

Jeff Dangl, PhD.

Jeff Dangl is the John N. Couch Distinguished Professor Biology and an HHMI Investigator at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a geneticist interested in the molecular intricacies of the plant immune system. The Dangl lab has contributed significantly to the development of Arabidopsis as a tool to analyze plant-pathogen interactions. They study plant immune receptors and immune signaling, and pathogen virulence factors and their action inside plant cells. The lab also studies the organization and function of plant-associated microbiomes. Jeff graduated from Stanford University with undergraduate degrees in English (Modern Literature) and Biological Sciences in 1981 and earned a doctorate in the Genetics Department of the Stanford University School of Medicine in 1986 for his studies of genetically engineered chimeric monoclonal antibodies. He is a co-founder and SAB member of AgBiome, LLC, a company exploring the crop microbiome to identify products that reduce risk and improve yield.

Jeff was an NSF 'Plant Molecular Biology Program' post-doctoral fellow at the Max-Plant Institute for Plant Breeding in Cologne, Germany and thereafter a founding Group Leader of the associated Max-Delbrueck Laboratory. He moved to UNC in 1995 and was the founding Associate Director of the Carolina Center for Genome Sciences in 2000-2010. He was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences in 2007, the German National Academy of Sciences ('Die Leopoldina') in 2003 and the American Academy of Microbiology in 2011. He served six years on the National Research Council's Board on Life Sciences where he chaired both the 5- and 10-year reviews of the impact of the US Interagency National Plant Genome Research Initiative.