Dr. Kelly Wrighton's research focuses on the chemical reactions catalyzed by microorganisms- to identify microbial solutions to today's environmental and health challenges. Using a genomic tool kit, her research queries wild microbial content from the environment to generate hypotheses that are evaluated using model-system approaches in the laboratory. Prior to becoming an Associate Professor of Soil and Crop Sciences and Microbiome Science at Colorado State University, Dr. Wrighton was an Assistant Professor of Microbiology at The Ohio State University. She received her PhD training in Microbiology, and post-doctoral training in Computational Biology, both from the University of California Berkeley. Her research program is supported by funding from the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health, the National Sciences Foundation, as well as industry. She currently supports a team of 6 graduate students, 3 post-doctoral researchers, 3 staff scientists, and numerous undergraduate researchers. She is an active member of science advisory panels associated with industry and the Department of Energy. Dr. Wrighton has given over 60 invited talks in the past five years and contributed to research resulting in more than 80 publications, with over 5,000 citations. In the past two years, Dr. Wrighton has received career research honors from the American Geophysical Union, The International Society of Microbial Ecology, the Geobiology Society, and was recently awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Science and Engineering (PECASE), one of the highest honors bestowed by the U.S. government for outstanding scientists.