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Dr. Robert VanBuren is an associate professor at Michigan State University in the Department of Horticulture and the Plant Resilience Institute. He received his PhD in Plant Biology from the University of Illinois in 2014 where he studied genetics and genomics of papaya and other tropical fruits. He completed his postdoctoral studies at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center where he worked on drought stress and CAM photosynthesis. He moved to Michigan State University in 2016. Work in the VanBuren Lab focuses on understanding natural adaptations to overcome drought stress as well as the effects of prolonged and recurrent stress in crop yield and quality. To answer these fundamental and applied research questions, they use systems-level approaches across diverse model and crop species by leveraging large-scale, high-resolution datasets across space and time to computationally model gene networks, chromatin dynamics, and stress physiology.