



**Debra Mohnen** is Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia (UGA). She has studied plant cell wall synthesis, structure, and function for over 30 years with emphasis on the non-cellulosic cell wall polysaccharides. In 2008 she was awarded the Bruce Stone Award for research in pectin synthesis and in 2013 elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She was bestowed the Inaugural Georgia Athletic Association Professorship in Complex Carbohydrate Research at UGA in 2018. Since 2007 she has concentrated a large part of her research on improving plant biomass yield, sustainability and composition for improved biofuel and biomaterials production. She was Focus Area Lead of Plant Biomass Formation and Modification in the DOE-funded BioEnergy Science Center (BESC) where she was responsible for the direction of a team of ~ 100 researchers aimed at understanding and overcoming biomass recalcitrance to deconstruction. Since 2017 she serves as Research Domain Lead for Integrative Analysis and Understanding in the DOE-funded Center for Bioenergy Innovation (CBI) with responsibilities of working with the Deconstruction Fundamentals, Computational Biology, and Economics and Sustainability Teams to ensure integrated and successful research within the teams and across CBI. She is also a principal investigator of RG-I biosynthesis in the DOE-funded Center for Plant and Microbial Complex Carbohydrates at the University of Georgia Complex Carbohydrate Research Center.