



AGUSTINA DE FRANCESCO, CV

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Research interests

- ✓ Plant sciences, molecular biology, biotechnology, plant pathology

Education

- ✓ **PhD, Biological Sciences**, National University of La Plata (Spanish: Universidad Nacional de La Plata, UNLP), La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. **2010-2015**
- ✓ **Dissertation grade (equivalent to MS), Biotechnology and Molecular Biology**, UNLP. **February 2008-2010**
- ✓ **BSc, Biotechnology and Molecular Biology**, UNLP. **2005-2009**

Technical skills

- ✓ **Languages:** Fluent in English and Spanish. Colloquial Italian. Notions of Portuguese.
- ✓ **Scientific skills:** Experimental design and Data analysis. Molecular laboratory: nucleic acid and protein isolation, PCR-based methods, antibody development, ELISA, blotting, microscopy, cloning, protein purification, RNA-seq, transcriptomics, plant transformation and plant in vitro culture. Field, greenhouse and growth chamber work: seed germination, irrigation, fertilization, pest control, grafting, inoculation, optimization of growing conditions.

Employment history

- ✓ **Technical Nomenclature Associate**, The Brand Institute. **2020-present**
Developing generic names for drugs, diagnostic, and treatments. Miami, FL, USA.
- ✓ **Postdoctoral Researcher**, University of California Riverside (UCR). **2016-2020**
Detection of citrus Huanglongbing (HLB) disease. Assessment of antigenic proteins and development of antibody-based detection methods, and pathogen interactions; in Wenbo Ma lab, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, UCR. Riverside, CA, USA.
- ✓ **Postdoctoral Researcher**, UNLP. **2015-2016**
Management of bacterial diseases of citrus by acquired resistance and pathogen control. Developed genetics constructs and transformed citrus to evaluate transgenic resistance. Explored biocontrol by using bacteriophages; in María Laura García lab, Instituto de Biotecnología y Biología Molecular (IBBM) La Plata, UNLP, Argentina.
- ✓ **Teaching assistant**, UNLP. **2010-2016**
Teaching Biological chemistry, Biotechnology for Superior Organisms, Microbiology and Plant Biology undergraduate classes in the College of Exact Sciences. Lectured seminar, led discussion sessions, and supervised the laboratory sessions.

✓ **Lab professor, UNLP. 2015**

Teaching Biochemistry undergraduate class in the College of Exact Sciences. Planned and lectured laboratory sessions I coordinated duties for teaching assistants.

✓ **Graduate researcher, UNLP. 2010-2015**

Evaluation of transgenic citrus lines resistant to Citrus psorosis virus and transmission of resistance through the graft to a non-GMO scion for sustainable psorosis control. Developed and improved diagnostic methods (RT-qPCR and ELISA), in García lab.

✓ **Undergraduate researcher, UNLP. 2008-2010**

Micropropagation of *Populus* spp., in Dr Sandra Sharry and Walter Abedini lab at the Center for Plant Propagation (CEPROVE), La Plata, Argentina, 2008. Research on control of citrus psorosis disease by using transgenic citrus, in Garcia lab, 2009.

Other professional experiences

✓ **Lab Mentor, UCR. 2016-2020**

Tutored and supervised the following students at Wenbo Ma lab: Emily Ong (3rd year undergraduate), Jessica Thrin (Rotation in the Microbiology graduate program), Beatrice Diep (first-year student orientation), Francisco Hernandez (undergraduate work internship), Thomas Forest (Research in Science and Engineering, Summer Program RISE).

✓ **BSL-3 facility responsible, California Citrus Research Foundation facility. 2018-2020**

Assigned as responsible for Wenbo Ma lab, was trained to work in a Biosecurity level-3 laboratory, applied for authorizations, helped setting up the facility and established Standard Operation Procedures. Riverside, CA, USA.

✓ **Citrus Disease Diagnosis Service Provider, UNLP/UCR. 2010-2020**

Developed, performed, and provided diagnosis for citrus diseases by ELISA and RT-qPCR: psorosis in UNLP, Argentina, and HLB at UCR. 2010-2016 and 2016-2020 respectively. Performed serological HLB diagnosis in the company Southern Gardens (US Sugar), Clewiston, FL, 2018.

✓ **Outreach Volunteer/ extensionist. 2008- 2020**

Plant Defenders Challenge, British Society for Plant Pathology and Rothamsted Research, United Kingdom, 2020. UCR, 2016-2020. Ibero-American Network of Education in Food Biotechnology "Bioeducar" - CYTED- REDBIO Foundation, 2008.

Publications [De Francesco google scholar](#)