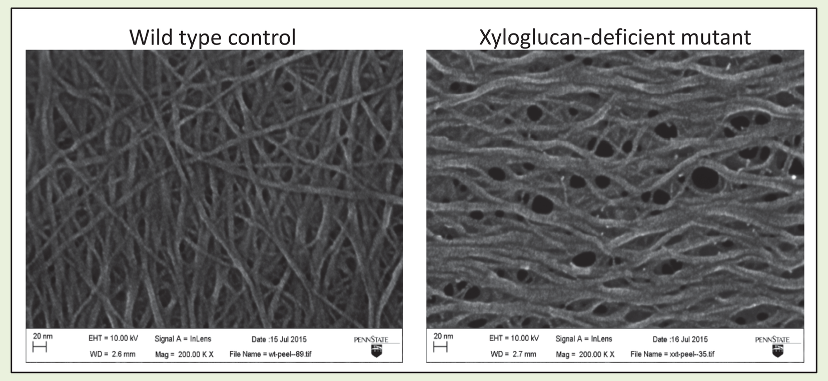
In silico models of plant CSC structure and cellulose microfibril formation (Nixon et al. 2016, Y Yingling)



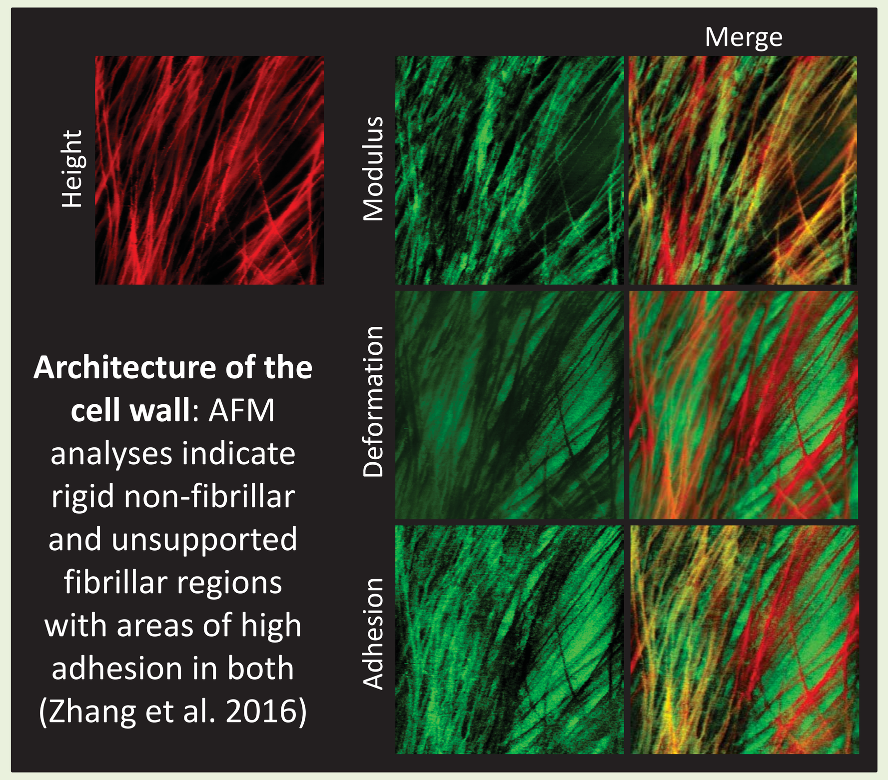
Putative interaction of CSC interactive protein1 (CSI1) with CSC complex and microtubule (Lei et al. 2015)

Theme 2: How plants assemble multi-functional cell walls:

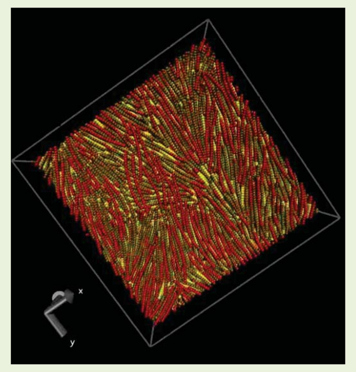
- **Mesoscale architecture of the cell wall**
- **Polymer interactions and conformations**
- **NMR of primary and secondary walls, including grasses**
- **Matrix polymer delivery**
- **Mobility of water, polysaccharides and proteins in the wall**
- **Coarse grain model of the primary cell wall**
- **Macrofibril formation and lignification (secondary cell walls)**
- **Spectral analysis of cell wall structure**



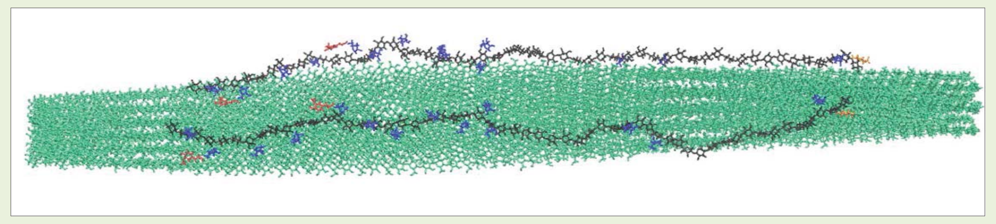
Mesoscale architecture of cell wall: Lack of xyloglucan shows enhanced alignment of cellulose as imaged with FESEM (Xiao et al. 2016)



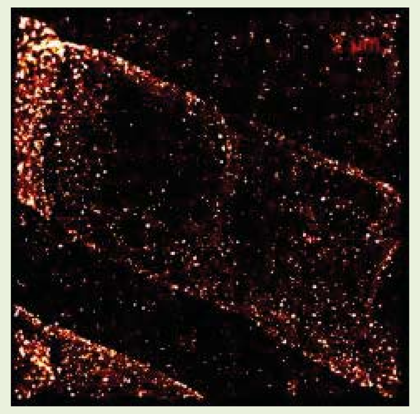
Architecture of the cell wall: AFM analyses indicate rigid non-fibrillar and unsupported fibrillar regions with areas of high adhesion in both (Zhang et al. 2016)



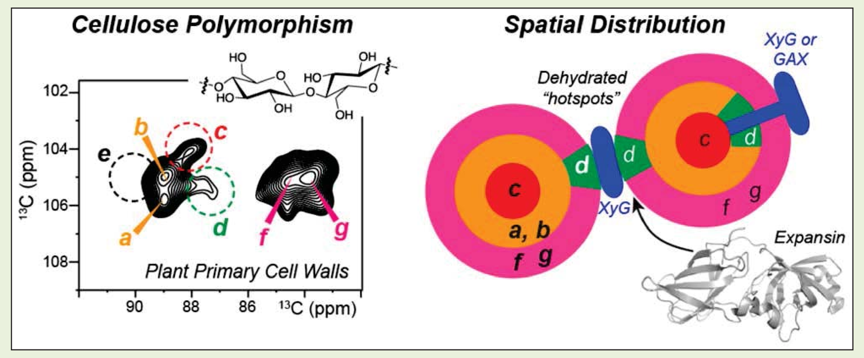
Coarse grain model of the plant cell wall: Microfibril beads in exemplary simulations: color-coded by the position along the Z-axis (M Kowilak, J Maranas, unpubl.)



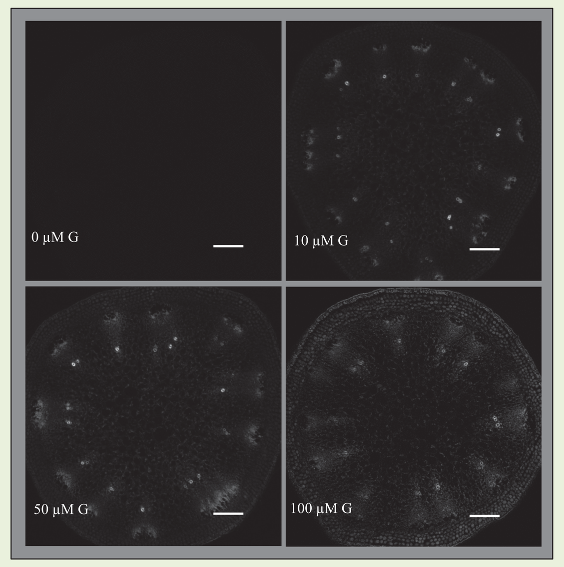
Polymer interactions and conformations: Characterizing the association between glucuronoarabinoxylan and cellulose in the plant cell wall (S Smith, L Petridis, D Cosgrove, unpubl.)



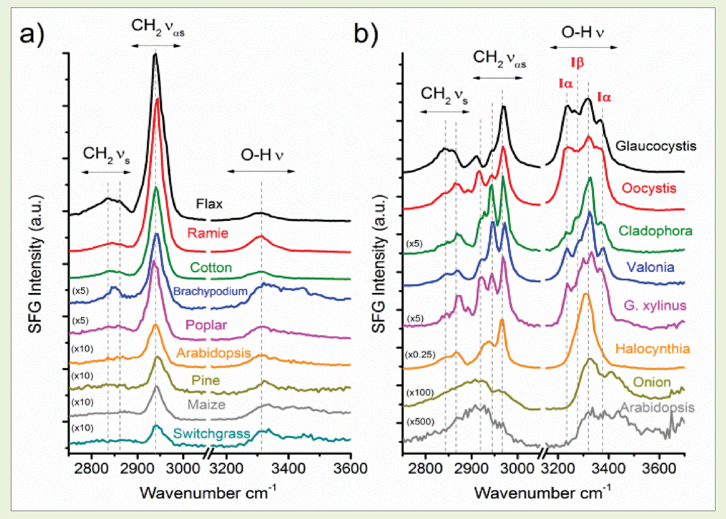
Matrix polymer delivery: Alkynyl fucose clickable probes for metabolic labeling and fluorescence imaging of polysaccharides (pectin) in cell walls (McClosky et al. 2016)



NMR of primary and secondary walls, including grasses: ssNMR and density functional theory (DFT) calculations indicate cellulose structural polymorphisms in plant primary cell walls (Wang et al. 2016)



Lignification (secondary cell walls): Incorporation of coniferyl alcohol at different concentrations shows increased lignification in Arabidopsis stem sections (Kiemle et al. 2016 in prep)



Spectral analysis of cell wall structure: SFG (Sum Frequency Generation) spectra of cellulose in biological tissues (Lee et al. 2014)

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