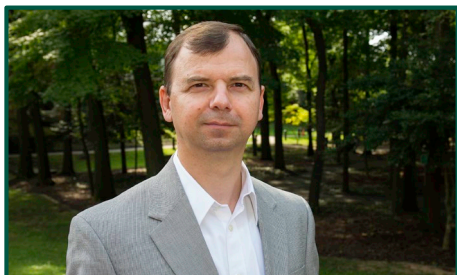




## Introducing our New Small Fruit Virologist, Dimitre Mollov

Dr. Dimitre Mollov & Jayden Christman



The one & only Dr. Dimitre Mollov



Dr. Mollov working on the Transmission Electron Microscope

Dr. Dimitre Mollov has accepted the small fruit virologist position at the Horticultural Crops Research Unit in Corvallis, OR and is starting in late May 2021. He comes from the USDA National Germplasm Resources Laboratory in Beltsville, MD. His research in Maryland utilizes highly sensitive techniques to detect virus-specific nucleic acids, including high throughput sequencing coupled with biological and molecular studies to characterize poorly described viruses of quarantine significance. Prior to joining USDA, he was the Plant Disease Clinic Director at the University of Minnesota from where he holds his advanced degree.

Dr. Mollov actively collaborates with colleagues from the U.S., Africa, Australia, Europe, and South America. For his services the USDA ARS awarded him the Early Career Scientist in 2017. In 2019, Dr. Mollov received the Outstanding Service Award from the National Plant Diagnostic Network. In 2020, he was the recipient of the APS Virology Schroth Faces of the Future Award.

At the HCRU Dr. Mollov will be focusing on all aspects of virus research of blueberries, caneberries, grapes, and strawberries. Some of these aspects will be on virus biology and etiology, molecular and genomic diversity, virus taxonomy, virus co-infections, virus transmission, etc. The goals of the virology program are to determine the causal agents of virus diseases of small fruit crops and the impact of virus infection on fruit quality and yield. Developing robust and reliable diagnostics methods and utilizing high throughput sequencing technology for virus detection will be a strong direction of the fruit virology program.

In collaboration with ARS, university, and private sector scientists to evaluate resistant germplasm for controlling viruses, to develop strategies for managing virus diseases based on integrating diagnostics, breeding, and other biotechnological approaches the small fruit virology program will support the stakeholders needs to minimize the impact of viruses.

You can contact Dr. Dimitre Mollov via email at [dimitre.mollov@usda.gov](mailto:dimitre.mollov@usda.gov).

*Thank you, Dr. Mollov for joining our community here at the HCRU! We look forward to meeting you in person!*

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