**Research Proposal for WU-CAAS joint PhD Project**

**Title:** The role of liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) in regulating leaf senescence.

Increasing evidence has suggested the importance of LLPS-driven biomolecular condensates in regulating the cellular activities in plants. Preliminary analysis on sequence signatures of LLPS in senescence-regulating proteins has led to the identification of a number of transcription factors with high possibility to form non-membrane bound organelles. Through collaboration between Dr. Siddharth Deshpande at WU and Dr. Yongfeng Guo at CAAS, this joint project aims to study the role of LLPS in regulating plant senescence by characterizing the related transcription factors that undergo LLPS. We are looking for a talented student with background in molecular and developmental biology.

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