

## 2019 FUSARIUM WILT OF LETTUCE FIELD DAY SPEAKERS



### **Dr. Isabelle Delannay**

Head of Americas Brassica & Leafy Breeding  
Bayer Crop Science

As the Head of Americas Brassica and Leafy Breeding for Bayer, **Dr. Isabelle Delannay** breeds for the romaine and iceberg markets in the United States. Dr. Delannay started her career nine years ago breeding looseleaf lettuce for Monsanto in southern France. In 2014, she moved to California and began breeding for the iceberg and romaine markets in the United States. Her experience in Europe (where disease pressure is high, and pesticides are limited) has taught her how to balance breeding for disease resistance traits with horticultural traits. Since Bayer's acquisition of Monsanto, she has continued breeding for lettuce while taking on additional responsibilities overseeing breeding strategies for lettuce and broccoli. Dr. Delannay earned her PhD in Plant Breeding and Plant Genetics from the University of Wisconsin.



### **Steven Koike**

Director  
TriCal Diagnostics

**Steve Koike** is the director of TriCal Diagnostics in Hollister, CA. He and his staff operate a plant disease diagnostic lab, test soil for pathogens, conduct research on soilborne and foliar pathogens, and provide plant pathology and crop production information to clientele who grow and work with various agricultural and horticultural commodities throughout and beyond California. Previously Steve was the central coast's extension plant pathologist with the University of California Cooperative Extension, where he operated a diagnostic lab and conducted a research and education program on diseases of vegetable, fruit, and ornamental crops. During his 28-year extension career he published over 1,000 scientific and extension publications, including his 450-page book *Vegetable Diseases: A Color Handbook*. Koike has received numerous awards, including the national Excellence in Extension Plant Pathology award from the American Phytopathological Society. In 2018 he received the Outstanding Contribution to Agriculture Award from the California Association of Pest Control Advisors.