

CHIARA VOLPI

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PURPOSE

Highly motivated to make an impact in the vegetable breeding field by bringing technological innovation into the market and leading by example talented research teams, supporting their development in an international environment.

PROFILE

I am a driven, dedicated professional with 14 years of experience in the Cell Technology domain. Passionate about plant science and innovation in Cell Technology and equipped with people management skills gained in 9+ years of leading teams with multicultural researchers/technicians, I combine my intrinsic people-driven nature and coaching style with project/program management competence, goal orientation and strive for results.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

Febr 2024-present Cell Biology Research Manager and Cell and Tissue Culture lab supervisor, *Enza Zaden Italia Ricerca srl*

- Leading a multicultural team of fifteen researchers focussed on developing cell technology protocols to clone, fix and generate new genetics for vegetable crops (The Netherlands) and leading a team of technicians working on implementation and large-scale application of Doubled Haploid (DH) and Micropropagation (MP) protocols in open field crops (Italy). Member of Local Italian R&D MT.

April 2022-Jan2024 Senior Researcher Cell Biology-MP and Cell and Tissue Culture lab supervisor, *Enza Zaden Italia Ricerca srl*

- Leading a team of researchers focussed on Micropropagation protocol development for vegetable crops (The Netherlands) and leading a team of technicians working on implementation and large-scale application of Doubled Haploid (DH) and Micropropagation (MP) protocols in open field crops (Italy). Member of Local Italian R&D MT. Managing programs in the field of DH and MP. Research lead for Allium DH. Member of different cross-functional teams.

Jan 2014-April 2022 Senior Researcher Cell Biology-DH and Cell and Tissue Culture lab supervisor, *Enza Zaden Italia Ricerca srl*

- Responsible for DH protocol development for open field crops. Leading a team of technicians/researcher(s) working on implementation and large-scale application of DH and MP protocols in open-field crops. Member of Local Italian R&D MT. Managing projects in the field of DH and MP. Research lead for Allium DH. Member of different cross-functional teams. In charge of the reconstruction of the Italian Cell and Tissue Culture laboratory.

Aug 2011-Jan 2014 Researcher Cell Biology-DH and Cell and Tissue Culture lab supervisor, *Enza Zaden Italia Ricerca srl*

- Responsible for DH and MP protocol development of open field crops. Leading a team of technicians focussed on implementation and large-scale application of DH and MP protocols in open-field crops (Italy).

Aug 2009-Aug 2011 Assistant Researcher Cell Biology, *Enza Zaden Italia Ricerca srl*

- In charge of setting up the Cell Biology and Tissue Culture laboratory of Enza Zaden in Italy. Responsible for DH and MP protocol development of open field crops.

Nov 2006-Febr 2010 PhD student in Plant Biotechnology, *Dept of Agrobiolology and Agrochemistry, Tuscia University, VT, Italy*

- Study of wheat protein inhibitors of cell wall degrading enzymes

May 2005-Dec 2006 Post Graduate Research Assistant, *Dept of Agrobiolology and Agrochemistry, Tuscia University, VT, Italy*

- Responsible for expressing wheat proteins in heterologous systems; extraction of wheat proteins from *N. benthamiana* leaves. Responsible for biochemical and genetic characterization of wheat storage proteins and quantitative/qualitative analyses of proteins.

EDUCATION

Oct 2020-Jul 2021 ILM Level 5 Certificate in Leadership & Management, *2Blades Foundation, Norwich, UK*

March 2006-Aug 2006 Leonardo placement, *National Institute of Agricultural and Botany (NIAB), Cambridge, UK*

Sept 2005 Nationwide exam to become a professional Biologist, *Tuscia University, VT, Italy*

1999-2005 Degree in Biological Sciences cum laude, *Tuscia University, VT, Italy*

1994-1999 High School diploma in classical studies with final mark 97/100, *Institute Mariano Buratti, VT, Italy*

TRAININGS

During my 14 years in Enza Zaden, I have been trained in different subjects in the area of people management such as feedback giving and receiving and quality conversations (internal courses), in Project Management (internal and by Tornak company), in IP (internal, Technology IP expert) and in process management such as Lean Yellow Belt and the RASCI methodology (internal). I have also followed internal Enza Academy trainings (YMC and EMC).

AWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- Elected member of the SIGA (Italian Society of Agricultural Genetics) steering committee for the 2019-2021 period
- Speaker at the round table of the Annual SIGA Conference in 2018
- Lectured at several seminars on biotech tools used by plant breeding for bachelor and master degree students
- Award SIGA 2011 for poster presentation (AGI-SIBV-SIGA Joint Meeting, Assisi 2011)
- In charge of a number of lab tests for the Plant Molecular Biology course, on behalf of Professor Masci at Tuscia University during the 2004/05 academic year

COMMUNICATION

I have a broad view of the Cell Technology domain with strong connections with public and private research institutes. I seek to communicate openly and strive to establish long lasting relationships based on mutual trust.

LEADERSHIP

With my preferred participative leadership style, I naturally create commitment and my strong emotional intelligence allows me to grasp potential difficult situations and adapt my leadership style when required. I bring openness and support a growth mindset through leading by example.

PUBLICATIONS AND POSTERS

Added as appendix.

I authorize the use of my personal data in the CV in accordance with the Art. 13 of Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 "Personal Data Protection Code" and Art. 13 of the GDPR (EU Regulation 2016/679).

APPENDIX:

Publications on International Scientific journals with refereeing:

Aiello D, Ferradini N, Torelli, L, **Volpi C**, Lambalk J, Russi L, Albertini E. 2020. Evaluation of Cross-Species Transferability of SSR Markers in *Foeniculum vulgare*. *Plants* 9(2):175. doi.org/10.3390/plants9020175

Janni M, Bozzini T, Di Giovanni M, Moschetti I, Lupi R, Gennaro A, **Volpi C**, Masci S, D'Ovidio R. 2018. First production of wild hemmer (*Triticum turgidum* ssp. *dicoccoides*) transgenic plants. *Plant Cell, Tissue and Organ Culture (PCTOC)* 132:461-467 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11240-017-1342-0>

Tundo S, Kalunke MR, Janni M, **Volpi C**, Lionetti V, Bellincampi D, Favaron F, D'Ovidio R. 2016. Pyramiding PvPGIP2 and TAXI-III But Not PvPGIP2 and PME1 Enhances Resistance Against *Fusarium graminearum*. *Mol Plant Microbe Interact.* 29:629-39. doi: 10.1094/MPMI-05-16-0089-R.

Kalunke M.R., Cenci A., **Volpi C.**, O'Sullivan D.M., Sella L, Favaron F., Cervone F., De Lorenzo G. and D'Ovidio R. 2014. The pgip family in soybean and three other legume species: evidence for a birth-and- death model of evolution. *BMC Plant Biology* 14:189. doi:10.1186/s12870-014-0189-3

Volpi C., Raiola A., Janni M., Gordon A., O'Sullivan D.M., Favaron F., D'Ovidio R., 2013. Claviceps purpurea expressing polygalacturonases escaping PGIP inhibition fully infects PvPGIP2 wheat transgenic plants but its infection is delayed in wheat transgenic plants with increased level of pectin methyl esterification. *Plant Physiol Biochem.* 73:294-301. doi: 10.1016/j.plaphy.2013.10.011

Janni M., Bozzini T., Moschetti I., **Volpi C.**, D'Ovidio R., 2013. Functional characterization of wheat Pgps genes reveals their involvement in the local response to wounding. *Plant Biology* 15: 1019–1024. doi: 10.1111/plb.12002

Volpi C., Janni M., Lionetti V., Bellincampi D., Favaron F. and D'Ovidio R., 2011. The ectopic expression of a pectin methyl esterase inhibitor increases pectin methyl esterification and limits fungal diseases in wheat. *MPMI* 24: 1012-1019. doi:10.1094/MPMI-01-11-0021

Lionetti V., Francocci F., Ferrari S., **Volpi C.**, Bellincampi D., Galletti R., D'Ovidio R., De Lorenzo G. and Cervone F., 2010. Engineering the cell wall by reducing demethylesterified homogalacturonan improves saccharification of plant tissues for bioconversion. *PNAS* 107: 616-621. doi/10.1073/pnas.0907549107

Flagella Z., Giuliani M.M., Giuzio L., **Volpi C.**, Masci S., 2010. Influence of water deficit on durum wheat storage protein composition and technological quality. *Europ. J. Agronomy*, 33: 197-207. doi:10.1016/j.eja.2010.05.006

Ferrante P., Masci S., D'Ovidio R., Lafiandra D., **Volpi C.**, Mattei B., 2006. A proteomic approach to verify *in vivo* expression of a novel gamma-gliadin containing an extra cysteine residue. *Proteomics*, 6: 1908-14. DOI 10.1002/pmic.200500236

Ferrante P., Gianibelli C., Larroque O., **Volpi C.**, D'Ovidio R., Lafiandra D., Masci S., 2006. Effect of incorporation of an i-type low-molecular-weight glutenin subunit and a modified γ -gliadin in durum and in bread wheat doughs as measured by micro-mixographic analyses. *Journal of Cereal Science*, 44: 194-202. doi:10.1016/j.jcs.2006.06.004

Publications on International Scientific journals without refereeing:

Janni M., **Volpi C.**, Gordon A., O'Sullivan D., D'Ovidio R., 2009. Reduction of disease symptoms caused by fungal pathogens in transgenic wheat plants expressing the polygalacturonase-inhibiting protein 2 (PvPGIP2). *Biology of Plant-Microbe interactions*, 7: 1-4

Posters at International and National Conferences:

D'Ovidio R., Janni M., Tundo S., Kalunke R., **Volpi C.**, Favaron F. 2014. Pyramiding the Glycosidase inhibitors PvPGIP2 and AcPMEI to improve resistance against fungal diseases in wheat. *Proceedings XVI International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe interaction (MPMI)*

Janni M., **Volpi C.**, D'Ovidio R., 2011. Production of transgenic wheat plants expressing the protein inhibitors AcPMEI and PvPGIP2 to enhance resistance to fungal diseases. *Proceedings Joint Meeting AGI-SIBV- SIGA*. Cittadella di Assisi, 19-22 September

D'Ovidio R., Moscetti I., Janni M., **Volpi C.**, Cervone F., 2011. The expression of a fungal polygalacturonase causes cell wall pectin modification and alters plant growth in wheat. *Proceedings Joint Meeting AGI-SIBV- SIGA*. Cittadella di Assisi, 19-22 September

Volpi C., Raiola A., Janni M., O'Sullivan D.M., Gordon A., Favaron F., D'Ovidio R., 2011. The lack of recognition of the polygalacturonases secreted by *Claviceps purpurea* by PvPGIP2 is responsible for susceptibility in wheat transgenic plants. *Proceedings Joint Meeting AGI-SIBV- SIGA*. Cittadella di Assisi, 19-22 September. **Award SIGA 2011**

Volpi C., Janni M., Lionetti V., Bellincampi D. and D'Ovidio R., 2009. Enhancement of the wheat defence response to fungal pathogens by increasing the degree of methyl esterification of cell wall pectins. *Proceedings I Annual Congress SIBV (Società Italiana di Biologia Vegetale)*

Volpi C., Janni M., Lionetti V., Bellincampi D. and D'Ovidio R., 2009. Modification of the cell wall pectin to improve wheat defence response to fungal pathogens. *Proceedings ITMI / COST Tritigen*

Janni M., **Volpi C.**, Gordon A., O'Sullivan D., D'Ovidio R., 2009. The polygalacturonase-inhibiting protein 2 (PvPGIP2) limits disease symptoms caused by fungal pathogens in transgenic wheat plants *Proceedings ITMI / COST Tritigen*.

Volpi C., Janni M., Lionetti V., Bellincampi D. and D'Ovidio R., 2009. Enhancement of the wheat defence response to fungal pathogens by modifying the pectin component of the cell wall. *Proceedings XIV International Congress on Molecular Plant-Microbe interaction (MPMI)*

Volpi C., Janni M., Bozzini T., D'Ovidio R. 2008. Production of transgenic wheat plants expressing a pectinmethyl esterase inhibitor to improve host resistance to fungal pathogens. *Proceedings XLVII Congress SIFV (Società Italiana di Fisiologia Vegetale)*. Pisa, 30 June - 2 July 2008.

Janni M., **Volpi C.** and D'Ovidio R., 2008. Wheat transformation with polygalacturonase or pectin methyl esterase inhibitors to improve plant defence. *Proceedings TriticGen COST action FA0604 (triticum genomics for the advancement of essential European crops)*; Albena, Bulgaria, 22-24 September 2008.

Janni M., **Volpi C.**, Rocchi V., Egidio E., Bozzini T., Li X.Y. and D'Ovidio R., 2008. Wheat transformation with proteinaceous inhibitors to improve plant defence. *Proceedings X CNB (National Biotechnology Congress)*; Perugia, 17-19 September 2008.

Di Giovanni M., Janni M., **Volpi C.**, Cenci A., D'Ovidio R., 2007. A LTR Copia Retrotransposon and mutator transposons inactivate pgip genes in wild type and cultivated wheats. *Proceedings LI annual Congress SIGA (Società Italiana Genetica Agraria)*. Riva del Garda, 23-26 September