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Wheat Marketing Center Welcomes New Staff Members

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Wheat Marketing Center, the technical training and research center focused on wheat and end-product quality, located in Portland, Oregon, is adding new staff members.

Tina Tran started today as the new Laboratory Technologist, with responsibility for wheat and wheat food quality analysis and research support. Ms. Tran is very familiar with the wide range of analytical equipment used to evaluate wheat quality from her prior stint at the Wheat Marketing Center from 1996 to 2005. She has worked in other technical labs in the interim but remained interested in returning to WMC. Bon Lee, Laboratory Supervisor, is pleased to have Ms. Tran back on the team. "She knows all the equipment and has a high level of proficiency," said Mr. Lee. "She understands the importance of precision and accuracy when testing wheat quality."

Dr. Lingzhu Deng will be joining the staff next month as the new Food Scientist, working closely with Dr. Gary Hou, WMC Technical Director. Dr. Deng earned her doctorate in Cereal Science from North Dakota State University. Her research focused on the link between durum genotypes and whole-wheat pasta quality. She also has industry experience from internships at two flour mills. "Dr. Deng will bring both knowledge and skills to her position," said Dr. Hou. "Our research program is expanding and we need additional research scientists to address the research needs of our stakeholders."

Margaret Sprinkle joined WMC in November, 2017 as the Office Manager and Executive Assistant to Managing Director Janice Cooper. Ms. Sprinkle is an Oregon native and brings valuable knowledge about Portland to her position. Knowing where to go and who to call has already resulted in raising our profile in our local community. Ms. Sprinkle's administrative and marketing experience is being put to good use.